

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 21, 2023

FUN DAY TIMES



'Voices Ablaze'

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

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**(ONLINE)
YOUNG REPORTER
BRITISH COUNCIL
EVENT**

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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:**

June 7, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

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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.



Wycherley International School's Choral presentation 'Voices Ablaze' had the audience clapping along in tune. Smiles, laughter and cheers filled Lionel Wendt Auditorium, as the 35 member choir, trained by Ms. Priyanthi Seneviratne Van Dort, raised their voices in solos, duets and choruses.

Pix. by
M. A. Pushpa Kumara



Thilmi Lithumya Pinidiya
13 years on May 24



Faizatul Lubna Fahmy
9 years on May 23

Happy Birthday

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.

World Bee Day

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Bees and other pollinators play a key role in conserving biodiversity, ensuring food security and protecting human livelihoods. To raise awareness of these facts and to highlight the threats faced by pollinators, World Bee Day is celebrated annually on May 20.

What is pollination?

Pollination is an essential stage in the plant reproduction process, involving the transportation of pollen from a male flower's anthers to the stigma of a female flower.

The date of May 20 was chosen as it is the birthday of Anton Janša, an apiarist from Slovenia, who pioneered modern beekeeping techniques and praised the bees' ability to work hard without needing much attention.

The theme of World Bee Day 2023 is "Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production", aimed at garnering support for pollinator-friendly agricultural production and stressing the importance of protecting bees and other pollinators through evidence-based agricultural practices.

Around 75% of the world's food crops depend, at least in part, on pollination.



Globally, nearly 35% of invertebrate pollinators (especially bees and butterflies) and around 17% of vertebrate pollinators are at risk of extinction.

How can we help pollinators?

- Plant diverse plants that flower at different times of the year
- Avoid using pesticides, fungicides or herbicides
- Protect wild bee colonies when possible
- Help sustaining forest ecosystems
- Buy products from sustainable agricultural practices
- Buying raw honey from local farmers

References: un.org, fao.org, britannica.com



Pollinators

Aside from our buzzing friends, other invertebrate pollinators include beetles, butterflies, moths, wasps and flies.

Vertebrate pollinators include bats, as well as non-flying mammals (such as many species of monkeys, rodents, lemur, tree squirrels, olingo and kinkajou) and birds (such as hummingbirds, sunbirds, honeycreepers and certain species of parrots).

It's a *bee* thing (or not)



There are **different pollinators species** in the world, such as butterflies, birds and bats!



The most popular ones are **bees**. There are between 25,000 to 30,000 species.

Why should you care about pollinators?



Nearly 90 per cent of all wild flowering plants depend at least to some extent on animal pollination.



Pollinators **affect 35 percent of global agricultural land**.



Caring for bees and other pollinators is part of the fight **against world hunger**.



Ensuring biodiversity among these species is **crucial to build resilience** in agroecosystems and adapt to climate change.



Tomahawk

Quiz No. 207

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 207 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of April 2, 9, 23 and 30, 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. 207' 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: May 31, 2023



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QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 207

1. When was the World Health Organisation inaugurated and when is World Health Day observed?
2. Who was appointed First Minister of Scotland and who was replaced?
3. In which countries is the Asian Koel found and where does it lay its eggs?
4. When is Earth Day celebrated? Name three simple daily habits which would help care for our planet.
5. Name four major rivers of Sri Lanka that originated at Adam's Peak or Sri Pada.



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7 - 9 years



- ▶ Oshin Wijeweera, Battaramulla
- ▶ Aadila Ahmed, Colombo 2
- ▶ Diyon Bowatta, Wattala
- ▶ Samadhi Herath, Matale
- ▶ Uthra Paranan, Colombo 6

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

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

Match the animal with its baby.



Cat



Dog



Hen



Sheep



Horse



Puppy



Lamb



Kitten



Foil



Chick



Or



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From a Young Reporter

Annual Picnic

The day arrived with great anticipation. It was Friday, May 12, 2023. As the Grade Seven students of Carey College, we went to the Kandy area as part of our annual excursion.

First we went to Girigama Tea Factory. Then we went to Hanthana Ceylon Tea Museum and finally we went to Hanthana International Bird Park.

We learnt a lot from this trip. From the time of plucking tea leaves, to the making of tea leaves for drinking, we had the opportunity to experience live, how the machinery worked. We also got to enjoy a fresh cup of tea.



We all really enjoyed this trip. I am very thankful to Mother Carey for organizing this trip.

Ruzaiq Junkeer (Grade 7)
Carey College, Colombo 8

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 indicate word count on entry.

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

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :



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Read-a-Book for May 2023

10 – 12 years

Aaisha Naeem

Long Way Home by Michael Morpurgo

13 – 15 years

Hikma Manajir

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien



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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The world's oldest dog

May 16, 2023

The world's oldest dog, Bobi, has just celebrated his 31st birthday.

He celebrated in style, with more than 100 guests, and even a dance troupe turning up to honour the hound!

Leonel Costa, Bobi's owner (now 38), was just 8 years old when Bobi was born. He said his dog gets a lot of attention as the world's oldest dog, and journalists from all over the world come to take a picture of him.



Bobi is apparently currently in good health, after a successful check-up at the vets recently. Leonel describes him as "one of a kind", adding he tries to keep him in a "calm, peaceful environment", to keep him healthy and happy.

What breed of dog is Bobi?

