

SUNDAY TIMES

SUNDAY MARCH 3, 2024





PAGES 2 & 4



IORA DAY 2024 SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE PAGE 3

(ONLINE)

WILDLIFE PAGE 5

PAGES 7 = 8

At Kala Pola 2024

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Follow us on www.fundaytimes.lk

2 | COMPETITIONS



Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,

Please note that competition entries are accepted by email.

Colombo 2.

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:

March 20, 2024

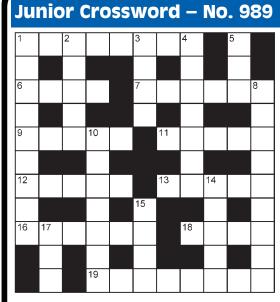
Telephone: 2479337/2479333 Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- Page 5 Threatened Species
- 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
or check out the
Sunday Times epaper on
www.sundaytimes.lk
for additional pages
of this week's Funday Times.



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

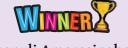
All entries must be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.

Across

A croaking green animal

- Birthday present
- 7 Someone raising animals, crops in the country
- Large vehicles for carrying passengers
- 11 Go up a ladder
- 12 Carpenters hammer these in
- 13 ____ and eggs for breakfast
- 16 Every year
- 18 Sound bouncing back
- 19 Towards the east





Chenuli Amarasinghe,Malabe

Down

- 1 A cartoon rabbit (4, 5)
- 2 Elevators
- 3 A floating platform
- 4 A large ape
- 5 Tell a fib
- 8 In stories, he lived in Sherwood Forest (5, 4)
- 10 Make bigger
- 14 A hot drink
- 15 See with these
- 17 Pixie

Solution - No 987



Solution - No. 346

6

3 2 1

6 | 5 | 3

2 1

3 | 5

6 2

4

5

3 | 1 | 4

1 4

1 2 3 5 4 6

6 4 2 1

5

2

3 6

Sudoku

4			5	1
	1			
			6	5
5	3			
			4	
2	6			3

Compiled by Peter Fernando

1. In the large square you can see three features:

Vertical columns

Six vertical columns with six small squares in each column.

Horizontal columns

Six horizontal columns with six small squares in each of them.

Grids

Six boxes or grids with six small squares in each grid

2. Insert Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the small squares in a way so as not to repeat the same number twice.

Now try to complete Junior Sudoku 348 using logic and reasoning. This is a good exercise for your mind.

HappyBirthday



Suhanya Gamaarachchi 12 years on March 9 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.







Last call for **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 opening ceremony starting at 7.00 a.m.

If you would like to attend 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

IORA Day 2024 Art Competition

Over 6500 entries were received for the IORA Day 2024 All-Island Art Competition, on the theme 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations,' coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.



A team of judges had an awesome task selecting winners and participants from the nine provinces. The selected paintings will be displayed at the main event on March 10 at Galle Face Green in Colombo.









SRI LANKA ASSUMES LEADERSHIP AS CHAIR OF INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION 2023 TO 2025

IORA DAY COMMEMORATION FOR YEAR 2024



10 March 2024 12:30PM Onwards



The Galle Face Green, Colombo

Join us for a day filled with activities aimed at raising awareness and fostering a love for our oceans among children across the island. From educational sessions to fun excursions out to sea to observe corals and marine life, there's something for everyone!

THE BIG BLUE THROUGH THE LENS IN 30 SECONDS!

Let's create an amazing movie that shows how awesome and special our oceans are! Show off your suggestions on how we can keep them safe for the future. It could be by coming up with cool new ideas, working together with our community, or how kids like you can help protect the sea! Are you between 13 to 15 years old (Category A) or 16 to 18 years old (Category B) and living in Sri Lanka? This competition is just for you! Just make sure your folks are cool with it, and you're good to go!

Here's the scoop:

- Keep your video exactly 30 seconds long. Too short or too long, and you'll miss out on the fun.
- Film in portrait or landscape mode with a sharp high resolution (at least 720p).
- Grab whatever camera you've got, whether it's a smartphone or a fancy camera.
- Feel free to jazz up your video with edits, but don't lose sight of the message!
- Your video must be all yours, no borrowing from others!
- Send in your masterpiece using Google Forms before the deadline.
- Only one video per person, so make it count!
- Stick to the theme: "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations".

You can speak your mind in Sinhala, Tamil, or English - just make sure to submit before 5th March 2024. And guess what? There are awesome prizes waiting for the winners! So get filming and show us what you've got! Winners will be announced on social media, and they'll be invited to a special event on March 10, 2024, which is IORA Day!













Tomahawk

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 217 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issue and e-papers of February 4, 11, 18 and 25, 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. 217' 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.

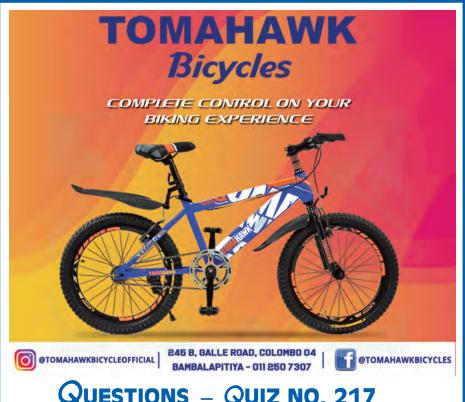
(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: March 31, 2024

Tomahawk Quiz No. 216

Bryan Vanlangenberg, Kotte





QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 217

- 1. When was the President's House in Colombo constructed and by whom?
- 2. What is a Seismograph?
- When does the Lunar New Year 2024 start? How many animals are there in the Chinese Zodiac?
- Who was Olave Baden-Powell?
- 5. Name three special items exhibited in the Titanic Exhibition held in Bristol in February.



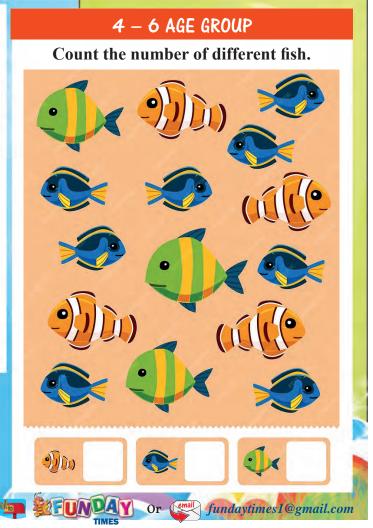
to collect your prizes





fundaytimes1@gmail.com





Wihane Jayaratne, Malabe

Mohammed Rayhan, Mt. Lavinia



Threatened Species

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

Threatened species refer to species of animals, plants and fungi that are at risk of extinction in the near future. Globally, around 1 million species of animals and plants face extinction.



Humpback Whales

March 3 marks World Wildlife Day (WWD) which is observed every year to celebrate the countless wild animals and plants that breathe life into our planet. It also serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife to humans, along with the threats they face, which call for the urgent need for conservation efforts.

The most comprehensive database on the risk status of animal, plant and fungus species is the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which is an important indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity, and classifies species into nine categories: Least Concern (LC), Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN), Critically Endangered (CR), Extinct in the Wild (EW), and Extinct (EX). Two additional categories exist for species that have not been evaluated (Not Evaluated, NE) and those that lack data (Data Deficient, DD).

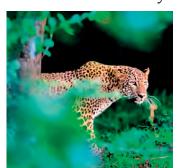
Moreover, a recent landmark report, State of the World's Migratory Species, by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (a United Nations biodiversity treaty) is the first comprehensive assessment on migratory species. Notable migratory species include humpback whales, flamingoes, sea turtles, caribou, monarch butterflies and dragonflies.

– Endangered

Threatened Species in Sri Lanka

The Pearl of the Indian Ocean is home to a variety of animals. Unfortunately, many of the iconic species that the country is recognised for are categorised from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered, such as the Asian Elephant (EN), Sri Lankan Leopard (VU), Sloth Bear (VU), Fishing Cat (VU) and Purple-faced Langur (CR).

There are also some lesser known animals that call Sri Lanka home, some of whom are not found anywhere else in the world.



Sri Lankan Leopard



Purple-faced Langur



Sloth Bear

Rusty-spotted Cat (Prionailurus rubiginosus) – Near Threatened

One of the smallest members of the cat family (measuring 35 - 48cm, not counting the tail), these felines are found only in Sri Lanka and India, with some reported sightings in Nepal. Their habitat consists of both dry and moist forests. The biggest threat they face is from humans, as their habitat is destroyed to accommodate growing human populations, and they are often killed due to being

mistaken as leopard cubs, or hunted for their skin or meat.



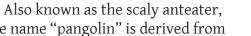
Sources: iucnredlist.org / unep.org / wildlifeday.org / worldwildlife.org / un.org / wildcatconservation.ora

Red Slender Loris (Loris tardigradus)

- Endangered

Endemic to Sri Lanka's rainforests, the red slender loris inhabits Sri Lanka's wet zones and is not found in any other country.

Measuring between 18 - 21cm in length, these nocturnal creatures spend most of their life in the trees, and are part of the same suborder of primates (strepsirrhini) as the lemurs of Madagascar. The main threats they face are habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation due to agricultural expansion, urbanization and illegal encroachment.



Indian Pangolin (Manis crassicaudata)

the name "pangolin" is derived from "penggulung", the Malay word for roller, which is inspired the fact that pangolins roll into a ball in self-defence.

Pangolins are one of the most trafficked mammals in the world, due to the demand for their meat and scales. Eight species of pangolins span Asia and Africa, all of whom are classified from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered. Asia is home to four species, among which the Indian Pangolin can be found in Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan.





Red Slender Loris

FUNDAY

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

Safari in Bundala National Park

Bundala National
Park is a rather
small but highly
important (especially for
birds, and also for a small
population of elephants),
national park in Sri Lanka,
slightly near the coast of
the Indian Ocean.

It is an awesome place to visit, and I know that because I have visited it. This is about my trip to Bundala National Park.

Let us start from the hotel we stayed in for the night, Double Tree by Hilton in Weerawila. The hotel is also near a big lake with crocodiles. This hotel offered safaris to four of Sri Lanka's national parks, namely Yala, Bundala, Udawalawe and Lunugamvehera. So my father paid for a trip to Bundala, in a Land Cruiser.

The wildlife sightings were great, especially the birds and crocodiles. We saw a massive wild boar at the very start of the safari. Due to rainy weather, the roads were flooded, thus the safari was made better by increased abundance of animals like birds and crocodiles.





▲ Did you know you can get out of the vehicle here?



We also saw grey langurs, one torque monkey, two deer, a soft-shelled turtle, and high concentrations of birds and crocodiles (peacock and rosy starling especially) and land monitors.

We were allowed to get out of the vehicle at a sand dune overlooking the beach area, which is rare in a national park.









We also witnessed a coucal (a common predatory bird) chasing a snake into a bush.

At the ticket counter there were preserved skulls of dead animals, including elephant, whale, fishing cat, sea turtle and saltwater crocodile. There was also the full skeleton of a crocodile and a python, and also there were snakes in jars.

Although we failed to see elephants, this trip to Bundala was remarkable.

Dulain Sasnula (Grade 6) Horizon College Int., Malabe



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

Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

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





fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Young Reporters Coupon

١	Name:
	Date of Birth:
	Address:
	Telephone:

School:Parent's approval: Date:

.....



KIDSENEWS | 7

Rare Harry Potter book with mistakes sold for £11,000

February 27, 2024

A rare copy of the very first Harry Potter novel has sold for £11,000. The book was bought for just 13p nearly 30 years ago. What makes this book particularly special is that it's an uncorrected version of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone', known as

Author J.K. Rowling's name is incorrectly written as J.A Rowling in the first few pages.

Early or rare editions of Harry Potter books often sell for thousands of pounds.

What is a proof copy of a book?

When publishers are getting a book ready to be sold, they must first print a copy of the book to be checked. This is called a proof.

Only a select few are allowed to read the proof, including the publishers and the author of the book. It is not intended to be sold. Any mistakes found in the proof are corrected and once the publisher is happy, they will reprint the book for sale.

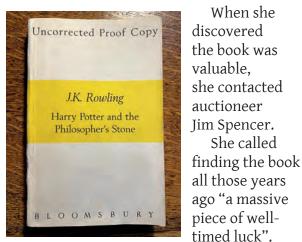
The anonymous seller first bought the book in 1997 from a second-hand shop in London.

She said: "I didn't have much money but I always liked to treat myself to a browse round second-hand bookshops on Saturday mornings. I bought it as a throw-in with a couple of other titles - 40p for all three. I don't think I even looked at it properly to tell the truth."

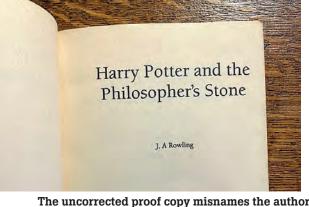
When she

She called

ago "a massive



The book is a proof which means it was not ready to be



The uncorrected proof copy misnames the author as J.A Rowling rather than J.K.



Original copies of the Harry Potter books can sell for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Auctioneer and Harry Potter books expert Jim Spencer said: "This is the very first appearance in print of the first Potter novel. This book so deserved to do well. This is where the Harry Potter phenomenon began."

CBBC Newsround

Odysseus the first US spacecraft to land on the Moon in 50 years

February 26, 2024

A week after launching aboard a SpaceX rocket, the uncrewed Odysseus spacecraft gently landed near the Moon's south pole at 6:32 pm ET on February 22, 2024. The 14-foot-tall (4.3 metres) lander was developed and flown by Texas-based Intuitive Machines. It is the first privately-built spacecraft to make a moon landing. More significantly, Odysseus is the first American lander to successfully touch down on the lunar surface since Apollo 17 in December 1972.

"Today, for the first time in half a century, the US has returned to the Moon," said NASA administrator Bill Nelson.

The landing was preceded by some nail-biting minutes. During the final descent, the mission control team

suddenly lost contact with Odysseus, leading to fears that it had been damaged. After a tense 15 minutes, the scientists finally received a weak signal confirming that the space vehicle had landed on the Moon.

"What we can confirm without a doubt is, our equipment is on the surface of the moon, and we are transmitting," announced mission director Tim Crain. "Odysseus has found his new home."

Two hours after the landing, Intuitive Machines reported that Odysseus had landed in an upright position and was already starting to send data.

However, 24 hours later, the company said the spacecraft had fallen



Intuitive Machines' Odysseus lunar lander on display at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

during the landing and was resting on its side. But it remained optimistic that Odysseus would complete its seven-daylong mission.

"[Odysseus] caught a foot in the surface, and the lander has tipped," said company CEO Steve Altemus. "So far, we have quite a bit of operational capability even though we're tipped over."

However, they still consider the mission a resounding success.

DOGO News

FUNDAY

ondon, UK

February 27

News in Pictures



Warsaw, Poland

Demonstrators gather in front of the Palace of Culture and Science at a farmers' protest against EU climate measures and Ukrainian imports.

February 26



London, UK

A young girl sits in an inflatable globe as dancers working with Mothers Rise Up (a group of UK mothers protesting about the climate crisis) stage a performance protest outside the Lloyd's building in London. The group advocate for every child's right to a safe climate and clean air.



Geneva, Switzerland A mockup of the new Renault R5

E-Tech electric model car at the French carmaker's stand during a press day for the Geneva International Motor Show.



Bandung, Indonesia
Children riding kadaplak
in Kampung Pasir Angling.
Kadaplak cars were a
traditional means of
transportation for
farmers and are being
reintroduced for public
entertainment.



Sarah John, the chief cashier of the Bank of England, inspects the new King Charles III £20 note.
Banknotes carrying a portrait of the king will be issued on June 5, 2024.

Seoul, South Korea

Students take part in a commencement ceremony at Ilsung Women's Middle and High School. The school has a two-year course open to students aged 40 and older who have not previously received regular education.





Xiangyang City, China

Pupils view paper-cut lanterns and paintings at Hairong primary school in central China's Hubei province. The new semester for primary and secondary schools kicked off in many parts of China on Monday.



Budapest, Hungary

Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán, attends a parliamentary session on the day lawmakers were expected to approve Sweden's accession into NATO.

•



Mexico City, Mexico

Firefighters celebrate after putting out a fire in the Cuemanco ecological park in Xochimilco.

Source : The Guardian