

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
JUNE 29, 2025

# FUN DAY TIMES



**Storytelling in Jaffna**



**ANNIVERSARY  
COMPETITIONS**  
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**STORY**  
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**ONLINE**



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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 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:**

**July 16, 2025**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

**Email: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)**



**In our online issue  
this week:**

- **Page 5** – Young Reporter
- **Page 6** – Books
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- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the  
Funday Times website on  
[www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk)  
or check out the  
Sunday Times epaper on  
[www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk)  
for additional pages  
of this week's Funday Times.

## Storytelling at Jaffna British Council Library

Children aged 5 – 10 years listened to an interactive story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' related by British High Commissioner Andrew Patrick during a visit to Jaffna British Council Library.

They actively engaged in fun activities centred around the story and its characters. This engaging storytelling session sparked tales of wonder and excitement in their imagination, fostering a love for reading.



## Celebrating International Day of Yoga



**Youngsters at the International Yoga Day celebrations that were held  
at Independence Square in Colombo on June 21.**

**Pix by Akila Jayawardena**

**Rugrats**







# 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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

## 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.



## Photography Competition

**Age Groups:** 6 – 10 years and 11 – 15 years  
**Topic:** Nature and the Environment

**Closing Date:** July 31, 2025



or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto: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



# Happy Birthday



**Ahdaa Abdul Malik**  
7 years on July 3



**Abdur Rahman Irshad**  
12 years on July 1

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.

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



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**FROM THE EDITOR**



## There's a Time and Place for Everything!

By Manoshi De Silva

Kevin went to the supermarket with his mother and younger brother Shevin, to buy some groceries. Their mother made Shevin sit in the baby seat of the shopping cart. Then she went to select some fruits and vegetables.

"Amma, I'll go to the biscuit section with Malla," said Kevin pushing the shopping cart with his little brother in it, towards the biscuit aisle. "Now, don't be naughty! Be careful with Malla," shouted his mother but Kevin didn't stop to listen.

"Ayya, push faster," shouted Shevin so Kevin pushed the shopping cart while running as fast as he could. "Wheee..." screamed Shevin as Kevin giggled, "We are flying! We are flying!" The shopping cart knocked against an old lady who was choosing a packet of milk powder. She dropped the packet and stared at the children looking very annoyed.

"Children, please be careful," said the elderly lady, rubbing her hand which had been hit quite hard by the shopping cart. "This is not a play-ground!"

But Kevin didn't even stop to say sorry, or ask her if she was okay. He turned and pushed the shopping cart in the opposite direction, again as fast as he could.

The shopping cart slid through the aisles as Kevin pushed it. When it picked up speed Kevin kept one foot on it and hung on to the handle. Shevin was shouting and laughing.

"You two better stop that before you hurt someone or yourselves," shouted a gentleman who had to jump to a side with his shopping basket, trying to avoid the fast moving shopping cart.

The two boys laughed at him as if it was a joke. "People are just jealous because they can't do this," said Kevin. "Faster! Faster!" prompted Shevin. "We are in a racing-car going faster than lightning," shouted Kevin, "and no one can stop us!" The shopping cart went so fast that suddenly Kevin realized he couldn't stop it or slow down.

There was a huge pile of discounted canned goods placed in the middle



of the supermarket. The tins were stacked like a pyramid. The shopping cart headed straight towards it. Kevin panicked and tried to stop it by dragging his foot on the ground. But he had no control of it any more.

The shopping cart crashed into the tins. The tins got thrown all over, making a very loud noise. The shopping cart fell to a side along with Malla, and Kevin also fell down on top of some tins. The sound was like an explosion. Everyone at the supermarket came running to the scene.

It was not fun and games anymore. The little boy howled and cried, as he had been hit pretty badly. Kevin got up but he was also in pain. There were smashed tins scattered all around them. Kevin's mother came running and picked up Shevin to check if he was okay. Then she checked Kevin. They both had small scrapes and cuts.

"I told them this would happen," said the gentleman who had warned them earlier. The people around stared at the two boys and their mother in shock and displeasure. The children's mother looked worried and embarrassed at the same time. "You should have kept an eye on them or at least taught them how to behave in public places," blamed the elderly lady and everyone else nodded in agreement.

After she paid for the damaged tins and the other items, the children were taken by their mother to a nearby hospital. The small cuts and bruises on both of them were treated. Luckily the boys were not badly injured.

They came back home with their mother. "What have you got to say?" asked Kevin's mother looking very disappointed at him. "I told you several times not to be naughty and to look after Malla," reminded his mother. "And this is what happened!"

"I am so sorry, Amma," said Kevin, looking at the plasters on his little brother's hands and legs. "I am also so sorry that you got scolded by everyone and had to pay a fine for the

damaged tins. I should have listened to you and behaved well!" Kevin knew that his father would also be very unhappy when he heard about this. "I know I have been naughty before but this time I learned my lesson!"

"Putha, you must always be careful about your safety and also the safety of others. Malla or you could have been badly hurt. Or you could have hurt someone else badly," explained Kevin's mother. "When you are out at a place like a park, you can play freely. But you must understand that you can't behave in the same way, when you are at public places like supermarkets, religious places or hospitals!" Kevin nodded agreeing to what his mother said.

"There is a time and place for everything and you must always remember that! Also as Malla's big brother, you must think about his safety too, because he's still too small to understand," said Kevin's mother holding both children close. "When a naughty act causes bad results like this, it's not fun anymore, right?" she asked Kevin.

"I understand Amma. I love Malla a lot and don't want him to get hurt. I also don't want anyone else to get hurt. I shouldn't behave in a manner that makes people blame you and Thaththa for my naughty behaviour. I know I could have hurt Malla badly and even hurt myself or someone else. I will behave more responsibly in the future. I promise," said Kevin, giving both his mother and brother a hug.



From a Funday Times Young Reporter

## Maliyadeva students excel in International Stamp Competition

Students from both Maliyadeva Balika and Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala brought pride to their schools and the nation by achieving remarkable success in the One-Page Virtual Competition 2025 organized by the British Thematic Association (BTA), United Kingdom.

This globally recognized event encourages young philatelists to present creative and thematic one-page stamp exhibits, promoting artistic expression and storytelling through philately. Participants are evaluated based on originality, presentation and depth of theme.

The creative efforts of the participants were highly commendable. All the students demonstrated dedication, innovation and a keen interest in thematic philately, marking a proud moment for both schools.

A 'Thank You' note was also published in the BTA's official magazine, acknowledging the outstanding performance and creativity of the students from Maliyadeva.

The British Thematic Association (BTA) is an organization in the UK that supports collectors and exhibitors in the field of thematic philately. This practice involves collecting stamps, postcards and related materials based on specific themes — such as nature, technology, culture or history, encouraging both artistic and educational exploration.

This victory was the result of a collective effort across multiple levels of support. At the school level, sincere appreciation goes to the Principal of Maliyadeva College, Mr. W. M. C. K. Mahamithawa and the Teacher-in-

Charge of the Stamps Club, Mrs. Dushmantha Hewakodikara, whose guidance and encouragement were instrumental.

Equal gratitude is extended to the Principal of Maliyadeva Balika Vidyalaya, Mrs. Niroda Abeywickrama and the Teacher-in-Charge of their Stamps Club, Mrs. R. M. C. M. Rajaguru. Without their commitment, this success would not have been possible.

Heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Nandana Rodrigo and Mr. Kumara Gunarathna of the Ethugalpura Philatelic Club, whose continuous guidance, mentorship and encouragement played a central role in nurturing these young philatelists and helping them reach international standards.

Deep appreciation is also owed to Mr. Channa Munasinghe of the Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau, whose advice, expertise and unwavering support elevated this achievement from regional success to national recognition.

The achievements of these young philatelists underscores the importance of nurturing creativity and global engagement among students.

We extend our warmest congratulations to all participants



### Outstanding Achievements

#### Maliyadeva Balika Vidyalaya, Kurunegala:

R. S. Udukumbura – Winner in the Under 12 category  
W. M. O. P. Doratiyawa – Emerald Award  
M. P. Thenuri Navinma Keerthisena – Emerald Award

#### Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala:

W. M. S. A. B. Doratiyawa – Ruby Award  
S. R. Udukumbura – Emerald Award  
C. D. Udukumbura – Emerald Award  
M. P. Bihandu Sandil Keerthisena – Emerald Award

and wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

Thenuri Keerthisena  
Maliyadeva B. V., Kurunegala



## 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](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



## Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent's approval: ..... Date: .....



## 'To the Rescue of Olivia'

A children's book by Maleesha Gunawardana, 'To the Rescue of Olivia', is the inspiring story of a sea turtle who triumphs over injury and ignites a passion for ocean care.

The story draws from the real-life rescue of an Olive Ridley sea turtle (named Olivia), missing a flipper, who washed up on Wellawatte Beach in 2021.

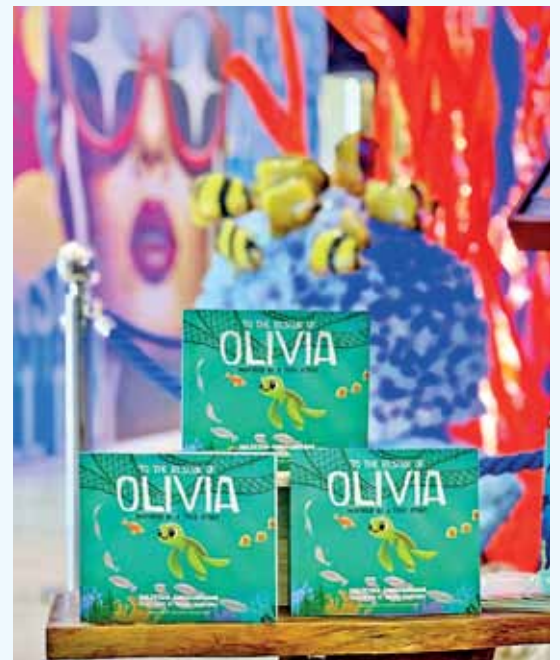
Volunteer efforts to help, highlighted the lack of preparedness for rescuing and rehabilitating injured marine wildlife in Sri Lanka.



Rescued Olivia

Maleesha Gunawardana, a dedicated marine conservation volunteer, environmental law graduate, and Founding Member and Advocacy Lead of The Pearl Protectors, hopes this book will nurture empathy, awareness and environmental responsibility in young readers.

Officially launched on June 7, 2025 during World Oceans Day celebrations held at Colombo City Centre, this educational book features vibrant illustrations by Thithali Tharushika and includes engaging facts about sea turtles and simple actions young readers can take to protect the ocean.



Published by The Pearl Protectors, a youth-led and volunteer-based marine conservation organisation in Sri Lanka, with funding support from the New Zealand High Commission, all proceeds from the book will directly support marine conservation and education efforts.

Collaborative plans are in place to seek medical assistance for the real Olivia and drive forward plans to establish a dedicated rehabilitation centre for injured sea turtles in Sri Lanka.

'To the Rescue of Olivia' is available for purchase through The Pearl Protectors and will soon be featured at select bookstores.



Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

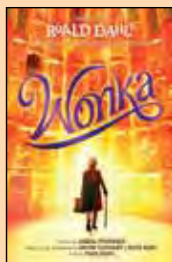
Word Count: 150

Topic: My father

Win: Wonka by Sibeal Pounder

Ever since he was a child, Willy Wonka dreamed of making chocolate and sharing it with the world...

This delicious tale of dreams, friendship and chocolate is based on the motion picture 'Wonka', directed by Paul King who created the story and wrote the screenplay with Simon Farnaby.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: The Festival of Posen

Win: Dork Diaries – Party Time by Rachel Renee Russell

When Nikki hears the rumour that Brandon is going to the Halloween Dance with Mackenzie, she makes other plans. But it's not true!

Can she go to the dance with Brandon, her friends... and help at her sister's party all on the same night?



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

Topic: Protecting our ocean

Win: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family attempt to flee the horrors of Nazi occupation.

Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in hiding.

Her diary remains the single most poignant true life story to emerge from the Second World War.



Or

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Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic



## ***'Wicked' and Jack Black among winners at Kids' Choice Awards***

June 23, 2025

**J**ack Black, Sabrina Carpenter and the film 'Wicked' were among the big winners at the 2025 Kids' Choice Awards.

The awards are handed out to the best performers across kids' TV, films, music and more.

5,000 gallons of the award's iconic green goo were blasted at the winners - that's nearly 19,000 litres of slime.



Jack Black said it "might be the best day of my life", as he was crowned the King of Comedy.

He also won Favourite Movie Actor for his role in 'A Minecraft Movie'.

'Moana 2' also scooped up two awards, with both Auli'i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson winning for their voice acting.

Favourite Movie Actress went to 'Wicked's' Ariana Grande, while the song 'Defying Gravity' won Favourite Song from a Movie.



**Jack Black was crowned King of Comedy.**

Staying in the music category, it was a great night for Sabrina Carpenter as she won her first ever Kids' Choice Award.

It wasn't just one win though. She also got Favourite Album, Favourite Song and Favourite Female Breakout Artist.

## ***Giant tortoise celebrates becoming a father... and turning 135!***

June 17, 2025

**A** Galapagos tortoise named Goliath celebrated his 135<sup>th</sup> birthday on Father's Day.

But reaching an impressive age isn't the only special event that's happened in his life recently.

Up until this year, the giant tortoise, which lives at Zoo Miami in Florida and weighs more than 230 kilograms, had never had any offspring of his own.

That all changed when one egg out of a group of eight hatched on June 4, making him a dad for the very first time.

It means his latest birthday also turned out to be his very first Father's Day.

The new baby tortoise is also a big deal as it's the first time in the history of Zoo Miami that a Galapagos tortoise has hatched.

Several species of giant tortoise are currently under threat and some have already gone extinct.

Goliath first came to the US in 1929, and was eventually brought to Zoo Miami in 1981.

Despite breeding with several females during his time at the zoo, Goliath had never successfully produced any offspring.

The new tortoise's mother, called Sweet Pea,



**Goliath has become a father for the very first time at 135!**

is thought to be between 85 and 100 years old.

Both Goliath and Sweet Pea are said to be doing well and the hatchling is being looked after in a separate enclosure.

"Goliath is my hero, and I am sure he will soon be an inspiration to many others!" Zoo Miami spokesman Ron Magill said in a statement.

"He is living proof that where there is a will, there is a way and to never give up!"



Source: CBBC Newsround



June 24

## News in Pictures



## Singapore

Gravity Industries showcase their jet suits during a demonstration at the Defence and Security Industry Day on Britain's HMS Prince of Wales aircraft carrier at Marina Bay Cruise Centre.



## Beersheba, Israel

Search and rescue efforts continue in the seven-storey building that partially collapsed after being hit by a ballistic missile fired from Iran shortly before the US President, Donald Trump, announced a ceasefire had been agreed.



## Beit Lahia, Palestinian Territories

Palestinians climb a vehicle as they gather to receive aid supplies in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Aliaga, Philippines

Devotees in the small farming village of Bibiclat celebrate the Feast of Saint John the Baptist while covered in banana leaves and mud. Known as the 'Taong Putik' (mud people), the ritual happens yearly in the small farming village of Aliaga.



June 23

## Venice, Italy

A large banner about Jeff Bezos is placed by activists from Greenpeace Italy and Everyone Hates Elon in St. Mark's Square, in advance of the expected wedding of the Amazon founder and Lauren Sánchez.



## Paris, France

'The Herds', in which life-size animal puppets fleeing climate breakdown have visited cities on a 12,400-mile (20,000 km) trip from Africa to the Arctic Circle, arrives in the French capital, with 100 puppeteers giving life to 40 animals. Their journey ends in Trondheim on July 30.



## Space

A small section of NSF-DOE Vera C Rubin observatory's total view of the Virgo cluster. Visible are two prominent spiral galaxies (lower right), three merging galaxies (upper right), several groups of distant galaxies and many stars in the Milky Way.



## Chios, Greece

Firemen work to extinguish a wildfire, fanned by strong winds, which led to evacuation messages near the village of Karyes on Chios Island in Greece.

## Rome, Italy

Pope Leo XIV presides over the Eucharist procession from the Basilica of St. John Lateran to the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore (Basilica of Saint Mary Major) to mark the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, in Rome.



Sources: The Guardian &amp; Reuters