



# FUNDA DAY TIMES

Best Wishes  
for 2023!

## COMPETITIONS

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(ONLINE)



## MATHS

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## WINNERS!

## ART

PAGE 6



**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:**

**January 18, 2023**

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

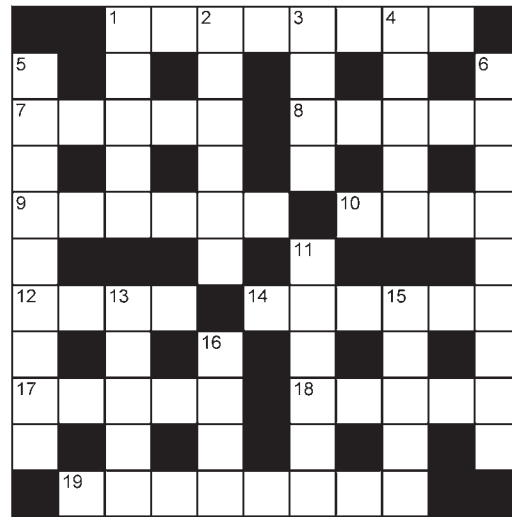


**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Maths
- **Page 6** – Art Winners
- **Pages 7 – 8** – New Year traditions around the world

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.

**Junior Crossword – No. 975**



- Across**
- These people work at schools
  - Doors out of a building
  - Greatly liked
  - Toddler
  - Broad smile
  - Baby lions
  - A two-piece swimsuit
  - A black-and-white furry animal
  - Smell
  - With good manners

- Down**
- Robber
  - Away from school
  - Fifty percent
  - A large stream
  - A submarine's viewer
  - Exactly the same
  - A robber at sea
  - This instrument can be plucked or strummed
  - Elephant tusk material
  - Hired car

Please enter your full name, date of birth, home address, mobile number and school.

**All entries must be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.**



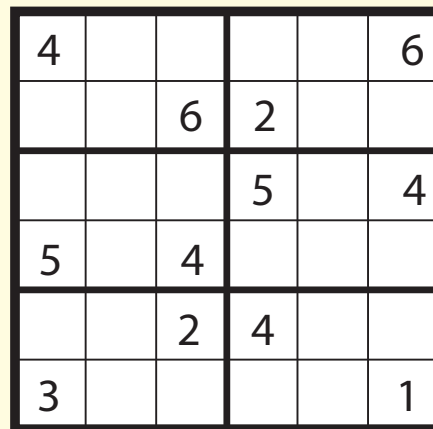
**Ruzaina Junkeer,**  
Colombo 2

**Solution - No 973**



**Sudoku**  
**336**

1. In the large square you can see three features:



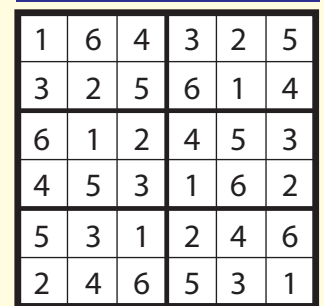
**Vertical columns**  
Six vertical columns with six small squares in each column.

**Horizontal columns**  
Six horizontal columns with six small squares in each of them.

**Grids**  
Six boxes or grids with six small squares in each grid

2. Insert Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the small squares in a way so as not to repeat the same number twice.

**Solution – No. 334**



Compiled by **Peter Fernando**

Now try to complete Junior Sudoku 336 using logic and reasoning. This is a good exercise for your mind.

**Happy Birthday**



**Nithum Induwara**  
10 years on January 4



**Nishelle Peiris**  
12 years on December 30

Photographs of members and non-members between 4 – 15 years, for the birthday page, should reach us at least ten days before the birthday, along with a letter from a parent giving full details.

*This article is part of a continuing series on the history of Sri Lanka*

## British prisoners who gained freedom



**1** King Rajasinghe's delegate could not go to Madras as the Dutch caught him when he was on his way. Meanwhile, a peace-treaty was signed between England and Holland. The British prisoners who were thrilled with this news, sought freedom from the Dutch Governor.

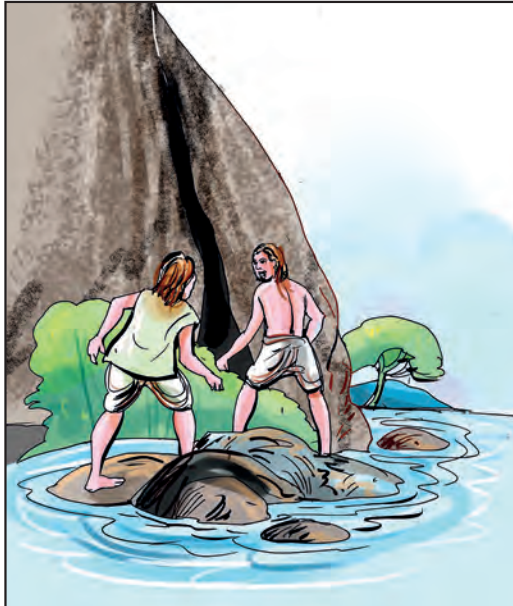
The Dutch governor was sympathetic towards the prisoners and he released the British prisoners. The prisoners who were with King Rajasinghe also appealed for freedom. But the King did not accede to their request.



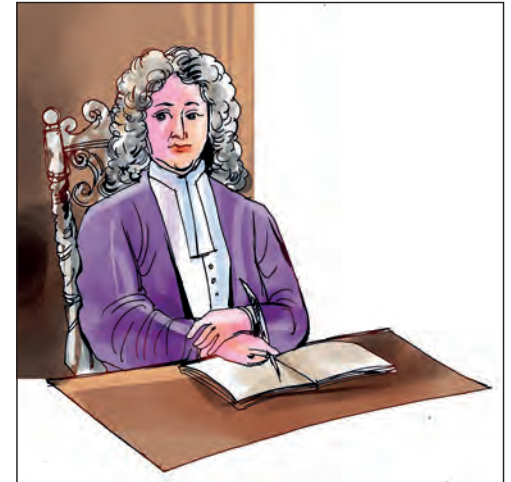
**4** Meanwhile, six more British prisoners escaped from the security guards of Kandy and fled. They too sought Dutch help.

Some more prisoners fled in the two ships, the 'Herbert' and the 'Rochester'. The balance remaining here got married to Sinhala women and continued to live in the Kandyan Kingdom.

**By Halaliye Karunathilaka**  
**Edited and Translated by Kamala Silva**  
**Illustrated by Saman Kalubowila**



**2** In 1679, two Britishers – Robert Knox and Stephen Rutland – fled from the King. They came to Arrippu. The Dutch sent them to Batavia. Robert Knox who had been a captive in Kandy for nearly 20 years, thus gained freedom and went to England.



**3** The King of Great Britain, Charles II, invited Robert Knox to the palace and had a fitting welcome ceremony. Later, Knox wrote a valuable book on Ceylon. Afterwards, he was engaged in the slave trade of the East India Company. While Robert Knox was engaged in this slave trade, he sent a letter to King Rajasinghe.



**5** Meanwhile, King Rajasinghe II tried to come to some peace with the British. But this was not achieved in his lifetime. Time passed in this manner. The Nayakkars of South India then gained kingship in Lanka. They ruled from the Kandyan Kingdom.

From then onwards transactions went on between the King of Kandy and the British. In 1761, King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe got angry with the Dutch. Thereafter he decided to be friends with the British.

**To be continued....**

### History Quiz - 2

**Q:** Name the two British prisoners who escaped from the Kandyan King in 1679.



Or

[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

### History Quiz - 1



**Senuli Rathnasekara,**  
Kotikawatta



Vidura College held its annual concert at the Elphinstone Theatre in Colombo on December 1, 2022.

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



Students of Immy Kids International Montessori had fun at their Christmas party held on December 9, 2022.

Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



Villuwa watta Preschool in Puttalam organized a mobile Nativity and Christmas carols on December 23, 2022.

Pix. by Hiran Priyankara

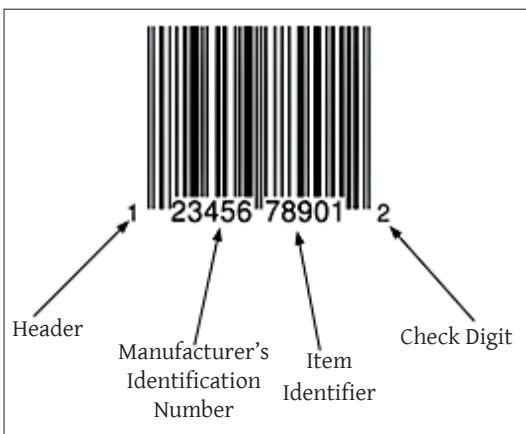
**Maths in Action 70**  
By R. N. A. de Silva

# QR Codes & Barcodes

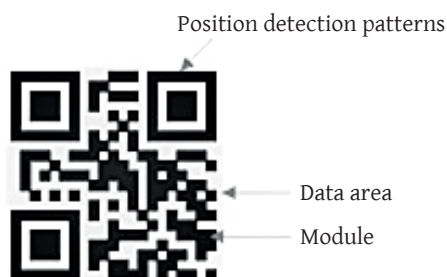


QR codes have become very popular nowadays and even fuel for vehicles is supplied using QR codes to enable to track the usage. Some restaurants too use them to display their menu. QR is an abbreviation for 'Quick Response'.

We are all used to barcodes. Almost all items in supermarkets and departmental stores have barcodes. These barcodes help speed up the check out process and also keep the inventories up-to-date. These were introduced in 1973 and 'Wrigley's Chewing Gum' is supposed to be the first product to have included a barcode in its package. The barcodes usually contain 12 digits. Lines of different thicknesses represent each digit. The first digit categorizes the product and the next five represent the manufacturer's code. The rest of the digits identify the product and its properties.



A barcode can only contain a 20-digit number, but a QR code can include over 400 digits as it is two dimensional. The QR codes were invented in 1994 in Japan by Masahiro Hara. It was used by the Toyota Company to track inventory of car parts and the manufacturing process.



It can be read from any rotation since the three boxes define its orientation. There are many versions of QR codes. Version 1 can contain 21x21 bits of information while version 40 contains 177x177 bits of information.

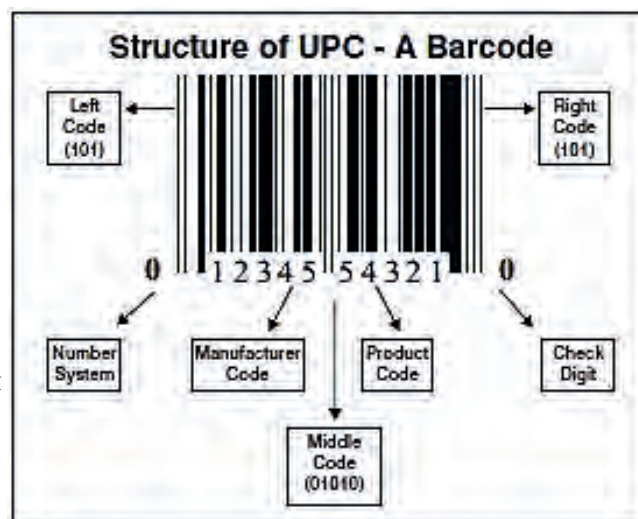
The coding of the message is done using binary digits. When it is scanned the computer reads the binary code and converts it into sensible information. Decimal numbers are converted to binary numbers through repeated division by 2 and consideration of remainders. The conversion of number 14 to binary is shown below.

**Convert 14<sub>10</sub> to Base 2**

2   14		
2   7	with remainder 0	← Least significant digit
2   3	with remainder 1	
2   1	with remainder 1	
0	with remainder 1	← Most significant digit

Read remainders in reverse order to obtain

14<sub>10</sub> = 1110<sub>2</sub>



**HOW TO CONVERT BINARY TO DECIMAL**

1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
(1x128)	(0x64)	(1x32)	(1x16)	(0x8)	(1x4)	(0x2)	(1x1)
							= 181

**Math Plot - 70**

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.

**I am an odd number.  
Take away a letter and  
I become even.  
What number am I?**

**Math Plot 69 – Solution**

The answer is 11.

The winner is **Hiflur Rahman** of **Zahira College, Colombo**. Congratulations!

**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 - Back to School  
Closing Date : January 31, 2023

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!



**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.

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

**November 2022 – Rainy Day**

**4-7 YEARS**

**8-11 YEARS**

**12-15 YEARS**

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



**Rasandi Ranasinghe**  
Musaeus College, Colombo



**Malsha Herath**  
Matale Int. School



**Mahima Chethana**  
York Int. School, Kadawatha

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



**Sayuni Wijethunga**  
Maliyadeva Girls' College, Kurunegala



**Ifthikar Rahma**  
Springfield College, Kandy



**Ruzaina Junkeer**  
Buddhist Ladies' College, Colombo

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



**Thinaya Rathnayake**  
JMC College, Maharagama



**Saqeef-ul-Haq**  
Matale Int. School



**Ifthikar Zain**  
Springfield College, Kandy

## Unique New Year's Eve traditions from around the World

While dazzling New Year's fireworks ignite skies around the world, many unique traditions illuminate little pockets of the globe as well. Here are some of the weird and wonderful ways people across the planet bring in the New Year.

### Round everything (Philippines)

Filipinos gobble grapes... and oranges, watermelons, apples and cantaloupe. The custom is to gather 12 different fruits — one for each month of the year — but they have to be round... because that represents wealth and prosperity. It's all about those cash dollars in the Philippines — locals also wear clothes carrying polka-dots and stuff their pockets with round coins to cash in on the ritual.



### Throwing paper out the window (Argentina)



Pieces of confetti fluttering through the streets of Buenos Aires around lunchtime on December 31 appears celebratory, but the explanation behind the custom is more practical: Argentines shred all their old documents and papers before the curtain falls on the year, to symbolise leaving the past behind. It's hardly the most hazardous thing flying out of windows around the world on New Year's, though — many other Latin American countries are fond of throwing buckets of water, while South Africans deposit their old furniture onto the street from great heights.

### Casting of tin (Finland)

Finns are able to see into the future — and it looks a little something like a melted piece of metal. The Nordic tradition involves melting a small horseshoe (for luck, of course) then tossing the molten metal into a bucket of cold water, where it re-hardens into a warped shape that predicts your fortune for the year ahead.

Bubbles? Great, money's on the horizon. Tin breaks up in the water? Yikes, that's not good.

### Burning effigies (Ecuador)

Ecuadorians say 'adios' to the old year by incinerating huge effigies, or *viejos*, representing the old year. Families construct these enormous scarecrows out of paper and old clothes, pop a painted mask on top (anything from beloved cartoon characters to hated politicians), then ignite their creations when the clock strikes 12 to put the previous year to bed.

Ecuador also shares a tradition with next-door neighbours Colombia, of walking around the block with a suitcase, representing all the travel they'll enjoy in the New Year.

Source: Culture Trip

### Gobbling grapes (Spain)

What began as an excuse for grape-growers to shed their excess produce a century ago, has blossomed into a much-loved Spanish tradition, with Spaniards scarfing down grapes to each stroke of the clock at midnight.

Each of *las doce uvas de la suerte* (the 12 lucky grapes) provides one month of good luck — completing the challenge means a full year of fortune, but fall a couple of munches short and you mightn't have much to look forward to next November and December.



## Unique New Year's Eve traditions from around the World

### Putting mistletoe under the pillow (Ireland)

The Irish custom entails placing mistletoe — the wild berry associated with fertility in European mythology, and a kissing magnet over Christmas — under your pillow on New Year's Eve, then burning it in the fire the next day in the hope of luring love in the next 12 months.

Another unique Irish tradition involves hitting the walls and doors of your home with Christmas bread to ward off evil spirits.

### Smashing plates (Denmark)

If you want to make a new Danish friend for the New Year, smash a plate against their door. The tradition is meant to bring the recipient good luck for the year ahead — the bigger the pile of shattered crockery on your welcome mat, the more good fortune you receive.

Danes also jump off chairs to literally leap into the New Year (hopefully avoiding any smashed tableware upon landing), and stay glued to their TVs for Queen Margrethe's annual address to the nation.

### Wearing specific underpants (everywhere)



Argentines looking for love also don pink underwear, and they're not the only ones paying so much attention to their undies on December 31. Red lingerie in Turkey flies off the shelves, Mexicans and Bolivians slip into yellow underpants for luck, red is worn around the Mediterranean to court love, while Brazilians wear white for good fortune.

### Talking to the animals (Romania)



Dr. Dolittle, eat your heart out. Romanian farmers spend their New Year's trying to communicate with their livestock, earning good luck if they succeed.

And the unusual Romanian New Year's traditions don't end there — people also throw coins into rivers for luck, and dress up in bear skins then dance and play instruments from door to door, a ritual that's intended to ward off evil spirits.

### Hogmanay (Scotland)

New Year's is incomplete without mentioning Hogmanay and the strange Scottish customs that accompany it. Legend goes that a strapping man is meant to rock up at your front door at midnight carrying whisky, coal, short bread and a black bun (fruitcake), and the tradition continues today, with the first person to cross the threshold of a home in the New Year bearing gifts.

There's also plenty of fire, derived from pagan influences — Edinburgh's torchlight procession on December 30 fills the streets of the capital with a sea of light, while locals in Stonehaven spend their Hogmanay parading through the streets wielding enormous fireballs.

Source: Culture Trip

### Ginger Meggs

