

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 9, 2022

# FUN DAY TIMES



***Celebrating Children's Day at AIS***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

**WINNERS!**

**PAGES 2-3**

**(ONLINE)**



**MATHS**

**PAGE 5**

**WINNERS!**  
**ESSAYS**

**PAGE 6**



**REPORT**

**PAGE 8**

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[www.fundaytimes.lk](http://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:**

**October 26, 2022**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com**

**Win super books from**



**Age: 9 years and below**

**Word Count: 150**

**Topic: My class teacher**

**Win: Geronimo Stilton - A Cheese-Coloured Camper**

Enter the world of Geronimo Stilton, where another funny adventure is always right around the corner. Each book is a fast-paced adventure with lively art and a unique format.



"My grandfather William Shortpaws, was back at The Rodent's Gazette and he was determined to torture me. He wanted to publish a guide book to Ratzikistan, the Siberia of Mouse Island. And he ordered \*me\* to go there to write it! But as you know, dear reader, I HATE TRAVELLING!"



**BRITISH COUNCIL**

**Age groups:**

**6 – 10 years**

**11 – 15 years**

**Word limit: 100 Words**

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

**6 – 10 years**

**Out for a while**

Camping in the hills,  
No need more pills,  
Thought the fresh air will do me good,  
And I will be like Red Riding Hood.

I saw a fawn,  
Running in the dawn,  
It seemed to run with glee,  
Oh! It looked so free!

Looking at the night sky,  
Below the constellations,  
It looked like the stars are in a conversation,  
This is a special occasion.

**Shayana Hettiwatta**  
**St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7**



## 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**

**The Creatures of the Night**

As the cold winter day turns into dark night,  
Mr. Moon comes peeping in.  
Children are tucked into their beds  
by his light,  
And the creatures' choruses begin

The timid Moon hides behind a cloud,  
As a tawny owl flies by.  
The cheeky cloud floats nimbly away,  
And bashful Moon sails into the sky.

These are the creatures that lie awake,  
When all the people sleep at last.  
They sing and dance and play all night,  
And go to sleep once the night has passed!

**Nabeeha Nashath**  
**Methodist College, Colombo 3**

**Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.**

**Age: 10 – 12 years**

**Word Count: 150 – 200**

**Topic: My grandparents**

**Win: The Prince and the Pauper (OM Illustrated Classics)**

When Tom Canty is born, he is barely wanted by his own poor family. On the same day, the birth of Prince Edward is celebrated by the entire country.



Tom grows up to be a wise boy who fantasizes about the Prince's life. Fate plays a strange trick when they meet unexpectedly and realize that they look exactly alike.

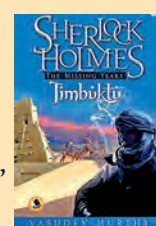
**Age: 13 – 15 years**

**Word Count: 200 – 250**

**Topic: What you know about World Animal Day**

**Win: Sherlock Holmes – The Missing Years: Timbaktu by Vasudev Murthy**

It begins when an Italian scholar travels from Venice to 221B Baker Street, to beg the help of the legendary detective. He carries an ancient parchment, written in the hand of Marco Polo himself, and it was torn in half, centuries ago to protect the world from a terrifying secret. Where is its missing half? Holmes springs into action.



**Write at the top of your Essay**

**■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic**

**NOTE**

**Please see Page 6 in the online edition for the winning essays.**

**9 years and below**

What you like best about the Funday Times  
**Savain Perera**  
Seeduwa

**Book Competition**

**10 – 12 years**

Do you enjoy reading the Funday Times and why?  
**Pirahasiniy Saaranan**  
Methodist College, Colombo 3

**13 – 15 years**

A Funday Times event I enjoyed  
**Thinuli Kuruppuarachchi**  
Methodist College, Colombo 3





## KIDS IN COLOUR

With



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.

