

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 6, 2022



FUN DAY TIMES

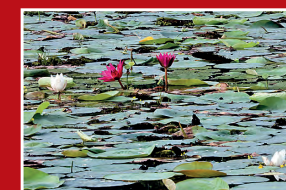


Flags for Independence Day

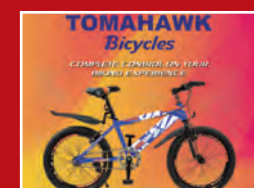
Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS!

POETRY
PAGE 2



WETLANDS
PAGE 3



COMPETITIONS
PAGE 4

follow us on
www.fundaytimes.lk

Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries (except Reeves Art) are accepted by email.

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:
Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for weekly competitions:
February 23, 2022

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

BRITISH COUNCIL

Age groups:
6 – 10 years
11 – 15 years
Word limit: 100 Words

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

6 – 10 years

A little fish

A little fish swimming in a pond
Popped its head out and asked,
“Is it supper time yet?”
“Yes,” said I
And it ate its food
“Yum, yum, yum!”
“If I put frogs in this pond,
Will you be friends with them?”

Sandasi Weerawardana (7 years)
Bishop’s College, Colombo

Please write the date at the top of your entry.

WINNERS!

Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with ‘Poetry Competition’ written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner’s Library membership.

11 – 15 years

Remoteness

At last on the chair,
at my habitual sun-lit place,
Away from the morning rush,
Notes piled neat on a desk space,
Curtains drawn, window wide open,
‘Windows 10’ booted at pace,
Now ‘zoomed’ in, I’m gripped,
How scarce a resemblance,
Encompass these charred boxes,
Still icons replacing the screen face,
Pairing jolly classroom memoirs
with an ambience growing trace,
Recalling how once,
only a chance trip to the bathroom,
Could evacuate a whole class,
now not the case,
Just a click or glance
* 20 seconds : 20 feet away,
To elude the strain of cyberspace!

Priscilla Rambukkange (15 years)
Hillwood College, Kandy

* The 20 – 20 – 20 concept used to prevent digital eye strain.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Dave Ethan Cooray
5 years on February 3

KIDS IN COLOUR With REEVES

Kids in Colour together with Reeves Art Competition is conducted monthly. A topic is given for each month. Three winners from three age groups will be selected. Winners will be announced on the second Sunday of each month and all winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Reeves.

Please note that all paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent, refer page 2 for further details.

All paintings should be on A4 size paper
Please write Reeves Art Competition at the back of your entry, together with your name, date of birth, address, telephone no., and school.

Topic - Independence Day
Closing Date : February 28, 2022

Mail to:
Kids in colour with Reeves Art Competition
Funday Times
C/O The Sunday Times
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 2
P.O Box 1136 Colombo

Winners of Reeves Art Competition please contact us in order to collect your prizes!

Wax Crayons • Oil Pastels • Paint Sets • Colour Sets • Water Colours • Oil Colours • Poster Colours • Powder Paints • Brushes

Ninehearts (Pte) Ltd. 758/1, Baseline Road, Colombo 09. Contact: 0112 663500 / 2 687541 / 077 387039. Email: photoproducts@ninehearts.com

NOTE

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week’s Funday Times.

Rugrats

EVER SEE DADDY LEAVE IN THE MORNING AND GET HOME LATE AT NIGHT?
uh huh.

WHAT DO YOU THINK HE DOES ALL DAY?
I THINK HE PLAYS!

REALLY?!

WHAT ELSE DOES HE HAVE TO DO?

I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL I'M A DADDY!

ME, TOO!

KENT ROBERTS • BLUMBERG

World Wetlands Day 2022

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on February 2 to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for people and the planet. It also marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Ramsar Convention as an international treaty in 1971.

2022 is notable because it is the first year that World Wetlands Day is celebrated as a United Nations international day, after it was adopted as such by the UN General Assembly on August 30, 2021.

Ramsar Convention

Named after the Iranian city of Ramsar where it was signed, the Ramsar Convention is formally known as the “Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat” or simply the “Convention on Wetlands”.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands are the earth’s waste treatment plants as well as carbon storage units, with capacity 50 times more than rainforests. They trap water pollutants (such as phosphorus) and carbon-emitting matter (such as animal waste) under the water in the sediment.



Wetlands are also home to thousands of species of flora and fauna and play an important role in food security (as it is needed for rice production) and providing protection against floods and storms.



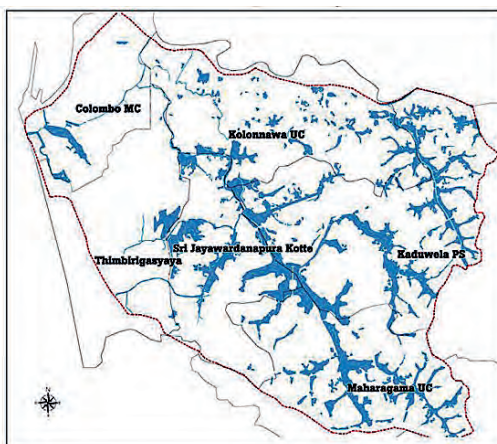
Wetlands in Sri Lanka

Since 1990, six wetlands have been designated as Ramsar sites (sites of international importance).

First Capital to become a Ramsar Wetland City

In 2018, Ramsar recognised 18 cities, that were working to conserve the wetlands around them, as Wetland Cities, to encourage sustainable development, and Colombo was one of them, becoming the first and only capital city in the world to be honoured with that accreditation.

The Thalangama Wetland is the most notable wetland in Colombo, known for its incredibly rich biodiversity.



Wetlands in Colombo Metropolitan Region

Largest saline coastal peat bog in Sri Lanka

The Muthurajawela marsh, located in the southern part of the Negombo lagoon, is the country’s largest saline (saltwater) coastal peat bog and home to hundreds of different species of animals, some of whom are endemic.



Muthurajawela



What is a wetland?

A wetland is an area of land that is either covered by or saturated with water - freshwater, saltwater or a mix of the two. Types of wetlands include rivers, marshes, bogs, peatlands, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, lagoons, lakes, floodplains and billabongs.

Fun Fact

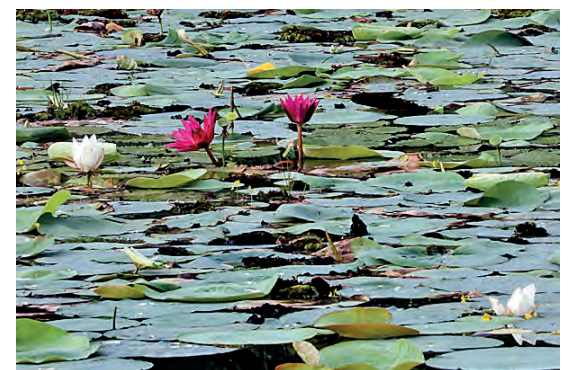
A 100-metre-thick barrier of mangroves can reduce the height of a wave by two-thirds and is cheaper than a seawall.



Mangroves in Puttalam

Ramsar Sites in Sri Lanka

1. Bundala National Park
2. Anawilundalawa Sanctuary
3. Madu Ganga Mangrove Estuary
4. Vankalei Sanctuary
5. Kumana Wetland
6. Wilpattu National Park



Thalangama

Laws in Sri Lanka protect wetlands

- National Wetland Policy
- National Environmental Policy
- National Environment Act
- Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance
- Coastal Conservation Act
- Forest Conservation Ordinance
- Flood Protection Ordinance
- Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Sources: ramsar.org; iucn.org; worldwildlife.org; decadeonrestoration.org

Tomahawk

Quiz
No.192

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 192 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2022.

All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 192' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners
will receive brand new
Tomahawk Mountain Bikes
with the compliments of
Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years
are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle
are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: February 28, 2022



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

TOMAHAWK Bicycles

COMPLETE CONTROL ON YOUR
BIKING EXPERIENCE

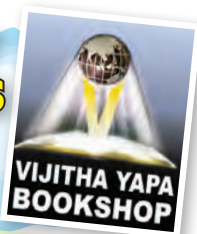


@TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL | 245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04
BAMBALAPITIYA - 011 250 7307
 @TOMAHAWKBICYCLES

QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 192

1. Name one of the first places on earth where the New Year dawns.
2. What is the most stable shape that an arch can have?
3. What is the largest freshwater lake in the world and what is its nickname?
4. When is International Day of Education commemorated and what is the theme for 2022?
5. Who is the author of the 'Little House' book series and what was the author's first rejected autobiography titled?

Win
super
books
from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Independence Day

Win: Secret Seven Mystery
by Enid Blyton

A girl has mysteriously run away from home and the Secret Seven are determined to find her.

