

FUN DAY TIMES



Spotted beauty at the Dehiwala Zoo

Pic. by Indika Handuwala

EVENTS

PAGES 2 & 3



COMPETITIONS

PAGES 2 & 4

ONLINE



TSUNAMIS

PAGE 5



ANIMALS

PAGE 6

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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:
November 19, 2025**

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Christmas Cover 2025

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in their paintings for the Christmas Cover Competition.

Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative. **All entries should be on A4 size paper.**

Please write Christmas Cover at the back of your picture, along with your Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number (if any) and School.

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.

*The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue.
The winner will also receive a prize. Good luck and happy painting!*

Age Group: 4 - 15 years

Closing Date : December 12, 2025



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

**Maple Kids International
held fun Children's Day
celebrations on October 1, 2025.**

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



**In our online issue
this week:**

- **Page 5** – Tsunamis
- **Page 6** – Animals
- **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.

Happy Birthday



Tuan Rehaab Cassim
11 years on November 3



Ifaz Ahamed Nafas
5 years on October 28

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.

Children's Day at the Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala on October 1, 2025.



Pix by Indika Handuwala

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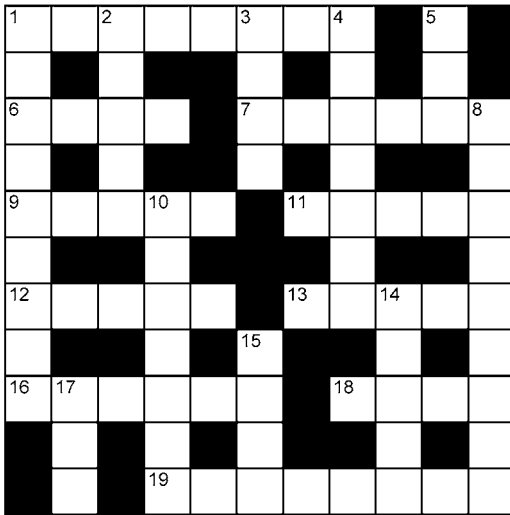
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LUMALA Crossword – No. 15



Across

- 1 The spine
- 6 A large jungle cat
- 7 A long-eared animal
- 9 Finished
- 11 A ship's load
- 12 Thoughts
- 13 Go and get Help
- 18 Smoke and flames
- 19 These are worn over the ears

Down

- 1 Ballet dancer
- 2 A large group of people
- 3 Belonging to us
- 4 Hug
- 5 Something you might do on snow
- 8 With no teeth
- 10 Study closely
- 14 Robber
- 15 A light in the night sky
- 17 Unhappy

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. 15, 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. 15' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: November 30, 2025

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Solution No. 14



Aflal Ahamed, Thulhiriya



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4 – 6 years

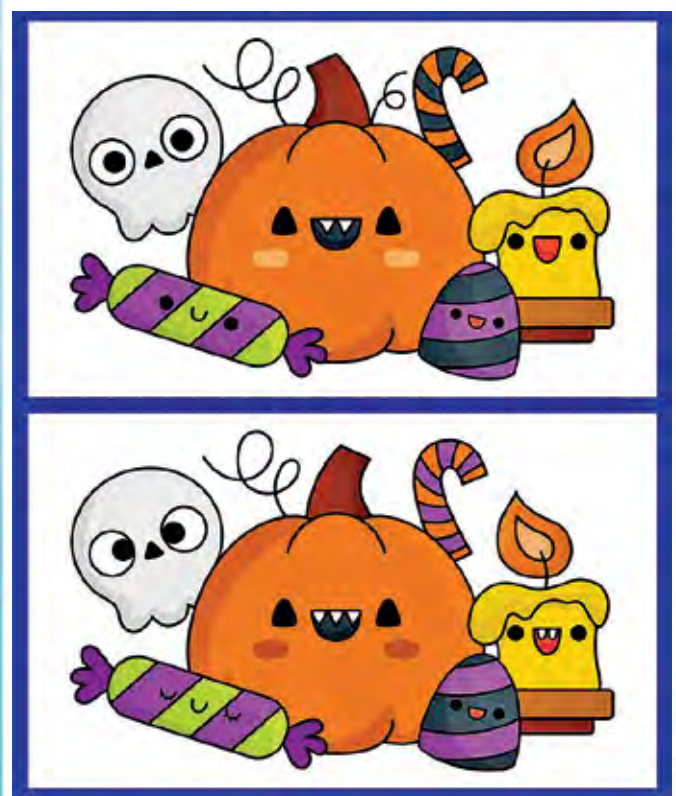


- ▶ Shalom Sundersingh, Ja-Ela
- ▶ Thaahira Saleem, Colombo 6
- ▶ Aaron Perera, Kandana
- ▶ Azmat Thanish, Colombo 3
- ▶ Kavesh Fernandopulle, Colombo 6

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

4 – 6 AGE GROUP

Spot 7 differences between the two pictures.



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Tsunamis

Compiled by Cecilia Hewavitharana

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by a large displacement of water, most commonly due to earthquakes, but also due to landslides, volcanic eruptions and meteors. Tsunami waves often resemble walls of water, with waves hitting the shore every 5 to 60 minutes.