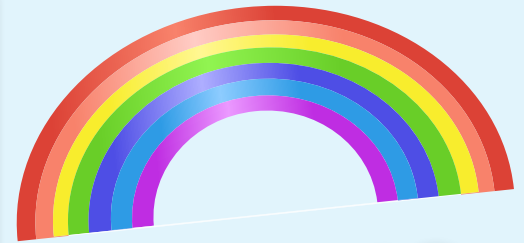
All paintings should be on A4 size paper. Please write Reeves Art Competition at the back of your entry, together with your name, date of birth, address, telephone no., and school.

Topic - Celebrating Teachers' Day  
Closing Date : October 31, 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!



**Reeves**  
**ART** Winners



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

## August 2022 – Flying Kites

**4-7 YEARS**

**8-11 YEARS**

**12-15 YEARS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**Rasandi Ranasinghe**  
Musaeus College, Colombo



**Vinuki Fernando**  
Lyceum Int. School



**Mushtaq Masakeen**  
Matale Int. School

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



**Dasuni Subapratna**  
Primary Model School, Boralesgamuwa



**Malsha Herath**  
Matale Int. School

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**



**Amira Miftha**  
Methodist College, Colombo



**Esandi Ranasinghe**  
Musaeus College, Colombo

## Note

Winners please contact us on  
2479337/2479333  
and arrange to collect your prizes.

Winners from Colombo District  
please collect your prizes from  
**Ninehearts (Pte) Ltd.**

Please remember to certify your  
entries as we had to reject  
several good entries  
that were not properly certified.

Please log on to the  
Funday Times website on  
[www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk)  
or check out the  
Sunday Times epaper on  
[www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk)  
for additional pages of this  
week's Funday Times.





**Asian International Montessori School, Battaramulla celebrated Children's Day with the theme 'Enchanted Forest'.**

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



**Children's Day celebrations at the Dehiwala Zoo**

Pix. by Eshan Fernando



## Maths in Action 68

By R. N. A. de Silva

# The Fifteen Puzzle

**Maths**

The 15 puzzle is a sliding puzzle that has 15 square tiles numbered 1 to 15, leaving one unoccupied tile in a frame with four rows and four columns.

The goal of the puzzle is to place the tiles in numerical order.

The original version of the puzzle was developed in 1874 by Noyes Palmer Chapman, a postmaster in New York, USA. Originally the tiles were loose, and the player placed them randomly and attempted to solve. The new version was popularized by Sam Loyd in 1914. He offered a prize of \$1000 to anyone solving the puzzle with 14 and 15 swapped as shown below. But now we know that is not solvable.



Mathematicians have determined precisely which initial arrangements of the tiles can lead to solutions. The checking for solvability of a puzzle where the blank tile is the last tile, is shown below, through an example.

Consider the following initial arrangement, where the blank tile is marked as X.

1	2	3	10
4	5	6	11
7	8	X	9
12	13	14	15

First, move 9 to the blank tile and then move 15 up, so that the last tile is left blank.

1	2	3	10
4	5	6	11
7	8	9	15
12	13	14	X

Now, write the numbers in a single row in that order.

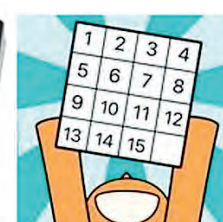
1 2 3 10 4 5 6 11 7 8 9 15  
12 13 14

A pair of tiles (a, b) forms an inversion if  $b < a$ . We need to count all the inversions.

There are no inversions for 1 as all the numbers to the right are greater than 1. The same is true for 2 and 3. But if you consider 10 the numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are less than 10. Therefore, there are 6 inversions. No inversions for 4, 5 and 6. But for 11, there are 3 inversions as 7, 8 and 9 are less than 11. Similarly, no inversions for 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14. But there are 3 inversions for 15.

The total number of inversions is  $6 + 3 + 3 = 12$ .

If the total number of inversions is even, it is solvable. If the total is odd, it is not solvable.



Now that we know that it is solvable, try to see whether you can solve it to arrange all numbers from 1 to 15 in that order.

### Math Plot - 68

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle.

You may send solutions with reasoning to [ndesilva@osc.lk](mailto:ndesilva@osc.lk) within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

**There are 10 people in a meeting room. If they shake each other's hands once, how many handshakes are there altogether?**

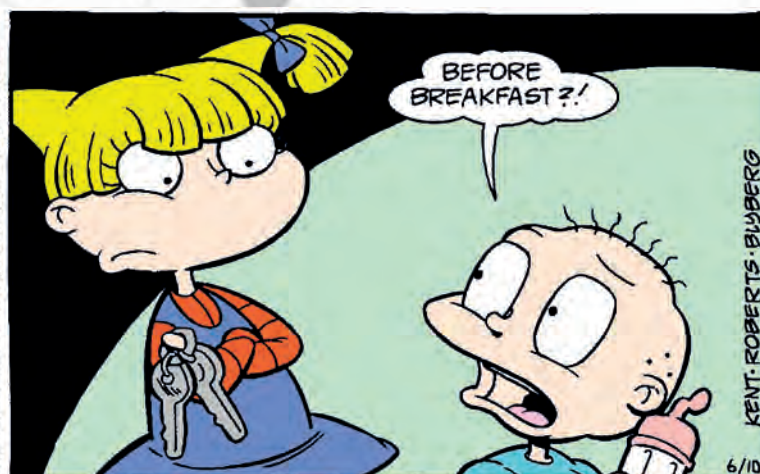
### Math Plot 67 – Solution

The answer is 2.

The winner is **Senulya Fernando** of **Panadura B.M.V.**  
Congratulations!



Rugrats





## Book Competition



### 9 years and below

#### What I like about Funday Times

Reading the newspaper is a good habit. My parents buy the Sunday Times every week. I love the fresh smell of the newspaper. Once they buy it I always find the Funday Times because it's my part of the newspaper.

There are so many interesting things to read and do in the Funday Times. It is also a good source of entertainment. There are stories, information about landmarks, poems and so many things to read. I really love to read about other countries. When my brother solves the crossword, I help him and he loves my help all the time.

Generally newspapers provide news from around the country and the world. Newspaper reading can help students improve their vocabulary as they can learn different words from there.

Savain Perera  
Gateway College, Negombo

### 10 – 12 years

#### Do you enjoy reading Funday Times and why?

Yes, I do! Funday Times is one of the best kids' newspapers in Sri Lanka. It develops kids' creativeness, talents and education in a fun way and showcases their talents to the world. Funday Times helps us to minimize the use of unnecessary electronic related devices and gets us to read the newspapers.

I read Funday Times for its games, competitions and the events they organize. For example, Book Competition helps me with my writing skills. It inspired me a lot. Poetry Competition helps us with developing poetry skills. Crossword puzzle helps us with solving hard problems. Sudoku is also a good activity to practice. The Art Competition is a good platform to improve the drawing skills of kids. Each and every competition that Funday Times organizes has something to help develop us in a creative way. They encourage children to take part in the competitions by giving prizes.

I love the Famous Landmarks part the most because it helps us develop our skills in general knowledge. Funday Times shares really good articles which are good for our studies. This is why I agree to the idea that I love reading the Funday Times.

Pirahasiniy Saarrankan  
Methodist College, Colombo 3

### 13 – 15 years

#### A Funday Times event I enjoyed

When I went through the newspaper, I saw that there were many events organized by the Funday Times for children.

Water Day celebrated on March 22 every year shows the need of conserving water and by what means we can store water. Every year there are different themes for Water Day.

Nowadays children and adults aren't aware or concerned about water pollution and wastage. There is a huge volume of water being wasted during household usage, in industries and other diurnal activities of our lives.

Through Water Day, children are instilled with the idea that it is their responsibility to be part of safeguarding water. Children will then convey the message of water conservation

to their friends, family and neighbours and consequently the whole society will be aware of the amount of water they waste during a day. Children learn ways of conserving water such as by turning the tap off while scrubbing their hands with soap and while brushing their teeth and many more.

We should be grateful to Funday Times for staging such fruitful events with the view of protecting the environment and natural resources. I wish that I could participate in more such events in which I would be able to fulfill my duties as a daughter of Mother Earth.

Thinuli Kuruppuarachchi  
Methodist College, Colombo 3



### 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

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

fundaytimes1@gmail.com



# Beaver

Beavers are famously busy, and they turn their talents to reengineering the landscape as few other animals can. When sites are available, beavers burrow in the banks of rivers and lakes. But they also transform less suitable habitats by building dams. Felling and gnawing trees with their strong teeth and powerful jaws, they create massive log, branch and mud structures to block streams and turn fields and forests into the large ponds that beavers love.

## Beaver Lodges

Domelike beaver homes, called lodges, are also constructed of branches and mud. They are often strategically located in the middle of ponds and can only be reached by underwater entrances. These dwellings are home to extended families of monogamous parents, young kits and the yearlings born the previous spring.

Beavers are herbivores and prefer to eat leaves, bark, twigs, roots and aquatic plants.

**Beavers are the largest rodents (gnawing animals) in North America. Beavers are the second largest rodents in the world, behind the South American capybara.**

## Aquatic Adaptations

These large rodents move with an ungainly waddle on land but are graceful in the water, where they use their large, webbed rear feet like swimming fins, and their paddle-shaped tails like rudders. These attributes allow beavers to swim at speeds of up to five miles an hour. They can remain underwater for 15 minutes without surfacing, and have a set of transparent eyelids that function much like goggles. Their fur is naturally oily and waterproof.

There are two species of beavers, which are found in the forests of North America, Europe and Asia. These animals are active all winter, swimming and foraging in their ponds even when a layer of ice covers the surface.

- National Geographic



**Common Name:** Beaver

**Scientific Name:** *Castor canadensis*

**Type:** Mammal

**Diet:** Herbivore

**Group Name:** Colony

**Average Life Span in the Wild:**

Up to 24 years

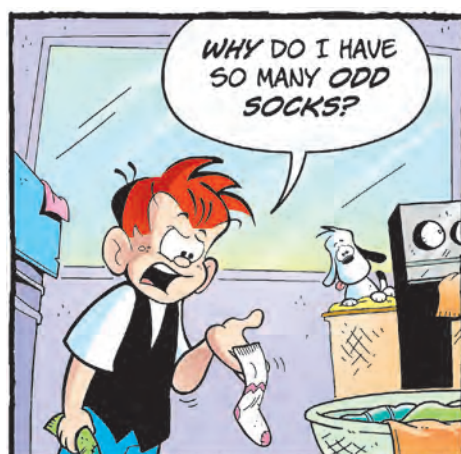
**Size:** Head and body: 23 to 39 inches

tail: 7.75 to 12 inches

**Weight:** 60 pounds



**Ginger Meggs**





*From a Young Reporter*

## Count on me

It was a simple random thought but, it was not allowed to remain so - to help some friends in need! To provide breakfast for 120 school children!

Hewagama Junior School is a small primary school quite close to us. We came to know about the school and their hardships through our parents. But then again, how could we, five students in Year 5, provide food for 120?

### Plan

All we needed was a plan. We made a group in MS Teams and started to plan out things. We discussed, and little by little pieces of the puzzle started to fall into place. Later on, we named the group 'Count on me'. We worked towards a common goal in unity.

### Collecting money

We needed money and we wanted to earn it. So, we all did household chores and our parents gave us around 50 rupees per chore. Then we saved some of our pocket money too. We had four months to collect money. At the end of the academic year, we also sold old text books to collect money. In four months' time we had collected around 6,000 rupees each.



Shopping Day

### Menu

We deliberated a lot on the menu, especially about the dessert. It was a close contest between ice-cream and yoghurt. But we finally agreed on yoghurt as it was easy to transport and people are usually not fussy about it.