Can the gang follow the clues and catch up with the missing child – or will Jack's troublesome little sister Susie get in the way?



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



TIMES

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A National Hero

Win: War Horse
by Michael Morpurgo

In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches.

Joey tells of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. He knows the power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story.



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: The National Flag of Sri Lanka

Win: Moby Dick, or, The Whale
by Herman Melville

Considered one of the greatest American novels, Melville's masterpiece tells the story of Captain Ahab's obsession with 'Moby Dick' the whale after he loses his leg to it on a whaling mission.

Ahab's quest for revenge drives him insane and deeply affects those around him.



Book Competition



9 years and below

A new term at school
Tanalee Kotuthenne
Musaeus College, Colombo

10 – 12 years

New Year resolutions
Yusuf-ul-Haq
Matale Int. School

13 – 15 years

The Festival of Thai Pongal
Mina Chand
Belvoir College Int.

From a Young Reporter

Massive 310 kg treasure found in Sri Lanka

There were, are and will be many precious gems and diamonds found in Sri Lanka, but the natural Corundum Blue Sapphire discovered in Sri Lanka recently, has definitely secured its place in history.

This gem had been found three months ago from a gem pit in Batugedara, Ratnapura, popularly known as the 'Gem City', but was showcased by the owner on December 12, 2021 in Horana.

This masterpiece was also given the name, 'Queen of Asia', to construe the importance and preciousness of this wonder.

This humongous sapphire weighs 310 kg (683 pounds) and is valued at 1,600,000 carats.

The authentication letter states, "To our knowledge, this specimen is indeed a rare specimen and not recorded in the geographical literature."

The gem's approximated cost is a hefty 100,000,000 million US dollars (20,248,740,000 LKR)!

The owner, Chamila Suranga Pannilaarachchi, said that a diverse number of businessmen had offered US \$100 million for this rarity.

He had also stated that one of his French gem scientists had valued the corundum at more than US \$200 billion.

Riya Vijayakumar (Grade 7)
Oasis Int. School, Colombo 11



The natural Corundum Blue Sapphire



Inspecting the precious gem



Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month.

Your account should not exceed 200 words. Please indicate word count on entry. Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.



Or

email fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or email fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Reading Development Tips by Room to Read

Reading aloud is one of the most important things parents can do with their children. Reading to your child builds important foundational literacy skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for pleasure is all about. It helps them learn phonological awareness while improving cognitive skills and developing a habit of reading.

We read to children for all the same reasons we talk with children: to reassure, to entertain, to inform or explain, to derive curiosity and to inspire. But in reading aloud, we also condition the child's brain to associate reading with pleasure, create background knowledge, and provide a reading role model. And it is great way to bond with your child!

- A message by Room to Read to support reading development and a habit of reading among primary grade children.



February 1

Chinese New Year

Millions of people celebrate Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year, at the start of February.

It is one of the biggest events of the year for many East and South East Asian people and it will be marked by communities all over the world.

People will eat lots of food, enjoy fireworks, wear special clothes and hang red lanterns to mark the occasion.

This year the celebration begins on February 1. The reason the New Year falls at this time is because it marks the start of the Lunar New Year, which is when there is the start of a new moon.

This is different to the 'Gregorian' calendar which always starts on January 1.

The date of Lunar New Year actually changes each year because it depends on the Moon, but it will always fall sometime between January 21 and February 20.

This year the festival starts on February 1 and marks the change from the Year of the Ox to the Year of the Tiger.

Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year.

It is the most important celebration in the Chinese calendar.

People in lots of other Asian countries also celebrate the lunar festival.

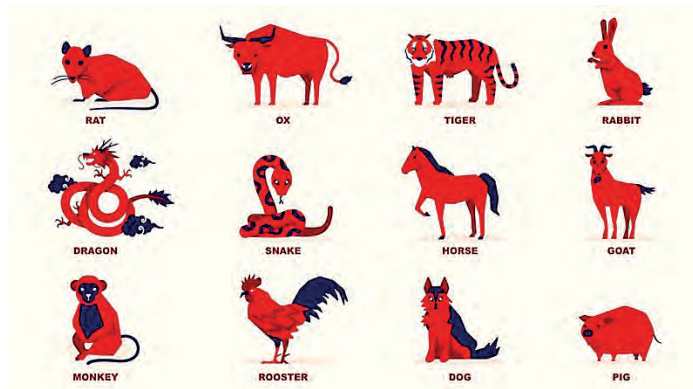
In Chinese tradition, each year is named after one of 12 animals, which feature in the Chinese zodiac: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

So the animals will have a year dedicated to them once every 12 years, in a cycle.

How is it celebrated?

Millions of people in China normally travel across the country in the lead up to the New Year as they go to spend time with family.

Usually before the festivities begin, people clean their homes really well to make them ready for the celebrations.



The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac.

Then, when New Year's Day comes, there is a tradition not to pick up a broom, in case you sweep the good luck for the New Year out of the door!

In China, schools and businesses close for the first few days of the New Year, so that everyone can spend time with their families.

People enjoy eating lots of delicious food, including noodle soup, which traditionally brings luck for the year ahead. There are typically parades and performances, with people dressed in traditional clothes.

Fireworks are also set off, because it is thought that noise and lights will scare away any evil spirits for the coming months.

Adults might give red envelopes to children with money inside too.

The festivities continue for two weeks or up to 16 days, finishing with a special lantern festival, which signals the end of the New Year celebration period.

CBBC Newsround



Performers dance at a local fair in Beijing in China to mark the New Year celebrations.



Children get red pockets with money in them for good luck.

Ashleigh Barty and Rafael Nadal make history at Australian Open

This year's first Grand Slam tennis tournament — the Australian Open — ended with historic wins for both the women's and men's singles champions.

On January 29, 2022, 25-year-old Ashleigh Barty became the first Australian to clinch the women's singles title at a home grand slam in 44 years.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal, who defeated Daniil Medvedev in a grueling 5 hour, 24-minute long match on January 30, made history as the only male tennis player to win 21 Grand Slam singles. Nadal was previously tied with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, who each hold 20 Grand Slam titles.

Dogo News



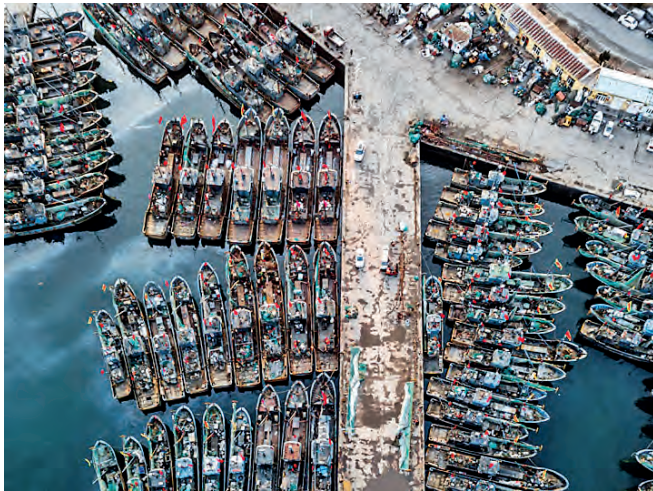
Rafael Nadal



Ashleigh Barty

February 1

News in Pictures



Dalian, China
Fishing boats are docked for the Chinese New Year in Liaoning province.



Krasnoyarsk, Russia
The country's longest staircase, 1,200 metres long with 1,683 steps, is illuminated on the Torgashinsky mountain ridge outside Krasnoyarsk in central Siberia.

January 31

San Salvador, El Salvador
Young pupils wearing protective face masks are seated according to social distancing guidelines while attending a class.



Pittsburgh, USA
A crane lifts a bus from the site of the collapsed Fern Hollow Bridge in Pennsylvania.



Manchester, England
Nelson Beaumont-Laurencia applies the finishing touches to a sculpture in St. Ann's Square, paying homage to the tiger to celebrate the Lunar New Year.



Van, Turkey
A boy carries a goat in front of the entrance to his home. In some villages in the area the snow exceeds 2 metres in depth.



