



# FUN DAY TIMES



**Walk for Peace**

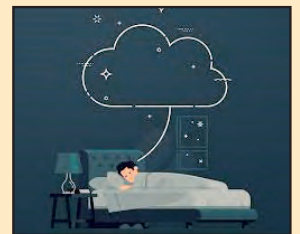
Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



## COMPETITIONS

PAGE 4

## ONLINE



## REPORT

PAGE 5



PAGE 6

## KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 - 8



**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 20, 2026**

**Telephone: 2479337/2479333**

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



**In our online issue this week:**

- **Page 5** – Young Reporter
- **Page 6** – Fun Recipes
- **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.

## The Walk for Peace



The 'Walk for Peace', commenced in Sri Lanka on April 21, 2026, as a seven-day Buddhist pilgrimage and spiritual march led by the Most Venerable Bhikkhu Paññakara and a delegation of twelve monks and the dog Aloka.



Pix. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

## Happy Birthday



**Thameem Ibrahim**  
13 years on May 8



**Tharuli Ehasna**  
7 years on April 4

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.

# Celebrating Shakespeare and the Power of English

**What do the words “fashion,” “lonely,” and “break the ice” have in common? They were all invented by William Shakespeare — a playwright who lived over 400 years ago but whose words are still very much alive today.**

To celebrate Shakespeare’s birthday and English Language Day, British Council Colombo brought both occasions to life with a fun-filled weekend for students and their families. And it was anything but a typical classroom lesson.

The space buzzed with energy as students explored fun facts and infographics about Shakespeare’s life, discovering just how deeply his writing shaped the English we speak today. Younger children had their own

colouring corner where creativity flowed freely, while families gathered at the photo booth to snap pictures and take a little piece of the day home with them.

One of the most heartwarming moments was the postcard station, where students and parents paused to hand-write messages to the people they love most. In a world of quick texts and emojis, there was something truly special about slowing down and choosing your words carefully.

Even the snacks got a Shakespearean twist! The canteen served up specially themed food and drinks for kids to enjoy — a delicious little touch that made the whole experience feel wonderfully immersive.

The British Council also partnered with Atlas as a learning partner for the weekend. Together, they organised handwriting and creative writing competitions that brought out the best in young participants. Students even got to try out the newest pens from Atlas; Sharp and Glyde, making every word written feel that little bit more special.

Events like this remind us that English is far more than a school subject. It is a living language with history, heart, and endless possibility — and it all started with a playwright from a small English town who had a lot to say.

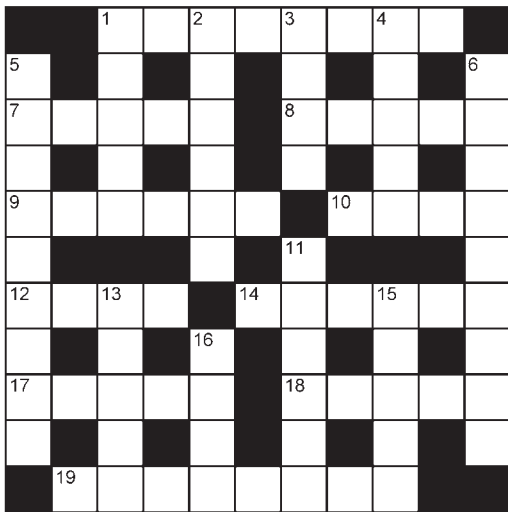
At the British Council, this is exactly the kind of learning they believe in. If you would like your child to be part of experiences like this, the British

Council offers English programmes for young learners that go well beyond the textbook. A great place to start the next chapter.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about our English courses



**LUMALA Crossword – No. 21**



**Across**

- 1 Likely to be true
- 7 Opposite of full
- 8 Keep your money in this
- 9 Vegetable patch
- 10 Stitched
- 12 Put this on a fish hook
- 14 Checks the weight of
- 17 Below
- 18 A punctuation mark
- 19 These turn into frogs

**Down**

- 1 Write on this
- 2 Life-giving gas
- 3 Mountains
- 4 Big
- 5 Someone next door
- 6 A weekday
- 11 Write with this
- 13 Where Indians live
- 15 Play these for fun
- 16 Journey

**Solution No. 20**



**Winner**  
Nethupa Jeewananda,  
Ragama

Age Group: 8 – 15 years

**LUMALA BICYCLE COMPETITION**

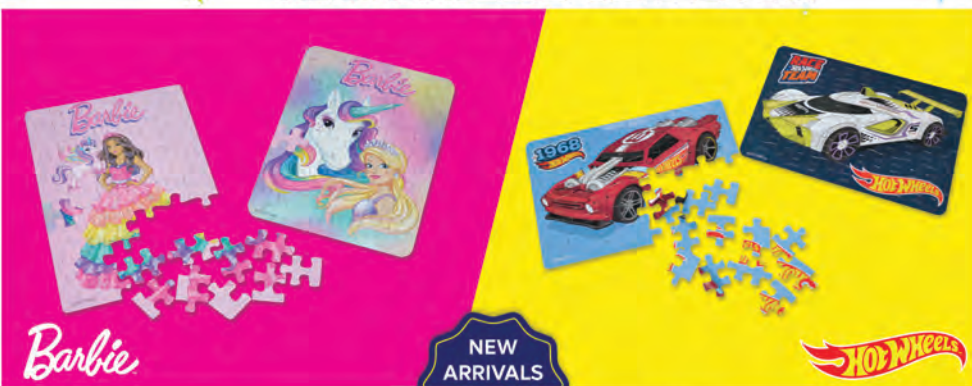
You now have a chance to win a brand new **LUMALA bicycle** for your own. One lucky winner will receive a brand new Lumala bicycle each month. All you have to do is fill in the Lumala Crossword No. 21, according to the clues given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard or paper, and send it to **Funday Times**. Cut the strip 'LUMALA Crossword No. 21' seen at the top of the page and paste it on your entry.

Closing Date: May 31, 2026



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4 – 6 years

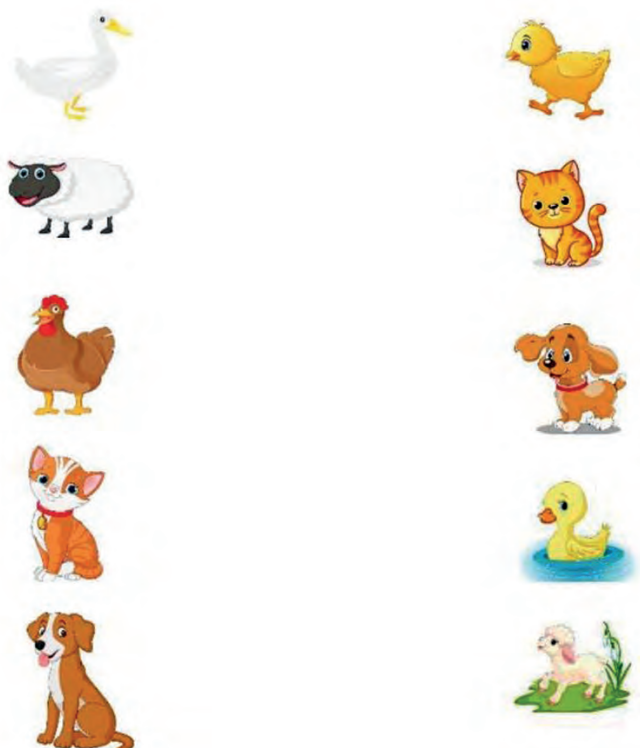


- ▶ Nemiah Thambimuttu, Colombo 2
- ▶ Mohamed Mirak, Dehiwala
- ▶ Fathima Haya, Dehiwala
- ▶ Ayadh Abdul Malik, Colombo 2

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

**4 – 6 AGE GROUP**

Match the animals with their babies.



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

From a Funday Times Young Reporter

## How do our minds work?

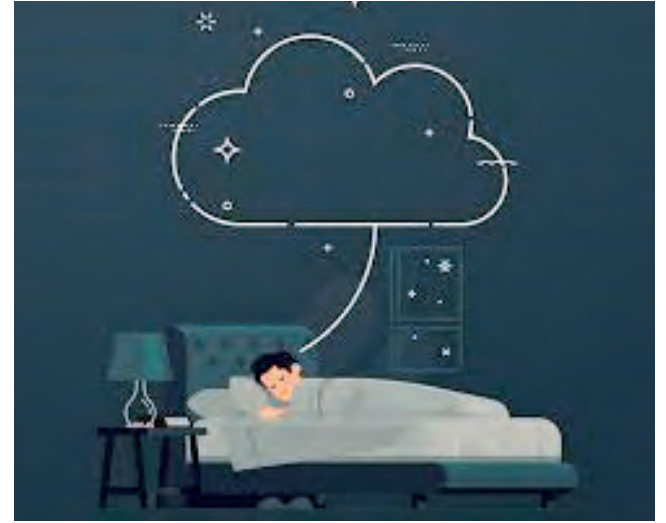
The universe is an enigma, woven with a tapestry of hidden knowledge and phenomena. Even after centuries of discoveries, there are still more discoveries that leave us wondering about the unknown.

Isn't it strange how sometimes we come upon an interesting thought about ourselves and how we function in the middle of it all?



### Why do we dream?

- Dreams are a complex part ingrained in us and remains a research topic for scientists and they are not fully understood.
- Sometimes, we experience dreams connected to our past, maybe an embarrassing moment in our life or a stressful exam day.
- These dreams often occur because the brain is processing memories and emotions, helping us to organize and cope with stress.
- There are times we have very vivid dreams that feel almost real, often because the brain is highly active during REM sleep and replays memories based on our emotions.
- If we've been thinking and stressing about exams, those worries can blend into our dreams, and suddenly we're having scary or stressful dreams about studying.



### How do our memories work?

Aren't there times when one of our friends can parrot off things that happened years ago, stuff you couldn't even remember a speck of and they remember everything perfectly? Meanwhile, others might forget what happened just hours ago.

Memory works differently for everyone and scientists have some reasons why:

- ◆ Some people have brains that store and retrieve information more efficiently.
- ◆ Events that are exciting, stressful or meaningful can be remembered more easily.
- ◆ Ordinary or boring events tend to fade so that's why you might forget what you had for lunch yesterday.



### Did You Know?

When we're in REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep, our bodies show it in these ways:

- ❖ Our eyes move rapidly under our eyelids.
- ❖ Our breathing and heart rate becomes irregular.
- ❖ Our muscles relax completely, so we don't act out our dreams.
- ❖ We have vivid dreams during this stage.

It's amazing how much we can discover about ourselves when we stop and think about it!

Aysha Manaal  
Ilma Int. Girls School



## 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.**

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



## Young Reporters Coupon

Name: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone: .....

School: .....

Parent's approval: .....

Date: .....

.....

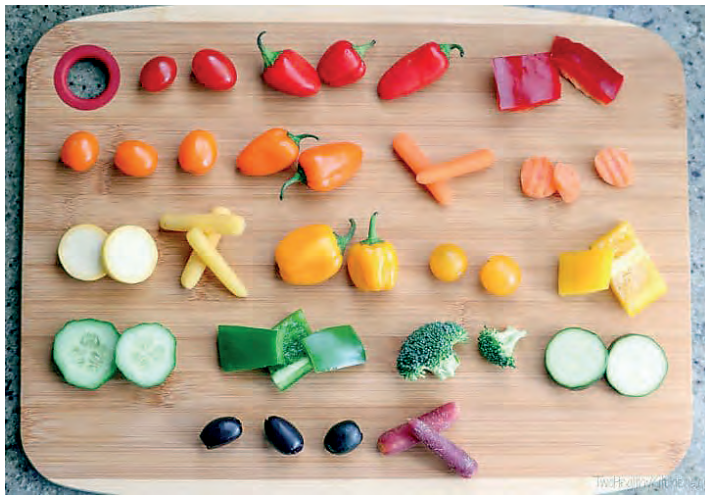


## Rainbow Skewers

### Ingredients

Choose the colour-coded veggies/fruits you like best for the colours of the rainbow.

- Blue/Black olives, purple cabbage (cut into small pieces) or purple grapes
- Green bell pepper (cut in chunks), broccoli, cucumbers or zucchini (cut into rounds or chunky, triangular wedges)
- Yellow bell peppers (whole mini peppers or large bell peppers cut in chunks), yellow baby carrots
- Orange baby carrots, orange cherry tomatoes or orange peppers (whole mini peppers or large bell peppers cut in chunks)
- Red cherry tomatoes, red peppers (whole mini peppers or large bell peppers cut in chunks)



### Instructions

1. Wash and cut the vegetables/fruits you are going to use.
2. For each rainbow skewer, start by threading one or two purple/blue veggies/fruits onto the skewer, pushing them partway down.
3. Next, thread on green, yellow, orange and red veggies (in that order – ending with red veggies at the top).
4. Serve with a dip such as hummus or ranch dressing.

Source: Two Healthy Kitchens

## Frozen Peanut Butter Drink

### Ingredients

- 2 cups (480 g) cold, unsweetened milk or oat milk
- 1/2 cup (125 g) creamy peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons (38 g) light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Dark or milk chocolate bar (for shavings)
- Maraschino cherries (for topping)
- 1 cup (240 g) heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons confectioners' icing sugar
- Ice cubes

### Directions

1. **For the whipped cream:** In a large mixing bowl, add the heavy cream and confectioners' sugar. Using a hand mixer (or whisk by hand), beat on medium speed until soft peaks form, about 1 minute. Set aside or keep chilled in the refrigerator.
2. **For the frozen peanut butter drink:** Add the milk, peanut butter, brown sugar, cinnamon and vanilla extract to a blender. Blend until smooth. Add the ice cubes and blend until smooth and frothy.



3. Divide the frozen mixture among three or four glasses. Top with the whipped cream, chocolate shavings and a maraschino cherry. Insert a straw and serve immediately.

Source: Food Network

## ***First ever Children's Booker Prize looking for young judges aged 8 - 12***

April 28, 2026

### ***The hunt for the first Children's Booker Prize child judges is on!***

The nationwide search for child judges for a prestigious book award has started.

The Children's Booker Prize is a new annual prize that celebrates the best modern fiction for children aged eight to 12 years old.

To select the best books, there will be three adult judges and three child judges.

### **What is the Children's Booker Prize?**

This is the first time there has been a Children's Booker Prize, but the adult version has been running for more than 55 years.



The winning writer will take home the award along with £50,000.

A children's version of the famous award has been created to inspire a new generation of readers by celebrating the best fiction books from writers around the world.

It comes at a time when research by the National Literacy Trust says the percentage of children and young people who said they enjoyed reading, is at its lowest level in 20 years.

Frank Cottrell-Boyce hopes the prize will make it "easier for children to find the book that's right for them".



Lolly Adefope, Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Sanchita Basu De Sarkar are the adult judges.

## ***Sebastian Sawe breaks two-hour barrier in historic London Marathon***

April 28, 2026

Kenyan runner Sebastian Sawe made history at the London Marathon on April 26, 2026.

The 31-year-old crossed the finish line in 1:59:30, becoming the first person to complete an official marathon in under two hours. However, Sawe's performance was just one highlight of an extraordinary race.

Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha finished second in 1:59:41, also breaking the two-hour barrier. Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo placed third in 2:00:28.

Remarkably, all three men ran faster than the previous world record of 2:00:35. That record was set by Kelvin Kiptum at the 2023 Chicago Marathon.

The three lead runners started with a steady but quick pace, reaching the halfway point in 1:00:29. The real excitement began around the 19-mile (30 km) mark. At this point, Sawe and Kejelcha started to pull away from Kiplimo.



Sebastian Sawe ran the London Marathon in less than two hours.

The two leaders picked up speed, running in sync toward the finish. Then, with just about a mile (1.6 km) to go, Sawe surged ahead of Kejelcha, sealing his place in history.

"I saw the clock at the finish line, and I couldn't believe it," Sawe said afterward. "I have shown the next generation that nothing is impossible. It is just a matter of time and belief."

Source: CBBC Newsround

April 28

## News in Pictures

**Washington D.C., USA**

U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump pose for a picture with Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla at their arrival for afternoon tea on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C., USA.

**Chattogram, Bangladesh**

People wade through waist-high water as heavy rainfall causes severe water-logging across roads in the port city.

**Banda Aceh, Indonesia**

School students participate in early childhood Hajj pilgrimage education in Banda Aceh. Indonesia is expected to send 221,000 Hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

**London, UK**

Chefs and volunteers celebrate after breaking the Guinness World Record for the longest tiramisu, which measured 400 m. The Italian coffee and cream dessert, was made using 50,000 ladyfinger biscuits and over 3,000 eggs.

**Marseille, France**

A ceramic jug recovered from the wreck of a 16<sup>th</sup> century merchant ship known as Camarat 4 is analysed at the Department of Underwater and Submarine Archaeological Research (Drassm) laboratory.

French navy teams are helping to map the site and collect samples of ceramics found in the wreck, which lies at a depth of 2,500 m, making it the deepest wreck discovered in French waters.

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

A woman rests at the site of demolished informal settlements a day after the government began destroying shanty homes and removing occupants from riverbanks in the Kathmandu Valley. The government said it would move the 450,000 landless squatter families to other parts of the valley.



April 27

**Musandam, Oman**

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has offered to end its chokehold on the waterway without addressing its nuclear programme, two officials with knowledge of the proposal said.

**Breda, The Netherlands**

Festival-goers wearing orange attend the King's Day party, a massive celebration featuring the 538 Koningsdag Music Festival at Chasséveld.

**Yangzhou, China**

Tourists enjoy a spectacular night light show at Slender West Lake scenic area in Jiangsu province.

Sources: The Guardian &amp; Reuters