

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
APRIL 23, 2023



# FUNDA Y TIMES

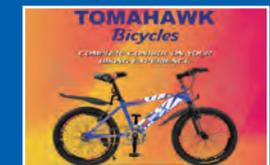


**Celebrating Avurudu**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

## KIDS' WORLD

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**COMPETITIONS**

PAGE 4

**(ONLINE)**



**EVENTS**

PAGE 5

Follow us on  
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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.**

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

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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

**May 10, 2023**



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Events
- **Page 6** – Asian Koel
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.

### My teacher

My teacher was Mrs. Shirani Jayawardena. She was my favourite teacher. She made me a good, strong girl. She always protected me and my twin sister.

Now she has been transferred to another school. I am so sad. It was so empty in my classroom.

However she wants us to be happy, strong, brave kids. So I am hiding my tiny tears.

Dear teacher I wish you a happy, healthy, long, long, life...

**Mineli Weragala (Grade 3)**  
**Visakha Vidyalaya**



### Are you done?

Are all your chores over?  
Is all your work done?  
Because until your chores and work is over,  
there will be no more fun.

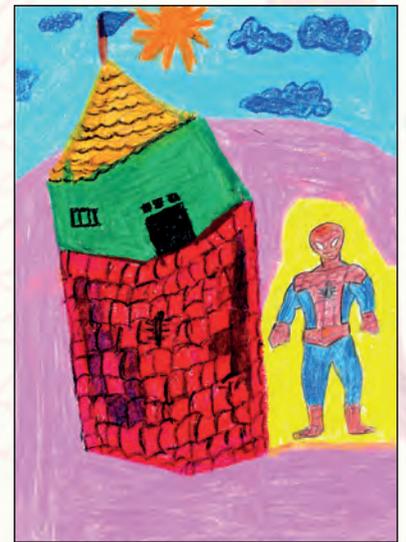
Are all your plants watered  
and all your chairs dusted?  
You do know what I mean.  
Are your cats fed so much  
so that, they are not bit of lean?

Are all your little teeth brushed?  
Are all your prayers said?  
Say goodnight to everyone  
and jump right into bed.

It is the end of the day  
In a wonderful way  
If you work today,  
then you can play next day.

**Nulara Jayawickrama (Grade 4)**  
**Methodist College, Colombo 3**

### Spiderman's house



**Shazad Ghaney (6 years)**  
**Zahira College, Colombo**

### My favourite sport



**Binupama Dissanayake (14 years)**  
**Sheffield Int. School**

### Let's save trees!

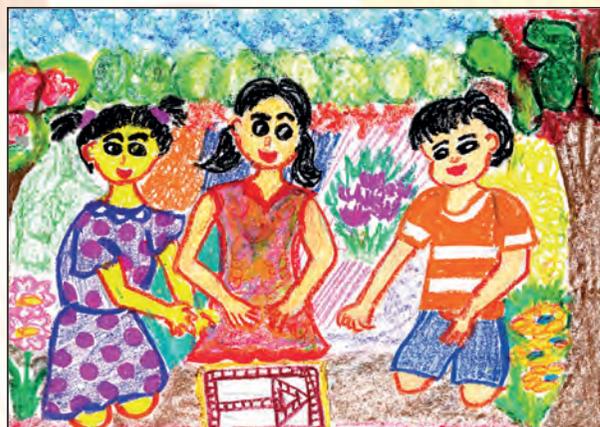
Once upon a time, there was a woodcutter who lived in a forest. One day, he came across a golden tree that could speak. The woodcutter said, "Wow! What a big, golden tree this is! I should cut it down to sell it. Then, I can earn lots of money."

Suddenly the big tree cried, "Don't cut me! I have a lot of uses, woodcutter! I give oxygen and lots of fruits to people. If you cut me down, you will not be able to taste my fruits or breathe the oxygen I let out."

The woodcutter said, "I will never cut down trees anymore."

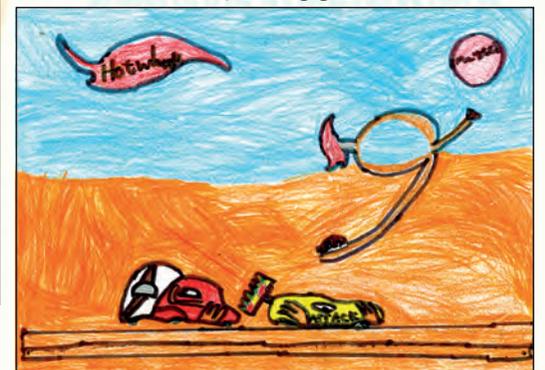
**AbdurRahman Irshad (10 years)**  
**Vidyawardana Vidyalaya,**  
**Wellampitiya**

### Playing a fun 'Avurudu' game

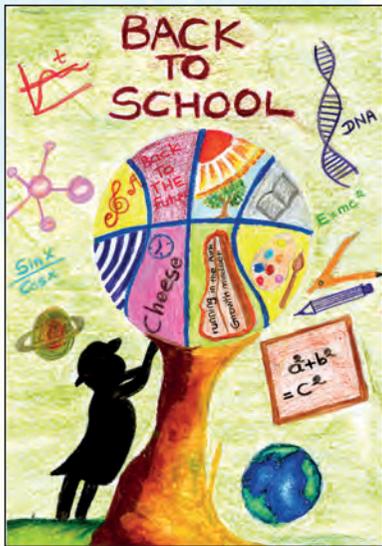


**Esandi Ranasinghe (9 years)**  
**Musaeus College**

### Hotwheels



**Zuhaan Careem (6 years)**  
**Royal College, Colombo**



**Fathima Reema (14 years)**  
Kg/Dehi Thalduwa Muslim M.V.

### The festival I like most

Among the months of the year, Ramazan is a special month for Muslims. Ramazan is a month that we can do a lot of good work for peace of mind. The main thing is we want to remove from sin and turn to the side of Allah.

Allah is so kind and merciful. Allah gives Rayyan to those who are fasting. We have to remove from water and food in the period of fasting. But a person who travels, or a pregnant mother can do it later because of their reasons and conditions given by Allah.

So we have to get the maximum benefits of Ramazan. We can recite Quran. We can stay in the mosque and we can pray.

Finally Ramazan is a month for good works and a time given by Allah to delete sins.

We have to use Ramazan for the benefits for the development of life.

**Kalifathur Rahman**  
Tanveer Academy, Thihariya

### Waterfall



**Sineli Dewmini (Grade 5)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

### The day I went to Anuradhapura

On February 4, 2023, my family and I woke up at 5 a.m. and left our home at about 6.10 a.m. On the way we bought some snacks. At about 7.30 a.m., we arrived at Anuradhapura.

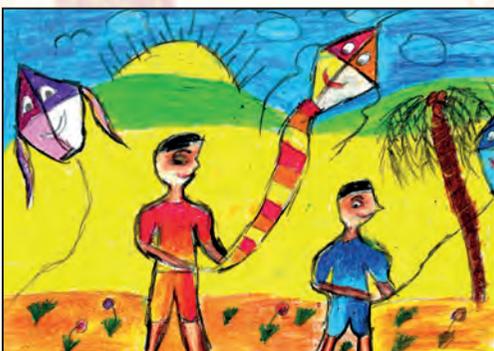
We stopped because we had a little picnic, and then we arrived at our first destination, the Sri Maha Bodhiya. It was very beautiful. The next destination was the Thuparamaya, just like the first one. We went a little further and we spotted a very beautiful peacock. But it didn't dance.

Then we arrived at our next destination, the 'Kuttam Pokuna.' And there was a warning that alligators infested the pond. There were fish inside the pond and we fed them. All of them ate the food. I was very happy after that.

Then we went back home. My legs were hurting after that. It was the best day of my life.

**Senuth Rupasinghe (10 years)**  
St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa

### Flying kites



**Iyaadh Rushdee (10 years)**  
Reliance Int. School, Ratnapura

### From an overseas reader

### Spring

Trees, birds come to life as the,  
Spring sun arrives with glee,  
Time flies and goes away,  
But there comes another spring again.

Winter, winter cold and gray,  
Happiness is not today,  
But don't forget the fact that is,  
The next spring is on its way.

**Manuthi Batepola (Grade 7)**  
New English School, Jordan

### My pet

I have a pet dog.  
His name is Tommy.  
His colour is brown.  
He has a nice tail.  
I play with him.  
He eats rice, fish, meat etc.  
I love him.



**Yethum (Grade 3)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

### My country

My country is Sri Lanka. It is known as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean.' Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe is the president of Sri Lanka.

There are many waterfalls, rivers and mountains in my country. Mahaweli river is the longest river in my country. Pidurutalagala is the highest mountain and the highest waterfall is Bambarakanda.

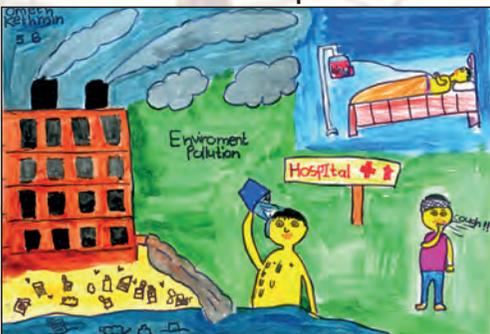
The capital of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte. There are nine provinces and 25 districts. Tourists come to my country to travel.

Blue Water Lily is the national flower and the national tree is the 'Na' tree. The national game is Volleyball. There are many historical places like Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya.

I love my country very much.

**Kemith Hansath (9 years)**  
R/Ba/Thalangama Vidyalaya,  
Balangoda

### Environmental pollution



**Ometh Kethmin (Grade 5)**  
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

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.



# Tomahawk Quiz No. 206

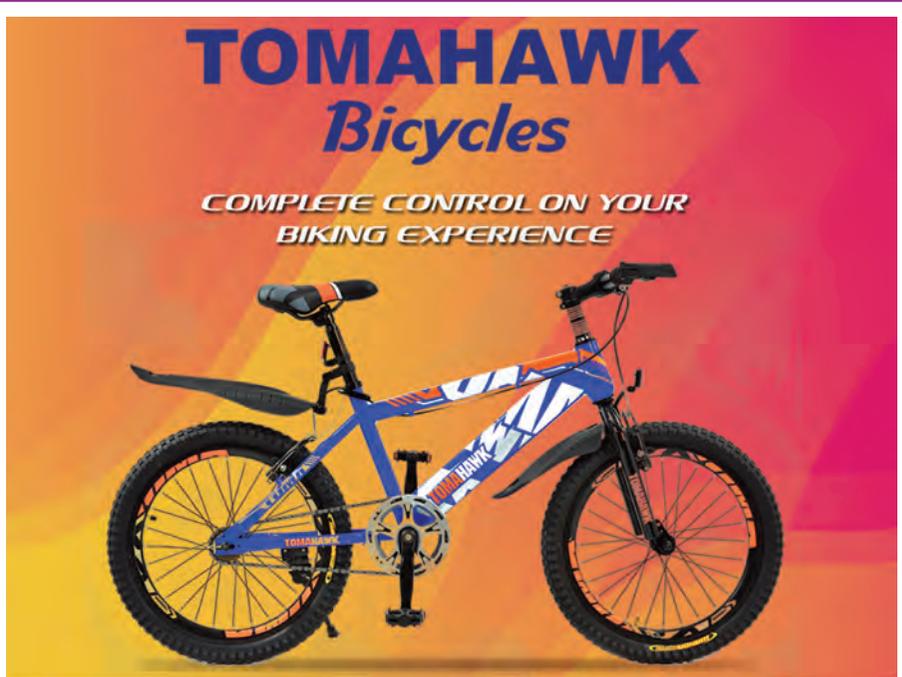
Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 206 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of March 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

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. 206' 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: April 30, 2023



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## QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 206

1. Mention three important facts about Kruger National Park.
2. Who was Junko Tabei and what was she best known for?
3. Name three uses of water for the human body.
4. When is the International Day of Forests celebrated and what is the theme for 2023?
5. Which film was named Best Picture at the Academy Awards 2023 (Oscars 2023), and who was the First Asian Best Actress to win the award?

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7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Spot 7 differences between the two pictures.

**7 - 9 years WINNERS**

- ▶ Ameerah Hizbullah, Colombo 8
- ▶ Saqeef-ul-Haq, Matale
- ▶ Mariam Shiraz, Dehiwala
- ▶ Shimla Ifaf, Sainthamarutha – 12

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

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**Avurudu** celebrations were held with traditional customs and fun games at Immy Kids International Montessori.

Pix by  
M. A. Pushpa Kumara



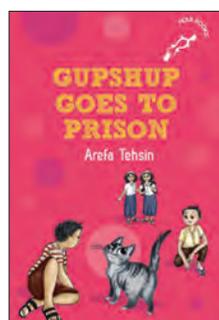
'Race of the Rhymes 2023' was organized by Noah's Ark AMI Montessori House of Children.



Pix by Lahiru Harshana

**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.

**Competition**

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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# Asian Koel

The Asian koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*), known as the 'Koha' in Sri Lanka, is a member of the cuckoo order of birds, the Cuculiformes. It is found in the Indian subcontinent, China and Southeast Asia. It forms a super-species with the closely related Black-billed koels and Pacific koels which are sometimes treated as subspecies.

The Asian koel like many of its related cuckoo kin is a brood parasite that lays its eggs in the nests of crows and other hosts, who raise its young. They are unusual among the cuckoos in being largely frugivorous (feeding on fruit) as adults.

## Appearance

The male Asian koel is glossy bluish-black, with a pale greenish grey bill, the iris is crimson, and it has grey legs and feet. The female is brownish on the crown and has rufous streaks on the head. The back, rump, and wing coverts are dark brown with white and buff spots. The underparts are whitish but are heavily striped. The upper plumage of young birds is more like that of the male and they have a black beak.

## Distribution

Asian koels are mainly resident in southern Asia from Iran, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to southern China and the Greater Sundas. They inhabit light woodlands, shrubby areas with scattered trees, gardens, plantations and urban areas.

## Habits and Lifestyle

Asian koels are shy birds that are usually more often heard than seen. They spend their time singly or in pairs hiding in the dense canopy.



**KINGDOM:** Animalia

**SPECIES:**

*Eudynamys scolopaceus*

**LIFE SPAN:**

12 – 15 years

**WEIGHT:**

190 – 327 g

**LENGTH:**

39 – 46 cm



Asian koels feed by day taking fruits directly from trees; they may sometimes defend favoured trees and chase away other frugivores.

Asian koels are very vocal especially during the breeding season, making a range of different calls. The familiar song of the male is a repeated 'koo-Ooo' and the female makes a rhythmic 'wook-wook' and shrill 'kik-kik-kik...' call.

## Diet and Nutrition

Asian koels are omnivores and consume a variety of insects, caterpillars, eggs and small vertebrates. Adults, however, feed mainly on fruit.

The breeding season of Asian koels varies depending on location. In the Indian subcontinent, it usually occurs from March to August. The female usually lays only 1 egg or 2 in a single nest but as many as 7 to 11 eggs have been reported from some host nests. A female may remove a host egg before laying.

The eggs of the koel hatch in 12 to 14 days, about 3 days ahead of the host chicks. The young koel does not always push out eggs or evict the host chicks, and initially calls like a crow. It usually fledges in 20 to 28 days and unlike some other cuckoos, the young koel does not attempt to kill the host chicks.

## Population Threats

There are no major threats to Asian koels at present.

## Ecological Niche

Asian koels are especially important in the dispersal of the sandalwood tree in India.



## FUN FACTS

- Asian koels have great potential in colonizing new areas. They first arrived in Singapore in the 1980s and became very common birds. Some populations may also make long-distance movements being found in places like Australia.
- Asian koels are unusual among the cuckoos in being largely fond of fruits as adults.
- Asian koels consume the fruits of a poisonous plant *Cascabela thevetia* which are known to be toxic to mammals.
- The Asian koel is a widely used symbol in Indian and Nepali poetry.
- Asian koels were once very popular in India as cagebirds. Feeding even on boiled rice, these hardy birds lived in captivity for as long as 14 years.

Source: Animalia.bio



April 18

**Thailand celebrates Songkran 2023 with huge water festival**

Tens of thousands of people in south-east Asia have been celebrating Songkran, Thailand’s largest and most important annual festival which marks the beginning of the Thai New Year.

An important event on the Buddhist calendar, many families wake up early during Songkran and visit temples. It is tradition to pour scented water onto sacred statues of Buddha - which symbolically represents purification and good fortune.

People also prepare by cleaning houses, schools and other public spaces. However the festival has now become famous around the world for its huge water fight which takes place in towns, villages and cities around the country - in fact, it’s so big it’s thought to be the world’s largest water fight!

The festival lasts for three days and is celebrated each April, Thailand’s hottest month of the year. As well as being a handy way of keeping cool in the heat, splashing each other with water is said to wash away bad luck from the previous year.

People use everything from hoses, buckets, bowls and water pistols to spray family, friends and even strangers.

Songkran has become a major tourist attraction, with thousands of people from around the world travelling to Thailand especially to be there for the event!

Animals have also been getting involved with the celebrations! Children and elephants in northern Thailand’s



Ayutthaya province have been getting in on the action by splashing each other with water.



Songkran is also widely observed in other south-east Asian countries including Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

CBBC Newsround

April 17

**Earth Day 2023: Invest in Our Planet**

On April 22, 2023, over a billion people worldwide celebrate Earth Day with various activities. Some plant trees. Others participate in neighbourhood clean-up efforts or enjoy a nature walk. The modern environmental movement began on April 20, 1970. On that day, 20 million Americans took to the streets to urge the government to take steps to protect our planet.



The theme encourages governments, businesses and individuals to take action collectively. Local officials can lead the charge by banning disposable plastics or restoring ecosystems.

Businesses can help by reducing their environmental impact.

For example, clothing manufacturers can choose natural or recycled fabrics. Restaurants can seek out sustainable food sources.

Individuals of all ages can also make a difference with small lifestyle changes. Purchase everyday items, like shoes, from a “green” business. Turn off lights and devices when not in use. Bike to school instead of driving. Reduce plastic waste by using reusable water bottles and lunch boxes.

How will you “Invest in Our Planet” on Earth Day — and every day?

It led to the passage of landmark environmental protection laws in the United States. They include the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. In 2016, United Nations chose Earth Day to sign the Paris Climate Agreement into force. But more must be done to undo the impact of careless human behaviour on the environment.

Earth Day 2023 focuses on the need to “Invest in Our Planet.”

DOGO News

HANG THIS ON YOUR KITCHEN WALL OR FRIDGE TO REMEMBER HOW TO THINK SUSTAINABLY!

**EARTH DAY SUSTAINABLE TIPS** (Inspired by The Common Wanderer blog)

Learn how to care for our planet with simple daily habits every day!

**#1 "GREEN" YOUR CLOTHING STYLE**

*Did you know?* The volume of clothing Americans throw away each year has doubled in the last 20 years, from 7 million to 14 million tons.

- Thrift shop and buy second hand.
- Invest in sustainable clothing brands that will last for years.
- Reduce the need to purchase new clothes.

**#2 REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CONSUMPTION**

*Did you know?* Unfortunately, less than 30% of all single-use plastic bottles sold in the U.S. actually end up getting recycled.

- Invest in a reusable water bottle.
- Say no to single-use plastic utensils/straws and bring your own bag to the store.
- Choose zero waste toiletries, like solid shampoo bars, safety razors, etc.

**#3 EAT PLANT-BASED FOOD PRODUCTS**

*Did you know?* Currently, livestock production...

- contributes nearly 15% of all global greenhouse gas emissions.
- occupies at least 30% of our habitable land.
- is causing deforestation of our valuable rainforests.

- Eat one plant-based meal a day for a year; it will save almost 200,000 gallons of water!
- Find plant based alternatives staple food items (i.e. plant-based milk, yogurt, and creamer).
- Transform favorite dishes (i.e. pizza, pasta, and stir-fry) to include more veggies.

**#4 REDUCE FOOD WASTE**

*Did you know?*

- 1/3 of all food produced each year is wasted (approx. 1.3 billion tons)
- When organic material, like food, breaks down in landfill, it creates methane, a greenhouse gas over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

- Have a well-thought-out meal plan and buy only what you need.
- Freeze excess produce and add to your food while cooking. Old veggies still make good soups, stews, and curries.
- Freezing leftover perishable ingredients can also increase the longevity of your food, so they are fresh when you are ready to use them.
- Compost leftover or unused food.

VISIT: RECYCLEMORE.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

April 18

# News in Pictures



**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**  
A child reads the Qur'an during prayers at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque on Laylat al-Qadr, one of the holiest nights during Ramadan.



**Tel Aviv, Israel**  
Drivers halt as sirens blare for two minutes to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.



**Mumbai, India**  
Apple's chief executive, Tim Cook, welcomes customers at the opening of the first Apple shop in the city. Hundreds of people waited outside for hours to enter.



**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
Malaysian Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh (centre, right) meets fans. She is the first Asian to win an Oscar for lead actress.

**San Diego, USA**  
The zoo wildlife care specialist Lauren Credidio provides a treat to Runa, an African giant pouched rat, after she searched and found a pouch of chamomile tea during a presentation. Runa performs at weekly demonstrations to show how her keen sense of smell can be used to find everything from illegal shipments of wildlife to landmines. The organisation that trained Runa has started providing the rats to US zoos with the hope of changing the public's perception of the animals.



**London, UK**  
Gallery workers view paintings by the Swedish artist Hilma Af Klint during the press preview an exhibition at Tate Modern.



**New York, USA**  
The soprano Raquel Suarez Groen acknowledges the applause during the closing performance of the 'Phantom of the Opera' at the Majestic Theatre, marking the end of the musical's 35-year run on Broadway.



**Yangon, Myanmar**  
Friends and family gather around a bus carrying men released from Insein prison near Yangon. The military junta granted amnesty to more than 3,000 prisoners across the country to mark the Buddhist New Year.



**Yancheng, China**  
Visitors admire the blooms at the Dafeng Holland flower park in Jiangsu province.

April 17

Source : The Guardian