The word 'tsunami' comes from the Japanese words 'tsu' (harbour) and 'nami' (wave).



2011 Tohoku Tsunami



Despite being relatively rare, tsunamis are the deadliest (and costliest) disasters of all. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami claimed the lives of around 227,000 people in 14 countries, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand being affected the worse.

Around 80% of tsunamis occur within the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area with a string of volcanoes and high seismic activity due to plate tectonics.

Tsunamis travel at great speeds, moving faster in deeper water. In the deep ocean, tsunamis can reach speeds of over 800 km/h (as fast as a jet plane), but the waves are no more than 3 feet high. As the tsunami waves enter shallow water near land, the waves slow down, compress and grow in height.

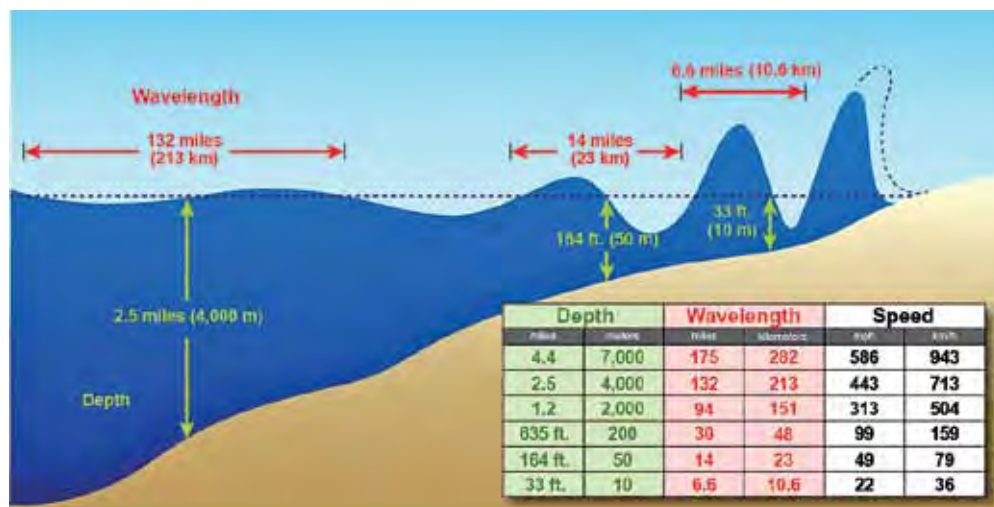
The highest wave to ever be recorded was during the 1958 Lituya Bay tsunami (in Alaska), which measured over 1,700 feet.

Signs of a tsunami

- ◆ Strong earthquake of a magnitude of 6.5 or more on the Richter scale
- ◆ Water rapidly receding (and exposing the sea floor) or rapidly rising
- ◆ Rapid, unusual rise or fall in the water level
- ◆ Loud roaring noise from the ocean

What to do if a tsunami hits (or is about to hit)

- Stay calm and move to higher ground (100 feet above sea level) or 1.6 km inland.
- If the above is not possible, use the stairs (not an elevator) to get to at least the third floor of a sturdy building that is unlikely to be washed away by a tsunami.
- Tsunamis can last for hours, and the first wave may not be the deadliest, so follow the instructions of local officials and avoid any coastal areas until the authorities confirm that it is safe.
- If you are in a boat, go out to deep sea. The minimum safe depth in the United States is 30 fathoms (180 feet).



November 5 was declared as World Tsunami Awareness Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 to raise awareness about tsunamis and share innovative methods of risk reduction.

Sri Lanka: Islandwide tsunami drill on November 5, 2025

According to the Disaster Management Center (DMC), a nationwide tsunami drill will be held on November 5, particularly focusing on the districts of Kalutara, Matara, Jaffna and Batticaloa.

This drill is organised by the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), and 28 countries will be participating.

This drill has been planned due to a series of minor earthquakes occurring near the Sumatra Trench in the past month.

The DMC has warned that Sri Lanka could be at risk of being affected by a tsunami if an earthquake of a **magnitude of 6.5 or more on the Richter scale** occurs near the Sumatra Trench.

King Cobra

King cobras are venomous snakes that live in South and Southeast Asia. The reptile makes its home in forests and swamps. It can grow up to 18 feet long and its toxic bite is powerful enough to kill an elephant!

Cobras eat small mammals, lizards and birds. They can also end up on the dinner menu — the snake is a favourite meal of the mongoose.

When facing predators, king cobras try to act like tough guys. They often expand ribs and muscles on both sides of their

necks to create what's called a hood.

The hood makes the snake appear extra-big.

While cobras can become aggressive when hungry or threatened, they know how to make their families feel at home. These are the only snakes that build nests for their eggs. How ssssweet!



Amazing Facts

- ▮ King cobras can reach 18 feet in length, making them the longest of all venomous snakes
- ▮ They are the only snakes in the world that build nests for their eggs, which they guard ferociously until the hatchlings emerge.
- ▮ They are known as “snake-eaters” (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and primarily eat other snakes, including venomous ones.
- ▮ King cobras never stop growing and shed their skin around 5 times a year!
- ▮ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists king cobras as vulnerable to extinction.

COMMON NAME: King cobra

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Ophiophagus*

TYPE: Reptile

DIET: Carnivore

GROUP NAME: Quiver

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN THE WILD:

20 years

SIZE: 13 feet

WEIGHT:

Up to

20 pounds



Sources: National Geographic & NG Kids



The king cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) is found in Sri Lanka, though it is more widely distributed across Southeast Asia and northern India.

The term “king cobra” can also be used colloquially in Sri Lanka to refer to the Indian cobra (*Naja naja*), a different species of cobra.

Snake charmers

King cobras may be best known as the snake of choice for the snake charmers of South Asia. Although cobras can hear, they are actually deaf to ambient noises, sensing ground vibrations instead. Snake charming is “often a sad con game



in which an exhausted cobra is put on the defensive, yet conditioned (with pain) not to strike the flutist,” Smithsonian’s National Zoo says.



Celebrating Mexico's 'Day of the Dead'

October 28, 2025

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a vibrant and joyful Mexican holiday to honour those who have passed. Held annually on November 1 and 2, it gives families a chance to remember loved ones. The first day, called *Día de los Angelitos*, is for children who have died, while the second focuses on adults.



History and origin

The holiday's origins date back thousands of years to the native peoples of Mexico and Central America. These ancient civilizations honoured their dead with month-long festivities.

They featured elaborate burial ceremonies and ornate shrines. When the Spanish conquered the regions in the 16th century, they introduced All Saints' Day and

Day of the Dead honours deceased loved ones.

All Souls' Day. These Catholic holidays honoured all deceased Christians. Over time, the two cultures blended, creating Day of the Dead as it is known today.

Source: DOGO News

Hurricane Melissa hits Jamaica - the world's strongest storm of 2025

October 28, 2025



People in Jamaica are taking shelter as Hurricane Melissa hits land.

Winds of 185 miles per hour have been estimated, and a third of the island has no electrical power.

A Category 5 hurricane – the most powerful level there is – it is the strongest storm anywhere in the world this year.

Experts say it could become the most powerful to ever hit Jamaica and is expected to bring high winds and flooding.

The Jamaican government has been preparing for the storm with Prime Minister Andrew Holness ordering people to leave low lying areas, take shelter and telling all schools to close and move their lessons online.

Source : CBBC Newsround

Mosquitoes found in Iceland for the first time in history

October 22, 2025



Mosquitoes have been discovered in Iceland for the first time in history.

The country had long been one of the world's only mosquito-free places – partly due to its cold climate.

The insects – two females and one male – were found in Kjós, a glacial valley to the west of the capital, Reykjavik.

The species are common across parts of Europe and North Africa, but it is not yet known how they reached Iceland. Iceland was one of only two places in the world that hadn't seen mosquitos, prior to the discovery.

The only other recorded mosquito-free zone in the world is the continent of Antarctica.

Iceland's cold climate and lack of stagnant water (which is where the insects are mostly found) are thought to be the main reasons why mosquitoes haven't been spotted before in the country.

However, it has now been confirmed that three *Culiseta annulata* mosquitoes, two females and one male, were discovered.

They were found around 20 miles away from the capital Reykjavik, according to Matthias Alfredsson, an entomologist – or insect scientist – at the Natural Science Institute of Iceland.

October 28

News in Pictures



Port-au-Prince, Haiti

A boy rests his head on his mother's shoulder as she washes clothes at the Ecole Nationale Argentine Bellegarde, a school turned into a shelter for some of the more than 1.3 million Haitians who have been internally displaced due to gang violence, in Haiti.



Karoo, South Africa

Cyclists cross rail tracks in the semi-desert during the week-long Gravel Burn race, covering 500 miles of riding over gravel.

Virginia, USA

A child dressed as Pennywise, the clown from Stephen King's 'It', walks around a fountain during a Halloween Trick-or-Treat event in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.



October 27

Bangkok, Thailand

Members of the Royal Thai Army fire a cannon salute outside the Grand Palace, after the body of Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit was transferred there from King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital following her death.



Seoul, South Korea

Cyclists depart from a park on the Han River for a 17-day ride to Tokyo via the south-eastern port city of Busan, re-enacting the route of the Joseon Tongsinsa, a diplomatic delegation sent by the Joseon dynasty (1392 – 1910) to Japan.



Nazirpur, Bangladesh

A farmer loads water hyacinths cultivated in his field on to a boat to sell. These are used to make floating vegetable beds, a centuries-old farming technique for food production in flood-prone regions.



Guwahati, India

Devotees offer prayers to the Sun god Surya at the bank of the Brahmaputra River during the Hindu religious festival of 'Chhath Puja'.



Jabaliya, Gaza Strip

A Palestinian family inspect the ruins of their home.



Chennai, India

Fishing boats are pulled ashore at Marina Beach ahead of Cyclone Montha.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters