



THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

February 2022 Monthly Publication - Subscription Available Pages 56 Volume: 210

How Did My Son Die?



A grieving mother is counting on the Fiji Police Force to unravel the mystery surrounding her son's death. The body of Steven Sachin Singh, 35, was discovered at the edge of the Toga Bridge near Nausori by a group of men who were on their way to work on Wednesday morning. Shila Wati, 72, is now seeking answers about what happened to her son, the father of her five grandchildren. She is wondering what that led to the gruesome discovery of his body. Mr Singh, who was a home-based me-

chanic, left home at 11am on Tuesday morning without telling his family where he was going. When the Fiji Sun visited their Nakasi family home yesterday, the sound of wailing from a distraught mother filled the home. "He did not tell me where he was going, he left me without saying goodbye," Ms Wati wailed. "I had also lost a son a few years back and now another one is leaving me, this is so painful. "I just need answers and I hope I will get them soon."

[See Page 06](#)

80 per cent of Tonga population impacted by eruption and tsunami



[See Page 06](#)

Nazhat Shameem Khan: UN's outgoing rights chief on Covid, climate and the might of small states



[See Page 8 & 9](#)

SRI DURGAMATA ASTROLOGY CENTER

Unique Spiritualist From Indian Generations



Pandith Expert in:
Palm Reading, Horoscope, Face Reading, Numerology,
Photo Reading & Vastu Shastra, etc.

- HEALTH
- LOVE & MARRIAGE
- FAMILY MATTERS

- FINANCE
- EVIL SPIRITS PROTECTION
- CHILDREN PROBLEMS

PUNDITH THULSIDASS

CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS: 5 10-320-8567

www.astrodurgamata.com

FijiTel

Fiji's Very Own Crystal Call Quality Service

1 877 345 4835

1 888 295 2216

[Find us on Facebook](#)



THE US FIJI TIMES

PHONE: 650-762-6683

DIRECT: 510-931-9107

EMAIL: INFO@USFIJITIMES.ORG

WEB: WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG

FACEBOOK: [USAFIJITIMESONLINE](https://www.facebook.com/USAFIJITIMESONLINE)



Fiji Government



Nazhat Shameem
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Fiji to
the United Nations



William Katonivere-
PRESIDENT



Frank Bainimarama
PRIME MINISTER



Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum
ATTORNEY-GENERAL



Satyendra Prasad
Ambassador | Represen-
tative of Fiji to the U.N



Mr. Jay Singh
Honorary Consul
San Francisco U.S.A



Mr. Vinod K Bhindi
Honorary Consul
Los Angeles U.S.A



Mr. Bobby Naicker
Honorary Consul
Vancouver CANADA

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

We have noticed that some pictures that appear in the US Fiji Times have been reproduced in some other newspapers, magazines and web sites. Please note that all contents of the US Fiji Times are copyrighted and cannot be reproduced in any form without the permission of the US Fiji Times by contacting them at info@usfijitimes.org



BHINDI®
Happy Valentines Day

<p>Los Angeles 18508 Pioneer Blvd. Artesia, CA 90701 562-402-8755</p>	<p>San Francisco 5944 Newpark Mall Rd. Newark, CA 94560 510-797-8755</p>	<p>Glendale Galleria 2213 Galleria Way Glendale, CA 91210 818-243-8755</p>	<p>Atlanta 1070 Oak Tree Rd. Decatur, GA 30033 404-325-8755</p>
---	--	--	---

Shop online at www.BHINDI.com

Akarshan Designs Boutique



A Bay Area Designer Store with Most 5-star Yelp Reviews

1. Akarshan Designs Boutique

★★★★★ 243

\$\$ • Women's Clothing, Jewelry, Men's Clothing



Bridalwear
Designerwear
Partywear
Lehenga Cholis
Dresses
Gowns
Jewelry
Indowestern
Women, Kid's and Men

Sat - Sun: 12 - 7 pm
Weekdays: By Appointment

650.302.0345

Covid Safe



489 San Mateo Ave, San Bruno, CA 94066
www.facebook.com/akarshandesigns | www.akarshandesigns.com

USFT WEBSITE VISITED OVER 1.6m Visitors

Fiji's largest paper, US Fiji Times, has reached a milestone - with 1,000,000 visits to its website, usfijitimes.org. The CEO of USFT, Rocky Buksh, said that this is a major achievement given the fact that the paper was intended just for the Fiji community and indicates that people all over the globe are showing interest in Fiji through the website.

What has led to the recognition of the website has been the paper's presence at many of the World Sevens series, particularly the USA Sevens.

Mr. Buksh thanks all the readers and the advertisers who have promoted the paper to reach this significant milestone and he promises to continue serving Fijians abroad.

USA  FIJI

ROUND TRIP FARE FROM USD

\$729*

SALE ENDS 10 FEB 2022

*CONDITIONS APPLY.

Accurate
ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Ranjeeta Pal
Accountant

Natomas & Sacramento, CA

Phone: 650-630-0057 • Office: 916-897-8791

rpal@accurate-accounts.com

www.accurate-accounts.com



Providing Customised and Integrated Solutions for
Surveillance & Networking



- CCTV Installation HD / IP
- Plate Recognition (ANPR)
- Wi-Fi 6 Ecosystem Solutions
- Data Center Solutions
- Broadband Access Solutions
- Commercial and Industrial

Need Help? Call our support team:

(510) 962-9261

support@suntechconsulting.com

www.suntechconsulting.com

How Did My Son Die?



Mr Singh's widow Priya Devi recalled her last moments with her husband. "On Tuesday morning he just had his breakfast and we were all just sitting around the house when he told me that he would just take a walk and he'd be right back," Ms Devi said. "That day he did not take any money or work tools so we thought he had just gone for a walk and he would be back home," she said.

"He did not come that day and it went on into the night and we were worried so we started calling his phone and when we did his phone was switched off." Ms Devi said at 11am on Wednesday morning she had lodged a missing person's report at the Nakasi Police Station because her husband was still not home.

"I called the Nakasi Police Station at 11am to report that he was missing and they told us that they were going to get back to us. "Around 3.30pm on Wednesday afternoon we had a Police officer from Nausori Police Station that came home and he showed me the picture of my husband on the phone.

80 per cent of Tonga population impacted by eruption and tsunami

Some 12,000 households have been affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami that hit the islands of Tonga over the weekend, according to estimates by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



In total, about 84,000 people, more than 80 per cent of the population of the South Pacific Kingdom, have been affected by the disaster. Besides the three fatalities reported earlier in the week, no further deaths have been confirmed.

In an update released on Thursday, OCHA confirms that the whole economically vital agricultural sector, including

crops, livestock and fisheries, have suffered substantially.

The agency is particularly concerned with the effect of ashfall on crops along with saltwater intrusion, and the potential of acid rain.

Around 60 to 70 per cent of livestock-rearing households have seen their animals perish, grazing land damaged, or water supplies contaminated.

Fisheries operating across the more than 170 islands that make up the archipelago, have also been significantly affected and the Government has advised against fishing amidst the ongoing contamination, or consuming fish.

Assessment
Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) are underway on the main island, Tongatapu, as well

as on islands of the Ha'apai group, by Tonga's National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and partners.

Most parts of the country, including remote and isolated islands, have also been visited by assessment teams, said OCHA.

So far, five communities in Tongatapu have been identified as having suffered significant damage to households in coastal areas. Around 31 houses are completely damaged, 72 severely, 46 moderately, and 23 suffered minor damage.

According to OCHA, there are still serious concerns about access to safe water and the quality of groundwater.

The capital's water supply is safe to drink but most people are now relying on bottled water. Authorities have advised residents against drinking rainwater, until more information is available.

Response ongoing

Local and international partners are working hard to address these issues, shipping water, purification units and desalination

equipment.

Another main issue going forward, according to OCHA, is monitoring the risk of infectious diseases.

There are also reports of a fuel shortage, but petrol supplies are coming as part of regular shipment and with some additional Australian Government support.

As regards to public health concerns, the hospital and the national pharmacy in the capital are intact and fully functioning. There are some reports, OCHA noted, of damage to some health centres in Tongatapu, 'Eua and Ha'apai. Communications update

In terms of international connectivity, it is still limited, but the situation is gradually improving, the humanitarian coordination agency said.

Among other initiatives, a ship is on its way to fix the badly damaged underwater communication cable – the country's sole fixed link to the outside world - but that work might take several weeks to be completed.

WE'VE MISSED
THE SOUND OF YOUR
LAUGHTER



📷 Tourism Fiji

USA  FIJI
ROUND TRIP FARE FROM USD

\$729*

SALE ENDS 10 FEB 2022
*CONDITIONS APPLY.

BOOK NOW AT
[FIJIAIRWAYS.COM](https://fijiairways.com)



FIJI
AIRWAYS



Nazhat Shameem Khan: UN's outgoing rights chief on Covid, climate and the might of small states

As one of the busiest years in the history of the Human Rights Council draws to a close, its outgoing president Nazhat Shameem Khan looks back on the successes and challenges of the past 12 months, from fighting for vaccine equity to tackling climate change, and fighting for the voices of smaller states to be heard.



Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji was elected president of the UN Human Rights Council in January 2021 by a landslide, after a contentious leadership bid left the body temporarily without a leader for the first time in its 15-year history.

Despite last minute bids for the post by Bahrain and Uzbekistan, Khan was seemingly a shoo-in for the job. And after one of the busiest years in the council's history, without a single session cancelled or postponed due to Covid-19 and 176 resolutions adopted spanning climate change, conflict and vaccine equity, there's no doubt she has proved herself a steadfast leader.

A former prosecutor who served as Fiji's first female high court judge before joining the country's mission in Geneva as ambassador in 2014, she has overseen a plethora of human rights initiatives backed by the pacific island nation, from abolishing Fiji's use of the death penalty to tackling climate change worldwide.

Since it joined the council in 2019, Fiji has backed investigations into reported rights abuses in Venezuela, the Philippines, Belarus, Syria and Yemen, with Khan herself holding the vice presidency. The country's

strong record for calling out rights abuses has drawn opposition from the council's autocratic members such as Russia and China, although Fiji's own rights record has been scrutinised by the body in the past over issues such as media freedoms and policy brutality.

But when Khan took up the gavel at the body at the start of this year, her victory was welcomed as a victory for those states who believe in the council's power to hold rights abusers to account.

The first time a small island developing state (SIDS) held the presidency, Khan's appointment was also a victory for smaller nations who for a long time have struggled to have their voices heard at international institutions like the UN.

"When a SIDS presidency took the podium for the very first time I think it was a matter of pride for every small country in the world," says Khan, speaking to Geneva Solutions from the Palais des Nations in Geneva on her last day as president of the council.

"I think the fact that a small island state from the Pacific held the presidency of the council shows that we can do it. This leadership is very significant because it encourages other small states to aspire to that,

but it's also helped to change the conversation at the council." The "conversation" Khan is referring to relates to human rights issues that are of greatest importance to small states such as Fiji, one of the most urgent being climate change. Since the Fiji mission opened its doors in Geneva 2014, the country has worked tirelessly to push climate change higher up the UN human rights agenda.

"Climate change is the subject which has the greatest interest in Fiji," says Khan. "And when we came here in 2014, we found to our astonishment that in fact there was very little conversation about climate change and human rights, certainly in the council. So we set out to remedy that, because we knew that it was that conversation that was going to help our human rights journey on the ground in Fiji."

Along with other smaller nations bearing the brunt of climate change such as Costa Rica, the Marshall Islands and the Bahamas, Fiji has helped bring international recognition to climate change as a human rights issue, contributing to decades of advocacy since environmental rights were first debated at the council in the 1990s.

"It's the small island developing states and least developed

countries (LDCs) which not only have to confront climate change on a daily basis, but also have to really grapple with how much of their GDP is actually being used on climate change adaptation," she says. "So the conversation on climate change and human rights is something small countries and LDCs really want to talk about."

This work reached a landmark achievement this year when the Human Rights Council declared that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right and appointed a UN expert to oversee how climate change was impacting people's rights in countries around the world.

Khan says overseeing the creation of this right was her "proudest moment" during the Presidency.

"When you become a member of the council you have to make commitments, and one of [Fiji's] commitments was to work towards the creation of a right to a healthy and safe environment," she says. "So it was a matter of great pride that in the last year of our membership we saw the creation of this right under Fiji's presidency, which was really quite an extraordinary moment."

Climate change has undoubtedly never been more prominent on the UN agenda than over the past year, with the two resolutions passed just weeks before the international COP26 climate conference in Glasgow brought the devastating impacts of climate change into the spotlight.

But it has been just one of many issues that has occupied the Council's attention during Khan's presidency, which she took up at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions and concerns over the spread of the virus have forced the body to adapt the way it does business, making in-person meetings largely impossible and necessitating the

move to a virtual format that continues today.

Despite these challenges, the body has had one of its busiest years in history, with three regular sessions and a record five special sessions on urgent human rights situations in Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Sudan and most recently Ethiopia.

"I am proud of the fact that we continued throughout the pandemic," says Khan.

"We went on to adopt resolutions which were really important for the world – resolutions on access to vaccines, which is such an important conversation now. Resolutions on the right of women and girls to health and on country-specific situations.

"We [said] to ourselves 'We will not allow coronavirus to defeat the council. On the one hand, we must discuss coronavirus and its impact on human rights. On the other hand, we must continue to sit.' And I think that's a very proud achievement."

Despite these wins, the council has also drawn criticism from a number of angles this year. For example, members were accused of failing to go far enough to investigate rights abuses in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover in August, although the decision not to establish a special investigative mechanism for the country was later overturned.

A vote backed by Russia and other countries to shut down the body's war crimes investigations in Yemen also drew consternation throughout the international community, marking the first time a resolution has been defeated in the council's history.

Many of the council's more acrimonious meetings can be attributed to the growing tensions between its members, most notably countries such as Russia and China and the United States,

News

who rejoined the body as an observer this year soon after the election of President Joe Biden.

There have long been concerns that diplomatic head-butting between world powers could derail its work. However, on the contrary, Khan argues diversity of opinion and debate is one of the council's greatest strengths.

"We cannot expect two countries or five countries or 10 or 47 to think the same on human rights issues," she says. "But I think it's exactly the ability of the council to hear these robust views and force countries to listen to each other that is its greatest strength."

There are many people who argue that the conversation in multilateral organisations is still fundamentally about powerful countries, leaving less space for smaller states. To a great extent

it can be, says Khan, especially when countries exercise their power of veto or where the view taken by a powerful country can stifle those of others.

But she argues there's no space for these tactics at the council. "The council is a democratically structured organisation where if we don't get a consensus we vote, and I think that has been a very important difference."

"The most important thing is that no one player should stop the debate, and no one player should be able to stop the passing of a resolution."

To uphold the democratic process, however, it's vital that everyone has a voice, she says – from small states such as Fiji to civil society organisations. The pandemic has prevented many organizations from inter-

acting with the council as they usually do, watering down their influence and leaving them out of important decisions and debates.

The outgoing ambassador says there is still much more work to be done to "level the playing field" at the body to ensure all voices are heard. "Because with the greatest goodwill, often small countries and small players are eclipsed when it comes to the bigger bargaining power of larger countries in the negotiation rooms," she adds.

Providing a platform for civil society is a key function of the body that must be upheld. Khan tells the story of one mother brought to the council during a debate on the human rights situation in Nicaragua.

"She was talking about what

happened to her son who died in a human rights crisis in her country, and her message was so compelling there was not a dry eye on the floor," says Khan. "That one message did more to change policy in that moment than years of work. We have to keep those voices in the council and we have to listen to them."

Her successor Federico Villegas of Argentina has pledged to continue her work. In his first speech following the announcement of his presidency earlier this month he set out plans to ensure the council is a "stable platform to increase dialogue and deepen understanding about commonalities and differences about human rights", and to "learn more about the multiple roles placed by civil society organizations in improving human rights at the global and national

levels".

As Khan waves goodbye to Geneva and prepares for her new role as deputy prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC), the self-described "dangerous optimist" says the past year has taught her invaluable lessons that will travel with her to The Hague - particularly the importance of letting everybody have a say when it comes to their human rights.

"We have been doing a lot of listening this year," she says. "Listening to countries which often complain that no one's listening. And I have made it my personal journey to ensure that I don't lock anyone out of a debate or a conversation."

Professor Shaista Shameem Appointed Vice-Chancellor For The University Of Fiji

Professor Shameem holds double PhD's and has a wide-ranging experience in a variety of professional engagements in Fiji including that of the Ombudsman and Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission from 2007-09.



The University of Fiji Council has much pleasure in announcing the appointment of Professor Shaista Shameem as the substantive Vice-Chancellor. This appointment takes effect from 10 December 2021. With all due processes on board, Professor Shameem was selected by the Joint Committee of the Council and the Senate out of

77 applicants from local and international academia. Professor Shameem holds double PhD's and has a wide-ranging experience in a variety of professional engagements in Fiji including that of the Ombudsman and Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission from 2007-09.