### So, our menu was,

- Vegetable fried rice
- Devilled chicken
- Dhal curry
- Papadam
- Yoghurt

### Shopping day

We made a shopping list with the help of Ms. Maduwanthi, the school chef. Uncle Nirosh, Nethuli's father was so nice and agreed to drive us around. We bought all the essentials from four different shops and later that evening we handed over the stuff to the school chef. She was overjoyed to see lots of food, as the school had real difficulties in feeding the children.

### The big day

August 18, 2022 was the big day. We went to the school early in the morning. As we are all studying at an international school, this was during our vacation. We joined their morning assembly and they surprised us with small speeches like, 'My pet', 'My family', dialogues and poems in English. We also sang the song 'Budhanu Bhavena Sith Neth Pahanvee'.

After that we served food to the Grade One students. First, they were a bit shy, but soon they got used to us.



The team: Mumudi Gajadeera, Nethuli Nawagamuwa, Esandi Sakithma, Nethumi Sahansa, Dihain Sanmith



At the school assembly

The principal took us all around the school and she appreciated us a lot. It was a small school with only five classrooms and seven teachers.

We had lots of fun with our new friends. Hours later we left the school taking lots of good memories with us.

### A big thank you to;

- ♦ Ms. Kanthi Liyanage - The principal of Hewagama Kanishta Vidyalaya
- ♦ Ms. Maduwanthi - The chef - for making a delicious meal
- ♦ Uncle Nirosh - For patiently driving us all over the village to buy groceries
- ♦ Our parents - For helping us out whenever we were in trouble



Giving the meal

*A good deed hidden in silence  
dies away with time.  
So, we wanted to pass our light  
to others, so they can pass it to  
many more!*

Mumudi Gajadeera (Year 5)  
Horizon College Int., Malabe



## ***Platinum Jubilee: Tree of trees to be planted around UK***

October 4, 2022

**T**he Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree sculpture - a giant tree made up of smaller trees - is being split up across the UK.

The sculpture - called the Canopy of Trees - was made up of 350 saplings.

All the trees are being sent across the UK and every county will get one.

It's a part of a scheme set up for the Platinum Jubilee called the Queen's Green Canopy - to help encourage communities to plant trees.

The Canopy of Trees was made for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in June, which celebrated her spending over 70 years on the throne.

The huge sculpture was 69ft tall, and stood outside Buckingham Palace in June.

The trees then spent the summer being looked after in a special tree nursery in Cambridgeshire, to prepare them for being moved across the country.

The Queen's Green Canopy was set up in the Queen's name, to plant trees all over the country.

The trees will be planted during tree planting season - which runs between October and March.

The first tree will be put up at the Royal Chelsea Hospital in London.

As well as being planted all over the



**350 special trees are being sent all over the UK to celebrate the Queen**

UK, 20 trees have been given to charities that the Queen cared about.

These include an anti-pollution group in Wales, and a food bank in Scotland.

They will get a special pot with their sapling in, engraved with the Queen's royal symbol.



**The Queen launched the Green Canopy scheme last year to encourage the public to plant more trees**



**The sculpture took a team of workers to climb up and put it together!**

Source : CBBC Newsround

## ***The mystery behind Saturn's rings may have finally been solved***

October 4, 2022

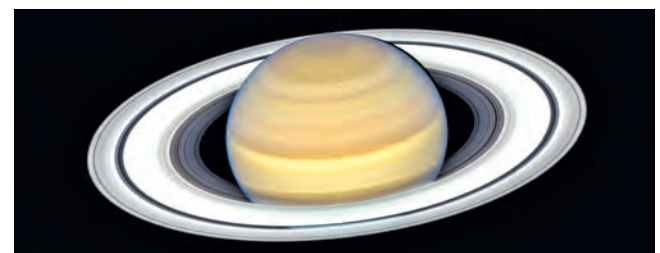
**T**he origin of Saturn's beautiful rings and the reason for the planet's unusually large 27 degree-tilt on its axis has puzzled astronomers for decades. Scientists had initially believed that the rings had been a part of the planet since its formation billions of years ago. However, recent research indicates that the planet acquired them sometime between 100 and 200 million years ago.

