

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 26, 2024



FUN DAY TIMES



Lanterns for Vesak

Pic. by Nilan Maligaspe

**KIDS'
WORLD**

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**STORY
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(ONLINE)

**WORLD OCEANS DAY
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KIDS NEWS

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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.

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

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Please write the name of the competition and the date clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for weekly competitions:

June 11, 2024



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Events
- **Page 6** – Famous people
- **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.

Vesak

Vesak is celebrated because of the Birth, Enlightenment and great Passing-Away of Lord Buddha. It is usually celebrated on the full moon Poya day (usually in May). Vesak is not only celebrated in Sri Lanka but is also celebrated all over the world. It's a special tradition that sometimes transcends cultural boundaries and is celebrated by Buddhists around the globe.

People celebrate Vesak by giving charity to other people, such as Dansals. People also celebrate Vesak by lighting candles, making Pandols, worshiping at temples and giving Dana to monks.

I have also experienced many Vesak celebrations. Once on Vesak I visited the Atamasthana located in Anuradhapura. I worshiped at the Jethawanaramaya, Thuparamaya, Lankaramaya, Abayagiriya, Mirisawetiya and Ruwanveliseya shrines.

Every year my school has a Vesak celebration. Out of all of the Vesak celebrations my favourite is the celebration I have with my family. This year Vesak is celebrated on May 23 and 24 and I am looking forward to it.

Aadithya Abeysundara (Grade 8)
D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo

Vesak



Hesath Walpitia (Grade 2)
Asoka Vidyalaya, Colombo

My Self



Aadila Ahmed (Grade 2)
Muslim Ladies College, Colombo 4

If I were the president of my country

A president is the ruler of a country. Being the president is a difficult and tiring job because you need to address the problems the country is facing.

If I was the president, I would care about all my people. I would reduce the price of food items in the country by increasing the production of plants. I would stop the use of plastics and instead use eco-friendly materials. I would reduce the electricity and water bills by introducing solar panels to conserve electricity and water. I will reduce the tax and increase peoples' salary.

Julian De Sylva (8 years)
St. Peter's College, Colombo

Myself

My name is Shazad. I am seven years old. I live in Colombo. My hobby is drawing. I study at Zahira College, Colombo 10. My ambition is to be an Army soldier.



Shazad Ghaney (Grade 2)
Zahira College, Colombo 10

My school sportsmeet

On March 14, 2024, Carey College annual sports event was grandly held at Sugathadasa Stadium. Various competitions were held there and the students showed their skills very well in those competitions. I finished second in the 80 m Under 14 athletics event which was a great achievement for me.

Our annual sports-meet was held under the supervision of the Principal Rev. Heshan De Silva and the active staff of the school. The sportsmeet was held rather amazingly. I am a proud Careyite thanking the new principal and all the academic staff who contributed immensely to make this event a success.

Ruzaiq Junkeer (13 years)
Carey College, Colombo

A Lonely Tree



Aamina Mohamed (Grade 5)
Hejaaz Int. Girls' School

Flying Kites



Rusiru (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School
Kegalle

Sunny Day



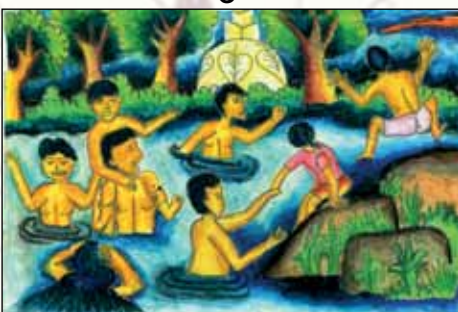
Wihini Sethunadi (Grade 3)
Bodhiraja Int. School
Embilipitiya

A Fish Bowl



Hamdha Ziyad (10 years)
Matale Int. School

A bathing moment



Rusandu Ruwanetha (Grade 6)
Janadhipathi Vidyalaya, Embilipitiya

A rainy day

I love rainy days. Nature looks fresh and beautiful on rainy days. A rainy day is full of rain. The sky is covered with black clouds on rainy days. The sun is not seen in the sky on rainy days. We can see the rainbow on a rainy day. Roads become slippery on rainy days. It makes the weather cool.



Himashi (Grade 2)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

How to protect the environment

Everything that surrounds us is defined as the environment. Therefore, the natural resources around us on earth is our environment. It sustains life on the planet and provides an abundance of resources.

To protect the environment and make it safe for the life we should follow these steps. Ban the use of plastic bags and products, ensure that your household waste is disposed through proper channels, stop littering and also encourage others to stop the same. Don't use fertilizers and pesticides, rather go for organic ones. Minimize use of vehicles as exhaust gases cause the greatest pollutions of air. Save forests, plants and trees because they are the lungs of the environment. Minimize the use of ground water or surface water.

Sineli Shenaya (Grade 4)
Royal Int. School, Kegalle

Importance of food

Food availability means providing food within a community, affecting food security of an entire population. Food availability and food accessibility are important in achieving food security. Food stability means food is available all the time. It is the responsibility of the related parties to make sure that food is available.

There are many government institutions which provide assistance to achieve food security through various programmes. Food availability decreases due to natural disasters such as floods and drought. Due to scarcity of food inflation could occur and people would be unable to afford basic food products. Many children are underweight due to lack of food. Malnutrition has reached sky high. It is necessary for us to make some contributions so that people in hunger can have access to food easily to save them from malnutrition.

Hikma Manajir
Springfield College, Kandy

From an overseas reader

Rainforest

The serene streams flow like dancers,
Followed along with ants lancers,
Beautiful clouds cascade through
labyrinth of welcoming trees.

Oh Mother Nature please share more!
Birds chirping like beautiful melodies
thrown onto the sky,
As precious plants surrounded the
azure lake,
the lily-pads celebrate,
Shards of sunlight creates a
kaleidoscope of colour.

Dear oh dear what have we done?
Our tragedy has brought us to a new
start of terror,
As we wished for merrier,
Us beings have to make a wish,
To bring our faults to a dish.

As ants look for shelter,
Axes filled with laughter,
The terrified streams snake past this
awful disaster,
As all axes do is whisper,
Poor leaves sway away to flee from
terror as their
Mothers say good bye.

Oh Mother Nature we are truly sorry,
We still have time to fix your worry,
While some forests remain plain,
We will be in vain.

While kinds remain to be cruel,
We will refuel,
Once and for all we will thrive,
As a happy planet.

Chandelle Nahallage (11 years)
Sheffield School, Dubai

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.



A lesson from the line of buckets

By Manoshi De Silva

It was the late evening of 'Vesak day'. Thenul went to the garden and peeped over the fence to look at his neighbour, Bhashitha's garden. Bhashitha was hanging bucket lanterns here and there on the tree branches. Bhashitha's small garden looked very bright and colourful. Thenul felt a bit jealous as he counted the number of buckets. There were twenty.

Thenul looked at his garden which was dark and empty. So he decided to quickly decorate their garden as well, before going to the temple. "If Bhashitha has twenty buckets, I should definitely hang more!" thought Thenul as he carried out his buckets, candles and matchbox. He counted his own buckets and was delighted that he had over thirty, a lot more than what Bhashitha had.

"I should make sure that Bhashitha and all of our other neighbours see my buckets!" thought Thenul, tying a long piece of wire between two trees. "I must show everyone that I have more buckets!" he said to himself while tying the wire as high as he could. "You can't hang such a lot on that wire!" warned his grandfather who came out, "hang only a few!" "Oh I'll find space somehow!" thought Thenul ignoring his grandfather's advice.

Thenul lit the candles and fixed them inside the buckets carefully and hung them one by one in a row. After hanging about half of them, he realized that there wasn't much space left. So he started to hang the remaining ones in-between. "Don't hang them so close to one another!" said Thenul's grandfather but Thenul didn't listen. "I won't leave out even one!" he thought stubbornly.

Once he had hung them all on the wire, Thenul went out and looked at his garden from the road. The buckets were visible to everyone going on the road. He then looked at Bhashitha's garden. The buckets there were not so visible. Thenul felt happy. "Well, I got more than him and mine are more visible!"



he thought proudly. "Bhashitha's garden doesn't even come anywhere close to mine!"

"I am going to get ready to go to the temple!" said Thenul's grandfather. "I plucked a bag full of white flowers too! Quickly get dressed now!" "Give me a minute!" said Thenul who was still comparing his buckets with his neighbours. The line of buckets gently swayed in the soft breeze. "Our garden looks so much better than Bhashitha's!" smiled Thenul.

Suddenly a big gust of wind blew out of nowhere. The line of buckets shook hard. The candle in one bucket tilted and the bucket caught fire. Because the buckets were hanging very close to one another, it didn't take long for the buckets to catch fire one by one. Thenul didn't know what to do. So he ran inside shouting to his grandfather for help.

Thenul's grandfather was in the backyard near the well. "Seeya, Seeya, come quickly!" shouted Thenul. By the time his grandfather walked to the front area of the garden, the entire line of buckets were on fire. "I told you not to hang so many!" said Thenul's grandfather and the boy stared at them with tear-filled eyes. "I just wanted to have more buckets than Bhashitha!" he sobbed.

"Vesak is not a competition about who has the best decorations, putha," said Thenul's grandfather. "These decorations should remind us that nothing remains permanent in this world!" The buckets were all burnt and their garden was in darkness again. Thenul felt very sad and ashamed,

while regretting his own behaviour.

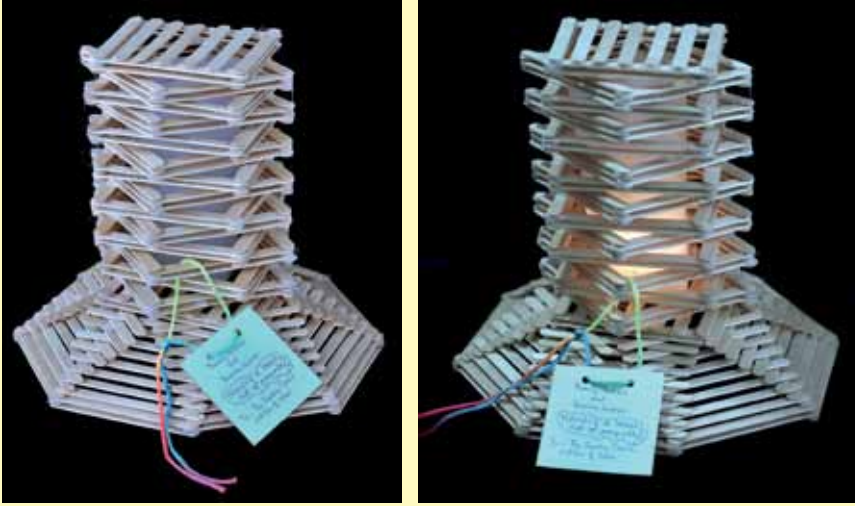
Bhashitha came near the fence. "Did all of your buckets get burnt?" he asked Thenul. Thenul nodded his head thinking Bhashitha will laugh at him. But Bhashitha held out a few buckets over the fence. "Here, take and hang these. These are the additional ones I had!" "So you had more buckets? Why didn't you hang them all?" asked Thenul.

"I just hung enough according to the space we have in our small garden," smiled Bhashitha. Thenul thanked him and took the buckets thinking how silly he was to try and compete with Bhashitha. He lit the buckets and hung them on the branches. This time he was not interested in showing-off or competing with anyone. His garden turned bright immediately just like his mood.

"Did you go to the temple?" asked Thenul. "Not yet!" replied Bhashitha. "Do you have any flowers?" asked Thenul again. "No, because our garden is too small and we don't have many plants," replied Bhashitha. "Wait a minute!" said Thenul and ran inside the house. "Seeya, can we give some flowers to Bhashitha to offer at the temple?"

Thenul's grandfather smiled. "Of course, we have a bag full. I collected a lot, so we can share them with others. Put a small amount in our basket and give him the rest. Then his whole family will have enough flowers, to take to the temple!" Thenul shared the flowers with Bhashitha. "You can join us to go to the temple, if you like," said Thenul. "Of course, we'll join you," smiled Bhashitha.

Thenul looked at both of their gardens, looking so vibrant and bright with Vesak buckets of different colours. The candle flames inside the buckets flickered gently for the soft breeze. There was no competition or jealousy anymore. There was no selfish feeling of ownership. The boy smiled, feeling a sense of peace and satisfaction, as a big smile spread across his face.



Thank you Ruzaiq and Ruzaina Junkeer for the elegant Vesak lantern you have made for us.



'Making Vesak lanterns'

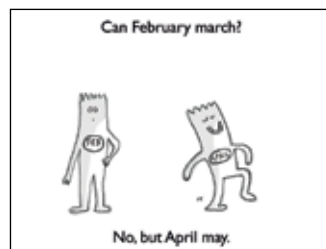
Pic. by Nilan Maligaspe



Celebrating Vesak at Saliyawewa

Pic. by Jayarathna Wikramaarachchi

Jokes



World Oceans Day

CELEBRATING OCEANS DAY WITH THE POWER OF ART

ART THEMES

'Threats to Oceanic Species'

'Into the Deep Blue'

Submit an Artwork of your Image on bit.ly/WODART24

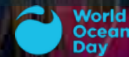


Hand Painting | Digital Painting | Digital Image

Rules on Submission:

pearlprotectors.org/world-oceans-day-through-art-guidelines

Submissions are open under [School] & [Open] categories. Deadline for Submission is on 4th June 2024



World Oceans Day Competition

Pearl Protectors have once again decided to celebrate the oceans through the power of art. In this way, people of all ages have the opportunity to actively participate in the World Oceans Day celebrations.

The submitted artwork will be divided into two categories: Open Category and School Category. The main themes of the competition are; 'Threats to Our Species' and 'Into the Deep'. Participants can upload their artwork online at pearlprotectors.org.

On June 8, the winners in both categories will be highlighted on the website and other selected works will be published. In addition, all the winning artwork will be displayed at the One Galle Face Mall during Oceans Day celebrations on June 8 – 9.

Winners will be selected through a four-member panel of judges and the top 30 winners will be awarded prizes on the second day of World Oceans Day celebrations at One Galle Face Mall.



Henry Dunant

Henry Dunant was a joint recipient of the first ever Nobel Peace Prize, founder of the International Red Cross and a key proponent of the Geneva Conventions.

Who was Henry Dunant?



Henry Dunant was born in Geneva in 1828 to devout middle class parents, committed to helping those less fortunate than themselves. Passing these values to their son, young Henry grew up involved in religious activities (including working for the YMCA) before taking up an apprenticeship in a bank when he was 21.

In his twenties he travelled abroad with a company attempting to settle Swiss nationals in Algeria.

During his trip he wrote his first book which featured his travel observations, though one chapter stuck out – a meditation on slavery.

Following his travels he decided to start a business trading and growing corn in the colonies, and was assigned land in Algeria. But his endeavours floundered when it came to accessing rights to water, so he decided to march his problems all the way to Napoleon III, despite the emperor being on the frontline of the battle to force the Austrians out of Italy.

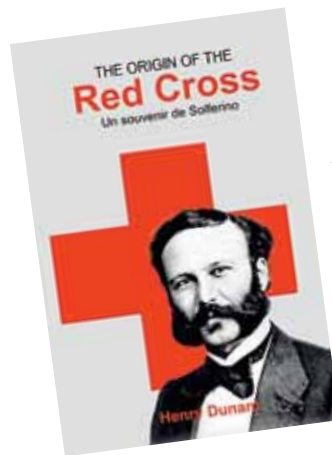
A turning point

Dunant took his case to Napoleon's headquarters in Italy but arrived only to encounter the aftermath of the bloody Battle of Solferino; refusing to remain a witness to the despair Dunant attempted to provide aid to those who desperately needed it.

Thousands died, tens of thousands were wounded, and at 31, the chaos and brutality of conflict proved an awakening for Dunant. Three years later he published his second book 'A Memory of Solferino', not just a reflection on the nightmare he'd witnessed but a plan, the beginnings of the International Red Cross. He suggested that all the nations in the world should create 'relief societies' to give care to those in war. They should be staffed by trained volunteers and governed by the nation's leading figures.

A year later the Geneva Society of Public Welfare appointed Dunant and several others to investigate making his plan a reality. They called for a conference of as many countries as possible and Dunant began to travel once more, seeking promises from governments to send representatives.

In October 1863 he and his companions' efforts were rewarded with a conference featuring 39 representations from 16 nations – with 12 eventually signing a treaty commonly known as the Geneva Conventions.



The Origin of the Red Cross: "Un souvenir de Solferino" by Henry Dunant



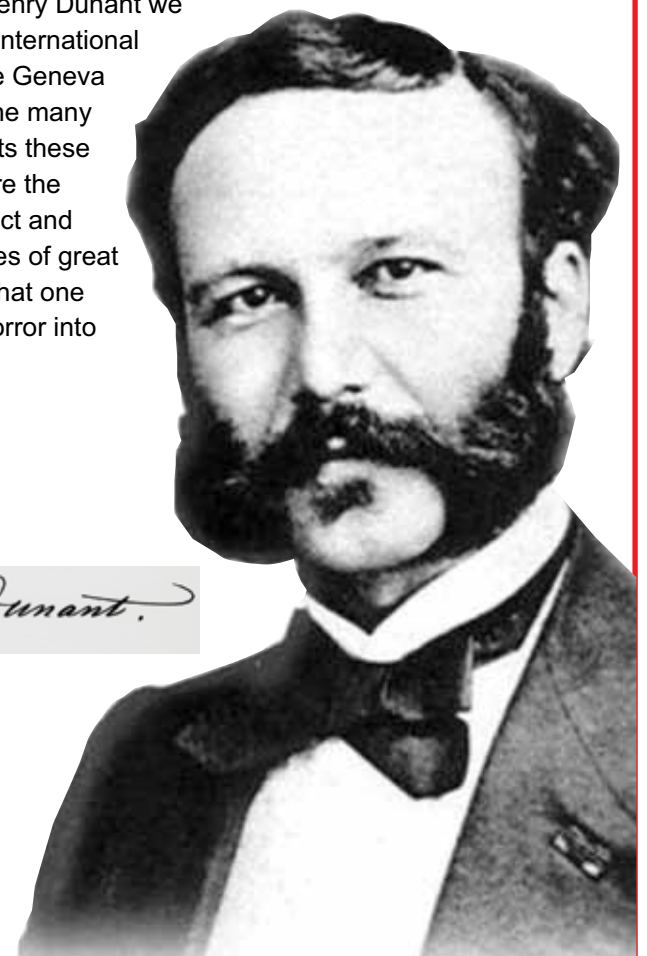
This promised that medical staff would be considered politically neutral and nations would send supplies to them in times of crisis. Its symbol? A red cross on a white background.

Dunant's legacy

This young man from Geneva had achieved something remarkable: he had united countries in a common goal. But despite his achievements he did not prosper – his commercial project (developing the land he'd been granted) failed, he ended up bankrupt and alone: cast out from Genevan society and living in a hospice due to illness. Humanity seemed to have forgotten to thank its champion.

Only later was he discovered by a teacher in the Swiss village he had settled in. And over several years was he finally recognised, receiving rewards and the first ever Nobel Peace prize jointly with pacifist Frederic Passy in 1901. Yet he remained in the hospice for the rest of his life, spending none of his prize money and leaving it all to humanitarian causes when he died in 1910.

It's thanks to Henry Dunant we have not only the International Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions but the many humanitarian efforts these inspired – these are the systems that protect and preserve us in times of great crisis. He proved that one person can turn horror into hope.



Henry Dunant.

Source: Future Learn

Special D-Day anniversary coin revealed

May 20, 2024

An official UK coin marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings has been released.

D-Day was on June 6, 1944 and marked the start of an operation named Overlord in which Britain, the US and other allies invaded Europe to try and free people from Nazi occupation.

D-Day was a very important moment during the Second World War.

The 50p coin shows Allied soldiers getting off a landing craft on the beaches of Normandy in France.

Designed by artist David Lawrence, with support from Imperial War Museums, the coin is also inscribed “D-DAY 6 JUNE 1944 UTAH OMAHA



The coin has been designed by David Lawrence and with support from Imperial War Museums

GOLD JUNO SWORD”.

Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword were the code names given to the five beaches across a 50-mile stretch along the coast of Normandy, France, that formed part of the operation.

To celebrate the release of the coin, sand artist Jehan-Benjamin Tarain recreated the design on ‘Gold’ beach, where nearly 25,000 men of the British 50th Division landed on June 6, 1944.

The recreation took 5 hours and 30 minutes and is 35 metres across in diameter - that’s four times as long as a London bus.

Rebecca Morgan, Director of Commemorative Coin at the Royal Mint, said:

“Coins have long served as reminders of pivotal moments

in history.

We are proud to unveil this tribute to the courage and resilience of British and Allied troops eight decades ago, which will serve as a permanent reminder of their sacrifices and bravery.”



The design has been recreated on ‘Gold’ beach where many of the troops landed



Sand artist Jehan-Benjamin Tarain spent 5 and a half hours recreating the design on Gold beach

Blue Origin: Record broken for oldest person to go to space

May 20, 2024

Blue Origin - a space tourism project by Amazon owner Jeff Bezos, has sent six people up just past the edge of space.

The last time Blue Origin tried to launch, in 2022, the mission failed but this time it was a success and everyone made it back down safely.

One of the passengers made history by becoming the oldest person to travel to space.

Ed Dwight, who is 90, described the experience as “life changing.”

What is space tourism?

Space tourism is the term for people

paying to get a trip into space.

There are several different companies trying to send people to space on tourist trips - including Jeff Bezos’ Blue Origin.

Flying up into space costs a lot of money, so the price of a ticket is very expensive.

A lot of the space missions we hear about, like Artemis, are funded by governments or space agencies, like Nasa and the ESA.

There’s also commercial space exploration - like SpaceX - which is owned by Elon Musk.

What happened on Blue Origin?

The rocket launched into the sky on Sunday 19 May.



Ed Dwight is the oldest person to go to the edge of space

The trip only lasted around 10 minutes. It went up just past the edge of space, and then came back to land safely on Earth.

People on board got to look back at the curve of the Earth and experience floating about inside the craft.

Source : CBBC Newsround

May 21

News in Pictures



Tabriz, Iran
People at a funeral ceremony reach out to touch pictures of the late president Ebrahim Raisi and other ministers who died with him in a helicopter crash.



Washington DC, US
Zion Schrode greets Joe Biden at a gathering to mark Jewish American Heritage Month in the White House rose garden.



Hollywood, California
Jennifer Lopez attends Netflix's premiere of Atlas at the Egyptian Theatre.

Shimonoseki, Japan
Hideki Tokoro, the president of the whaling company Kyodo Senpaku, boards Japan's new whaling mothership at its launch.



El Rocío, Spain
People pay homage to the Virgen del Rocío at a yearly religious pilgrimage. Every spring, thousands of devotees gather at the shrine.



Reuters
Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te and new Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim take part in the inauguration ceremony outside the Presidential office building in Taipei, Taiwan.

May 20



London, UK
Chelsea pensioners, who are the iconic faces of the veteran community, pose with a display by Harkness Roses at the Chelsea flower show. The gardening exhibition runs from 21 to 25 May at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Pingtang Island, China
A woman poses for a photo while visiting a scenic spot called 68 Nautical Miles, the closest point in China to Taiwan's main island, in Fujian province.



Lucerne, Switzerland
Men's single sculls, during the last qualifying regattas for the Paris Olympics and Paralympics 2024, before the World Rowing Cup.

Source : The Guardian