Prior to being appointed the

Ombudsman she has served the Human Rights Commission as its Director. In the academia, Professor Shameem has served at the University of Waikato (NZ), University of Canterbury (NZ) and in 2009 she was appointed as Associate Professor of Law at The University of Fiji.

She gained full professorship at UniFiji and became the

dean of the Justice Devendra Pathik School of Law at Samabula Campus. In 2020 Professor Shameem was appointed as the Acting Vice-Chancellor of UniFiji, the position she has held to date. She has continued to hold the position of the Dean of the JDP School of Law and Coordinator of International and Regional Relations and diplomacy Programme.

Professor Shameem began her career as journalist/columnist at The Fiji Times and Herald in Suva. She was also the Founder and Principal Attorney of Shameem Law, Fiji. Professor Shameem is no stranger to the education sector as she was a teacher at Ratu Sukuna Memorial School, Suva for 4 years. In selecting her as a suitable candidate for the position of the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Fiji, the Council took account of her experience and knowledge of Fijian governance, Fiji's diverse culture and traditions and the overarching

inter connectedness with the academia, internationally and more so with the Pacific Region including Australia and New Zealand.

The choice of the Council to appoint Professor Shameem as the new Vice-Chancellor is testimony to the fact that Fiji has potential for such appointments from within its home-grown academic turf. With the appointment of Professor Shameem as the Vice-Chancellor, a new dawn is anticipated at The University of Fiji.

With her profound knowledge of local operations and community aspirations and pursuit of globally accepted academic standards UniFiji is poised to gain the rightful recognition it deserves. The Council warmly congratulates Professor Shameem on her appointment and looks forward to working with her towards achieving globally ready graduates.

**Advertise In
THE US FIJI TIMES**

FijiTel

Bringing Families Together



With The Customer Care

Based in Nadi, Fiji

Feel Yourself Right At
Home

Your Family and Friends
Just A Call Away

Call Us Today

1 877 345 4835

Matata Ni Veitaratara

1 888 295 2216



Visit the website www.fijitel.net for new cheaper rates to the world



ANCIENT INDIAN VEDIC ASTROLOGY & SPIRITUALIST

Expert In Reading Past, Present & Future



**ALL RELIGIONS ARE
WELCOME**

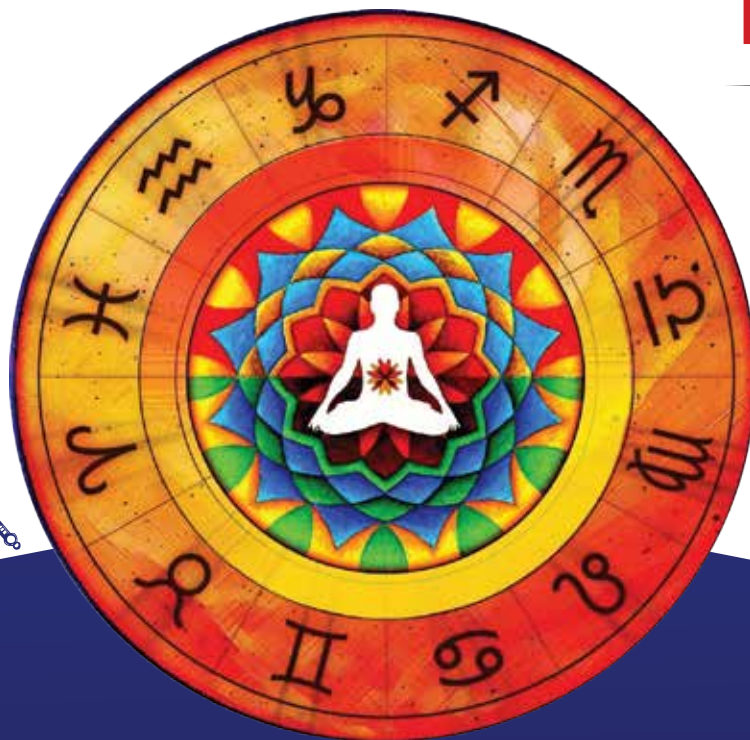
**BRINGING LOVED
ones back** ❤️❤️

**REMOVE
BLACK MAGIC**



MASTER SHIVADURGA

**DON'T GIVE UP,
DON'T LOSE HOPE**



**300
YEARS
TRADITIONAL**



SOLVE PROBLEM LIKE / QUICK RESULTS

- ★ GET YOUR LOVE BACK
- ★ RELATIONSHIP PROBLEM
- ★ BUSINESS PROBLEM
- ★ JEALOUSY AND CURSE
- ★ VASHIKARAN

- ★ FAMILY PROBLEM
- ★ HEALTH ISSUES
- ★ CAREER PROBLEM
- ★ SPIRITUAL HEALING
- ★ STOP SEPARATION

- ★ LOVE SPELLS
- ★ PSYCHIC READING
- ★ LOVE PROBLEM
- ★ EVIL SPIRIT REMOVAL
- ★ BLACK MAGIC REMOVAL

100% RESULT GUARANTEED GIVE LIFE LONG PROTECTION

24/7 WHATSAPP SUPPORT

510 993 9977

2175 Decoto Road, Union City, CA 94587



mastershivadurga.com



mastershivadurga@gmail.com

Fiji News

NEW EVACUATION CENTRE FOR NATADRADAVE VILLAGERS

Villagers of Natadradave in Dawasamu, Tailevu now have a safe and secured facility to take refuge in the event of any natural disaster, following the opening of their new evacuation centre yesterday. The category five-cyclone proof centre was fully funded by the Office of the Prime Minister at a total cost of \$358,363.97. The centre was officially opened by the Commissioner Central Division, Josefa Navuku who urged the villagers to take good care of the facility. Mr Navuku said the Fijian Government, under the sound leadership of the Prime Minister, has yet again delivered another promise to the grass-root people, as part of efforts to foster inclusivity, safety, protection and security. Also, in the case of natural disasters, Mr Navuku said, government is working to ensure that the con-

struction of these structures are cyclone-compliant and resilient. At the same time, Mr Navuku also called on villagers to take ownership of development plans in the village for their own benefit. Village headman Semisi Raselala said they labelled the safe haven as a blessing as it's the first building of its kind to be constructed in the area. "We directly sought the Prime Minister's assistance during one of his visits to the village in 2016 and he assured us that the centre will be built here," he said. "In the past, when cyclones would strike, we used to take shelter in our old village hall which was damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston. We were always worried about our own safety but now, its indeed a great relief that we have a well-structured facility to take shelter in. "We would like to convey our sincere



gratitude to the Prime Minister and the government for its great assistance. This is one of the major projects in the village and we are so grateful to have witnessed this great occasion today. "This facility will be here

in the long run to accommodate our future generation and all we can say is 'thank you very much' to the government." Mr Raselala also thanked the villagers for their support towards the project. "This building will also

be used for village meetings and other important occasions such as workshops, awareness trainings and also to accommodate other villagers should they need to shelter with us during natural disasters."

NEW PACIFIC LABOUR SCHEME (PLS) EMPLOYER TO RECEIVE TWENTY-SEVEN FIJIAN WORKERS

New Australia labour hire employer, Seeka in Victoria will be receiving a total of twenty – seven (27) Fijian workers under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS). Of the 27 Fijians, fourteen (14) of these workers left our shores this morning for employment opportunities for the duration of nine (9) months in the Agriculture industry. The remaining group will be departing later and joining Seeka for the first time. The group will be engaged in fruit picking, pruning, packing, planting and general labour on Kiwi fruit farms and Pear Orchards. The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Parveen Kumar Bala highlighted that these workers were reminded on the expectations of the employer,

including those of the Fijian and Australian Governments and their families. "During the pre-departure briefing these workers have been advised to set clear goals, stay focused and perform their best as this will open up new opportunities for other Fijians wishing to be part of the scheme in the near future," said Minister Bala.

"Given the current situation, our Fijians are very fortunate to receive this opportunity to assist in their families' livelihoods as well as improving living standards." Also leaving today were 3 Fijian Aged-Care workers for Bolton Clark that did not travel earlier due to the pandemic. Minister Bala re-emphasised that the Ministry through the National Employ-



ment Centre (NEC) is the only authorised recruitment agency to send Fijian workers for over-

seas employment opportunities under the Australia Pacific Labour Scheme and New Zealand

Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Scheme.

NAUSORI TOWN VALUATION HANDOVER

The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources on Tuesday handed over the Valuation Roll for Nausori to the Nausori Town Council which covers the borders of Nausori, Nakasi and Korovou. Towns and cities in Fiji are mandated to undertake ratings valuation as required under Part 10 of the

Local Government Act 1972. As such, Nausori Town Council through the Ministry of Local Government has engaged the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources valuers to undertake ratings valuation of Nausori town. The valuation exercise cost \$58,748.00. The last valuation was undertaken by a private

valuer in 2013. However, for this valuation the Council has opted for the Ministry's Valuation Division to carry out its valuation. Nausori Town Council Chief Executive Officer Anurashika Bari said they were looking forward to the completion of the valuation given that it is one of the main source of revenue for

the council. She also acknowledged the effort and the comprehensive valuation work by the Chief Valuer and her team. Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of Lands, Jale Kunawalu said "The Ministry is thankful to the Council and the staff for the continued support and looks forward to working together in

these unprecedented times."

The Valuation Division of the Ministry offers valuation services to municipal councils and is the official valuer for Suva City, Lami, Nasinu, Levuka, Sigatoka, Nadi, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Savusavu, Labasa and Nausori Town.

LET US HELP YOU WITH BUYING - SELLING - INVESTING - LOANS

Let the experts at Alliance Bay Realty help you with all your real estate, loan, investment and mortgage needs!



I'M YOUR REAL ESTATE AND LOAN SPECIALIST

Diven Prasad
Realtor / Loan Originator
C: 510.427.5728
divendra@sbcglobal.net
BRE# 01857903 NMLS# 1422798

ALLIANCE
BAY REALTY

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE

The US Fiji Times is a Monthly Newspaper Publications in USA.

We have readers world-wide. You can subscribe to have a hard copy mailed to you.

E-copies are also available on our Facebook page & our website.

USA	\$50 p/y \$30 6mon	AUSTRALIA	\$150 p/y \$80 6mon
CANADA	\$100 p/y \$60 6mon	NEW ZEALAND	\$150 p/y \$80 6mon
U.K	\$200 p/y \$110 6mon	FIJI	\$100 p/y \$70 6mon
U.A.E	\$200 p/y \$110 6mon	Website	www.usfijitimes.org

All prices are in USD

QLIKdesign

Web Designing, Branding, Logo, Social Media Marketing

CALL TODAY: **650-468-6709**

www.qlikdesign.com

BOLLYWOOD FASHION

A fashion designer with over 3 decades in this business

616 SAN MATEO AVE, SAN BRUNO CA 94066



Bollywood
Fashion

15% OFF SALE 15% OFF

BEAUTIFUL CLOTHING FOR EVERY OCCASION!

BRIDAL WEAR
DESIGNER SALWAAR
DESIGNER SAREES
CUSTOM DESIGNER WEAR
DESIGNER KURTA PAJAMA

MENS SHERWANI
LEHNGAS
KIDS PARTY WEAR
IMITATION JEWELRY
SHOES

HOURS

TUESDAY- SUNDAY
11 AM - 6:30 PM

COVID COMPLIANCE

UNDER NEW
MANAGEMENT

616 SAN MATEO AVE, SAN BRUNO CA

650-871-8446

PROPERTY EXPERTS

Happy
NEW YEAR



For Sale
Denarau, Nadi
*FREEHOLD
* Waterfront with Jetty
* 4 Bedrooms, 5 Baths
* Open living kitchen & Dining
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Denarau, Nadi
* FREEHOLD
* Waterfront with Jetty
* 4 Bedrooms, 5 Baths
* Open living kitchen & Dining
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Maui Bay, Sigatoka
* FREEHOLD, 3220 Sqm
* Beachfront Luxurious Villa
* Ocean Views
* 3 Bedrooms
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Denarau, Nadi
*FREEHOLD
* Waterfront with Jetty
* 6 Bedrooms, 7 Baths
* Open living kitchen &
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Namaka Park, Nadi
* Executive Home
* 4 Bedrooms, 694Sqm
* Inclusive of 2 mastbdrms
* Small patio to relax
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Fantasy Island
* 3 Bedrooms, 1 Mastbdrm
* Canal Front
* Fully Furnished, Hot & Cold
* Secured, Aircondition
* Gated Community
Call Nikhil Reddy 8980005
E: nikhil@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Pacific Harbor, Suva
* FREEHOLD, 784Sqm
* Fully Fenced
* 5 Bedrooms
* Close to the highway
Call Rajesh Charan 9336366
E: rajesh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Denarau, Nadi
*FREEHOLD
* Waterfront with Jetty
* 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
* Open living kitchen - Dining
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



For Sale
Simla, Lautoka
* FREEHOLD, 1373 Sqm
* Magnificent Seaview's
* 3 Bedrooms
* Valuation Available
Call Johnny Singh 9993943
E: johnnysingh@propertyexperts.com.fj



Property Experts



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram

Property Experts



Property Experts



Propexp

SHOP FIJI MADE PRODUCTS



SAUDAGAR CASH&CARRY

Retailers of all Fijian Grocery, Seafood, KAVA & Snacks.

28700 Mission Blvd, Hayward CA 94544

510-885-0430

SAUDAGAR CASH AND CARRY

28700 Mission Blvd, Hayward CA - 510-885-0430



PHONE: 510-885-0430

Fiji News

STUDENTS RETURNING TO SCHOOL ARE BEING PROVIDED WITH SUPPORT

As part of ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for students returning to school, students are being provided with support and assistance on multiple fronts. Minister for Education, Premila Kumar, said that the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts has trained 913 Child Protection Officers in schools and counselors to provide psycho-social support, as the Ministry recognises that students may also require emotional and mental support. "In addition to the usual support and assistance, as well as the COVID-safety protocols that have been implemented to keep students safe, we do not want to neglect the emotional and mental health of our students," said Minister Kumar. "Our students have experienced a very challenging period in their lives and may be facing difficulties adjusting to the return to school, which is why we are also providing psycho-social support." "The support has been ongoing since schools reopened for Years 12 and 13 on 1 November, 2021. The first week of school is being used to settle students into school routine, with psycho-social support provided to the students. There are 913 Child Protection Officers who have had basic training, and are identifying students who would need such support." "We also have 35 trained counsellors stationed

throughout the Education Districts to provide this support, as well. Since the reopening from November 2021, a total of 257 students have been provided with psycho-social support. The provision of this support is still ongoing as the Ministry continues to receive students back into the school." The Minister emphasised that the support was not being forced on children and whether they wish to receive such support was the choice of the students and their parents. "As far as the resumption of face to face classes itself is concerned, there is no need to train students to adapt to face to face classes when this is something that they have already mastered throughout the years before the long school closure. However, teachers have been advised to first identify the learning gaps of individual students in relation to the content that has been covered during the lockdown. Once the gaps have been identified, mitigations are then developed. This has been happening since November, 2021," added the Minister. "The Ministry is closely monitoring the social and economic impact of COVID-19 and the recent flooding and tidal waves caused by the volcanic eruption in Tonga on our students and the Ministry is working collaboratively with our Education partners in providing timely assistance."



"Since the reopening of schools for Years 8 to 11, a total of 750 students have been identified to be in need of stationery and we are working closely with our education partner - Save the Children, Fiji - in providing this assistance." "We are communicating with our ECE to Year 7 parents to identify students who have been affected as well. Once this information is received, the list will be verified before confirmation of assistance is given." A total of 3,706 students are currently receiving lunch assistance facilitated by the Fiji Program Support Facility, which is sponsored by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). At the school level, individual schools are identi-

fying students who need assistance, including the provision of lunch, stationery, uniforms, and similar items. Head of Schools and the Ministry have taken the initiative to liaise with various organisations and sponsors to assist their students. Minister Kumar also reminded parents and guardians that the Government continues to provide support aimed at relieving parents of most of their financial responsibilities towards their children's education. "And of course, the Government is continuing with its initiative to assist through the Free Education Grant, which provides Free Tuition and other related expenses for all students, together with free textbooks and transport assistance," she said.

The Minister also extended the Ministry's gratitude to everyone who has helped with the students' transition back to school. "The Ministry appreciates the support that it has been receiving from our valuable partners including UNICEF, DFAT, NZ MFAT, Medical Services Pacific and Empower Pacific, our corporate sector, members of the communities, parents, school management and teachers," said Minister Kumar. "In circumstances like these, we can either talk or we can assist. This goes to show that those who are truly interested in the education of our children are already partnering with the Ministry to ensure our children's return to school."



San Francisco
CALIFORNIA

FREIGHT FORWARDING SERVICES

FFS

FIJI FREIGHT SYSTEMS

We Connect You To Your Families

Send Your Bags and Boxes to Fiji Today!!!

