



FUN DAY TIMES

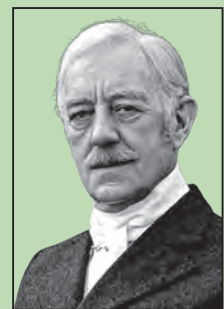


EVENTS PAGES 2 & 3



COMPETITIONS PAGES 4 & 5

ONLINE



FAMOUS PEOPLE PAGE 6

KIDS NEWS PAGES 7 & 8

Celebrating Avurudu

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

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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:
May 6, 2026

Telephone: 2479337/2479333
Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



In our online issue this week:

- **Page 5** – Competitions
- **Page 6** – Famous People
- **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.

FUNDAY TIMES KIDS IN COLOUR



Funday Times together with Richard is happy to launch a new Art Competition for our readers.

A topic will be given each month.

The paintings should be on **A4 size paper** and you could use any medium of your choice.

Three winners from two age groups will be selected each month. Winners will receive an attractive gift pack from Richard.



All paintings should be certified by a teacher or parent as your own work.

Age Groups: 4 – 6 and 7 – 10 years

Please write your Full Name, Date of Birth, Home Address, Telephone Number and School and paste it on the back of your entry.

Topic for April:
Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations

Closing Date: April 30, 2026



Or



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PAW-SPERITY XTRAVAGANZA

The Paw-sperity Xtravaganza, ushering in *Avurudu* cheer and Easter joy, was held on March 29, 2026, at the Atrium Lobby of the Cinnamon Grand, in aid of Rescue Animals Sri Lanka (RAS).

A special feature of the event was the outdoor Kiddies Corner, run by ABC School.

Face Painting, Arts & Crafts, Mehendi, Kids Sensory Play, Sand Play, Rain Gutter Regatta, Clown Game, Tin Toss, Prize Punch, an Easter Egg Hunt and much more kept the children happy and occupied, while the ABC School staff kept a watchful eye on them.





Maple Kids International held Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations with Avurudu traditions and fun games.

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



Loads of Avurudu gifts for all kids who save in their HNB Singithi accounts!

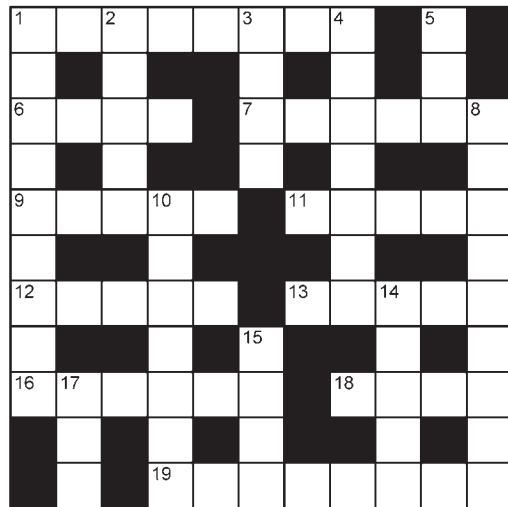
From 8th April to 29th May 2026



Fitch Rating: A A- (kai) Hatton National Bank is a Licensed Commercial Bank supervised by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/Hatton National Bank PLC - PQ B2

*Conditions apply

LUMALA Crossword – No. 20



Across

- 1 A painting of someone's face
- 6 Covered with oil
- 7 Boots with wheels
- 9 Our planet
- 11 Postage sticker
- 12 Rail transport
- 13 Winner's award
- 16 A baby's toy
- 18 A young sheep
- 19 Someone you work for

Down

- 1 Film-showing machine
- 2 A measuring stick
- 3 Too
- 4 Cook bread brown in this
- 5 Honey maker
- 8 A month
- 10 A prickly plant
- 14 The country with the Leaning Tower of Pisa
- 15 Jump
- 17 Donkey

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. 20, 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. 20**' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: April 30, 2026

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

Solution No. 19



@LUMALABIKES | 119, OLD GALLE RD, HENAMULLA, PANADURA TEL: 077 755 2222 | LUMALA

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

7 – 9 AGE GROUP

New Year Word Search

O K I R I B A T H X
 N T F V A Z Q O F E
 C S I A Q Y N X S D
 J E R P F T E S U N
 T V A H A U W E Y K
 K R V Q M R Y M V E
 O A T Y I Q E A X V
 K H U W L B A G S U
 I U A B Y Y R C E M
 S H N V E L S S W S

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7 – 9 years



- ▶ Rasandi Ranasinghe, Piliyandala
- ▶ Thavaraja Pirajan, Hatton
- ▶ Mohamed Rayyan, Dehiwala
- ▶ Savinu Abeykoon, Alawwa
- ▶ Faliha Juhar, Colombo 2

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

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: My favourite New Year sweetmeat

Win: Fun for the Secret Seven by Enid Blyton

The Seven are very fond of Mr. Tolly and his horse Brownie so they are determined to help when Brownie falls sick. Things get worse when the children hear that a gang of dangerous horse thieves is on the prowl.



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: Celebrating the Sinhala and Tamil New Year

Win: The Boy in the Dress by David Walliams

Dennis lives in a boring house, in a boring street, in a boring town.

But he's about to find out that when you open your mind, life becomes anything but boring!

You'll laugh, you'll cry and once you meet Dennis, he'll live with you forever...



Write at the top of your Essay

■ Book Competition ■ Essay Topic

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

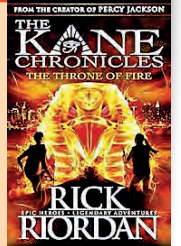
Topic: Sinhala and Tamil New Year Customs

Win: The Kane Chronicles – The Throne of Fire by Rick Riordan

The Egyptian gods have run loose in the modern world; and Apophis, the giant snake of Chaos is rising.

Carter and Sadie Kane have five days to revive the sun god Ra to battle the forces of Chaos – a feat no one has ever achieved.

If they fail, the world ends...



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.



Or

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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 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.



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Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :



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

Young Reporters Coupon

Name:

Date of Birth:

Address:

Telephone:

School:

Parent's approval: **Date:**



Sir Alec Guinness

Con Man, Spymaster and Jedi, Sir Alec Guinness took on many unforgettable roles over his career as an actor. Guinness made a name for himself early in his acting career by starring in several Ealing Studios comedy films and showed what a dramatic powerhouse he could be in 1956's 'The Bridge On The River Kwai'. Younger audiences, of course, mostly know him as Jedi Master Obi-Wan Kenobi in the 'Star Wars' films before Ewan McGregor took over the role at the turn of the 21st century.



"He is an all-star cast in his own person." So said a critic of Alec Guinness, the British actor, director and writer who in his long career portrayed a great variety of comic and tragic characters with skill and style.

Guinness was born in London on April 2, 1914. He studied acting and made his stage debut as an extra in 1934. Following a progression of increasingly challenging parts, he joined John Gielgud's acting company in 1937 and appeared in such classic plays as 'Richard II', 'The School for Scandal' and 'The Merchant of Venice'. His performances, at London's Old Vic Theatre included a 1938 run as 'Hamlet'.

Guinness served with the Royal Navy in World War II and, while on leave in December 1942, made his New York stage debut in 'Flare Path'. His film debut followed in 'Great Expectations' in 1946. Other Guinness films include 'Kind Hearts and Coronets' (1949), in which he played eight different characters,



Alec Guinness and Jack Hawkins in 'The Bridge On The River Kwai', filmed in Sri Lanka.

'The Man in the White Suit' and 'The Lavender Hill Mob' (both 1951) and three 'Star Wars' films (1977, 1980, 1983).

Alec Guinness was no stranger to the Academy Awards. He was nominated for Best Actor for 'The Lavender Hill Mob' but ended up winning the award for playing Colonel Nicholson in 'Bridge On the River Kwai' in 1957.

In 1958, he was nominated in the category we know today as Best Adapted Screenplay for 'The Horse's Mouth'. He was also nominated for Best Supporting Actor for 'Star Wars: A New Hope' and 'Little Dorrit'. To date, he's the only actor from the 'Star Wars' franchise to be nominated for their role in the movies.

When he found out that he was going to win a Lifetime Achievement Oscar, he wasn't terribly thrilled about it and refused to attend. The Academy sent out Dustin Hoffman to talk him into going, and Hoffman's similar attitude toward acting convinced him to go to the ceremony.

Guinness's stage career continued in such plays as 'Dylan' (1964), for which he won a Tony Award, and 'The Cocktail Party' (1968), which he also directed. He played George Smiley in television's 'Smiley's People' and 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' and wrote dramatizations that include 'The Brothers Karamazov' and a film script for 'The Horse's Mouth'.

Guinness was knighted in 1960. He died in Midhurst, England, on August 5, 2000.



Alec Guinness

Sources: Britannica Kids and Anglotopia

Gold-filled tomb provides insights into ancient Panama Civilization

April 15, 2026

Archaeologists in Panama, Central America, have uncovered a tomb overflowing with gold and ceramic artifacts. The find sheds light on the life and beliefs of an ancient civilization that lived in the area before the Spaniards arrived in the 1500s.

The tomb lies in Panama's El Caño Archaeological Park. This site is known for its ancient burial mounds. Researchers first spotted what is now called Tomb 3 in 2009, after noticing small pieces of pottery and metal around a mound. The full excavation, led by Julia Mayo, finally began in early 2026 and was completed in February.

Inside Tomb 3, the team found remains of a central individual surrounded by several others. The main skeleton wore gold jewelry, and other gold objects were placed around the body.



The excavation was finally completed in February 2026.



Ceramic pots found inside Tomb 3.

Many of these items were decorated with animals such as bats and crocodiles. These were symbols of power and authority. The tomb also contained beautiful ceramic pots and bowls.

Together, these clues suggest the person was powerful, perhaps a chief. The researchers do not know who the other people buried alongside were. They may have been family members or helpers joining their leader in the afterlife.

The tomb dates from 800 to 1000 AD. This was when the Gran Coclé people lived in the area. They were a highly

organized society that prospered for centuries. The wealth and power of their leaders made the region so important that it came to be known as Panama's "Valley of the Kings."

Tomb 3 is one of about ten similar tombs uncovered at El Caño over the past two decades. This shows that the site was a popular burial place for powerful leaders between roughly 700 and 1000 AD.

However, none of the others match Tomb 3 in the richness and variety of its artifacts. Experts say it is one of the most important archeological discoveries in Panama in recent years.

Artemis II Mission ends with a safe splashdown

April 13, 2026

NASA's Artemis II Orion spacecraft, carrying four astronauts, splashed down in the Pacific Ocean near Southern California at 5:07 pm on April 10, 2026.

Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen completed the 690,000-mile (1.1 million km) journey around the Moon in just over nine days. Their return marks the first time humans have made this trip since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

A perfect splashdown

Orion re-entered Earth's atmosphere at speeds close to 25,000 miles (40,000 km) per hour. This is about 32 times the speed of sound. During re-entry, the astronauts briefly lost contact with NASA mission control. This is normal, as hot gases surrounding the spacecraft can block radio signals for a short time.

It took Orion just over 13 minutes to descend through the atmosphere. Then, a series of parachutes opened up. This helped slow down the spacecraft for a gentle splashdown in the ocean. Soon after, Navy divers helped the astronauts out of the capsule and onto a raft. From there, they were flown by helicopter to the recovery ship and then taken to shore. After medical checks, the astronauts were reunited with their families on April 11, 2026.



The astronauts were carried to a recovery ship on a helicopter.

What's next?

NASA is now getting ready for the Artemis III mission. It will test how well Orion docks with other spacecraft in low-Earth orbit. This is an important step toward landing astronauts on the Moon. More details about the mission and its crew will be shared closer to the 2027 launch.



The Orion spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on April 10, 2026.

Source: DOGO News

April 15

News in Pictures



Washington DC, USA
Linh Mai, a two-month-old Asian elephant, makes her debut during a media preview at the Smithsonian National Zoo. She is the first Asian elephant born at the zoo in 25 years.



Jinghong, China
People splash water to send blessings during celebrations of the Dai New Year.

April 14

Dhaka, Bangladesh
People attend the traditional *Baishakhi Shobhajatra*, also known as the *Mangal Shobhajatra*, to celebrate *Pôhela Boishakh*, the first day of the Bengali New Year.



Howrah, India
Hindu devotees perform rituals to mark the end of the Bengali year.



Hassan Abdal, Pakistan
Sikh pilgrims attend a ceremony to celebrate Vaisakhi Festival, which also marks the New Year in Sikh tradition, at the shrine of Gurdwara Punja Sahib.



Jinghong, China
People fly Kongming lanterns, a kind of small hot-air paper balloon, by the Lancang River.



Paris, France
'Adam' (1880 – 1881) sculpture by French sculptor Auguste Rodin and the 'Rebellious Slave' (1513 – 1515) sculpture by Italian Renaissance master Michelangelo stand on display during a press visit of the "Michelangelo and Rodin, Living bodies" exhibition at the Louvre Museum in Paris.



Oswiecim, Poland
A man stands in front of the Auschwitz entrance before the annual March of the Living, between the former death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, to remember the Holocaust.

Tokyo, Japan
Visitors stroll through the grounds of Nezu Shrine during the annual Azalea Festival.



Sources: The Guardian & Reuters