Celebrating Poson

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

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In our online issue this week:

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.

Colour and Learn to Stay Safe

Young children have become a very vulnerable group regarding safety. Therefore, it is now timely that parents and children talk freely about how to stay safe.

A parent, teacher assisted colouring book, 'Say No' authored by Nandani Ranatunga and Mayanthie Jayasinghe, and produced with professional guidance, gives an opening for parents and teachers on how to talk with young children about complex issues such as body safety and staying safe.

This colouring book containing friendly visuals and simple text, hopes to empower children with knowledge and create awareness about their safety.

Available at Sarasavi Bookshops and all leading book stores in Colombo
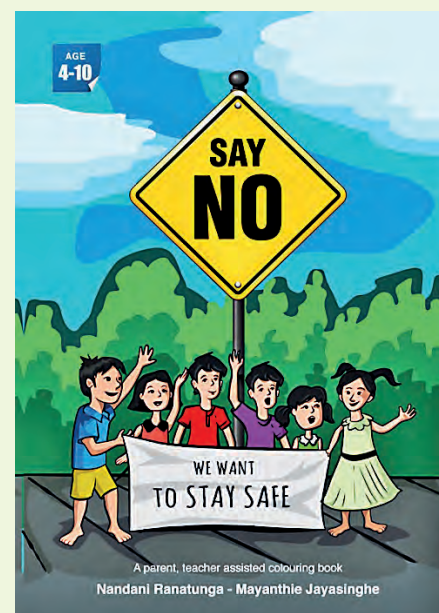
Poson 'Bathi Gee'

Poson *'Bathi Gee'* by little students of Vidura College, Kelaniya Branch was held on June 4, 2025.

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

FUNDAY TIMES

25th Anniversary

the **SUNDAY TIMES**

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.

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*

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

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 31, 2025

Mail to **FUNDAY TIMES** or
email *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.
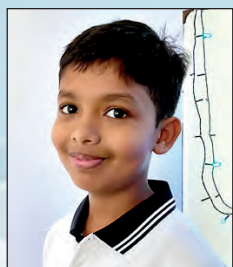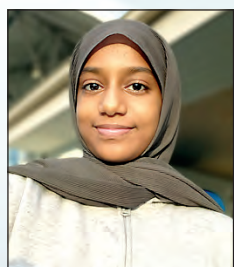Winners will be awarded attractive prizes!

Sponsors

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Happy Birthday

Bihandu Keerthisena
13 years on June 24

Yahya Rifkan
11 years on June 17

Nethuni Weerakoon
6 years on June 16

Aaisha Ashroff
13 years on June 15

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 of the child.

FROM THE EDITOR

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.

mail to **FUNDAY TIMES**
Or
email *fundaytimes1@gmail.com*

Vedic Mathematics

Vedic Mathematics is a collection of methods to solve numerical computations quickly, found initially by the Aryans in India. These methods were called 'sutras'. These computational sutras were compiled by Shri Bharathi Krishna Tirathji and were published in a book in 1957.

Let us consider a few techniques of numerical multiplications based on the basic sutras of Vedic Mathematics.

Multiplication of numbers closer to the power of 10

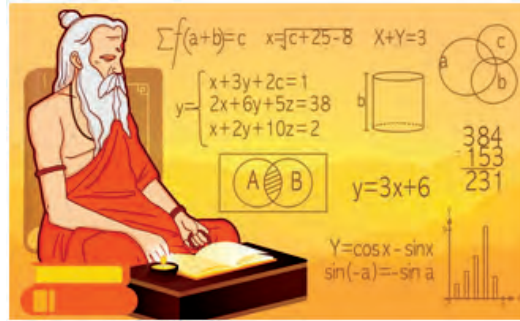Consider two numbers closer to 100 but less than 100.

Example 1: 94 X 97

Find the difference between the numbers from 100 and write them as follows;

94 ~ 06

97 ~ 03

Now multiply these differences, which make up the last two digits of the answer; 6 x 3 = 18

Now subtract the numbers diagonally.

Either 94 – 3 = 91 or 97 – 6 = 91, which are the first two digits of the answer.

Therefore, the final answer is 9118.

Example 2: 992 X 988

Subtract from 1000 and write the values.