CALL US FOR AN ESTIMATE TODAY

No Weight Restrictions
No Worries, No Hassle

Shamil Prakash
510-329-8943

23939 Connecticut Street, Unit 4
Hayward CA 94545



BAYSTAR SECURITY PATROL

**UNINFORMED GUARDS - PATROL - ALARMS
INVESTIGATION
LICENSED - BONDED - INSURED**

423 Broadway #402, Millbrae, CA 94030
PH: 650-259-7661 Fax: 650-259-9228
eMail: info@baystarpatrol.com



Raj K Singh, Broker, CRS, GRI
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
Real Estate
24301 Southland Drive Suite 217A
Hayward CA 94545
(510)690-1700 office/ Cell (510)
755-0980
www.eliterealestatebayarea.com
DRE lic # 02068779

NOW HIRING LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENTS

If you have been thinking of a career in real estate, we are offering full training and online courses to pass your real estate exam!

Come join ELITE Real Estate Services Bay Area, with excellent commissions and benefits!

Real estate is a fulfilling career! Don't wait and think! Pick up the phone now and call me for a Free 1 hour consultation that will change your life forever!

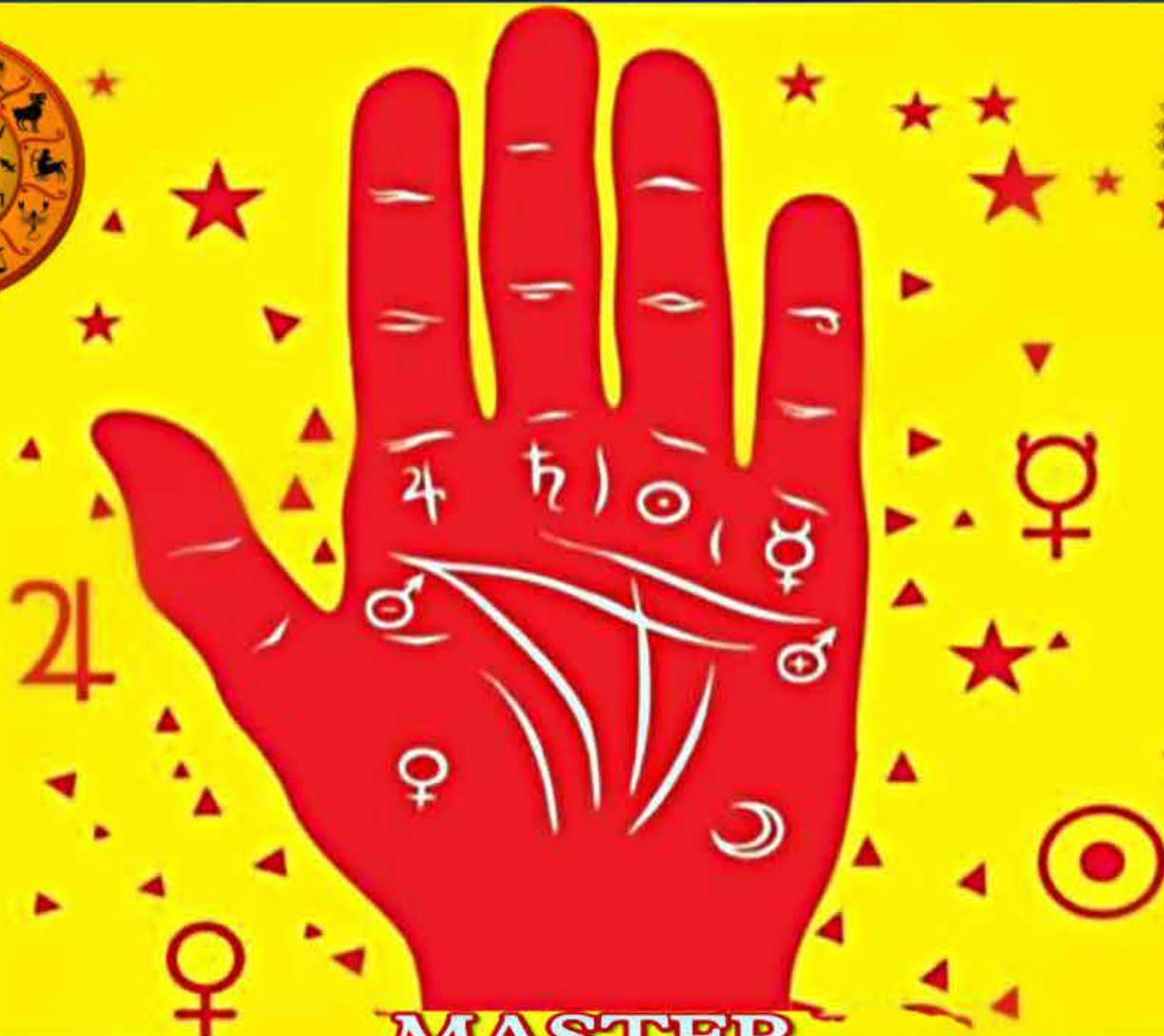
Call me direct at 510 755 0980

Raj Singh, BROKER since 2004. With 15 years of experience, I can help you increase your business! Come Join my team and let me share with you my success!



ASTROLOGER & PSYCHIC HEALER

MEET CERTIFIED ASTROLOGER & SPIRITUAL HEALER FROM INDIAN GENERATIONS



**MASTER
SRI GURU**

Call for
Appointment

(510) 916-8338

Walk in
welcome

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEM, I HAVE SOLUTION

**AN EXPERT BRINGING BACK LOVES ONES , REUNITING TRUE HEARTS
SPECIALIST IN REMOVAL OF •BLACK MAGIC •VODOO •OBEAH • EVILS**



- **LOVE**
(Bring back loved one)
- **SEXUAL**
- **EDUCATION**
- **FINANCIAL**
- **BUSINESS**
- **HEALTH**
- **DEPRESSION**

- **PROMOTION & JOB**
- **COURT CASES**
- **CHILDREN**
- **RELATIONSHIPS**
- **FAMILY PROBLEMS**
- **MARRIAGE**

OPEN 7 DAYS: 10AM - 7PM

📍 38725 Lexington St, Fremont
CA 94536

✉ mastersriguru@gmail.com
🌐 www.mastersriguru.com



Fiji News

RFMF PERSONNEL LEAVE FOR REHABILITATION AND ASSESSMENT WORK POST-VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN TONGA

Fifty Republic of Fiji Military Forces personnel left our shores this morning in an ADF aircraft for Tonga. The soldiers will as-

sist our Pacific neighbours in rehabilitation and assessment after a volcano erupted in Tonga recently.



SCHOOLS TO COMPLY WITH COVID-SAFE MEASURES

Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, Premila Kumar visited Nakauvadra High School, Rakiraki Methodist Primary School, Navatu Primary School and Penang Sangam Primary School yesterday. During the visit, Minister Kumar said that the purpose of the visit was to experience the entire process of the reopening of schools. "I have found that most schools I have visited, in fact all of them are in compliance with the COVID safe protocol." "The schools have the temperature

screening checks done. They have a desk where sanitizing is done and the wash facilities are in order." The schools carry out temperature screening checks, have a desk where sanitization is handled, and they have clean washroom facilities. Minister Kumar added that teachers have been trained to take care of children if they fall ill, and they know what to do if they do get ill. Also on the agenda was meeting with the teachers to discuss employer-employee issues, as well as informing them

about the number of reforms being implemented in the education sector and the ministry's expectations. The visit was also an opportunity for the Minister to meet with the school management committees. "It is vital that this partnership is strengthened, and the purpose of the visit was to strengthen this partnership with the school management committee. "As such, I shared a few of our policies with the school management committee regarding the use of the Free Education Grant that the educa-



tion ministry gives out to different schools and that is managed

by the school management committee and the heads of schools.

FIJI PARTICIPATED AT THE 12TH IRENA ASSEMBLY

Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources, Jone Usamate recently participated at the Twelfth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) Assembly which was held virtually on 15th and 16th January 2022, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The global meeting brought together virtually more than 1,100 delegates from 137 countries including Heads of State, Ministers, Heads of International Organisations and CEOs, and took place under the overarching theme 'Energy Transition: From Commitment to Action' - reflecting the growing need to translate bold ambition into concrete steps that accelerate the shift to a cleaner, fairer and more resilient energy system for our collective future. "With

every passing year the gravity of the challenge ahead of us strengthens," said Francesco La Camera- the IRENA Director-General. "As we meet for this Assembly, we do so clear in the knowledge that 2021 established new benchmarks in ambition, commitment and renewable energy deployment globally. That momentum must serve as fuel as we head into the new-year." During his intervention, Minister Usamate had called on the global leaders and energy decision-makers to take concrete steps to shift the energy transition to the next level in the coming decade and accelerate actions at the speed necessitated by climate, energy and development imperatives. He further stated that during the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, Fiji together with Small Island

Development States (SIDS) through the leadership of the Fijian Prime Minister have voiced their concern with the developed countries and heavy carbon emitters on the urgency to take decisive and concrete actions to reduce their carbon emissions. Fiji's participation at the IRENA Assembly was supported through Fiji's Mission in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Fiji's Ambassador to Abu Dhabi, Naipote Katonitabua reiterated that Fiji together with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) needs to continuously engage with IRENA and seek their expertise in formulating renewable projects to realise the targets in our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for a greener, bluer and sustainable future and further advance our commitment to climate change

and oceans. With more than 180 countries actively engaged at the IRENA's Twelfth Session, IRENA promotes renewable resources and technologies as the key to a sustainable future and helps countries achieve their renewable energy potential. The global event took place at the start of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW 2022), and it featured a high-level follow up on COP26, with discussions included on the role of youth in

the energy transition, and feature perspectives on the energy transition from parliamentarians and the private sector. IRENA is an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy.



Fiji News

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT RECOGNISED FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE BY THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

The Department of Environment was today recognised and awarded a certificate of merit by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for rendering exceptional service to the international Customs community at the borders. The award, which was presented to the Department on the occasion of the International Customs Day 2022, signifies yet another key milestone for the Department to be recognised globally for its selfless work towards protecting Fiji's flora and fauna both locally and internationally. The Department of Environment is one of two Government agencies recognised and awarded this year. While receiving the certificate this morning, Permanent Secretary for Environment, Joshua Wycliffe, emphasised the important role the Department of Environment plays with key border agencies like the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) in addressing environmental crimes at our borders. "We have one of the most successful working relation-

ship with the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service. I would like to thank the CEO and his team for maintaining this successful working relationship with the Department of Environment", Wycliffe said. "Environmental crime is now becoming a serious problem worldwide in different forms, with some of them being among the most lucrative criminal activities in the world. The most common crimes against the environment are trafficking in and smuggling of endangered species, illegal trade in of endangered plant and animal species and exploitation of wild fauna and flora." "With drastic rise of illegal trade and unlawful activities around the world, species smuggling has also expanded dramatically. There is heightened interest in a number of our species that can be either smuggled or mismanaged both intentionally and unwittingly like sharks," Wycliffe said. "Due to the nature and complexity of these environmental crimes, the Department of Environment has



over the years enhanced its cross border cooperation through multi-agency mechanisms, improved staff capabilities to collect, analyse evidence and prosecute and enhanced staff knowledge and skills through training programmes." "More than 21,000 species are covered under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

(CITES) which includes 1200 species that are under threat of extinction. All trade of these species are illegal except for non-commercial purposes or exceptional circumstances like research. Schedule two of the convention lists 21,000 species that are not threatened but on the pathway to extinction. "The Department of Environment along with other stake-

holders proactively manage this by identifying the species well in advance to ensure they do not go extinct." Mr. Wycliffe thanked the Director of Environment Ms. Sandeep K. Singh and her team for their continuous dedication and commitment towards protecting Fiji's pristine environment and getting recognised globally for rendering exceptional service at our borders.

NEW ENROLMENTS FOR 2022 ACADEMIC YEAR TO FOLLOW POLICY ON SCHOOL ZONING IN FIJI

The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MEHA) is advising all parents and guardians that new enrolments for Early Childhood Education, Year 1 and Year 9 for the 2022 academic year, will be carried out as per the policy on School Zoning in Fiji. During this time of the new normal, this policy would help to reduce overcrowding in classrooms and help to keep students safe - which is always our main concern. This policy will also enable the Ministry to make the best use of the existing networks of schools and educational resources, remove social stratifications in the student enrolment process, help to improve the overall performance of schools, and ensure an equal distribution of students. The Ministry hopes that the implementation of this policy will also play a part in helping parents as their children will be enrolled in schools that

are not too far from home. The policy will also go a long way in helping to allow the Ministry to administer fair and proper transport assistance to students as well. Exceptions can be made for students, preferences for certain subject combinations, one or both parents being a teacher at the specific school, or for any other exception, as per the policy, with approval given by the Permanent Secretary of Education. With the education of our students being hindered for nearly a year due to a global pandemic, a Tropical Cyclone, and the impacts of natural disasters within the region, the Ministry is requesting the support of all parents and guardians in getting our students back in the classrooms in a safe manner. The past year has not been an easy one for any of us, especially our students and while we are working hard to make the transition back to face to



face learning for our students as easy and safe, we ask that our

parents and guardians support us as best as they can during

this process.

Fiji News

RETURN TO SPORTS AMBER ALERT CONDITIONS FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18

Through thorough consultation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), the Ministry of Youth and Sports is confirming that Unvaccinated Children Under 18 are allowed to access sports venues for training purposes only but are not to participate in competitions or tournaments. The change follows a review of the Safe Re-opening of Sports Framework amber protocol and acknowledges Ministry of Health and Medical Services for confirming that there is a proportionately lower risk of infection in children. Furthermore, in the event of an infection for children and adolescents, they were more

likely to have mild symptoms and less likely to have severe outcomes from COVID-19 when compared with older age groups. As such MOHMS has recommended the easing of such restrictions from a public health perspective. While this approval and endorsement is welcomed, the public is reminded to always ensure that children are safe to participate in training and physical activity with the COVID-19 safety protocols being implemented. The Fiji National Sports Commission and Ministry of Youth & Sports would like to reiterate that all the other protocols for Safe Sports is still in force.



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK TO CLASSES

I once again welcome years 8 to 13 students back to classes. It is a very critical time for years 12 and 13 as they will be sitting for their exams. For years 8 to 11, this term is the final term for academic year 2021 and it is vital that students complete their work before they start the new academic year 2022 in April. We all have been going through trying times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The different variants of the virus have exposed us all with challenges that we had never faced before. Despite that we have endured and showed resilience by closely following the frequent and timely advisories from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and our partners WHO and UNICEF. Government's well strategised plan for vaccination and Fiji achieving

around 93 % full vaccination was the best option for addressing the challenges. Prioritising education after substantial loss of hours of face to face learning is crucial, more than ever before. Invigorating the interest of our children on the importance of learning and resuming face to face classes can no longer be kept in abeyance or deferred. Countries world over have encouraged their students to return to classes amidst observance of clearly defined COVID Safety Protocols. We have done so as well. I have visited a number of schools in the country over the past one month and am impressed to see the high level of preparedness by heads of schools, teachers and the school management and the eagerness of teachers to welcome students back to classes. As schools re-

open, teachers and other school staff can play a key role in protecting and supporting their students. Teachers and other ancillary staff are the first contact for children outside of their family after months of home confinement, allowing children to report if they are not feeling well. I am delighted to see our school family back together, however we must not lose sight of the fact that Covid-19 is still very much in our midst, numbers of cases are still detected on a daily basis and this is likely to continue. Therefore, we all need to do what we can to keep our students safe at school. Between home and school, students will inevitably get in contact of others such as the travelling public, bus drivers, public service vehicle workers, and shop and office workers. It is incumbent



upon every individual to exercise caution and adhere to all COVID safe measures. Laxity by anyone (including students and parents) can present a risk to the students. As citizens, let us take a collective responsibility to ensure that through our own actions we don't endanger the health and safety of others, in particular our children. If you, your child, or anyone in the

household develops any symptoms it is vitally important that the child stays home until all clear. For years 12 and 13 students. I wish them the very best and encourage all of them to do the examination as your future higher education goals are dependent on this. For ECE up to year 7, I will be announcing the dates of reopening of classes in due course.

HEALTH MINISTER COMMENDS HIGH VACCINATION RATE ON VANUA BALAVU

Minister for Health and Medical Services, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete has commended the high vaccination rate on Vanua Balavu and says the support from islanders towards Government's effort against COVID-19 is a fine example for the other islands in the Lau group of islands. "As a result, you set a challenge to the other islands because the vaccination drive

started on Vanua Balavu much later than on other islands, but you exceeded them all in the number of people vaccinated," the Minister told villagers of Tikina Lomaloma and Tikina Mualevu. In spite of the high vaccination rate, however, the Minister cautioned that it does not mean that all have been vaccinated. "We will continue to preach the benefits of the vac-

cine and encourage those who are skeptical to get the jab." "COVID as we have heard and witnessed can mutate and the result is what we are seeing today – the Delta and Omicron variants," Minister Waqainabete explained to the islanders. The minister explained that Government is taking measures to ensure the safety of every Fijian and vaccination is a way forward

in creating a safer Fiji. "COVID is here to stay and we must live with it. However, it is the duty of every Fijian to ensure that we are fully vaccinated and protect our fellow citizens." The Minister also assured villagers that the medical ship MV Veivueti will make regular visits with medical experts to conduct 'on-island' surgeries to complement the services at Lomaloma Hospi-

tal. "By bringing such services to your shores, the Government is reducing the cost to Fijians in our outer islands since traveling to Suva is expensive. Your loved one will be there with you by your side." "Be rest assured we will address the issues at Lomaloma Hospital as raised today by the Sub Divisional Medical Officer and ensure that it delivers its services effectively."

