

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
JANUARY 28, 2024



FUN DAY TIMES



An agile 'Taekwondo Kid'

Pic. by Indika Handuwala

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FROM THE EDITOR

**Calling
Funday Times
Club Members
and Readers**

IORA Day 2024 will be celebrated on March 10, 2024 in Colombo. Many interesting, ocean-related activities are being organized during the period leading up to that day.

Two-hundred (200) Funday Times Club members and readers will be selected on a first-come first-served basis to participate in the activities.

If you would like to attend the main event, please call us or email us your contact details.

If you are a club member, please state your membership number.

Telephone: 2479337 / 2479333

fundaytimes1@gmail.com



IORA Day 2024 Essay Competition



Hey Kids, Funday Times is planning an Essay Competition to create awareness about IORA Day 2024. This is apart from the IORA Day 2024 All-Island Art Competition (See Page 3 for more details).

Under the main theme for IORA Day 2024, 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations,' we give below three topics for the three age groups.

Please send in your essays with your full details to Funday Times by post or email. Remember to get your entries certified as your original work by a parent or teacher.

Exciting prizes will be awarded to the winners!

Closing Date: March 1, 2024

Age group: 9 years and below

Topic:

Our Ocean - Our Life

Word count: 150

Age group: 10 - 12 years

Topic:

Protecting our ocean

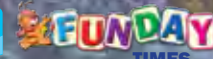
Word count: 150 - 200

Age group: 13 - 15 years

Topic:

Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations

Word count: 200 - 300



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

**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:**

February 14, 2024

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Elite Taekwondo Club Awards Ceremony held recently.

Pix by Indika Handuwala

In this week's online issue:

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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.

IORA Day 2024

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education have combined to commemorate IORA Day in March this year with a major programme for schoolchildren which will include an art competition that will showcase the importance of the Indian Ocean.

Sri Lanka took over the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in October 2023 for the period 2023/2025. There are 23 member states and eleven dialogue partners in IORA. IORA Day is celebrated on March 7 every year.

The theme for IORA Day 2024 is a 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations' and will focus on educating and engaging future generations on the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable practices to preserve the oceans for the future.

Among the activities planned is a national level art competition for schoolchildren in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

Entries will be accepted from schoolchildren in three categories: Primary (Grades 1 - 5), Junior (Grades 6 - 9) and Senior (Grades 10 - 13).

Details will appear in the children's publications of Wijeya Newspapers Ltd., and their online versions.

Several other ocean-related activities will be conducted with the participation of children island-wide, drawing awareness to the importance of ocean sustainability. These activities are also coordinated by the Sri Lanka Navy and other ocean-related agencies. Opportunities are to be provided for children to be taken out to sea on a short excursion.

Ahead of IORA Day, several awareness programmes are planned.

The main event of IORA Day 2024 will be held at Galle Face Green in Colombo on March 10, with stalls displaying various ocean-related activities.



IORA DAY ART COMPETITION 2024

'SUSTAINABLE INDIAN OCEAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS'



Currently, Sri Lanka holds the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and, plans are underway to hold the next IORA Day 2024 commemoration on 10th March, 2024.

As part of the activities, an Island-wide Art Competition among school children under different topics on the theme "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations" will be held as indicated below, in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS ISLANDWIDE!

Express your creativity and concern for the Indian Ocean through art!

We are inviting artists from all schools to participate in our art competition centered around preserving our beautiful Indian Ocean.



PARTICIPATION

Participation rules are categorized as follows:

Primary (Grades 1 - 5)

Theme: Our Ocean - Our Life
(Certificates/Prizes for Participation)

Junior (Grades 6 - 9)

Theme: Protecting Our Ocean
(Certificates/Prizes for Winners)

Senior (Grades 10 - 13)

Theme: Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations
(Certificates/Prizes for Winners)



Prizes to be won and selected Artwork will be showcased in the IORA Day Art Exhibition



Showcase Your Talent and share your message with a wide audience



Be an advocate for Sustainability and Inspire Positive Change



CONDITIONS

- Open for all school children in Sri Lanka
- Must be done on size A3 Paper
- ALL submissions should be certified by the School Principal
- Each entry should be accompanied by an entry form as below.

SUBMISSION

Submit your entry by registered post to reach before 16th February, 2024 with the completed entry form to:

Director (Aesthetic Education)
Ministry of Education,
Isurupaya,
Pelawatte, Battaramulla.

Please indicate following on top left corner of the envelope:

IORA Day Art Competition 2024,
Category
Province



Selected artwork may be used for future programs both locally and internationally.
Organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

IORA DAY ART COMPETITION 2024

Entry Form

Full Name:

Category: Primary (Grades 1-5) Junior (Grades 6-9) Senior (Grades 10 - 13)

School:

Province:

Home Address:

Name of the Parent/Guardian:

Contact Number of the Parent/Guardian:

Certification by the School Principal:

I certify that the above student is studying in Grade of this school.

.....
Signature of the School Principal



The Clay Tortoise

By Manoshi De Silva

Seeya had gone out to collect his pension. Nehan knew that his grandfather wouldn't be back for awhile. On days like today, Seeya would go out and meet all his friends, have long chats with them and return home only by lunch time.

Nehan slowly opened the door of his Seeya's room. Kept on the top shelf of his book rack was what Nehan was interested in. The Clay Tortoise. It was a beautiful hand-painted clay ornament that Nehan always wanted to play with. But his Seeya wouldn't even allow him to touch it, saying that it could easily break.

"Today is the day!" thought Nehan. "I'll take it down, play a little with it and put it back on the shelf before Seeya comes back." The boy slowly pulled a stool and reached for the tortoise. He then carefully got down, sat on the floor and looked at the clay tortoise, for the first time, while holding it. It looked more beautiful up-close than it did from up on the shelf.

The clay tortoise was quite heavy. It was hand-painted in different colours and its shell had beautiful detailed patterns. Nehan stared at it in admiration. He had never seen anything quite like it. He played with it for awhile. Although he wanted to keep it near him for longer, he knew that he had to put it back before his Seeya returned.

Nehan reluctantly pulled the stool near and stood on it. He reached for the top shelf while holding the clay tortoise with his other hand. But the boy lost his balance and the stool toppled. The clay tortoise fell to the ground and broke into pieces.

It took a few seconds for Nehan to gather himself and realize that this was not a nightmare. He panicked and hurriedly pushed the broken pieces under his grandfather's bed. His grandmother, who was in the other room, came in just then. "What happened? What was that sound?" she peeped into the bedroom. "Nothing, the stool toppled," Nehan lied.

"What are you doing in Seeya's room? Come out!" Nehan walked out and wondered what he should do next.



Seeya didn't even let him touch the clay tortoise and now it was broken into pieces. Nehan knew he was in big trouble. He went back to his grandfather's room and opened the drawer where Seeya kept things like his tools to fix things.

Nehan managed to find a tube of glue. He has seen his Seeya fixing broken handles and shoes with it. The boy carefully collected the broken pieces of the clay tortoise and took them all to the garden, along with the tube of glue.

Although Nehan applied glue on a couple of pieces, they didn't get pasted as expected. The boy pressed the pieces harder, in the hope that they would stick together. But by pressing hard he broke them into more pieces. Nehan knew that there was no hope. So he threw the pieces under a tree and covered them with dry leaves.

"If only I could buy the same tortoise from somewhere," thought Nehan. But the tortoise looked unique and he had never seen anything even close to it. So he just hoped that his Seeya would not notice that the clay tortoise was missing; at least for a very long time.

That afternoon, when his grandfather came home, he brought Nehan a big slab of chocolate. The boy felt very guilty and sad. But he kept his secret and tried to act normal. Seeya went to his room but didn't say anything. "Maybe he won't notice anything," thought Nehan.

That evening, Nehan's grandfather called him to help with the gardening. "Let's collect these leaves and put them into the compost bin," he said and Nehan didn't know what to say. That was the very pile of leaves where Nehan had hidden the broken pieces of the clay tortoise.

"Seeya, I need to tell you something..." The boy started to sob. "I accidentally broke your clay tortoise! I tried to fix it, but couldn't. So I hid it under this pile of leaves," said Nehan looking down with regret. Seeya reached into his shirt pocket and took out a broken piece of the clay tortoise's shell. "I know," he replied, "I found this under my writing table. I was waiting for you to tell me."

"Aren't you angry, Seeya?" Nehan couldn't stop his tears from flowing. "No, but I am sad," replied his Seeya. "That tortoise was gifted to me by my grandfather and I wanted to gift it to you one day when you are a little bit bigger!" "Oh I am so sorry Seeya!" cried Nehan clinging onto his grandfather, "You must be so sad that it's broken!"

"I am sad, but not because you accidentally broke it. Accidents happen because we are not perfect. But I am sad that you disobeyed me and took it down. I am also sad that you were not honest and didn't tell me what happened!" Nehan looked at his Seeya's sad face. "I am so sorry!" cried Nehan. "Will you forgive me Seeya?" "Yes, I will because you are truly sorry," replied his grandfather. "Now show me all the broken pieces."

After examining the broken pieces of the clay tortoise, Nehan's grandfather said that it could be fixed. "But the cracks will still show and there will be a few tiny missing pieces," said Seeya, "I am afraid that I won't be able to gift it to you in the same condition that it was gifted to me!"

Nehan was happy that it could be fixed. He knew that the cracks on the clay tortoise would always remind him about what happened. He knew that it would also remind him to grow up to become an honest person and to forgive others for their mistakes, just like his Seeya forgave him.

International Day of Clean Energy

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Global energy production is still dominated by fossil fuels (such as coal, oil and gas); however, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and geothermal, generate approximately 29% of the world's electricity.

The need to shift away from fossil fuels has been increasingly emphasized as fossil fuels are responsible for almost 90% of the world's carbon-dioxide emissions, which is a leading cause of climate change. According to scientists, these emissions need to be reduced by nearly 50% by 2030, with net-zero emissions being achieved by 2050, if the worst impacts of climate change are to be avoided.

In 2023, the United Nations General Assembly declared January 26 as International Day of Clean Energy, to raise awareness and spur action for a fair and inclusive transition to clean energy to benefit people and the planet.



What are the types of clean energy?

Solar energy

Solar energy, which is energy generated from the sun, is the most plentiful energy resource. Sunlight is converted into electrical energy either using photovoltaic panels or mirrors which concentrate solar radiation.



The solar energy reaching earth is around 10,000 times greater than humans' energy consumption rate. Unlike other energy resources, harnessing solar energy is possible for every country, as the energy can be captured even on a cloudy day.

It is also quite a cost effective energy source, because the manufacturing cost of solar panels has drastically reduced in recent years, often making it the cheapest electricity source, and solar

panels have a lifespan of approximately 30 years.

Wind energy

Wind energy, which has been used for millions of years, harnesses the kinetic energy of moving air. The energy is captured using large wind turbines located on land (onshore) or in water (offshore), which have been improved in recent years with taller turbines and bigger rotor diameters, in recent years to maximize electricity production.

Hydropower

The largest source of renewable energy in the world at the moment, hydropower harnesses the energy of moving or falling water, and is generated through reservoirs or rivers.



Geothermal energy

Geothermal energy harnesses the accessible thermal (heat) energy from within the Earth.

Ocean energy

Ocean energy is renewable energy harnessed from the sea, and comprises three types: wave, tidal and ocean thermal.

Bioenergy

Bioenergy refers to heat and power energy generated from biomass, which comprises various organic materials such as wood, charcoal, dung and other manures. While burning biomass also creates greenhouse gas emissions, the emissions levels are lower compared to those created by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil or gas.

However, given their potential negative impacts on the environment which could result in deforestation and land-use change due to large-scale increases in bioenergy plantations, bioenergy is recommended for only limited use, unlike the other renewable energy sources.

Why should countries transition to renewable energy?

Aside from the positive environmental impact of using renewable energy sources, renewable energy is cheaper, can create three times as many jobs compared to the fossil fuel industry, and would be beneficial for the economy.

In 2022, around \$7 trillion was spent on subsidies for the fossil fuel industry, including tax breaks, and health and environmental damages.

Furthermore, approximately 80% of the world's population live in countries that are net-importers of fossil fuels; in other words, 6 billion people are dependent on fossil fuels that need to be imported from other countries, making them vulnerable to geopolitical shocks and crises such as wars/conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic.

References: United Nations (un.org), National Geographic, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (arena.gov.au)

My sister

I have a small sister. Her name is Zayba. She is really naughty. She scrapes me and hits me. She is two years old. Her school is MMI.

She loves me so much. I love my sister.

Zayna Ahamed (7 years)
Bishop's College, Colombo

My favourite tree

My favourite tree is the Baobab tree. It is a life-saving tree in Africa. It gives us food and water too. The tree's fruit tastes like sweet bread. We can eat this fruit three times a day and we won't get hungry! The leaves of this tree are also very healthy and tasty. It can be eaten raw or make a soup with it.

People store food in this tree and it won't get rotten. When rain comes, the Baobab tree's trunk sucks all the water like a sponge. People in Africa live in this tree and almost 40 people can live in this tree which is unbelievable! People even open bars and restaurants in the tree's trunk.

This tree is resistant to fire. Many people in Africa call this tree a 'Life-saving Tree'.

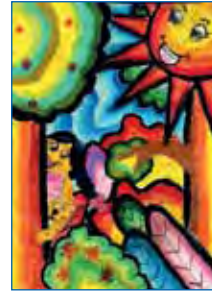
Nowadays, these trees are being destroyed because of human activities and so the number of Baobab trees is decreasing in number.

I like this amazing tree very much.

Saakshavi Kuhan (Grade 6)
Hindu Ladies' College, Colombo

The cheeky cat

I saw a strange, black cat
He was amazingly fat
He had a tail stump
But high he could jump
He would sneak into the kitchen
And eat the fish and chicken
When can we catch him I wonder
Because he runs away like thunder.



Mumudi Gajadeera (10 years)
Horizon College Int., Malabe

My favourite book

My favourite book is 'Harry Potter'. It is a magical story. The author is J. K. Rowling. It has also been made into movies. My favourite character in it is Hermione. It is a story about the wizarding world.

My favourite scene in the book is when Harry goes to a class with his friends Ron and Hermione in Hogwarts and Hermione says, "Wingardium Leviosa", which is a spell to make things float in the air.

My favourite class in Hogwarts is the 'Defence against The Dark Arts' class. My favourite spell is, 'Expecto Patronum' which is a spell to conjure up a protective shield against bad forces.

Aadhila Ahmed (10 years)
Muslim Ladies' College, Colombo

Tribute to Deepi Aththamma

When I was small, I had a loving *Aththamma* who took care of me while my parents were at work. My mother said she came to take care of me since I was four months old. I live in Kottawa and she came from Handapangoda, which is far away. She came to see me early in the morning at six o'clock. No matter if it rained or if it was difficult to find transport, she somehow managed to come at the exact time.

She took care of me like her own daughter. She fed me with great patience because I was a picky eater! When I was small, I hated water like a cat, so Deepi *Aththamma* and my *Aththamma* struggled a lot to put at least one drop of water on me.

I used to watch a TV programme called

'Little Lola'. She used to play 'Peek-a-boo' and 'Hide and Seek' with me. When I felt sleepy she washed me and tucked me into my cot. While I was sleeping she would sing me lullabies.

Usually my mother would come home around three o'clock so I had to say goodbye. The very next day she would come with a great smile and greet me good morning. So I greeted her good morning and called her 'Morning *Aththamma*'. She looked after me until I started nursery.

She still remembers my childhood and loves me all the same. I wish her a long, happy and healthy life.

Senuri Gunawardana (9 years)
Methodist College, Colombo

Sketch



Vishvi Sisara (Grade 7)
St. Michael's College, Homagama

Sunset at the beach



Devgee Kaththri Arachi (9 years)
Anula Vidyalyaya, Nugegoda

My garden



Gagana Weththasinha (12 years)
Sheffield Int. School, Kotte

Dinosaur



Thameem Ibrahim (10 years)
NSIS College



Videw Jayasooriya (Grade 1)
Vidura College, Kurunegala

My Family



Bhavish Kumarasinghe (4 years)
Vishaka Int. Pre-School, Gampaha

Nadungamuwe Tusker



Pulidu Haputhanthiri (8 years)
Ashoka College, Horana

A herd of deer



Kalana Jayasuriya (Grade 5)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Dalada Maligawa

Dalada Maligawa is known as the Temple of the Tooth Relic. It is situated in Kandy district. Dalada Maligawa is one of the most sacred places in Sri Lanka. Therefore, most of the tourists and Sri Lankans visit it. The Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha is deposited in the Dalada Maligawa.

Enara Withana (Grade 3)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

My favourite storybook

My favourite storybook is 'Madol Duwa'. It is a novel written by famous writer Martin Wickramasinghe. It is an adventure story and the main characters of that story are two boys, namely Jinna and Upali.

Upali is the leader of a boy gang. They do a lot of mischievous things in this story. So they often get into trouble.

But later, Upali becomes a kind and hard-working young man. He helps people.

This novel was translated into English by Professor Ashley Halpe. Later, this book was translated into other languages.

It is a very enjoyable story about children like us. I have read this novel many times. I like it very much.

Widarshana Lankathilaka (Grade 6)
Deniyaya National School

Trees are our friends

Trees are our very close friends. There are lots of trees surrounding us. They are so kind towards us because they give us many things without expecting anything back from us. They give us food, medicine, fruits, flowers, timber and so on. We breathe oxygen released by trees.



A man uses timber for his various needs, from birth to death. His cradle is made of wood. Trees are very important to us as well as to animals and birds. They give shade for all of us.

Finally we must protect trees as our lives. We should not cut trees, instead grow more and more plants.

Dinadi Thilakarathna (Grade 4)
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.

Unexpected moment

I went on a trip to Nuwara Eliya by van last year. It was such an amazing trip. When we reached there, we could realize the heavy, cool climate of Nuwara Eliya that could not be bearable.

We saw a lot of places there. First we went to a tea factory. We saw many servants and machines there. The servants were providing tea powder in the factory. We bought some tea packets at the factory.

Then we went to Ambewela Farm. We saw many goats, cows and rabbits. My father bought us cups of yoghurt. We enjoyed the yoghurt under a hut.

Then my father and I went on a horse ride. It was the first horse ride in my life. So I felt afraid. But at the end, I really enjoyed it.

Then we had our breakfast at a beautiful park.

The birds in the trees in the park were tweeting happily. There were swans and ducks in the pond in the park.

Then we went to the World's End. It is in a forest. First I felt very afraid. We saw a deer at the entrance. We walked through the forest for five km. We saw two types of World's End. The first type is the small World's End and another type is the big World's End. We saw many birds and monkeys there. I really enjoyed at the forest.

At the end, we visited our friend's home. We had our dinner and the next morning we had our breakfast at their home. Then we arrived at our home.

It was an unforgettable trip in my life.

Fathima Amna (13 years)
BT/BC/ Meera B.M.V. (N.S.)

January 23

News in Pictures



Melbourne, Australia
American teenager Coco Gauff in action during her quarterfinal match against Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk at the Australian Open.



Ayodhya, India
Hindu devotees light earthen oil lamps on the bank of the Sarayu River to celebrate the inauguration of the Lord Ram Temple, in Ayodhya.

January 22

Ciudad Juárez, Mexico

Benito the giraffe stands in a container in which he will be transferred to African Safari in the city of Puebla.



Datcheka, Cameroon
A nurse administers a malaria vaccine to an infant at the health center in Datcheka, Cameroon.



Cambridge, England

A new work by Sir. Antony Gormley is unveiled at King's College Cambridge. The sculpture, titled 'True', for Alan Turing, is made from rolled corten steel, the material used by the artist for his most well-known work, 'The Angel of the North'.



La Paz, Bolivia
A cucumber and a chuta cholero hug during the Desentierro del Pepino ('unearthing the cucumber') festival to mark the beginning of carnival.

January 21

Leeds, England
Eritrean Orthodox priests lead a service to celebrate 'Timket', or the feast of Epiphany.



Amsterdam, The Netherlands

A girl holds a tulip in a garden of more than 200,000 blooms created for National Tulip Day, when anyone can pick a bunch for free.



West Java, Indonesia

A Slow Loris looks out of a box as International Animal Rescue staff prepare to release seven of the animals in the conservation area of Mount Halimun Salak.

Sources: Reuters & The Guardian