They had also theorized that Saturn's tilt was the result of a gravitational pull from Neptune. But data from NASA's Cassini mission showed that Saturn had fallen outside Neptune's grasp at some point in the past. Now, a new study published in the journal Science on September 16, 2022 suggests that an

extinct moon may be responsible for the rings and the unusual tilt.

Jack Wisdom, a planetary science professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and his team assert that Saturn, which currently has 83 moons, once had at least one more. They speculate the satellite, nicknamed Chrysalis, was tugging at the planet in a way that allowed it to have gravitational interaction with Neptune.

However, about 160 million years ago, Chrysalis got too close to Saturn, causing it to rip apart and fall into the planet. The loss of the Moon was enough to remove Saturn from Neptune's grasp and leave it with its present-day tilt. Wisdom and his team further



**The origin of Saturn's rings has puzzled researchers for many years**

hypothesize that fragments from the destroyed Moon settled into the planet's orbit and formed its iconic rings. This theory also helps explain why the rings are far younger than the planet.

"We like it because it's a scenario that explains two or three different things that were previously not thought to be related," says Wisdom. "The rings are related to the tilt, who would ever have guessed that?"

Source : DOGO News



October 4

**News in Pictures****Kolkata, India**

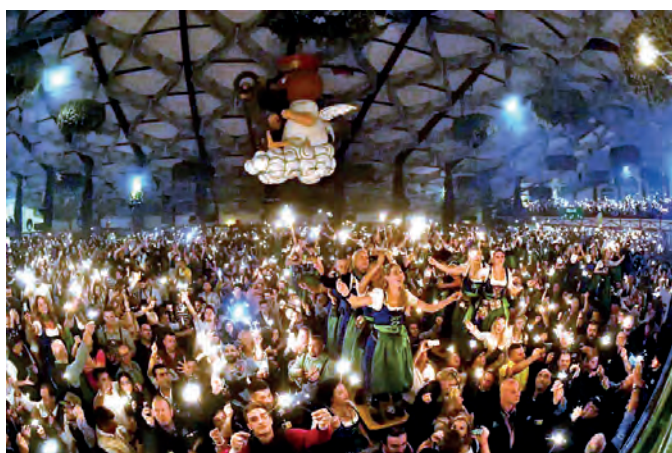
Women in traditional attire wait with a Kumari, right, a girl worshipped as an incarnation of the goddess Durga during the Durga Puja festival. The five-day tribute commemorates the slaying of a demon king by the lion-riding, 10-armed Durga, marking the triumph of good over evil.

**Huarina, Bolivia**

People flee from a bull during the 'Our Lady of the Rosary' festival in the Andean village. A group of amateur bullfighters performed a parody of a Spanish bullfight but without sacrificing the bulls.

**Kuta Cot Glie, Indonesia**

Pupils cross a river from a primary school in Siron village, Aceh province.

**Munich, Germany**

Waiting staff wave sparklers as they celebrate the end of Oktoberfest, the world's largest beer festival, in the Royal Brewery beer tent.

**Bnei Brak, Israel**

Orthodox Jews belonging to the Vizhnitz Hasidic dynasty play with fish in a plastic pool during the Tashlich ritual. The ceremony is performed before the Day of Atonement, when devotees will throw their sins into a water source.

**New York, US**

A mass featuring a 'blessing of the animals' event at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Parishioners and their pets attended a service to celebrate the upcoming feast of Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals.

**London, UK**

Judges arrive at Westminster Abbey for an annual service marking the start of the new legal year.

**Fort Myers Beach, US**

An aerial photo shows the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian on Fort Myers Beach, a town in south-west Florida.

**Kharkiv region, Ukraine**

A destroyed Russian tank. The Ukrainian army pushed Russian troops from occupied territory in the north-east during a counterattack.

Source : The Guardian