

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
APRIL 30, 2023

# FUN DAY TIMES

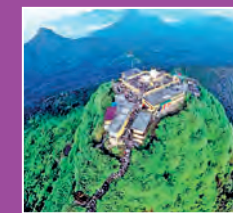


***Drawing 'Kolam'***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

## COMPETITIONS

**PAGE 2**



## LANDMARKS

**PAGE 3**



## EVENTS

**PAGE 4**

## (ONLINE)

## WINNERS

## ESSAYS

**PAGE 5**

Follow us on  
[www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk)





**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:**

**May 17, 2023**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com**

**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Winners Essays
- **Page 6** – Wildlife Photography
- **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.



**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.

**Your account should not exceed 200 words.**

**Please fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.**

**Please indicate word count.**

**Read-a-Book for April**

**10 – 12 years**

**Aysha Manaal**

*Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson*

**13 – 15 years**

**Oshani Fernando**

*Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte*



**Read-a-Book  
Competition**

**Name :** .....

**Date of birth :** .....

**Address :** .....

**School:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Finished book on :** .....



**Win  
super  
books  
from**



**Age:** 9 years and below

**Word Count:** 150

**Topic:** Visit to a zoo

**Win:** Ali Baba and other stories

This book contains a  
diverse collection of fiction,  
non-fiction and poetry from  
many different cultures.  
The stories are attractively  
illustrated and interspersed  
with comprehension  
questions and exercises  
designed to improve the  
reader's writing skills.



**Age:** 10 – 12 years

**Word Count:** 150 – 200

**Topic:** Vesak Festival

**Win:** What Katy Did  
by Susan M. Coolidge

'What Katy Did'  
is the delightful  
story of the Carr  
family.

Dr. Carr is a  
widower with  
six children.  
After his wife dies  
at childbirth,  
his sister Izzie  
helps him raise them as he is busy  
with his medical practice.  
This is the story of Katy, Clover,  
Elsie, Dorry, Joanna and little Phil.



**Age:** 13 – 15 years

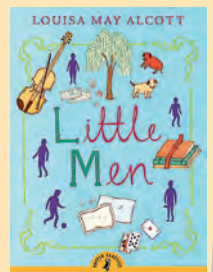
**Word Count:** 200 – 250

**Topic:** World Press Freedom Day

**Win:** Little Men  
by Louisa May Alcott

With two young sons  
of their own, and twelve  
rescued orphan boys  
filling the unusual school  
at Plumfield, Jo March –  
no Mrs. Jo Bhaer –  
couldn't be happier.

But the boys have  
a habit of getting into  
scrapes, and their mischievous antics call  
for the warm and affectionate support  
of the whole March family to help avoid  
disaster...



**Book Competition**

**10 – 12 years**

*A school sports meet I enjoyed*

**Nivethikaa Yogendran**

St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

**13 – 15 years**

*International Women's Day*

**Hiflur Rahman**

Zahira College, Colombo



**Write at the top of your Essay**

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic





# Sri Pada (Adam's Peak)

**Adam's Peak, a mountain in southwestern Sri Lanka is 2,304 metres high and located 18 km northeast of Ratnapura, the capital of Sabaragamuwa province. It is well known for the 'Sri Pada' (Sinhala for 'Sacred Footprint'), a hollow that is 170 cm long and 146 cm wide and resembles the print of a human foot.**

**The Sri Pada is venerated by Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims. Many pilgrims of all faiths visit the peak every year.**

Adam's Peak is not the tallest mountain in Sri Lanka (that honour belongs to Pidurutalagala), but it stands above the surrounding range, and its conical shape gives it the appearance of a pyramid.

The region surrounding Adam's Peak is a tropical rainforest and includes the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary, created as a conservation zone in 1940. It is home to an elephant population isolated from the lowlands by the tea estates surrounding the sanctuary. Four major rivers of Sri Lanka — the Mahaweli, Kelani, Walawe and Kalu — originate at Adam's Peak.

The peak is composed of gneiss rock and is known for being rich in garnets, rubies and sapphires.

The mountain was worshipped by the indigenous inhabitants of Sri Lanka, who called it the 'Samanalakanda', Saman being one of the four guardian deities of the island. Hindus call the mountain 'Sivan Adi Padham', as they believe the god Shiva left the giant footprint on the summit. Buddhist traditions, documented in the 'Mahavamsa', indicate that the print was left by the Buddha during his third and final visit to Sri Lanka. Some Portuguese Christians, on their arrival in Sri Lanka in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, claimed the impression to be the footprint of St. Thomas, who, according to tradition, is believed to have brought Christianity to Sri Lanka. Muslims believe it is the footprint of Adam, the mountain being the place where he stood in penance on one foot for a thousand years after being expelled from paradise.

An early mention of the Sri Pada dates to the reign of King Vijayabahu I (called Vijayabahu the Great), who ruled from 1055 to 1110 CE. Stone inscriptions at a site called Gilimale (or Gilimalaya) indicate that he dedicated the Gilimale village to provide for the needs of Buddhist pilgrims going to the Sri Pada. He also established wayside rest houses for pilgrims. King Nissankamalla (reigned 1187 – 96) had a concrete slab



**Makara Thorana**



constructed to protect the footprint. Multiple later Sinhala kings visited the mountaintop shrine.

Devaprathiraja, the minister of King Parakramabahu II (reigned 1225 – 69), constructed roads leading up to the mountain and installed iron chains on iron posts to ease the ascent. Legends claim that the chains were placed there by Alexander the Great, though there is no evidence that he travelled as far south as Sri Lanka.

Adam's Peak is referred to in literature and travelogues as well. The 6<sup>th</sup> century Tamil epic poem 'Manimekalai' refers to the peak of 'Samantakuta' on the island of Ratnadipa ('Island of Gems') as the site of the footprints of the Buddha. Adam's Peak is also found in the writings of the explorer Marco Polo and the traveller Ibn Battuta. The 'Tuhfat ul-Mujahidin', a book on the history of Muslims in the Malabar region of India, ascribes their first settlement in the country to a party of pilgrims returning from Adam's Peak. The 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century Chinese traveller Ma Huan describes Adam's Peak as abounding with rubies and precious stones.

Adam's Peak began to be climbed and written about by more and more Europeans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The doctor and chemist John Davy, in an 1817 letter addressed to his more famous brother Sir Humphry Davy, mentions Adam's Peak as having a steep and at times difficult route to the summit and describes the iron chains and rock steps that aid pilgrims. He also attempted to measure the height of the peak using a barometer.

Source: Britannica

## Famous Landmarks Quiz 40

**Q:** List three other names that 'Sri Pada' mountain is called.



## Famous Landmarks Quiz 39



**Yewish Perera, Kotte**







**Little Angels  
AMI Montessori,  
Nugegoda celebrated  
Avurudu with much fun  
and games.**

Pix by  
**M. A. Pushpa Kumara**



**Nakano College,  
Bandaragama  
held its annual  
inter-house  
sports meet on  
February 26, 2023  
amidst lots of fun,  
cheer and  
excitement.**



**Annual Avurudu celebrations of the Wijeya Dhaham Pasela  
of Sri Wijeyawardena Maha Viharaya, Ihala Imbulgoda  
was held at the Viharaya premises recently.**



**10 – 12 years**
**A school sports meet I enjoyed**

Schools hold sports meets annually to showcase the sports skills of children. Accordingly, last year we celebrated the sports meet in a grand manner after three years of cancelations due to Corona.

The grand day began with welcoming the chief guest, with a drill display by the Grade 6 students. After prayers, the events started with track events. Athletes representing various houses of our school strived hard to win a place. We cheered them on with all our strength. Next the group events for Grades 6 to 11 took place. Our house won most of them. I took part and we won the first place.

The most awesome part of the sports meet, the drill display arrived next. As it was the interval also, we got refreshments. The children who were selected took part in colourful dresses.

We sang the song while enjoying the awesome performance.

Next, lighter games like the staff race and prefects' race took place. It was awesome to see the teachers who teach us, in the field, that we cheered for them enjoying the moment greatly.

The long awaited march past took place after that. The students, all neatly clad in white uniforms marched in synchronization. They were so cool and didn't make a mistake. Next, the prize giving took place, where there was so much of cheering and shouting.

The great day ended smoothly with all of us accepting victory and defeat alike. It was the most enjoyable moment of the year and we had so much fun.

**Nivethikaa Yogendran**  
**St. Bridget's Convent,**  
**Colombo**

**Book Competition**
**13 – 15 years International Women's Day**

International Women's Day (IWD) is globally marked on March 8. IWD is an appeal to the world for equal treatment of women in our society. World War I is said to be the turning point for International Women's Day.

Like other events, Women's Day is also commemorated with a theme. It represents the annual agenda for women's welfare around the globe. In 2019 IWD was celebrated with the theme of 'Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change'. In 2020 looked forward to the celebration of IWD and it was celebrated with the theme, 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'.

Women are seen as household workers.

Traditionally, the Indian mindset treats women as a good mother or a good housewife and they don't have many opportunities for career building. This is the sad reality.

Now women are getting empowered and stronger by the passage of time but unfortunately still there is a need for more social awareness. Being part of this society, how can someone still be discriminated on the basis of gender? Women's security and safety is one of the big global challenges.

For all these reasons, a global event is specially celebrated to remind about women's position in society.

**Hiflur Rahman**  
**Zahira College, Colombo**

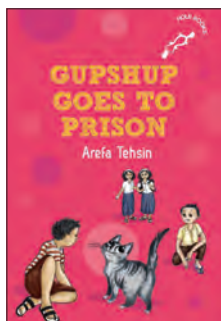
**Gupshup Goes to Prison**

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


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


**Young Reporters Coupon**

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent's approval: ..... Date: .....

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



# British Wildlife Photography Awards 2023

Check out the amazing young winners and finalists

**A Look to the Future, by Charlie Page**  
**Urban Wildlife Winner and Overall Winner**



Wildlife has become used to us encroaching on them. The felled tree and longing look on the Red fox's (*Vulpes vulpes*) face portray this tragedy perfectly.

**Starlings by Maddison Foreman**



Whilst they might appear black at a distance, as this close-up shows, starlings actually have glossy feathers with colourful sheens of purples and greens!

**Camouflaged Eurasian otter by Joel Osborn**



This picture was taken on the Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland. These semi-aquatic mammals can be found all along the island's 300 miles of coastline. They can reach nearly a metre in length and are the only wild otter species found in the UK.

**Branching Out, by Billy Evans-Freke – RSPB Young British Wildlife**  
**Photographer of the Year 2023 and 15 – 17 years Winner**



It wasn't easy finding this elusive owl. After hearing a "high-pitched squeak" it took at least ten minutes before Billy spotted the young Tawny owl (*Strix aluco*).

**Vine Weevil, by Wilbur King**  
**11 years and under Winner**



Wilbur kept finding Black vine weevils (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*) coming from a pot plant at his grandparent's house in Devon and decided to take a close-up photo of it!

**Hummingbird Hawk-Moth by Whitaker Walker**



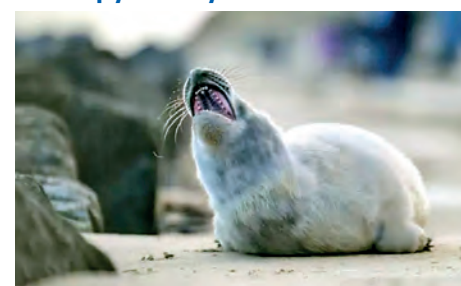
Talk about an action shot! The hummingbird hawk-moth's wings beat so quickly that they can be seen only as a haze. They dart from one flower to the next with the long proboscis gathering nectar just like a hummingbird does – hence the name!

**What's Over There?**  
**by Felix Walker-Nix**  
**12 – 14 years Winner**



It took a lot of patience to get this shot of the Brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*). "I had spent a lot of time out in the fields watching different individual groups, learning about their behaviour," said Felix.

**A sleepy seal by Dan Hancock-Smith**



Did you know that seals can sleep both in the water and on land? While there are more than 30 different species of seal, there are only two types which are found in UK waters – the common (harbour) seal and the grey seal.

Sources: The Guardian and CBBC Newsround



## What's happening in Sudan?

April 25, 2023

**The UK has announced a plan to help British citizens in Sudan to leave as violence between two large armed groups continues to affect the country. Fighting broke out in the country's capital Khartoum last week between two rival armies over control of the country.**

**T**he violence has now spread to other parts of the nation, although on Monday night the two sides agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire to allow aid to arrive and people to leave safely. A ceasefire is when both sides agree to pause fighting for a specific amount of time.

Electricity is scarce, and food and water supplies are running out for many, and tens thousands of Sudanese people are expected to look for safety in neighbouring countries.

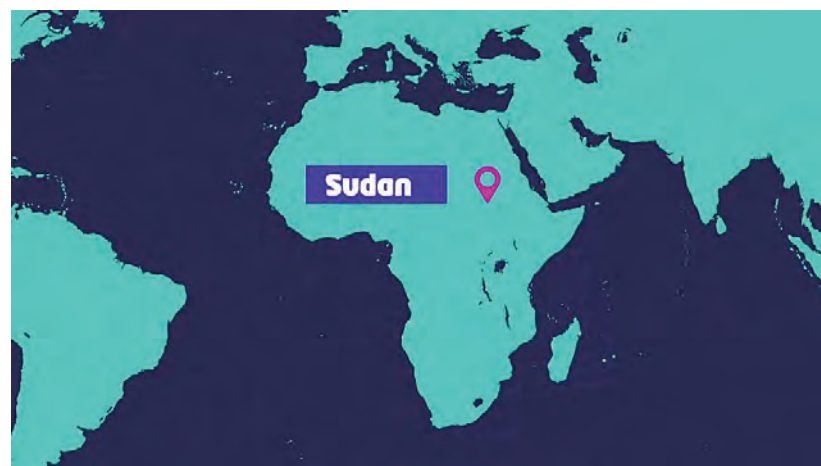
### Where is Sudan and what's been happening there?

Sudan is a huge country in north-east Africa and it shares borders with Egypt, Libya, Chad and Ethiopia.

It's home to part of the Sahara, one of the world's largest deserts, and the Nile - the world's longest river.

The country has a complex history and it's been in the news recently because fighting has broken out again.

Sudan is a country where the military has often been in control. There has been war and violent changes of leaders since it became independent from the British Empire in 1956.



Lots of countries have taken steps to remove their citizens from Sudan.



The fighting in Sudan has affected the country's capital Khartoum and beyond.

The current violence can be traced back to two rival Sudanese armies and their leaders who are struggling over who is in charge.

It is the people of Sudan who have been impacted the most by the fighting and they have little say about how the country is run. As well as people being in danger from the battles, it is difficult for hospitals to get supplies or for children to go to school at the moment.

Countries around the world are calling for the fighting to stop, charities are trying to provide support and a number of countries are trying to evacuate their citizens from Sudan.

A growing list of countries have removed their representatives and citizens from Sudan's capital Khartoum as fighting continues in the country.



Evacuation from Sudan.



Lots of people in Sudan have had to leave their homes to escape the fighting.



April 25

## News in Pictures



## London, UK

A pod of the London Eye that has been transformed into a miniature version of Westminster Abbey before the coronation of King Charles III.

Visitors to the capsule will have the chance to sit on the pod's coronation chair and hold replicas of the crown jewels.



## Brasília, Brazil

An Indigenous boy talks to police officers standing guard during a protest outside the national congress building, as people take part in the Terra Livre Indigenous camp, which aims to increase awareness of Indigenous rights and land issues.



## Loni, India

Commuters travel on an overcrowded train in Uttar Pradesh. India has overtaken China as the world's most populous country, according to the latest UN estimates.



Harry Belafonte, the singer, actor and activist, who died on April 25, aged 96, became the first artist to have a million-selling album. Belafonte, grew up in Jamaica and New York. He served in the US Navy and worked as a caretaker's assistant before studying drama and becoming an actor, singer and campaigner against political and social injustice.

Belafonte released his debut album in 1954, and topped the US Billboard album charts with the followup. But his third album Calypso, featuring songs from his Jamaican heritage, is what sealed his status, with the lead track 'Day-O' (The Banana Boat Song) becoming his signature song. The album was the first to sell over a million copies. Belafonte received many honours during his lifetime, including the Martin Luther King Jr Peace prize and the Nelson Mandela Courage award.



April 24

## Amman, Jordan

People evacuated from Sudan arrive at a military airport. Many countries have rushed to evacuate their nationals from Sudan as deadly fighting spread into a second week between forces loyal to two rival generals.



## Rome, Italy

Cuirassier presidential guards descend the steps of the tomb of the Unknown Warrior during a ceremony on Liberation Day, which commemorates the Italian resistance movement's victory during the World War II.



Hobart, Tasmania  
Aurora Australis  
seen in the early morning.



Source : The Guardian