

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

# FUN DAY TIMES

## IORA DAY COMPETITIONS

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(ONLINE)



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***Celebrating Independence***

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

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**FROM THE  
EDITOR**

**Calling  
Funday Times  
Club Members  
and Readers**

IORA Day 2024 will be celebrated on March 10, 2024 at Galle Face Green in Colombo. Many interesting, ocean-related activities are being organized, 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 full details.**

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

Telephone: 2479337 / 2479333

 [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

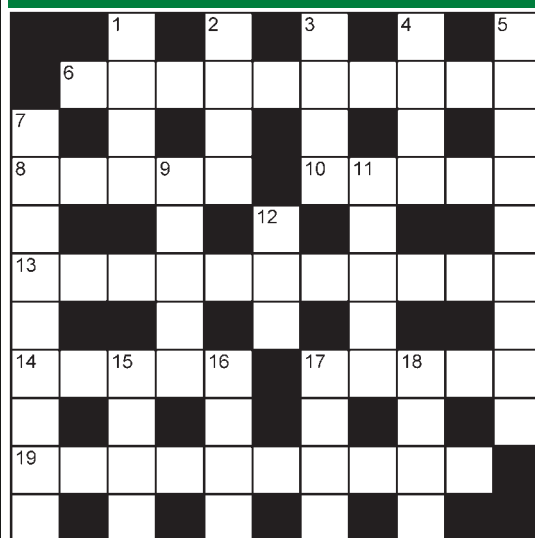
**February 21, 2024**

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



### Junior Crossword – No. 988



Please enter your full name,  
date of birth, home address,  
mobile number and school.

**All entries must be certified  
by a teacher or parent as your  
own work.**

**Across**

- 6 A person from Australia  
8 Someone in a play  
10 Under  
13 Your father's father  
14 Streets  
17 Use this body organ when you are thinking  
19 Somewhere students go to study

**Down**

- 1 Cause pain to  
2 A light in the sky  
3 Baby sheep  
4 A young female  
5 Replying  
7 Very risky  
9 Possessed  
11 Go in  
12 \_\_\_ and on  
15 The largest continent  
16 A plant may grow from this  
17 Finest  
18 Busy insects

**Solution - No 986**



**Yuthunima Yasasnie,**  
Homagama

**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Independence
- **Page 6** – Young Reporter
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://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



## Tomahawk

Quiz  
No. 216

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 216 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2024.

All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given here. Write the answers neatly on a postcard, cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 216' 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: February 29, 2024**

## Tomahawk Quiz No. 215

► Seja Abeywickrama, Galle



@TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL

245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04  
BAMBALAPITIYA - 011 250 7307

@TOMAHAWKBICYCLES

## QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 216

1. Name three of Mozart's most famous pieces of music.
2. When is IORA Day 2024 being commemorated in Sri Lanka?
3. India's solar mission spacecraft reached its destination in space. What was the spacecraft named and what is its purpose?
4. What is the lowest point of the Indian Ocean and how deep is it?
5. Name four types of clean energy.

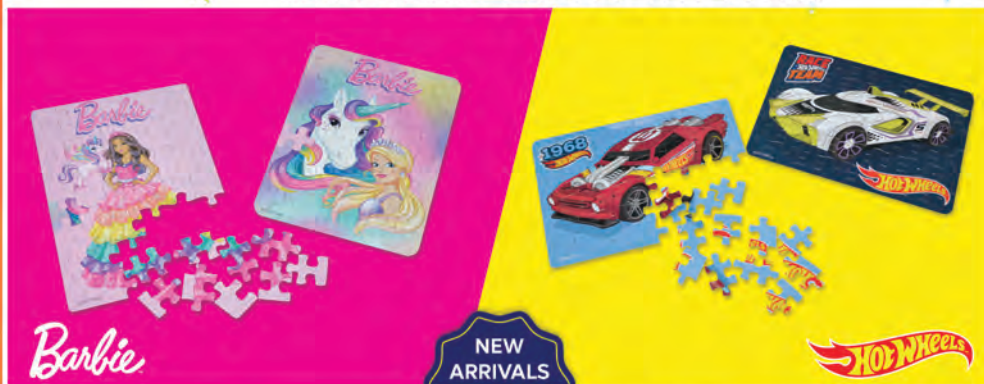


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4 - 6 years

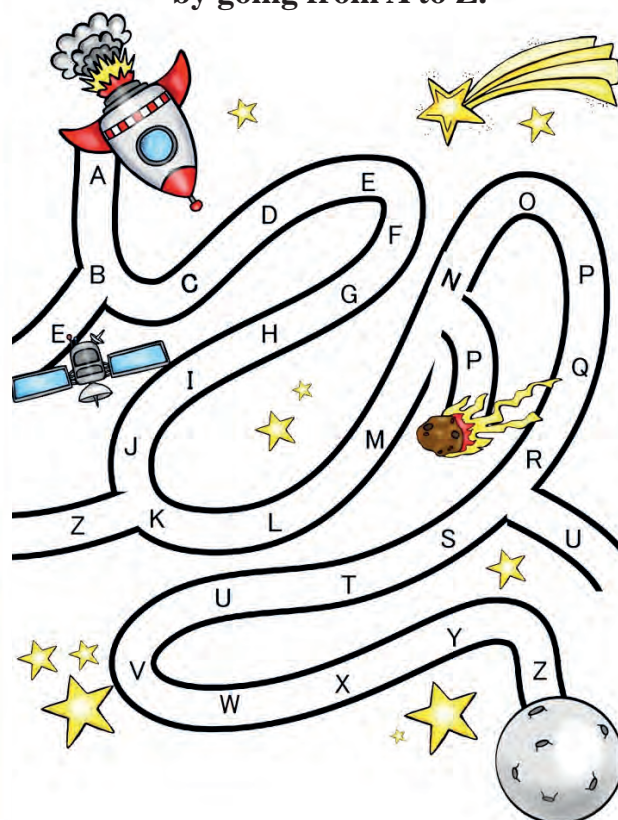


- Ranaya Abeywickrama, Galle
- Dulina Dangalle, Udugampola
- Tharunithhari Mohan, Kandy
- Mohamed Shafraz, Dehiwala
- Akain Dandanarayana, Malabe

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

## 4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Help the rocket get to the moon  
by going from A to Z.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



## ***Sri Lanka's 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day***

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

***February 4, 1948 marks the day that Sri Lanka became an independent nation following over 100 years as a British colony, and nearly 300 years under the rule of the Portuguese and Dutch before that.***



### **A brief timeline of Sri Lanka's colonial past**

- 1505 – The Portuguese arrive and begin capturing sections of the island.
- 1658 – The Dutch drive out the Portuguese and capture sections of the island.
- 1796 – The British begin capturing the island from the Dutch.
- 1815 – After the fall of the Kandyan Kingdom, the entire island comes under British rule.
- 1833 – Governor, Sir. Robert Horton, sets up the first legislative bodies, thus uniting the island under British administration.
- 1915 – Following the violent response to the 1915 riots, E. W. Perera carries a memorandum in the soles of his shoes, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies (in Britain) requesting martial law to be repealed.
- 1948 – Ceylon is granted independence, becoming the Dominion of Ceylon.
- 1972 – Ceylon becomes the Republic of Sri Lanka.

### **Republic Building**



Constructed during the British colonial era to house the Legislative Council, which remained there until 1930. After Independence, the building went on to become the Senate of Ceylon, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Office and Ministry of External Affairs and Defence, before being renamed as the Republic Building in 1972.

Today, it still houses the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cabinet Offices.

### **A window into the past**

A number of buildings which housed the colonial administration have now been repurposed as government buildings. Here are a few of them:

#### **Old Parliament Building**



Declared open in 1930 as the Legislative Council, it was then made the State Council (1931 – 1947), House of Representatives (1947 – 1972), National State Assembly (1972 – 1978) and Parliament of Sri Lanka (1978 – 1982).

Following the shift of the Parliament to Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte, the building was declared as the Presidential Secretariat on September 8, 1983.

#### **Present Parliament Building**



The most striking reminder of the country's independent status has to be the present Parliament Building in Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte, the administrative capital of Sri Lanka.

Constructed under the guidance of then President, J. R. Jayewardene, and the direction of then Prime Minister, R. Premadasa, the building sits on a 16-acre plot surrounded by the Diyawanna Oya.

Designed by Geoffrey Bawa, building was completed in 1982, and declared open on April 29 of the same year.

#### **President's House**

Constructed from 1794 to 1796 by the last Dutch Governor, Johan van Angelbeek, using his personal funds, the building then became the British Governor's official residence.

After that, it has been known as the King's House, the



Queen's House and finally the President's House since Sri Lanka became a Republic in 1972.

References: [parliament.lk](http://parliament.lk), [presidentsoffice.gov.lk](http://presidentsoffice.gov.lk), [mfa.gov.lk](http://mfa.gov.lk), [media.gov.lk](http://media.gov.lk), [lankapradeepa.com](http://lankapradeepa.com)



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

## Visit to Three Star Organic Farm

**O**n October 13, 2023, after my French class, I went to the Three Star Organic Farm at Piliyandala to buy vegetables. The opening hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. The owner of the company is Mr. Balasuriya, who is an expert in organic farming. His farming area is extended to different areas of the country such as Godakawela, Wellawaya, Nuwara Eliya and more.

We went at around 6.30 p.m., and stayed there for about an hour. There were a lot of vegetables and fruits that looked and smelled very fresh. There were also different types of vegetables stored in pickle water. All of them were neatly stored on shelves and racks.

Most interestingly, we saw people working even at 8 p.m. The process is to sort out the leaves, then wash the leaves well to get all the dirt out, chop the leaves and turn them into tiny bits and send them to the packaging room which is as cold as a fridge. They do not let you into the room since germs and bacteria could come in to the leaves.

There are many benefits from eating organic food: your food can be consumed free from toxins, food leftovers can help another plant to grow. So our environment will be fresh.

They have earned many awards for their tireless effort such as Certificate of Conformity by SLS and International Certificate for Food Processing. They deliver fruits and vegetables island-wide and they export their products to other countries too.

It was a great experience to visit the organic farm so I really enjoyed it. My mother was very happy to buy organic food.

Senuri Gunawardana (9 years)  
Methodist College



## Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.



### Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent's approval: ..... Date: .....

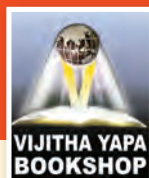
Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



Or



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## 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, fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.



Or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

### Read-a-Book Competition

Name : .....

Date of birth : .....

Address : .....

School: .....

Tel: .....

Finished book on : .....



# Icon of the Seas: Environmentalists concerned over world's biggest cruise ship

January 30, 2024

**T**he world's largest cruise ship, Icon of the Seas, has set sail from Miami, Florida on its maiden voyage.

Its first journey will be a seven-day island-hopping voyage in the Caribbean – but there are concerns about the vessel's methane emissions.

Environmentalists have warned that the liquefied natural gas (LNG) powering the ship could leak harmful methane into the air.

Methane is a greenhouse gas, made up of carbon and hydrogen. These gases can be harmful to the Earth as they trap heat, making the planet warmer than it should be.

## What do we know about the Icon of the Seas cruise ship?

The 365m-long (1,197 ft) vessel, owned by Royal Caribbean Group, is five times larger than the Titanic.

It weighs more than 250,000 tonnes, has 20 decks and can house a maximum of 7,600 passengers.

But tickets aren't cheap! It will cost you anywhere from \$1,723 (£1,360) to \$2,639 (£2,083) per person to join the cruise – this time stopping off in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Charlotte Amalie in the US Virgin Islands.

The megaship was built at a shipyard in Turku in Finland, but is registered to the Bahamas in the Caribbean.



The cruise ship is home to seven swimming pools, six water slides, an onboard water park named Thrill Island, and even has a funfair on the top deck.

It cost \$2bn (£1.6bn) to build, and there are more than 40 restaurants, bars and lounges on board.

Argentina's World Cup winning captain Lionel Messi took part in the ship's naming ceremony last week.

He gave his own football-themed twist to the traditional "good luck" symbol of breaking of a champagne bottle against the vessel's bow – triggered by him placing a ball on a special stand.

## Why are people worried about the Icon of the Sea's effect on the environment?

The fuel that powers the ship is liquefied natural gas (LNG), which produces less carbon dioxide – a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming – than usual ships that use fuel oil.

But there is a risk that some gas could escape, causing methane to leak into the atmosphere.

Methane in the atmosphere traps 80 times more heat than carbondioxide over 20 years, and cutting these emissions is seen as crucial to slowing down global warming.

The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) recently released a report arguing that methane emissions from LNG-fuelled ships were higher than current regulations assumed.

Bryan Comer, director of the Marine Programme said: "It's a step in the wrong direction. "We would estimate that using LNG as a marine fuel emits over 120% more life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions than marine gas oil."

Royal Caribbean says the Icon of the Seas is 24% more energy efficient than required by the International Maritime Organization for modern ships.

The company said it also has plans to introduce a net-zero ship by 2035.



Water slides on the ship

Source : CBBC Newsround



January 30

## News in Pictures

**Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Two paratroopers get entangled during the Independence Day parade rehearsal. The skydivers were taken to hospital after crashing on to the rooftop of a hotel overlooking the Galle Face seafront.

**Chennai, India**

Schoolchildren throw rose petals over a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi to pay tribute on the death anniversary of the Indian founding father.

**Bogotá, Colombia**

A police officer holds one of the 130 poisonous frogs saved from being trafficked in small film canisters to Brazil, after being seized by the Colombian police at El Dorado international airport.

**Berlin, Germany**

Greenpeace activists swim with banners in the Spree River in an 'ice bathing protest for climate cash' in front of the Bundestag as parliament held a debate about the budget for 2024.



January 29

**Luanzhou, China**

Farmers pollinate cherry blossoms at a greenhouse in Luanzhou, in northern China's Hebei province. In recent years, Luanzhou City has adopted the use of cooperatives and planting bases to develop standardised large-scale production of cherries, cucumbers, tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables in an effort to increase farmers' incomes.

**Christchurch, New Zealand**

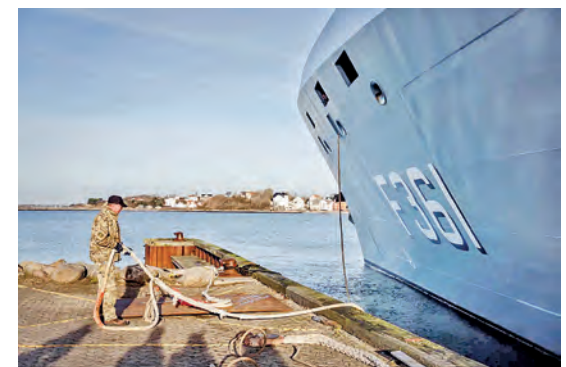
Rescuers retrieve the carcass of a fin whale that had been stranded off the coast of Moncks Bay.

**Bhaktapur, Nepal**

Devotees gather as they offer prayer on the bank of the Hanumante River during a month-long festival which celebrates Swasthani, the Hindu goddess of good fortune, welfare and power.

**Somalia**

An Iranian fishing vessel, named Iman, and its 17 crew members have been freed by the Indian navy after it had been hijacked by pirates off the east coast of Somalia.

**Korsør, Denmark**

The Danish frigate F361 Iver Huitfeldt sets off from the Korsør naval base for the Gulf of Aden, where it will contribute to strengthening maritime security in and around the Red Sea after attacks by Houthi rebels in the region.

Source : The Guardian