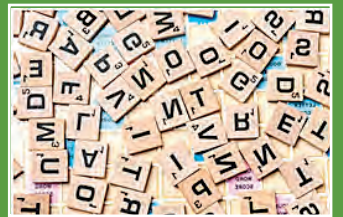




FUN DAY TIMES



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(ONLINE)

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Playful tiger cubs at the Dehiwala Zoo

Pic. by
Eshan Fernando

Follow us on
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.

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

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: 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 this week's competitions:

August 16, 2023



Flower vase



S. Haruniya (Grade 3)
Kingston College Int., Colombo 6

Goodbye rain

It started to rain. In minutes, it was raining cats and dogs. I thought for a moment, I had no time to waste. I stepped into the rain. Just then, I stepped in a gigantic puddle which splashed my entire body. I didn't mind because when I was little I would always jump and splash around in the big muddy puddles. So, when I got a taste of my childhood again, I took the chance and became the small kid I used to be.

It felt so good and I felt so free. Free as a bird, I would say. There was no one to judge me, no one to tell me what to do or boss me around, just me, the rain and the puddles.

Whenever I looked up, I would see the raindrops coming down, smiling at me as if they wanted to play with me, which made me feel like I'm not alone.

Then, a few hours later, after I was done playing with my friends as my old self again, sadly and unfortunately, the rain stopped. I wasn't sad though. I was just so happy to travel back in time, to be free and to be with the rain and my puddles. Being with them really made me feel free from all the buzz in the city.

Well, what can I say? Friends have to leave you at some point. But one thing I do know is that the rain and the muddy puddles will always come back.

I'm going to end by saying, "Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them but you know they are always there."

Until then, goodbye rain...

Hazel Herath (15 years)
Holy Family Convent, Colombo 4

Sunset



Abishan Anjelo (Grade 5)
Sheffield Int. School, Kotte

Earthworms

Earthworms are the little creatures of Mother Nature. Earthworms live in moist soil and play an important role in the environment. They produce compost and healthy soil.

Earthworms are invertebrates. That means they don't have a skeleton. They breathe from the skin of their muscular body.

Mineli Weragoda (Grade 4)
Visakha Vidyalaya

National Zoological Gardens - Dehiwala

The National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka also known as the Dehiwala Zoo is a zoological garden located in Dehiwala in the Colombo district. It was founded in 1936, with 23 acres of land. It is one of the oldest zoos in Asia which also pioneered the open zoo concept.

Dehiwala Zoo hosts numerous exotic and indigenous species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. It is also famous for its lush green landscaped gardens and dense tree cover. It is sectioned off into a few parts such as Aquarium, Museum, Butterfly House, Bird Park, Reptilium and many more. There are over 2,500 animals at the zoo.

Many local and foreign guests come to visit the zoo in one day and it earns us lots of money.

Hiruni Anuhasi (Grade 4)
St. Michael's College, Homagama

My pet



Thinaya RathnayakeThinaya (7 years)
JMC College, Maharagama

My fish tank



Devanya Perera (5 years)
Wycherly Int. School, Colombo 7

Buying balloons



Senuji Manoratne (6 years)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Global warming

Global warming is no laughing matter. It will affect every one of us, including you, me and the generations to come if we don't stop global warming.

The feature of global warming is the world getting hotter, and the Arctic and Antarctic melting to water and soon disappearing. Animals would be endangered or extinct and the sea level increasing will make many islands and countries extinct.

The only way of stopping global warming is by cooperating with each other.

Ammar Isham
Crescent Int. School, Matale

My pet

My pet is Goldi. It is a Goldfish. They live in fish tanks



and ponds. They have a beautiful tail. They sleep in water. They have fins. They eat meat and plants. They have gills and nostrils. They have scales.

Shashiya Rupasinghe (Class 1)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

On my swing



Dulya Disanayake (7 years)
Wellington Int. College, Bandarawela

Bees

Bees are very small. Bees are light black and yellow in colour. They live in bee hives. They can fly. They give us honey. Bees construct hexagonal rooms where they store honey for the winter. If a family of bees move, they fly together in one great swarm.

Honey is very sweet and people like to eat it on bread. The hover fly looks like a little bee with it's yellow stripes.

M. Kavien (6 years)
Wellington Int. College, Bandarawela

Goodbye Music Teacher

Music is the language which all can understand,
And it varies from country to country.
The music you had taught us
Is from the western countries,
One note begins the journey.

You have taught us for years,
And the knowledge is to be stored,
It sweetened our lives,
With the help of precious songs,
It took away the weight,
In our minds that we always bore.

But now your time has come to leave,
And teach more music lovers,
The journey ends here,
With a full piece,
And another begins there
With a new note,
What you have taught will be remembered,
This is for you, dear Music Teacher.

Tinaya Peiris (Grade 7)
Sanghamitta B.V., Galle

**Sigiriya –
Our National Heritage**



Yusuf ul-Haq (Grade 7)
Matale Int. School

Tsunamis

When we talk about tsunamis there are tall tsunamis, short tsunamis and even tsunamis that come without notice. Tsunamis originate when an earthquake occurs beneath the ocean.

In Indonesia, one earthquake happened and it was near the sea and created the deadliest tsunami in the world.

This tsunami happened on December 26, 2004. In less than ten minutes, the tsunami reached the Indonesian province of Aceh. The tsunami spread in all directions, mostly to the west and the east. Eye witnesses described that the sound was like a thunderstorm approaching. The Indonesian province of Aceh was hit very badly and almost 230,000 people died.

In Sri Lanka, Yala was hit the hardest. At Galle, foreigners who were staying at Grace Hotel saw the tsunami but no one was killed. A train which was departing from Galle too was hit by the tsunami. The train was so packed with people that the doors couldn't be opened. The train crash was the deadliest train crash in history.

More than 30,000 people died in Sri Lanka in this tragic event.

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

Perahera



Kanagaraja Jinushan (Grade 3)
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.





Maths The most used letters in English

Maths in Action 75

By R. N. A. de Silva

Which letter do you think is used more in texts than the other letters in the English alphabet? According to research, the top five letters and their frequency percentages are given below:

e	12.7%
t	9.1%
a	8.2%
o	7.5%
i	6.7%

The least used letter is 'z' with a frequency percentage of 0.074% followed by 'q' with 0.095%.

The use of letter frequencies

play an important role in cryptograms and the Arabian mathematician Al-Kindi had begun using letter frequency analysis in developing a method to break ciphers in the 9th century.

Letter frequencies also have a connection with the design of keyboard layouts. To figure out the letter frequencies, large amounts of text need to be analyzed. However, these calculations have been made easier with modern computers. An analysis of entries in the concise Oxford dictionary, gives the following order in terms of their occurring frequency.

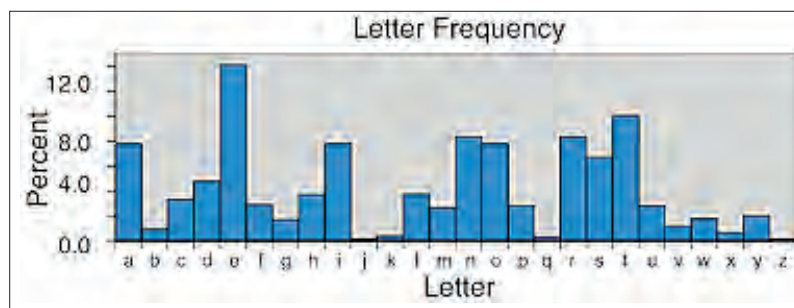
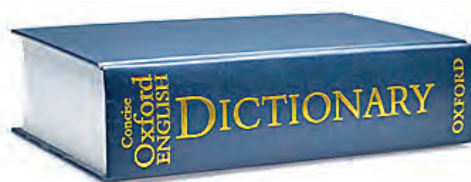
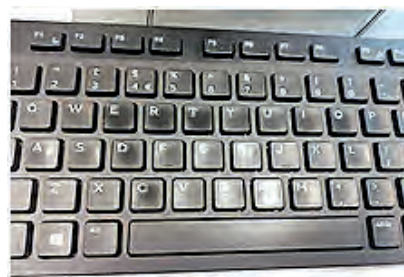
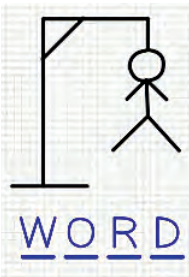
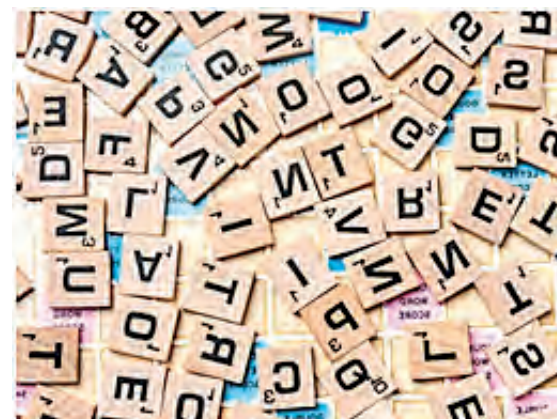
e, a, r, i, o, t, n, s, l, c, u, d, p, m, h, g, b, f, y, w, k, v, x, z, j, q.

The top five beginning and end of word letters are given above with their frequency percentages.

Begin	%	End	%
t	15.9	e	19.2
a	15.5	s	14.4
i	8.2	d	9.2
s	7.8	t	8.6
o	7.1	n	7.9

The five most common letter pairs are: *th, he, in, en, nt.*

The most common letter triplets are: *the, and, tha, ent, ing.*



Math Plot - 75

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to rnades@gmail.com within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

A small coin rolls over the circumference of a coin that has a diameter 3 times that of the smaller coin. How many revolutions of the small coin will it take for it to return to its starting point?

Math Plot 74 – Solution

The answer is 20.

The winner is **Nivethikaa Yogendran** of **St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7.** Congratulations!

Happy Birthday

Devanya Perera
6 years on August 4

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.

Joke

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A gummy bear

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Competition
- **Page 6** – Animals
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

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.

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: A village fair or pola

Win: Stuart Little by E. B. White

Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he has a very adventurous spirit.

When his best friend, a little bird called Margalo, disappears from her nest, Stuart goes out into the wide world on his greatest adventure of all to look for her. But will he find her?



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: A machine I would like to invent

Win: James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

James Henry Trotter is about to go on the adventure of a lifetime.

James lives with his awful Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. Life isn't much fun at all, until something peculiar happens at the bottom of his garden... A peach at the very top of a tree begins to grow... and grow... and GROW! Inside are seven very unusual insects – all waiting to take James on a magical journey.



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

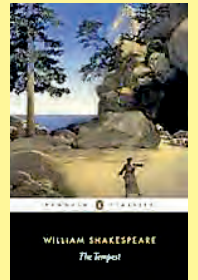
Topic: What you know about Nelson Mandela

Win: The Tempest by William Shakespeare

A storm rages. Prospero and his daughter watch from their island as a ship carrying the royal family is wrecked. Miraculously all on board survive.

Plotting, mistaken identities, bewitching love and enchantment follow.

Shakespeare's great play is a work filled with marvels, music and strangeness, fully exploiting the power of language and the magic of theatre.



Write at the top of your Essay

- Book Competition
- Essay Topic



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 :



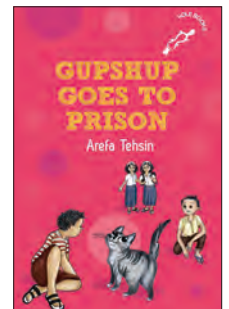
Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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.



Or

fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Sri Lankan Jungle Fowl

The Sri Lankan jungle fowl (*Gallus lafayetii*) first described in 1831, is a member of the family Gallus, the same family as the domestic chicken. The ancestor to all domestic chickens is the Red jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus*).

There are four species of Gallus recorded from Asia. The Red jungle fowl (*Gallus gallus*), Grey jungle fowl (*Gallus sonneratii*), Green jungle fowl (*Gallus varius*) and Sri Lankan jungle fowl (*Gallus lafayetii*).

The Sri Lanka jungle fowl is endemic to Sri Lanka, and is not found anywhere else in the world. It has the distinct honour of being the national bird of Sri Lanka and is depicted in postage stamps etc.

Physical Description

As the norm for the genus Gallus, the males and females can be easily identified due to their different colours. Males are reddish orange to yellow in colour, sporting a red comb (crest) and a yellow patch in the centre. Their tail is metallic blue-black.



Female jungle fowl



The females are usually different shades of brown in colour with black markings and buff bands on top. They have reddish-brown and black wavy lines, streaked with brownish-buff below, and the rest being largely black-streaked.

The male ranges from 66 - 72 cm in length, and the female 35 cm in length.

Biology

The jungle fowl is a terrestrial species and is found always scratching the ground for food as with the domestic chicken. They are omnivorous by habit and feed on a myriad of food, ranging from worms, fruits, frogs and other vertebrates and invertebrates.

The female lays two to four eggs on nests abandoned by other birds or even squirrels, or on nests built on the forest floor of Sri Lanka's hill country. Males play an active role in protecting the nests and in rearing chicks.

Scientific Name : *Gallus lafayetii*

Kingdom : Animals

Class : Aves

Order : Galliformes

Family : Phasianidae

Genus : Gallus

Species : Lafayetii



The call of the jungle fowl is said to sound like the name John Joyce, which is repeated every few seconds. They are also known to flap their wings, this sound is made when a male announces his arrival or when there is a territorial dispute amongst males.

Habitat and Distribution

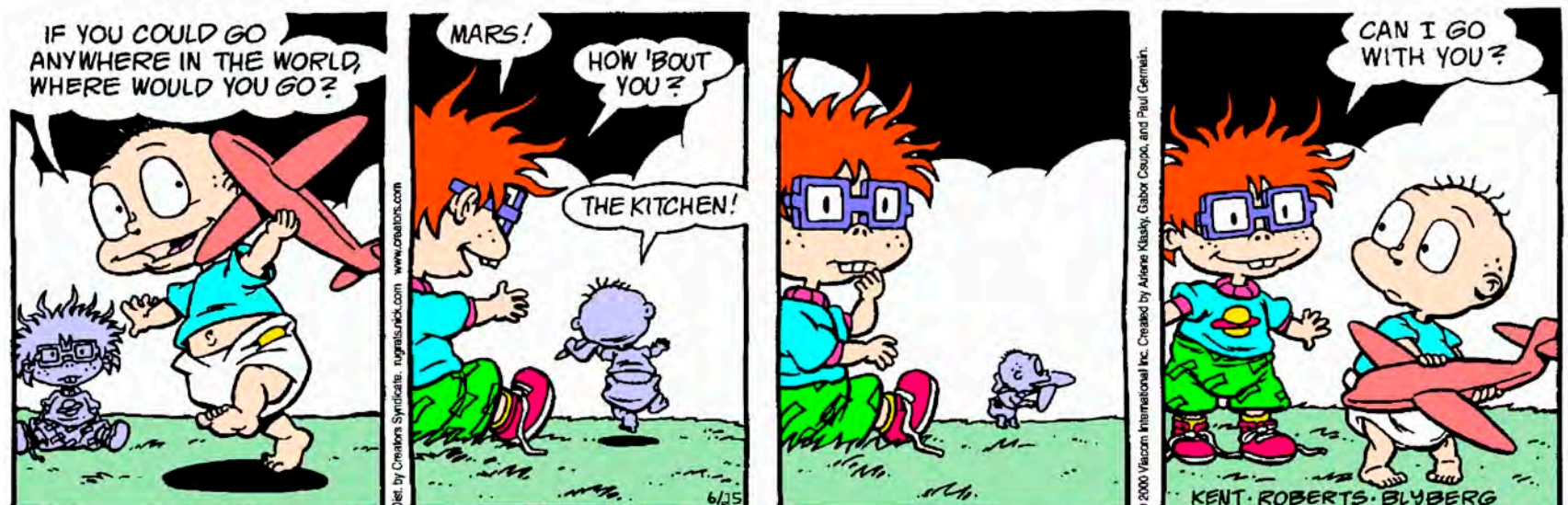
This species has a wide distribution range covering all climatic zones, from the low country to the highest peaks found in Sri Lanka. It is commonly found in forest and scrub habitats.

Threats and Conservation

Sri Lankan jungle fowl populations are believed to be stable across the country and no conservation action has been taken yet.

Source: Dilmah Conservation

Rugrats



River Seine: Big clean-up ahead of Paris Olympics

July 25

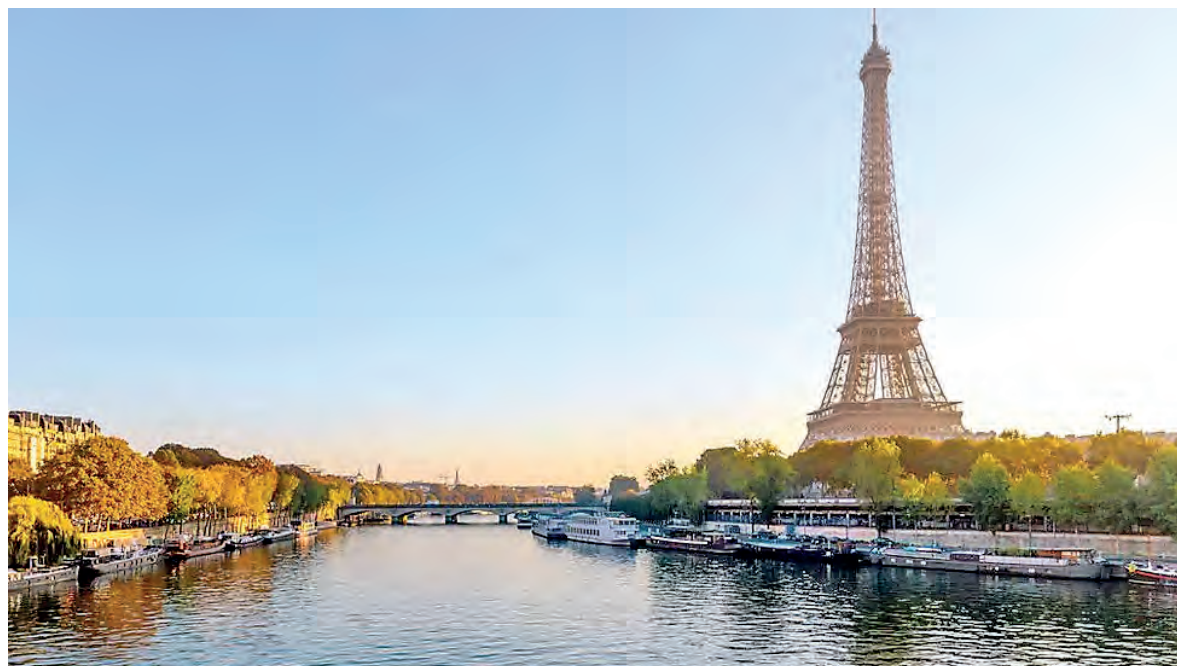
There's only a year to go until the Paris Olympics and preparations are well under way to welcome athletes and spectators.

Host cities typically make a big effort to clean up their appearance as all the cameras will be focused on them for the famous sporting event.

In Paris they've been working hard to clean up their dirty river, the River Seine, which flows through the heart of the French capital.

For 100 years swimming was banned in the river because of the levels of water pollution that could make people ill.

But after years of work, and more than 1.4 billion euros (£1.2bn) of investment, the Seine is going to be ready to welcome swimmers and divers back once more.



River Seine in Paris

It will play host to three Olympic events – triathlon, marathon swimming and paratriathlon. There will also be three open-air swimming areas by 2025, for everyone to enjoy.

“When people see athletes swimming in the Seine with no health problems, they’ll be confident themselves to start going back in the Seine,” says Pierre Rabadan, the city’s deputy mayor, who is also overseeing the Paris Olympics.

The problem was, for years industrial waste poured into the river polluting the water.

The city’s 19th Century “single-system” drainage didn’t help either.

It meant water from household kitchens and bathrooms mixed with sewage from the toilets. Normally this flowed through tunnels beneath the streets to the outskirts of Paris where it could be cleaned in water treatment centres.

But, when the rain was too heavy, and there was too much water in the system, some of that waste water drained into the Seine.

In the past 20 years the drainage system has been improved by engineers who built a big underground reservoir to store the excess water during heavy rain.

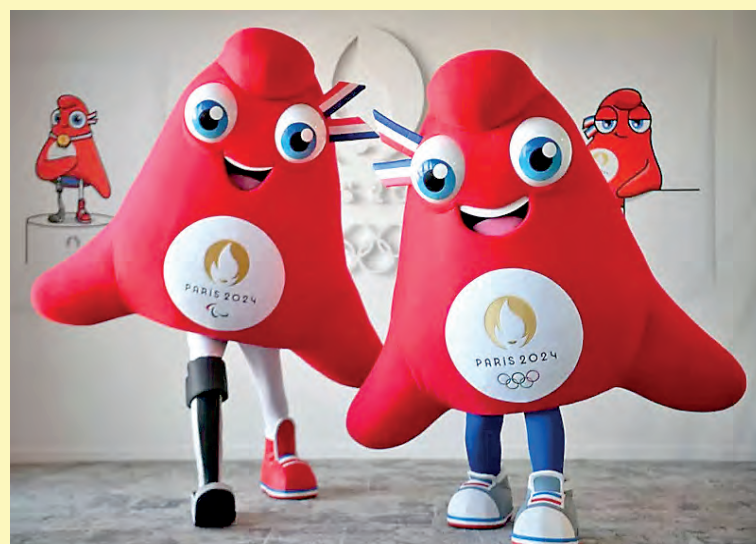
It means, thankfully, there is less faecal (poo) bacteria floating in the river now.



Paris 2024: Meet the new mascots for the Olympics

This is Olympic Phryges (R) and Paralympic Phryges (L) – the new mascots for the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics. Their shape is based on a Phrygian cap which is the same sort of hat ‘The Smurfs’ wear. They were worn during the French Revolution, which organisers say is the reason they were chosen as mascots – to represent the power of sport.

The Paralympic Phryges (pronounced *fri-jee-uhs*) has a running blade. It’s the first mascot ever to have a visible disability. Organisers of the games say they want to send a strong message to promote inclusion. The two characters apparently have different personalities which come together to make them stronger. Their motto is: “Alone we go faster, but together we go further”.



July 25

News in Pictures



Gilgit, Pakistan
A view of K2, the world's second tallest mountain, from Concordia camp in the Karakoram range of Gilgit-Baltistan.



Rhodes, Greece
A wildfire in Vati village. A third successive heatwave in Greece pushed temperatures back above 40°C across parts of the country following more evacuations from fires.

Eagle Pass, USA
Asylum-seekers sit by a concertina wire fence while waiting to be transported by US law enforcement officers after crossing the Rio Grande River from Mexico into Texas.



Es Castell, Spain
A 'caixer' (horse rider) rears up on his horse surrounded by a cheering crowd during the traditional 'Jaleo' at the Sant Jaume festival in the Balearic Islands.



Milan, Italy
People stand amid fallen trees following thunderstorms and torrential rain.



Palermo, Italy
Flames rise as a fire burns near Falcone Borsellino airport in Sicily. The airport was temporarily closed to air traffic in the morning of July 25 after wildfires in the hills around the Sicilian city reached the airport perimeter.

July 24



London, UK
Children take their seats at a summer daytime screening of 'The Super Mario Bros Movie' at the Rooftop Film Club, Peckham.



Odessa, Ukraine
A woman prays next to a Kasperovskaya Mother of God icon recovered from inside the Transfiguration Cathedral after a Russian missile strike.



Baghdad, Iraq
A man cools off with a mist dispenser set up on al-Jumhuriya street amid soaring temperatures.

Source: The Guardian