

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JULY 9, 2023



FUNDA Y TIMES



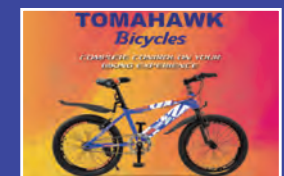
Art by Sineli Dewmini (Grade 4)

WINNERS!

POETRY & ESSAYS
PAGE 2



LANDMARKS
PAGE 3



COMPETITIONS
PAGE 4

(ONLINE)

KIDS NEWS
PAGES 7 - 8

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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.

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 this week's competitions:

July 26, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Age groups:
6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years
Word limit: 100 Words

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

6 – 10 years

'Colours of life' – Rainbow

Violet, Indigo, Blue, Green,
Yellow, Orange and Red.
Beautiful rainbow symbolizing,
Colours of our life.

'Vibrant violet' is full of energy,
'Icy indigo' means enjoy life before it melts!
'Bubbly blue' means pop and make new cheerful memories,
'Goodness green' means eat healthy and stay wealthy.
'Young yellow' spreads its brightness and imagination,
'Ordinary orange' says to live life simply and stay happy.
'Resilient red' gives us an opportunity to stay positive and bounce back in life.

Aadya Agrawal
British School in Colombo



Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

11 – 15 years

Plants

Plants, the vivid things,
Always bring joy,
Trees, shrubs and attractive flowers,
Loved by every girl and boy!

They are beneficial to us every day,
Giving shelter and shade,
We always wish they won't go away,
Or all our joy will fade.

Through howling wind and driving rain,
And the winter storms,
They try to stay alive,
While we are comfy and warm!

Zahra Shafraz
Ilma Int. Girls' School

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My favourite sport

Win: The Fables of Aesop

The magic of Aesop's tales has not waned with time. They still hold young readers in thrall with stories that carry a moral.

This selection of evergreen fables, with fine illustrations, is a delightful read.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A super power I would like to have

Win: The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Young Mary Lennox is sent from India to live in her uncle's gloomy mansion on the wild English moors. She is lonely and has nobody to play with, but one day she learns of a secret garden that no one is allowed to enter.

Then a gust of magic leads her to a hidden door that reveals a world she could never have imagined.



Age: 13 – 15 years

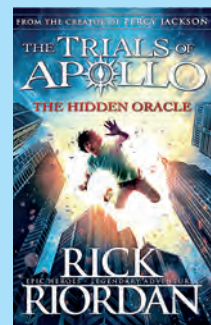
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Social media: Pros and Cons

Win: The Trials of Apollo - The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan

The god Apollo has been cast down from Olympus in the body of a teenage boy.

With the help of friends like Percy Jackson and familiar faces from Camp Half-Blood, he must complete a series of harrowing trials to save the world from a dangerous new enemy.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ **Book Competition** ■ **Essay Topic**



JULY 9, 2023

Book Competition



9 years and below

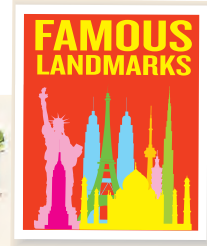
My mother
Esandi Ranasinghe
Musaeus College

10 – 12 years

Celebrating Mother's Day
Saheer Rizvi
Zahira College

13 – 15 years

Origins of Mother's Day
Nethmi Batuwita
St. Bridget's Convent



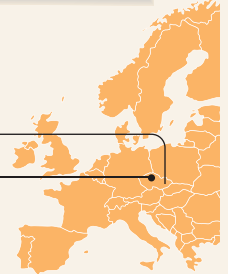
Prague Castle

Prague Castle is a complex of palaces, churches, fortifications, courtyards and offices that lies within the historic centre of Prague. Formerly, the seat of the Kings of Bohemia, it is currently the official residence of the President of the Czech Republic.

Prague Castle (Pražský Hrad) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest castle and presidential residence in the world.



Czech Republic
Prague



History

Prague Castle is considered to be one of the oldest continuous residences of power. It was inhabited by the Czech Royal dynasty during the reign of Bo ivoj, the first Christian prince of Bohemia as early as the 9th century! The castle's location was definitely an advantage against medieval sieges. The castle is located 250 m above sea level and surrounded by a Deer Moat on the northern side.