992 ~ 008

988 ~ 012

The last three digits of the answer is the product of 8 and 12 = 096 (We write it as 096 as we are dealing with three-digit numbers).

Now subtract 992 – 012 (or 988 – 008). The result is 980.

Therefore, the final answer is 980096.

If the two numbers are greater than a power of 10, you can follow the same procedure except that you add the numbers in the second step rather than subtracting.
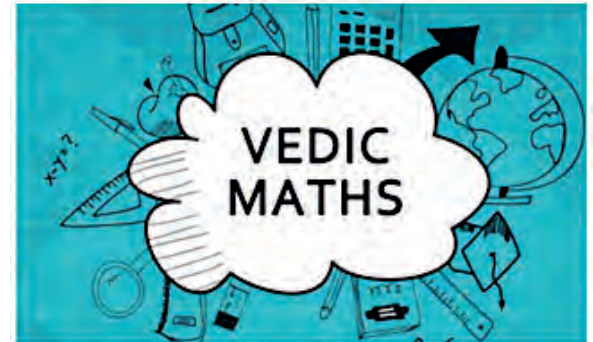
Example 3: 112 X 107

112 ~ 12

107 ~ 07

12 X 7 = 84 and therefore the last two digits are 84.

Now add either, 112 + 07 or 107 + 12. So, the first three digits are 119. The answer is 11984.

Now, try with your own examples.

Math Plot – 92

Try to find the solution to the following puzzle. You may send solutions with reasoning to *rnades@gmail.com* within the next three days. Please include your full name, date of birth, home address, contact details and the name of your school along with the solution.

How many triangles are there in the figure below?
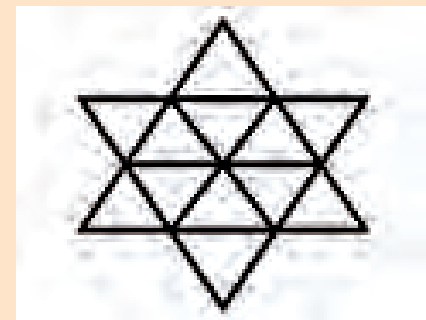
Math Plot 91 – Solution

The answer is 10.

The winner is **Methsarani Fernando** of **Hillwood College, Kandy.** Congratulations!

Rugrats

MY DADDY SAYS PENCILS HAVE ERASERS TO FIX MISTAKES.

WHAT'S A MISTAKE?

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT'S A PENCIL?

Robert Scott

Robert Falcon Scott was a British Navy officer who led an expedition to be the first to reach the South Pole. The attempt failed, and Scott and his team died on the return journey.

Scott's party at the South Pole.
Oates, Bowers, Scott, Wilson and Evans.

Early Life

Robert Falcon Scott was born in Devonport on June 6, 1868. During the 1880s and 1890s, he served in the Royal Navy. He proved he was a good scientist and leader. By 1897, he had been promoted to first lieutenant.

In 1901, the Royal Geographic Society appointed Scott as the leader of the National Antarctic Expedition, on HMS Discovery. This reached further south than any other expedition had before.

Expedition to the South Pole

In June 1910, Scott started out on his second Antarctic expedition. The aim of this expedition was to study unexplored parts of Antarctica and to reach the South Pole.

At about the same time, a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen also planned a trek to reach the pole.

Disappointment and Death

They trekked for 81 days and finally reached the pole on January 18, 1912. When they got there they found signs that Amundsen's team had beaten them by about a month.

Scott and his men turned back. It was more than 800 miles (1,300 kilometres) to their base. As they made the long trek back, two of the team died along the way. The other three men, including Scott, continued on but they were eventually trapped in their tents by a blizzard that raged for nine days. They died from starvation when they were only 11 miles (18 kilometres) from their base.

Later Honours

On November 12, 1912, a search party found the tent and the bodies. They also found Robert Scott's diary, which gave a full account of the journey.

Scott's widow was given a knighthood in his honour for his courage during the journey.

Source: Britannica Kids
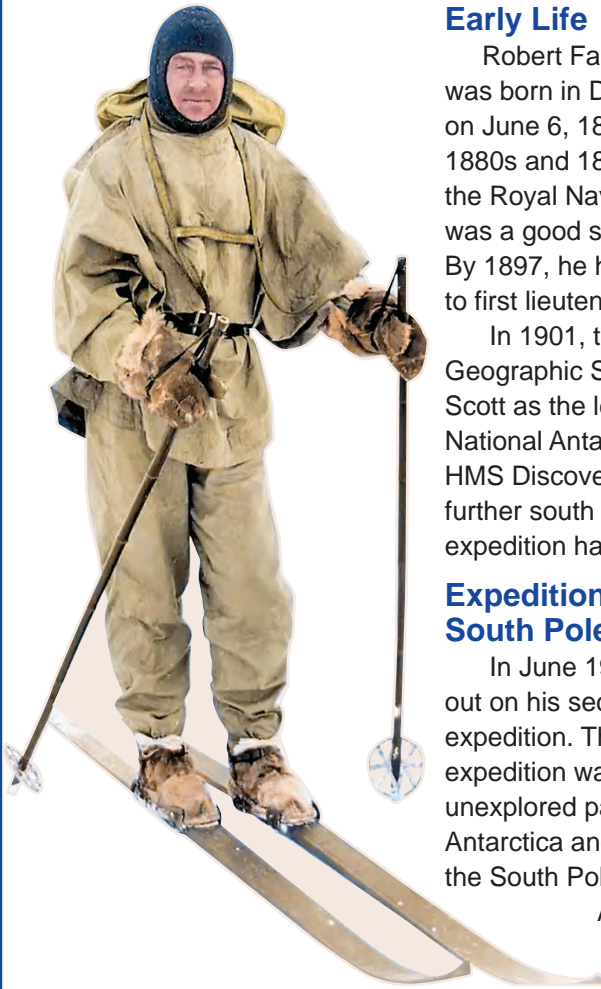
Scott's team hauling gear over the Beardmore Glacier.

Scott and his team took with them motor sledges, ponies and dogs on the part of the expedition that would take them overland to the pole.

They set out from Cape Evans, on the edge of the continent, on October 24, 1911.

It was not long before the motor sledges broke down. The ponies soon collapsed and the dogs had to be sent back. Several of the team went back with the dog teams, leaving only five men to carry on.

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

Scientists create Air-Powered Robot that walks and swims

When you think of a robot, you might picture something with a lot of sensors and stiff metal arms controlled by a computer. Robots are unique creations consisting of many complex structures combined with machinery, making them hard to create.

Yet, scientists from Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, continue to surprise the world with a simple, soft-bodied robot that is powered solely by air. The robot doesn't have a computer or a 'brain' but even so, it can walk and swim on its own.

How is this possible?

The scientists say the secret is in the science of how air moves. If you've seen a 'tube dancer' dancing, then you've seen the science that makes this robot work.

Tube dancers are tall, thin tubes of cloth that high-pressure air is pumped through. When the tube stands up, the air flows faster, making the pressure drop. This drop in pressure causes the tube to fall partway over. The drop makes the pumped air move more slowly, raising the pressure again. The pumped air gives high pressure, making the dancer stand up once more.

There are several remarkable things about the robot. The first is its speed. The robot can cover a distance equal to thirty of its body lengths in a second. That would be like the world's fastest man, Usain Bolt, running the 100-metre race in 1.71 seconds. (Bolt's unbroken record is 9.58 seconds).

The robot also adjusts automatically to its conditions. It can go over uneven ground. If it bumps into a wall, it then automatically turns.

Perhaps most surprising is the fact that if the robot is dropped into water, it begins moving in a new way that allows it to swim.

As the robot has no brain, the scientists say their new invention is just a machine. But it's a machine that can automatically do several complicated tasks that would normally require lots of very difficult programming for a robot. Almost all of the robot's skills are things that it does automatically.

The researchers say that in the future, they hope to develop new ways to control the robot and perhaps give it more skills. They also want to try to apply some of what they've learned to create other useful, simple machines that work automatically. One more project they are working on is an artificial heart.

Omalya Senarathne (13 years)
Lyceum Int. School, Nugegoda

Meet the UK's newest dog breed!

June 13, 2025

Calling all canine lovers – there's officially set to be a new dog in town!

The Hungarian Mudi has been recognised by The Kennel Club as the UK's newest dog breed. Experts say the dogs are very intelligent and can be recognised by their curly fur and ears that stick up.

According to the Kennel Club, references to Mudi-like dogs date back to the 18th century. However, it wasn't until 1936 that the breed was formally identified.

The herding dog breed originates from Hungary in Central Europe and is known for their intelligence and distinctive features – a curly coat, ears that stick up.

Dorit Powell from The Hungarian Mudi Club in the UK said that the dogs are very loving and loyal family members.

"Mudis love to please and work best with variation, patience, positive reinforcement. Most Mudis love water and will happily splash and swim," she added.

Mudis will become the 225th official breed of pedigree dog – the last breed to be recognised by the Kennel Club was the Icelandic Sheepdog earlier this year.

Source: CBBC Newsround

Emirates to launch new range of onboard kid's collectibles

June 17, 2025

Staying true to its family-friendly promise, Emirates is launching a full range of new toys and amenities for kids onboard this summer, ahead of the busy school holiday travel period when almost one million children are expected to fly better with Emirates.

The new kids' kits highlight the excitement and action of Emirates' impressive sponsorships portfolio supporting and celebrating football, tennis, basketball, sailing, golf, horse riding, cycling, cricket, rugby, music and literature. There are 12 collectible items available, in separate kits for 0 – 2 years, 3 – 6 years and 7 – 12 years.

As part of Emirates' commitment to consuming responsibly, the new children's range includes bags and plush toys that are made with a minimum of 50% recycled content, incorporating recycled post-consumer polyester and paper sourced from responsibly managed forests.

New additions to the Emirates 'Little Travellers' Collection

The Emirates Little Travellers Collection available at the Emirates Official Store is also celebrating sports, arts and travel with a new range of colourful caps, t-shirts, beach day lunch bags and water bottles, pencil cases, key-rings, colouring and sticker books, and wooden aircraft toys and figurines.

For kids and toddlers who like to play dress up, Emirates has a full Cabin Crew uniform or Pilots uniform, available for fans aged 1 – 10 years old, as well as Cabin Crew and Pilot onesies for babies aged up to 18 months.
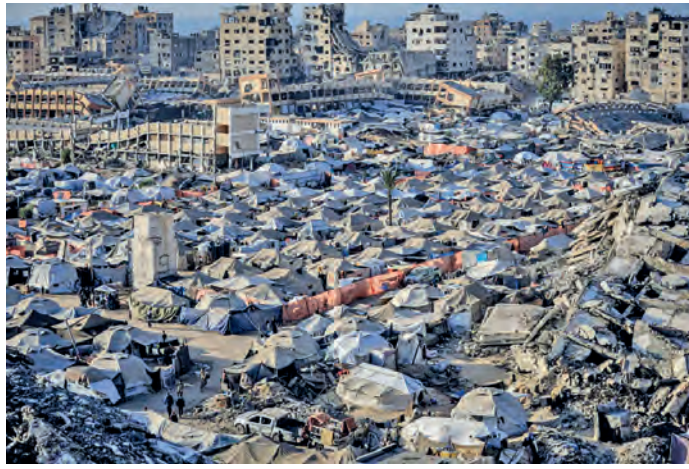
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News in Pictures

June 17

Gravelines, France
A group of migrants and asylum seekers are crammed onboard a dinghy heading for the UK.

Gaza City, Gaza
Makeshift tents house Palestinians deprived of shelter, food and clean water in al-Makusi.

June 16

London, UK
A preview screening of a new immersive experience, 'Our Story with David Attenborough' at the Natural History Museum.

Aarau, Switzerland
The peloton at the start of stage two of the 88th Tour de Suisse.

Tabriz, Iran
Satellite images show the Tabriz north missile base checkout buildings before and after they were hit by Israeli airstrikes.

Tel Aviv, Israel
The aftermath of an Iranian missile strike on a residential area.

Le Bourget, France
The aerobatic flying team *Patrouille de France* perform a flyover at the international Paris Air Show.

Sao Paulo, Brazil
A person wears a costume representing a cage with banknotes attached to it, as animal protection activists protest against the export of live animals, at Paulista Avenue, in Sao Paulo.

Florence, Italy
Men work to remove a crane that has stood in front of the Uffizi Gallery for almost 20 years.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters