



# THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

January 2024 Monthly Publication - Subscription Available Pages 60 Volume: 231

## First Fijian Police Chief in US retires



A day filled with mixed emotions for us, the Fijians in America as we are both proud and somewhat sad.

Today, one of our very own and San Pablo Chief of Police, Ron Raman is officially

retiring from service, calling it a day after 30 years of illustrious service to America and its people.

We, the Fijian community in America salute our hero who has performed his du-

ties exceptionally well and won praises of dignitaries and those that have worked with him or known him personally. He wonderfully carried on the legacy of his late grandfather and the first Indo-Fijian

Police Commissioner of Fiji, P.U. Raman.

As you embark on a new journey and the beautiful life of retirement that lies ahead of you, we wish you the very best and are sure that your

wealth of knowledge and experience of serving the nation with total commitment and loyalty will forever be acknowledged, appreciated and valued.

SEE PAGE 7



**POPS**  
BLUE HEAVEN

**SOME TRADITIONS  
SHOULD BE KEPT  
INTACT**



**HAPPY  
FIJI  
DAY**

FROM



SINCE THE SEVENTIES

RUGBY. MUSIC. FOOD.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
BUY AT [SVNS.COM](http://SVNS.COM)





**SCAN ME**

**HSBC SVNS  
LOS ANGELES**

DIGNITY HEALTH SPORTS PARK  
02-03 MARCH 2024





# THE US FIJI TIMES

PHONE: 650-762-6683

DIRECT: 510-931-9107

EMAIL: INFO@USFIJITIMES.ORG

WEB: WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG

FACEBOOK: USAFIJITIMESONLINE



## FIJIAN GOVERNMENT



PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI  
SITIVENI RABUKA



PRESIDENT OF FIJI  
WILIAME KATONIVERE



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF FIJI  
SIROMI TURAGA



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
PROF. BIMAN PRASAD



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
MANOA KAMIKAMICA



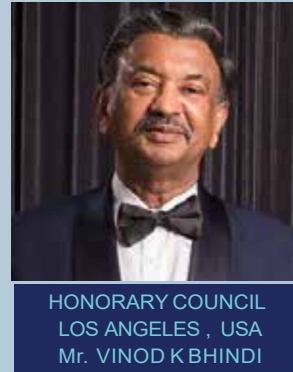
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
VILIAME GAVOKA



FIJI TRADE COMMISSION  
NORTH AMERICA  
Mr. ALIKA COOPER



HONORARY COUNCIL  
SAN FRANCISCO , USA  
Mr. JAY SINGH



HONORARY COUNCIL  
LOS ANGELES , USA  
Mr. VINOD K BHINDI



HONORARY COUNCIL  
VANCOUVER CANADA  
Mr. BOBBY NAICKER

### THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

The USFiji 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 USFiji 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 paper's current strength. Despite lacking the front line journalist experience, he makes up for the deficiency with the sheer ability to keep 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 must 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 USFiji Times in reaching the desired success with adequate coverage. The paper will strive to serve the community with the best of its ability and assure the community that there will be quality reporting at all times.

Vinaka – Rocky Buksh





*Happy  
New Year!*

**BHINDI®**

Los Angeles  
18508 Pioneer Blvd. Artesia, CA 90701  
562-402-8755

San Francisco  
5944 Newpark Mall Rd. Newark, CA 94560  
510-797-8755

Glendale Galleria  
2213 Galleria Way Glendale, CA 91210  
818-243-8755

Atlanta  
1070 Oak Tree Rd. Decatur, GA 30033  
404-325-8755

Shop online at [www.BHINDI.com](http://www.BHINDI.com)



# NEELAM

Pacific Market @ San Bruno, CA

492 - 494 San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066 PH. (650) 583-5024

**GENERAL GROCERY OUTLET** Indian, Pakistan, Fijian, Tongan Groceries





# NEELAM

Pacific Market @ San Bruno, CA

492 - 494 San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066 PH. (650) 583-5024

**GENERAL GROCERY OUTLET** Indian, Pakistan, Fijian, Tongan Groceries



**YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR ISLAND GROCERY, SPICES & SNACKS**



## Tourism Industry Mourns the Loss of Pioneer Yanktesh Permal Reddy

The tourism industry mourns the loss of Yanktesh Permal (YP) Reddy, a celebrated visionary who played a pioneering role in establishing the Reddy Group. Reddy, who passed away recently, leaves a legacy that extends across the Pacific, from Fiji to Samoa and Tonga.

### From Construction to Tourism

Reddy's journey began over 40 years ago with a small construction company. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to expand into the tourism industry, setting up the first hotel for the Tanoa Hotel Group in Rakiraki, Fiji on May 2, 1968. The Reddy Group has since grown into a hospitality giant, boasting six hotels in Fiji and one each in Samoa and Tonga.

### Award-Winning Contributions

Reddy's contributions to the tourism industry have not gone unnoticed. He was honored with an Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1973, the Companion of the Order of Fiji in 1995, and a lifetime achievement

award for tourism excellence in Fiji in 2000. These awards are a testament to his unwavering dedication to enhancing the tourism industry in Fiji and beyond.

### Leadership Beyond Business

Beyond his business successes, Reddy also held various leadership roles in different organizations. He served as the national president for Then India Samarga Ikya (TISI) Sangam, and held directorships on entities such as the Fiji Electricity Authority, Fiji Development Bank, and Fiji National Provident Fund.

Reddy's passing has been keenly felt across the industry. Fiji's Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Viliame Gavoka praised Reddy as a man of vision, integrity, and spirit, acknowledging his significant impact on the industry and the Fijian business community. As industry stakeholders and the community remember his life and achievements, his legacy continues to inspire.



## Vinod Patel group founder passes on



A prominent businessman, soccer administrator and former politician Vinod Patel has passed away.

Patel, widely known for his multifaceted contributions to the community, was the chair of Vinod Patel and Company Limited, a prominent entity that owns a chain of hardware shops across the country.

He served as a councilor and mayor of Ba Town Council, earning recognition for his effective leadership during two successful terms.