In 920, St. George's Basilica was laid down. At that time, Vratislaus I was the ruler of Bohemia. His son Wenceslaus I built St. Vitus Cathedral. For centuries, these churches were completed and reconstructed and are the main attractions of Prague Castle.

Centuries passed and the rulers, culture and accordingly, architecture, changed. New palaces, squares and gardens began to appear. The Romanesque style was replaced by the Gothic, then the Baroque and then the Renaissance styles.

St. Vitus Cathedral

The principal point of interest of the main courtyard is St. Vitus Cathedral where coronations of Czech kings and queens took place. This cathedral with its stunning façade, was being built for 600 years! The first stone was laid in the 14th century and construction finished only in 1929.

The Gothic style cathedral is adorned with three portals with bronze sculptures, a rose window, two 80 m stone towers and a big South Tower with a 96 m tall belfry. The viewing platform up above St. Vitus Cathedral gives a bird's-eye view of the city of Prague.

The Old Royal Palace

Within the third courtyard is the Old Royal Palace, the main residence of the Bohemian kings and dukes. The palace is a bright representative of late Gothic architecture and tells the story of the castle development from the times of the first settlements till the present.

St. George's Basilica

The third courtyard ends with St. George's Square where St. George's Basilica is located.



Prague Castle at night

The basilica is made in the Romanesque style and its construction was initiated in 920. It is also a shrine of many Czech rulers. The white towers of the Basilica were erected in the 12th century and their original appearance has been preserved until today. The red façade of the church appeared only in the 17th century.

Golden Lane

Just north of the fortified section of the castle is Golden Lane, a street of small row houses originally built for royal alchemists and other castle servants. The writer Franz Kafka lived there from 1916 to 1917. Golden Lane is flanked by two round towers: Daliborka Tower (on the east) and the New White Tower (on the west). Built in the 15th century, both were notorious prisons.

Gardens of Prague Castle

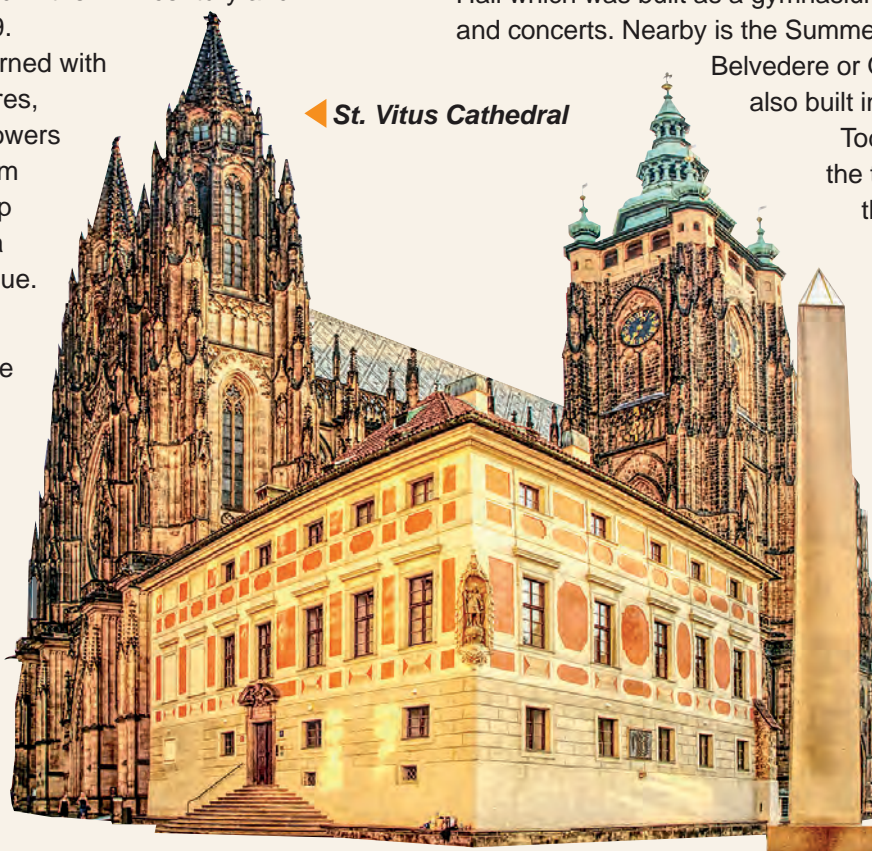
The Royal Garden was founded in 1534 by the King of Bohemia Ferdinand I. Initially the park was established in the Italian style, but today it has the look of a 19th century English Garden.

Besides the Royal Garden, there are many more gardens including the South Gardens, known as the Hartig Garden, Paradise Garden and Garden on the Ramparts.

Along the southern edge of the Royal Garden is the Ball Game Hall which was built as a gymnasium but is now used for exhibits and concerts. Nearby is the Summer Palace sometimes called the Belvedere or Queen Anna's Summer Palace, also built in the Renaissance style.

Today Prague Castle occupies the territory of 70,000 m² and thousands of tourists visit every year.

Sources: Britannica.com/Praguego.com



Famous Landmarks Quiz - 42

Q: What is the World Record Prague Castle holds?



Famous Landmarks Quiz - 41



Senuli Rathnasekara,
Angoda

Tomahawk

Quiz No. 209

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 209 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of June 4, 11, 18 and 25, 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. 209' 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: July 31, 2023

Tomahawk Quiz No. 208 **WINNER**

▶ Nivethikaa Yogendran, Colombo 6



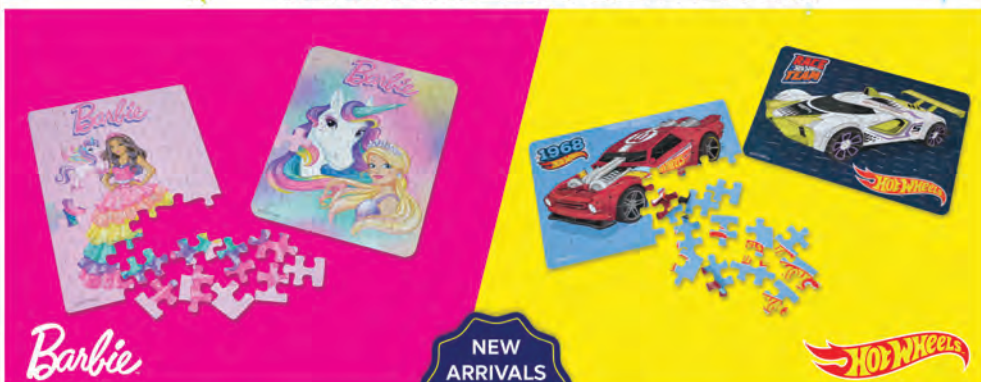
@TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL | 245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04 BAMBALAPITIYA - 011 250 7307 | @TOMAHAWKBICYCLES

QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 209

1. When is World Oceans Day commemorated and what is the theme for 2023?
2. Which landmark is considered as the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka?
3. Which species are the largest turtles on Earth? Name two hazards they face.
4. When is World Refugee Day held and what does it aim to raise awareness of?
5. Name the submersible that went missing in the North Atlantic recently.

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4 - 6 years

WINNERS

- ▶ Mufthas Shahma, Matale
- ▶ Thesara Jayathilake, Homagama
- ▶ Haya Arham, Puttalam
- ▶ Karen Jeevaprakash, Badulla
- ▶ Mohammed Hashim, Wellampitiya

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

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Match the similar objects.



mailto: Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Book Competition



9 years and below

My mother

'Mother' is the sweetest word I have ever heard in my life. When we were born, though we cried, my mother said it was the happiest day of her life.

My mother's name is Upeksha Kodithuwakku. She works at the University of Moratuwa. She helps my sister and me to write essays, draw pictures, sing songs and to study. She teaches us good habits and customs, to make us good citizens. She loves to read books, listen to musical programmes and prepare delicious dishes for us. She always brings laughter and joy to our family. We have achieved success in studies and sports from the guidance she has given.

My mother shows us a good example to live a religious life. She helps people in need in many ways. She always spreads her knowledge. I think I have the best mother in the world.

I love my mother so much.

Esandi Ranasinghe (9 years)
Musaeus College

10 – 12 years

Celebrating Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a global observance to honour mothers and to commemorate the love and affection of a mother and to celebrate motherhood.

Many countries across the globe started celebrating Mother's Day annually on different days as per their local customs and traditions. A mother is the first teacher of every child and also the best friend. She is honoured for the hardships she goes through to look after her family and children.

A mother manages her child's life in many ways, sometimes as a teacher,

sometimes as a friend, she bears all the responsibilities. The child's happiness is her happiness and the child's sadness is her sadness.

Therefore, it is also the responsibility of the children to respect their mother and take care of her. We cannot live without the love and care of our mother.

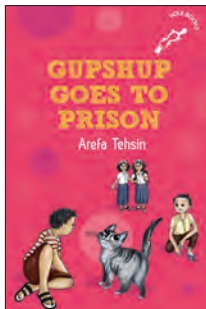
Mother fulfills all her responsibilities continuously without stopping and getting tired. We cannot return anything to them except a big 'Thank you'.

Saheer Rizvi (12 years)
Zahira College

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.

The Pallekelle Open Prison Camp in Sri Lanka is one such open prison. It prepares prisoners for day-to-day existence in the community.

Over the years it has grown into a sprawling rural village, where there are no boundary walls or cells. Residents work and participate in leisure time activities. Many cultivate private plots of land and sell their produce.

Competition

Win a copy of 'Gupshup Goes to Prison'.

Write a short story or essay 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.

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13 – 15 years

Origins of Mother's Day

'Amma' – is the first word a baby says. Mother gives love and care for her children. Throughout life, mother remains the closest person for a child.

Nowadays, societies worldwide have selected a special day to celebrate as Mother's Day. The origin of celebrations of mothers' dates back to the ancient Greeks and Romans who held festivals in honour of the mother goddesses, Rhea and Cybele. But the modern example for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday'. On that day the faithful would return to their 'mother' church – the main church near their home – for a special service.

Over time, the tradition changed and children would present their mothers with flowers and cards. The custom eventually faded before it arose again with Mother's Day celebrated in America. In the 1990s, Anna Jarvis from Virginia, USA, conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honouring the sacrifices that mothers made for their children. She wrote letters to politicians and to newspapers, urging the adoption of a special day honouring motherhood.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. Eventually, many countries adopted the holiday. Sri Lanka is no exception.

I always prepare a beautiful card for my mom on that day and do the best to help her with chores. I love to see a smile on my mom's face on that day!

Nethmi Batuwita (13 years)
St. Bridget's Convent

Animal Heroes

Throughout history, men and women have defended their countries by serving in the armed forces. But people aren't the only heroes. These animals have also put their best foot, paw, fin, flipper and wing forward and answered the call of duty.

Allegiant Elephants



The ancient Greeks, Persians and Indians all used the mighty elephant as a sort of animal tank, terrifying and breaking the ranks of enemy troops. Elephants famously crossed over the Alps with Carthaginian general Hannibal in 218 B.C.

Patriotic Pigeons



It's no myth – these intelligent birds have been employed as military messengers since ancient times. Throughout World War I and II, United States and British forces created special pigeon service units comprising tens of thousands of birds to transmit messages. One special pigeon flew roughly 150 miles to deliver the news of the Allied troops' landing in Normandy, France – a key event toward the end of World War II.

Dutiful Dolphins



The United States Navy first created the Marine Mammal Program in the 1960s to study and train dolphins, beluga whales, sea lions, and other marine mammals. A dolphin named Tuffy completed the first successful open ocean military exercise. He carried mail and tools to military personnel 200 feet underwater. Tuffy was also able to guide lost divers to safety.

Super-sensing Sea Lions

Also part of the U.S. Navy's Marine Mammal Program, sea lions were trained to locate and recover military hardware dropped in the ocean. Their incredible underwater vision also makes them perfect guard dogs: They can spot an approaching enemy swimmer and alert the crew nearby.



Sergeant Stubby

Stubby the stump-tailed terrier worked behind enemy lines and gained military rank and honours along the way. Private Robert Conroy casually adopted the orphan pup while attending basic training on the campus of Yale University in 1917. When Conroy's unit shipped out for France during World War I, he smuggled his new friend aboard. By the time Stubby encountered Conroy's commanding officer, the dog had perfected his right-paw salute. Charmed, the CO awarded Stubby mascot status and sent him along with Conroy's unit to the Western Front. Sergeant Stubby's brave deeds earned him a place in history and in the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., where decorated with war medals, he can still be seen.



Gallant Glowworms

Glowworms may seem unlikely heroes, but these bioluminescent invertebrates have a special power: light.



Soldiers in the trenches of World War I (1914 – 1918) would gather the worms in jars to read maps, intelligence reports, and letters from home by their light.

Resourceful Rats

When you hear the word 'hero,' a rat probably doesn't spring to mind. But these specially trained African giant pouched rats have saved thousands of lives by detecting land mines. These hero rats sniff out the land mines and scratch at the surface to let their handlers know where one is buried. Rats are a perfect fit for the job because they're light on their feet, cover a lot of territory, and are incredibly smart.



Purposeful Penguin

This king penguin is a knight! Sir Nils Olav was initially given the role of mascot of the Norwegian Guard but he quickly climbed the ranks when the Royal Guardsmen came to visit him at his home in the Edinburgh Zoo. In 2008 the King of Norway, King Harald V, bestowed the honour of a knighthood upon Nils.



Source: National Geographic Kids

July 5

Scientists investigate 'gravity hole' in Indian Ocean

For years experts have puzzled over why an area of seabed beneath the Indian Ocean, which covers more than two million square miles, dips far below the surrounding area. The sea level over the area is an incredible 106 m below the global average. The 'gravity hole' is not an actual hole, scientists say that the gravitational pull is low which causes the sea bed to sink.

Why is there a gravity hole in the Indian Ocean?

Although we are used to seeing Earth as a perfect sphere, it is actually quite lumpy – more like a potato than a ball. Scientists have mapped these valleys and dips, but the one that has fascinated them the most is the dip in the Indian Ocean which was discovered way back in 1948.

Now two researchers from the Indian Institute of Science, Debanjan Pal and Attreyee Ghosh, think they know what created it. By looking at computer simulated models of the past 140 million years they were able to see how Earth's tectonic plates – huge plates that make

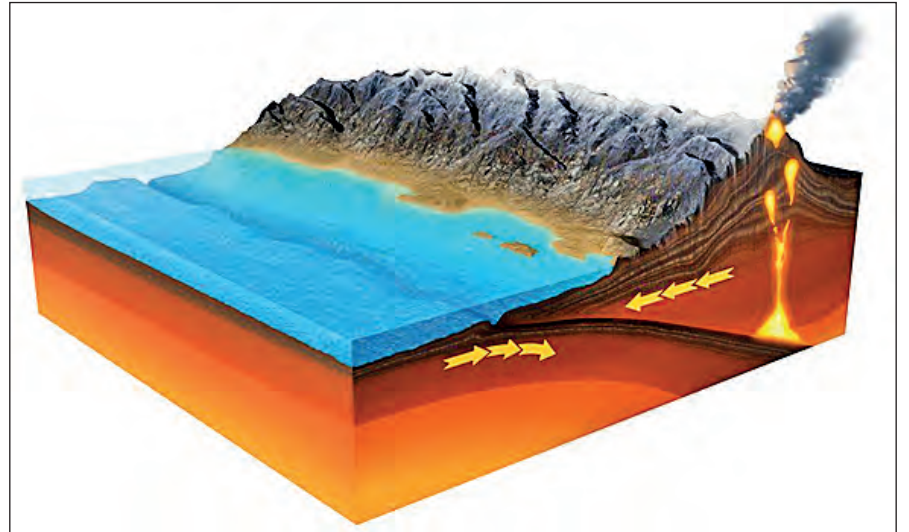
up the Earth's crust – have moved around. In their study, published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, they found the remains of an ancient ocean 600 miles beneath the Earth's crust, just under Africa.

They found that in all the simulations there were molten rock plumes, possibly caused by tectonic plates plunging into the mantle (the bit just

under the Earth's crust) below Africa.

It is these plumes which the researchers believe caused the Indian Ocean dip.

This is new research so more work and testing still needs to be done.



Scientists believe tectonic plates plunged into the mantle, beneath the Earth's crust, causing the dips in the Indian Ocean.

Robot conducts national orchestra of South Korea

The two-armed robot, named Ever 6, took to the conductor's podium and guided more than 60 musicians in front of a live audience.

Nearly 1,000 people turned up at the National Theater of Korea to watch the orchestra, who were playing traditional Korean instruments. The robot, even bowed to the audience before starting to wave its arms to control the tempo of the performance!

Ever 6 developed by scientists at the Korea Institute of Industrial Technology

was programmed to replicate the movements of a human conductor through motion capture technology. The humanoid robot guided three of five pieces that were played by the orchestra, including one jointly lead alongside a human conductor, Choi Soo-yeoul.



I had imagined. I think it was a recital that showed that (robots and humans) can co-exist and complement each other, rather than one replacing the other."

However there did seem to be one big disadvantage of having a robot conductor.

Choi Soo-yeoul explained: "Ever 6's critical weakness is that it cannot listen. What was a bit interesting during the rehearsal was that me and other musicians were making a lot of effort to understand the robot as we knew it could not listen, which made us feel like we were connecting to it."

And it seems both Choi Soo-yeoul and the audience, were impressed by Ever 6's performance.

Choi Soo-yeoul said: "Movements by a conductor are very detailed. The robot was able to present such detailed moves, much better than



Source: CBBC Newsround

July 4

News in Pictures



London, UK
Roger Federer (the 20-time Grand Slam winner) received a standing ovation from fans during the second day of Wimbledon.



Istanbul, Turkey
The full moon appears red behind the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia grand mosque.

July 3

Lekeitio, Spain
The peloton rides through the Spanish port town of Lekeitio during the third stage of the Tour de France, on a 193.5km race from Amorebieta-Etxano in Spain to Bayonne in France.



Hanoi, Vietnam
A farmer plants rice on a paddy field at sunrise. For countless farmers in north and central Vietnam, planting in the dark has become a more bearable option during increasingly hot summers as south and south-east Asian nations battle record high temperatures.

July 2

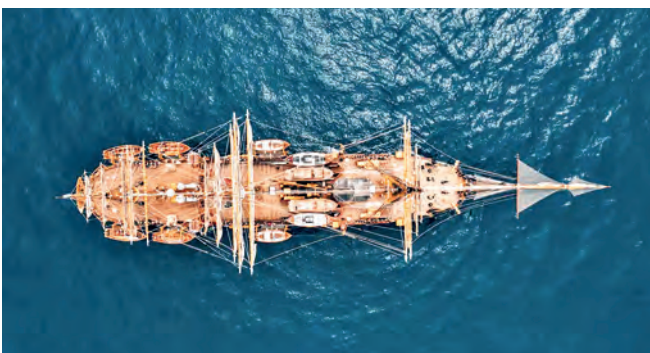


Colombo, Sri Lanka
Ailing Thai elephant Sak Surin (*Muthu Raja*) is led to a special cage for his flight back to Thailand to receive medical care.



Taizhou, China
Farmers harvest watermelons in the eastern province of Jiangsu.

Murchison Falls, Uganda
Ugandan rangers with the 12-tonne 'snare mountain' at Murchison Falls National Park. The pile was collected over 12 months as part of continuing conservation efforts at the national park. At the bottom are 'bear traps', used by poachers to catch elephants, hippos and lions. At the top are wire snares used for smaller animals.



Genoa, Italy
An aerial view of the Italian naval academy flagship Amerigo Vespucci leaving Genoa on a world tour.



Waterloo, Belgium
People take part in a Battle of Waterloo reenactment.

Sources: The Guardian/Tennis.com