SAN BRUNO Dental Excellence

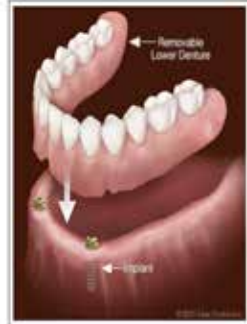
TRUSTED, COMFORTABLE
& CARING DENTISTRY

SINGLE IMPLANT & CROWN \$2499

dental implants with a crown



- * full chewing ability
- * preserve healthy teeth
- * prevent bone loss



DENTIST CLINICAL PROFESSOR



Dr. VISHNU SHANKAR

A fujian native, originally from Labasa who has been proudly serving and supporting the people of Fiji in the bay area for the past 3 decades.

SPECIALS SINGLE IMPLANT & CROWN \$2499 | TAKE HOME WHITENING \$199 | EXAM & CLEANING \$150

504 LINDEN AVE,
SAN BRUNO, CA 94066

<https://sanbrunodontalexcellence.com>

APPOINTMENTS:

650-589-8658

LOCATION IN FIJI ISLANDS

ELITE DENTAL
YOUR SMILE IS OUR PRIDE

Dr. Vishnu Shankar D.D.S (USA)

549 RATU MARA ROAD
SUITE 4 NABUA, SUVA

Dr. Tanveen Kaur B.D.S (FIJI)

OFFICE: 7733 - 007

MOBILE: 7723 - 008

EMAIL: ELITEDENTALFJ@GMAIL.COM

www.elitedentalfiji.com

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LEGALEGA, NADI

Desirable residential lot for Sale. 8-10 mins drive from Nadi Airport along Tokatoka Hotel Rd. BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME in paradise. Close to new developments and minutes away from Nadi town

\$75K USD
\$150K FJD

CALIFORNIA, USA

COMING SOON!

Patterson, CA

Brand New
4 Bed/ 2 Bath

\$489,000

East Bay, CA

Close to SF
4 Bed/ 2 Bath

\$900,000

RAKIRAKI, FIJI

Approx: One Arce Freehold Land for sale in Fiji.

Near Pacific Cove Resort
off King's Highway

\$35K USD
\$70K FJD



For more information on the properties listed above or to list your property with us, please call or text **AMI HOMES REALTY.**

Vishnu Shankar | Broker/Owner | 650-763-6462

Justina Singh | Realtor | 650-278-2097



AMI HOMES REALTY

Licensed Broker / Realtor (Fiji / USA)

650-763-6462

Elite **DENTAL**



your smile is our pride

Dr. Vishnu Shankar (D.D.S, USA)

Dr. Tanveen Kaur (B.D.S, Fiji)

549 Ratu Mara Road, Suite 4
Nabua, Suva

Office: 7733 007
Mobile: 7723 008

elitedentalfj@gmail.com

Fiji News

JOINT GOVERNMENT TEAMS COMPLETE DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS IN LAU

Damage assessments in the six islands in Lau that were recently impacted by the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano in Tonga have been completed. The two joint Government teams who were deployed to the these islands onboard the MV Iloilovatu and the MLC Veivueti returned to Suva this week. The teams which comprised of technical and scientific expertise from the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, the Ministry of Environment, the Water Authority of Fiji and the Ministry of Fisheries had visited the islands of Vanuabalavu, Lakeba, Moala, Ono-I-Lau, Vatoa and Moce. They had completed the assessments and monitoring of the air and water quality, marine resources and food security in the six affected islands. The teams also included personnel from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and other key agencies of Government. Minister for Rural and

Maritime Development and Disaster Management Hon. Inia Seruiratu confirmed that reports received from the two teams indicated minimal damage were recorded across the six islands. "Out of the six affected islands, Moce was identified as the only island that sustained damage to a few homes and crops," Minister Seruiratu said. "Despite this, I can confirm that upon the completion of the assessments conducted by all key agencies deployed to Lau, the water and air quality level remains normal. While there were reports of slight damage to corals and reefs on the island of Vatoa, there was no major damage to the marine ecosystems across all the six islands. This is good news as many of the villages in these islands depend on the sea for their daily livelihood." "In terms of food security, reports show zero crop damage across five islands assessed by the teams. This excludes the island of Moce. The Ministry



of Agriculture is looking into the provision of assorted vegetable seeds to support food and nutrition security in these islands." Minister Seruiratu also noted that there had not been any outbreak of diseases or public health issues in the aftermath of the storm surge that swept through the six affected islands. "The assessment teams recorded some slight damage to

road infrastructure in Vanuabalavu, Lakeba and Moala and the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) has confirmed that they will look into the issue of maintenance of these infrastructure," he said. As villagers on the islands visited by the two Government vessels recover from the aftermath of the impacts of the volcanic eruption, many have expressed gratitude towards Government's

immediate response and assistance. During the 6-day deployment, the Government teams, with the assistance of the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) had also distributed food ration supplies and Non-Food Items (NFIs). At the conclusion of the mission, more than 1,300 food ration packs were distributed to the affected families on the six islands.

BA RIVER DREDGING COMMENCED

A dredging project in the Ba River has increased efforts to safeguard the township of Ba and the neighboring communities from flooding. The dredging works will mitigate flooding with an increased amount of water discharge capacity that would benefit the business sectors in Ba town, sugarcane, crop and livestock farms along the river. A total of 19 kilometers of river dredging works will be undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agree-

ment with Vanua Ko Ba Holdings. While commissioning the river dredging works in Ba yesterday, Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy said that dredging works will increase the water discharge capacity of the river during heavy rain. Minister Reddy reiterated that due to the constant flooding, the water discharge capacity has been diminished and this has caused flooding in the Ba town and adjacent communities. "The current discharge capacity of Ba



River now is around 1570 cubic meters per second which have been reduced to almost half due to the silt material in the Ba River," he said. Dr. Reddy further noted that upon the completion of the 19 kilometers of dredging works, around 3.8 million cubic meters of silt would be removed which will increase the water discharge capacity to around 2180 cubic meters per second. He said this will allow

water to quickly move out during the flood. A spokesperson for Tui Ba and the director of Vanua Ko Ba Holdings, Mr. Manasa Litidani, said that constant flooding in the Ba town during the annual rainy season has created risks for businesses in the Ba town. He further expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Tui Ba as the dredging works would provide relief to the communities and farmers adjacent

to the river. "We would like to thank the government for assisting us to dredge this River, as you know, over the years we have been suffering because of floods," he said. He acknowledged the continuous support from the Ministry of Waterways in their drainage programs and now the dredging of Ba River which will safeguard their farms and homes.



TALKING REAL ESTATE



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Elite Real Estate

FEBRUARY 2022

Whether you own a home or looking to buy or sell one, here are the latest Good To Know articles for when you're ready to take the next step in finding your Forever Home.

HOMEBUYERS



OUTLOOK FOR HOUSING 2022

Housing was one of the strongest sectors of the economy for 2021, but rising interest rates and inflation are causing many to wonder if sales will continue as strong in 2022.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of REALTORS, believes housing sales volume will decline in 2022 but will still outpace pre-pandemic levels, based on continuing demand from homebuyers. Goldman Sachs economists predict that home prices will climb another 16%, reports Houwzer.com. Yet, Corelogic has lowered its forecast from 2.2% to 1.9%, according to Fortune.com.

Fannie Mae is predicting that mortgage rates will rise to an average of 3.4% next year, while the Mortgage Bankers Association believes rates will rise to 4%. If a buyer puts 20% down on a \$500,000 home, they will have a monthly payment of \$1,682 at 2.98%. At 4%, the monthly payment would be \$1,910.

Fortune.com points out that the Federal Reserve predicted 1.8% inflation for 2021, but inflation reached 6.2% in October – the highest rate since 1990. So, should you buy a home or wait it out? Economists can't agree on their outlooks, but housing is a terrific hedge against inflation. Ask yourself what you can afford and go from there.

HOMESELLERS



SELLERS: DON'T WAIT UNTIL SPRING TO MAKE YOUR MOVE THE MOST CRITICAL PERIOD FOR NEW LISTINGS

As you plan out your goals for the year, moving up to your dream home may top the list. But, how do you know when to make your move? You want to time it just right so you can get the most out of the sale of your current house. You also want to know you're making a good investment when you buy your new home. What you may not realize is, that opportunity to get the best of both worlds is already here.

1. The Number of Homes on the Market Is Still Low
2. Your Equity Is Growing in Record Amounts
3. While Rising, Mortgage Rates Are Still Historically Low
4. Home Prices Are Going To Keep Rising with Time

Bottom Line

If you're considering selling to move up or downsize, this may be your moment, especially with today's low mortgage rates and limited inventory. Let's connect today to get set up for homebuying success this year.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Elite Real Estate

Pravin Lal - Broker Associate

Certified Residential Specialist DRE# # 01415495

Direct: 916.213.0653

Email: info@pravinlal.com

View all listings @ www.pravinlal.com

7412 Elsie Ave. Sacramento, CA 95828

©2022 BHH Affiliates, LLC. Real Estate Brokerage Services are offered through the network member franchisees of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Most franchisees are independently owned and operated. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Information not verified or guaranteed. If your property is currently listed with a Broker, this is not intended as a solicitation. Equal Housing Opportunity. DRE#: 01415495



NEE

Pacific Market &

492 - 494 San Mateo Avenue, San B

GENERAL GROCERY OUT



Fresh Vegetables



Frozen Food, Fresh Produce, Kava, Fij

ILAMA

Fashion San Bruno

San Bruno, CA 94066 PH. (650) 583-5024

LET Indian, Pakistan, Fijian, Tongan Groceries



ji Ghee, All Pooja Items & many more.....

Bollywood

Suresh Raina to David Warner, Pushpa The Rise is on everyone's timeline: Watch the best, Allu Arjun approved videos

Pushpa: The Rise craze seems to be only increasing weeks after the film released in theatres and made a few box office records. After the Allu Arjun-Rashmika Mandanna-starrer found its way to streamers, fans not only appreciated its masala content, but also tried their hand at its memorable dialogues and hook steps of its songs. Allu Arjun's step from the song 'Srivalli' has emerged as a craze online with many users imitating the steps. Australian cricketer David Warner, Indian cricketer Suresh Raina and Tanzanian TikTok star Kili Paul are just a few of those who tried to recreate what has come to be called 'Pushpa walk'. Australia

opener David Warner, who often recreates content from Allu Arjun's films, first shared a video where he enacted Allu Arjun's dance moves on 'Srivalli'. The actor had responded with fire and laughter emojis in the comments section. Later, the cricketer's three daughters — Ivy Mae Warner, Indi Rae Warner and Isla Rose Warner — were also seen dancing to the song Saami Saami in a video. "Girls wanted to try Saami Saami song before mum and dad" □ □ #pushpa @candywarner1," Warner had written. Cricketer Suresh Raina, meanwhile, danced to Hindi version of the hit number. He posted a video clip of him dancing to the song

with his family on Instagram and said: "I couldn't stop but try this myself." The clip impressed Allu Arjun who responded to it on social media. Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan also joined the trend. Their reel began with Yadav showing off his moves and Kishan joining in. "With my very own Pushpa," the right-handed batsman captioned the video post. Although the original song for the film was in Telugu and was sung by Sid Sriram, it is available in other languages as well because Pushpa was dubbed and released in Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi and Kannada. Songs in the film are composed by Devi Sri Prasad. Starring Allu Arjun, Fahadh



Faasil and Rashmika Mandanna, the film was released in mid-December. The Telugu action drama has maintained the buzz, ever since its release. Directed by Sukumar, the film is successful commercially. Pushpa has collected over Rs 300 crore at the box office, and is still attract-

ing audiences to theatres despite being out on Amazon Prime. Pushpa marks Allu Arjun's reunion with director Sukumar and composer Devi Sri Prasad. The trio has earlier delivered two blockbuster movies: Arya and Arya 2. Arya turned Allu Arjun into an overnight sensation.

Dhanush's father says actor and wife Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth aren't divorced, calls it 'regular family fight'

Days after actor Dhanush and wife Aishwaryaa announced their separation after 18 years of marriage, his father Kasthuri Raja has denied that the two are headed for a divorce. Dhanush's father has referred to the split as a 'family quarrel.' Aishwaryaa is the elder daughter of superstar Rajinikanth and has two sons with Dhanush, 15-year-old Yatra and 11-year-old Linga. Kasturi Raja told Dailythandhi newspaper that a disagreement has taken place between Dhanush and Aishwaryaa. He said, "Dhanush and Aishwaryaa are

not divorced. It's just a fight between them due to differences of opinion. So it was a routine family fight. Presently both are out of town and staying in Hyderabad. I talked to them via phone and advised them too." Dhanush had announced separation from wife Aishwaryaa on January 17. The two shared a joint statement on their respective social media accounts. Dhanush wrote, "Eighteen years of togetherness as friends, couple, as parents and well-wishers to each other. The journey has been of growth, understanding, adjusting, and

adapting. Today we stand at a place where our paths separate. Aishwaryaa and I have decided to part ways as a couple and take time to understand us as individuals for the better. Please do respect our decision and give us the needed privacy to deal with this. Om Namashivaaya! Spread love, D." Last year, sharing a picture with his father-in-law Rajinikanth after the National Awards, Dhanush had written on Instagram, "To win a National Award for best actor on the same stage where my Thalavar was winning the prestigious



Dada Saheb Phalke award was just indescribable. Thank you to the National award jury for bestowing me with this honour. Also Thank you to the press and

media for your constant support." Rajinikanth had also called Dhanush "a good father and husband" at the Kaala music launch in 2018.

Lata Mangeshkar Taken Off The Ventilator, Shows Improvement

Legendary singer Bharat Ratna Lata Mangeshkar on Thursday morning was given a "trial of extubation (off the invasive Ventilator)" and is showing signs of improvement, the Mangeshkar family said in a statement. The statement read that "India's Nightingale" continues to be in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Breach

Candy Hospital in Mumbai. It read: "Lata didi continues to be in the ICU at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai under treatment. She has been given a TRIAL of extubation (off the invasive Ventilator) this morning." "Presently, she is showing signs of improvement but will remain under observation of the team of doctors headed by Dr.

Pratit Samdani. We thank each one of you for your prayers and good wishes." The 92-year-old legendary singer was admitted to the hospital near her home in south Mumbai with Covid-19 and related health issues. She had tested positive on Tuesday (January 11) after reportedly contracting the virus from one of the house helps.



INDIAN PSYCHIC AND SPIRITUAL HEALER

Famous Indian Astrologer

Pandit : GAGANESH

HE CAN HANDLE ANY TYPE OF PROBLEMS



- ✦ Business Investment
- ✦ Work Problems
- ✦ Money Problems
- ✦ Childless Couples
- ✦ Family Arguments
- ✦ Loved One Back
- ✦ Love Issues
- ✦ Enemy Problems
- ✦ Jealousy
- ✦ Negativity
- ✦ Sexual Problems
- ✦ Depression
- ✦ Drinking Problems
- ✦ House Protection

**Palm Reading-Face Reading-Horoscope Reading
25 years experience Traditional Vedic Psychic**



**An Expert Pandith Your Service !
Past, Present & Future of your Life
Love, Business, Sickness, Education,
Employment, Marriage, Court, Enemy,
Black Magic, Secret Matters Etc...**



**Gaganesh Can Help You To Get Your Loves One Back
Remove Black Magic, Family Issues,
Depression-stress, Arguments Etc**

**All Religions
WELCOME
OPEN 7 DAYS
8 AM TO 8PM**

Call : 408-888-3132

Address : 373, River Oaks Circle , San Jose California-95134

Bollywood

Mouni Roy turns Bengali bride in a Sabyasachi lehenga, marries longtime boyfriend Suraj Nambiar

After solemnising their wedding as per Malayali rituals, Mouni Roy turned into an ethereal Bengali bride, looking simply breathtaking. Mouni married longtime boyfriend Suraj Nambiar in Goa's Hilton resort on January 27, 2022. Mouni Roy's wedding was attended by family and close friends including Mandira Bedi, Aashka Goradia, Meet Bros Manmeet Singh with his wife, Arjun Bijlani, Rahul from DID fame among other celeb buddies. The Naagin actress wore an exquisite Sabyasachi Mukherjee lehenga in pop red colour, looking breathtakingly picture perfect. There are a few inside videos from her Goa wed-

ding which have gone viral on the internet. Take a look and enjoy her wedding festivity: In the morning, Mouni had a Malayali wedding and donned traditional bridal wear and authentic temple jewellery. She wore a classic silk white saree with a red border and smiled shyly as they exchanged the garlands. As per reports, Suraj is a Dubai-based businessman and banker. Mouni ushered in her 2021 New Year celebrations in Dubai with Suraj and his fam-jam, reportedly. He hails from Bangalore and studied investment science and International management at Stanford University.



Salman Khan Has Buried Dead Bodies Of Film Stars At Panvel's Farm House, Claims His Neighbour Amid Defamation Case

Salman Khan is one of the biggest superstars in Bollywood and is one of the much-loved actors in the country. He is now battling a defamation case against his Panvel farmhouse neighbour Ketan Kakkad, who has levelled some astonishing charges against the superstar. Kakkad is a US-based retired NRI who owns a part of a plot on a hill in Panvel next to the superstar's farmhouse. Recently, he took to social media to defame the Dabangg star following which the latter filed a defamation case against Kakkad. Now he has once again made a serious allegation against the superstar. As reported by News 18 report, Ketan Kakkad in an explosive interview made a shocking allegation that "bodies of film stars are buried" in superstar Salman Khan's Panvel farmhouse. Not just that he also claimed that Antim star is conducting illegal activities like child trafficking. The US-based retired NRI has previously said some crazy things for Salman in a YouTube interview. In a response to these allegations, Salman filed a defamation case in Mumbai civil court. A hear-



ing was conducted last week where the superstar's lawyer Pradeep Gandhi readout big portions of Kakkad's allegations. Gandhi said that he had

unnecessarily dragged Salman's religious identity into the dispute amongst one of the many things. To which the lawyer on behalf of Salman Khan said,

"Without proper proof, all these allegations are a figment of the defendant's imagination. In a property dispute, why are you tarnishing my personal reputa-

tion? Why are you bringing in religion? My mother is a Hindu, my father is a Muslim and my brothers have married Hindus. We celebrate all festivals."

Bollywood

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are married, see first pic of bride from wedding

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif tied the knot at the Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan on December 9 amid high security. The first pictures of their wedding are out. She wore a pink lehenga, while he wore a sherwani. Several celebrities were on the guest list, including Neha Dhupia, Angad Bedi, Gurdas Maan, Malavika Mohanan, Sharvari Wagh, Radhika Madan, Kabir Khan, Mini Mathur and others. However, Katrina's close friend Salman Khan and his family did not attend the wedding. He flew to Riyadh for the Da-Bangg tour. Meanwhile, Mika Singh told Bollywood Life that he was invited to Vicky and Katrina's wedding but had to give it a miss due to 'other professional commitments'. Vicky and Katrina reportedly sent their guests

a welcome hamper with a note requesting them to leave their phones in their rooms before attending the ceremonies. Until now, Vicky and Katrina had kept their relationship under wraps. They were first linked together in 2019. While they refrained from commenting on their personal lives, they were often seen together at parties and even taking vacations together. They also reportedly celebrated the New Year together with their siblings, Sunny Kaushal and Isabelle Kaif, in Alibaug. In October, Katrina attended a special screening of Vicky's film Sardar Udham, where he greeted her with a hug. She later praised his performance as well. Sharing a poster of the film on Instagram Stories, she wrote, "@shoojitsircar what a vision, such a gripping beautiful film, pure



unadulterated storytelling - @vickykaushal is just pure talent, raw, honest, heartbreaking." Last month, Vicky appeared on Into The Wild With Bear Grylls and

described the kind of woman he would like to marry. "Whoever makes you feel at home all the time, you just know that connect. Also, where there is

that understanding, where you love each other for your pluses and minuses both, and we make each other a better version of each other," he said.

Omicron wipes out Jan film release calendar

With cinemas across the country either shutting down, or operating with 50% occupancy, with night curfews and weekend curfews in place, it seems filmmakers have little choice but to put release plans on hold. Jersey, starring Shahid Kapoor, was the first big ticket project to postpone release after cinemas shut down in Delhi, followed by RRR, which was slated for a January 7 release. Now, Valimai and Radhe Shyam makers have announced that they'll be postponing the film's release as well, while reports state that Akshay Kumar and Manushi Chhillar-starrer Prithviraj, which was meant to hit theatres on January 21, will be held back as well. So, what will be the fate of these films going ahead? 'We're starting at zero releases in January' Girish Johar, producer and film business expert, says, "January was a month of solo releases, with one major mega star film releasing every week. Producers had ensured that their release got enough screens. However, now we are looking at an empty calendar. As an industry, we are hoping that this hiatus doesn't last as long as the last one. Every other hour there is an update

from another state and rules are changing quickly, hence there is a lot of confusion around." Regional film releases feel the heat, too. While Bollywood releases – and those targeting pan-India audiences – have backed out of theatrical runs, the release of several regional films may depend on the scenario of their primary market. Akshaye Rathi, director, Aashirwad Theatres and an industry expert, cites the example of Valimai, starring Tamil superstar Ajith. "The film was expected to release on Jan 14, and now with the restrictions imposed in Tamil Nadu, it will be slightly unfeasible for the maker to release the film on that date. Then there is Bangaraju starring Nagarjuna and Naga Chaitanya, which might go ahead as planned because cinemas aren't yet shut in its primary markets – Andhra Pradesh and Telangana." Yogesh Raizada, Corporate Head, Wave Cinemas, says, "Last week, the release of Tarsem Jassar and Wamiqa Gabbi's Punjabi film Galwakdi was postponed. A couple of other Punjabi films are still scheduled to release in theatres this month, but with new restrictions imposed in Punjab,

occupancy will be low even for new releases."

Rajender Singh Jyala, Chief Programming Officer, INOX Leisure, adds, "We have no releases this week. Films that were already in cinemas will continue running. Despite cinemas in some states still showing films, due to the restrictions, footfalls will be affected." 'Filmmakers ready to wait for theatrical release than go the OTT way' Film business analysts say that filmmakers are likely to wait till the virus subsides to release their films in theatres than go the OTT route. Akshaye Rathi says, "Be it Sooryavanshi or Spider-Man: No Way Home, the business that these films have done recently is proof that the audience will come to theatres to watch films. Some producers with financial constraints may take the OTT route. However, most filmmakers are ready to wait and release films in cinemas. All of us are hoping that states will take a pragmatic approach – keeping both, the safety of people and the economics of businesses in mind – as the last one-and-a-half years have been extremely hard for the cinema industry." Shifting release date is not an



issue, bigger issue is rescheduling of these films: Raj Bansal, film distributor Raj Bansal, film distributor, points out that several filmmakers have been very reluctant to push back releases, and were ultimately forced to under the circumstances. He explains, "While Prithviraj producers still haven't officially announced that they are postponing its release, any film set to hit theatres in January or early February has no other option." He adds that even February releases, like Gangubai Kathiawadi, are likely to be impacted. "It's slated for a release date close to Valentine's Day,

but I am sure the makers will end up deferring that as well." He adds, "The biggest challenge for our industry is rescheduling the films that have been postponed. Now what happens is that till the first week of Diwali 2022 – the release date of the films announced in advance will remain the same. So, where will the makers shift these January-February releases to? There will be a clash of dates. Films which were earlier announced to be released in April, will either have to push back their release dates or go head-to-head with these films at the box-office."

SCIENTIFIC PALM READER & ASTROLOGER

PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATIONS
45 YEARS EXPERIENCE

PSYCHIC SHARMA GURUJI

PALM READING - FACE READING - HOROSCOPE
I will Solve All Your Problems! Guaranteed Results

SPECIALIST IN BRINGING BACK LOVED ONES...

He Can Solve Problem Like Health, Wealth, Money, Job, Business, Depression & Stress, Family Arguments, Misunderstanding, Unhappy In Love Life, Children Problems, Kundali Match, Career, Marriage, Court Case, Sickness, Education, Enemy, Black Magic, Secret Matters etc...

100% REMOVE BLACK MAGIC & GIVES LIFELONG PROTECTION

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

562-539-8089

ARTESIA, LA

OPEN 7 DAYS
ALL RELIGIONS WELCOME

9 AM TO 9 PM
WALK-INS WELCOME



HALAL

MOON INDIAN CUISINE

Most Affordable rates and prompt service:

CHEF PAUL & CHEF GILL

Address : 600 West Harder Road Hayward, CA 94544
Open Daily from 11AM - 10PM PH: (510) 780 - 9233
www.moonindiancuisine.net

Over 30 Years of Experience in Restaurant & catering Business.



ELDORADO
COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTERS

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Primary Care • Family practice • Gynecology • HIV/AIDS & STD testing
Gastroenterology • Pain management • Therapy • Psychiatry

SERVING

Bay Area | Los Angeles | Kern County | San Diego

SEE WHAT YOUR NEW HEALTHCARE TEAM CAN DO FOR YOU!

1-877-557-7826

WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG

Drug testing is an effective tool to protect your work place from the negative effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

Services Include:

- Substance Abuse and Drug Testing Policy
- Supervisory Training
- Employee Education and Awareness Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Drug Treatment Therapy
- Drug Testing
- Background Checks

Types of Testing:

Include, but not limited to:

- Pre-Employment
- Random
- Post-Accident
- Probable Cause
- Return to Work

Drug Free Work
Environments Promote

»SAFETY«
»PRODUCTIVITY«
»ACCOUNTABILITY«

Convenient Locations

- **Azusa**
472 S Citrus Ave. Azusa, CA 91702
- **Bakersfield**
1010½ S Union Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93305
- **Hawaiian Gardens**
21617 Norwalk Blvd. Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716
- **Hollywood**
5015 W. Pico Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90019
- **Inglewood**
4450 W. Century Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90304
- **Lawndale**
4023 Marine Ave. Lawndale CA, 90260
14611 Hawthorne Blvd. Lawndale, CA 90260
- **Long Beach**
2272 Pacific Ave. Ste A Long Beach, CA 90806
100 E. Market St. Long Beach, CA 90805
- **Palmdale**
2720 E. Palmdale Blvd. #128-9 Palmdale, CA 93550
- **Pico Rivera**
5200 San Gabriel Pl. Ste C Pico Rivera, CA 90660
8207 Whittier Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660
- **Santa Clarita**
24625 Arch St. Newhall, CA 91321
- **Van Nuys**
6265 Sepulveda Blvd. #9&10 Van Nuys, CA 91411
- **Venice**
717 Lincoln Blvd. Venice, CA 90291



For More Information
877-557-7826
www.drugtestingclinic.org

Discounted pricing available

Because addiction is not a life sentence



Addiction to heroin, painkillers, and other opioids is a medically treatable condition.

OVER 23 CLINICS SERVING
Bay Area | Los Angeles | Kern County | San Diego

SEE WHAT OUR ADDICTION SPECIALISTS CAN DO FOR YOU!

1-877-557-7826

WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG

Take control[®]

Suboxone & Methadone Treatments can help you get back on track.



San Mateo Services

Your Neighborhood Auto Shop

501 S. Norfolk Street
San Mateo, CA 94401
(650) 344-7811 / (650) 219-7995

We Specialize In:

- » Smog Check
- » Oli Change
- » Frame Staightening
- » Fiber Glass Work
- » Perfect Color Matching
- » Foreign & Domestic
- » Engine & Transmission
- » Brakes & Tune - Ups
- » Custom Bodywork



Shoreview Service Station

335 South Norfolk Street
650-281-8582

By : Atendra Singh and
Vince Singh

**All major credit
cards accepted**

Food

Hokkien Fried Prawn Mee Recipe

Hokkien Fried Prawn Mee
Total Time: 55 mins
Serves: 4 Servings
Ingredients

1. 5 eggs
2. 4 Tbsp vegetable oil
3. 3 cups of beans sprouts
4. 1 cup spring onion
5. 4 cups egg noodles, moistened in stock
6. 4 cups of vermicelli (optional)
7. 4 cups of seafood stock (made from prawn and squid) or any other stock
8. 8 boiled squids
9. 6 boiled prawns
10. 1/2 Tbsp chopped garlic
11. 3 tbsp soya sauce

How to-

1. Heat oil in a pan. Break the eggs on top and let them cook.
2. Add bean sprouts, spring onions, egg noodles, vermicelli, the seafood stock and squids.
3. Stir fry on high flame.
4. Now, add chopped garlic and soya sauce.
5. Finally add prawns, cook for few minutes and serve.



Saewoo Bokumbop (Shrimp Fried Rice) Recipe

Saewoo Bokumbop (Shrimp Fried Rice) Recipe
Total Time: 45 mins
Serves: 2 Servings
Ingredients

1. 2 Cup Cooked rice
2. 20-25 Small Shrimp (deveined, peeled)
3. 1/4 Onion
4. 1/2 Cup Cooked green peas
5. 2 roots Green onion
6. 1-2 Egg (scrambled)
7. 2-3 Tbsp Vegetable oil/butter
8. 3-4 Tbsp Soy sauce
9. 1 tsp Sesame oil
10. To taste Salt
11. To taste Pepper

How to-

1. Cook rice as directed in a rice cooker or in a pot.
2. Dice and mince green onions, onions, and garlic.
3. In a frying pan, sauté onion and frozen peas (defrost in microwave first) in butter or vegetable oil. Set aside.
4. Sauté shrimps with garlic in butter or vegetable oil. When lightly brown, add vegetable mixture and cook for additional 1-2 minutes.
5. Add cooked rice to mixture.
6. In another small frying pan, scramble 1-2 egg(s) and add to mixture as well.
7. Add salt and pepper to meet taste.
8. Add soy sauce (amount dependent on preference), salt and black pepper to meet taste. Mix all ingredients well and simmer for an additional minute.
9. Serve on plate.



Assorted Rice Kheer Sushi Recipe

Assorted Rice Kheer Sushi
Total Time: 1hr 35mins
Serves: 2 Servings
Ingredients

1. 1 Cup Basmati Rice, soaked
2. 2 Litre Milk
3. 1.5 Cup Sugar
4. 2 Tbsp Pistachio
5. 4 Tbsp Almonds, chopped
6. 1 tsp Green Cardamoms (powdered)
7. 1/2 tsp Saffron
8. 2 Tbsp Rose Water
9. 2 Tbsp Rose Petals (dried)
10. 300 Gram Dark Chocolate
1. Heat milk in a heavy bottomed pan and bring it to boil.
2. Add rice and boil them on medium-low heat till the
3. kheer is creamy and rice has cooked well. Keep stirring the pan and make sure it does not burn at the bottom.
4. Add sugar and cook on low heat for 6-8 minutes.
5. Add almonds & pistachio and cook on low heat for 2-3 minutes.
6. Remove from heat and divide the kheer into 3 separate bowls.
7. In first bowl add cardamom powder and mix it well, in second bowl add saffron and mix it well and in third bowl add rose water and dried rose petals and mix it well.
8. Cool down all three bowls to room temperature.
9. Take silver foil and put individual mixture, roll them and pack them in toffee shape, we should get a long cylinder shape.
10. Freeze them overnight.
11. Melt the dark chocolate on double boiler.
12. Remove the foil from all three flavors of kheer and coat them with melted chocolate.
13. Again put them in refrigerator, till the chocolate get fixed properly.
14. Take a warm knife and cut the rolls in equal size.
15. Plate them randomly and garnish with chopped pistachio and rose petals.
16. Serve.



World News

Ukraine crisis: US rejects Russian demand to bar Ukraine from Nato

The US has rejected Russia's demand to bar Ukraine from Nato, amid warnings Russia might invade its neighbour. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was giving Russia a formal response to its demands to resolve the Ukraine crisis. Mr Blinken gave no concessions but said that he was offering Russia "a serious diplomatic path forward, should Russia choose it". Russia's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said President Vladimir Putin would now assess Mr Blinken's response. While the document - delivered by the US in coordination with the Nato military alliance - does not address Russia's "main concern" about the alliance's expansion, Mr Lavrov said it "gives hope for the start of a serious conversation" on secondary questions. The president's spokesman Dmitry Peskov meanwhile told reporters Russia would not "rush into assessments", saying it would take "time to analyse" the response. Russia had issued a written list of its concerns about the expansion of Nato and related security issues. Among them was a demand for Nato to rule out the possibility of Ukraine and others ever joining the al-

liance. In recent weeks, Russia has been amassing large numbers of troops on the Ukraine border - something which Western countries have seen as preparation for a possible invasion. Russia denies this. Mr Blinken said the US response made its "core principles" clear, including Ukraine's sovereignty and its right to choose to be part of security alliances such as Nato. "There should be no doubt about our seriousness of purpose when it comes to diplomacy, and we're acting with equal focus and force to bolster Ukraine's defences and prepare a swift united response to further Russian aggression," he said. "It remains up to Russia to decide how to respond," he added. "We're ready either way." The secretary of state said the US had sent three shipments of military "assistance" this week - including Javelin missiles and anti-armour weaponry, along with hundreds of tonnes of ammunition and equipment. Confidential talks Mr Blinken also denied any rift or difference of opinion between the US and its European allies. Nato, he said, had prepared its own set of proposals which "fully reinforces ours and vice versa". But the



US document will not be made public. "Diplomacy has the best chance to succeed if we provide space for confidential talks," the Secretary of State said. Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance's document had also been delivered to Moscow, and while he was willing to listen to Russia's concerns, all nations had the right to choose their own security arrangements. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, however, said earlier on Wednesday that Mr Stoltenberg had "lost touch with reality", when asked about

Nato boosting its presence near Russia's borders. "You know, I stopped taking any view of his statements a long time ago," Mr Lavrov told the press in Russian parliament, which was broadcast live on social media. Separately, diplomats from Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany reaffirmed a commitment to the long-standing ceasefire agreement in Ukraine, which had seen Russia-backed rebels seize territory in the eastern Donbas region. All four nations continue to support the ceasefire "regardless of differences on other issues"

related to the 2015 Minsk agreements, a statement published by the French presidency said. The Kremlin's deputy chief of staff Dmitri Kozak characterised the eight-hour talks in Paris as "not simple", and the group is due to meet again in two weeks in Berlin. Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters on Thursday that the Russian decision to come to talks in Berlin was "good news", as it means that "Russia for the next two weeks is likely to remain on the diplomatic track".

