

# FUN DAY TIMES



**Fun cooking at Summer Camp**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



## ANNIVERSARY COMPETITIONS

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## COMPETITIONS

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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 23, 2025**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Animals
- **Page 6** – Wimbledon 2025
- **Page 7** – Kids' News
- **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.

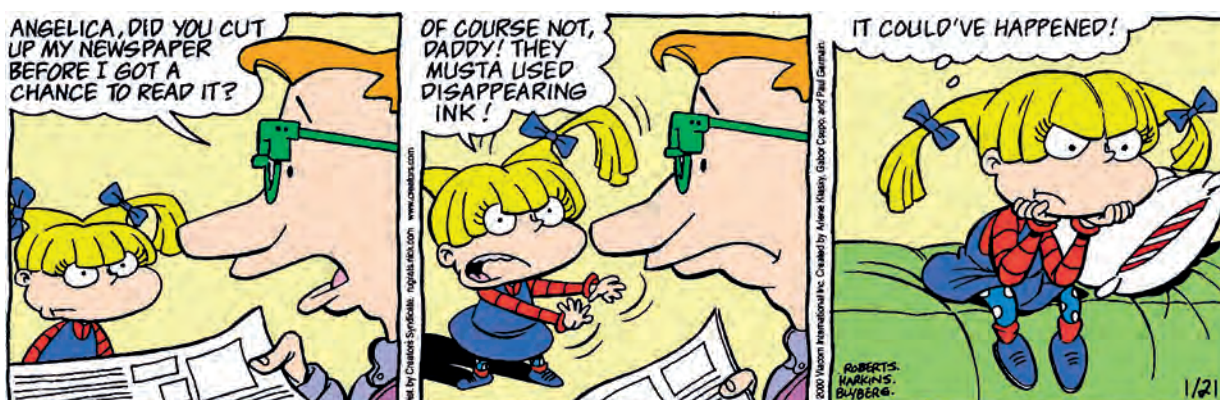
## Fun at Summer Camp

**Students of Fluent Minds English Academy in Maharagama enjoyed lots of fun activities at their annual Summer Camp held on June 27.**



**Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara**

**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



## 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



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



**Shaza Zafran**  
8 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.

**FROM THE EDITOR**

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.



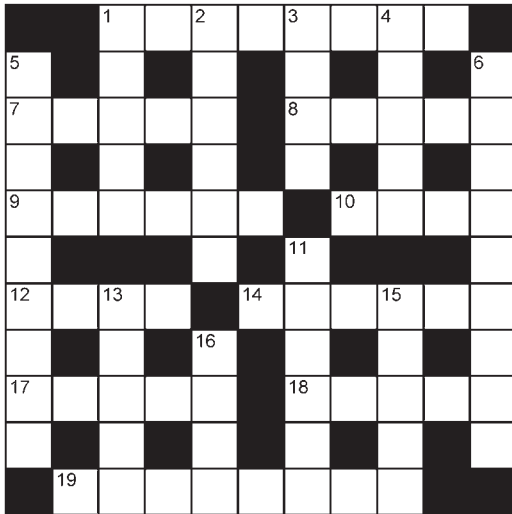
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**LUMALA Crossword – No. 11**



**Across**

- 1 Least expensive
- 7 Sweet stuff on a cake
- 8 These grow on fingers and toes
- 9 Staying in a place where you cannot be seen
- 10 Mix with a spoon
- 12 Naked
- 14 Jail
- 17 A health professional
- 18 Goodbye in French
- 19 Bicycle riders

**Down**

- 1 Wept
- 2 The machine in a car that makes it move
- 3 Small horse
- 4 Move house
- 5 See this before thunder
- 6 A space traveller
- 11 Imaginings while asleep
- 13 Unclean
- 15 A yacht has these
- 16 Part of your foot

Entries should be certified as your own work, by a teacher or parent.

**LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION**

You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 11, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip '**LUMALA Crossword No. 11**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: July 31, 2025

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

**Solution No. 10**



**Sadev Chandrasekara,**  
Bandaragama



@LUMALABIKES

119, OLD GALLE RD, HENAMULLA, PANADURA  
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**4 – 6 years**

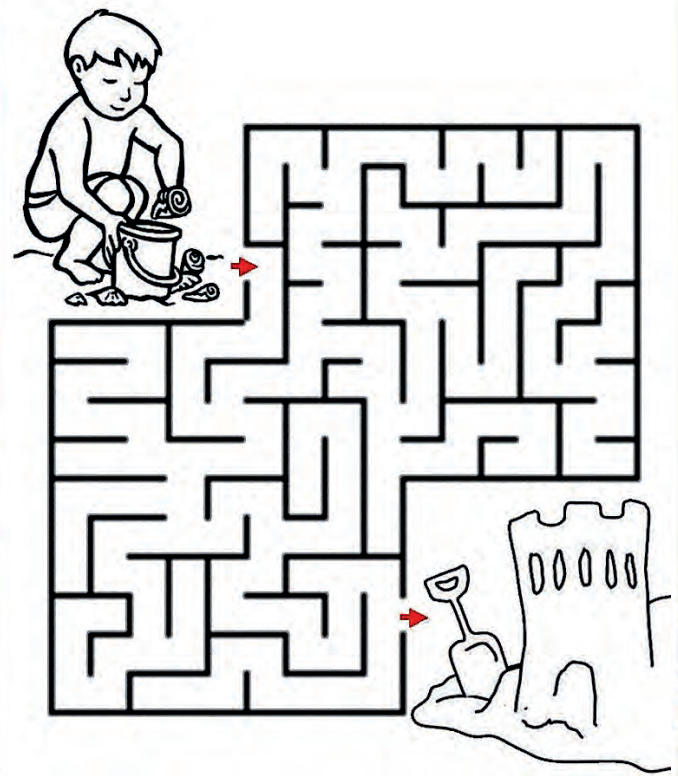


- ▶ Pradeeksha Prashanna, Wattala
- ▶ Mohamed Muad, Dehiwala
- ▶ Ayadh Abdul Malik, Colombo 2
- ▶ Fathima Shezana, Dehiwala
- ▶ Kavesh Fernandopulle, Colombo 6

Winners please call  
**Funday Times on 2479333/2479337**  
and arrange  
to collect your prizes.

**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Help the boy reach his sandcastle.  
Colour the picture.



Or [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



# Brown Bear

The awe-inspiring brown bear lives in the forests and mountains of northern North America, Europe and Asia. It is the most widely distributed bear in the world.

The world's largest brown bears are found in coastal British Columbia and Alaska, and on islands such as Kodiak.

## Hibernation and Behaviour

These omnivorous giants tend to be solitary animals, except for females and their cubs, but at times they do congregate. Dramatic gatherings can be seen at prime Alaskan fishing spots when the salmon swim upstream for summer spawning.

In this season dozens of bears may gather to feast on the fish, craving fats that will sustain them through the long winter ahead. In fall, a brown bear may eat as much as 90 pounds of food each day, and it may weigh twice as much before hibernation as it will in spring.

Brown bears dig dens for winter hibernation, often holing up in a suitable hillside. Females, or she-bears, den while pregnant and give birth during this winter rest, usually to a pair of cubs. Brown bear cubs nurse on their mother's milk until spring and stay with her for some two and a half years — so females only reproduce once every three years.

Adult brown bears are powerful, top-of-the-food chain predators, but much of their diet consists of nuts, berries, fruit, leaves and roots. Bears also eat other animals, from rodents to moose.

Despite their enormous size, brown bears are extremely fast, having been clocked at speeds of 30 miles per hour. They can be dangerous to humans, particularly if they're surprised or if a person gets between a mother bear and her cubs.



**COMMON NAME:** Brown Bear

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Ursus arctos*

**TYPE:** Mammal

**DIET:** Omnivore

**GROUP NAME:** Sloth, sleuth

**AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD:** 25 years

**SIZE:** 5 to 8 feet

**WEIGHT:** 700 pounds



Source: National Geographic



# All you need to know about Wimbledon 2025

June 29, 2025

**Strawberries and cream, famous faces, and terrific tennis...yes, Wimbledon is back.**

The world's top tennis stars will be competing over the next two weeks for a chance to win the men's, women's and wheelchair titles, in singles and doubles. Here's all you need to know about the tournament and who to watch out for.

## What is Wimbledon?

Wimbledon is one of four major tennis tournaments in the world, called Grand Slams. The other three are: The Australian Open, the French Open and the US Open.

The official title for the competition is 'The Championships', but it is often just referred to as Wimbledon, as that's where it takes place in south-west London.

The first Championships took place in 1877 at the All England Club in London, where it's still held today.

Wimbledon is the only major championship to be played on grass, with others using clay or acrylic courts.

It's seen by many as the most prestigious and famous tennis tournament in the world, with celebrities and even members of the Royal family attending to watch the players compete.

## When is Wimbledon 2025?

The tournament starts on Monday June 30 and lasts for two weeks with the men's final ending the tournament on Sunday July 13.

## Who are the players to watch?



Carlos Alcaraz



Jannik Sinner

Reigning champion Carlos Alcaraz will be hoping to lift the men's trophy for a third time in a row at Wimbledon this year. The 22-year-old is world number two and has beaten tennis legend Novak Djokovic in the past two Wimbledon finals.

If he wins again he'll be the fifth ever player in the Open era to win three straight Wimbledon men's singles titles.

Jannik Sinner is the men's world number one player and the 23-year-old Italian will be hoping to beat Carlos Alcaraz after he lost to him at Roland Garros - the French Open, earlier this year.

He's reached at least the quarter finals at Wimbledon for the past three years but has never got past the semi-finals.

Former world number one Novak Djokovic is hoping to win his 25<sup>th</sup> singles title and extend his record. He lost the title in 2023 and 2024 to Alcaraz but Djokovic reckons Wimbledon is his best chance of another Grand Slam title.

Aryna Sabalenka, the women's world number one is the favourite this year. She's reached the past three Grand Slam finals but hasn't played at Wimbledon since 2023.

The 27-year-old is a big server but grass is an unpredictable surface so there's no guarantee she'll be taking home the trophy.

Coco Gauff was just 15-years old when she made her debut at Wimbledon. The 21-year-old American recently won the French Open and will be hoping to claim her third Grand Slam title.

Marketa Vondrousova became the first unseeded player to win the women's singles in 2023. But the next year she became the first women's defending champion in 30 years to lose in the first round.

British number one Emma Raducanu is ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in the world. She made history in 2021 when she became the first British woman to win a singles major since 1977 when she claimed victory at the US Open.

Alfie Hewett had an amazing Wimbledon last year and will be hoping to repeat his success this summer.

He won both the wheelchair singles and doubles finals just hours apart from each other. It was his first ever Wimbledon singles title and afterwards, Hewett said it had been the 'best day of his life'.



Singles tennis players from around the world will be hoping to lift one of these trophies and go down in Wimbledon history.



Novak Djokovic



Aryna Sabalenka

Coco Gauff



Emma Raducanu



Marketa Vondrousova



Alfie Hewett

Source: CBBC Newsround



## NASA's Mars Orbiter is on a roll

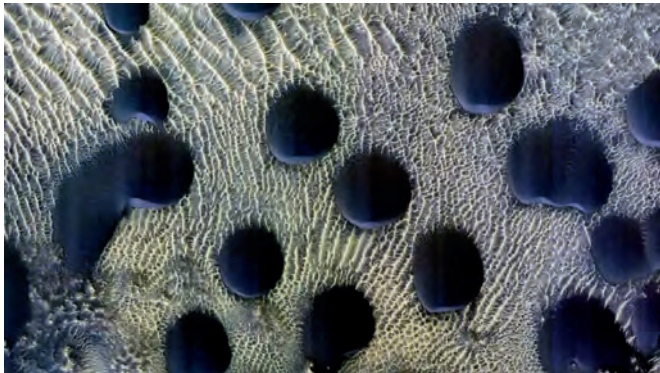
July 1, 2025

**C**omputers, phones and consoles can sometimes get a bit out of date and need an update – and NASA have been ‘rolling out’ one special update, up in space.

After nearly 20 years in space, NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) has finally learned how to roll over.

Scientists say the skills will mean it can look deeper and further on its hunt for water and other liquids on the Red Planet.

But it's not as easy as just giving a command – a regular roll has to be planned weeks in advanced with only one or two large rolls performed once a year.



The Mars Orbiter also sends back incredible photos to Earth like this one of circular sand dunes on the planet.

### What is the Mars Orbiter?

The orbiter has been circling Mars since 2006.

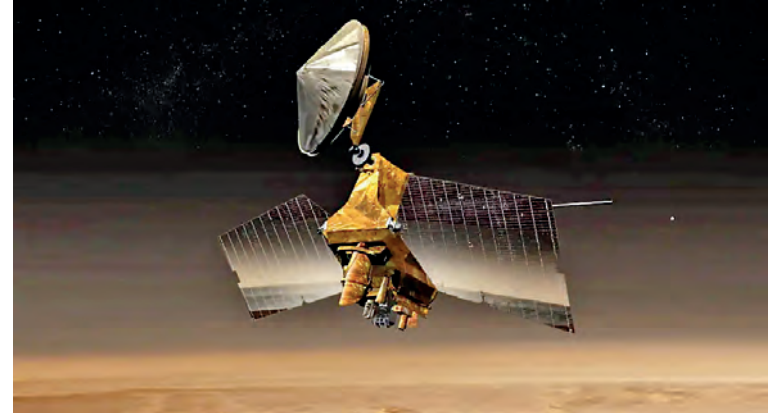
It's original mission was to search for evidence of water on Mars' surface, but after it completed that two-year mission, NASA decided it was doing such a good job they extended it.

It has now spent years doing things like monitoring how Mars changes through the seasons, and searching the planet for places for human-made objects like the Perseverance rover to land.

### How does the Mars orbiter roll?

Teaching the orbiter to get better at rolling isn't as simple as you might think.

MRO could always move a bit side to side but not too much because it has lots of different scientific instruments on board.



These don't all point the same way, so when MRO moves to focus one instrument on one thing, the other instruments can go out of whack.

Experts have compared it to turning your head to look at something while trying to hear or smell something, somewhere else, at the same time.

So to do a successful and useful roll the computer had to given a complex set of instructions to follow so everything could still work together.

The plan isn't to do too many of these stunts in but it shows that even after more than ten years in space, NASA are still finding new jobs for their travelling machines, far off in the solar system.

Source: CBBC Newsround

## Rubik's Cube record smashed by college students

June 26, 2025

**S**tudents at Purdue University have created a robot that can solve a Rubik's Cube faster than any robot ever.

The robot, which they call “Purdubik's Cube”, solves the cube in just 0.103 seconds. That's faster than the time it takes to blink your eyes.

The Rubik's Cube was invented in 1974 by Erno Rubik. It rapidly became a popular puzzle worldwide. At first, people just wanted to solve the puzzle. But soon, one group of users had a new goal – to solve the cube as quickly as possible. These people are known as “speedcubers”.

Human speedcubers can solve a Rubik's Cube in a few seconds. The fastest time is about 3.05 seconds. That's truly amazing. But thanks to computers and rapidly moving parts, robots can do even better.

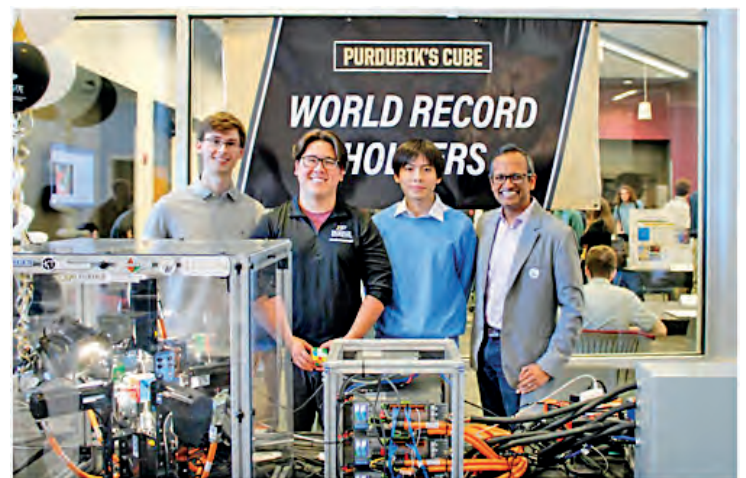
In 2020, a group of students at MIT set a record with a robot that solved the cube in 0.380 seconds – less than half a second.

That made an impression on Matthew Patrohay, who was in high school at the time. “I thought, ‘That's a really cool project. I'd love to try and beat it someday,’” said Mr. Patrohay.

Now Mr. Patrohay and three other Purdue students have built a robot that can solve a Rubik's Cube far faster.

Their “Purdubik's Cube” robot can solve a cube in 0.103 seconds – roughly one-tenth of a second.

Last year, a group of professional engineers working for Mitsubishi set



Above (left to right), three of the robot's creators, Matthew Patrohay, Aden Hurd and Junpei Ota, and one of their professors, Milind Kulkarni.

the previous world record with a robot that solved the cube in 0.305 seconds.

The robot built by Patrohay, Aden Hurd Junpei Ota and Alex Berta solves the cube nearly three times as fast. That earned it the official Guinness World Record.

Source: NewsForKids



July 1

## News in Pictures

**Bangkok, Thailand**

People play a skipping rope game with giant dolls named 'Young-hee' and 'Chul-su' from Netflix series 'Squid Game' during a promotional event of 'Squid Game 3' final season at City Hall Square in Bangkok.



**Amsterdam, the Netherlands**  
People parade during the National Commemoration of Slavery, known as *Keti Koti*, which means 'the chains are broken'.

**Jakarta, Indonesia**

Police perform during a ceremony to mark the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indonesia's National Police at the National Monument.

**Prague, Czech Republic**

Polar bears rest on ice cubes that were brought to their enclosure during a heat wave at Prague Zoo.

**Los Aleros, Venezuela**

A drone view shows a section of the Trans-Andean highway that was destroyed by a landslide following floods.

June 30

**Rome, Italy**

Fireworks explode over Castel Sant'Angelo to mark the Feast of Rome's patron saints Peter and Paul.

**Hong Kong, China**

Kindergarten students participate in a flag-raising ceremony at a school, ahead of the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China from Britain.

**Berlin, Germany**

Visitors crowd around a *Titan arum* plant, measuring 2.36 metres high, as it blooms in the city's botanical garden.

**Dharamshala, India**  
Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, attends a ceremony celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, according to Tibetan lunar calendar, at Tsuglagkhang temple in Dharamshala.



Sources: The Guardian &amp; Reuters