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Ramadan & Eid Greetings from Gading Jame Masjid



Haji Mohammed Iqbal Khan

Alhumdullilah, this Ramadan is truly a blessing in many folds, as we all can recall a really challenging past couple of years. Our heartfelt duas to everyone around the globe who was affected in whichever way by this unprecedented pandemic. Undoubtedly, this has had profound impact on our daily lives; the faithful can learn several lessons from this. Now that the pandemic is taking a downturn, we are facing economic inflation and challenging cost of living period.

Let us all encourage each other to observe this Ramadan more modestly. 2021 and now 2022 is showing signs of great hope and Insha Allah we will be able to put this virus behind us very soon.

Continued P7

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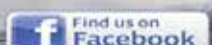
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THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

The US Fiji Times is ranked as the top newspaper being published outside of Fiji for the Fiji American community and all over the world. The paper's popularity has grown immensely in recent years due to its critical approach in impressing the need for charitable organizations to rise up in all occasions to help Fiji and the people back home. Visitors from around the world have commended the paper on its stand to serve the community. The US Fiji Times understands that like in any other field, there is competition and competing with "The largest newspaper out of Fiji" has been a difficult task for newer publications. This is not because of its magnitude and coverage, but because of its stability and growth capabilities.

The writers of the paper comprise some of Fiji's best. Even though they are not too visible in social functions, they are taking up their challenges very effectively. The marketing strategy handles by our CEO/Publisher Mr. Rocky Ali is the hallmark of the papers current strength. Despite lacking the front line journalist experience, he makes up for the deficiency with the sheer ability to jeep the media wagon rolling. His insatiable love to be involved with the community to cherish in this very noble cause is worthy of higher recommendation. We have a very vibrant community, so despite the paper being issued free, the expectation of the community is very high. The coverage of all the major events is a mist for the paper and we feel

very proud to be associated with major organizations to see that their events are properly covered with pictures, stories and awareness via our social media platforms.

The paper is being also sent to countries like Fiji, NZ, Australia, Canada, England and Sweden for Fijians abroad to also get the feel of the luxuries of USA. The feedback has been overwhelming in this regard and it has become a trend for many organizations to rely on US Fiji Times in reaching the desired success with adequate coverage.

The paper will strive to serve the community with the best of its ability and assures the community that there will be quality reporting at all times. Vinaka – Rocky Buksh

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Fiji News

PROJECT ENABLES ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER FOR SESE COMMUNITY

More than 200 Fijians from 40 households at Sese in Cuvu, Nadroga now have access to safe, clean and accessible drinking water. This follows the commissioning of the Sese Water Project by the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu on Monday. The water project was completed under the Ministry's Self-Help Programme (SHP) with an investment of around \$30,000 by Government. Through a joint collaboration between the Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme's Governance for Resilience in the Pacific (Gov4Res) Project to risk-inform the project, an additional funding of \$6,000 was committed to support the sustainability of the project. The assistance by Government included the provision of two 20,000 litres water tanks, while the additional funding by the Gov4Res Project was directed towards the installation of the storage facility and protection of the water infrastructure to

ensure it could withstand future disasters such as cyclones. Sese community water committee member and resident Mr. Mun Reddy said they were grateful to Government and the UNDP's Gov4Res project for working together to enable the provision of clean drinking water to the residents of Sese. "The community used to fetch water from other places in gallons and have had to transport it in cars and carriers to their homes. The community is very happy because everyone is getting water now."

Speaking during the commissioning of the project, Minister Seruiratu said the Sese Water Project was part of our joint partnership with the UNDP in working towards ensuring that all our developments were risk informed. "This water infrastructure is done in line with our resilience in development programme. Most of the water facilities in rural areas are usually damaged by flying debris or blown away when there is a disaster. But the Sese Water



Project is different. It has a shed over it, a stand and steel wires and wall protection to prevent it from being damaged come the next cyclone. It is our hope that the provision of water will not be disrupted come the next

disaster," Minister Seruiratu said. Minister Seruiratu said water and sanitation was a key development programme for Government. "We hope that this project will contribute to the good health and sanitation

of the community members and also meet their security needs and of course contribute to the overall wellbeing of the community here in Sese."

H.E LYRIO IS BRAZIL'S NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO FIJI

His Excellency, President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, received the credentials of Non-resident Ambassador of Brazil to Fiji, His Excellency, Mauricio Carvalho Lyrio, at the State House this morning. H.E Lyrio is a career diplomat and had served at the Brazilian Embassies in Washington (1999-2002), Buenos Aires (2002-

2005), and Beijing (2011-2013). Prior to his appointment, H.E Lyrio was the Brazilian Ambassador to Mexico between February 2018 and September 2021. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Communication (1989) and a Master's Degree in International Relations (1994) from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.



PRESIDENT KATONIVERE RECEIVED H.E MADUBIKE'S CREDENTIALS AS THE NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF NIGERIA TO FIJI



His Excellency, President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, received the credentials of the Non-resident Ambassador of Nigeria to Fiji, His Excellency, Anderson Madubike, at the State House this afternoon. Prior to his appointment, H.E Madubike was the Consul General at the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He

was also the Minister for Nigerians in Diaspora, Economic Matters, and Investment from 2014 to 2017. During his tenure with the Nigerian Foreign Service, H.E Madubike was responsible for a variety of administrative, conflict resolution, diplomatic, economic/trade, political, and public policy matters.

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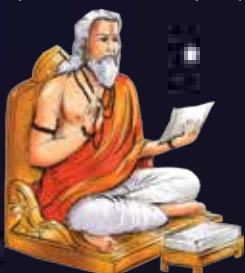
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News

Ramadan & Eid Greetings from Gading Jame Masjid

Really looking forward to normalizing our day to day living. As we embarked on another blessed month of Ramadan, we pray for peace and harmony around the globe.

As you are reading this article Ramadan has already started and really looking forward to having an amazing atmosphere all around the globe. The beauty of this month is the blessings are in abundance. On behalf of my entire team at American Muslim Association/Gading Jame Masjid, I would like to take this opportunity to convey Ramadan Mubarak to the community and to all fasting brothers and sisters around the globe. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and fasting is one of the fundamental pillars in Islam. During this auspicious month, capable Muslims are mandated to keep their fast from sunrise to sunset. The month of Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, increasing our good deeds, and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint, and generosity. It is the month to appreciate all the blessings our Creator Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala has bestowed upon us and it also reminds us of the suffering of

the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. Charity (Zakat) giving is another one of the 5 pillars in Islam and is increased in the month of Ramadan. A person who has wealth is required to give in charity 2.5% to the family members or any Muslim brothers or sisters who are not as fortunate. Rewards for any good deeds done during the month of Ramadan are multiplied by seventy at the minimum but there is no limit to what Allah gives. Let's pray for all brothers and sisters who have departed this world before us that may Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala be pleased with them and grant them all the highest level in paradise...Ameen! Gading Jame Masjid is having Iftaar daily, five daily and Taraweeh prayers.

As most of you know, Gading Jame Masjid's grand opening ceremony was originally scheduled for March 2020 but due to the pandemic it was postponed. Since the environment improved, the grand opening ceremony was held on March 5. The program was awesome in many ways. The AMA team organized and executed well. We had a great turn out for our ribbon cutting ceremony. The Mayor of City of Hayward, council members, neighboring church pastors, neighboring

Masjid Imam and board members and community members were present. The ribbon cutting was carried out by our Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, Ladies League and Youth Team, respectively from the main front gate and all entry doors of the Masjid. The grand open plaque installed in the Masjid courtyard was unveiled by Mayor Barbara Halliday. Our community worked very hard to reach the milestone of building a new Masjid from ground up and everyone deserved the celebration of this great achievement. I thank all those brothers and sisters who have donated and or have contributed in any way towards the construction of the new Masjid, may Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala accept your contributions and reward you all in many folds...Ameen!

Many thanks to all those brothers and sisters who worked tirelessly in preparing for the grand opening, may Allah

Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala reward you all for your support and dedication and not forgetting those brothers and sisters who donated for the grand opening function, may Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala reward you all as well. Special recognition and appreciation for brother Rocky Buksh and his US Fiji

Times team to be present and capturing this historical moment for the community to remember for years to come. This Masjid will serve as an abode to future generations, not just as a place of worship but also a place of community functions, recreation, and learning. I also would like to thank all the community members that continue to financially support and participate in the daily and Juma prayers.

Gading Jame Masjid has started a 'Food Pantry' program to assist anyone in need and also a Welfare Team to

support families in need and to reach out to communities hit by natural disasters. Recently our Welfare Team supported the Tongan community with food and water drive to send to Tonga, this was a very successful event and appreciated by the Tongan community. If you or anyone you know is in need, please contact any of the Board

Members or if you are interested in contributing to this noble cause, please let us know.

I would like to conclude by praying that may we end this blessed month of Ramadan with peace, harmony, happiness, and with a great celebration of Eid-ul Fitr.

"Dunya Se Dil Laga Kar Dunya Se Kiya Milega Yade Khuda Kiyeja Tuj Ko Khuda Milega"

A Greeting Poem for Ramadan, the Blessed Month

Marhaba, Marhaba, Marhaba Oh Ramadan! the month of blessing, the month that all Muslims are anxiously awaiting to fast, the month that elevates the faith of Muslims, the month that brings good and bad Muslims together, the month in which Qur'an is recited more than all the other months combined, Oh the loving Ramadan, here you are with us again, the month of piety in which all doubtful hobbies are avoided,

Oh Ramadan, Marhaban, Marhaba, Marhaba! the only month that has a Night of Power, the only month in which Angels descend in troops, the month in which the poor and the rich get their past sins forgiven, Oh Ramadan, the lessons you taught us will not be forgotten,

Oh Ramadan, we look forward to seeing more of you in fettle. Marhaba, Marhaba, Marhaba Oh Ramadan!

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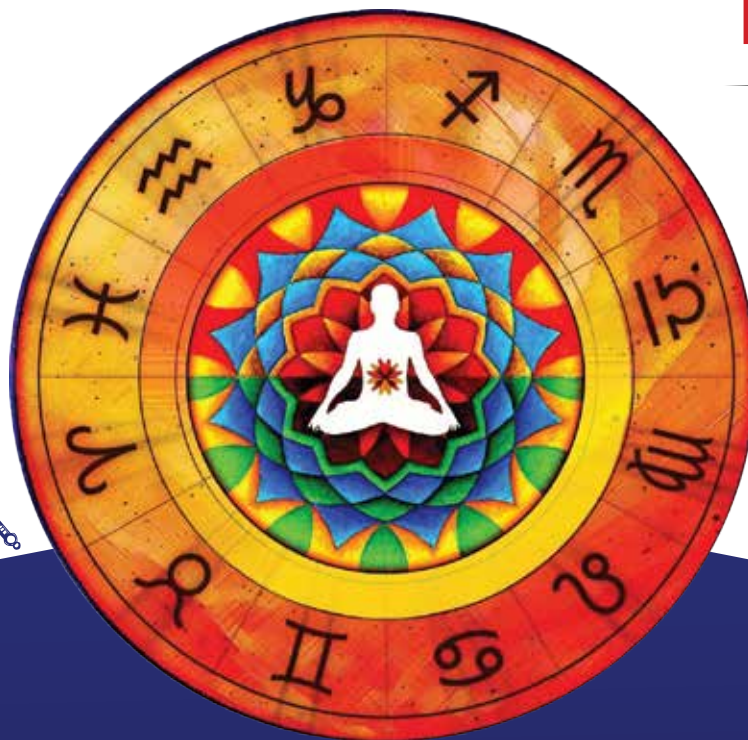
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We are extremely grateful to all brothers and sisters for your contributions. We are looking forward for your support in future. May Allah give you all success in this world and in the hereafter.

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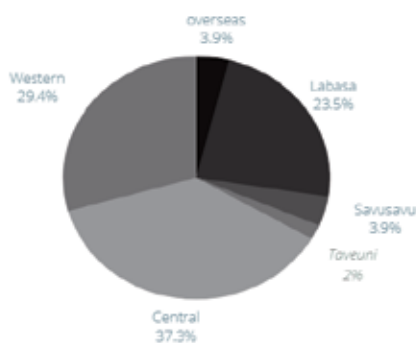
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Fiji News

AUSTRALIA REAFFIRMS FURTHER SUPPORT TO FIJI'S IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Australia reaffirmed its support towards the Fijian Immigration Department as part of ongoing efforts to further enhance our Immigration systems. This was reinforced by the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs-Regional Director Pacific, Mr Andrew Rice while paying a courtesy call on the Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and Immigration, Mr Yogesh Karan today. Mr Rice said at the meeting that Australia is "opening its doors" for capacity building, secondment, and training pro-

grammes to boost knowledge of Immigration staff and continue with upgrade of Immigration systems. He added that they are open for more discussions in areas of interests within the Immigration Department. The meeting today follows on from the signing of the Direct Funding Agreement of \$1.7million between Fiji and Australia last year, for the advancement of the Fijian Immigration Department's (FID) Information Communication and Technological (ICT) Infrastructure. Mr Karan, in response, conveyed the Fijian Government's sincere apprecia-

tion to Australia for its tremendous assistance and ongoing support. He said Australia's assistance certainly supports the Fijian Government's commitment to an inclusive, safe, secure, stable and prosperous Fiji through comprehensively developing the Border Security and Immigration Services, among other important initiatives. Mr Karan added that Fiji will continue to work closely with Australia to ensure effective and efficient services are achieved within the Immigration Department.



FIJI AND AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND SIGN DUAVATA PARTNERSHIP

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama and Aotearoa New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nanaia Mahuta met in Suva, today (29/03/22), signing the Duavata Partnership: Aotearoa Whenua Manapori o Whiti Tauaki Mahitahi, an expanded Statement of Partnership between the two countries. "The Duavata Partnership is a landmark achievement in the advancement of Fiji and New Zealand collaborations, which has continued to enhance over the years. It illustrates our shared commitment and vision for regional solidarity. New Zealand has been a great partner and friend to Fiji and our partnership is the strongest ever," said Prime Minister Bainimarama. Both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the Duavata Partnership reaffirms Fiji and Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to work together on issues of shared in-

terests and importance. "The new Statement of Partnership reflects our joint ambition to elevate and strengthen our relationship, and underlines the importance of Fiji to Aotearoa New Zealand as a member of our Pacific whanau," said Minister Mahuta. "Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to working alongside Fiji and supporting common goals — both in Fiji and in the Pacific region — that build resilience in areas such as climate change, security, and sustainable economic recovery from COVID-19." Prime Minister Bainimarama also extended his appreciation to Aotearoa New Zealand Prime Minister, Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern, for her strong leadership and unwavering support that has led to the Duavata Partnership. "This has been evident through the remarkable support which New Zealand has rendered to Fiji during our



greatest moments of need. Fiji is grateful to the New Zealand Government for its assistance to Fiji, for the national recovery efforts from climate impacts and COVID-19 pandemic, through the provision of humanitarian, budgetary support and lifesaving vaccines." "This strategic cooperation is timely, as our region paves its way forward to progressive socio-economic recovery. It will give impetus to our common aspirations on achieving greener, bluer and resilient recovery, with the interest of our Pacific people at the heart of it." Prime Minister Bainimarama said the Fijian Government looked forward to working closely with the New Zealand Government in the full realisation of the commitments made. "As a unified Pacific family, we take great

pride in commemorating this momentous occasion which speaks to our historical links and lasting bonds of friendship that inspires initiatives for the empowerment of ordinary Fijians and create platforms for national and regional prosperity." The Duavata Partnership is a significant milestone in establishing the values, priorities and principles that will guide the Fiji-Aotearoa New Zealand relationship in the future. Prime Minister Bainimarama formally welcomed Minister Mahuta to Fiji and wished her well for the

week-long engagements to be undertaken during her first official visit to Fiji. He also conveyed to Minister Mahuta, the best wishes of the Fijian Government and the Fijian people to Prime Minister Ardern and the people of Aotearoa New Zealand. Prior to the signing of the Duavata Partnership, the leaders took the opportunity to discuss a range of issues, including climate change cooperation, each countries' respective COVID-19 outbreaks, and responses and support for Pacific regionalism.





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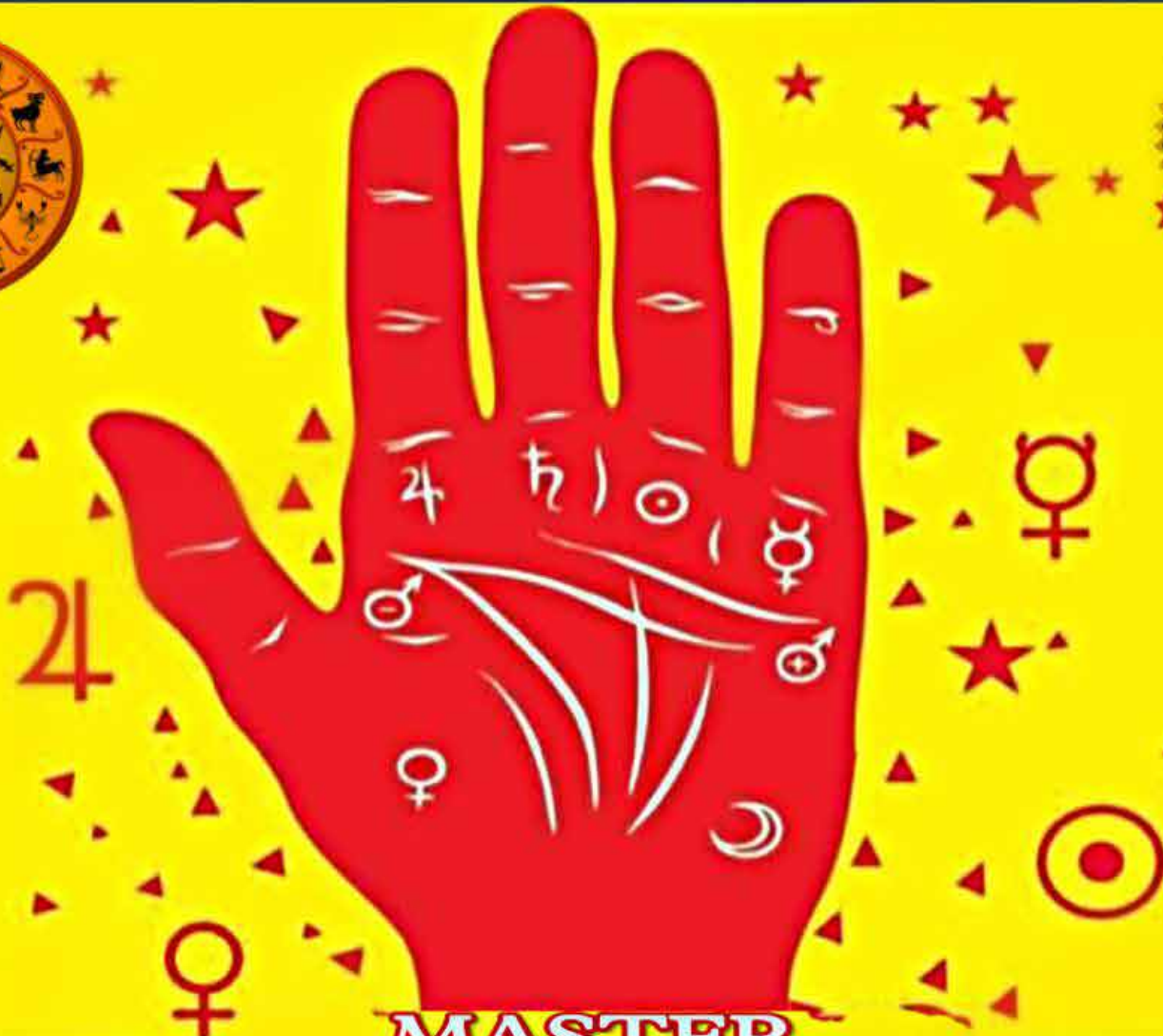
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Fiji News

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES COURTESY CALL FROM THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR

Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama received a courtesy call from the new Ambassador of Cuba to Fiji, His Excellency José Manuel Galego Montano, at the Office of the Prime Minister, this afternoon.

The Prime Minister congratulated Ambassador Montano on his new role and conveyed the assurances of the Fijian Government in working closely with Cuba to elevate diplomatic relations which, was formally established in 2002. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Fiji. The Prime Minister acknowledged the Cuban Government's ongoing support to Fiji through initiatives like the provision of medical scholarships, which has empowered Fijian medical students in their career development, and it contributes to Fiji's health sector. The meeting outlined prospective partnerships in mutual areas of climate change, economic recovery post COVID-19, disaster preparedness, health, education and sports diplomacy. The opportunities for

greater engagement through the existing Visa Exemption Agreement between the two nations, was also recognised. The socioeconomic challenges resulting from the crisis in Ukraine, along with the concerted efforts of the global community to address those subsequent impacts was also highlighted. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the Fijian Government's commitment to work in solidarity with its global and regional development partners in collectively addressing common challenges and advancing shared aspirations.

He extended the Fijian Government's best wishes to Ambassador Montano as he assumes his new role, and expressed confidence that the Fiji and Cuba partnership would continue to strengthen. In response, Ambassador Montano thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for the opportunity to meet in person and discuss a way forward to enhancing engagements between our two nations. He said the relations between our two developing countries constitutes a genuine



testimony of solidarity and co-operation. "Along these years, Cuba and Fiji have continuously developed cooperation for the benefit of both countries. More than 17 Fijian doctors graduated in Cuba, as part of the Governmental Scholarships Program provided by Cuba. Doctors graduated in Cuba are currently working in Fijian communities and contributing to improve the health care services." "Cuba is committed to further strengthen the bilateral coopera-

tion in those areas of common interest, such as confronting climate change, ocean and environment protection, disaster management, education, health care and sports, among others. Ambassador Montano said that, "Fiji can always count on the solidarity of the Cuban people and we are island nations and we share great challenges, so together, we can develop some projects for the benefit of our two peoples. "There are several areas with great potential

to be developed, for example sustainable agriculture, sugar agroindustry, promotion of renewable energies, just to mention a few. "Given the shared status of Small Islands Developing States, Cuba and Fiji can share experiences in sustainable development, inclusive economy growth, in the middle of the impact of COVID19 pandemic and also the consequences of climate change," he said.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ATTEND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Government of Fiji recognises that women entrepreneurs are critical to economic growth, peace and prosperity. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA) is leading the effective implementation of the Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) project in Fiji in close partnership with UNESCAP and all relevant stakeholders. This initiative is in response to the Government of Fiji's commitment on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment and realisation of SDG 5 on Gender Equality and multiple related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These were the sentiments shared by the Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Veena Bhatnagar while officiating at the ICT Capacity Building Training on E-Commerce and Digital Marketing to

Women Entrepreneurs in Suva this morning. Assistant Minister Bhatnagar stated that most of this workshop participants are fire victims of the 2020 fire that destroyed the Suva Flea Market.

"The fire affected more than 100 market vendors, mostly Women-run Micro Enterprises (MEs) and Self Employed Women. Due to this catastrophe, most market vendors are left without adequate options to recover as they gradually come to terms with the tragedy that has befallen them and the twin crises of COVID-19 and TC Harold. I thank all women for their resilience in the face of disaster". Assistant Minister Bhatnagar said that the objective of the ICT Capacity Building Training on E-Commerce and Digital Marketing is to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs to utilise ICT tools in support of their businesses. "This platform will also increase

understanding of the business environment that women entrepreneurs operate in, which can inform future actions by policymakers to create a more conducive and gender responsive business environment. The training will also equip participants with the knowledge and resources to offer this training to more women entrepreneurs in the future". "In July 2019, the Government of Fiji in partnership with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) launched the 'Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship' project. This regional initiative is a 5-year Programme (2018-2023), funded by the Government of Canada". Assistant Minister Bhatnagar highlighted that the CWE project aims to strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems that foster women's entrepreneurship, enhance women entrepreneurs' access to capital through innova-

tive financing mechanisms, and increase women entrepreneurs' use of ICT through relevant training and tools. These results are envisaged to be achieved through: · Gender-responsive entrepreneurial ecosystem capacity development · Innovative financing mechanisms · Women ICT Frontier Initiative The Assistant Minister stressed the importance of striving to continue to promote women's economic empowerment and to create an equitable enabling environment for women. She acknowledged the Government of Canada and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for providing the funds and programme for women empowerment in Fiji. She also acknowledged the presence of Mr. Kenneth Katarafono who will be facilitating the training in the next three days and the staff of the Department of Women for coordinating.

Ms. Seseieli Tagitagivalu, 59 years old from Lami, thanked the Ministry for providing this ICT Capacity Building Training on E-Commerce and Digital Marketing that will help them to promote their business locally and abroad. "I am selling handicraft products at the Suva Flea Market and the three disasters that occurred at the Flea Market have affected our business. We found this training to be very beneficial. It will help us revive our business, and we will also learn from it and share it with other women in our area. Mrs. Dee Kwain, 74, from Nadi, said that she had no idea how to market products using Social Media Platforms. "For me and most of the participants, this training will be an eye-opener. This will be a new initiative for me and will help a lot with my business growth".

Digicel Pacific Boss In Top Telco Magazine

Capacity Magazine, a London based media publication focused on the latest in telecommunications has recognised our very own Shally Jannif. The Digicel Group – Regional Chief Executive Officer – Pacific Group was featured in the magazine's February/March edition in its 20 Women to Watch segment.

By Ranoba Baoa



**Digicel Pacific Chief Executive Officer,
Shally Jannif.**

This is the fifth annual Women to Watch Power List celebrates 20 noteworthy women from across wholesale telecoms and tech sector. Capacity said this year's list received the highest number of submissions since it launched in 2018. The segment it said was: "Creating an index that shines a light on women across the space who have achieved massive results or reached major milestones in their respective fields, while breaking down barriers in the

process."

Ms Jannif is recognised alongside names like Google's Africa Infrastructure lead, Sylvie La-Perriere, and Nokia's President fixed networks business group, Sandy Motley.

The magazine said: "In 2019, Jannif became the first Fijian to hold the position of regional CEO at Digicel and is the only female CEO at the group. "Under her leadership, Digicel Pacific was sold to Telstra, valued at US\$1.8 billion (about FJ\$3.78 billion).

"During the Tonga subsea cable outage, Jannif helped to co-ordinate Digicel's repair and reconnection network."

In a response, Ms Jannif said, it was a privilege and an honour to be recognised among the power watch list of the top 20 women leaders in the telco world. She acknowledged Digicel chairman, Denis O'Brien, and the senior management team for having faith in her.

"Being the first Fijian person to be appointed to this position is a great opportunity and I am very grateful for the faith my leadership team continues to place in my team and me," she said. "I would also like to thank my family – my mum, siblings and my pillar of strength, my only son."

"Being part of a dynamic team that never gives up under any given circumstance."

"Be it a Tsunami, earthquake, cyclones, floods or COVID, I am proud to be part of an amazing team that is so resilient."

"My team is my biggest asset."

"My style of leadership is inclusive, encouraging participation, sharing not only information

but your ideas, feelings, etc and most importantly being empowered to lead their own verticals/areas." Here is an excerpt of an interview with Ms Jannif.

How Do You Manage Work/Life Balance In This Fast-Paced Demanding World?

I like this question. My answer is a question back to you – isn't work part of life? I don't chase work/life balance.

Reason – I love my job, I love my family and I love my life.

I find time in my day to do all.

I don't have this maths in my head on the exact number of hours needed where one can quantify I have now achieved work/life balance.

We need to decide what is important and prioritize.

Sometimes things won't work out as planned and that is ok.

As long as you love what you do there is always going to be no room for regrets.

Where Do You See Yourself In Five Years Time?

Personally, I see myself nurturing and bringing up my son from being my baby (he is 10 at the moment) to a young man who respects women.

Professionally, I aim to continue working in senior leadership roles, empowering more women and young girls that they can be CEOs as well.

I see myself working in more philanthropic ventures as well.

Your mindset is very important.

With a positive mindset, you find solutions for the most demanding situations.



FANCA - FIJI, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CANADA & AMERICA - will meet head-head to claim the Title of the FANCA TOURNAMENT scheduled on August 17-21st 2022 at Prince Charles Park in Nadi, Fiji Islands. FANCA will be celebrating its 25th Year - Silver Jubilee.

Fiji Muslim Sports Association of USA- is preparing to take Teams in 4 Categories to the Tour to Fiji. All Star Team, All-Star Masters 35+, USA 40+ & USA 50+.

While speaking with the President of FMSA of USA- Br. Shameer Buksh, he is looking forward to the Tournamnet and is preparing a solid entry to compete in the FANCA Muslim Championship. Br. Shameer also has urged any players interested in joining the teams to reach out to him directly or find the Facebook page, FMSA OF USA or visit the website www.fmsausa.org.

FMSA of USA- also has planned an EID CUP Soccer Championship in California on May, 21, 2022

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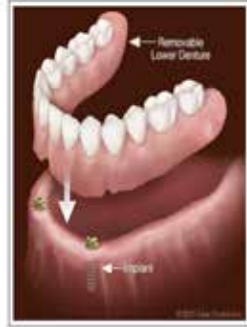
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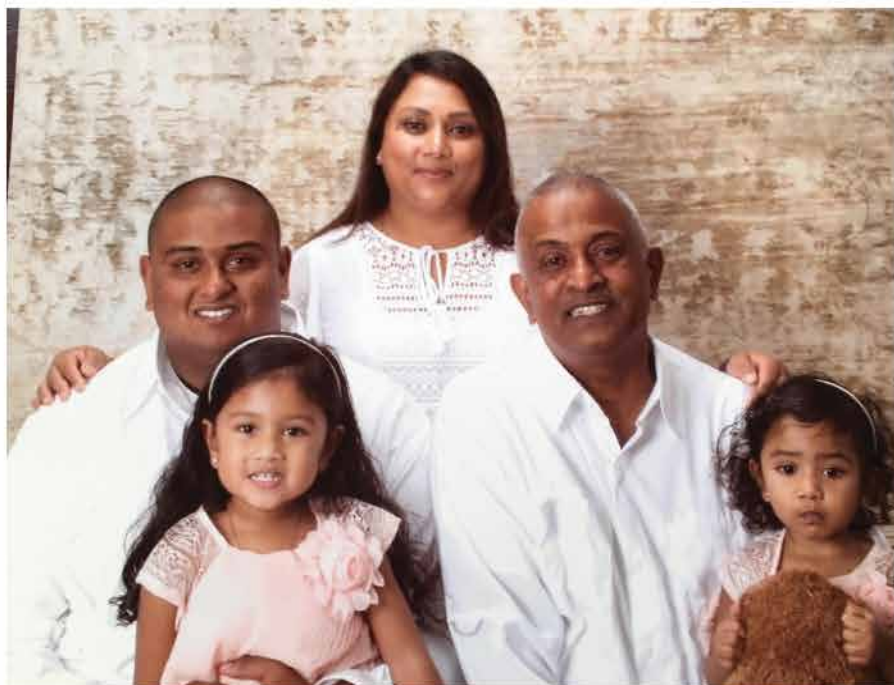
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BUYING A SECOND HOME OVERSEAS

As a world traveler, you may revisit a country area again and again for its beauty, culture, people and lifestyle and decide you'd like to buy a second residence there.

For your first step, The Philadelphia Inquirer recommends hiring a property lawyer in the country where you want to buy, as well as having a lawyer stateside to advise you. Some overseas countries don't allow noncitizens to purchase real estate, while others allow it, but they may have visa restrictions on when you can enter the country.

Most U.S. banks won't lend money for foreign home buying, and some places either don't have mortgage lending available, or they impose higher interest rates or require hefty down payments of 30% to 50% of the property's value, according to Investopedia.com. Transaction costs may be higher than stateside, including property transfer fees or stamp duties that can add 10% or more to the sales price, as well as other fees.

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A recent article in *Inman News* explains:

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2. Housing Supply Is Extremely Low - Even Though Supply Is at a Historic Low, Home Sales Are at a 15-Year High Bottom Line

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RAMADAN KAREEM

Ramadan Kareem to all the Muslims of the universe. Over one billion Muslims throughout the world are preparing to welcome Ramadan. Ramadan is the holiest months of Islam. This month is a gift from Almighty Allah and a chance to attain Taqwa (fear of God) through fasting and Tarawih (nighttime prayers).

Let's know about Ramadan and Ramadan Kareem Meaning, definition, significance and virtues. Please take time, sit tight and read till the end as I am gonna discuss many important things about Ramadan that you may not know.

Ramadan Kareem Meaning

What does Ramadan mean? Linguists differed from one another on the meaning of the word Ramadan. Some linguists said it is derived from the Arabic word Ramida and its root is Ar-Ramdaa (أرض مرملة) and its popular meaning is the intensity of heat in the summertime as fasting is usually in summer.

Another reason why this month is called Ramadan can be because people experience hunger and thirst during the fasting of the month.

Others said this month is called Ramadan because, in this month, all the sins of Muslims are burned and turned into good deeds.

It is also said that the Arabs used to throw their weapons in the month of Shawwal ahead of the holy months in which the fighting was prohibited and the wars were forbidden. The four months are Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhu'l-Hijjah, Muharram, and Rajab.

There are many opinions on the reasons for naming this holy month as Ramadan and the linguists' opinion differed from one another on this according to their jurisprudence and knowledge. Allah knows better.

What does Kareem mean? Kareem (كريم) means generous or noble. Note that the word Al-Kareem is different from Kareem. Al-Kareem is one of the 99 names of Allah and it means the most generous.

So the Meaning of Ramadan Kareem is Ramadan the Generous (Month). It is an expression that is used to greet, pray and mention the name of the month during Ramadan in Muslim inhabited countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Qatar, Dubai and even in India.



Ramadan Kareem Greetings Purpose

Muslims say Ramadan Kareem, in English Ramadan the Generous (Month), because Ramadan is a month of the generosity of Almighty Allah. He forgives, blesses and rewards faithful Muslims without a limit.

Let's see what Hadith says about Ramadan. Narrated by Abu Huraira Radiallahu Anhu: Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of the heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained." -Sahih al-Bukhari, Vol. 3, Book 31, Hadith 123

How can the month of Ramadan not have this great status! Ramadan is the Month of Quran. It is the month in which the book of God Al-Quran came down. Ramadan is the high time for worship and contemplation.