His commitment to his community further prompted him to enter national politics,

where he won the Ba West Indian Communal Constituency for the National Federation Party in the 1994 election.

Late Patel was also a board member and former president of the Ba Football Association. The Ba Football Association expressing their deepest condolences acknowledged Patel's contributions to the sport.

They further noted his support and guidance, praising his legacy as an honorary member and existing board member of the club that will forever be cherished.

## Remembering Corporal Ronil Singh: First Fijian Police Officer killed in line of Duty in America



**Corporal Ronil Singh**, a name etched in the hearts of the Newman community and beyond, was a dedicated officer who embodied the values of service and courage.

His story, though marked by tragedy, serves as a testament to the profound impact individuals like him can have on the lives they touch. Born in Fiji and

raised in California, Ronil Singh pursued a career in law enforcement driven by a deep desire to make a difference.

He joined the Newman Police Department in 2011, quickly earning the respect of his colleagues and the community for his professionalism, kindness, and commitment to duty.

On December 26, 2018, while working overtime on Christmas Day, Corporal Singh was fatally shot during a traffic stop. This heartbreaking event sent shockwaves through Newman and the nation, highlighting the dangers faced by law enforcement officers in the line of duty.



# First Fijian Police Chief in US retires



First-ever Fijian Police chief in America officially ends his 30-year career. San Pablo's Police Chief Ron Raman who has led the department since 2017 announced his retirement from the service last month. The city of San Pablo swore in Raman as its ninth chief of police on 30 August six years ago. He implemented the best recruitment strategy (in San Pablo), resulting in being fully staffed for his 92-member department.

Chief Raman impacted many

lives throughout his work in the department, and his ability to foster relationships with the community has made a lasting difference in the city. Part of Raman's successes in San Pablo, according to the city's proclamation, is that he, with the help of his team, was able to reduce violent crime by 29 per cent and Part I crime by 23 per cent. Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, grand theft auto and arson.

He previously served as a Captain for Pittsburg Police, where he worked for 21 years. His career started in 1993 with the Concord Police Department as a Community Service Officer. Raman is living the legacy of his grandfather before him. His grandfather, the late Parmesh Uma Raman was a Commissioner of Police in Fiji. "Being a Police Chief for the last six years has really been the highlight of my career. Being in law enforcement is a calling for me," he

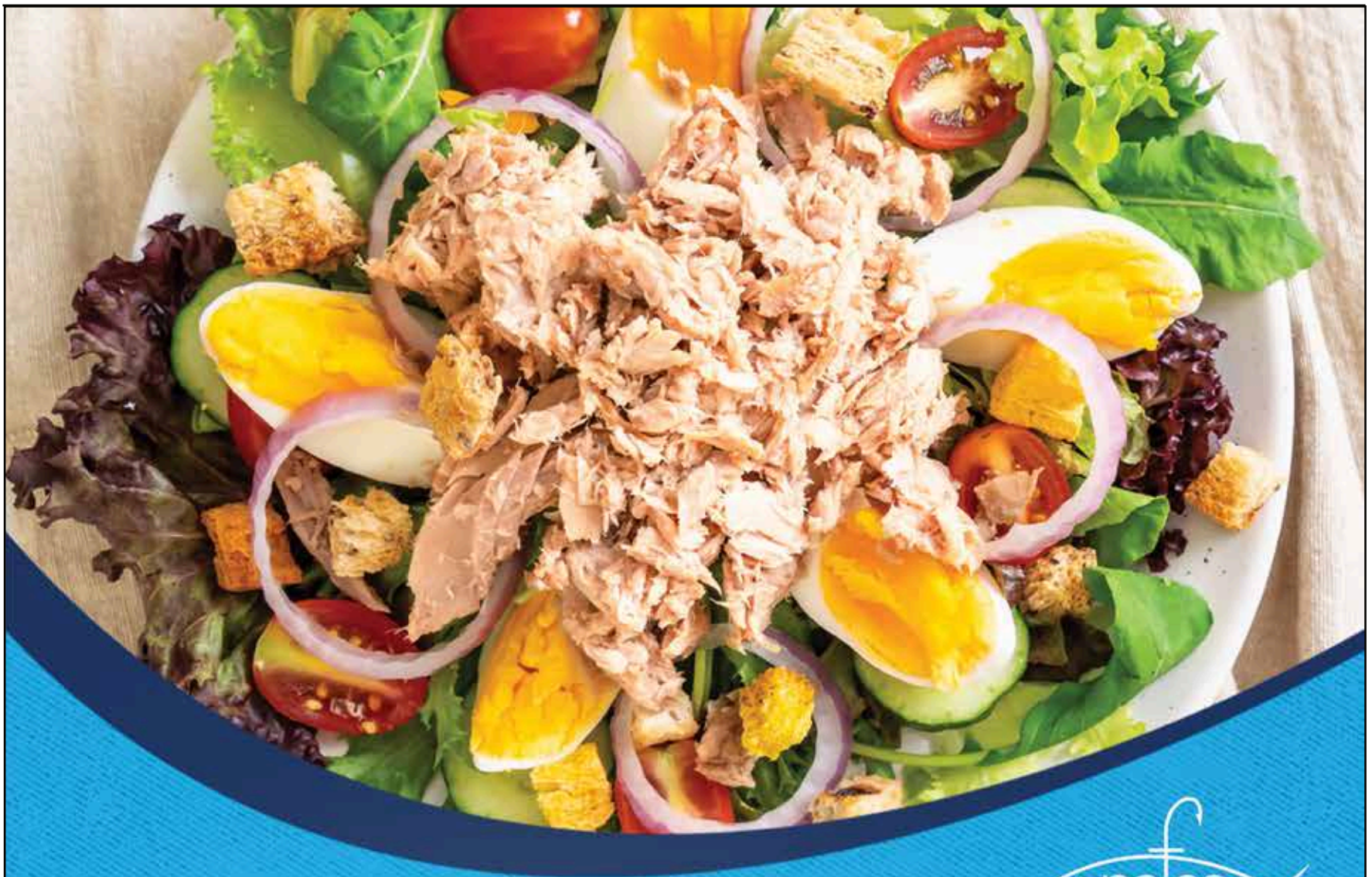
said. "It's embedded in my blood. My grandfather was a Commissioner of Police in the Fiji Islands; he was the first Indian-born Commissioner of Police in the Fiji Islands." "Unfortunately, he passed away right before I became the Chief of Police here, so he never got to see that happen, so I'm sure he knows about it now."

Meanwhile City Manager Matt Rodriguez has appointed Capt. Brian Bubar to take over as interim chief upon Raman's

departure. "I know that our city and Police Department will be in good hands during this transition," Raman said. "Thank you to the community and the city for entrusting me with the opportunity to lead this amazing Police Department that will continue to be a model for others in law enforcement." Rodriguez said Raman "has exemplified tremendous leadership during an unprecedented period of growth and innovation in our Police Department."







*Made by Fijians for Fijians*





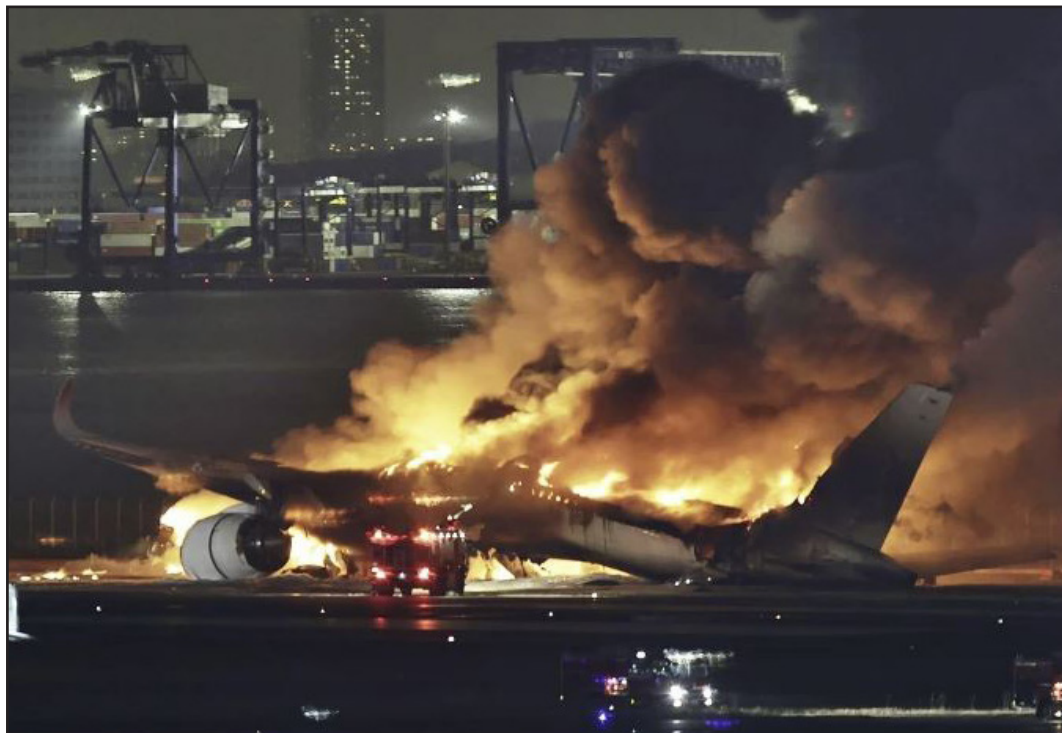
# Perfect Roti Everytime!



**AVAILABLE IN 2KG, 5KG AND 10KG**



# Planes collide and catch fire at Japan's busy Haneda airport, killing 5. Hundreds evacuated safely



TOKYO — A fiery collision Tuesday between a Japan Airlines passenger jet and a coast guard plane at Tokyo's Haneda Airport killed five coast guard crew members, but all 367 passengers and 12 crew of the commercial jet escaped shortly before it became engulfed, officials said.

The pilot of the coast guard aircraft MA722 was in critical condition, according to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police De-

partment. Fourteen people on the commercial aircraft were injured, Tokyo's fire department said.

Video footage published by Reuters shows the passenger jet, an Airbus A350, moving along the runway before coming to a standstill, in flames. Rescuers can be seen extinguishing the fire.

The flight was arriving in Tokyo from Sapporo, in Japan's northernmost prefecture, Hok-

kaido, a popular tourist destination.

The passenger jet had just touched down when it "crashed directly into" the coast guard plane, Shigenori Hiraoka, head of Japan's Civil Aviation Bureau, said at a news conference Tuesday evening. "We still need to confirm the details of the interaction with air traffic control concerning the cause of the accident," he said. JAL managing executive of-

ficer Noriyuki Aoki told reporters at a news conference that the flight had received permission to land but that exchanges between the cockpit and flight control were under investigation.

Airline officials think the pilot may not have spotted the coast guard plane and therefore did not report abnormalities or problems before landing, but the matter is under investigation, Aoki said. The passenger plane landed at 5:46 p.m., and all 379 aboard were evacuated by 6:05 p.m., Aoki said.

At 5:55 p.m., the coast guard pilot reported to the base that there was an explosion on the runway. The pilot was able to escape the aircraft but was unsure about the other crew members on board, coast guard officials said in a news briefing. The pilot suffered severe burns, police said.

Tsubasa Sawada, a 28-year-old passenger, told Reuters that he heard an explosion about 10 minutes after he and the other passengers evacuated the plane. "I can only say it was a miracle; we could have died if we were late," he said. The coast guard plane was heading to Niigata Airport in western Japan to bring aid to

communities devastated by a powerful earthquake that struck the area Monday, according to Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

The 7.6-magnitude earthquake in Ishikawa killed at least 48 people and left scores more injured or missing, causing widespread damage and sparking a tsunami warning Monday.

All departing flights from Haneda Airport — closer to Tokyo and busier than the city's other major airport, Narita — were suspended for the rest of the evening. The departure area was filled with travelers waiting to reschedule flights, with long lines at restaurants and waiting areas.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in a statement posted on social media that he was grateful for the work of first responders and offered his condolences for the five coast guard crew members who were killed, thanking them for their "strong sense of mission and responsibility."

Airbus said in a statement that it was dispatching a team of specialists to assist in the investigation.

## Tesla recalls over 1.6 million vehicles in China to fix automatic steering, door latch glitches

BEIJING — Tesla is recalling more than 1.6 million Model S, X, 3 and Y electric vehicles exported to China for problems with their automatic assisted steering and door latch controls.

China's State Administration for Market Regulation announced the recall on Friday. It said Tesla Motors in Beijing and Shanghai would use remote upgrades to fix the problems, so in most cases car owners would not need to visit Tesla service centers.

The recall due to problems with the automatic steering assist function applies to 1.6 million imported Tesla Model S, Model X, Model 3 and Model Ys. When the automatic steering function is

engaged, drivers might misuse the combined driving function, increasing a risk of accidents, the notice said. The recall to fix the door unlock logic control for imported Model S and Model X EVs affects 7,538 vehicles made between Oct. 26, 2022 and Nov. 16, 2023. It is needed to prevent door latches from coming open during a collision.

The recalls follow a recall in the U.S. last month of more than 2 million of Tesla EVs to improve its system for monitoring drivers. The recall followed a two-year investigation by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that found the system was defective. into a series of crashes that happened while the Auto-

pilot partially automated driving system was in use. Some were deadly.

The upgrades are intended to get drivers who use Tesla's Autopilot system to pay closer attention to the road. Documents filed by Tesla to the U.S. government said the online software change will increase warnings and alerts to drivers to keep their hands on the steering wheel.

However, research conducted by NHTSA, the National Transportation Safety Board and other investigators show that merely measuring torque on the steering wheel doesn't ensure that drivers are paying sufficient attention.

China is a major market and manufacturing center for Tes-



la, and the company's CEO, Elon Musk, has built close ties with Chinese officials even as U.S.-China relations soured. The company built an electric vehicle plant in Shanghai in 2019 that assembles cars for

China, Europe and other overseas markets.

Tesla is the No. 2 seller in the booming Chinese market for electric vehicles. The market leader is Chinese auto company BYD.



## Fiji News

# Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection looking into forming partnership with Pacific Polytech



After a meeting this week, Minister for Women, Children & Social Protection, Lynda Tabuya says they are looking into forming a partnership with Pacific Polytech.

Tabuya says the objective of the meeting was to lay the foundation for a partnership between Pacific Polytech and the Ministry with specific focus on four key areas.

These areas are creating employment opportunities for social welfare recipients with the aim of graduating individuals from welfare to workfare.

She says they spoke about the

placement of students in State owned Golden Age Homes to support the care and support provided for its elderly residents.

The Minister says they also talked about the possibility of the Ministry and Polytech Pacific working together at the Nadogo Technical College which is currently under construction.

She says they wanted to encourage gender mainstreaming in technical trades.

Pacific Poly Tech Chairperson Dr. Ganesh Chand says the four key areas were geared towards creating employment and breaking barriers by supporting women in securing work in male dominated fields.

Dr. Chand further went on to thank the Minister for taking the stand in graduating people from welfare to sustainable

livelihood and also advocating for equal employment opportunity for all women.

The Minister thanked the team from Pacific Polytech for reaching out and creating discussions on possible areas which the ministry can work with Pacific Polytech to better the lives of the Ministry's beneficiaries.

Tabuya says the visit was timely, as she is working towards creating pathways for welfare recipients to graduate off the welfare support system.

She adds that welfare assistance is meant to support families for a certain period, and it is very important that they take steps to change the mindset of people and help them break away from the vicious cycle of poverty.

## Ministry has commenced work on the minimum wage rate review – Singh

Minister for Employment Agni Deo Singh says the Ministry has commenced work on the review of the minimum wage rates, and there are systems and processes involved and structures in place to facilitate this important work.

Responding to comments raised by the Unity Fiji Party Leader, Savenaca Narube and the Fiji Labour Party Leader, Mahendra Chaudhry in the media, Singh says since the coalition government took office, the work to review the National Minimum Wage and the ten sectoral wage regulations has been part of their commitment from day one.

He says they have constituted the Employment Relations Advisory Board (ERAB) in its proper form at the beginning of the year and facilitated the labour law review to restore the provision of the ERA 2007 to reinstate workers' rights.

He adds this has been completed and is currently being vetted by the Office of the Solicitor General.



The Minister says the Government is now in the process of reinstating the 10 Wages Councils which were removed by the FijiFirst Government as these councils are subcommittees of the ERAB and will determine the sectoral minimum wages.

Singh says the work on the minimum wage review is now in progress, and the ERAB will

determine this with the assistance of a professional consultant in close consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

He says as part of governance, wider consultations will be done with stakeholders nationwide on the review.

Singh adds the Ministry has been reporting on the progress

in all the above work carried out through Parliamentary proceedings and the media.

He says the two-party leaders have either not been following parliamentary proceedings, as well as, the media statements by the Ministry, or they are deliberately pretending to be ignorant.

Singh further reiterated that the coalition government will

continue to work towards meeting the interest of the people and collectively what is best for the nation as a whole.

In a Facebook post, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said, as promised in the budget, they will review the minimum wages, and people can expect some decisions in the next few months.





# Arifa Shaikh, DDS

*We provide a wide range of dental treatments for everyone.*

## Services we offer:

- Bridges & Implants
- Dental Fillings & Repairs
- Dental Sealants
- Crowns & Caps
- Dental Implants
- Dental X-rays

*Dr. Arifa Shaikh DDS is a San Mateo, CA-based dental practice offering cosmetic and dental services*

**Book an appointment at  
650-344-7121  
256 San Mateo Dr Ste 5  
San Mateo, CA 94401**



# MOST POWERFUL & SUCCESSFUL PANDITH JI

Specialized in:  
**BRINGING LOVED  
ONES BACK**



**EXPERT IN READING  
HOROSCOPE, PSYCHIC,  
PALM READING**

**BLACK  
MAGIC REMOVAL**



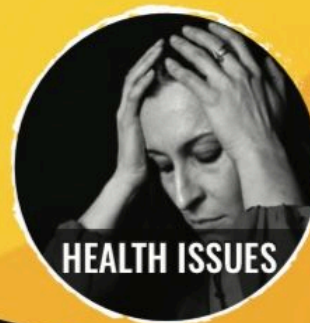
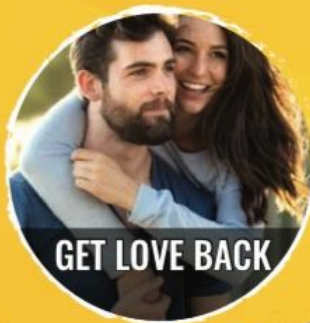
**WORRYING IS WASTING ENERGY ON  
THE THINGS YOU CAN'T CONTROL  
LEAVE EVERYTHING IN MY HAND**

**I AM THE KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS**

**ALL RELIGIONS ARE WELCOME**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

**Stop Worrying All Work is Guaranteed No More Sorrow & Tears**



**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

**QUICK RESULTS**

**HELPS ON ALL MATTERS OF LIFE  
ARE YOU FACING DIFFICULT PROBLEMS?**

**POOJA FOR  
KALA SARPA DOSH  
MANGLIK DOSH  
PITRA DOSH**

Need help with (Love) (Black Magic) (Marriage)  
(Husband) (Wife) (Divorce) (Relationships) (Family)  
(Friends) (Health) (Business) (Job) (Money)? etc.,



**Pandit  
Raghav ji**

**714 936 2111**  
www.astrologerusa.com  
Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles



# Japanese rescuers race to find survivors as quake death toll rises to 78



More than 50 people have been reported missing, as Japanese rescuers battle the cold to reach communities that remain cut off three days after a devastating earthquake struck the country's western coast.

At least 78 people have been

three cities whose whereabouts could not be confirmed.

More than a dozen communities have been cut off.

Soldiers, firefighters and police officers from across Japan are searching through collapsed wooden houses and

tion. But from the viewpoint of protecting lives, I ask that you make every effort to save and rescue as many lives as possible by this evening, when the critical 72 hours of the disaster will have passed," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said at a government meeting on Thursday.

He announced that the number of troops dispatched to the area for rescue operations was being increased from about 1,000 to 4,600.

The narrowness of the hard-hit Noto Peninsula has added to the challenges in reaching some communities. Water, power and mobile phone services were still down in some areas.

There have been nearly 600 aftershocks since the main quake, raising fears of landslides with forecasts of rain adding to the risk.

Naomi Gonno said she and her children got out of their house just as it came crashing down.

Her children were screaming for their grandmother,

and Gonno saw that her mother was trapped under the smashed house, with only her hand visible. She was able to squeeze her way out through a tiny space, Gonno said.

"I can't believe we're still alive," she said. "We are living in fear."

No water, power

In Wajima, where a massive fire ripped through parts of the port and the district surrounding it, people queued for water and food.

The quake buckled and tore apart roads, making it even more difficult to access the hardest-hit areas.

"Compared to other disasters, the road situation into Wajima is very bad. I feel it's taking longer than usual for assistance to arrive," Shunsaku Kohriki, a medical worker, told the Reuters news agency. "I think, realistically speaking, the evacuees will have to live in really tough conditions for a while yet."

The full extent of the damage and casualties remains unclear four days after the dead-

liest quake in Japan since at least 2016.

All the deaths have been reported near the epicentre of the quake in Ishikawa prefecture. More than 33,000 people have evacuated from their homes and about 100,000 houses have no water supply, according to officials in the area. Four of the world's tectonic plates meet in Japan making the country particularly prone to earthquakes.

It experiences hundreds of tremors every year, but most cause little to no damage.

Earthquakes have hit the Noto region with intensifying strength and frequency over the past five years.

In 2011, Japan's northeast was hit by one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded.

The magnitude 9.0 undersea earthquake triggered a massive tsunami that wiped out entire communities and triggered a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant. At least 18,500 people were killed.



confirmed dead and 330 injured since the magnitude 7.6 earthquake off the Noto Peninsula on January 1, according to local authorities.

On Thursday, officials published a list of 51 people from

toppled commercial buildings for signs of life. Experts say the first three days are especially critical because the prospects for survival drop sharply after that.

"This is a very difficult situa-



drink it up!



SAY HELLO TO

YOUR FAVORITE

# DRINK





# BEST INDIAN PSYCHIC, SPIRITUAL HEALER & ASTROLOGER

**MOST POWERFUL MASTER RAJ PARTHAV**

**ONE CALL, ONE VISIT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE**  
**EXPERT IN READING PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE**

**SPECIALIZED IN BRINGING LOVED ONES BACK, EVEN HOPELESS CASE**

**SOLUTION FOR RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY PROBLEMS**  
**LOVE & MARRIAGE | COURT CASES | ENIMIES PROBLEM |**  
**FINANCIAL PROBLEM | CHILDDLESS | DEPRESSION | HEALTH**  
**| EDUCATION | SEXUAL PROBLEM | JOB & BUSINESS**

**EXPERT IN REMOVING BLACK MAGIC, BAD ENERGY, BAD CURSE & NEGATIVE ENERGY**

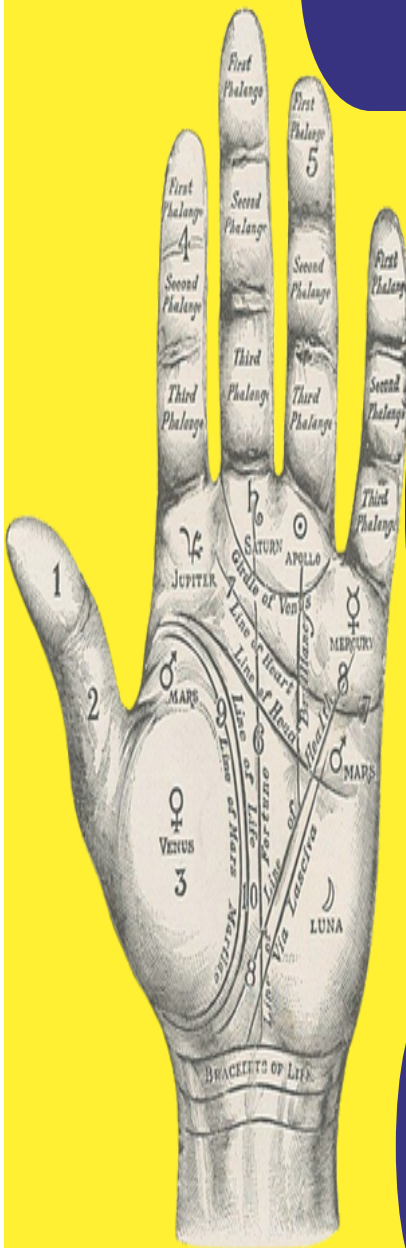
**ALL RELIGIOUS ARE WELCOME**

**CALL FOR APPOINTMENT PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**



**+1 510-899-2817**

**2175 ABORN ROAD, UNIT E:134, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA ZIP CODE 95121 USA**





# BOLLYWOOD FASHION

*Fashion designer with over 3 decades in this business*



Celebrate  
your  
Emotions

## SPECIALS

### LEHENGA'S & GOWNS

Starting from \$100

Limited Stocks

GET THE LATEST ATTIRE  
AT THE BEST PRICE

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

650-871-8446

616 SAN MATEO AVE,  
SAN BRUNO CA 94066



# SAUDAGAR CASH AND CARRY

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



# PHONE: 510-885-0430





MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
& MEDICAL SERVICES

# COVID-19 IS STILL HERE PROTECT YOUR SELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES

If you experience any of the following symptoms,



Sore throat



Fever



Loss of taste  
or smell



Shortness of  
breath



Aches and  
pains



Fatigue or  
tiredness

## GET TESTED FOR COVID-19

It could be **COVID-19**, it could be **influenza**, for your peace of mind and protection of yourself and loved ones, go to your nearest health facility and get tested.

## What will happen if you test positive for COVID-19?

You will be advised and supported for recovery from COVID-19.

**DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!  
MASK UP IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS AND  
GET YOUR BOOSTER VACCINATION**



[www.health.gov.fj](http://www.health.gov.fj)



Ministry of Health & Medical Services



@MOHFiji

## COVID-19 protective measures reinforced

The Ministry of Health says it has not diagnosed the COVID-19 JN.1 sub-variant as reported in other countries.

However, proactive measures are being taken to ensure that the public remain vigilant and take appropriate measures to

protect themselves and those around them.

The Ministry says it has scaled up surveillance through EWARS syndromic surveillance system, and through laboratory investigations at the Fiji Centre for Disease Control and at major hospitals around

the country.

It says testing kits have been distributed to the CDC labs in Nadi and Suva, and all Divisional Hospitals around the country to boost the testing for suspected COVID cases presenting at the hospitals. The Ministry of Health also states

that while cases of COVID-19 continue to be seen around the country to date, no rise in cases or admissions have been recorded. Fijians have also been reminded to note that January is the start of the Flu season in the country and it is anticipated that there will be an in-

crease in the number in cases from around the country in the months of January to March. They have also been reminded to follow COVID-safe measures that will protect them from acquiring the disease, and suffering from severe COVID-19 disease.



# SAUDAGAR CASH AND CARRY

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



## PHONE: 510-885-0430



Fiji News

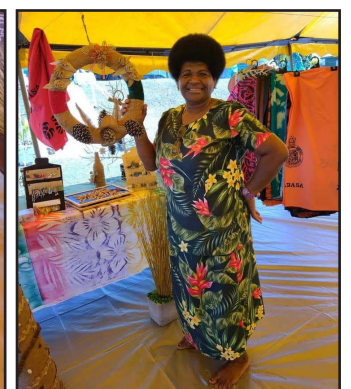
# Corrections wives from Labasa, Fiji Islands display art and craft skills



## Corrections Wives Display Art and Craft skills

Wives of Corrections Officers and Personnel from Labasa recently put on a display of home made traditional handicraft and hand woven materials. "The display was the first of its kind to happen in the Northern Division that allows officers wives of Labasa CC & ND HQ to showcase different handicrafts that they created according to their God given talents," said Supervisor Northern Division Superintendent Filimoni Seru. "I was very proud to be there to witness their efforts and I salute them for the high standard of items produced and the creativity behind it all." Acting Commissioner of Corrections Salote Panapasa said requests had been received from FCS' spouses to revive their Association including their Annual Volleyball competition. "I have considered that but then sug-

gested that they undergo first some handcraft and sewing lessons so they can hold a competition within their division. "They can also organize their volleyball competition first by divisions then we will set a date for the big event which will also include their Show. "The whole idea is to allow young spouses to learn new skills to engage themselves in and this also serves as a bonding exercise where they can get to know each other. "The spouses of all our personnel especially wives have a great responsibility in making a good home so it is equally important that they also have activities which raises their morale and also teaches them new skills," Commissioner Panapasa said. The Competition will also include a show of how clean the barracks are. Meanwhile, the Southern Division will conduct their show and competition in February.





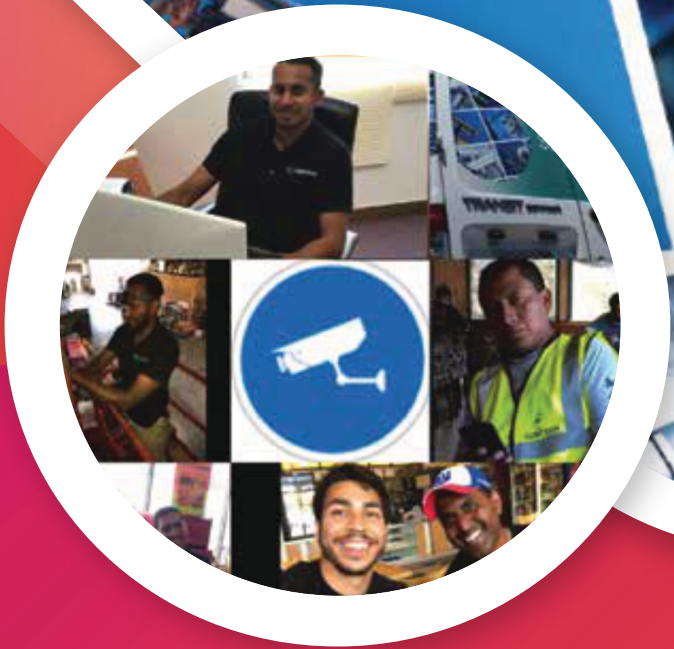
Web Designing, Branding, Logo, Social Media Marketing

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

[www.qlikdesign.com](http://www.qlikdesign.com)



**SUNTECH**  
INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS, INC



Set up a powerful WISP Network  
**Customize your IT operations**  
Building-to-Building Bridge XG



**Mike Muktar Buksh**  
CEO/ Founder  
**SUNTECH**

 [www.suntechis.com](http://www.suntechis.com)



# ASTROLOGER & PSYCHIC CENTRE



WORLD FAMOUS INDIAN ASTROLOGER



**MASTER: SURYA KIRAN JI**



Meet Our World Famous Indian Astrologer  
**SURYA KIRAN JI** For All Your Problems Either  
 Personal or Professional Life, In Just Few Days



**IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, I HAVE A SOLUTION**

- ✓ FAMILY
- ✓ LOVE
- ✓ HEALTH
- ✓ DEPRESSION
- ✓ NEGATIVITY
- ✓ BUSINESS
- ✓ JEALOUSY
- ✓ PROTECTIONS
- ✓ ENEMY PROBLEMS
- ✓ HUSBAND & WIFE



- ✓ RELATIONSHIP
- ✓ PROPERTY
- ✓ MARRIAGE
- ✓ CHILDREN
- ✓ PROMOTION
- ✓ EMPLOYMENT
- ✓ SEXUAL PROBLEM
- ✓ SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS
- ✓ REMOVE BLACK MAGIC

**COME TODAY  
 FOR A BETTER  
 TOMORROW**

**100%  
 CONFIDENTIAL**

**OPEN 7 DAYS  
 9am to 9pm**

Astrology, Hand Reading, Numerology, Horoscope Reading, Face Reading, Remove Black Magic, Evil Spirit Problems. Predicts Your Past, Present & Future. Performs Lakshmi Chakra, Home / Shanti Poojas, Vaastu Pooja. He Will Help In All Problems and Work With God & Holy Spirit.

**EXPERT IN BRINGING BACK LOVED ONES**

**559-722-9970**

**N. FRESNO ST, FRESNO, CA 93710**



# Saba Live Poultry San Francisco

Carniceria De Pollo

活家禽肉類公司

415.757.0759 | 1526 Wallace Ave., San Francisco, CA 94124



We accept & Credit Cards

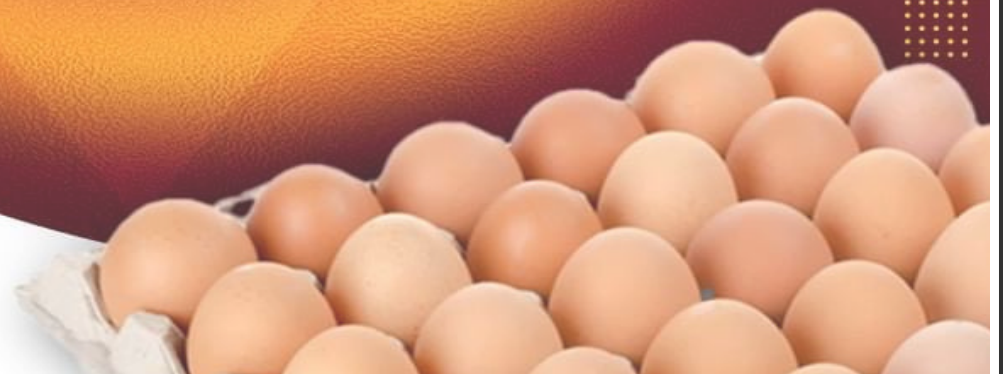
## Daily Special

# Flat Eggs

EACH FLAT CONTAINS 30 EGGS

# 1 FLAT FOR \$8

# 3 FLATS FOR \$20



<p><b>\$15.6</b> /each</p> <p>Red Chicken (hen) Gallina Roja 舊毛雞</p>	<p><b>\$17.6</b> /each</p> <p>Big Red Chicken (hen) Grand Gallina Roja 大舊毛雞</p>	<p><b>\$17</b> /each</p> <p>Red Rooster Gallo Rojo 公雞</p>	<p><b>\$15</b> /each</p> <p>White Broiler Pollo Blanco 白肉雞</p>	<p><b>\$16</b> /each</p> <p>Black Silkie Gallina Sedosa 竹絲雞</p>	<p><b>\$20</b> /each</p> <p>Big Red Rooster Grand Gallo Rojo 大公雞</p>
<p><b>\$23</b> /each</p> <p>Chukar Pollo Chukar 石雞(鶉鴉)</p>	<p><b>\$50</b> /each</p> <p>Big Muscovy Duck Pato Grande 番鴨</p>	<p><b>\$25</b> /each</p> <p>Small Duck Pato Pequeno 鴨</p>	<p><b>\$20</b> /for 5</p> <p>Quail Codorniz 轉鴉</p>	<p><b>\$12</b> /each</p> <p>Pigeon Paloma 肉鴿</p>	<p>small \$35 medium \$40 large \$50</p> <p>Rabbit Conejo 肉兔</p>
<p><b>\$12</b> /each <b>\$30</b> /for 3</p> <p>Old Fowls Gallina Viejas 老紅雞</p>	<p><b>\$30</b> /each</p> <p>Guinea Hens Gallina De Guinea 珍珠雞</p>	<p><b>\$25</b> /each</p> <p>Pheasant Faisan 雉雞</p>	<p><b>\$7</b> /flat   <b>\$15</b> /3 flats</p> <p>Eggs Huevos 雞蛋</p>	<p>Monday &amp; Tuesday Special</p> <p><b>Buy 5</b> <b>Get ONE FREE</b></p> <p>Especial De Lunes y Martes Compra cinco y llevate uno gratis</p> <p>周一及周二特價 買五送一</p>	



