

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
AUGUST 24, 2025



FUNDAY TIMES



'Ru Rata' 2025

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

WINNERS!
**ANNIVERSARY
COMPETITIONS**
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25th Anniversary Competition



We are happy to announce the winners of the Funday Times 25th Anniversary Competitions. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who sent in so many attractive entries. We also thank our sponsors for supporting us.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on August 31, 2025, at the National Library & Documentation Services Board Auditorium in Colombo. Winners will be sent their invitations with all the details this week.

Essay Competition

9 years and below *Reading as a Hobby*

1st Place

Adheesha Jayasekara (8 years)
Wesley College Primary

2nd Place

Maryam Irshad (8 years)
Muslim Ladies' College, Colombo

3rd Place

Rasandi Ranasinghe (9 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

Commended

Thisuli Wanniarachchi (8 years)
St. Paul's Primary School,
Victoria, Australia

10 – 12 years

Benefits of Reading

1st Place

Thanumi De Silva (11 years)
Lindsay Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo

2nd Place

Sahen Abeysekera (11 years)
Stafford International School

3rd Place

Thisandi Liyanage (12 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

Commended

Kaveen Gnanaweera (10 years)
Brisbane International School,
Nugegoda

13 – 15 years

What you find interesting in Newspapers

1st Place

Dheshaan Pieris (15 years)
Wycherley International School,
Colombo

2nd Place

Divani Jayakanth (15 years)
Colombo International School, Kandy

3rd Place

Aysha Manaal (15 years)
Ilma International Girls' School

Commended

Suhanya Gamaarachchi (13 years)
The Magic Key Academy, Colombo

Poetry Competition (Open Topic)

6 - 10 years

1st Place

Cinderella

Januli Vidanagama (10 years)
Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo

2nd Place

Slavery

Insith Liyanage (10 years)
Elizabeth Moir School, Colombo

3rd Place

Celebration

Julian De Sylva (9 years)
St. Peter's College, Colombo

Commended

A Walk in the Forest

Adheesha Jayasekara (8 years)
Wesley College Primary

11 - 15 years

1st Place

Transformation

Suehana Weerasinghe (11 years)
Steiner College, Battaramulla

2nd Place

A silver celebration

Dylan Roshan (11 years)
S. Thomas' Preparatory School, Colombo

3rd Place

Lighting the 25th candle

Sheiza Samidon (14 years)
Hejaaz International School, Dehiwala

Commended

The Magic in Me

Suhanya Gamaarachchi (13 years)
The Magic Key Academy, Colombo

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25th Anniversary Competition



Art Competition – An Interesting Event

4 – 9 years

1st Place

A Puppet Show

Oneli De Silva (8 years)
Lindsay Balika Vidyalaya,
Colombo

2nd Place

Eid Festival

Aylan Rizlan (9 years)
Hejaaz International School

3rd Place

Avurudu Festival

Wickramasinghe Hewage
Bishakya Kalindi (8 years)
Mihindu Vidyalaya, Ratnapura

Commended

Perahera

Senula Menan (8 years)
Jinaraja Model Primary School,
Gampola

10 – 12 years

1st Place

Visiting an interesting waterfall

Abdur Rahman Irshad (12 years)
Zahira College, Colombo

2nd Place

An Almsgiving

Geethavi Saubhagya (12 years)
C. W. W. Kannangara Central College,
Matugama

3rd Place

Voyage to Sea

Esandi Ranasinghe (11 years)
Musaeus College, Colombo

Commended

IORA Day Boat Ride

Seja Abeywickrama (10 years)
Southlands College, Galle

13 – 15 years

1st Place

A Dog Show

Ashmeethashakthee Surendran
(15 years)
Ladies' College, Colombo

2nd Place

Funday Times Anniversary Fair

Ruzaiq Junkeer (14 years)
Carey College, Colombo

3rd Place

A Concert

Vinudi Rathnayake (14 years)
Girls' High School, Kandy

Commended

New Year Festival

Januth Senlitha (13 years)
Kingswood College, Kandy

Photography Competition – Nature and the Environment

6 – 10 years

1st Place

Mushrooms in my garden

Yenuli Osethma (8 years)
Sri Rahula B.M.V., Malabe

2nd Place

At Horton Plains

Suganthan Labisashan (8 years)
Harvard International School,
Matale

3rd Place

My honey bee

Fathima Zahra Mahmoud
(9 years)
Girls' High School,
Mount Lavinia

Commended

New Beginnings

Netana Krause
(6 years)
Ladies' College,
Colombo

11 – 15 years

1st Place

Potter Wasp

Dulithi Rodrigo (11 years)
Sujatha Vidyalaya, Matara

2nd Place

Collared Scops Owl

Pahani Fernando (14 years)
Convent of Our Lady of Victories,
Moratuwa

3rd Place

Towering Redwoods

Dinira Jayasundera (12 years)
Jane Lanthrop Stanford Middle School,
USA

Commended

Eyes above water

Bihandu Kalidasa
(13 years)
Nalanda College,
Colombo

Wild Love

Kiara Peiris
(14 years)
Ladies' College,
Colombo

Prize Sponsors



**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:**

September 10, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

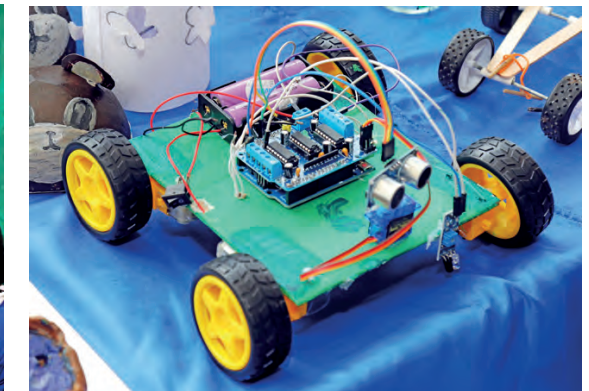


**In our online issue
this week:**

- **Page 5** – Competitions
- **Pages 6 & 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.

'Ru Rata' 2025 - Art Exhibition



**'Ru Rata' 2025, the Art Exhibition of Vidura College – Kelaniya Branch,
was held on August 1, 2025 at the school premises.**

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

Kandy Esala Perahera

Young participants in action at the Kandy Esala Perahera.



Pix by Indika Handuwala



Kekulu Little Artists 2025

Model Application Form

Child's Full Name :
 Date of Birth :
 Permanent Address and Telephone Number :
 Email Address :
 Kindergarten Name and Address :
 Name of the Kindergarten Principal :
 Phone Number :
 WhatsApp Number :
 Kindergarten Email :
 District :
 Kindergarten Principal's Signature :

1. Eligible only for children between 2 ½ to 6 years of age. (Pre-School & Grade 01 Students)
 2. Competition topic is 'My Family'.
 3. Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
 4. Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal or school class teacher, that the drawing is done by the child.
 5. It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
 6. Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
 7. The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 01st October 2025.
 8. Address: **Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., P.O. Box 78, Mount Lavinia.**
 9. It is important to have filled the following application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
 10. Any clarifications on the competition, please call Imanji on 077 834 4219 or Achini on 077 360 8628.
- It is mandatory to include a product wrapping from any of the following product categories, to partake in the competition.**

Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Colognes



Kekulu Toothbrush



Kekulu Baby Soap 70 g or Kekulu Baby Soap 03 in 01



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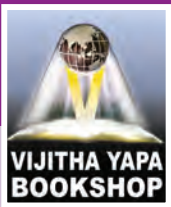


OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER



OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER

* Important Notice – To all Kindergarten Principals and School class teachers, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 01st October 2025.



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.

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

FUNDAY Times 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 Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: Date:

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



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

What happened at the Pokémon World Championships 2025?

August 18, 2025

It's been a busy weekend for Pokémon fans as the World Championships took place over the weekend.

Thousands gathered for the huge event in the city of Anaheim in California on the west coast of America.

The competition saw some of the world's best players come together to battle it out for top prizes and titles.

Competitors took part in four different categories: Trading Card Game (TCG), Video Game Competition (VGC), Pokémon GO! and Pokémon Unite.



Kevin Han

Who were the big winners?

Kevin Han from the US took the top spot in the senior division in the Pokémon VGC tournament.

If you think the name sounds familiar - that's because Kevin won the junior division in the same tournament at the World Championships last year.

He's now become the first person in history to win the Pokémon Video Game Competition in both the Junior and Senior age divisions.

What makes his feat even more impressive is that Kevin won this year's title with a 100% undefeated record.

In the VGC junior division, first place went to another American competitor - Luke Whittier.



Top finisher in the junior division from the Pokémon Trading Card Game tournament went to Yuya Okita from Japan.

"Beelzeboy" Bamb from India was the overall winner in the Pokémon GO tournament and PERÚ UNITE were the winners in the Pokémon UNITE World.

Where will the next Pokémon World Championships in 2026 be held?

The date and location for next year's Pokémon World Championships has been announced.

In 2026, the competition will be held in the city of San Francisco in California from August 28 - 30.

12-year-old inventor celebrated by Time magazine

August 14, 2025

A UK pupil who designed a solar-powered backpack when she was 12 has been recognised by US magazine, 'Time'.

Rebecca, now 13, from Glasgow has been named on the first-ever Time magazine Girls of the Year list alongside nine other girls from around the world.

She came up with the idea of a solar-powered backpack with an electric blanket after becoming worried about homeless people sleeping on the streets during winter.

"During the day, the heat from the sun can energise the solar panels and they go into a battery pack that can store the heat. When it's cold at night people can use the energy stored in the battery pack to sleep on."

"In Glasgow it can be freezing at night and they (homeless people) will have no power, so I thought the solar panel could heat it," she explained.

Rebecca thought up of the idea at an engineering club, she then came top in the UK Primary Engineer competition, where more than 70,000 pupils entered ideas aimed around addressing a social issue.

An engineering company then turned the design into reality, with 30 of the blankets given to a homeless shelter in Glasgow, with plans to make more.

As part of the honour, Rebecca and the other nine winners are appearing on a digital cover of the famous magazine, where they are styled as Lego mini-figures - something she said was both "really cool and crazy".

The girls' stories will be featured in TIME for Kids. US news magazine, Time, is best known for its Person of the Year feature which it has run since the 1920s.



The digital magazine cover features the Lego mini-figures.

The Time 100 lists 100 influential people around the world and Women of

the Year are also well-known features.

This is the first Girls of the Year list and honours "10 extraordinary young leaders" between the ages of 12 and 17.

The list also includes 15-year-old French singer Zoé Clauzure, who won the 2023 Junior Eurovision Song Contest with an anti-bullying song and 15-year-old skateboarder Coco Yoshizawa from Japan, who won a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Source : CBBC Newsround

Tiny robots help move historic structures in China

August 15, 2025

A team of engineers in China has accomplished a remarkable feat. They have moved and returned a 7,500-metric-ton historic building complex in Shanghai — with the help of tiny robots.

The project began in 2023 when a construction company was tasked with building an underground shopping centre, parking garage and subway lines beneath the Huayanli complex. Built in the 1920s, the three brick-and-wood buildings are classic examples of Shikumen architecture. The blend of traditional Chinese courtyard layouts and Western townhouse facades was once common across Shanghai. However, few of these buildings remain today, making preservation essential.

To protect them while clearing space for the work below, the buildings had to be relocated. However, their fragile frames and the narrow alleyways made traditional moving methods — like cranes and hydraulic jacks — impossible. The engineers needed a more creative solution.

The team began with a detailed 3D scan of the site to produce accurate blueprints. Battery-powered drilling robots then worked around the building's foundation, clearing soil to make space for the lifting robots below. The excavated material was removed using a network of conveyor belts.

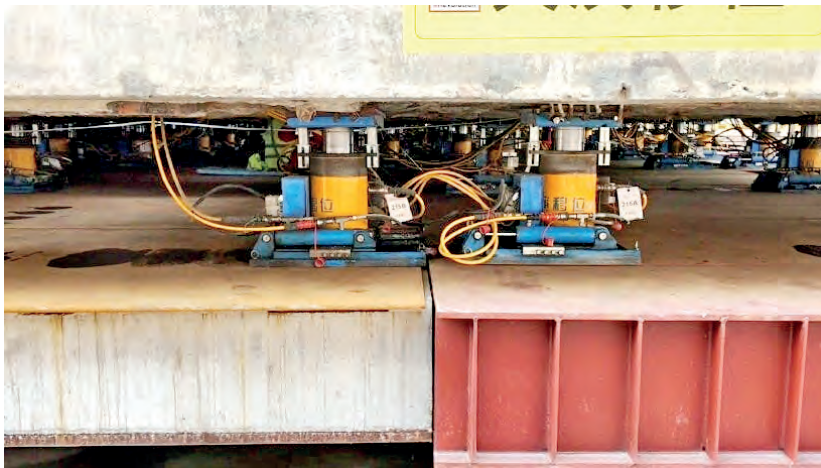
Next came 432 miniature “walking” robots. Each was small enough to fit in a hand yet strong enough to lift 10 metric tons. They were carefully placed below the buildings. Working together, they shifted



Aerial image of the Huayanli complex as it is being moved.



The complex remained in its temporary location until May 2025.



Tiny robots carried the structures safely.

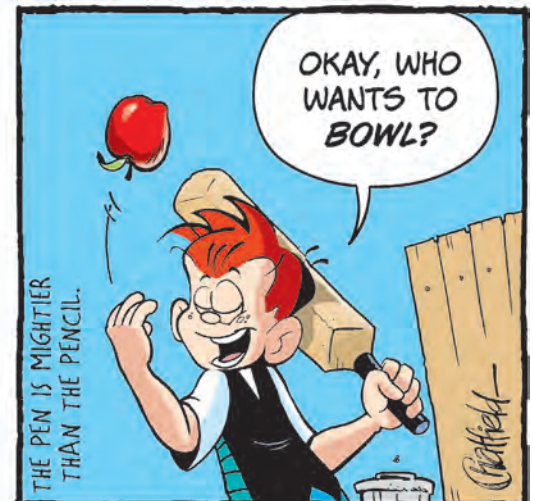
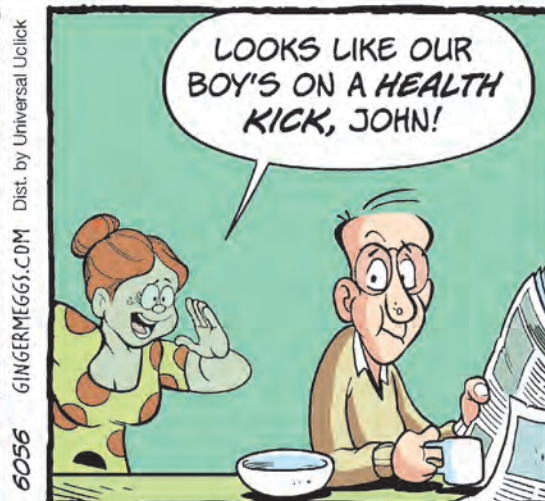
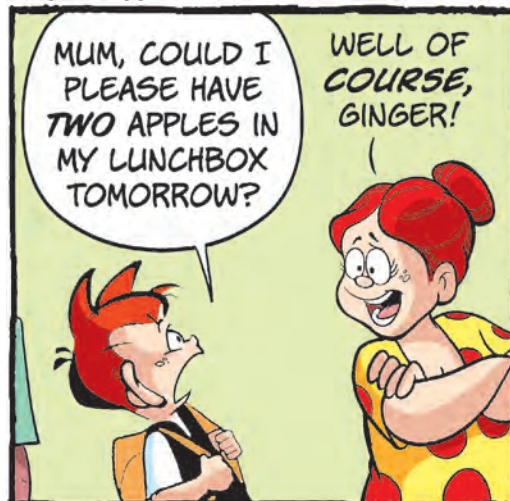
the massive structures forward in a slow, crawling motion — about 30 feet (9 m) per day. In total, the buildings were relocated about 157 feet (48 m) west and 151 feet (46 m) north, clearing the way for the underground construction.

Once the foundation work for the underground structures and subway lines was complete, it was time to move the buildings back. The return journey began on May 19, 2025. Over the next twenty days, the robots gradually inched the structures into place, finishing the task on June 7, 2025.

With the buildings safely returned, work on the underground project continues. The effort highlights how modern technology can preserve historic architecture — even amid major urban development.

Source: DOGO News

Ginger Meggs



August 19

News in Pictures

**London, UK**

Fans dressed as Star Wars characters ahead of an upcoming Guinness World Record attempt, take over the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich.

**Kiruna, Sweden**

People gather to watch the town's church being moved to make way for the expansion of an iron ore mine.

**Washington DC, USA**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks during a meeting at the White House with U.S. President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Finland's President Alexander Stubb, amid negotiations to end the Russian war in Ukraine.

Hanoi, Vietnam
An honour guard prepares to welcome King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan to the city's presidential palace.

**Abha, Saudi Arabia**

Saudi youths stand dressed as Native Americans at Cowboy Town, an entertainment park in Abha, where visitors can experience cowboy culture.



Quanzhou City, China
Women wear traditional Xunpu floral headdresses, which are believed to bring health and prosperity.

**Renk, South Sudan**

A woman washes clothes at a camp hosting more than 12,000 refugees from the war in neighbouring Sudan.

Aden, Yemen
A street vendor stands at his fruit stall on a flooded street in Aden following heavy rains.

**Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip**

People run towards airdropped aid packages as they land.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters