

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MARCH 26, 2023



FUNDA Y TIMES



Celebrating Royal Victory

Pic. by Eshan Fernando

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WORLD**

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AVURUDU COVER

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(ONLINE)



STORY

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My country

My country is Sri Lanka. It is in the Indian Ocean. The national tree of Sri Lanka is the Ironwood tree. The national flower is the Blue Water Lily. The national bird is the Ceylon Jungle Fowl. The capital city of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte. There are three main crops in Sri Lanka. They are tea, rubber and coconut.

The highest mountain in Sri Lanka is Pidurutalagala. The longest river is the Mahaweli River. The highest waterfall is Bambarakanda falls. The botanical gardens of Sri Lanka are Peradeniya and Haggala.

My country belongs to the Asian continent. It has nine provinces and 25 districts. Sri Lanka is called the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean'.

There are different kinds of communities living in my country. They are Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Burghers. There are several religions in my country. They are Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity. They all live in peace.

There are several festivals in Sri Lanka. They are Sinhala and Tamil New Year, Vesak, Ramadan and Christmas. Some historical places in Sri Lanka are Sri Dalada Maligawa, Sigiriya, Mihintale, Dambulla Cave Temple, Sri Maha Bodhi, Jethawana Stupa, Yapahuwa, Polonnaruwa Watadage etc.

I love my country very much.

Adeesha Jayasekara (6 years)
Wesley College Primary,
Havelock Town

Our sportsmeet

Our sportsmeet was held on January 29, 2023 at the Piliyandala Municipal Council grounds. The chief guest was Dr. Paul Perera (Founder of our School).

We have four houses namely, Spring (Green), Summer (Red), Autumn (Yellow) and Winter (Blue). My house Winter came first, followed by Summer, Autumn and lastly Spring.

My brother won the Under 10 Boys 50 m and 75 m races. He got two gold medals and a trophy. I am very proud of my brother.

Thameem Dilshan
Negombo South Int. School,
Piliyandala

Back to School



Menuli Hesanya
Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda

My pet turtle



Ibrahim Shiham (9 years)
Royal Institute, Havelock Road

My best friend

Everyone should have a best friend
Good, kind and loyal in every way
A friend who doesn't bully
And will keep you safe, every day.

O please O Lord, help my best friend
Guide my friend in every way
Help him in his studies and life's work
Heal him and keep him safe.

Help his family every day
To guide him in every way
Help me tell him that he is my best friend
And, that will never change in any way.

Ocean Schokman (12 years)
S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia

An unforgettable day

There are many unforgettable days such as the day my parents bought me a Mountain bicycle, the day I got a smart watch, my seventh birthday and the day my whole family built a tree-house for me. But the most unforgettable day of my life was the day we went to Nuwara Eliya.

That morning when I came downstairs for breakfast as we finished eating my father suggested that we go to Nuwara Eliya. We all thought it was a sudden decision but at the end of the trip my mother said that they had planned it months before.

When we got into the train, I ran to catch the window-seat. The train left the station at 8.30 a.m. When you pass Kandy, you are in a world of beauty because of all the tea plantations and the mist capped mountains and it started to become cold.

My mother had made tasty fried rice for lunch and we dined in the train. My father had booked a hotel down Haddon Hill Road, opposite the Race Course. We stayed for about four days in Nuwara Eliya. We had a lot of fun. We went to a Strawberry Farm, to some tea estates and we even climbed a mountain. We didn't want this trip to end. We wanted to stay in Nuwara Eliya for more days. But as my father had an urgent meeting to attend, we had to head back home.

So that was the most unforgettable day of my life. I am counting the days till I would get a chance to go to Nuwara Eliya again.

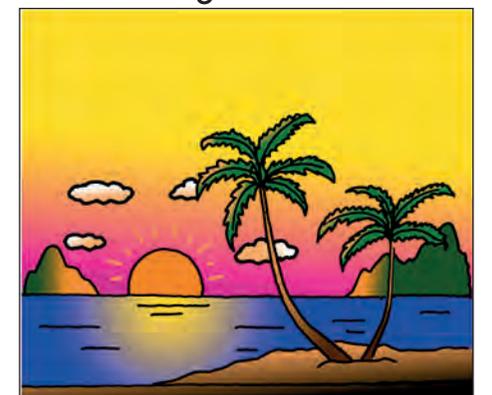
Saeedh Khan (11 years)
Royal College, Colombo

Sunset



Tooba Shifa (14 years)
Hejaz Int. Girls' School, Dehiwala

Digital Art



A. Kirtheesh (11 years)
St. Peter's College, Colombo 4

Beauty of our countryside



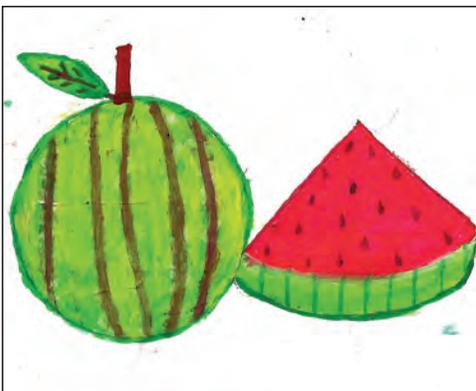
Oneli Perera (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Lizard



Aathana Thuresh (Grade 3)
Lyceum Int. School, Wattala

Watermelon



K. Widarshana (Grade 5)
Deniyaya N. S.

75th Independence Festival



Sadhaf Riswan (Grade 5)
Naleem Hajjar Ladies College, Beruwala

The ocean and the ocean floor

The ocean is a wonderful place full of mesmerizing fish. The ocean has splashing waves. The water of other lakes, rivers and streams mix with the ocean, so it is salty. The beach is full of sand. You can make sandcastles from them.



In the deepest and darkest part of the ocean there are scary creatures. Some fish that live in the darkest part of the ocean like Angler fish and Gulper eels have lights that glow. When other fish see it they go near and the Angler fish or Gulper eel eats them.

In the ocean, the biggest animal is the Blue Whale. It is bigger than an elephant. Some animals like the blue-ringed octopus warn other creatures to go away by flashing lights. Cuttlefish can flash many different colours to warn others. Giant squid have the largest eyes in the world.

On the top of the ocean, ships and boats sail peacefully. If you are catching fish please do not catch too many. If you do so, the ocean will be ruined. Let's care for the oceans.

Senara Mallawaarachchi (Grade 2)
Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy

A fire engine



A fire engine is a road vehicle which is customized for use during firefighting operations. They assist firefighting and emergency medical services. Fire trucks transport firefighters and water.

Key components of a fire truck are various types of ladders, fire extinguishers, various water tanks, sirens, Mars light, spotlights and storage compartments.

Firefighters are heroes and they do a great service to society. When people need help to fight a fire, firefighters come quickly and save people and property. There are fire rescue boats and fire rescue helicopters in the world. So, I invite you to learn more about fire engines.

Ranuga Bandara (Grade 3)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Value of time

Time is very important for our life. It's used for many day-to-day activities. Lots of activities, like competitions, examinations, sports activities take time.

We use time to do work and time is running continuously. Therefore we should use time properly and protect it. Time is valuable to all people. Therefore time is gold. We shouldn't waste time and we must understand the importance of time.

Maleesha Nawanjalee (12 years)
St. Joseph's B.V., Gampola

My school

Holy Cross College is my school. It is in Gampaha. It is a very big school. It is a girls' school. There are about 4,000 students in my school. More than 200 teachers serve on the staff. The principal of our school is very kind and strict.

There are many large buildings in my school. We have a very large playground too. Our school library is also very big. There are classes from Grade One to Grade Thirteen. My school has very beautiful surroundings. I love my school.

Nethupama Wijerathne (Grade 4)
Holy Cross College, Gampaha

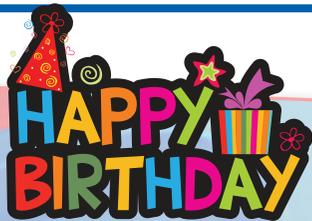
Please remember that **ARTICLES, POEMS and PAINTINGS** sent, will not be published unless they are certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Also please mention the topic, your full name, date of birth and address in your entry. Articles should not exceed 200 words. Art should be on A4 size paper.





Young spectators at the 144th 'Battle of the Blues' Royal-Thomian cricket encounter held on March 6 - 18, 2023 at the SSC grounds.

Pix by Eshan Fernando



Ruzaiq Junkeer
12 years on March 26

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.

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

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

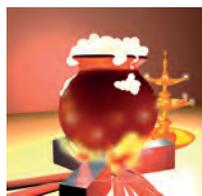
Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used. Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for weekly competitions:

April 12, 2023



Avurudu Cover 2023

As the Sinhala and Tamil New Year approaches, it is time once again to think of the Funday Times Avurudu Cover. Would you like to send in a picture for our Avurudu Cover?

If so, here's what you have to do. Paint a picture to depict the traditions of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and send it to us by April 1, 2023.

The painting should be on A4 size paper. You could use any type of paint, crayons or chalk. Please make your picture bright and colourful.

All entries must include your full details and should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work. Uncertified entries will not be entertained.

The best entry will be used for the cover of the Funday Times Avurudu issue.

The winner will also receive a book voucher.

Wish you all happy painting!

Closing Date:
April 1, 2023

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 – Story
- Page 6 – Report
- Page 7 – Kids News
- 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.

Rabbit's Spectacles

By Manoshi De Silva

Everyone in class was given a chance to read the lesson out loud, by the class teacher, Ms. Owl. Monkey was very good at reading. Tortoise was a little slow because he was always very careful and paid a lot of attention to whatever he did. But the slowest in class was Rabbit. He took a long time to read. Rabbit was slow for a reason that no one else knew about.

Rabbit couldn't see the letters on his book very clearly. When he tried to read, the letters looked as if they were smudged. So it always took Rabbit some time to identify the letters and then the words. But he didn't tell this to anyone. He was afraid to tell his class teacher or even his mother. He was afraid that he might have to wear spectacles like his grandmother. He thought that if he wore them, everyone would make fun of him and laugh at him.

One day a letter came through the post. Rabbit's mother was cooking. So she asked Rabbit to read it out loud for her. The letter was from Rabbit's grandmother. Rabbit opened the letter and stared at it. It was written in very small handwriting and looked like rows of ants. Rabbit tried to identify any word at all, but he couldn't.

"Why are you not reading it?" Rabbit's mother wanted to know. "Grandma's handwriting is hard to read," Rabbit lied but there was no fooling his mother. Rabbit's mother took the letter and looked at it. "You can't see too clearly, can you?" asked Rabbit's mother, after observing him for awhile. "We will have to get your eyes checked today."

Rabbit's worst fear became a reality! The doctor who checked his eyes, asked him to wear spectacles. Rabbit came home and cried. "I am not used to wearing these!" he cried. "But very soon you'll get used to them and after that you won't even feel that you are wearing them," promised Rabbit's mother. But the real reason Rabbit was upset was because he didn't want to wear them to school. He thought that others would make fun of him and he didn't want that to happen.

The next day before Rabbit went to school, wearing his new bright red spectacles his mother gave him a tight hug and assured that everything would be alright. Rabbit waved to his mother and as soon as she was out of sight, he quickly removed his spectacles and put them inside his bag.

That morning Ms. Owl told the class that she was going to give them a surprise test. The whole class groaned. She handed out the test papers to everyone and told them that she would collect the answer sheets after some time. Rabbit stared at his question paper. He took great effort to read the first question. By the time he finished just reading all the questions, the time was up.

Rabbit stared at his empty answer sheet, not knowing what to do. When the teacher came to collect Rabbit's answer sheet, she was shocked. "Why didn't you answer a single question, Rabbit? This test was not that hard!" Rabbit looked down as tears welled up in his eyes. "By the time I finished reading all the questions, the time was over!" he cried.

"But why did you take so long to read the questions?" asked Ms. Owl. "Do you find it hard to read because you don't know the words?" "No, I can't see too clearly," cried Rabbit. "My mother took me to a doctor to get my eyes checked and he asked me to wear spectacles!"

"So where are your spectacles?" asked Ms. Owl. "They are in my bag," answered Rabbit. "Rabbit, by keeping your spectacles in your bag, you are not going to see things clearly," Ms. Owl shook her head. "I don't want to wear them because everyone will laugh at me!" sobbed Rabbit.

"There is nothing to laugh about it! If anyone has any difficulty in seeing or



hearing things clearly or any difficulty in speaking, then no one should ever laugh or make fun of them. These are things that can happen to anyone. Therefore we should help and support anyone who has any such difficulty. If you laugh at anyone with such issues, it will only make you a horrible person! Do you all understand?" Ms. Owl asked from the class and everyone nodded.

"Now put on your spectacles and do the test, Rabbit. I will give you time to write your answers," said Ms. Owl and Rabbit wore his bright red spectacles and looked at the question paper. He was surprised to see every single word clearly and easy to read. The questions were very easy and Rabbit quickly read and answered all the questions correctly. He was so happy at how everything looked so clear through his new spectacles.

That day when Rabbit went home after school, he told his mother about everything that happened at school and also how all his friends told him that he looked very cute in his new spectacles. "It doesn't even feel like I am wearing them anymore!" laughed Rabbit. "Once, I even searched for my spectacles while still wearing them!" Rabbit was already in love with his new pair of red spectacles and he knew that he would always wear and look after it carefully.

World Water Day 2023

Water for Life

What is water?

Water is one of the main reasons Earth is considered a habitat for organisms. This is proven as the ancient civilizations were formed near rivers, such as the Egyptian civilization which developed along the Nile River.

Water is an inorganic compound that is transparent, odourless, tasteless and colourless.

Seventy-one percent or when taken as a fraction, $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of Earth's surface is covered by water.

Water exists in three forms which are solid, liquid and gas. Water is formed when two atoms of hydrogen and one oxygen atom combine together.

Water is distributed on Earth in different ways.

- Ocean water – 97.2%
- Glaciers and other ice – 2.15%
- Groundwater – 0.61%
- Freshwater lakes – 0.009%
- Inland seas – 0.008%
- Soil moisture – 0.005%
- Atmosphere – 0.001%
- Rivers – 0.0001%

Ancient myths about water

In the past, ancient people came up with various myths and believed that gods ruled over the element water.

In Roman mythology, Neptune was considered the god of waters and seas but in Greek mythology Tethys, Titan goddess is considered the goddess of water.



Uses of Water

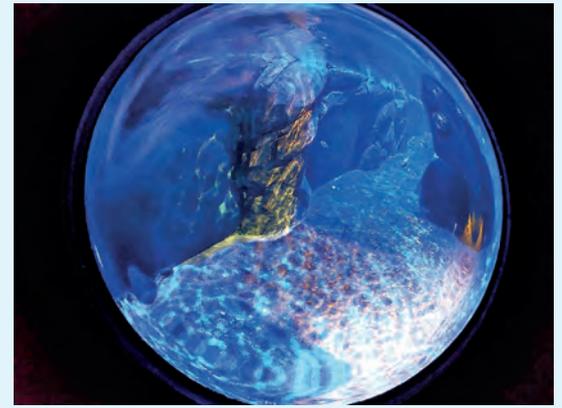
All organisms need water for consumption therefore when the whole body is considered, about 60% is water.

- ◆ Water helps in the formation of saliva which plays a central role in digestion.
- ◆ It's not healthy for the body when mucous membranes are dry therefore water keeps them moist and healthy.
- ◆ Water regulates body temperature by sweating.
- ◆ Water also acts as a shock absorber for the brain and spinal cord.
- ◆ Water helps to release body waste mainly with urine.
- ◆ Water helps to deliver oxygen all over the body.
- ◆ Moistens our mouth, eyes and nose.
- ◆ Supports the growth and reproduction of cells.



How water is polluted

In the past water was not polluted as much as today. The main reason is that people had less technology in the past. Day-to-day work was done using natural remedies, therefore, use of polythene, plastic and other chemicals harmful to water was minimized. But with industrialization and



urbanization at present pollution is happening at a rapid rate.

In a country like Sri Lanka, the leading cause of water pollution is improper management. Waste matter is not disposed in a proper manner which has caused garbage to end up in inland water bodies and oceans. Eutrophication can be taken as an example.

Acid rains also cause damage to the environment. By raining water with a higher acidic level (the normal acidity level of rainwater is 5.6) forests, other organisms and even humans are affected.

Results of minimising water pollution

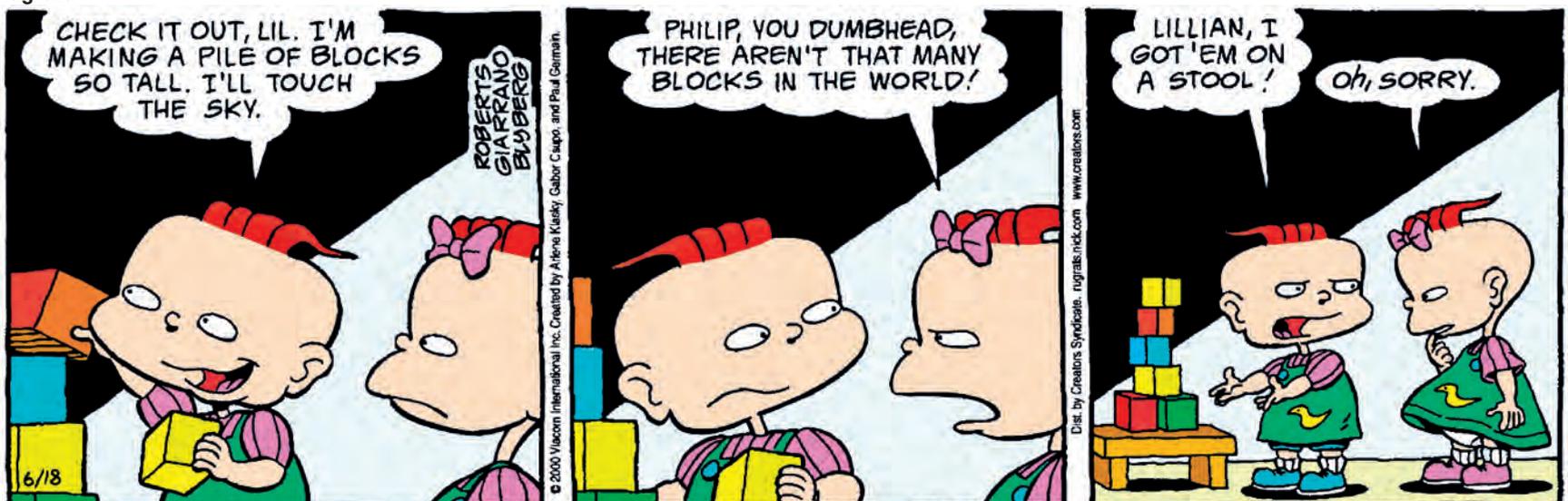
By keeping water clean we gain a lot of positive impacts not only for us but for the entire ecosystem.

- Underwater contamination can be reduced therefore we can have a clean water resource.
- The ecosystem can be maintained in equilibrium when organisms are living in a safe environment.
- Diseases can be minimized so people can be healthy.

So, let's make a change today to change the future.

Dulithi Jayasinghe
Methodist College, Colombo 3

Rugrats



King Charles' coronation:

What is the Stone of Destiny and where did it come from?

March 20, 2023

On May 6, King Charles will be crowned in an historic ceremony that will involve a special rock called the Stone of Scone.

It's also known as the Stone of Destiny, and has been used for hundreds of years in English coronation ceremonies, as well as Scottish ones before that. The stone was taken by English armies from Scotland in the thirteenth century, and it represents important history between the two countries.

What is the Stone of Destiny?



The Stone of Destiny

It might just look like a large rock to you – but it's a very important historical stone. Throughout history, it has been used in the coronation of many different kings and queens in England and in Scotland.

It's been used in England since the 13th century and was last used at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

It was stored in the bottom of a special coronation chair, which is currently being restored for King Charles' coronation in May.

Early history of the Stone

To understand the history of the Stone, we have to go back to the medieval period – around the year 700 CE.

Scotland was made up of three main areas – Dal Riata, Pictland and the Anglo-Saxon Northumbria.



The historic coronation chair



Queen Elizabeth sat on a special chair, which included the Stone, when she was crowned.

The stone was originally used to crown the Kings of Dal Riata, which is an area we now know as Argyll, north of Glasgow.

One important king called Kenneth I moved his capital and throne to Scone, and took the special stone with him.

From then on, all Scottish monarchs would be crowned on Moot Hill, in Scone.

Scottish Wars of Independence



Moot Hill now – the site where Scottish kings were crowned.

In the 13th century, England and Scotland were at war in what is known as the Scottish Wars of Independence.

Lots of people throughout Scotland were unhappy with the English monarchy being in charge and there were revolts throughout the country.

In 1296, the English King Edward I invaded Scotland, and took the special Stone of Scone.

It was then taken to Westminster Abbey, and Edward I had a special chair built to house the Stone.

1950 – Christmas Day heist

The stone stayed in England for hundreds of years, until Christmas Day in 1950. Four students from Glasgow, led by a man called Ian Hamilton, wanted to make a statement about Scottish Independence.

They broke into Westminster Abbey in the early hours of the morning on Christmas Day, and stole the Stone.

Hamilton had described the Stone as “Scotland's icon” and lots of people in Scotland think it is very important to the country's history.

It reappeared months later 500 miles away in Arbroath Abbey – a place that was important to Scotland's independence history.

The Stone was then taken back to Westminster, where it was used for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.



The Stone sat inside of the chair

1996 – Return to Scotland

In 1996, it was decided that the Stone should move to Edinburgh Castle.

It sits next to the crown jewels of Scotland, in the Edinburgh castle Crown Room, and in May it will be temporarily taken down to London for King Charles' coronation.



An old replica of the Stone still sits in Scone.

Why is it controversial now?

Jamie Hamilton – the son of Ian Hamilton who took the Stone back to Scotland in 1950 – said he does not think the Stone should be used in the coronation. However, part of the agreement made in 1996 was that the Royal Family have a warrant which means they can use the Stone during a coronation ceremony, despite it staying in Edinburgh Castle.

Dr. Lucy Dean, from the University of the Highlands and Islands, said it was important the stone was used in the new ceremony because it represented the history between England and Scotland.

March 21

News in Pictures



Kahramanmaraş, Turkey
Debris is dumped into designated areas of Dulkadirolu district as demolition work continues after earthquakes hit Turkey in February.



Pekanbaru, Indonesia
Thousands of bottles of alcoholic beverages are destroyed in Pekanbaru before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.



Moscow, Russia
Russian Prime Minister, Mikhail Mishustin (right), meets China's President, Xi Jinping.

Twin Bridges, USA
Houses are buried in snow in California. The Lake Tahoe region is preparing for more snow in the coming days after near-record levels so far this season.



March 20

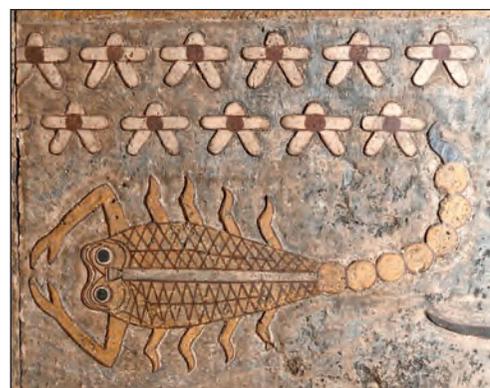


Kyiv, Ukraine
In a cosy barn on the outskirts of Kyiv, a group of Ukrainian soldiers are taking a break from battle with a session of hippotherapy using riding and contact with horses to achieve a therapeutic effect.



Chongqing, China
Giant pandas have a dinner party at Chongqing Zoo.

Lahore, Pakistan
People show their national identity cards to receive free bags of flour from a delivery truck at a distribution point ahead of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan following an announcement from Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, to provide free flour to the needy.



Luxor, Egypt
This undated photo shows a mural, part of a zodiac diagram found on the ceiling of the Temple of Esna in Luxor, Egypt. A complete zodiac diagram was found on the ceiling of a Roman-era temple in the southern Egyptian province of Luxor.

Source : The Guardian



Blantyre, Malawi
Children in Mulanje look on as a military helicopter carries doctors and medical supplies to Muloza on the border with Mozambique, which is cut off after the tropical Cyclone Freddy.