

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
MAY 25, 2025



FUN DAY

TIMES



At STC Prep Carnival

Pic. by Eshan Fernando



**ANNIVERSARY
COMPETITIONS**

PAGE 3



FAMOUS PEOPLE

PAGE 4

ONLINE

REPORTS

PAGE 6

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8

Follow us on
www.fundaytimes.lk

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 Number 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:

June 11, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



STC Prep Carnival

It was an evening of fun and entertainment aplenty as S. Thomas' Preparatory School held their 'Prep Carnival' at the school grounds on May 17, 2025. Students, old boys, families and friends came together despite the gathering rain clouds, to celebrate and support their school.

Pix by Eshan Fernando



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Competitions
- **Page 6** – Young Reporters
- **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.

LUMALA Crossword No. 7 WINNER



Joash Peiris, the winner of Lumala Crossword No. 7 collected his bicycle from the Lumala Showroom recently.

School visits to Lumala Bicycle Factory

Ever dreamed of your own Lumala bike? Come see how it's made from sparks to spokes! School visits to the Lumala bike factory are now open. It's exciting, educational and full of inspiration!

Just share this contact with your school principal or headmaster to help make your dream ride a reality:

Tel +94771088635/

corporatesales@lumala.lk



25th Anniversary

Funday Times turns 25 years in August this year. To celebrate this milestone we are planning a grand competition in four segments, Essay, Art, Poetry and Photography, for our young readers.
We thank you all for being with us through the years and hope you continue through the coming years as well.



Essay Competition

Age Group: 9 years and below

Topic: Reading as a hobby

Word Count: 150 – 200

Age Group: 10 – 12 years

Topic: Benefits of reading

Word Count: 200 – 250

Age Group: 13 – 15 years

Topic: What you find interesting in newspapers

Word Count: 250 – 300

Poetry Competition

Age Groups: 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years

Entries for Poetry Competition could be sent on **any topic of your choice**. The topic should be clearly stated on your entry.

Word Count: 100 – 150



Photography Competition

Age Groups: 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years

Topic: Nature and the Environment

Art Competition

Age Groups: 4 – 9 years, 10 – 12 years and 13 – 15 years

Topic: An interesting event

Art should be sent on A4 Paper

You could use any art medium such as paint, crayons etc.



Closing Date: July 1, 2025



or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Entries for all competitions should include your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School.

All entries should be certified by a parent or teacher as your own original work.
Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!

Prize Sponsors



For the 6th consecutive year, The Pearl Protectors celebrates World Oceans Day through hosting an competition embracing this year's global theme 'Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us' through our poignant local lens: 'Ocean in Agony.'

We call upon artists, dreamers and ocean advocates of all ages to channel their creativity into powerful visual stories exploring this year's compelling themes: 'Agony of a Whale' and 'Gentle Giants of the Ocean.'

Submissions are now open in both Open and School categories. Interested individuals can submit the artwork (bit.ly/WODART25) before June 3, 2025.

A distinguished panel of judges comprising ocean artists and marine biologists will select the top 30 artworks. Winning submissions will be on display at Colombo City Centre with prizes handed over on June 8th. All submissions will be on exhibit online from June 20th onwards.

For full guidelines and submission details, visit www.pearlprotectors.org



CELEBRATING OCEANS DAY WITH THE POWER OF ART

ART THEMES
'Whale in Agony'
'Gentle Giants of the Ocean'

Submit an Artwork of your Image on bit.ly/WODART25



World Oceans Day

Hand Painting | Digital Art | Digital Image

Rules on Submission:
pearlprotectors.org/world-oceans-day-through-art-guidelines

Submissions are open under [School] & [Open] categories. Deadline for Submission in on 3rd June 2025

Colombo City Centre | The Pearl Protectors | World Ocean Day



Catherine the Great



Catherine II was the Empress of Russia from 1762 to 1796. She is one of the most famous monarchs in history. Better known as Catherine the Great, she expanded Russia's territory and reorganized its laws and administration.

Her reign also saw great developments in architecture, communications, culture and trade.



▲ **Young Catherine soon after her arrival in Russia.**

Early Life

Catherine's original name was Sophie Friederike Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst. She was born on May 2, 1729, to a German prince at Stettin, Prussia (now Szczecin, Poland).

When Sophie was 14 she was chosen to be the wife of a young Russian noble named Peter. He was the heir to the Russian throne. Sophie was received into the Russian Orthodox church and rechristened Catherine — Ekaterina in Russian. Peter and Catherine were married in 1745. Catherine was bored and unhappy during her marriage because Peter was a rebellious and stubborn youth. Her first child, who later became Tsar Paul I, was born in 1754. In 1757 she had a daughter, Anne, who died in 1758. Another son, Alexei, was born in 1762.



▲ **Catherine the Great poses with her husband Peter III and son Paul I.**

Rise to the Throne

When the Russian empress Elizabeth died in December 1761, Peter became Tsar Peter III. His childish behaviour and his preference for German ways made him very unpopular.

Catherine, however, gained many supporters by showing her love of Russia. She also accepted Russian customs as her own. She was admired as one of the most cultured persons in Russia. Therefore, it was not difficult for Catherine to overthrow her husband and become empress. She had the support of the army, the court and the public.

On July 9, 1762, she proclaimed herself Empress. Peter III gave up the throne, and eight days later he was assassinated.

Reign

Catherine dreamed of conquering the Muslim Turks of the Ottoman Empire. She wanted to take over their lands and establish a great Orthodox Christian empire centered on the city of Constantinople in what is now Turkey. During Catherine's reign Russia fought two wars with the Ottoman Empire, from 1768 to 1774 and from 1787 to 1792. Russia won part of the northern Black Sea coast, the Crimean peninsula and navigation rights in Turkish waters.

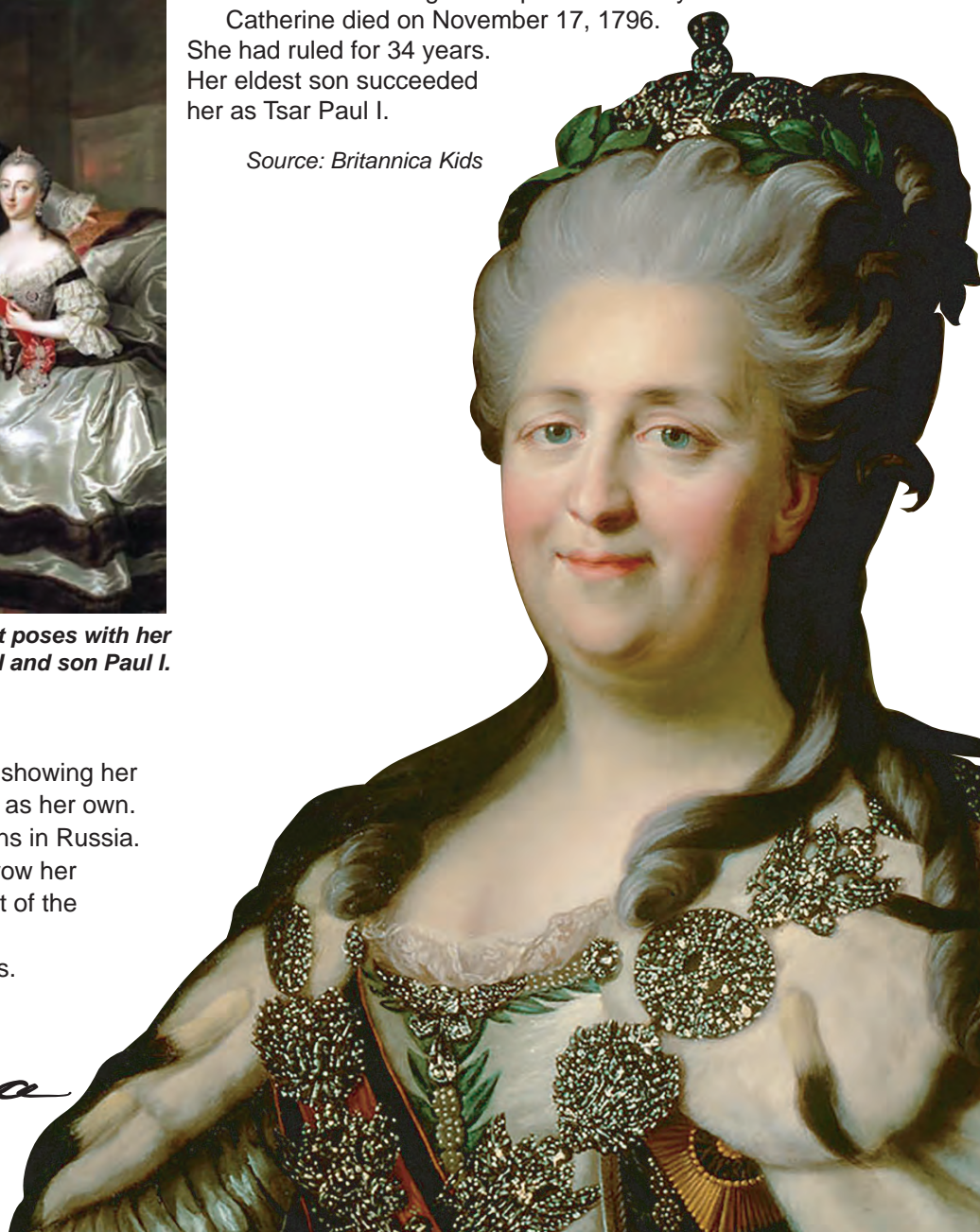
Over the years, Russia also took over parts of other countries. By the end of Catherine's reign Russia had expanded westward and southward over an area of more than 200,000 square miles (520,000 square kilometres).

Catherine wanted to be a progressive ruler. She encouraged book publishing, journalism, architecture and theatre in Russia. She sponsored the first school for girls in Russia and also established a system of elementary schools.

Catherine invested money in many other projects as well. More than a hundred new towns were built and old ones were expanded and renovated. Trade and communications developed. These achievements, combined with military glory, have won her a distinguished place in history.

Catherine died on November 17, 1796. She had ruled for 34 years. Her eldest son succeeded her as Tsar Paul I.

Source: Britannica Kids



Empress

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My mother

Win: Three Cheers Secret Seven by Enid Blyton

When Peter and Jack go looking for their lost model aeroplane in an old abandoned house, they find a surprise. Who is living there and why?



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

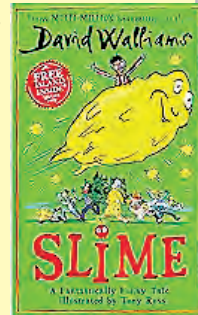
Topic: Vesak sightseeing

Win: Slime by David Walliams

Slime by David Walliams is a hilarious and heart warming children's book that combines the author's signature humour with a story of courage, adventure and self-discovery.

Set in a magical world full of quirky characters, the story follows Gwendolyn, a young girl who embarks on an unexpected journey of transformation and empowerment.

The novel takes place in a land where Slime is a source of magical and mischievous power.



Age: 13 – 15 years

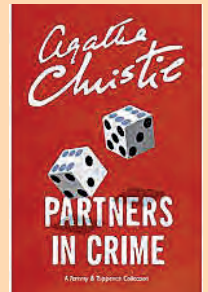
Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: The significance of Vesak

Win: Partners in Crime by Agatha Christie

Tommy and Tuppence Beresford are restless for adventure, so when they are asked to take over Blunt's International Detective Agency, they leap at the chance.

The first case is a success – the triumphant recovery of a pink pearl. Other cases soon follow. But can they live up to their slogan, 'Any case solved in 24 hours'?



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



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

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Hi Kids,

Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR



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



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval:

Date:

From our Funday Times Young Reporters

Sapphire Gem of the Forest

The Cerulean Warbler is a fascinating bird known for its striking appearance. Males are sky blue with white wing bars and streaked sides, while females are bluish green with a slight yellow sash below and no streaking. This small songbird thrives in mature deciduous forests. It prefers to hunt in the upper canopy of trees. This bird primarily feeds on insects like caterpillars, beetles and flies.



The Cerulean Warbler produces a high-pitched whistling sound, making it more unique to bird-watchers. Their nests are located high in trees, in the shape of a cup. They lay 3 – 5 eggs per clutch and have an incubation period of about 12 days. Both parents are involved in caring for the young.

Unfortunately, the species faces significant threats, including habitat loss and deforestation, and habitat fragmentation, causing a decline in its population.

Migration is an important factor that impacts the life of Cerulean Warblers as they undertake a long



distance journey to their wintering grounds.

Conservation and restoration of forests are vital to ensure the bird's future. Raising awareness about the Cerulean Warbler and its conservation needs is essential for protecting the species and the eco-system it inhabits.

Yusuf-ul-Haq (Grade 8)
Matale Int. School

Dragons - astonishing mythical creatures

Powerful, exciting, mysterious – dragons are fascinating creatures. They are believed in for different things in different regions of the world.

For example, in the High Middle Ages, dragons were thought of as winged, horned and also able to breathe fire, a common feature we all love about dragons.

Meanwhile, dragons in Eastern cultures are depicted as wingless, four-legged creatures with high intelligence.

These awe-inspiring mythical creatures often appear in stories –



e.g. 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell, 'Wings of Fire' by Tui T. Sutherland (both my favourites), 'Dragonflight' by Anne McCaffrey and many more.

Did you know that the word 'dragon' entered this world in the 13th century from the Old French word dragon, which came from the Latin word draco which means "huge serpent"?

Appreciate a Dragon Day is held every January 16th to celebrate these massive, winged beasts. Wow – dragons are pretty popular! This day was founded by Donita K. Paul in 2004, who established

Here are some more amazing facts about dragons...

- ♦ Dragon teeth are believed to bring good luck.
- ♦ Dragon 'babies' are also known as dragonets.
- ♦ Dragon eggs are magical.
- ♦ Chinese culture features dragons. They are seen in festivals, believed to be symbols of power, luck and kindness, are part of a dance, and are one of the 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac.
- ♦ The King James translation of the Bible mentions dragons, about 35 times!



it to promote the release of her book 'DragonSpell', the first of a five-book series.

Dragons are incredible creatures that appear in many of the creative aspects of our lives.

Join in the fun! Let's celebrate these vast, legendary mythical creatures.

Sanuthi Saveithma (11 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo 7

Amazing photo of a 'space rainbow'

May 19, 2025

NASA has released a picture of a rainbow in space!

The image was created by putting together photos taken by three instruments from their newly-launched PUNCH mission.

It's the first rainbow-coloured view of the sky to be taken by the US space agency.

The expedition is hoping to reveal new details about how the Sun's corona moves through the solar system as the solar wind.

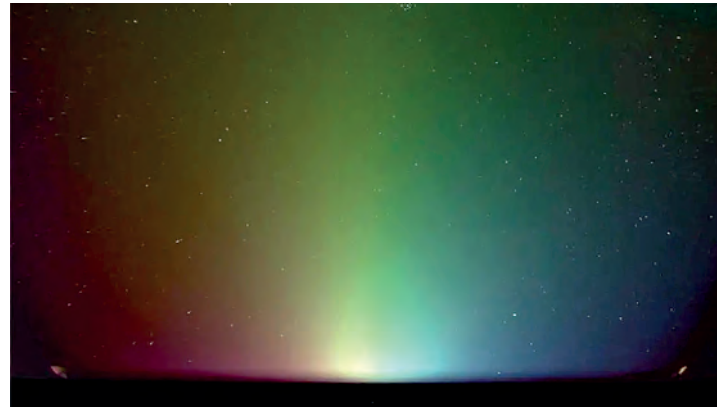
What's happened?

PUNCH is the first mission designed to measure the corona and solar wind in 3D, by studying the direction light travels.

Last month, a camera on board one of the four satellites which make up PUNCH took three images in succession to create the multi-coloured view.

The image shows the faint glow from dust orbiting the Sun.

The different colours represent the different strengths and directions of



A picture of a rainbow in space.

light and the finished picture gives scientists new information on the movement of solar wind.

According to NASA, these early images also help the mission team confirm that PUNCH's cameras are working properly.

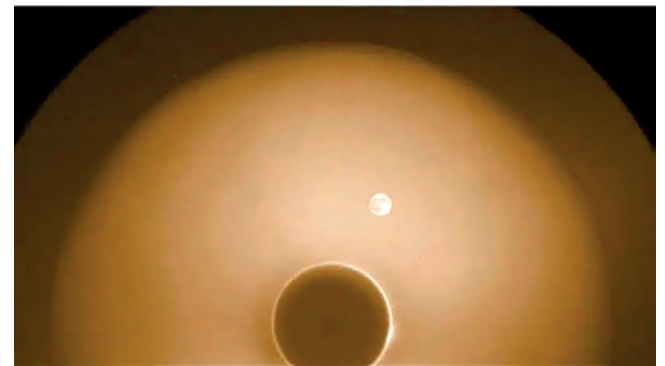
What is NASA's PUNCH mission?

NASA's Punch mission is made up of four small satellites which are in low Earth orbit, observing the Sun and its environment.

According to the US Space Agency, the plan is for them to make a global 3D picture of the entire inner heliosphere - that's the protective bubble of particles and magnetic fields created by the Sun which surrounds the planets and the Kuiper Belt.

By doing this, NASA hope to find out more about how the Sun's outermost layer of its atmosphere - called the corona - becomes the solar wind.

The mission was launched in March 2025 and is expected to last around two years.



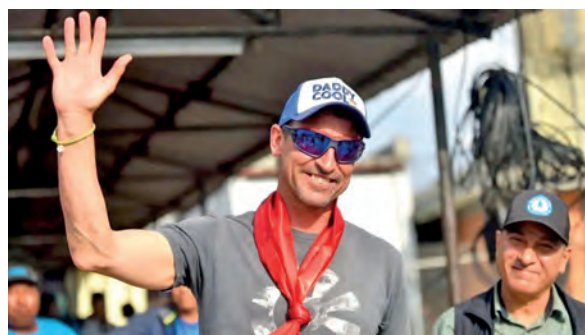
Another picture released from the same NASA mission shows the new Moon as it passes by the Sun.

British Mount Everest climber breaks his record

May 19, 2025

A British climber has broken a record for climbing the world's tallest mountain.

Kenton Cool scaled Mount Everest for the 19th time, breaking his own record for the most climbs up the world's tallest mountain for a non-sherpa.



Kenton Cool (yep that is his real name) has broken his own mountain climbing record.

who is a mountain guide working in the Everest area.

The world record for the most number of Everest summits, belongs to 55-year-old Nepali sherpa, Kami Rita.

His record stands at a whopping 30 summits, but that could soon change, as he is currently back on the mountain attempting to beat his own record with another climb.

Record-breaking climbs up Mount Everest

Kenton Cool first scaled Mt. Everest in 2004 and since then, he has climbed the mountain almost every year.

Four days before his latest climb, Mr. Cool wrote on his social media account that he "finally [had] a positive forecast" for the weather, that would allow him to go ahead with the climb attempt.

"Let's hope that we manage to thread the needle with regard to numbers of climbers and we have a safe and enjoyable time up high," he wrote.



Around 800 people attempt to climb Mount Everest each year, but it is very dangerous and requires lots of training.

51-year-old Kenton and Nepali sherpa Dorji Gyaljen reached the 8,849 m high summit at 11:00 local time (04:15 GMT) on Sunday May 18, 2025.

Sherpa is the name of a local ethnic group of people who live in the mountains of Nepal, in central Asia, and sherpa is also used to describe someone

May 20

News in Pictures



London, UK

Japanese garden designer Kazuyuki Ishihara celebrates in his garden, 'Cha no Niwa - Japanese Tea Garden' after winning the RHS Chelsea Garden of the Year award at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.



Gaza City, Gaza Strip

Internally displaced Palestinians leave with their belongings after an evacuation order issued by the Israeli army. According to the UN, at least 1.9 million people across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including people who have been repeatedly displaced.



Tokyo, Japan

Pedestrians pass an art installation by French street artist James Colomina called 'The Briefcase', at Shibuya crossing. The display shows a red briefcase as a symbol of work and conformity, with arms, legs and a tie poking out on the ground to illustrate a 'salaryman' who has lost his identity, engulfed by his daily routine.



Washington DC, USA

Children raise their hands to ask White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt questions during a press briefing for the 'Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day' event, at the White House.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Fine art students perform a reenactment of Khmer Rouge killing fields' crimes to mark the annual Remembrance Day at the Choeung Ek genocide memorial.



East Flores, Indonesia

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupts as seen from Pululera village.



London, UK

Visitors attend the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

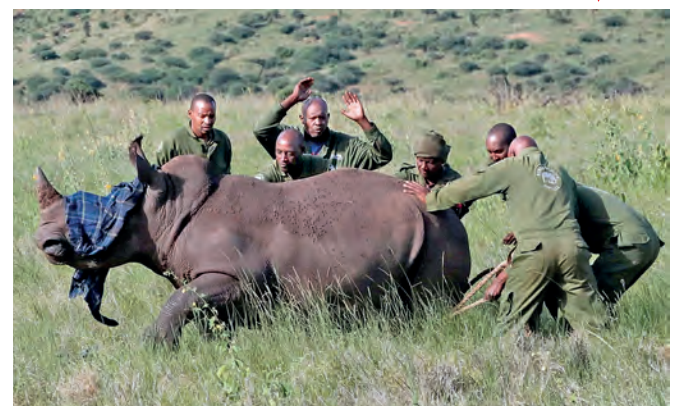
Kenyan rangers prepare to handle tranquilized Quintus, a three-year-old male white rhino, while carrying out a rhino ear-notching exercise on 40 sub-adult rhinos without existing marks. The work is aimed at improving individual identification and long-term monitoring of the species.

May 19



London, UK

Chelsea pensioner Peter Wilson poses with a floral installation of a punk sporting a mohawk hairstyle, made of pampas grass, tropical blooms and preserved leaves by Ricky Paul Flowers at the Chelsea Flower Show.



Sources: The Guardian & Reuters