Climate change: Key crops face major shifts as world warms

The parts of the world suitable for growing coffee, cashews and avocados will change dramatically as the world heats up, according to a new study. Key coffee regions in Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam and Colombia will all "drastically decrease" by around 50% by 2050. Suitable areas for cashews and avocados will increase but most will be far from current sites of production. The authors say that greater efforts must be made to help farmers adapt. Coffee is one of the world's most important crops, not just as key beverage but as a livelihood for millions of small farmers. And thanks to growing consumer preferences in richer countries, demand for avocados and cashews has increased substantially in recent decades.

While the threat to coffee from climate change has been well documented in recent years, there is little information about how rising temperatures will impact avocados and cashews. In this study, the authors looked at how rising temperatures and changing rates of precipitation will impact the three crops over the next 30 years. The researchers have also, for the first time, incorporated information about land and soil characteristics. Coffee is the most susceptible crop to high temperatures. In those countries accounting for the majority of the world's production of Arabica - the dominant coffee variety - suitability for growing the crop will decrease by around half by 2050 - a "drastic" reduction, according to



the report. Some key areas will see a heavier impact. In the lowest temperature scenario, there would be a reduction of 76% in

Brazil's most suitable areas for coffee. In Colombia it would shrink by 63%. Some regions at the northern and southern ends

of today's growing areas will become more suitable, including Argentina, South Africa, China and New Zealand among others.

World News

Burkina Faso coup: New leader Damiba gives first speech

The new military leader of Burkina Faso has promised a return to the normal constitutional order "when the conditions are right". Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Damiba led a mutiny that ousted President Roch Kaboré on Monday. He blamed the president for failing to contain violence by Islamist militants. He made his first national speech since taking power on the eve of an emergency summit of West African leaders, called in response to the coup. On Friday, the regional bloc, Ecowas, suspended Burkina Faso because of the military takeover. The 15-member bloc also called for the immediate release from house arrest of the ousted president and other detained officials. Ecowas agreed to send a delegation to meet the coup leaders in the capital, Ouagadougou. At the start of the virtual summit, Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo said: "The resurgence of coup d'etats in our region is in direct violation of our democratic tenets. It represents a threat to

peace, security and stability in West-Africa." Burkina Faso is the third West African country to witness a military takeover in the past year. Guinea and Mali have both had sanctions imposed on them by Ecowas to press them to return to constitutional order. Wearing a red beret and army fatigues in his national address on Thursday evening, Lt-Col Damiba, 41, said: "When the conditions are right, according to the deadline that our people will define in all sovereignty, I commit to a return to a normal constitutional order." He said he will meet representatives of various sections of society to agree on a roadmap for reform. He added that Burkina Faso needed international partners "more than ever", following condemnation of the coup. "I call on the international community to support our country so it can exit this crisis as soon as possible." He did not specify which part of the international community he wanted support from - the coup comes at a time when Russia is



competing with France to help West African countries tackle a growing Islamist insurgency. France has thousands of troops in West Africa helping its former colonies Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger tackle jihadist forces. But the French presence is proving increasingly unpopular in the region and President Emmanuel Macron has started to reduce French troop numbers. Mali has

already turned to Russia to fill the vacuum, sparking a bitter row with France, and a group of Russian mercenaries has offered their services to Burkina Faso's new leaders. The Burkina Faso military announced that it had seized power on state television on Monday because of the deteriorating security situation. In his speech, Lt-Col Damiba said the fight against jihadists would

be his priority and promised to recapture rural areas, allowing the 1.5 million people who have fled their homes to return. Before seizing power, he had been at the forefront of the fight against Islamist militants and wrote a book on the topic last year. Similar troubles in neighbouring Mali led to a military coup in May 2021 - one that was broadly welcomed by the public.

People Forced To Live In Metal Boxes Under China's Zero Covid Rule

Rows upon rows of metal boxes to house suspected COVID-19 patients, lines of buses taking people to quarantine camps were seen in a set of nightmarish social media videos from China. The scenes, which seemed straight out of a dystopian movie, are among the several strict preventive measures the country is taking to check the spread of COVID-19. China has imposed several draconian rules on its citizens under its "zero Covid" policy, placing millions under quarantine even as Beijing prepares to host next month's Winter Olympics. People, including pregnant women, children and elderly, are being forced to stay in these cramped boxes furnished with a wooden bed and a toilet - for as long as two weeks - even if a single person tests positive in their locality, reported Daily Mail. In several areas, residents were told just after midnight that they need to leave their homes

and go to the quarantine centres, it said. In China, mandatory track-and-trace apps mean close contacts are usually detected and quarantined quickly. Around 20 million people are now confined to their homes in China and are banned from leaving their home even to buy food, according to the report. This comes days after the distressing case of a pregnant Chinese woman miscarrying after a strict lockdown delayed her access to medical treatment. The incident reignited debate over the limits of China's zero-tolerance approach to COVID-19. China, where the coronavirus was first detected in 2019, has a formula it calls "dynamic zero" for curbing outbreaks: strict lockdowns and immediate mass testing. Unlike softer lockdowns elsewhere, people in China can be banned from leaving their buildings or forced to remain inside hotel rooms if they are considered high-risk contacts.



Horoscope February 2022

**Aries -**

March 21 - April 20

You can't help everyone. Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts. Don't let someone you work with put words in your mouth. You can expect changes in your living arrangements.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

Taurus

- April 21 - May 20

Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. Don't expect the whole family to be overjoyed. Accept the inevitable. Things may not be as they sound.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

Gemini - May 21 - June 21

Don't trust others with private information that could be used against you. Look closely at motives and honesty in your personal encounters. Later in the week your boss will pat you on the back for a job well done. Plan to get together with someone special later in the day.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

Leo

- July 23 - August 22

You can ask for favors but don't take them for granted. Don't be too critical. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting; however, keep your thoughts to yourself at home. The personal problems you may be having are interfering with your productivity.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

Virgo

- August 23 - September 22

Expect to have problems with the ones you love. It won't take much to upset your lover. First find out if they're married. Focus on using your creative abilities in other ways.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**Libra**

- September 23 - October 22

Keep busy and let them fume while you're not around. Concentrate on work and on making money. Relationships will form if you get out and do things that you enjoy. You must strive to get the most important projects completed properly, rather than doling everything in a half baked way.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

scorpio -

October 23 - November 21

Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep. Don't let the moods of those you live with get you down. You can make new friends by taking part in social events involving colleagues. You will be attracted to unusual forms of entertainment and foreign cultures.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Sagittarius

- November 22 - December 20

You need to put some trust in others. Organize social events or family gatherings. Sudden changes concerning coworkers may surprise you. Don't allow personal problems to conflict with professional duties.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

Capricorn

- December 21 - January 19

You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted. Build on friendship rather than starting out in an intimate encounter. You can make career moves that will be prosperous. Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

Aquarius

- January 20 - February 18

This is a wonderful day to look into courses or hobbies that interest you. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this month. You will be inclined to make unwise investment choices. You may want to make plans to take a vacation together.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

Pisces - February 19 - March 20

Relatives will not agree with the way you are dealing with your personal problems. Enjoy a quiet dinner for two and discuss some of the plans you have for the future. If you can mix business with pleasure much can be accomplished. You're in the mood to spend time with your lover.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE**

The US Fiji Times is a Monthly Newspaper Publications in USA.

We have readers world-wide. You can subscribe to have a hard copy mailed to you.

E-copies are also available on our Facebook page & our website.

USA \$50 p/y | \$30 6mon
CANADA \$100 p/y | \$60 6mon
U.K \$200 p/y | \$110 6mon
U.A.E \$200 p/y | \$110 6mon

AUSTRALIA \$150 p/y | \$80 6mon
NEW ZEALAND \$150 p/y | \$80 6mon
FIJI \$100 p/y | \$70 6mon
Website www.usfijitimes.org

All prices are in USD



Providing Customised and Integrated Solutions for

Surveillance & Networking



- CCTV Installation HD / IP
- Plate Recognition (ANPR)
- Wi-Fi 6 Ecosystem Solutions
- Data Center Solutions
- Broadband Access Solutions
- Commercial and Industrial

Need Help? Call our support team:
(510) 962-9261

support@suntechconsulting.com
www.suntechconsulting.com

Roop Kala Jewelers

Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry
Once a Customer, Always a Friend

Now Available Imitation Jewelry

Fashion & Silver Jewelry
Watch Battery Change
Watch Repair

San Bruno, CA 94066
PH:(650) 871-5611
Roop Kala Jewelers
631 San Mateo Ave



Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry

Roop Kala Jewelers, 631 San Mateo Ave and San Bruno,
CA 94066

PH:(650) 871-5611

Watch Battery Change Watch Repair

Watch Department- Call Direct 650-808-0859



SHRI VINAYAK ASTROLOGY CENTER

Indian Trusted Astrologer & Psychic

PANDIT RUDRA JI

Rudra ji is Expert in Face and Horoscope Reading, Vastu Shastra, And also he is best person to solve any kind of problems by doing prayers he will give best solutions for your problems and expert in removing Bad energies from life & gives permanent protection



Address:
Fermont, Bay Area
California

CALL: +1 669-210-2805

World News

An uneasy calm as Kazakhstan returns to normalcy

After days of rare and violent protests, most of Kazakhstan's remote areas limped back to normalcy by January 12. Now, the larger cities, too, are doing the same with the lifting of a nationwide state of emergency imposed by President Kassym-Shomart Tokayev on January 5. Residents of the Kazakh capital, Nur-Sultan and of Almaty, where the protests began in early January, had to wait for the longest for calm to prevail. Both cities saw bloody clashes between demonstrators and the police, as well as looting. Widespread anger at police For the past week, the situation in Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, which is home to almost three million people, has also largely normalized. Public transport is running again, shopping centers and banks are open. And, mobile phone communication and internet, which were shut down during the violence, have also been working again. Nevertheless, a large part of the population of Almaty is deeply unhappy with the government's actions during the state of emergency, especially in the days after order was largely restored in the city. Social media networks are full of posts by citizens writing about their experiences. "The most common thing was mobile phone checks by members of the National Guard and police patrols, although this was illegal even during the state of emergency," prominent Kazakh lawyer Jokhar Utebekov told DW. He says authorities "were only allowed to search people and their cars to seize weapons and stolen goods. There were many violations, including unjustified arrests and detentions." According to Utebekov, law enforcement agencies acted in a completely arbitrary manner, as they were no longer controlled by the prosecutor's office. Neither prosecutors nor judges have responded to reports by citizens of torture and other violations of the law. Illegal arrests and mobile phone checks Utebekov isn't the only lawyer who is shocked at the turn of events after a state of emergency was imposed in the country. Accord-



ing to Zhangeldy Suleymanov, another well-known lawyer, it is indeed common practice around the world to take restrictive measures when the constitutional order of a country or the lives of its citizens are threatened. "But at the same time, even in a state of emergency, existing laws must be followed. However, the experience in our country has shown that there have been excesses. Reports speak of illegal checks and arrests without judicial authorization," Suleymanov told DW. He added that there were many known cases of people being beaten and tortured at the police station. "The state of emergency allowed individual authorities and their representatives to commit acts in violation of the law, which damages

the authorities' reputation," the lawyer said. With many citizens in Almaty and other Kazakh cities continuing to complain on social media about the behavior of officials, there were fears until recently that the government might extend the state of emergency in Almaty and other parts of the country. Doubts about official figures There are also misgivings about the official figures released by the authorities on the unrest in recent weeks in the country. According to their data, 149 civilians and 11 police officers were killed in the clashes in Almaty alone at the beginning of January. Nationwide, 225 people are said to have died, 19 of them security officers. Many citizens also doubt the figures of the Prosecutor General's Office, according to which more than

4,500 people are said to have been injured. Many have said they believe the real number of victims was much higher than the official statistics. There are calls on social media to organize a peaceful rally in Almaty after the state of emergency is lifted. The aim is to urge the government to speak the truth about the events in early January. Police issue warnings The authorities responded swiftly to calls for a rally. On the evening of January 18, the media and social networks carried a warning from the head of the Almaty regional police chief, Serik Kudebayev. It said there was a terrorist threat in the region and that a "red" warning alert was still in place. Almaty city police asked residents for their understanding if they personally or their cars

were searched. They were also urged to show understanding for temporary checkpoints set up and the restrictions on movement in certain parts of the city. The police also announced a "preventive operation" called "Law and Order" starting on January 19, saying authorities would crack down on any organized protest. Kudebayev stressed that organizers of possible demonstrations had not informed authorities in advance: "Accordingly, organizing and participating in peaceful gatherings held in violation of the law is illegal." The Almaty regional police chief added that should the protests harm citizens, society and the state, criminal proceedings would be initiated against those responsible.



KASH FABRICS

Largest indian attire showroom in the Bay Area!



DESIGNER SAREES

JEWELERIES

DESIGNER SUITS

THREADING SALOON

MENS WEAR

HENNA DESIGN

KIDS WEAR

CUSTOM SUITS



29576 Mission Blvd Hayward, California 94544

(510) 538-1138

<https://kashfabrics.com>

A.J FARM

Livestocks Farm- WILD ROOSTER, WILD CHICKEN, DUCK, LAMB & GOAT



CALL US TODAY

JUNIOR : 209-204-9260 AIYAZ : 209-846-5577

FARM LOCATED IN MODESTO CALIFORNIA

Health

Worrying more may raise heart disease risk in men

Anxiety is linked to several cardiometabolic conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes Trusted Source, and hypertension Trusted Source. The reasons behind these links and how they develop, however, remain unclear. Some studies Trusted Source have shown that people who are anxious develop increased cardiometabolic risk factors, such as a steeper rise in body mass index (BMI), as they age. Other research suggests that deterioration in cardiometabolic health occurs relatively early in the life of anxious individuals and that this lasts into older age. Establishing how exactly this link works is difficult, as few cohort studies have recorded longitudinal data on anxiety alongside a broad range of cardiometabolic outcomes.

In a recent study, researchers at the Boston University School of Medicine led a team of scientists investigating the link between cardiometabolic outcomes and indicators of anxiety. “Our findings indicate [that] higher levels of anxiousness or worry among men are linked to biological processes that may give rise to heart disease and metabolic conditions, and these associations may be present much earlier in life than is commonly appreciated — potentially during childhood or young adulthood,” said Lewina Lee, Ph.D., lead author of the study and assistant professor of psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine. The study was published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA)* Trusted Source. Data analysis The researchers obtained data from the Normative Aging Study Trusted Source, which the Department of Veterans Affairs established in the 1960s. They selected a sample of 1,561 individuals from an ongoing adult male cohort. Each person had submitted assessments of seven cardiometabolic biomarkers every 3–5 years since 1975. These included: systolic and diastolic blood pressure as indicators of hypertension fasting triglycerides as an indicator of dyslipidemia, meaning unhealthy levels of fat in the blood fasting total



cholesterol as an indicator of high cholesterol BMI as an indicator of obesity fasting glucose as an indicator of high blood glucose erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) as an indicator of inflammation Alongside cardiometabolic biomarkers, all participants completed a nine-item questionnaire based on the Eysenck Personality Inventory at the start of the study alongside a 20-item questionnaire asking how much they worry about various issues on a scale of 0 to 4. Although the Eysenck Personality Inventory is not a standard test for anxiety, it assesses for neuroticism, which refers to sensitivity to negative emotion. Experts consider neuroticism a causal factor for anxiety disorders and see worry as a major facet of anxiety and a coping method to prepare for future threats. The researchers also obtained demographic information from the participants, including: age race socioeconomic status based on father’s profession marital status family history of congenital heart defects (CHD) current smoking status exercise levels alcohol consumption At the beginning of the study, the average age of the participants was 53 years. Between 1975 and 2015, they underwent an average of 6.6 cardiometabolic examinations. In the same period, 1,067 individuals died. The researchers

noted that higher neuroticism levels were linked to fewer years of education, a higher degree of CHD family history, lower socioeconomic status, and higher levels of smoking and drinking. After analyzing the data, they found that the participants who scored higher in neuroticism had a greater number of high risk cardiometabolic risk factors at all ages. After adjusting for demographic factors, the scientists found that higher neuroticism was linked to a 13% higher chance of having six or more cardiometabolic disease risk factors. They also found an association between higher worry levels and a 10% higher risk of having six or more cardiometabolic disease risk factors. Altogether, they say that the effects of neuroticism and worry on cardiometabolic health are similar to those of long-term heavy drinking. Chronic stress The researchers explain their findings by noting that anxiety could influence the development of cardiometabolic disease through psychosocial, biological, and behavioral pathways. “Psychosocial factors related to anxiety, such as a stronger tendency to interpret even neutral situations as stressful or to avoid uncomfortable situations, may mean that anxious individuals are less adept in coping with stressors, more susceptible to the negative health impact of

stress, and at greater risk for poor mental health, which can, in turn, increase disease risk,” Dr. Lee told Medical News Today. “Biologically, anxiety may influence disease risk factors through frequent activation of our physiological stress response, such as by raising heart rate and blood pressure, triggering the release of cortisol (a stress hormone), and not providing sufficient opportunities for [the] body to recover,” she continued. “Over time, this kind of wear and tear can result in physiological abnormalities, such as high blood pressure or chronic inflammation, which are known risk factors for cardiometabolic disease.” Dr. Donna K. Arnett, Ph.D., who is dean and professor at the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky and was not involved in the study, told MNT: “Beyond biology, there could be behavioral drivers of the relationship. For example, higher scores in neuroticism and worry were associated with lower levels of physical activity, higher levels of current/former smoking, and more than two alcoholic drinks per day. These risk factors may have also contributed to the findings of the association.” The researchers conclude that more anxious individuals may experience deteriorating cardiometabolic health earlier in life than those

who are less anxious and that these changes underly a stable trajectory of heightened risk into older age. Limitations The authors note several limitations of the study. As their sample was primarily based on white men with a higher socioeconomic status, they acknowledge that their results may not apply to other demographics. When MNT asked about applicability to wider demographics, Dr. Arnett said, “This population consisted of white men. Given that there are large ethnic differences in cardiometabolic risk and anxiety across ethnic groups among men, extension to other ethnic groups is questionable. The same caution applies to women, who also experience more anxiety than men.” “Another limitation is that our participants were, on average, in their early 50s at the beginning of the study, so we were not able to study how anxiety might relate to the development of cardiometabolic risk factors in childhood and younger adulthood,” added Dr. Lee. The researchers further note that they did not have access to data on whether or not the participants had received a diagnosis of an anxiety disorder. Therefore, they do not know what effect treatments for anxiety and worry may have on cardiometabolic risk factors.

Health

Pfizer and BioNTech start trials of new Omicron-specific jab

Pfizer and BioNTech have started clinical trials of a new Covid vaccine which targets the Omicron variant. The companies plan to test the protection gained from the new vaccine as a booster jab and as three separate jabs in unvaccinated people. More than 1,400 adults are expected to be enrolled in the trial, likely to be in the United States. US company Moderna is planning to begin trials of its own Omicron-specific shot soon. Oxford University and AstraZeneca have also started working on a new version of their vaccine. Vaccine developers had always planned to tweak their original Covid vaccines as new variants emerged, but the arrival of the fast-spreading Omicron strain in the last two months has hastened that process. Many countries have now offered a booster or third dose of their original vaccine, which has been shown to provide a good level of protection against serious illness and death - even against Omicron. But protection against infection

and mild symptoms is much lower and could decline more quickly. 'Essential' "Staying vigilant against the virus requires us to identify new approaches for people to maintain a high level of protection, and we believe developing and investigating variant-based vaccines, like this one, are essential in our efforts towards this goal," said Kathrin U. Jansen, senior vice-president and head of vaccine research and development at Pfizer. Prof Ugur Sahin, CEO and co-founder of BioNTech, said new data indicated that "vaccine-induced protection against infection and mild to moderate disease wanes more rapidly than was observed with prior strains". "This study is part of our science-based approach to develop a variant-based vaccine that achieves a similar level of protection against Omicron as it did with earlier variants, but with longer duration of protection," he added. The companies say they expect to produce four billion doses of their Covid-19

vaccine this year, and this number will include doses of the updated vaccine if trials suggest it is needed. In the trial of the new vaccine, 615 adults will receive two doses of the current Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, followed by one or two doses of the Omicron-targeted jab. A second group of 600 who received three doses of the current vaccine will get another of the current one or the Omicron vaccine. Finally, a

small group of 200 unvaccinated adults will receive three doses of the new Omicron-targeted shot. Fast spread Within days of the Omicron variant being detected in South Africa, vaccine manufacturers said new versions of their vaccines to target the variant could be ready within 100 days. But there are still doubts over whether an updated vaccine would be any better than the current versions. They were

designed to target the original virus which emerged from China, and they also provide high levels of protection against the Alpha and Delta variants. In recent days, Prof Andrew Pollard, who led the development of the Oxford-AZ vaccine, said Omicron had spread at such speed that it was "quite difficult to make and deploy an updated vaccine quickly enough" to make a difference.



How to Avoid Buying a Fake COVID-19 Test Kit

The rapid spread of the Omicron variant has spiked demand for COVID-19 testing. Scammers have taken notice, with some selling fake COVID-19 test kits online while others use bogus testing sites to rip off unsuspecting consumers and even gather personal data for future use in identity theft schemes. "It's a real problem. Not only are these tests a waste of money, but they also increase the risk of spreading the disease and users not getting proper medical treatment," Dr. Emily Volk, president of the College of American Pathologists, told Healthline. "With scarcity of testing options available, consumers have become desperate, and a lot of bad actors have emerged to capitalize on this vulnerability," Justin Simons, the CEO and founder of certified and accredited COVID-19 testing lab Mylabsdirect, told Healthline. "We have been approached by a number of fly-by-night groups asking how much we would pay them to send us samples. The vast majority have absolutely no background

in healthcare." How to buy a legitimate test There are some relatively simple ways to protect yourself from being scammed by a fake COVID-19 test. If you're thinking of purchasing a COVID-19 at-home test kit online, it takes only a couple of minutes to confirm whether it's real or fake by checking the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website. The FDA maintains a running list Trusted Source of every SARS-CoV-2 antigen diagnostic test approved under its emergency use authorization (EUA) process. The list includes several types of test kits and features product brand names for easy reference. "Scammers often claim that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the test being offered to you," Steven Weisman, founder of the scamicide.com blog, told Healthline. "Before taking or purchasing any kind of coronavirus test, you should first confirm that the test is approved by the FDA and consult with your primary care physician about taking such a test. You also should only buy the tests

through sources that you have confirmed are legitimate, and be very careful when ordering them online." Dr. Eric Cioe-Peña, the director of Global Health and an emergency physician at Staten Island University Hospital in New York, told Healthline that "it is almost impossible from looking at a test to determine whether it is fraudulent or not." "The best resource that consumers can use is utilizing the FDA website... to determine whether the products are FDA authorized and not [from] an identified ... company that has received warning letters Trusted Source from the FDA for producing fraudulent tests," he added. Being selective about where you buy your at-home test also can help protect against fraud, said Geoff Trenkle, D.O., co-founder of Total Testing Solutions, which provides COVID-19 testing in the Los Angeles area. "You should not purchase any COVID-19 Antigen over-the-counter (OTC) test kit unless it is from a reliable source," Trenkle told Healthline. "Street vendors are an immediate red flag as they are either

buying from other sources and marking them up considerably or using fake test kits in old boxes." Shady vendors also may be selling test kits from overseas that the FDA hasn't approved, Trenkle said. "If you cannot find a business license or some proof they are a reliable business, then you should not buy test kits from them," he noted. "Packaging should also not be in foreign languages, and all kits should come in boxes, not as individual pieces or in plastic bags." Volk warned against buying test kits online unless it's from a website operated by a trustworthy vendor, such as large pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens. Weisman added that scammers "are adept at marketing bogus antibody tests through social media, email, and telephone calls. "They also are even going door to door selling their bogus tests," he said. "You should immediately be skeptical of any antibody test being offered through these means. You also should be wary of anyone who contacts you offering a free coronavirus antibody test or even offers to

compensate you for taking such a test, as these promises generally are made by scammers interested in gathering information from you to use to make you a victim of identity theft." How to spot a fake testing site Many healthcare systems have responded to the Omicron surge by increasing community-based testing options, often offering rapid antigen tests. In some instances, however, scammers have raised pop tents or set up storefronts billed as "COVID-19 Test Sites." How do you tell a fake test site from a real one? "Most legitimate sites are listed on county and city emergency management websites," Simons said. "Ask the testing site what lab will be processing your test and request a copy of the processing lab's CLIA number," he added. "You can look this number up online to see where the lab is located and to get in contact with them if you have trouble receiving your results or have questions." When in doubt, said Volk, ask your doctor to recommend a COVID-19 testing site.

Health

Immunocompromised Patients Should Receive Fourth COVID Shot: CDC

The CDC contacted pharmacies on Wednesday to reinforce the message that people with moderate to severe immune suppression should receive a fourth COVID-19 vaccine, according to Kaiser Health News. The conference call came a day after the news outlet reported that immunocompromised people were being turned away by pharmacies. White House officials also emphasized on Wednesday that immunocompromised people should receive an additional shot. During Wednesday's call, the CDC "reiterated the recommendations, running through case examples," Mitchel Rothholz, chief of governance and state affiliates for the American Pharmacists Association, told

KHN. While on the call, Rothholz asked for a "prepared document" with the CDC's recommendations "so we can clearly and consistently communicate the message." The CDC officials on the call said they would create a document but "don't know how long that will take," Rothholz told KHN. The CDC recommends an additional shot -- or a fourth shot -- for those who have weak immune systems, which makes them more at risk for severe COVID-19 and death. About 7 million American adults are considered immunocompromised, KHN reported, which includes people who have certain medical conditions that impair their immune response or who take

immune-suppressing drugs due to organ transplants, cancer, or autoimmune diseases. The CDC first recommended fourth shots for immunocompromised people in October. This month, the CDC shortened the time for booster shots from 6 months to 5 months, and some immunocompromised people who are due for another shot have begun to seek them. The agency has been educating pharmacists and other health providers since then, a CDC spokesperson told KHN. While patients don't need to provide proof that they are immunocompromised, according to the CDC, some have been turned away, KHN reported. To improve communication with the public, large pharmacies



could issue news releases and update their websites "explicitly stating that they are offering fourth doses" to immunocompromised people, Ameet Kini, MD, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine

at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, told KHN. Pharmacies should also update their patient portals and provide "clear guidance for their pharmacists," he said.

'COVID Shame' Is Becoming More Common During Omicron Spike

A COVID-19 infection is stressful enough, but many people experience an added layer of emotional torment: feelings of guilt and shame after contracting a virus that has been highly stigmatized for the past 2 years. This is especially true now as the highly transmissible Omicron variant continues to sweep across the United States, passed on to people who have been vaccinated, boosted, and taken every reasonable step to protect themselves. But experts emphasize that contracting SARS-CoV-2 doesn't mean you did something "wrong," and feelings of guilt and shame only add to the suffering. How COVID-19 became so stigmatized "Initially, at the start of the pandemic, the motto was 'stay at home,'" said Hillary Ammon, PsyD, an assistant professor of Clinical Psychiatry in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. "We were being told to mitigate risk as much as possible by decreasing contact with those not in your household. Therefore, when people saw other individuals still traveling or attending concerts, opinions were being formed, like 'they aren't being careful' and 'they

are contributing to the spread of the virus.'" This thought pattern has persisted even as the nature of the pandemic has evolved over the past 2 years with the introduction of vaccines and the emergence of variants that can evade those vaccines. While scientists are still working to better understand how Omicron spreads and how well available vaccines and medications work against it, what is known is that cases among fully vaccinated people are becoming more common. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trusted Source says these breakthrough infections are "likely." "It is automatically assumed that someone was being reckless and violating COVID protocols or CDC guidelines," said Thea Gallagher, PsyD, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at NYU Langone Health. "This may have been true for some but not all." Additionally, these guidelines continue to change and can be difficult to keep up with, so "someone could be doing everything 'right' and still get COVID," Gallagher said. Feelings of guilt and shame are common following a COVID-19 diagnosis. Mental health experts

say feelings of guilt and shame are perpetuated by societal stigma related to a COVID-19 diagnosis. "First, it is important to understand the difference between these two feelings," Ammon said. "Guilt is believing that you did something wrong. Shame is experienced when you are concerned others are judging or rejecting you due to your actions." When someone contracts a SARS-CoV-2 infection, they may experience feelings of guilt related to their choices. "They may ask themselves, 'Why did I visit with others in their home?' or 'Why did I say I was comfortable with everyone not wearing masks?'" Ammon said. "Furthermore, they may experience feelings of guilt related to possibly infecting others, whether it be loved ones, co-workers, or strangers." People may also worry if others will judge them for not being cautious enough, leading to feelings of shame. The spiral effects of guilt and shame after a COVID-19 diagnosis exacerbate the pain and stress a person is already going through from the illness. "It's truly like insult on injury," Gallagher said. "You may feel physically ill and, on top of it, emotionally burdened.

It's double the suffering." While having COVID-19 means you have to physically isolate from others, these difficult feelings may also lead people to isolate themselves further socially and not talk with others about their diagnosis. "Loneliness and lack of socialization are obvious concerns related to isolation," Ammon said. "We know that both of these factors can negatively impact mental health. Furthermore, if they are not discussing their diagnosis or well-being with anyone," she continued, "they may lean further into their thoughts of guilt and shame, 'I was careless,' or 'I'm a bad person for putting others at risk.'" Hiding a COVID-19 diagnosis from loved ones can also be dangerous to an individual's physical health. "It's important that people remain in contact with others while sick, particularly if they start to notice their symptoms worsen," Ammon said. Finally, guilt or shame should never hinder you from disclosing a COVID-19 diagnosis to your close contacts for possible exposure. "By being open and honest about one's diagnosis, you can help slow down the spread," Ammon said. Coping with guilt and shame after a

COVID-19 diagnosis Gallagher and Ammon work with their patients to get through the difficult feelings of guilt and shame following a COVID-19 diagnosis. "I like to tell clients that I am working with that they made the best decision they could with the information they had at that present time," Ammon said. "Additionally, reminding them that their risk and safety calculations are personal and unique to their life circumstances." Gallagher emphasizes self-compassion. "Even if you did something that you regret, face it, apologize if you need to, and work toward forgiving yourself, and remember we all make mistakes, and it doesn't make us 'bad people,'" she said. "Talk to yourself the way you would talk to someone you love, and give yourself that advice," she continued. "We are much kinder toward others than ourselves." Finally, Ammon works with her patients to assess what's factual versus a thought. "Because of the Omicron variant, COVID-19 is highly transmittable right now," she said. "Sometimes it can be helpful to actually review the data with clients so they do not feel so much shame about their diagnosis or their choices."

Sports

US Fiji Times Bids Fiji Soccer Legend George Koi Final Welfare

US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher says that the passing away of former Fiji Soccer Captain George Koi on Sunday 16th January, 2022, had signalled the end of an era where most of our football stars from the 1970s had made a name for themselves both at Club and National level in Fiji. George Koi was once a feared name in Fiji Soccer but with all the skills that he possessed, Koi was always a gentleman on and off

the field.

Mr Buksh remembers the day back in 1977 when on that cloudy filled morning, Fiji was to play Australia at Buchurst Park, which is very close to the Buksh Estate where he was raised.

The match that day is still being regarded today as one of the most prolific and historical sporting events in Fiji when lanky Jimmy Okete slammed the ball to the back of goal after

receiving a timely pass from Madhuwan Nair of Naitasiri. The Captain of our Fiji Team that historical day was George Koi.

George was a very close friend of Rocky's myBrother, the late Liaquat Ali who lived in Fiji all his life and had looked after the Buksh family Goat business until his passing away a few years ago. As a young and enthusiastic footballer, Rocky still recall's George visiting

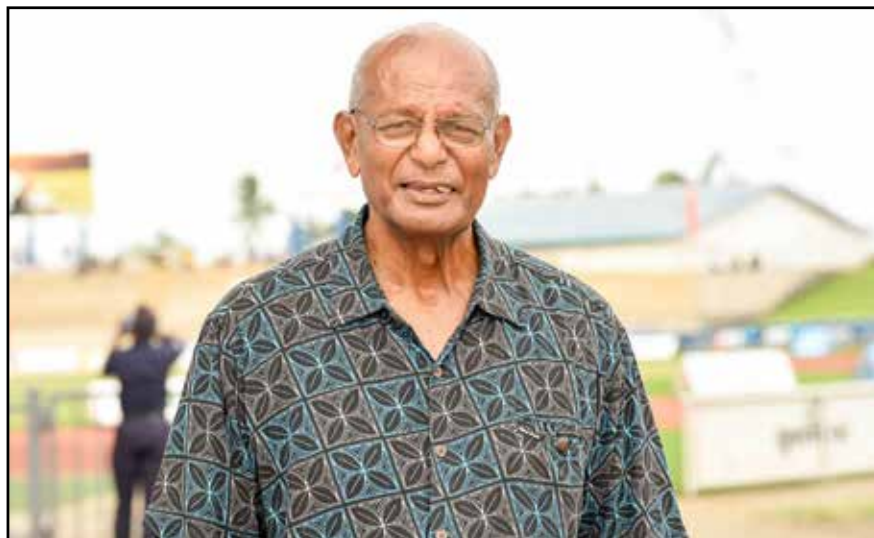
their Buksh Estate almost every weekend for grog as he too loved his goat meat curry

Rocky also had the opportunity to play against the star sudded Flagstaff Team where George Koi was amongst a great number of Fiji national players.

Rocky played for the Civic Team, one of the best Soccer Teams in Fiji at that time which also had national representatives like John Monday, Terio Vakatawa including Fiji's Music

legend Seru Serevi.

"Koi had been a great footballer and an inspirational leader of his time, and a player who was a very passionate about Soccer and would always support the development of football in the country." Rocky concluded that that he will always remember his good old buddy on the Soccer field.



Sports News

Virat Kohli steps down as India's Test captain

Almost four months after he informed of his decision to step down as skipper of India's T20I team, Virat Kohli has relinquished the captaincy of the Test side. The groundbreaking announcement from Kohli, who was in December removed as India's ODI captain, comes a day after India's 1-2 Test series defeat to South Africa. Kohli steps down as India's most successful Test captain of all time, having led the team to 40 wins from 68 matches with an impressive win percentage of 58.82. This is most by any skipper with more than 10 Tests as captain, way ahead of MS Dhoni, Sourav Ganguly and Mohammed Azharuddin, who captained India in 60, 49 and 47 Tests respectively. Kohli also ends his captaincy career as the fourth most successful Test skipper of all time in terms of wins behind Graeme Smith (53), Ricky Ponting (48), and Steve Waugh (41) in terms of wins. "It's been 7 years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance everyday to take the team in the right direction. I've done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there. Every thing has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test Captain of India, it's now," Kohli said in a release issued on Twitter. "There have been many ups and also some downs along

the journey, but never has there been a lack of effort or belief. I have always believed in giving my 120 percent in everything I do, and if I can't do that, I know it's not the right thing to do. I have absolute clarity in my heart and I cannot be dishonest to my team." Kohli's first Test as captain was against Australia in Adelaide during the 2014/15 series, where he led gallantly in the absence of Dhoni, who had missed out due to a finger injury. India came close to a historic Test win Down Under before a final-innings batting collapse saw them go down by 48 runs. With Dhoni retiring from Tests in January of 2015, the Kohli era had arrived. In his first assignment as full-time captain of Team India was in August that year, Kohli led India to their first away series win in four years, beating Sri Lanka 2-1. What transpired was a remarkable journey that unfolded with many firsts. Under Kohli, India became a formidable force in Test cricket as they started winning Test matches abroad. For five years, India finished the year as the No.1-ranked Test side and reached the final of the first-ever World Test Championship. Kohli's batting record as captain is equally phenomenal, with 5864 runs scored at an average of 54.80 including 20 centuries and 18 fifties. "I want



to thank the BCCI for giving me the opportunity to lead my country for such a long period of time and more importantly to all my teammates who bought into the vision I had for my team from day one and never gave up in any situation. You guys have made this journey so memorable and beautiful." Kohli's biggest achievement as captain would remain leading India to their first Test series win in Australia in 71 years. In the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2018/19, Kohli's India beat Australia 2-1 to achieve an accolade which no Indian team had before. Things only got better from there, as in the summer of 2021, Kohli's India gave England a tough fight to

lead the series 2-1 and were on the verge of wrapping up a memorable win before the final match was postponed. And while Kohli's India gave fans the expectations of winning overseas, it remained unbeaten at home. In 31 Tests at home as Kohli in charge, India lost only two. With former head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharat Arun, Kohli transformed the Indian unit into a formidable pace unit, with the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj coming to the fore. This unit was capable of picking all 20 wickets in a Test and still continues to do so. "To Ravi bhai and the support group who were the engine

behind this vehicle that moved us upwards in Test cricket constantly, you all have played a massive role in bringing this vision to life. Lastly, a big thank you to MS Dhoni who believed in me as Captain and found me to an able individual who could take Indian Cricket forward." Having said that, Kohli's tenure as India's Test captain ended on a disappointing note as the team couldn't beat South Africa on their soil in what could have been another historic first. However, that doesn't take away the fact that Kohli's contribution to this Test team has been of magnanimous proportions and one that has paved the way for an even brighter future.

Frank Lampard plans to sting Chelsea successor Thomas Tuchel by 'pinching' top coach

Lampard is still in the running for the top job at Goodison Park alongside current interim boss Duncan Ferguson and ex-Porto chief Vitor Pereira, with a decision from the Everton hierarchy expected imminently. The 43-year-old is itching to get back into management after spending a year in the wilderness after he was sacked by Roman Abramovich just 18 months after returning to Stamford Bridge.

But he now seems to be in pole position to succeed Rafa Benitez at Everton after fans angrily protested at the prospect of Pereira being appointed. And if he is offered a route back into football, Lampard is set to waste no time in raiding his former

employers. According to The Sun, Lampard is eager to be reunited with Barry at Everton - two years after he first appointed him to his staff in SW6. Barry is one of the highest-rated coaches at Chelsea, who would be loath to lose him. The 35-year-old is an ex-Everton youth player and was born in Liverpool, but he spent most of his career in non-league after failing to break through at Goodison Park. After being persuaded by Thomas Tuchel to stay at Stamford Bridge after Lampard was dismissed last year, Barry has evolved into an integral member of Tuchel's staff. The German has credited Barry with the Blues' success from set-pieces

this year, which have already yielded a total of nine goals for the Londoners. But it remains to be seen if Tuchel and Chelsea can persuade Barry to shun a return to his hometown club and a reunion with Lampard. Everton are expected to make an appointment before the transfer window slams shut on Monday, with majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri jetting in to oversee the final stages of the process. Tensions are running high at the club following the disastrous reign of Benitez, which has left the Toffees teetering just four points above the relegation zone. The Spaniard was an unpopular choice to begin with due to his strong links with Liverpool.



Sports News

Honda's former F1 boss agrees Red Bull powertrains role

With Honda having pulled out of F1 last year, Red Bull is stepping up with its own powertrain division to take over running of the Japanese engines. And while during a transition phase Honda will continue to manufacture power units from its Japanese facilities, many of the staff that helped Max Verstappen secure last year's drivers' championship have been moved on to other projects. However, it has emerged that Yamamoto, who was effectively Honda's F1 chief, is leaving the Japanese company this month to set up a consultancy that will work with Red Bull to help support its efforts. Speaking about his plans, he said that the idea was for him to act as a point of contact between both Red

Bull and Honda to ensure the relationships remain strong between both parties. "We have established a new company," he told Autosport in an exclusive interview. "We want to do something that makes people happy, and if we win in F1, then fans will be happy with that." "We've signed a contract with the company at Red Bull Powertrains. The company has me, at the request of Red Bull's Christian Horner and Helmut Marko, to support them. "It's a contract between companies, so it's difficult to speak about details, but as one of the members of Red Bull Powertrains, I will undertake work that will help them." Yamamoto explained that his main focus will be on acting as a bridge between Red Bull

powertrains and Honda, to ensure that engine progress from now on is as smooth as possible. "If, for example, they want to understand Japanese culture and Honda's culture, and have a closer and better relationship with Honda, we can support it. Basically it's a bridge between Red Bull and Japan." Yamamoto expects to attend a number of races in his new role, and says the decision to leave Honda came after it made its call to withdraw from F1. "I decided that in March of last year," he explained. "I was appointed director of motorsports in 2016, and my goal was to win the Super GT champion at first. I was able to achieve that in 2018. "For the next three years, I was dedicated to F1. From the



beginning, I thought that this work was the culmination of my life at Honda and I thought I could make use of everything I had experienced there. "I was wondering if we could win with Red Bull for the first time in the first year, and then have a

good [championship] fight with Mercedes in the second year. But that wasn't the case. "But, in the third year, with Verstappen's driving ability and the strong Red Bull team we managed to win the championship."

Novak Djokovic: Australia to detain tennis star after visa cancelled

Novak Djokovic is set to be detained on Saturday after Australia cancelled his visa for a second time, in a row over his right to remain in the country unvaccinated. The decision on "health and good order" grounds means he faces deportation and a three-year visa ban. Djokovic's lawyers called the judgement "irrational" and have appealed. The men's tennis number one is still scheduled to play in the Australian Open in Melbourne on Monday. "Today I exercised my power... to cancel the visa held by Mr Novak Djokovic on health and good order grounds, on the basis that it was in the public interest to do so," Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said in a statement. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the decision followed "careful consideration". Alluding to the heavy criticism his government has faced for allowing the unvaccinated player into Australia, Mr Morrison said: "Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected." Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic condemned the move, telling the 34-year old in an Instagram message: "Novak, we stand by you." "If you wanted to ban Novak Djokovic

from winning the 10th trophy in Melbourne why didn't you return him immediately, why didn't you tell him 'it is impossible to obtain a visa'?" Mr Vucic added. "Why are you mistreating him, why are you taking it out not only on him but also on his family and the whole nation," the Serbian president said. At an emergency late-night court hearing shortly after the decision was announced on Friday, Judge Anthony Kelly ruled that Djokovic could not be deported while the appeal proceedings were happening. An appeal hearing is expected on Sunday. The judge also said the government could detain Djokovic after he meets immigration officials in Melbourne on Saturday morning. However, he will be allowed to go to his lawyers' offices to prepare his case ahead of Sunday's hearing. An initial hearing will be held on Saturday at 10:15 local time (23:15 GMT on Friday). Djokovic's legal team called the minister's decision to cancel the visa "patently irrational". Citing a government document with more details on why it was revoked, Djokovic's lawyer, Nicholas Wood, said it was not because he is a danger to the public, but because "he will excite anti-vax sentiment". Although Djokovic is not vac-

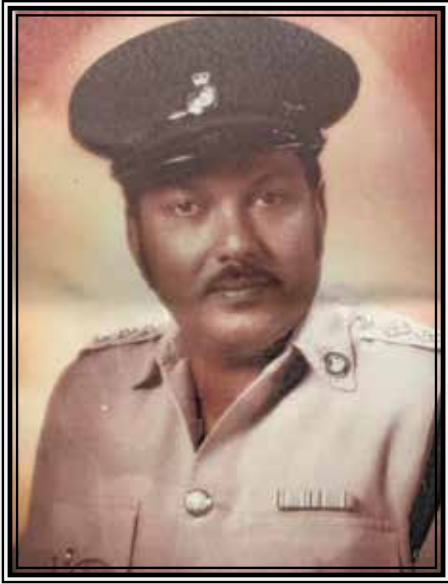
inated, he has not actively promoted anti-vax disinformation. However, Australian anti-vaxxers have been using the hashtag #IStandWithDjokovic on social media. Mr Wood added that the minister had chosen to "remove a man of good standing" from Australia and "impair" his future career over anti-vaccination comments Djokovic had made in 2020. The nine-time Australian Open winner was hoping to defend his title next week, which if he won, would make him the most successful male tennis player in history with a record 21 Grand Slam titles. For the moment, Djokovic re-

mains in the Australian Open draw and is due to face fellow Serb Miomir Kecmanovic on Monday - the first day of the tournament. Djokovic's visa was first revoked shortly after his arrival in Melbourne on 6 January, after Australian border Force officials said he had "failed to provide appropriate evidence" to receive a vaccine exemption. His initial announcement that he was coming to play in the Open prompted a backlash from some Australians, who have lived under long and strict Covid lockdowns, because it was unclear if he could meet the country's strict entry rules. Melbourne in

particular was hard hit by lockdowns, enduring 262 days under heavy restrictions last year. Djokovic was detained for days at an immigration hotel, before his visa was reinstated by Judge Kelly, who ordered his release, ruling that border officials ignored correct procedure when he arrived. But on Friday evening in Melbourne, Mr Hawke again cancelled Djokovic's visa under separate powers in Australia's Migration Act. The act allows him to deport anyone he deems a potential risk to "the health, safety or good order of the Australian community", however Djokovic can still appeal this.



In Loving Memory



Ramesh Maharaj

April 2, 1936 -
December 27, 2021



CAPRICORN
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL - NADI

Studio Rooms
2 Bedroom Apartments

- * FIJI Care Approved Hotel
- * FREE Hotel Transfers - NADI
- * FREE Continental Breakfast
- * Tours Available
- * Air Condition rooms
- * Swimming Pool
- * Restaurant & Bar
- * Special Offers available

**RATES AS LOW
AS \$120 FJD**

discount code: USFT

CAPRICORN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

Martintar Nadi

Phone: (679) 672-0088 | 672-0531

WEB: www.capricornfiji.com

E-Mail: capricorn@connect.com.fj

Hotel located very close to Port Denarau

Sports

Fiji lock in experienced American coach Lisa Cole for national women's team

Former USA U-17 women's assistant coach and veteran National Women's Soccer League mentor Lisa Cole has been confirmed as the new head coach of the Digicel Fiji national women's team.

With a managerial record stretching back to 1997 in the American university system, Cole brings with her a wealth of experience and is no stranger to football in Oceania, having

previously coached the Papua New Guinea U-20 women's team when the nation hosted the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup™ in 2016. Most recently she served as the coach of the

Antigua and Barbuda women's team.

The appointment of Cole, who replaces former coach Marika Rodu, was announced by Fiji Football Association

President Rajesh Patel during the FFA 83rd Ordinary Congress in Lautoka last week.

The American will take charge of the team for the OFC Women's Nations Cup 2022, as

Fiji vie for a spot at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™, which will be hosted in Australia and New Zealand.



New Fiji football women's head coach Lisa Cole arrived into the country early Wednesday morning from Los Angeles, US, after receiving her work permit from the Fijian Immigration Department.

Cole is excited about her new role with Fiji Football Association.

"I'm extremely honoured and excited to be given the opportunity to join Fiji FA as head coach for the national women's

football team," she said.

"It feels so special to be bestowed with such an opportunity. I just feel lucky to be here and be a part of the journey for the players and the country to have an opportunity to do something remarkable.

"It's a tough road. There are a lot of stages to it, but I think anything is possible. I'm looking forward to working with a talented group of players."

The American national will

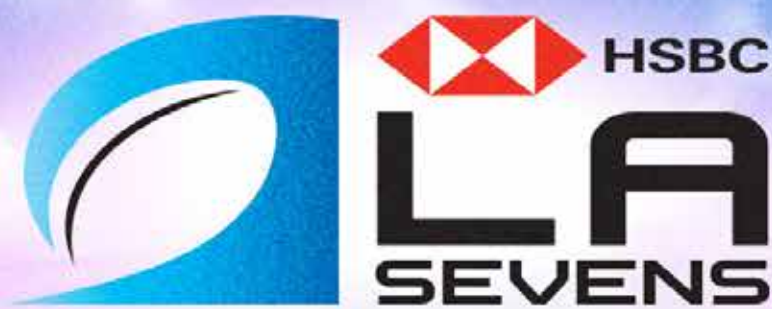
be in the country for eight months initially with the likelihood of an extension to her contract provided the national women's football team qualify for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

She replaces former women's national football coach Marika Rodu. Cole, 48, was the coach of the Antigua and Barbuda women's national football team and headed the women's development program at the Antigua

and Barbuda Football Association prior to joining Fiji Football Association.

Cole is expected to start work from early next week.

Meanwhile, the Digicel national women's football team will participate in the 2023 Women's World Cup qualifiers in July, possibly at the ANZ Stadium in Suva.



RUGBY 7S
RETURNS TO
LOS ANGELES

**DIGNITY HEALTH SPORTS PARK
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**AUG 27 & 28
2022**

ARGENTINA • AUSTRALIA • CANADA • ENGLAND • FIJI • FRANCE • IRELAND • JAPAN
KENYA • NEW ZEALAND • SAMOA • SCOTLAND • SOUTH AFRICA • SPAIN • USA • WALES
TICKETS AT LASEVENSRUGBY.COM OR CALL 1-888-9AXS-TIX

FijiTel

Bringing Families Together

*Why Wait Connect
With The Best
Matata Na Veivosaki*

Call Us Today

1 877 345 4835

1 888 295 2216

Customer Care is Based in Nadi, Fiji
Available Between 8am to 5pm PST



Visit the website www.fijitel.net for new cheaper rates to the world