Bobi is a purebred Rafeiro do Alentejo, which is a Portuguese breed of dog. His record age was confirmed by the Portuguese government's pet database.

The dogs are named after the area of Portugal that they are from – the Alentejo region in the south. They are famous for looking after livestock like sheep and cows. The canines usually have an average life expectancy of 12 – 14 years, which Bobi has more than doubled!



Photo credit: guinnessworldrecords.com

The previous all-time record holder was a dog called Bluey in Australia, who made it to the age of 29 in 1939.

Other animals with world-record ages

Bobi holds the record for the world's oldest dog, but what about the world's oldest cat, or tortoise?

Well the world's oldest cat is 27 years old – equivalent to around 120 in human years. Whilst the world's oldest land animal – a tortoise – is a whopping 190 years old – at least!

Source: CBBC Newsround

Wildlife in Pictures



Bears, waking up from hibernation, at a bear sanctuary in Bursa, Turkey. Around 71 brown bears, 63 of them adult, live in the sanctuary which was opened in 1996.



Indonesian marine police load sea turtles into a truck after they were seized from an illegal poacher in Denpasar, Bali. A total of 21 green turtles have reportedly been seized from the illegal poachers. Although protected by law, sea turtles and their parts are still frequently traded in many places in Indonesia.

Source: The Guardian



Storytelling

Bring your kids along to listen to an exciting and interactive story read by the British High Commissioner in our library.

Date: Saturday 27 May 2023

Time: 10.45 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

Age: 5 – 10 years old

Venue: British Council Library, Colombo 3



Registrations are limited and on a first come, first served basis.

To register, scan the above QR code or visit <https://www.britishcouncil.lk/library/events>

www.britishcouncil.lk

The Little Mermaid

Stars dazzle at UK premier of the Disney remake

May 16, 2023

The stars of the new 'Little Mermaid' film headed to the blue carpet for its UK premiere on Monday night.

Actors, crew and celebrity fans turned up to get their first look at the new Disney remake at Leicester Square in London.



Jonah Hauer-King (Prince Eric), Jacob Tremblay (Flounder), Melissa McCarthy (Ursula), Halle Bailey (Ariel), Rob Marshall (Director), Javier Bardem (King Triton) and Daveed Diggs (Sebastian)



Rappers Stefflon Don and Shemara posed by the amazing red carpet designs in their epic outfits.



Halle plays Princess Ariel in the Disney Little Mermaid live-action remake.



Some lucky fans were able to attend the premiere and even got to meet Halle.

The film follows the story of Ariel - the mermaid with a beautiful voice who gives up her life in the sea to be with a prince - and is a live-action version inspired by the 1989 animated musical film.

Source: CBBC Newsround

Professor breaks record for living underwater

May 16, 2023

A professor has just broken the record for living and working underwater.

Professor Joseph Dituri has spent the last 74 days living in a small room which is 9m underwater in Key Largo, Florida in the USA since March.

The researcher is aiming to spend a total of 100 days living underwater as part of an experiment to research what effects living underwater has on the human body.

Prof. Dituri has now broken the previous record of 73 days, two hours and 34 minutes which was set by Bruce Cantrell and Jessica Fain - at the same location in 2014.

Prof. Dituri celebrated breaking the record by eating a meal of eggs and salmon, exercising and napping: a routine very similar to his previous 73 days.

"The record is a small bump and I really appreciate it," he said.

"I'm honoured to have it, but we still have more science to do."

Prof. Dituri has been helping scientists to study a special type of



medicine which delivers oxygen.

As well as this, NASA, the American Space Agency, is also using his time to test Artificial Intelligence systems designed to keep astronauts safe on long trips in space.

May 16

News in Pictures

**Hiroshima, Japan**

A tricycle donated by the father of a boy who died in the 1945 atomic bombing is displayed at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial museum. G7 leaders will meet in Hiroshima from May 19 to 21, looking to address the Ukraine war, and agree a united line on China's growing military and economic power.

**Berlin, Germany**

A herd of cattle grazes outside the Reichstag building during a protest by Greenpeace and animal rights activists over how much time the animals should spend on pastures.

**Jabalia, Gaza Strip**

Palestinian families shelter in a heavily damaged house following Israeli attacks.

**Sittwe, Myanmar**

Rohingya women return to their destroyed houses at Basara refugee camp after Cyclone Mocha made landfall. The death toll in Rakhine state has risen to 41.

Lagos, Nigeria

Chef Hilda Bassey attempts to break the Guinness World Record for the longest cooking time by an individual.

**London, UK**

Fourteen-year-old Lenny Rush won the Best Male Performance in a Comedy Programme Award, for the BBC series 'Am I Being Unreasonable?' at the BAFTA TV Awards.

May 15

Jaffa, Israel

A rare female Mediterranean monk seal lies on the shore.

**Ardingly, UK**

Catherine Nelson poses with her installation, Planet Wakehurst, at Wakehurst Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, in West Sussex. The 1,550 m² canvas – the equivalent of 25 double-decker buses and one of the UK's largest outdoor installations – features a photo montage of Wakehurst Gardens' world-leading plant collections and is wrapped around a Grade I listed Elizabethan mansion house. Visitors can view the display from a 33ft high platform offering views across Wakehurst's wild landscape and the South Downs.

**Asunción, Paraguay**

A police dog instructor poses for a selfie with her dog during a display.



Source : The Guardian