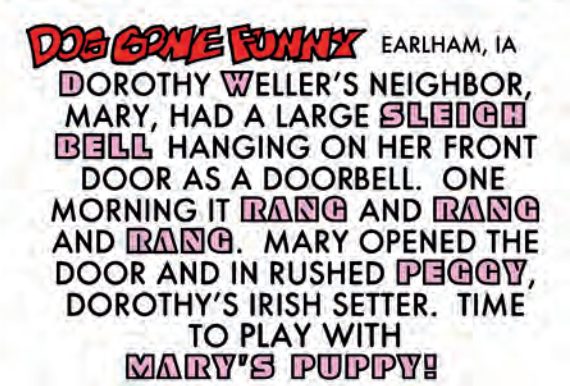
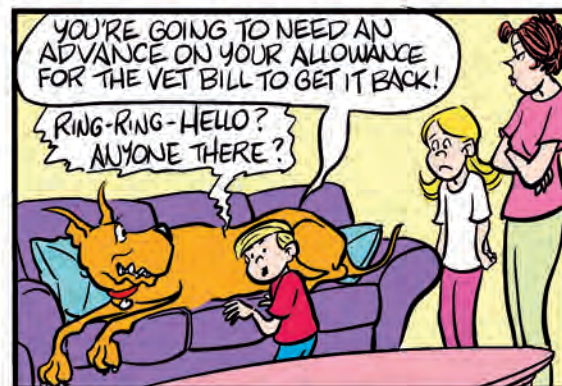
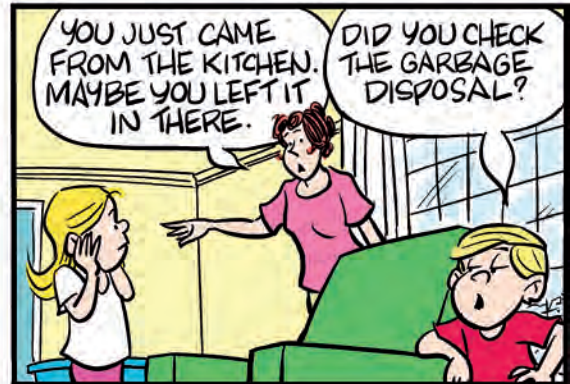
Donetsk, Ukraine
A Ukrainian serviceman strokes a dog in a snow covered trench on the frontline with the Russia-backed separatists near Verkhnetoretskoye village.



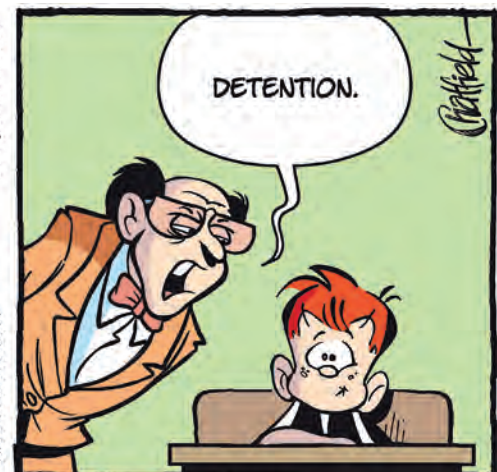
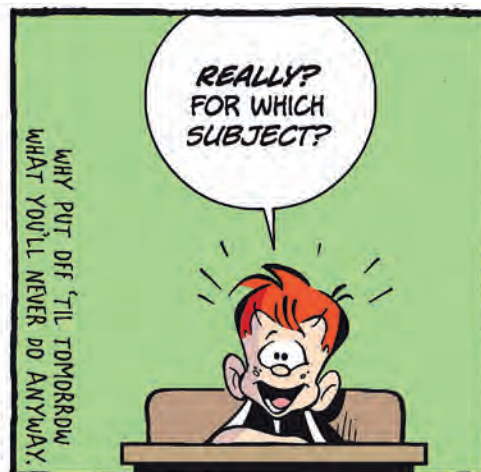
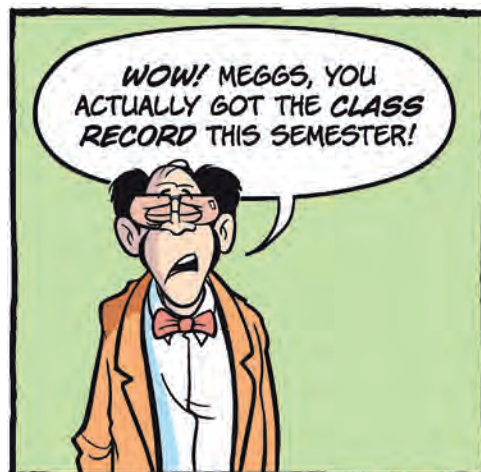
Sao Paulo state, Brazil
Rescuers remove mud in search of victims after a landslide caused by heavy rains buried homes in Franco da Rocha. Torrential rains between Friday and Sunday left at least 18 people dead.



Yokohama, Japan
People walk past lantern decorations in Chinatown on lunar New Year's Eve.



Ginger Meggs



Rugrats

