

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 23, 2022



FUN DAY TIMES



Off to school in the rain

Pic. by Nilan Maligaspe



NEW

COMPETITIONS
PAGE 2



UN DAY
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STORY
PAGE 4

ONLINE

WINNERS  **ESSAYS**
PAGE 5

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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:

November 9, 2022

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Winners Essays
- **Page 6** – Diwali
- **Page 7** – Tallest trees
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.



Kayley Wijesuriya
9 years on October 7

Gupshup Goes to Prison by Arefa Tehsin

"Khalid's cat Gupshup has run away to the grounds of a prison.

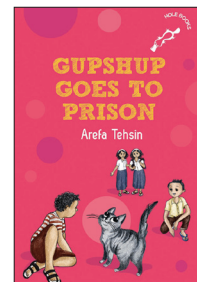
An open prison, it is called, but everyone knows that prisons are full of horrible people. Or are they?

How on earth will Khalid get Gupshup home?"

Usually, a prison is a place where criminals are locked up. This story is about an open prison where prisoners are not locked but free to move in and out.

The Pallekelle Open Prison Camp in Sri Lanka is one such open prison. It prepares prisoners for day-to-day existence in the community.

Over the years it has grown into a sprawling rural village, where there are no boundary walls or cells. Residents work and participate in leisure time activities. Many cultivate private plots of land and sell their produce.



Competition

NEW

Win a copy of Gupshup Goes to Prison.

Write your own short story about your pet or an animal you like.

Age group: 7 – 10 years

Word count: Maximum of 300 words

Please include the following details:

Full Name (including Surname), Date of Birth, Address, Telephone No. and School.

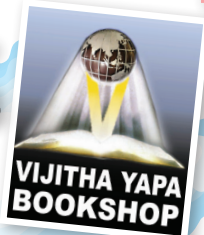
All competition entries should be certified as your own work.



Or

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Win super books from



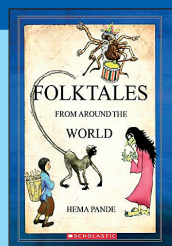
Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: A visit to the zoo

Win: Folktales from Around the World by Hema Pande

Travel to Russia, Norway, China, Nepal and many other countries around the world as you read this charming collection of folktales.



Age: 10 – 12 years

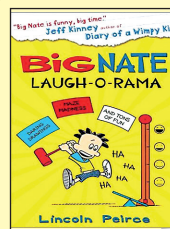
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: An enjoyable day at school

Win: Big Nate Laugh-O-Rama by Lincoln Peirce

Big Nate Laugh-O-Rama is a fantastic addition to the growing collection of Big Nate novels, comic compilations, and activity books from creator Lincoln Peirce.

It is packed with laughs, daring drawings, activities and tons of fun!



Age: 13 – 15 years

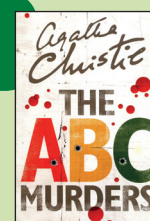
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: How rainfall occurs

Win: The ABC Murders by Agatha Christie

With the whole country in a state of panic, the killer is growing more confident with each successive execution – Mrs. Ascher in Andover, Betty Barnard in Bexhill, Sir Carmichael Clarke in Churston...

But laying a trail of deliberate clues to taunt the proud Hercule Poirot might just be his first mistake.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ **Book Competition** ■ **Essay Topic**



Book Competition

9 years and below

My favourite storybook character
Samadhi Herath
Matale Int. School

10 – 12 years

My favourite author
Aaminah Fasly
Iman Academy

13 – 15 years

The pleasures of reading
Senuli Rathnasekara
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7



United Nations Day

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Celebrated since 1948, United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the organisation's inception on October 24, 1945. The UN is the world's largest international organisation and primarily aims to 'maintain international peace and security', 'protect human rights', 'deliver humanitarian aid', 'promote sustainable development' and 'uphold international law'.

While the UN system includes many entities aside from the United Nations, in recent months, a few have been constantly popping up in the news - the IMF, World Bank, World Food Programme and UNICEF. So, here's an overview of each of those organisations:



International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Established in 1944 in the wake of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the IMF began with only 44 member countries with a vision for international economic cooperation. Today, there are 190 member countries.

The IMF provides loans to member countries that are facing potential or actual balance of payments problems. The objective of the loan is to help the country restore economic stability and growth. And a set of corrective policy actions are also specified

by the IMF, to hopefully prevent future crises.

A variety of lending options are available for the IMF's members, but concessional support is offered to low-income countries through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) - at the moment, this concessional support is interest-free.

The **balance of payments** is a record of all the international transactions of a country, including imports, exports, foreign aid and foreign debt. Balance of payment problems occur when the country cannot pay for its essential imports or repay its foreign debt.



World Bank

The World Bank was established in 1944 as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with the intention of providing loans to help rebuild countries affected by World War II. Today, there are 189 member countries.

The main goals of the World Bank are to 'end extreme poverty' and 'promote shared prosperity in a sustainable way'. The organisation's priorities include food security, climate change and investments in people (the Human Capital Project - 'for greater equity and economic growth'). The International Development Association (IDA), established in 1960, is the section of the World Bank that helps the poorest countries in the world.



World Food Programme (WFP)

Established in 1961 as an experiment, the organisation soon proved its worth by providing food aid to areas hit by crises. Among their first projects was a school meal project in Togo (a West African country) that provided 5,000 children with nourishment, in 1963. Today, the WFP works in over 120 countries to provide food and nourishment to those affected by conflict, climate change, disasters, inequality and even the COVID-19 pandemic.



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The UNICEF was established in 1946, as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (which was shortened in 1953 to United Nations Children's Fund), to help children in post-war Europe and China. It later expanded its range to help children in developing countries around the world. Their work includes providing vaccines, clean water and sanitation, and supporting child health and nutrition.

NOTE: The explanations in this article, particularly about the IMF, have been simplified by the writer (who holds a BSc in Economics and Management) for the benefit of the younger readers.

No opinions or assumptions are included. All the information has been taken only from the official websites mentioned below.

SDR allocations: what are they and how are they used?



What is an SDR?

Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are international reserve assets created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of member countries. The value of an SDR is based on a basket of five currencies.

How are SDRs used?

SDRs are allocated to IMF member countries in proportion to their relative share in the IMF. Countries can exchange SDRs for hard currencies with other IMF members.



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

IMF.org/SDR

SDR allocations: COVID-19 vaccine purchase example

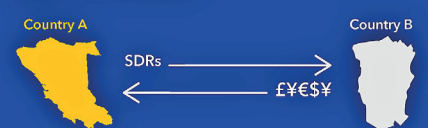
Step 1: Allocation of SDRs

The IMF allocates SDRs. Country A receives an amount in proportion to its share in the IMF.



Step 2: Trade SDRs for currency

Country A can then use its SDRs with Country B for foreign currency reserves.



Step 3: Acquire vaccines

Country A can then use these foreign currency reserves to purchase vaccines.



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

IMF.org/SDR



Thank you Teacher

By Manoshi De Silva

Thilan was afraid of his class teacher, who also taught them Mathematics. Mathematics was Thilan's least favourite subject as well. He found it to be uninteresting. Making sums was always difficult for Thilan, because he didn't pay much attention to it at school and he never bothered to improve it at home or to do his homework.

This was not a big problem when he was in the lower grade classes. But this year things were different. His class teacher paid a lot of attention to the students who did not perform too well in class and to make matters worse, she gave homework every day and checked their books the next day.

Their class teacher was tough with the students. She scolded those who didn't pay attention and those who didn't do their homework. So Thilan came early to school and copied the homework from his friends every day.

This went on for a while until one day Thilan copied answers from his friend Shanuka. The teacher corrected their homework books one by one, while the students solved a sum. "Shanuka and Thilan, please stand up!" she said suddenly. The boys smelled trouble by the tone of their teacher's voice.

Both children stood-up, meekly. "One of you has taken down the sum incorrectly from the text book and the other one has obviously copied from that one, because both sums are written and solved in the exact same way!" she said hitting the table with a foot-ruler and standing up staring at both boys.

Thilan felt his ears turning hot in fear. He was so scared he wished he could vanish. "Tell me who copied from the other one's book?" demanded their teacher. Shanuka looked at Thilan and Thilan looked down. The teacher guessed at once that it was Thilan who had copied. She scolded Thilan in front of the whole class and said that she would complain to the Principal if this happened again. As punishment, Thilan was given six additional sums

to be solved as homework.

After school Thilan complained to his friends about how much he disliked Mathematics.

"I don't like Maths because of our teacher," he said. "She hates me so much!"

"But that's your fault, Thilan. You never do your homework or try to learn how to solve the sums," argued his friends.

But Thilan disagreed.

"It's the teacher's fault," he insisted.

"She doesn't like me. That's why she always scolds me!"

After this incident Thilan's teacher paid even more attention to him and checked his homework very carefully. She'd sometimes call on him and ask him to explain how he got the answer. Thilan knew he had to find a solution, as copying others' homework didn't work anymore.

So he started paying attention in class and making the sums at home. As a result he improved in Maths and after a few months he didn't even need to copy anymore.

But Thilan still disliked his teacher a lot. She still scolded him whenever he made a mistake and punished him along with the others who made mistakes, which Thilan found scary and embarrassing at the same time.

One day after school, Thilan stayed back for cricket practice. The staff-room was across the ground and Thilan saw his class teacher doing some work there. Thilan felt very hot and sweaty and suddenly his teacher and the staff-room started to look unclear and blurry.

That was all he remembered.

When Thilan opened his eyes, he was lying on a bed in the school sick-room, where students who were ill, were treated. He felt someone gently touching his head. As he looked up, he saw his class teacher fanning him with a sheet of paper. He felt so scared that he tried to get up. "Relax Putha, it's okay.



You are alright now," she told him kindly. She had never talked like that to Thilan and he felt very surprised.

"You fainted. Didn't you have any lunch?" asked the teacher, holding out a lunch box full of sandwiches to Thilan. Thilan slowly ate a sandwich as he was very hungry. "Whose box is this Miss?" he asked her as he took another one. "It's mine. But that's ok, you can have these," she said smiling and Thilan was even more surprised at her kindness towards him.

"Although this is not the time, I still want to tell you this," the teacher told Thilan. "You have improved a lot in Mathematics and I am very proud of you for your effort!" "But Miss..." said Thilan, "I thought you didn't like me at all!" The teacher smiled gently. "Why did you think so?" "Because you always scold me and punish me," Thilan said very softly. "That is not because I dislike you Putha, that is because I care. I want you to do your very best. Because, if not, you would have never improved this much!" Thilan knew that this was true. If he was not scared of his teacher, he would never have bothered to learn how to make the sums.

Thilan sighed, feeling very sad for misunderstanding his teacher. "I would have continued to copy from my friends and not learn a thing, if you didn't scold me and make me pay attention and do my homework. Now I understand why you were so tough on me," Thilan looked at his teacher with gratitude. "Thank you Miss. I am so thankful that you are my teacher!"

Book Competition

9 years and below

My favourite storybook character

My favourite storybook character is Peter Rabbit. He is the most playful rabbit in the family. He has three sisters and he is the only boy in his family. His father was put into a pie by Mrs. McGregor and he died. He has two friends called Benjamin and Lily.

Peter is adventurous. He always goes into Mr. McGregor's garden to rob his fruits and vegetables.

Peter has a lot of enemies. They are Mr. McGregor, Mr. Tod, Old Brown and Tommy Brock.

Peter is wearing his father's favourite jacket. He also helps others. Peter Rabbit is always doing something in the correct way or order. Peter Rabbit is the number one best storybook character.

Samadhi Herath
Matale Int. School

10 – 12 years

My favourite author

My favourite author is the great British novelist, Roald Dahl. His books inspired me to start reading. I don't have words to describe his books. That's why he was such a writer. He is more than marvellous, excellent, fantastic etc.

My favourite book by Roald Dahl is 'The Magic Finger.' How many times I read, I never get bored. I have read that book more than seven times. Whenever I read it, I wish that I was the girl with the

magic finger.

Roald Dahl is not like other authors. He knows how the reader will feel when they read a book. He knows that they'll imagine such things. Roald Dahl is the best author for anyone. Therefore, when I grow up I will encourage my little ones to also read Roald Dahl books!

He will be an unforgettable person to everyone.

Aaminah Fasly
Iman Academy

13 – 15 years

The pleasures of reading

"Reading makes a man complete," Reading means, searching for different things for different requirements. Newspapers, books, articles etc., are different things we read in our daily life. We also come across different varieties we read such as, fiction, non-fiction, fantasy etc.

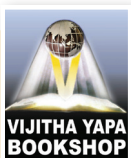
Reading has always given many pleasures and reading almost does not have any displeasures. Entertainment, meeting new friends, facing different emotions and situations are some pleasures of reading. Funny situations, the surrounding area and people living in that time are some examples for the

entertainment books give us.

When reading books, we meet new characters and begin to like them. When reading, meeting new situations make us get to know about different emotions and feelings of others in various situations of life as well. It also helps us to learn to face various situations in life.

The pleasures of reading can be emphasized by one of the famous quotes by Frederick Douglas, abolitionist, orator, writer, statesman, "Once you learn to read you will be forever free." We should always enjoy the pleasures of reading.

Senuli Rathnasekara
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7



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.


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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:

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School:

Parent's approval: Date:

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



Or

 fundaytimes1@gmail.com

The five days of Diwali, the Festival of Lights

October 17, 2022

Every year, over a billion Hindus, Sikhs and Jains worldwide celebrate Diwali. The five-day festival, which commemorates the triumph of good over evil, is India's biggest holiday. The festival is also celebrated in Sri Lanka. The ancient festival's date is based on the Hindu lunar calendar and differs annually. This year, Deepavali, or the Festival of Lights, as it is also called, will be observed from October 22 to October 26. In Sri Lanka this year the main festival is celebrated on October 24.



Rangoli made with flowers

The fun begins with 'Dhanteras', a day dedicated to the deities of wealth. The occasion is marked with prayers for the prosperity, success and well-being of loved ones. Many people also decorate the entrances of their homes and businesses with colourful lanterns and traditional temporary designs, or 'rangoli.' Making a purchase on this day is considered auspicious, and observers often treat themselves to beautiful jewelry clothing or household goods.

The festival's second day is called 'Kali Chaudas', or 'Narak Chaturdashi'.

For some, it is a day to drive away demons or evil spirits from homes with traditional rituals. Others think of it as 'Choti (small) Diwali' and use it as an excuse to start the celebrations early with feasts and fireworks.

Regardless of their beliefs, everyone looks forward to Diwali on the third day.

Diwali celebrations begin early with a visit to a place of worship, such as a temple. Families and friends then get together to exchange gifts and sweets. At sunset, observers worldwide light up their homes with glittering small oil lamps, or 'diyas,' and share a delicious meal with loved ones. For the residents of India, the real fun begins late in the evening when entire neighbourhoods take to the streets to light up the skies with colourful fireworks. The spectacular show continues until every last firecracker has exploded.

There are numerous folklore associated with the ancient festival. Some believe that the residents of Ayodhya first celebrated Diwali to mark



Traditional Diwali sweets



Diwali is also known as Deepavali, the Festival of Lights

the return of King Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshmana from a 14-year exile ordered by the king's mother. Others think the celebration marked the taming of an angry goddess who had been on a rampage that threatened to wipe out every living creature on Earth.

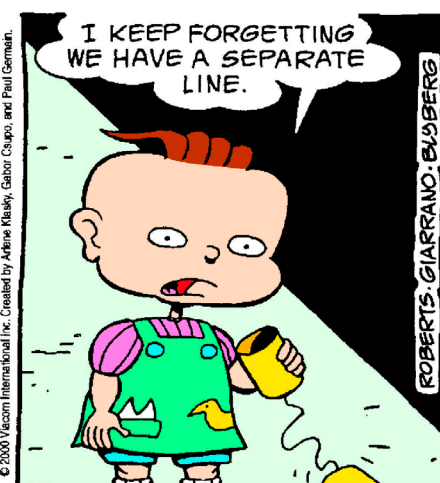
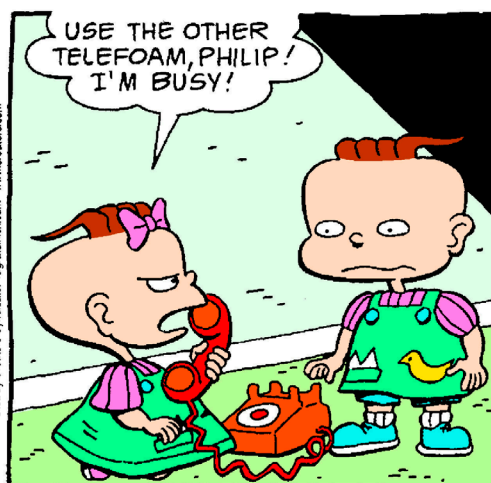
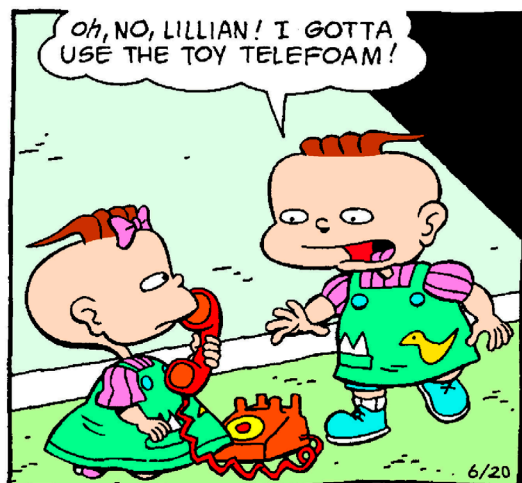
For the residents of the western states of India, like Gujarat, Diwali marks the end of the calendar year. On October 25, 2022, they will welcome the first day of the year 2079. The 57-year gap between the Hindu and the Gregorian calendar is due to their use of shorter lunar cycles.

In India's northern states, the fourth day is set aside to honour the Hindu god Lord Krishna. The fifth and final day of the festival celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters. It is marked with prayers and more delicious food.

For children in India, Diwali is similar to Christmas. In addition to a week off from school, they are also treated to gifts, new clothes, good food and fireworks. It is no wonder that the festival ranks high among the country's favourite celebrations.

DOGO News

Rugrats



October 19

Where are the tallest trees in the world?

Scientists have finally reached the tallest tree in the Amazon rainforest. It took them more than two weeks of trekking through the jungle to get to it, and three years to plan.

The tree is an Angelim vermelho and is 88.5 m tall, which is about the same as 20 double-decker buses – measuring 4.38 m tall – stacked on top of each other!

But have you ever wondered where the tallest trees in the world are? These ones are the biggest of their species – let's go through the top ten!



10. Dinizia Excelsa tree in Brazil

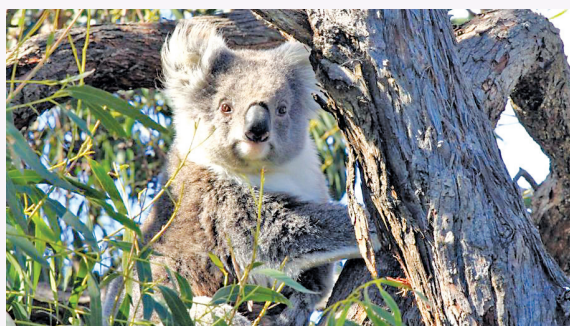
Number 10 on the list is the *Dinizia excelsa* tree. It is 88.5 m tall – the same height as the one scientists' have just got to in the Amazon!

Double-decker bus rating: 20

9. Manna Gum tree in Tasmania

The hugest of its species is found in Evercreech Forest Reserve in Tasmania and is 88.9 m tall! The Manna Gum has long, white coloured branches and green leaves.

Double-decker bus rating: 20.3



Koalas love to live in Manna Gum trees!

8. Conifer in Washington, USA

The biggest Noble Fir tree has been found in the Goat Marsh Research Natural Area in Washington, in the USA – at 89.9 m tall! In the USA, it's also known as 'The Christmas Tree' – but you might have trouble fitting this one in your living room!

Double-decker bus rating: 20.5

7. 'Mother and Daughter' in Tasmania

The tallest Southern Blue Gum tree – called 'Mother and Daughter' – is 90.7 m tall. It's found in Tasmania, which is an island to the South-East of Australia.

Double-decker bus rating: 20.7

6. Giant Sequoia tree in California

This is a very special type of redwood tree. You might have heard of the Redwood Forest in California, which is full of huge trees... These trees are very rare, however and are currently classed as endangered.

Double-decker bus rating: 21.9



Redwoods are some of the tallest trees on the planet.

5. 'Merana' on Borneo Island

This tree is in a very special place on this list – as it's the tallest tropical tree in the world! Named Merana, it's a 97.6 m high Yellow Meranti tree.

Double-decker bus rating: 22.2

4. 'Doerner Fir' in Oregon, USA

This tree used to be more than 100 m tall, but lost height since 1991. It's still an impressive 99.7 m high!

Double-decker bus rating: 22.7

3. Sitka Spruce in California, USA

This one is found in Prairie Creek Redwoods Park in the USA. It's got a huge trunk as well – as wide as 5 m!

It's the first on our list to make it more than 100 m, at 100.3 m high.

Double-decker bus rating: 22.8



They start small but Sitka Spruce can grow to be huge.

2. 'Centurion' in Australia

Centurion is the world's tallest Eucalyptus tree. It's 100.5 m tall and wasn't discovered until 2008, by people trying to map out the forest. It's found in Southern Tasmania.

Double-decker bus rating: 22.9

1. 'Hyperion' in California, USA

This is considered the world's tallest tree – and the name deserves the hype! At a whopping 115.95 m tall, it's estimated to be anywhere between 600 and 1,000 years old.

Double-decker bus rating: 26.4!



Source: CBBC Newsround

October 19

News in Pictures



Welshpool, UK

Gardener Dan Bull works from a cherry-picker to trim a section of 14-metre-high yew hedge at the National Trust's Powis Castle. The famous tumps are more than 300 years old and it takes one gardener 10 weeks each autumn to clip them.



Bandung, Indonesia

Children learn about firefighting equipment during a visit to a fire station in West Java.

Ahuachapán, El Salvador

Baby sea turtles walk towards the waters of the Pacific Ocean after being released at sunset.



Gaza, Palestine

A man inspects a Byzantine-era mosaic floor that was discovered by a farmer as he was planting an olive tree.



Antalya, Turkey

Artur Orchowski of Poland prepares to compete in the beach stage of the 13th Sea to Sky Enduro Races.



Bali, Indonesia

A diver uses a net to catch fish that will be used to fill aquariums.

October 18



Nuseirat, Gaza Strip

A Palestinian boy breakdances in a refugee camp.

Source : The Guardian



Los Angeles, USA

Julia Roberts and George Clooney attend the premier of the movie 'Ticket to Paradise' at Regency Village Theatre.



Mykolaiv, Ukraine

A woman carries a dog outside a residential building heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike.