

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 12, 2024



FUNDA Y TIMES



A traditional 'Kathuru Onchillawa'

Pic. by
M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS 

POETRY & ESSAYS

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STORY

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(ONLINE)



RECIPES

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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:
May 29, 2024

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





Age groups:
6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years
Word limit: 100 Words

Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

6 – 10 years

The Fairy

When I look out of my bedroom window at night,
 I see a bright and shiny, sparkling light,
 It is my friend the Night Fairy,
 Come out to greet me in a hurry.
 The two of us are great friends,
 She turns me into a fairy too,
 And we fly around houses,
 Twist around bends,
 Then we come back home,
 We say goodbye,
 And she flies away into the sky.

Sanuthi Saveithma
Musaeus College, Colombo 7

11 – 15 years

Beyond the margin

In this world of towering heights,
 Where wealth is often might,
 There are those who are forgotten,
 In the shadows of streets, left out in the cold.

Around a corner of a bustling street,
 You are most likely to see them,
 Those poor souls,
 With their many stories untold.


Their pleas heard but strangely forgotten,
 By those moving on with their daily errands,
 Their cries for help pass unheard,
 And their hungry whispers lost in the dark.

Oh, push aside these unjustly impediments,
 And lend out to them a brotherly hand,
 For we are all blessed and unique,
 In this world so wide and diverse.

Thehan Jayasinghe
St. Peter's College, Colombo 4

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.






Or
fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

Win

super books from

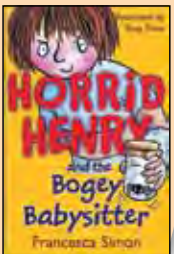


Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: Why I love my mother

Win: Horrid Henry and the Bogey Babysitter by Francesca Simon



Horrid Henry hates babysitters – and he knows exactly how to make sure they never come back. That is, until he meets Rabid Rebecca, the toughest teen in town.

Write at the top of your Essay


■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: What you do for your mother

Win: Five on Kirrin Island Again by Enid Blyton



Uncle Quentin is working on secret experiments on Kirrin Island and he doesn't want anyone to visit, not even the Famous Five.

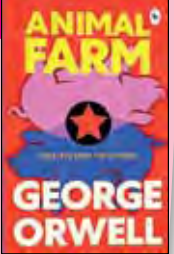
But someone wants to steal his ideas and ruin his plans. George is determined to protect her father and save her island. She can't do it without the others – can they help her in time?

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: The Festival of Vesak


Win: Animal Farm by George Orwell



A resounding fable on totalitarianism and power-gone-corrupt, Animal Farm is an allegorical novella that took the world by storm when it was first published and hasn't stopped doing so since.

The ultimate satire on fascism, Animal Farm still finds relevance in the present world.

Book Competition



<p>9 years and below</p> <p>How you celebrated the Sinhala & Tamil New Year</p> <p>Amira Miftha Methodist College, Colombo 3</p>	<p>10 – 12 years</p> <p>The importance of learning English</p> <p>Aksharran Ketheeswaran Gateway College, Colombo</p>	<p>13 – 15 years</p> <p>What you know about Earth Day</p> <p>Senuli Rathnasekara St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7</p>
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NOTE Please see Page 5 in the online edition for the winning Book Competition essays.

Mother's Day and Amma's Tomato Plant

By Manoshi De Silva

Sahel was playing outside with his bat and ball. His mother was doing some gardening. There were lots of different plants, planted along the wall. "Putha be careful with those plants!" said Sahel's mother from time to time when he hit the ball against the wall with his bat.

"Amma look!" shouted Sahel's sister Yenuli, who came to help water the plants. "There are tiny flower buds on this tomato plant of yours!" Sahel also peeped and looked at it. The children's mother smiled happily. "These will grow into tiny tomatoes soon!" she said.

Sahel started to play again and hit the ball hard with his bat. The ball hit the wall and fell between two plants almost knocking them down. "Malli! Can you please be careful!" yelled Yenuli. "You almost smashed the plants!" Sahel ignored her and continued to play.

Every evening while Sahel was playing in the garden, his mother was tending to her plants, fertilizing them and watering them. On days that Yenuli had no homework, she too joined their mother and helped her. Sahel was not interested in gardening, so he didn't help at all.

A few days later, Sahel saw his mother and sister observing the tomato plant with interest. "Look, the buds have bloomed into tiny flowers," said Yenuli. "This makes me so happy!" said their mother putting some fertilizer to the plant. "This will help the flowers turn into tomatoes soon."

About a week later, Sahel heard his mother and sister talking excitedly about the tiny tomatoes on the plant. "There are six small tomatoes," said Yenuli. "We can make fresh tomato salad!" said their mother as they both removed the weeds around the plant and watered it.

One evening, Sahel's mother finished her gardening and collected her gardening-tools. "Putha don't stay out for too long. You'll get bitten by mosquitoes," she warned, while stepping inside the house. "I'll come in five minutes, Amma," replied Sahel playing with his bat and ball.

Sahel hit the ball hard against the wall a couple of times. A few mosquitoes



started to bite him. While scratching his legs, Sahel hit the ball hard without looking where he was aiming at. The ball bounced off and hit a few plants as it landed, knocking down a few plants.

The boy looked around. No one was out. He quickly ran towards the plants and observed them. A few plants were bent down but their stems were not broken. He made them stand one by one. When he reached for the last plant, his heart stopped. It was the tomato plant and it was badly damaged.

"They pay so much of attention to this plant. They will definitely notice this!" panicked Sahel. The small green tomatoes were removed and scattered all over. He made the plant stand upright but there was no way to fix the tomatoes. So he quickly threw them far away.

Later that day, Yenuli whispered in Sahel's ear, "Tomorrow is 'Mother's Day'. We should do something special for Amma!"

"If Amma notices the missing tomatoes she'll be so upset tomorrow, on Mother's Day," thought Sahel. "Akka will bite my head off if she knows what happened and for ruining Mother's Day for Amma!"

Sahel was so guilty that he couldn't even sleep that night. So he thought of ways to fix his mistake and to stop his mother from getting upset on Mother's Day. The next day, Sahel got up very early and went to see the tomato plant. It was still standing upright but he knew that his mother would notice the

missing tomatoes at once.

"Maybe if I put a few ripe tomatoes around the plant, she'll think that they have fallen after turning red," thought Sahel. So he searched their fridge and found a few ripe tomatoes. They were red and large. But Sahel had no other option, so he took them and scattered them around the plant, hoping that his mother and sister would think that they had fallen from the tomato plant.

While having breakfast that morning, Yenuli and Sahel heard their mother laughing, so they both ran to the garden. She was holding big red tomatoes. "Where are those from?" asked Yenuli. "Where are the small green ones?" she asked after looking at the crooked tomato plant. "Well, looks like they have turned this big overnight!" said their mother looking directly at Sahel.

"Looks like the fertilizer was magical," said the children's mother. Sahel looked down with guilt while Yenuli stared in surprise. Sahel walked into the kitchen with his mother. Confused, Yenuli was still in the garden. "So what happened?" asked Sahel's mother smiling. "How do you know that I did it?" asked Sahel hiding his face.

Sahel sighed, "I didn't do it on purpose Amma. I am so sorry. I ruined Mother's Day for you." He was struggling to hold back the tears.

"No you didn't darling, you made me laugh. When I saw the huge, red tomatoes around the plant, I was wondering if I needed glasses!" laughed Sahel's mother, making him laugh too.

"You don't have to cover it up when you make a mistake, Putha. Be honest about it and take responsibility!" said Sahel's mother giving him a hug. "I am so sorry. I will make it right!" said Sahel hugging her back. "I am getting you a gift for Mother's Day. I will buy you two new tomato plants from the plant nursery with another surprise plant!"

So Sahel gifted his mother two new tomato plants bought with his own pocket money and another rose plant with a beautiful red rosebud ready to bloom. "Maybe we should put some of that magic fertilizer to these plants too!" said Yenuli who was still confused about the tomatoes, and the children's mother laughed, hugging them both.



Children and teachers of Vidura College, Kurunegala celebrated World Water Day recently and made an effort to understand the impact of water, its availability and global importance.



On April 6, 2024, both branches of St. Paul's Pre-School, Kadawatha came together at Indigahamula branch to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Book Competition Winners Essays
- **Page 6** – Fun Recipes
- **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.

Marmaduke
OH YEAH

GUESS WHAT, MARMADUKE? WE'RE GOING TO THE MOVIES!

THAT'S RIGHT, WAKE UP! YAAAAWWWWWWW...

CAN MARMADUKE COME WITH US TO THE MOVIES? MARMADUKE HAS TO STAY HERE.

AWWWWWW...

WHAT HAPPENED? WE'VE BEEN ROBBED!

DOG GONE BONNY SKANEATELES, NY
TINA CASTLE'S ENGLISH BULLDOG, JELLYBEAN, GOBBLES HER DINNER EVERY NIGHT IN NO TIME FLAT. ONE EVENING, WHEN TINA HAD COMPANY TO DINNER, JELLYBEAN BROUGHT HER FOOD BOWL INTO THE DINING ROOM AND JOINED THE PARTY. DON'T FORGET ME!

Book Competition



9 years and below

How I celebrated Avurudu

On Saturday, my family and I went for an Avurudu celebration organized by my father's office. All my friends, aunties and uncles were dressed in traditional Avurudu clothing.

There were various Avurudu food items such as milkrice, prawn vade, kevum, kokis, aasmi and a few drinks. I enjoyed eating all of these yummy food items.

There were many games to take part in. Some of them were, pillow fight, tug-of-war, lime and spoon, drawing the eye on the elephant, breaking the pot, eating the bun, bursting the balloon, feeding the yoghurt, and counting the seeds in the papaya. I participated in the games, eating the bun, lime and spoon and putting the eye on the elephant. I won 2nd place for the lime and spoon race. I was very happy.

It was a fun-filled and memorable day that I could never forget. When I went home I thanked my father for taking me there. I loved it very much.

Amira Miftha (8 years)
Methodist College, Colombo 3

10 – 12 years

The importance of learning English

English is one of the most spoken and official languages in the world, having originated in medieval England. In detail, approximately 67 countries communicate in English.

Learning English when we are young itself, makes our brain active and healthy, improving creativity and memory. English is an easy language to learn at an early age and it is also easy to pick up compared to other languages.

As we grow older and become adults, we need a job, of course, and learning English is one thing that will make it easier to get a job. But why do we need English to get a job in the future? Can't we use any other languages? We might think about this

doubt, but the solution is that you can communicate with any client, businessman, manager and more, in English as it is a widely spoken language.

Other than helping our careers, another benefit of learning English is that travelling abroad becomes easier.

Today, millions of people struggle to go abroad because of language issues. English is what you need here. It also increases your ability to learn another language and more.

So, let's get ready to learn English.

Aksharran Ketheeswaran
(12 years)
Gateway College

13 – 15 years

What I know about Earth Day

"Trees are the poems that the Earth writes upon the sky..."

This famous quote was written by Lebanese-American writer and poet, Kahlil Gibran in his renowned book, 'Sand and Foam' in 1926.

Earth Day is, an international event celebrated around the world to pledge support for environmental protection. It is commemorated on April 22 yearly, which is arranged by the EARTH.ORG institute. Like every year, to celebrate the uniqueness of this day, the organization comes up with a specific theme for this function.

Last year's subject was, 'Invest in Our Planet' which called for businesses' to change towards sustainable practices. This year's message is, 'Planet vs. Plastics' which points attention to the serious issues about plastic pollution and how it harms nature.

The inception of Mother Earth Day dates back to 1970, marking the birth of the modern environmental movement. It was a time when industrial progress took precedence over environmental concerns, leading to air and water pollution. The publication of Rachel Carson's, 'Silent Spring' in 1962 was a turning point, raising public awareness about

the habitat and the links between contamination and community medicine.

The idea for Earth Day was first proposed by Senator Gaylord Nelson after the ravages of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. Along with Denis Hayes, they assembled the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 where 20 million Americans demonstrated for a healthy, sustainable territory.

Earth Day serves as a yearly reminder of our responsibility towards environmental stewardship. It's a day that commemorates nature's natural beauty and to take action against the obstacles threatening our environment. The day has been instrumental in uniting people from all over the world to walks of life participating in various activities that promote environmental conservation and an eco-friendly future.

'The Unhabitable Earth' by prestigious writer David Wallace-Wells, 'The Lorax' by wonderful Dr. Seuss and 'Braiding Sweetgrass' by amazing Robin Wall Kimmerer are some novels written about this day while 'Earth Song' by fantastic Michael Jackson, 'Wake Up America' by remarkable Miley Cyrus and

'Save The Planet Song' by terrific Miss Linky are some songs especially sung on this day.

Earth Day serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to protect and preserve our cosmos. It's a day to reflect on the impact of human actions on the world and to recommit ourselves to sustainable practices.

As we observe this day, let's strive to foster appreciation for the natural world, advocate for a meaningful change and work together to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future generation. As children we should always keep in mind to fulfill our duties to Mother Earth by, disposing trash responsibly, participating in local clean-ups and using the 3R system. The idea for Earth Day came after a series of environmental catastrophes, Earth Day became global in 1990 and tens of millions of trees have been planted on Earth Day are some facts for this day.

To conclude, here's a saying by Oliver Jeffers, an Australian-Irish artist and illustrator,

"Every Day is Earth Day..."

Senuli Rathnasekara (15 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

Lemon and ginger cheesecake

Treat your mum with these fun recipes on Mother's Day!

Ingredients

- ♦ 250 g (8 oz) gingernuts
- ♦ 125 g (4 oz) butter, melted
- ♦ 200 ml (7 fl. oz) double cream
- ♦ 397 g can condensed milk
- ♦ Zest and juice of 2 lemons
- ♦ Zest and juice of 1 lime

Method

1. Grease the sides of a 20 cm loose-based cake tin. Cut a circle of baking paper and use to line the bottom of the tin.
2. Put the biscuits in a bag and crush them with a rolling pin. Transfer to a bowl and stir in the melted butter. Mix to combine then press 200 g of the mixture into the base of your tin. This is just over half the mixture. Chill while you prepare the creamy filling.
3. Lightly whip the cream in a bowl and stir in the condensed milk, lemon and lime zest and 10-12 tablespoons juice. Spoon the creamy mixture over the biscuit base and smooth the top. Sprinkle over the rest of the biscuit mixture.



Chill until set, at least 4 hours but ideally overnight.

4. Remove from the tin and slice before serving.

Roll-up sandwiches

Ingredients

- Two slices of bread per person
 - Margarine or butter
- A selection of fillings such as:*
- Cheese spread and pickle
 - Grated cheese and ham
 - Grated carrot and hummus
 - Peanut butter and strawberry or raspberry jam
 - Nutella
 - Mashed banana

Method

1. First of all, carefully slice the crusts from the bread. The leftover crusts can be put into a food processor to make breadcrumbs, or you could toast them and use for 'croutons' in soup.
2. Now take a rolling pin and roll each slice of bread as thin as possible. Keep a watchful eye so that you don't get too carried away and make gaping holes!
3. Once the slices of bread are suitably flat and thin, use a table knife to spread on the filling, starting with the margarine or butter.
4. If you choose to use grated cheese or carrot in your roll-ups then it's best for an adult to do the grating, but kids will love the job of sprinkling it over the bread.
5. Mashed banana is a great filling as kids can use the back of a fork to mash the banana.

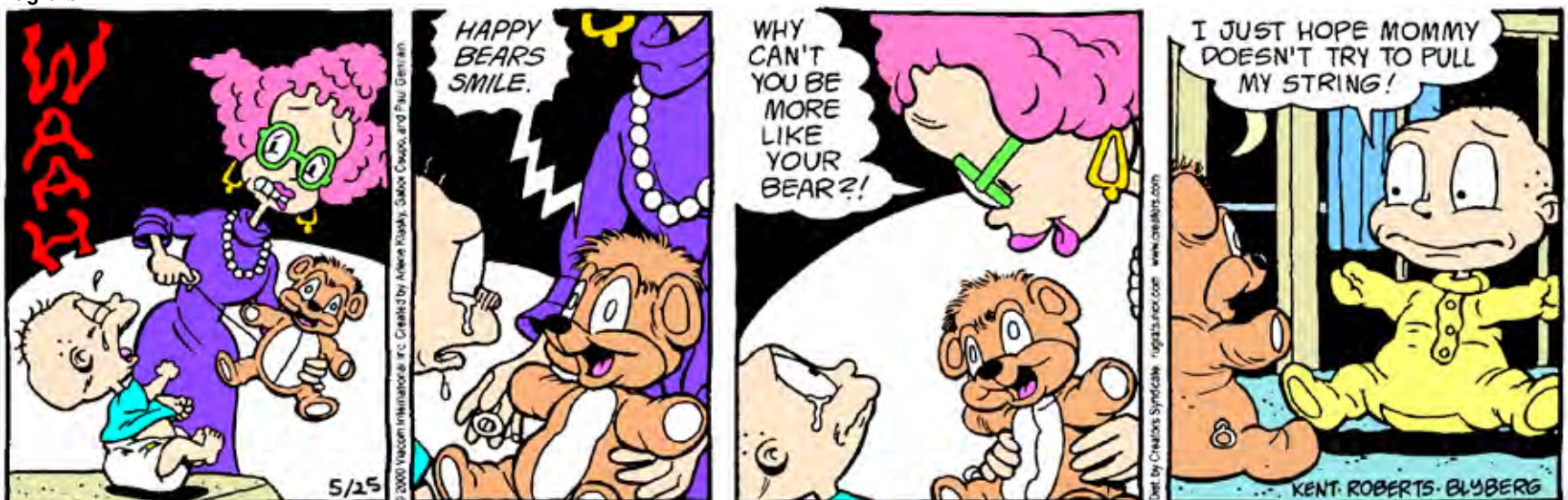


6. Whatever filling you decide to use, now is the time to roll up the bread. Make sure that the shortest edge is closest to you and firmly roll the bread up into a spiral.
7. If you have time, wrap the rolled sandwich in a piece of cling film, store in the fridge for a little while and then slice into three or four pieces – or eat straight away!

Top Tip : Use brown bread and lots of veggies to make your roll-up sandwiches even healthier.

Source: GoodtoKnow

Rugrats



Channel Tunnel celebrates 30th year

May 4, 2024

It's the longest undersea channel in the world and today it is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

The Channel Tunnel opened in May 1994 and connects Kent, in southern England, to Calais, in northern France, underneath the sea bed of the English Channel.



Much like in 2012 when London hosted the Olympic Games, lots of people will be travelling through the Channel Tunnel for the Olympic Games in Paris this year.

The 31 mile (50.5 km) journey takes just 35 minutes, a much quicker way than taking a ferry or a plane to our neighbours.

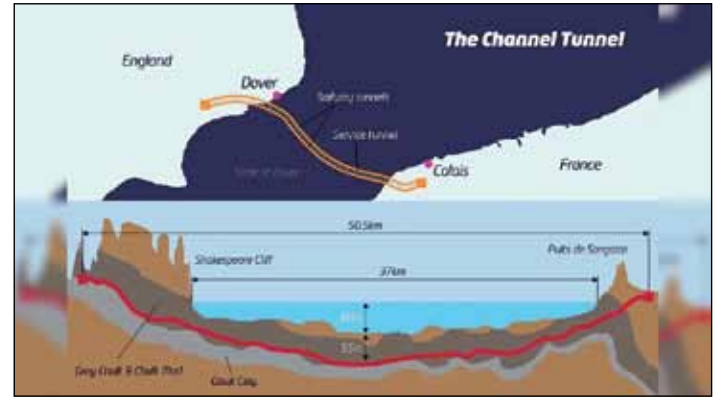
Nearly 10 million people use the 'Chunnel' every year.

Why was the Channel Tunnel created and how did it impact Europe?

Work began on the revolutionary tunnel in 1988 and it was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on May 6, 1994.

More than 13,000 workers from both France and England worked on the project which took six years to build.

And, it's not just one tunnel - it's actually three tunnels that run



From England to France under the sea in 68 seconds (from 2019)

parallel to each other. Two for trains and one service tunnel for access and ventilation.

It was built to create a cheaper and quicker alternative to travelling between England and France than by ferry or plane.

Trade between the UK and EU also benefitted from the new structure.

A very long bridge was considered as an alternative but it was decided digging a tunnel was less disruptive to the environment.

Launch to International Space Station delayed

May 7, 2024

A space flight which was due to launch from Florida in the United States was cancelled just two hours before blast off, due to safety concerns.

Two NASA astronauts were already strapped into their seats ready to head to the International Space Station, but the launch was called off after pre-flight checks showed there was a potential issue with an oxygen relief valve on the Atlas V rocket.

The astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, were safely removed from the Starliner capsule by a team of technicians.

A second attempt at launching the rocket is possible before the end of the week.



Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams were ready and raring to head to the International Space Station, but will attempt to take the flight again at a later date.



The Starliner capsule sits on top of the Atlas V rocket and hoped to take two astronauts to the ISS.

The rocket, Atlas V, is manufactured by United Launch Alliance, (ULA) – a joint collaboration between private space companies Lockheed Martin and Boeing – that provides launch vehicles to NASA.

ULA has flown missions for more than twenty years, and Atlas V is America's longest-serving active rocket, but this is its first mission with astronauts.

There were no reported issues with Boeing's Starliner Spacecraft which sits on top of the rocket and the company said a launch could be attempted again no earlier than Friday.

Source : CBBC Newsround

May 7

News in Pictures



Dien Bien Phu, Vietnam
Women wave flags during official celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Dien Bien Phu victory over French colonial forces.



Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Students set up a camp and barricades on the campus of the University of Amsterdam to support Gaza. The Amsterdam-based student collective says it is promoting justice in Palestine, raising awareness about Israeli settler colonialism and fighting for an academic boycott.



Moscow, Russia
Russian president-elect, Vladimir Putin, before his inauguration ceremony at the Kremlin.

Acapulco, Mexico
The Mexican navy's training ship, Cuauhtémoc, prepares to set sail. With a record number of women, it will embark on a more than seven-month journey, visiting three continents and 10 countries, including the USA and China.



May 6

Stockholm, Sweden
Denmark's Queen Mary, King Frederik X, Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia wave from the balcony at the Royal Palace, during a two-day state visit by the Danish monarchy.



Vatican City
New recruits to the Vatican Swiss Guards attend their swearing-in ceremony. They swore allegiance to Pope Francis and his successors during a ceremony recalling the deaths of 147 of their predecessors defending Pope Clement VII during the Sack of Rome by Emperor Charles's army in 1527.



N'djamena, Chad
The country goes to the polls for a delayed presidential election that is expected to end three years of military rule.

Rafah, Gaza
Displaced Palestinians begin to leave after an evacuation order by the Israeli army.



Nevsehir, Turkey
Hot air balloons fly over the Cappadocia region, which is famous for its fairy chimneys.

Source : The Guardian