

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JULY 16, 2023



FUNDA DAY TIMES



At 'Euphoria' - an exhibition by young artists

Pic. by Akila Jayawardena

COMPETITIONS

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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:

August 2, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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 :

Read-a-Book for June

10 – 12 years

Yusuf-ul-Haq

Adventures of Sinbad the Sailor



13 – 15 years

Dananga Karunaratne

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J. K. Rowling



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

'Euphoria', a group art exhibition by Shari Jayawardhana and students from The School for the Deaf, Ratmalana and Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Jaffna was held on July 8 – 9, 2023 at the Gallery FourLife in Colombo 5.



Pix. by Akila Jayawardena



Mithila Jayasekera
8 years on July 19



Nazrath Imthiyaz
8 years on July 17

Kalu and Sudu

By Manoshi De Silva

Kalu and Sudu, the two kittens, were playing in the garden. Suddenly Sudu ran and climbed up the mango tree which was near the house. "Sudu, get down!" shouted Kalu. "Don't go up that tree!" "I'll just go up a little and come down!" shouted back Sudu.

Achchi Amma was in the kitchen making some milk for the two kittens. It was just a couple of days ago that she found them. A few houses away from her home by the side of the road, was a cardboard box. Cuddling inside the box were two tiny kittens - one black and the other white.

"Oh how heartless could someone be to dump such tiny kittens by the road!" shouted *Achchi Amma*, gently picking up the two kittens covered in dust. "If I leave them here, they will get caught to vehicles! I'll take them home and find them homes later," she promised herself.

Achchi Amma brought the kittens home, cleaned them and named them 'Kalu' and 'Sudu'. After feeding, petting and watching them play, she fell in love with the two little fur balls. And so, "I am going to keep these two with me," she decided.

Kalu was innocent and obedient. He didn't want to do anything to upset *Achchi Amma*. But Sudu was mischievous. He climbed on the shelves and dropped things, tore up newspapers and jumped on *Achchi Amma*, startling her. But she just laughed and didn't get angry.

"Oh Kalu, you have got to see this," shouted Sudu, who was now at the top of the tree. "I can see the entire house roof from up here!"

"Get down! Get down!" meowed Kalu, "*Achchi Amma* is not going to like this." "Oh be quiet," shouted Sudu, "I can easily jump onto the roof from here!"

Before Kalu could even object, Sudu jumped on to the roof. Kalu couldn't see his brother anymore.

"Sudu, where are you?" cried Kalu in fear. Sudu peeped down from the edge of the roof.

"Come up here Kalu! The roof is so large it's like a playground. We can play on the roof tiles."

Kalu knew that Sudu would never come down unless he went up there and dragged him down. So he carefully climbed up the mango tree. From there, he could see Sudu and the entire roof. He carefully jumped on to the roof.

"Okay, this is enough Sudu! Come now, let's climb back down!" said Kalu. "Are you crazy? We just got here! Let's run to the other corner of the roof," said Sudu, running fast across the roof. "Oh look, our neighbour's roof is just a jump away!" shouted Sudu in excitement. "No Sudu, don't jump to the other roof!" shouted Kalu but Sudu leaped to the roof next door.

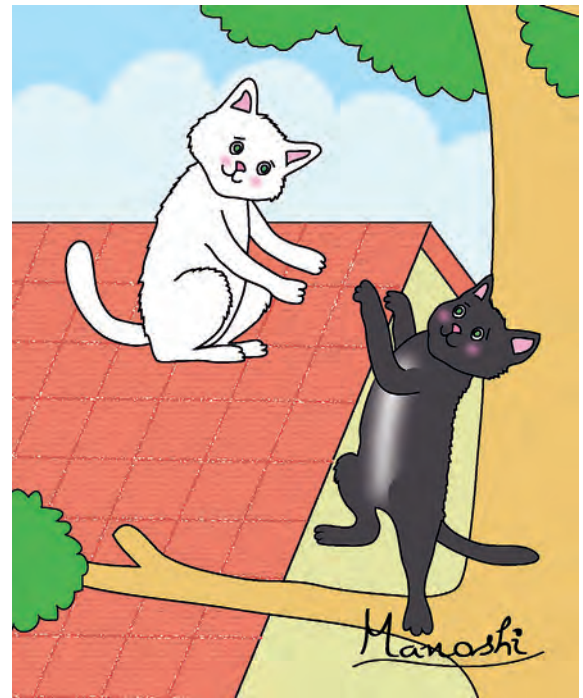
"Come here Kalu!" shouted Sudu running on their neighbour's roof, "this is so much fun." "Please stop! Let's climb back down," pleaded poor Kalu running after Sudu. But Sudu ignored Kalu and ran shouting, "Look there is another roof touching this one. Let's get on to that as well!"

Naughty Sudu ran from one roof to another and poor Kalu ran after him trying to stop him from running further. Sudu was finally feeling tired and he stopped. Kalu, who came chasing after Sudu, stopped, panting as well. They both looked around. They had no idea whose roof they were on and where their own house was.

"Great! Now we are lost on the roof of some unknown house," Kalu sighed. "It's not a big deal! There is a branch touching this roof. Let's climb down and see where we are," said Sudu. "But how do we find our house?" asked Kalu. "We will. We are still in the same neighbourhood, aren't we?" asked Sudu, pretending to be brave but he knew that they were lost.

The two kittens climbed down the tree and ended up face to face with a dog. The dog growled and chased the two kittens, who were lucky enough to creep under the gate and escape to the road.

"Oh look!" shouted Sudu. "What is it? Did you find our home?" asked Kalu. "No, it's the cardboard box we were left in," said Sudu. Kalu was very angry. "We finally found a good home and a kind owner! But now thanks to you, we are homeless again!" cried Kalu,



who was very sad and scared. "*Achchi Amma* carried us home from here. Now we will never be able to find our way back from here!" Both kittens crept into the cardboard box and cried.

Meanwhile, *Achchi Amma* searched all over for the two kittens and couldn't find them anywhere. She was very upset. "How could they escape when the gate was tightly closed? There is no space at all for them to creep out," she wondered. She walked all over the neighbourhood but there was no sign of them. She walked a little further searching for them.

When *Achchi Amma* saw the old cardboard box by the side of the road, where she had found the kittens earlier, it broke her heart. "I wonder where they are?" she thought feeling miserable.

As she walked past the box she just peeped in. Imagine her surprise to see Kalu and Sudu magically appearing from the same box again. They meowed loudly and came running to her as soon as they saw their owner.

Achchi Amma couldn't believe her eyes and checked to make sure they were the same kittens. "How is this even possible?" she asked herself. "I found you two in this box a few days ago and here you two are, again in the same box!"

Achchi Amma didn't understand how all this had happened, but she knew one thing for sure, she was so happy to find them again. The kittens were also so very happy to see her. "We are going home!" meowed the kittens happily, "We never want to get lost again!"

UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Launched in 1992 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme aims to aid the preservation of the world's documentary heritage, while widening the access to it. The documents listed in the MoW Register are those considered to be of global importance, by contributing to the preservation of cultural identities and being instrumental in shaping collective memory. These include the Magna Carta of 1215, Gutenberg Bible, and papers of Isaac Newton.



This year, 64 new 'inscriptions' were added to the MoW Register, one of which was **the Mahavamsa**, submitted by Sri Lanka. Chronologically covering the history of Sri Lanka from the 6th century BCE to 1815 CE, it is one of the world's longest unbroken historical accounts and the first of its kind in South Asia. Containing pivotal information on the lifetime of the Buddha and Emperor Asoka, as well as the rise of Buddhism as a world religion, the document is an important historical source in South Asia whose facts have been confirmed as authentic through archaeological research done in Sri Lanka and India. A number of manuscripts of the Mahavamsa exist in many countries, in addition to transliterations and translations of the text to many South East Asian and European languages, all of which attest to its tremendous historical, cultural, literal, linguistic and scholarly values.

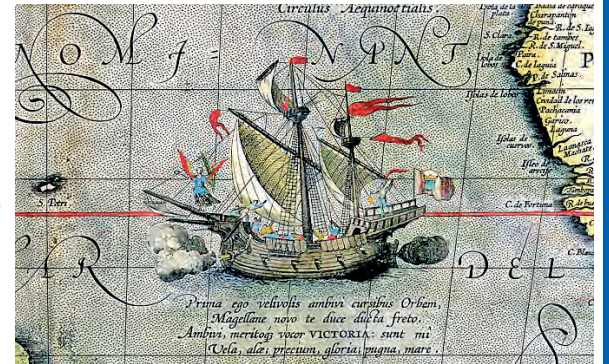


The Mahavamsa (Courtesy: University of Peradeniya)

From a poetry album to a globe, here are a few other 'inscriptions' that were added in 2023.

Documents relating to the First Circumnavigation of the Globe (1519 – 1522)

In 1519, Ferdinand Magellan set out on a voyage to circumnavigate the globe. Following his demise, Juan Sebastián completed the voyage in 1522, immensely impacting people's knowledge at the time, such as providing a sense of the vastness of South America, the size of the Pacific Ocean and the Earth's dimensions, as well as dispelling the notion that the planet was mostly covered by land. The documents, submitted by Portugal and Spain, detail the journey's preparations, the complementary relationship between the Portuguese and Spanish, and the testimonies of their discoveries.



The Victoria, the only ship of the expedition to complete the voyage.



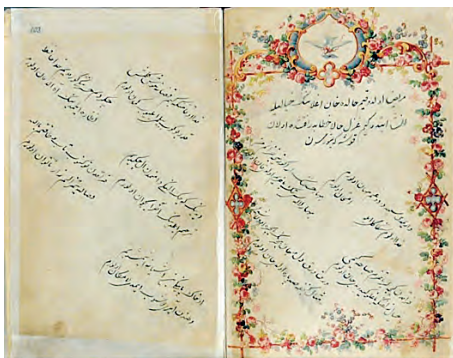
Part of the Johanna Spyri Archive, which includes 600+ 'Heidi' editions in over 40 languages. (Courtesy: Naomi Wenger)

Johanna Spyri and 'Heidi' Archives

The 'Heidi' novels written by Johanna Spyri, and first published in 1880 and 1881, are among the most widely-read and translated books in the world. Submitted by Switzerland, these two archive collections are housed in Zurich and include unpublished manuscripts, original illustrations for the novels, handwritten documents, photographs and letters.

'Flower Book' of Khurshidbanu Natavan

Compiled in 1886, this 227-page album of illustrated verses submitted by Azerbaijan is the only official poetry album that exists to date.



Flower Book (Courtesy: Azernews)

Behaim Globe

The Behaim Globe is the earliest surviving terrestrial globe in the world. Submitted by Germany and displaying roughly 2000 place names, over 200 cartographic symbols, and a plethora of inscriptions which provide general knowledge from around 1500, it does not depict the New World as it was commissioned and created between 1492 and 1494, when Christopher Columbus was yet on his west-bound voyages.

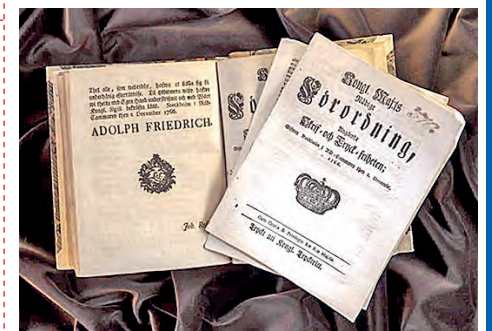


(Courtesy: Germanisches National Museum)

As of 2023, the MoW International Register contains 494 collections, of which 119 are from Asia and the Pacific.

The Swedish Freedom of the Press Ordinance of 1766

Submitted by Sweden, this was the world's first legislation guaranteeing the free communication of information, and was passed in Sweden which also included Finland at the time.



(Courtesy: History Lund University)

Get ready to indulge! July is National Ice Cream Month

Former US President Ronald Reagan's love for jellybeans was well-known. However, the country's 40th leader also had another guilty pleasure — ice cream.

In 1984, Mr. Reagan gave the "nutritious and wholesome food" the respect it deserved by declaring July as National Ice Cream Month!

Proclamation 5219 urges citizens to observe the entire month or at least the third Sunday of July – designated National Ice Cream Day – "with appropriate ceremonies and activities." This, of course, means eating as much ice cream as possible.

Here are some fun facts to keep you entertained.

The origin of ice cream

The Emperors of China's Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 AD) are believed to be the first to eat an ice-cream-like frozen treat made with milk, flour and camphor. But the modern-day recipe using milk and sugar as the primary ingredients was invented by the Arabs in the 9th century. By the 10th century, the delicious treat, made with milk, cream, flavoured rosewater, dried fruits and nuts, was popular in many middle-east nations.

Europeans discovered the icy treat in the 16th century. But it took a lot longer to get to the US. Maryland Governor Thomas Bladen was the first to serve ice cream to guests in 1744. Due to a lack of refrigerators, the treat did not become widely available in the US until 1851. But Americans have made up for lost



time. They are now the world's biggest ice cream consumers.

Your favourite ice cream flavour may reflect your personality

Most people believe their ice cream choice reflects their taste preference. However, Dr. Alan Hirsch, founder of the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation, claims it is a window into an individual's personality.

Vanilla ice cream fans are impulsive risk-takers. Those who love chocolate are lively, charming and somewhat dramatic. Strawberry ice cream enthusiasts are tolerant, devoted and reserved. Love chocolate chip ice cream? Then you must be generous, competent and a go-getter!

The world's largest ice cream scoop

In 2014, Minnesota-based Kemps marked the company's 100th anniversary by creating the world's largest ice cream scoop. The 5 foot, 6 inch tall and 6 foot, 2 inch wide, frozen masterpiece was made using 733 containers of strawberry ice cream.

Since 1984
National ICE CREAM MONTH
EVERY JULY

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month.

1927: This popular song is born.
"I scream, YOU scream,
We all scream for ice cream!"

How many Americans eat ice cream? **90%**

5 Most Popular Flavors

1. Vanilla
2. Chocolate
3. Cookies 'n cream
4. Strawberry
5. Mint chocolate chip

Ice Cream Throughout History

Ice cream was enjoyed by Nero, Alexander the Great, Marco Polo, Catherine de Medici & Thomas Jefferson.

9 ft Largest ice cream cone
—Italy 2011

71 Most scoops on 1 cone
—Italy 2012

3000 lbs Largest scoop of ice cream
—Cedarburg, WI 2014

19 Most cones prepped in 1 min
—Baskin Robbins 2007

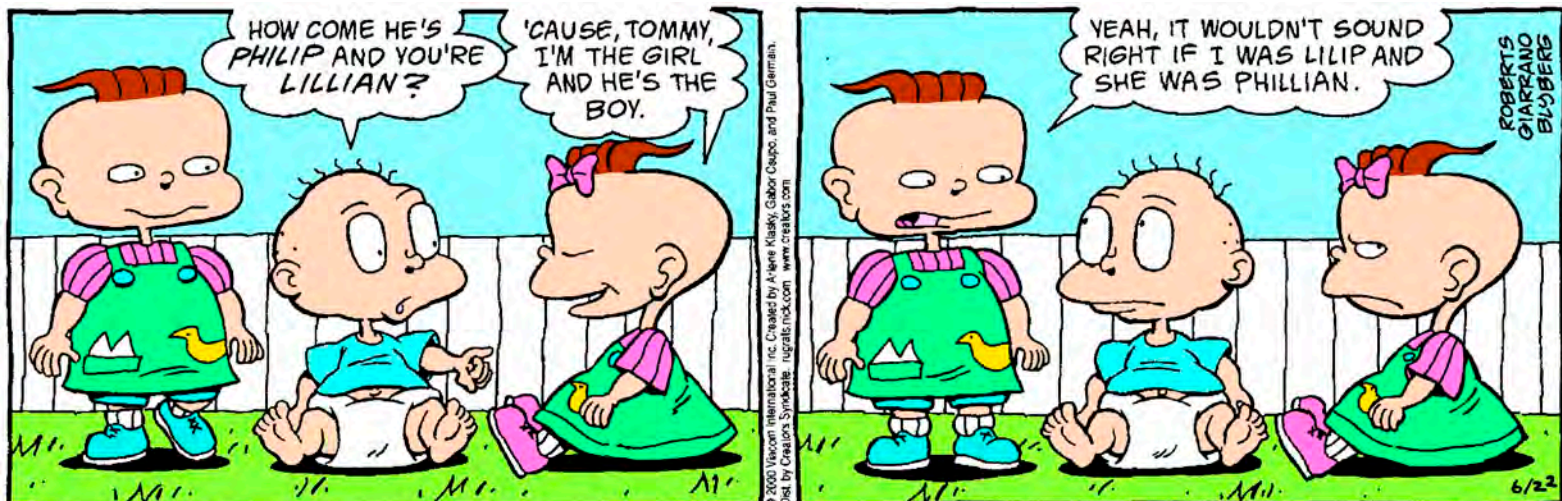
World Records



Once the Guinness World Record was confirmed, the 3,010 pound (1,365 kg) treat was distributed to hundreds of lucky fairgoers at the Strawberry Festival in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

Dogo News

Rugrats



Top 10 Facts about Wimbledon!

*It's that time of year again when we get two weeks of tip top tennis in the UK!
Wimbledon is pretty special if you're a tennis fan and it's the one all the players want to win.
Here are 10 things you might not know about Wimbledon...*

1. Strawberries and cream are tradition

Strawberries and cream are almost as important as the rackets and balls at Wimbledon and wow do they serve a few strawberries!

A whopping 191,930 portions are served during the two weeks of the tournament!



5. Players have a strict dress code

A lot like your school uniform, there's a strict dress code at the Championships! Wimbledon rules state that all players must be dressed head to toe in almost entirely white. Umpires can even tell players to change if they don't fit the dress code!

In 2013, Wimbledon superstar Roger Federer had to switch his trainers because they had orange soles!



2. The loudest ever tennis player is Maria Sharapova

Some players let out a huge shout when they hit the ball! The loudest grunt ever at Wimbledon came from Maria Sharapova in 2009.

She roared a whopping 105 decibels! That's about as loud as standing next to an accelerating motorcycle!



6. The first Wimbledon Championship took place in 1877

It goes back a long way! The first Wimbledon Championship took place in 1877. This means it's the oldest tennis tournament in the world.

Men's Singles was the only event when it started but Ladies Singles, Men's and Ladies Doubles soon followed.



3. The longest ever Wimbledon match lasted for over 11 hours

Tennis matches can last a long time... Unlike sports such as football, there's no full-time whistle so players have to keep going and going until they win 3 sets! The longest match ever played at Wimbledon was between American player John Isner and French player Nicolas Mahut.

It took 11 hours and five minutes and was played over the course of three days!



7. Rufus the hawk keeps the pigeons away at Wimbledon

There are loads of pigeons in London and Wimbledon is no different... To stop them getting in the way of the players there's a special employee. His name is Rufus and he's a Harris hawk! Rufus circles the sky above Wimbledon deterring the local pigeons. He's pretty popular too, with over 10,000 followers on Twitter!



8. Tennis racket strings are made from catgut



Tennis racket strings are made from something called 'catgut'. Catgut is almost as gross as it sounds as it's made from sheep, goat, pig or cow intestines.

9. The grass must be 8 mm tall

The grass at Wimbledon has to be just right. All year round groundsman work super hard on making sure all 20 grass courts are perfect! During the tournament the grass is cut to a height of exactly 8 mm so we get to see the very best tennis!



4. The Championships use 54,250 tennis balls

During Wimbledon an amazing 54,250 tennis balls are used! They get replaced every seven to nine games to make sure they are in perfect shape. To make sure they stay tip top, they're kept in a refrigerator! Wimbledon previously used white tennis balls but they changed to yellow balls so they were easier to spot on television!



10. The fastest serve at Wimbledon was 147mph

The fastest serve ever at Wimbledon was hit by Taylor Dent and the ball travelled at a supersonic 147mph! The quickest serve in Ladies' tennis was hit by Venus Williams who whacked the ball a huge 129 mph!



July 11

US destroys its last chemical weapons

The United States has destroyed the last of its chemical weapons. This means that the last known chemical weapons in the world are gone. The event marks the end of a long effort to get rid of all chemical weapons worldwide.

Chemical weapons hurt or kill people by poisoning them with chemicals. These kinds of weapons have been around for a long time, but most countries agree that they are against the law.

Chemical weapons were first widely used over a hundred years ago, during World War I. They had horrible and deadly effects, shocking people on all sides of the war. By 1925, the world's countries agreed to make it illegal to use chemical weapons in a war. But even after that, many countries kept developing and making chemical weapons.

But in 1997, an agreement called the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) came into effect. The CWC was signed by most of the world's countries – 193 of them. The countries which signed the CWC agreed to get rid of all their chemical weapons.

At one point, the US had over 60 million pounds (27.2 million kg) of chemical weapons. The deadline for the US to destroy all of its chemical weapons was September 30, 2023.

But getting rid of chemical weapons isn't easy. Not only do the weapons explode, they also contain dangerous chemicals. They were never meant to be taken apart. Many of the US's chemical weapons were made in the 1940s.

Because they were so old, it was possible they could go off by accident. That meant they had to be destroyed with extreme care.

The US worked for years to destroy its chemical weapons. By 2023, all of the US's remaining chemical weapons were at two military depots (storage areas) – one in Colorado, and the other in Kentucky.

The most common way to destroy chemical weapons is to burn them at temperatures as high as 1,500° Fahrenheit (816° Celsius). But people living near the depots in the US strongly protested against burning the chemical weapons. They were afraid the toxic chemicals might be released and harm the people nearby.

So the US military had to find other ways to get rid of the weapons safely. The current process uses robots to

remove the chemicals from the devices. The toxic chemicals are then treated to make them safe.

The US destroyed its last chemical weapon at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.



On July 7, the US destroyed the last of its chemical weapons.



Some chemical weapons in the US



The most common way to destroy chemical weapons is to burn them at high temperatures.

Did You Know...?

The US expected that it would cost \$1.4 billion to destroy its chemical weapons.

In the end, it took nearly \$42 billion to get the job done.

By doing so, it joined other countries like the United Kingdom, India, and Russia, which got rid of their chemical weapons years ago.

Getting rid of these weapons worldwide is a big step. It shows that if countries really want to, they can stop using certain kinds of weapons.

Currently, only three countries – Egypt, North Korea, and South Sudan – still have not signed the CWC.

The hope is that they will see what the US and other countries have done and decide to do the same.

Source: News For Kids

July 11

News in Pictures



Taipei, Taiwan

A girl poses next to a femur bone fossil of a dinosaur at a paleontology exhibition at the National Taiwan Museum.



Huddersfield, England

Aina the mother sheep, a 4.5 metre musical sculpture installed outside Huddersfield railway station as part of Artichoke's latest project, 'Herd'. She is one of 23 giant handcrafted musical sheep that will appear all over Kirklees this week before a grand finale in Huddersfield on July 16.



New Delhi, India

A family push a bicycle cart loaded with their belongings in a flooded area near the Yamuna River after it overflowed during monsoon rains.

Harrogate, England
A man picks straw from the wool of his sheep as he prepares for the start of the four-day Great Yorkshire Show, at the Yorkshire Showground. It is known as one of the best agricultural shows in the UK, welcoming 140,000 people to the 101-hectare site.



Bogotá, Colombia

Visitors attend an immersive Frida Kahlo show.



Litli-Hrútur, Iceland

People watch flowing lava during a volcanic eruption.



Yukon, Canada

The Little Blue River wildfire rages approximately 25 miles (40 km) south of Yukon. The number of forest fires continues to rise in Canada, climbing to more than 670 blazes, with 380 of them out of control.

July 10



Paris, France

Workers restore the lead of a sculpture forming part of the Apollo's Chariot fountain, at the Coubertin foundry in Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse, south-western Paris. The fountain sculpture in the Versailles gardens, by Jean-Baptiste Tuby, depicts the god of the sun driving his four-horse chariot full-pelt, symbolising the ascent of the rising sun.



Mae Sai, Thailand

Members of the Wild Boars youth football team gather inside the Tham Luang cave in the northern province of Chiang Rai, during an event to mark the five-year anniversary of their rescue from the flooded cave.

Source : The Guardian