The imposition of fasting was in the second year of the Prophet's noble migration. Arabs were aware of the status and greatness of the holy month of Ramadan even before Islam had come. We should be better than them. Let's make Ramadan 2022 the best Ramadan of our life.

May Allah grant us the ability to cleanse ourselves from every single of sins and attain Taqwa through fasting and nighttime prayers.

Happy Ramadan Kareem.

Fiji News

AKBAR MEETS UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar paid a courtesy visit to the new Executive Director for UN Women, Ms Sima Sami Bahous at her office in New York yesterday (27/03/22).

Minister Akbar is in New York for the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The two leaders spoke on CSW and priorities, with this year's theme being 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes'. They discussed the need for more cohesive approaches, and a more visible

role of the Ministry of Women in this space, as repeated disasters meant that women were being repeatedly challenged with differentiated impacts. Recovery and economic empowerment were also discussed extensively in this regard and UN Women is keen to expand support in this area. The focus of the discussions in this meeting included Gender Based Violence as this is an area of concern for UN Women and the National Women's Machinery in Fiji. Ms Bahous recognised that Fiji has one of the best normative frameworks in the developing world. However, it was agreed that despite this, Fiji does have exceptionally high rates of GBV. Minister



Akbar took the time to brief Ms Bahous on the progress of the National Action Plan on Pre-

venting Violence against all Women and Girls which UN Women has supported. The two

leaders also had discussions on some of the regional challenges and perspectives.

MINISTER KUMAR COMMENDS THE WORK OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Minister Premila Kumar attended the club charter ceremony of the Soroptimist International Sugar City Fiji at the Tanoa Waterfront Hotel in Lautoka, yesterday (27/03/22). The Minister said that it was a proud moment for Fiji to witness the commitment and dedication made by these women to serve their community through the establishment of the 9th So-

roptimist club in Fiji, joining the 121 other such organisations in the world. "Soroptimist International is a global movement of women, with more than 3,000 clubs in 126 countries/territories, spread over 5 Federations," said Minister Kumar. The Minister commended the work of the organisation and thanked them on behalf of the many women and girls they

have supported. "It's an organisation that empowers women to progress in their professional and personal lives despite the struggles that women normally face." "It is worth noting that Soroptimist International South West Pacific Fiji works in 6 areas such as education, health, environment, social and economic development, Prevention of violence against women and girls, and international goodwill and understanding - Soroptimists have improved the lives of women and girls through such programmes leading to social and economic empowerment."

The Minister also highlighted the role education plays in the empowerment of women and how the Government has sup-



ported this through its initiatives. "With the provision of free education, we have closed the gap in the access to education by girls. We have seen over the years, the participation of girls in education has been increasing steadily." The Minister concluded by saying it was a

very rare occasion to see a club that includes women from any profession, any age group and with any skillsets, who had in common the willingness and desire to serve, and again acknowledged the hard-working members of the Soroptimist Society for organising the event.



AKBAR MEETS UNDP ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR



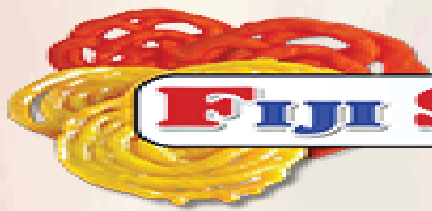
The Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar paid a courtesy visit to Ms Usha Rao-Monari, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at her office in New York yesterday (27/03/22). Minister Akbar briefed Ms Monari on the work of the REACH Project in Fiji, which is a project carried out in partnership between the Fijian Government through the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, and UNDP

with funding from the Japanese Government. The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen their partnership in future and also the project itself. UNDP was keen to see how REACH can be used to scale up the digitalisation of services to women and others. During the discussion, the two leaders also discussed gender-based violence in Fiji and worldwide and the avenues for action. Minister Akbar shared the various initiatives that Fiji has embarked on in this regard.

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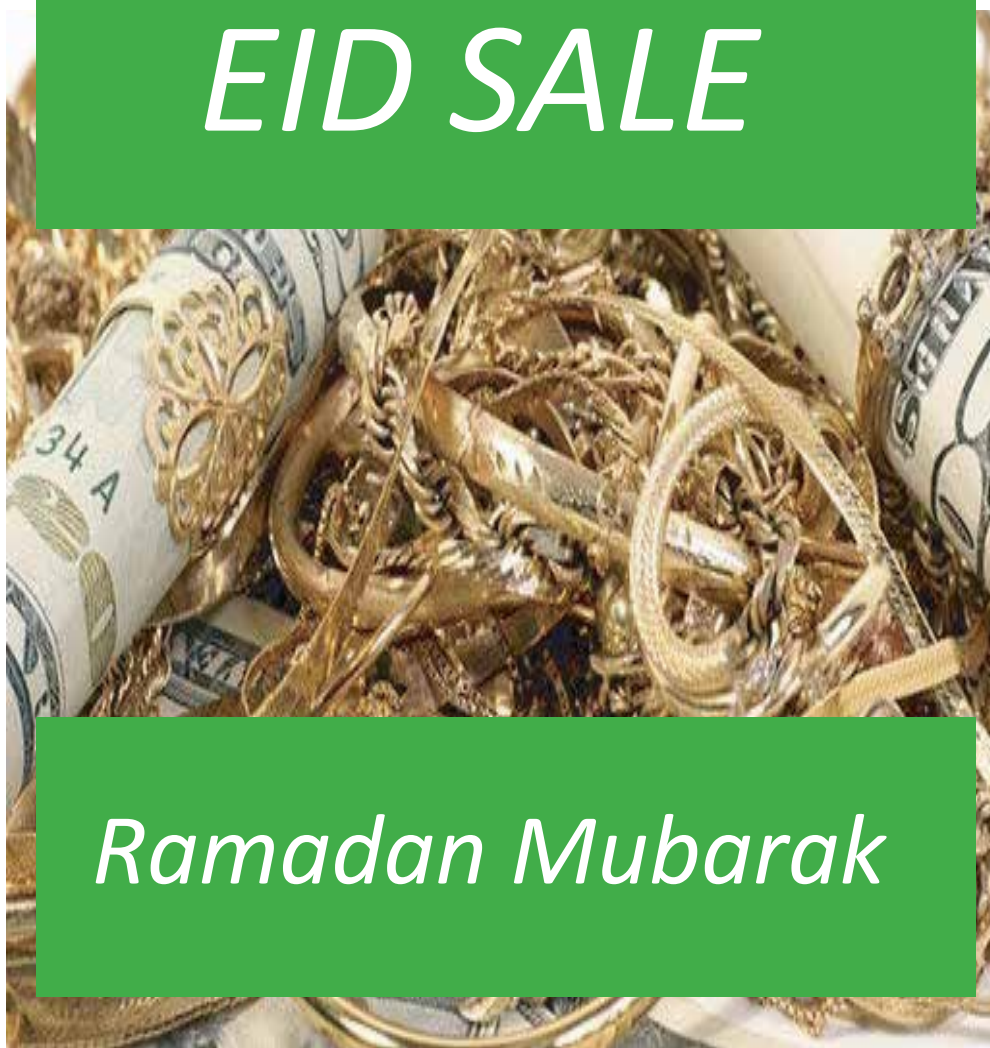
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Fiji News

WESTERN DIVISION STUDENTS RECEIVE STATIONERY

Minister Kumar joined the Fiji Water Foundation in handing over backpacks and stationery to students in the Western Division at Xavier College on Saturday 26 March 2022. Over the coming weeks, the initiative aims to provide these items to around 67,000 primary and secondary students from Ra, Tavua, Ba, Lautoka and Yasawas to support them in their preparations for the upcoming 2022 academic year which begins on 1 April. "As we prepare for our new school year, we look forward to receiving our students back in high spirits," said the Minister. The Minister highlighted the various initiatives by the Government to support the education sector, adding that it

was working, as could be seen in the steady increase in school attendance. "This shows that there is a genuine interest in our families to educate their children and the support that the Government is providing in terms of the free education grant, free textbooks and transport is clearly helping parents to send their children to school. The participation of girls in education has also increased," she said. She thanked parents for always supporting their children and for trusting the Ministry with its day to day obligations and took the opportunity to thank all students and teachers throughout Fiji for their perseverance and determination. "Please enjoy your one week break, stay safe



and prepare well for the 2022 academic year." Minister Kumar also thanked the Fiji Water

Foundation for their kind contribution, acknowledging their support towards children's edu-

cation by giving back to local communities.

"HOLI BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER" - PM BAINIMARAMA

Colours do not judge or discriminate among the people playing with them, and neither should the people applying these colours. Rich or poor, powerful or humble, beautiful or homely, we are all the same—and all one. This was the message by Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama while participating in the Holi Milan Celebrations in MySuva Park today. "Holi brings people together, and the fun comes from mingling with our neighbours and being doused with colours even by perfect strangers," he said. "Holi is definitely one of my favourite festivals in the Hindu calendar—the beautiful and vibrant colours, the merry-making, the singing and dancing. "The beauty behind Holi

celebrations is that the different colours, when combined, cross all barriers and come together to be equal, to find peace and spread happiness," he added. PM Bainimarama said Holi brings people together as one nation and one Fijian people who don't take unity for granted but build it, nurture it, and fight for it when it is threatened. "Holi celebrations have been a part of Fiji for 143 years — ever since the first indentured labourers arrived and over the decades, the festival has spread across different communities, schools and workplaces and become a national celebration, enjoyed by all Fijians," he said. "I want to commend the India-Fiji Friendship Forum, which has just introduced a special



award to acknowledge the work of individuals who have made a difference for all. It is given in the spirit of national unity,

and I thank you for it." PM Bainimarama also wished the Indian High Commission for India's 75th year of Independence

and for organising a number of events around Fiji to mark the 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mahstov.

PM BAINIMARAMA UNVEILED NEW \$7 COMMEMORATIVE BANKNOTE AT THE 2022 MARIST 7S TOURNAMENT



Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama, unveiled a new 7-dollar commemorative banknote on the margins of the Marist 7s tournament at the ANZ Stadium in Laucala Bay last evening. In congratulating the Fiji 7s Men and Ladies Teams for their victories at the Tokyo Olympics last year, PM Bainimarama said the Fijian teams went to Tokyo with the goal of winning. "Our Fijiana Drua are showing that right now in Super W, and our

men's Drua are showing that Fijians play Super Rugby as well as we play Sevens — and even better when we can play on a Fijian team," he said. "Today we are unveiling a new, 7-dollar banknote to commemorate our win in Sevens. It pictures the men's team on one side and the women's team on the other. The men's side is a gold colour, and the women's side is a bronze colour." "This commemorative Banknote will be legal tender

and will be issued into circulation this coming Monday, 28 March, and which gives it some extra value as a collector's item both here and abroad," he added. PM Bainimarama thanked the Reserve Bank of Fiji and Oberthur Fiduciaire — who was selected to produce the banknote, the Fiji Rugby Union for collaborating on this production, and the organisers of the Marist 7s. He also awarded the winners of the Marist 7s.

Bollywood

Aamir Khan says he quit acting & films during lockdown: My kids, Kiran explained I'm doing the wrong thing

Aamir Khan has left his fans briefly in a state of shock. In a recent interview, the actor revealed that he quit films and acting during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he refrained from announcing his decision as he thought the audience would view it as a promotional gimmick for his upcoming film *Laal Singh Chaddha*. When asked if he wanted to quit, Aamir told ABP, "No I quit. Nobody knows this. I'm saying for the first time, you will be shocked. I had informed my family that I won't be doing any films from now onwards. Neither I'll act nor I will produce any films. I don't want to do all this. I just want to spend my time with you all. Kiran and her parents, Reena and her parents, my

children, my family are there. I felt that. I understand it was a response in anger. My family was shocked as I was conveying it to them in such an intense way. Nobody argued with me. Then I thought I should tell people that I won't be acting in films now. Then I said if I tell people they will say, 'This is his marketing scheme as his film *Laal Singh Chaddha* is about to release, he is announcing his retirement'." Aamir further added that his family, too, was shocked with his decision. "So I thought it's better to not say this. Anyway, my film comes after three or four years. Once *Laal Singh Chaddha* gets released nobody will realise if I'm doing anything for the next three or four years. By then I'll

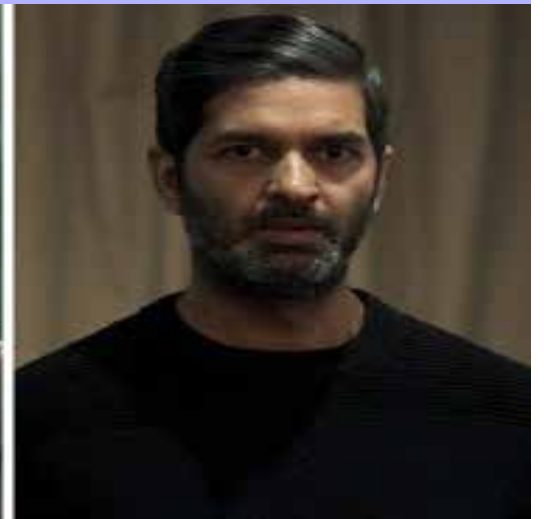
leave the industry and nobody will know. So I decided not to say anything and three months passed like this. One day, my children told me that you are an extreme person, don't do this. It will be better if you find a balance in life. I had quit films. In my heart, I had left films. My children and Kiran explained to me I am doing the wrong thing. Kiran cried and said, 'When I see you, I see films residing inside you. What are you saying I'm unable to understand'. A lot happened in two years, I quit the industry and came back." Phew! Thank god for Aamir not quitting! The actor's upcoming film *Laal Singh Chaddha* will be releasing in August and will also feature Kareena Kapoor Khan.



Arjun Rampal and Purab Kohli to star in investigative thriller series London Files

London Files is an investigative thriller series that follows homicide detective Om Singh, played by Arjun Rampal, as he takes on a missing person's case in a politically divided London city. Battling his own personal demons, Om is forced to take on the case of media mogul Amar Roy's missing daughter. Amar, played by Purab Kohli, is a divisive figure in London due to his support of a draconian anti-immigration bill. As Om starts to investigate the case, a

darker mystery comes to light. One that threatens to expose buried secrets and Om's repressed past. Packed with edge-of-the-seat drama and suspense, *London Files* also stars Sapna Pabbi, Medha Rana, Gopal Datt, Sagar Arya, and Eva Jane Willis among others in key roles. Directed by Sachin Pathak and produced by Jar Pictures, the six-episode series is all set to premiere on 21st April only on Voot Select.



Kangana Ranaut Writes "Tere Rone Ke Din Aa Gaye Papa Jo" Taking An Indirect Dig At Karan Johar Over Lock Upp's 200 Million Views

Kangana Ranaut is one celebrity who doesn't hold anything back when it comes to speaking her mind and sharing her thoughts. The actress, who is currently busy hosting the captivity-based reality show *Lock Upp* on MXPlayer and ALTBalaji, is super happy that the show has garnered over 200 million views since its premiere and took a dig at Karan Johar while posting about it. For those who do not

know, Kangana has been on loggerheads with Karan ever since she called him 'the flag bearer of nepotism' while on *Koffee With Karan*. In her recent social media post, she mentioned KJo and said he must be crying seeing the reality show's popularity. Read on to know all she had to say. Taking to her Instagram story around Thursday midnight, Kangana Ranaut shares a note celebrating 200 million views of

Lock Upp. She wrote "As lock up hits 200M views Sari changu mangu sena/media of cruella/papajo along with him, going to cry chup chup ke... itne papad belne ke baad bhi dekho 200M aur abhi aage aage dekho hota hua kya, tere rone ke din as gaye papa jo (As *Lock Upp* hits 200 million views, the entire army of chipmunks/media of cruella/papa jo along with him, are going to cry in hiding.

Despite them trying so hard we have got 200m views. Now see what is going to happen next. Your days to cry are here now, papa jo)." This isn't the first time she mentioned someone from the film industry while praising *Lock Upp*. Around the time the show launched, she indirectly dragged her alleged ex-boyfriend, Hrithik Roshan name when talking about how people were concerned about

what she will say on the reality show. She had said, "Log paanch ungliyan mila ke haath jodd rahe hain. Waise gala toh che ungliyon walo ka bhi sookh raha hai (People are putting their five fingers together for my forgiveness. Even ones with six fingers have dry throats right now)." We will now wait and see if Karan Johar has any response to this dig by Kangana Ranaut.

Bollywood

Malaika Arora hospitalised after getting injured in car accident, sister Amrita confirms she's getting better

Malaika was attending a fashion event in Pune and her car reportedly met with an accident on the outskirts of Mumbai. She has sustained minor injuries and was immediately rushed to a hospital. ETimes reached

out to Malaika's sister Amrita who confirmed the development and informed through a message that read, "Malaika is now getting better. She will be kept under observation for some time." Some time ago,

ANI took to their official Twitter handle to share an update for the same. The tweet read, "Actor Malaika has minor injuries on her forehead; CT scan has turned out fine & she is currently okay. The actor will be kept under observation for the night & will be discharged in the morning tomorrow: Apollo Hospital" According to a news portal, Khopoli police shared that the actress received minor injuries and was taken to the Apollo hospital for treatment. The police inspector said, "The accident happened at the 38km point on Mumbai-Pune expressway which is an accident prone area. Three vehicles rammed onto each other and all three vehicles have received damages. The motorists drove away immediately after the accident and hence what kind of injuries have been received is not clear. We are told that



all have received very minor injuries". Now a FIR will be registered after investigating how the accident happened. Apparently, Malaika's car was between two tourist vehicles. "We have received the registration number of all the three cars and now we would contact the owners to understand what had actually happened," As-

sistant police inspector Haresh Kalsekar from Khopoli police station said. Acc Meanwhile on the personal front, Malaika is dating actor Arjun Kapoor after her divorce from Arbaaz Khan in 2017. The actress who has appeared in many hit songs like 'Chaiyya Chaiyya', 'Munni Badnaam Hui' is currently judging dance reality shows.



The Kashmir Files' box office success decoded: How news, social media, word of mouth scripted an unlikely success story

When The Kashmir Files made ₹3.5 crore at the box office on March 11, its opening day, nobody was too surprised. The film had no big stars. The previous film by its director Vivek Agnihotri had done a lifetime business of ₹20 crore. If anything, it seemed like a good opening. Within a week, however, the film was rivalling the numbers of Baahubali, no less. For a film that was projected to earn not more than ₹30-40 crore, to be hurtling towards ₹200 crore mark was not just surprising but unprecedented. Many have argued that the film's business increased because it is a well-made film. It's true that the film has been praised by critics. While that is an argument that merits discussion, there is no precedent for it. Several critically praised films have struggled to find viewers in the past. If word of mouth was always that effective, every National Award-winning film should cross ₹100 crore. But word of mouth helped the film curtail the reversals that smaller films usually see. Film trade analyst Atul Mohan says,

"What multiplexes tend to do is reduce the number of screens for small films after the first day or so when the numbers are low. That didn't happen here. The high demand meant they had to increase the number of screens." But even sustained word of mouth goes only so far. There have been other films that have seen small openings turn into big lifetime collections, but never this big. Film analysts cite films like Pink, Neerja, Queen, all of which sustained their collections largely through positive word of mouth. The Kashmir Files' opening day collection was ₹3.55 crore. In comparison, Pink earned ₹4.18 crore, Neerja did a business of ₹4.62 crore, and Queen earned ₹1.7 crore on day one. But none of these films saw their lifetime India nett earnings cross ₹100 crore. The Kashmir Files, on the other hand, stands at ₹207 crore after two weeks. The answer is in the messaging. The Kashmir Files found itself linked to nationalism and patriotism, earning endorsement from the government itself. Of course it helps when the word is from

the mouth of the Prime Minister. When PM Modi himself gave a speech about the film in the Parliament, that turned the tide for the film. That speech and the political rebuttal on it from the opposition turned the film into an issue of national significance. That is publicity one can't buy in any market. "It was quite similar to how it happened with Uri as well. There also, after an endorsement by the PM, the box office earnings got a boost," says Atul Mohan.

Following PM's speech, the film also received a push on social media, particularly on WhatsApp and Facebook. A viewer, who watched it in a Ghaziabad theatre on its second weekend, said, "I don't go to watch films in the theatre. But I received a message on a family WhatsApp group saying that this is a small film about a good issue. It needs support. Everyone watches blockbusters. But small films are the ones we should watch." Many others received similar messages and insistence from friends and family. All this combined to give the film a big push after its

opening weekend. The exodus and killings of Kashmiri Pandits is a sensitive issue in modern Indian history. The mainstream entertainment media does not have many examples of stories based on that episode. A previous film on the issue - Shikara by Vidhu Vinod Chopra - was criticised for being too watered down. The Kashmir Files filled that gap.

It tells a story that people want to hear and tells it with impact. That doesn't mean the film is without flaws. The filmmaker's own bias reflects in the storytelling. It views everyone from a particular community with suspicion. It turns everyone at a premier national university into conniving villains. The narrative is in line with what many believe. But it isn't objective. Some have argued that this is the sole cause of its success. But that is debatable. There have been other films that have attempted to ride the popular sentiment of a given time to box office success. PM Narendra Modi starring Vivek Oberoi released right after the real PM's landslide electoral

victory in 2019. Despite all that, it earned just ₹23 crore at the box office. Where The Kashmir Files differs from all small movies previously - be it the Narendra Modi biopic or Queen - is that it is helped by a combination of factors. And it rides them all. It is a well-made film and a well-marketed one too. It tugs at your heart because it tells a true story, but it adds some popular and populist agendas to it. And then, a whirlwind discussion in national news 24x7 followed by social media forwards help it stay suspended in public's minds for long. So much so, that it obliterates an Akshay Kumar film at the box office. The Kashmir Files may end up being an oddity. No doubt people will try to replicate its success. But it's highly likely most will fail. For a film to be as successful, a lot of things have to work in unison. And that is no exact formula or science. Perhaps that is one of the legacies of this film - that it goes against conventional wisdom of what the public wants to see in the cinema halls.

Sports News

Jin Wei to make long-awaited return in South Korea

PETALING JAYA: Former national No. 1 Goh Jin Wei will finally make a return to competition at the Korean Open which starts on Tuesday in Suncheon City. The world No. 127, who was the first reserve, made the main draw following several withdrawals. It'll be the 22-year-old's first tournament since losing to teammate S. Kisona in the final of the Spanish International in June last year. She had hoped to compete in last week's Swiss Open and the ongoing Orleans Masters but failed to make the cut as she was ranked lower in the reserve list. Sairol Amar Ayob, who is coaching the independent shuttler under the KLRC banner, is excited with her return. "It has been some time since we last saw Jin Wei in action. We are excited to see where she stands after a long break," said Sairol. Jin Wei quit

the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) last year and decided to turn professional but her plan hit a snag. She was banned for two years along with men's singles Lee Zii Jia but the issue has since been resolved. After patching up with BAM, she received a further boost last month when she signed a two-year sponsorship deal with Sunlight Sports Group (Li-Ning's sole distributor in South-East Asia). In the Korean Open, the top two seeded players are Chen Yufei of China and An Se-young of South Korea. The other top players in the fray are China's He Bingjiao, India's P.V. Sindhu, Japan's Aya Ohori and Thailand's trio of Ratchanok Intanon, Pornpawee Chochuwong and Busanan Ongbamrunphan. Jin Wei last won a title at the 2017 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.



Women's World Cup final: Australia outclass England to take title

The Australians shattered records in Christchurch on their way to adding the 50-over title to the T20 World Cup and Ashes crowns they already hold. Alyssa Healy crashed an astonishing 170 from 138 balls, the highest score in either a women's or men's World Cup final. Her partnership of 160 with Rachael Haynes and Australia's total of 356-5 are also women's final bests, the latter a record for any team against England. England, who were huge underdogs to defend the title they won in 2017, will rue their decision to field first in perfect batting conditions. They also dropped Healy and Haynes in the same over. Faced with such a mammoth chase, England lost wickets too regularly to ever be in contention, but Nat Sciver batted with authority for a century of her own. Sciver was 148 not out when England were finally bowled out for 285, spinners Alana King and Jess Jonassen taking three wickets apiece in Australia's 71-run win. It was a disappointing end to an England turnaround that saw them reach the final despite losing their first three games of the tournament. Meanwhile, awesome Australia were crowned world champions for the sev-

enth time with a perfect record of nine wins from nine matches. Lost at the toss? The suspicion was that England would need everything to go their way in order to beat an Australia side that entered the final with only one defeat in their previous 38 one-day internationals. For as much as England - and Australia - favour chasing, it seemed like a gift for Heather Knight to give away the opportunity to bat first. No regrets over bowling first - Knight The defending champions passed up the chance to post a score that might have pressured the Australians, who dictated terms throughout. England did not bowl particularly badly, but the dropped catches were a hammer blow.

By the end, Healy was playing some outrageous strokes, scoring runs at will. Despite Sciver's wonderful innings, the contest was effectively over at the interval, the most dramatic World Cup ever denied the final it deserved. Hero Healy leads Australia to glory Opener Healy made a century in Australia's semi-final win over West Indies and here went one better, playing one of the all-time great one-day innings. What made the assault all the more remarkable was a measured beginning - Australia

took only 37 from the first 10 overs in the face of some searching new-ball bowling. Healy and Haynes, who made 68, were just starting to go through the gears when the drops came in the same Kate Cross over. Haynes, on 47, escaped as a diving Danni Wyatt missed a chance at point, Healy had 41 when the ball burst through Sciver's hands at mid-wicket.

Reaching a half-century from 62 balls was Healy's signal to go into overdrive. She scored in all areas of the ground, toying with England by hitting the ball where a fielder had just been moved from. Healy's second 50 came from 38 balls, her third from just 29. After Haynes miscued to point, Beth Mooney arrived to bludgeon 62 from 47 balls in a stand of 156 that came in little more than 16 overs. Australia took 120 runs in a final 10 overs of mayhem. By the time Healy departed, stumped off Anya Shrubsole, she had cracked 26 fours and become the first woman to pass 500 runs at a single World Cup. All inside a packed Hagley Oval stood to applaud Healy, Australia's magnificent match-winner and player of the tournament. England turnaround ends in final defeat For England to have even

made this final was a significant achievement given their three opening defeats. They were one wicket from a loss against New Zealand that would have knocked them out. They responded with five straight wins and seemed relaxed as the final began, only to be blown away by the Australians. Spinner Sophie Ecclestone, the tournament's leading wicket-taker, leaked 71 runs from her 10 overs, veteran pacer Katherine Brunt conceded 69 from hers, while young off-spinner Charlie Dean was targeted to go for 34 from four. Only Shrubsole, England's match-winner in the final five years ago, escaped the carnage with a respectable 3-46. On such a superb pitch, England actually scored more quickly than Australia, yet only Sciver passed 27. Faced with impossible odds, she scored heavily through the leg side, often with ingenuity, reaching three figures from 90 balls. How different might this final have turned out had Sciver been unleashed in the first innings?

'Amazing effort' - what they said England captain Heather Knight on BBC Radio 5 Live: "Credit to Australia. It was a remarkable innings from Alyssa Healy - to do that in a final and for them to put that on the board

was tough. We probably didn't have an answer at times - they batted outstandingly. It was a very good track and it made it very hard to defend. We fought hard in the chase - Nat Sciver was unbelievable, what an innings. We are disappointed, but credit to Australia for the way they played today." Australia captain Meg Lanning: "I'm really pleased with that. This tournament has been a long time coming - it has been in the back of our minds and there are no doubts we wanted this trophy in our cabinet. It has been an amazing effort over a number of years and to finish it off like this is amazing." Ex-England spinner Alex Hartley: "Australia have had a professional domestic set-up for five or six years longer than England have. England only started a couple of years ago and the first year, realistically, was heavily impacted by Covid. We've had professional players in England for one year effectively and that is only 10 or 15 games. "This Australia side have played domestic cricket for years and years. It will take a while for England to catch up, but they are not a million miles away, and I guess that is the exciting thing."

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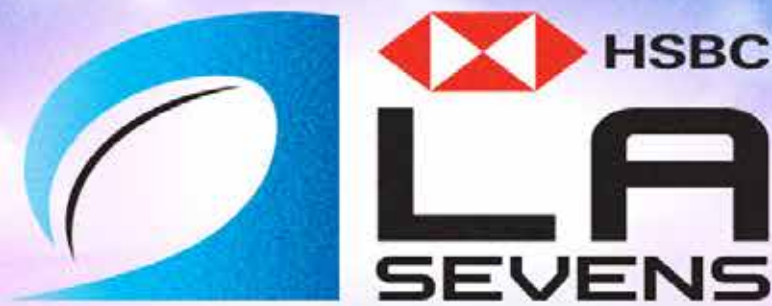


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We are opening our scope to promote sports and multi-cultural activities to each and every individual and the families of our multi-cultural Fijian community. The highlight of the program, which includes Soccer (open & Veterans) & Volleyball. Great entertainment and activities for children and families with Multicultural Island Night

Venue - Petrovitsky Park in Renton WA has the best turf grounds for soccer. (16400 SE Petrovitsky Rd, Renton, WA 98058)

THIS IS AN INVITE TO INDIVIDUALS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SPORTS TEAMS TO PLAN FOR A GREAT VACATION TO SEATTLE WA AFTER A LONG SHUT DOWN AND COVID RESTRICTIONS. COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT SPORTS AND MULTI-CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT

WA State will be waiving the mask mandate from March 12, 2022

Tournament will have Trophies and Cash prizes to winning teams .

Cash Prizes for Soccer Open & Veterans. Winner \$ 2000

Runners-up \$1000 , Volleyball Winner—\$300 , Runner-up \$200

Open Division Trophies – In Memory of Late Mr. & Mrs. Annamalai Chetty

Veterans Division Trophies —In Memory of Late Mr. Ajeshwar Raj (Babblu)

FEE SCHEDULE - OPEN CATEGORY SOCCER TEAM REGISTRATION - \$300

VETERANS SOCCER TEAM REGISTRATION (Over 40 yrs.) \$300

VOLLEYBALL TEAM REGISTRATION \$30

MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT & KIDS ACTIVITIES

PRESENTATION/GALA NIGHT—SUNDAY MAY 29TH, 2022 AT RENTON BANQUET HALL (Entry : \$ 20.00 Donation)

Registration Deadline : APRIL 15TH, 2022

More Details will be posted on Seattle Sangam's Facebook & web site Seattlesangam.com soon!!!

For Inquires, contact – Bal Ram (253 632 2440), Karun Pillai (206 501 5717)

Ashnil Singh (206 288 3914) or Ravikesh Lal (253 398 6520) for Veterans Category

Email – seattlesangam@yahoo.com



Sports

Norfolk Soccer Team wins Fijian Tournament



Rajal Goundar of Seattle was the VIP player of the Tournament.

Proud Wealthy Business Man of San Mateo County & Longtime Friend of USFIJITIMES Rocky Buksh, Aten Singh the Longtime President of Norfolk Strikers happy to win the first Fijian Soccer Tournament in 2022.

Kevin Durant Drops Career High as Nets Clinch NBA Play-In Berth After Loss to Hawks

The Brooklyn Nets are locked in to a spot in the NBA play-in tournament following a 122-115 loss to the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday at State Farm Arena. Durant dropped a career-high 55 points, and Kyrie Irving added 31, but it wasn't enough to beat a Hawks team that saw Trae Young notch 36 points to carry Atlanta to victory. With the loss, the Nets moved to 40-38 on the season. They currently sit 10th in the Eastern Conference and have four games left to potentially rise as high as eighth place. The Nets entered the 2021-22 campaign with high expecta-

tions after the Milwaukee Bucks eliminated them in the second round of last season's playoffs. However, the team has struggled to perform and find consistency for a number of reasons. Most notably, Irving had only been eligible to compete in Brooklyn's away games for most of the regular season because he is unvaccinated. New York City had a vaccine mandate in place until recently that prevented Irving from suiting up at Barclays Center. Injuries have also caused the team some issues. Durant was sidelined for more than a month from January 17 through

March 1 with an MCL sprain in his left knee. In that span, the Nets went 5-16 and plummeted in the standings. More recently, the Nets traded James Harden to the Philadelphia 76ers in exchange for Ben Simmons, Seth Curry, Andre Drummond and two first-round picks. Simmons, the 2016 first overall pick, has yet to play for Brooklyn because of a herniated disc in his back. The Nets could desperately use Simmons, but it's unclear when he might return to the court. If the Nets escape the play-in tournament, they'll be one of the most difficult teams to face in



the playoffs, provided they stay healthy and get Simmons into the lineup. So while some might criticize Steve Nash's squad for

underperforming during the regular season, they have the potential to make a significant impact in the postseason.

Mercedes' current struggles 'no fun at all', says team boss Toto Wolff



"No fun at all." That's how Mercedes boss Toto Wolff describes the Silver Arrows' current predicament, the reigning world champions lacking the

pace to compete for victories – or even the podium – based on pure performance. Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton admitted his team have their

work cut out to get back in the fight this year after he finished 10th in Saudi Arabia, with team mate George Russell fifth as Red Bull and Ferrari fought for the win. Having competed for both titles every year since the turbo hybrid era began in 2014, Mercedes now find themselves in the unusual position of third-best with a car they are struggling to get the most out of. "We have been right in the middle of those fun games [at the front] for the last eight years," said Wolff. "It's extremely painful to not be part of those fun games, and

by quite a chunk of lap time deficit. "We're not going to rest until we're back in the mix. It's no fun at all. It's an exercise in humility and it's going to make us stronger in the end, even though it's not fun right now." All of the teams have struggled to get on top of the phenomenon known as porpoising or bouncing that is impacting the new-for-2022 cars, with Mercedes among those who are scratching their head the most, according to Wolff. "I think we're not running the car where we're wanting to run it [in terms of set-up], and

therefore it's very difficult to really assess what the lap time deficit is if we were able to run the car lower," added Wolff. "I would very much hope that the gap is very much closer to what we have seen [in Saudi Arabia], but there are deficits everywhere." Mercedes are currently second in the constructors' championship, with 38 points – one more than Red Bull, who failed to score with either car in race one – but 40 adrift of leaders Ferrari ahead of F1's return to Australia next weekend.

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