

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JANUARY 22, 2023



FUNDAY TIMES



Pre-School kids at Saliyawewa

Pic. by Jayarathne Wickramaarachchi



LANDMARKS

PAGE 3



COMPETITIONS

PAGE 4

ONLINE



LUNAR NEW YEAR

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 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 8, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Savin Kannangara
14 years on January 28

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.

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Lunar New Year
- **Page 6** – Young Reporter / Cartoon
- **Page 7** – Nuclear power
- **Page 8** – Kite Festival

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.



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



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Achievements



Malsha Herath
(10 years),
a Grade 6
student
of Matala
International
School won a
Bronze Award
in the Under 14
years Category
of the Queen's
Commonwealth
Essay
Competition
(QCEC) 2022.

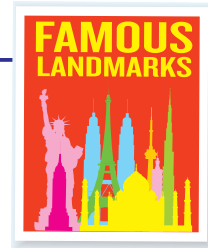


Samadhi Herath
(8 years),
a Grade 4
student
of Matala
International
School received
a certificate for
participating
in the Queen's
Commonwealth
Essay
Competition
(QCEC) 2022.

Rugrats



Sydney Harbour Bridge



Sydney Harbour is one of the finest natural harbours in the world. As Sydney expanded in the 1800s, so did the need for a bridge to connect the city and the north shore.

Sydney Harbour Bridge is a half-through arch bridge that connects the North Shore with Sydney central business district (CBD). Due to its unique design, it is often referred to as 'The Coathanger'.

Planning and design

Three design competitions were held from 1900 to 1903, then the project was abandoned. In 1922, the government committed to build an arch-type bridge. In 1924, United Kingdom firm Dorman Long and Co was appointed and work began with the demolition of hundreds of buildings to make way for the bridge and its approach roads.

Construction

The construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge was one of Australia's greatest engineering feats. It provided thousands of jobs during the Great Depression, but working conditions were hazardous.



The bridge was a source of pride for Sydneysiders and many other Australians who saw it as a symbol of Australia's ability to achieve world-class success.

On the opening parties of the bridge, almost one million people joined in to mark the celebration. At the time, the population of Sydney was 1.256 million.

In order to lessen the burden of traffic on this bridge, the Sydney Harbour Tunnel was built and completed in 1992. It was constructed for vehicles only.

Did you know?

- The idea for a bridge across Sydney Harbour was first raised in 1815, more than 100 years before work on the bridge began.
- One worker survived a fall from the bridge.

Boilermaker Vincent Kelly was also an experienced diver and swam to safety after falling into the harbour.

Source: National Museum Australia



Hundreds of people worked on the Sydney Harbour Bridge during the eight years of its construction. It created jobs and helped to boost morale during the Great Depression.

Working conditions on the bridge were difficult, with very little safety equipment. Sixteen men died during construction, including a number who fell to their death.

Opening

The Sydney Harbour Bridge was officially opened on March 19, 1932. At the time it was the largest, though not quite the longest, steel arch bridge in the world.

Famous Landmarks Quiz 38

Q: When was Sydney Harbour Bridge officially opened?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 37

Tharindu de Silva, **WINNER**
Galle



Tomahawk

Quiz
No. 203

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 203 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issues and e-papers of December 4, 11, 18 and 25, 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. 203' 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.

One lucky winner
will receive a brand new
Tomahawk Mountain Bike
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: January 31, 2023

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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 203

1. Give two examples of how climate change has affected animals in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
2. Which animal is often called the 'unicorn of the sea'?
3. What is the Dutch name for St. Nicholas?
4. Name a street in Naples that is famous for crib shops and Nativity scene makers.
5. What is the Icelandic tradition of gifting books on Christmas Eve called?



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7 - 9 years



- ▶ Johannes Victor, Colombo 6
- ▶ Aanya Rathnayake, Mt. Lavinia
- ▶ Jithuka Batuwita, Kotte
- ▶ Amaan Yusuf, Colombo 6
- ▶ Devan Irugalbandara, Ragama

Winners please call
Funday Times on
2479333/2479337
and arrange
to collect your prizes.

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Unscramble the words.



koob _____



ckae _____



drmu _____



dcku _____



forg _____



Or



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Lunar New Year

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Lunar New Year, also called the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year, is the main holiday in China and some Asian countries, such as Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam and is celebrated in Singapore, Malaysia, Tibet and places with large Chinese communities.



The festival begins with the new moon that is closest to the midpoint between the winter solstice and spring equinox, which falls sometime between January 21 and February 20. This year it falls on January 22.

The Lunar New Year marked the beginning of a new year in the Chinese calendar for over 3,000 years until 1912, when China officially switched to the Gregorian calendar. However, the holiday was revived as the 'Spring Festival' in the late 20th century.

The traditions of the Lunar New Year festival originated thousands of years ago and according to one legend, people lit firecrackers to scare away a monster called Nian. Other traditions include exchanging red envelopes filled with money (*called hongbao* in Mandarin and *lai see* in Cantonese) and performances of the dragon dance (performed by many people) or lion dance (normally performed by two people).

Chunyun or Spring Migration

In China, hundreds of millions of people travel to their hometowns for the New Year celebrations and family reunions. This is known as *chunyun* or spring migration, and is the world's largest human migration, as traffic increases across the country.



The Lantern Festival

The Spring Festival lasts 15 days and ends with the Lantern Festival, which marks the first full moon of the Lunar New Year and is celebrated mainly with the lighting of lanterns.

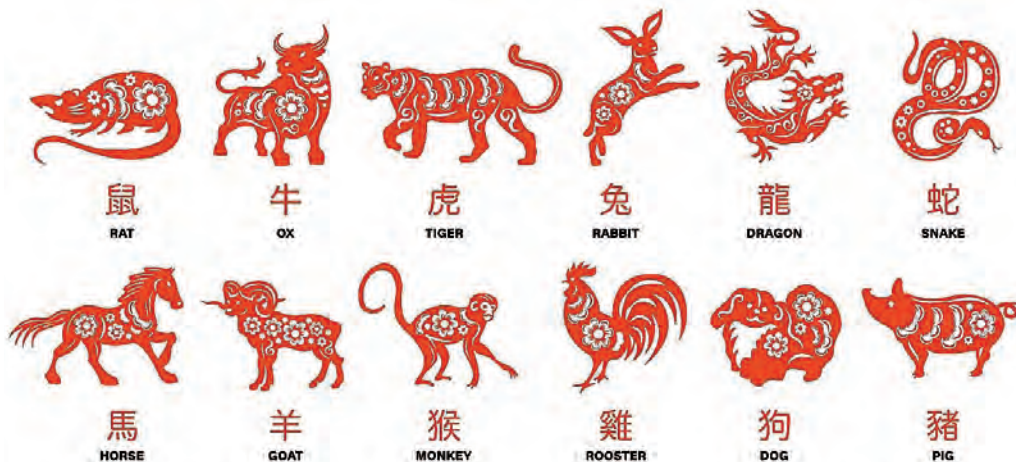


Every year of the lunar calendar is named after one of the 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. This year is the Year of the Rabbit, while last year was the Year of the Tiger. The cycle will repeat after the Year of the Pig.

How to wish someone a "Happy New Year"

In Mandarin (the official language of China):
Gong xi fa cai - "Wishing you to be prosperous in the coming year".

In Cantonese (the language spoken by most Chinese communities overseas):
Gung hay fat choy - "Wishing you great happiness and prosperity".



From a Young Reporter

Natural Satellites of Mars

Mars is the fourth planet in our solar system and Mars itself has two natural satellites.

Their names are Phobos and Deimos.

Origin

There is an Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter. It consists of hundreds of thousands of asteroids, comets and other particles. Because of the high gravity of Jupiter, it pushed some of the asteroids towards the Inner Planets. Mars' gravity attracted the asteroids passing by its orbit and made them its natural satellites.

Size

The two moons of Mars are tiny. Deimos has the record of being the smallest natural satellite in our Solar System and Phobos is the second smallest. The surface area of Phobos is just around 1,600 km² and compared to it our country Sri Lanka is 40 times larger. Deimos' surface area is only around 460 km² which is about 143 times smaller than our country.

The surface area of both even if combined, is not large.

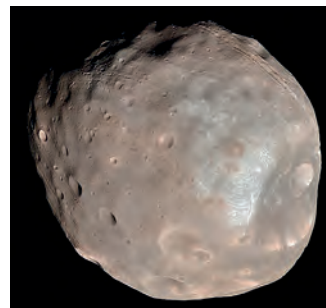
Orbit and Shape

Phobos is very close to Mars. It only takes 7 hours and 35 minutes to orbit around Mars. The Earth's Moon, takes 27 days to orbit our home planet. Deimos takes 1.26 days to orbit Mars.

The distance from Mars to Phobos is 9,390 km and Deimos is 23,481 km away from Mars. The two natural satellites don't have enough gravity to keep them in a spherical shape.

Collision and moving away

Phobos orbits so close to Mars and it comes two metres nearer Mars every year. So scientists believe that Phobos will collide with Mars in a few million years. Deimos is slowly escaping from the orbit of Mars.



Phobos



Deimos

So in a few million years Mars will be a planet without moons.

Yusuf-ul-Haq (11 years)
Matale Int. School



Nuclear power: How does it work?

January 17, 2023

Nuclear power is a way of generating energy to provide electricity for things like people's homes.

Because the process doesn't need fossil fuels such as coal, oil or gas, it doesn't release harmful gases into the environment.

But it is controversial as it produces nuclear waste, which is very dangerous and needs to be stored and disposed of properly.

In the UK, there are six nuclear power stations in use, and two new are planned.

How does nuclear power work?

Nuclear power is produced through a process called nuclear fission.

Everything on Earth is made of atoms but they are so tiny you need a powerful microscope to see them.

Nuclear fission happens when something even tinier – a neutron – smashes into an atom causing it to split, a chain reaction then occurs as more neutrons are released.

This process makes a huge amount of heat which is then used to turn water into steam. This steam drives a turbine, which powers a generator, creating electricity.

Nuclear power in the UK

Around 20% of the UK's electricity is produced by nuclear power from power stations. Nuclear power plants tend to be close to the sea, as they produce a lot of heat which needs lots of water to cool down.

What are the benefits?

Nuclear power does not produce carbon dioxide, unlike coal, oil and gas power.

Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas – a chemical that traps heat in the atmosphere and heats up the Earth, contributing to global warming.

Also, one kilogram of nuclear fuel produces millions more than one kilogram of coal.

Another difference is that nuclear power is a reliable source of energy – which means power can be created whenever it is needed.



A nuclear power station.

Although wind and solar power is renewable, it works better with stronger winds or sunnier weather.

Despite nuclear energy being unrennewable, you need to use much less to produce energy.

What are the risks?

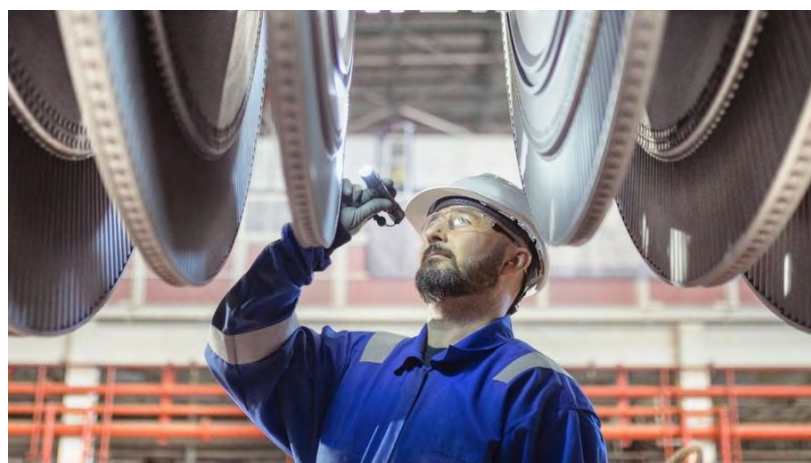
In the UK, all power plants have to be regulated by the governments Office for Nuclear Regulation, which makes sure they are safe.

Modern reactors are extremely safe – the UN says nuclear power plants are some of the "safest and most secure" facilities in the world.

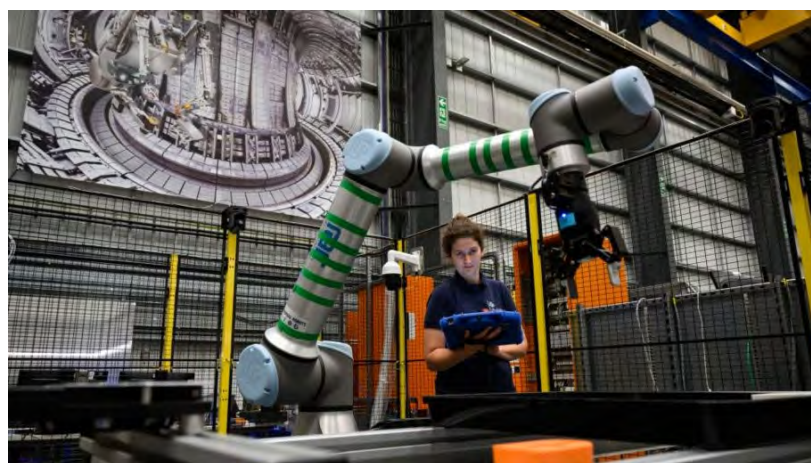
However, in the past, there have been some dangers associated with nuclear power, for example with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

Nuclear waste

After a nuclear reaction, power plants are left with nuclear waste – which is



Nuclear power stations are looked after by teams of engineers.



Testing new ways to fuse atoms and produce energy.

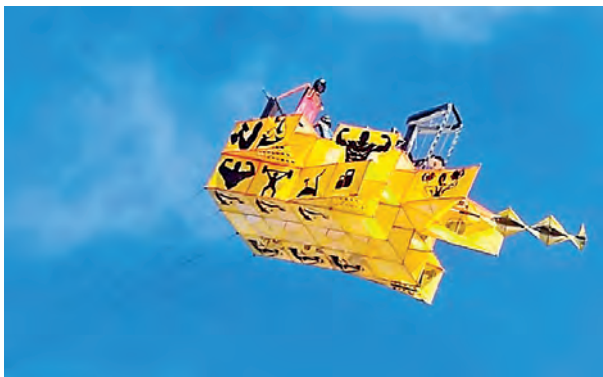
radioactive and can be dangerous to health if it is not stored properly.

There's a disposal technique called Geological Disposal – it's sometimes known as GDF.

This involves putting waste deep inside rocks, to make sure radioactive materials will not reach the surface for hundreds of thousands of years.

Source : CBBC Newsround

Jaffna Kite Festival



Colourful and elaborately decorated kites adorned the skies above Valvettithurai beach in Jaffna as the annual Jaffna Kite Festival was held as part of Thai Pongal celebrations on January 15, 2023.

Pix. by Romesh Madhushanka