# Whata Cracker Deal!

GET A FREE PUNJAS NORMAL FLOUR PACK

**Punjas Biscuits**  
Simply...Delicious

WWW.PUNJASBISCUITS.COM

# IMMIGRATION LAW OFFICE

of  
JASON MARCHI

- Personal Consultation
- Family Immigration
- Asylum
- Immigration related Matters
- Naturalization
- Removal Defense
- Non-Immigrant VISA
- Deportation
- Appeals

Get answers to all your immigration questions.  
Call for a free Consultation.

415-566-3526 | JMARCHI@AOL.COM

# Relax with a great cuppa...

www.punjas.com





# 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!**

**I-877-557-7826**

[WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG](http://WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG)



# Roop Kala Jewelers

Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry

Once a Customer, Always a Friend

Now Available Imitation Jewelry

Fashion & Silver Jewelry  
Watch Ba'ery Change  
Watch Repair

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



**NEW YEAR SALE !! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**



*Specialists in 22ct Gold Jewelry*

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

**PH:(650) 871-5611**

Watch Ba'ery Change Watch Repair

Watch Department- Call Driect 650-808-0859





# CHANDNI

**WISHING YOU A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!**



***NOW OFFERING***

***LIMITED TIME COMPLIMENTARY  
DECORATION***

***FOR MEHNDIS, SANGEETS, & JAGOS!***

***Book Your Event Today!***

*5748 Mowry School Road, Newark, CA 94560*

*510-668-1051*



## WORLD NEWS

# Lee Sun-kyun: Parasite actor, 48, found dead in apparent suicide

South Korean actor Lee Sun-kyun, best known for his role in the Oscar-winning film Parasite, has been found dead in an apparent suicide in central Seoul.

Police found the body of the actor, who was 48, in a car near a city park on Wednesday. They believe Lee took his own life, Yonhap news agency reports.

Police said earlier they had received a report that he had left his home after writing a note.

He had been under investigation for alleged illegal drug use since October.

Lee's body was taken to Seoul National University Hospital after police located his car near Waryong Park. Reports say his family have refused an autopsy and he will be buried on Friday.

Police have begun an investigation to establish the details around his death, including when he arrived at the scene where his body was found, and the time of his death.

In Parasite, Lee played the patriarch of the wealthy Park family which is infiltrated by members of a poor family posing as unrelated individuals. The vicious social satire won four Oscars, including best picture.

South Korean film Parasite makes Oscars history The real people living in a 'Parasite' basement 'I try to save others after my little brother's suicide' Yonhap reported that he was suspected of taking drugs such as marijuana and



ketamine with a hostess at a bar in Seoul. He had said that though he took what she gave him, he had not known that they were illicit drugs.

The hostess had reportedly told the police that he used drugs at her home multiple times - something he denied. He had earlier requested through his lawyer to take a lie detector test.

His drug tests had returned negative or inconclusive results, the report added.

Police said they regretted that Lee had died in the midst of investigations, but that the inquiry had been "conducted with [his] consent", News1 Korea reported. Lee underwent three rounds of questioning, with one session last

Saturday lasting 19 hours, according to Yonhap.

Lee's agency, HODU&U Entertainment, said in a statement: "There is no way to contain the sorrow and despair. We respectfully ask that you refrain from spreading false facts based on speculation... so that [Lee's] final journey will not be unfair."

News of his death sparked strong reactions online.

"I can't imagine how difficult it must have been for him. Rest in peace," read a comment on one of the news reports.

"Aren't celebrities human? People can make mistakes in their lives. It's so sad," said another. There was also praise for his work. One fan, writ-

ing on X (formerly Twitter), wrote: "I laughed and cried a lot while watching your acting. Thank you."

The actor, who was married to actress Jeon Hye-jin and had two young sons with her, had a career spanning more than two decades.

He starred as the lead in dozens of films and TV shows, becoming a household name through the 2010s.

He rose to international fame with Parasite, as it became the first non-English language film to win the Best Picture Oscar.

In South Korea, celebrities are held to high standards of propriety. Lee had a squeaky-clean, family-man image prior

to his alleged drug use, but reports that emerged from the investigation caused considerable damage to his reputation. Speaking to reporters in late October before going into a police station for questioning, he said: "I sincerely apologise for causing great disappointment to many people by being involved in such an unpleasant incident.

"I feel sorry for my family, which is enduring such difficult pain at this moment."

Lee was dropped from No Way Out, a mystery TV series that began shooting in October. According to reports, some businesses were seen taking down posters and advertisements featuring Lee from their stores.

Drug offences, including those involving usage of marijuana, are considered serious crimes in South Korea. Consumption of marijuana carries prison sentences of up to five years.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has vowed a crackdown on drugs. This year, the country's authorities expanded its drug crimes department and the national police chief promised "a total war" on drug crimes.

Lee is not the only South Korean celebrity who had been investigated for drug use recently. Earlier this month, K-pop star G-Dragon was cleared of drug allegations after weeks of investigations.

Actor Yoo Ah-in is currently standing trial for drug use.

## Advertise In US FIJI TIMES

510-931-9107



# BOLLYWOOD NEWS

**VIA COM 18 STUDIOS** **MARFLIX**

A **SIDDHARTH ANAND** FILM

INDIA'S FIRST  
**AERIAL ACTION**

# FIGHTER

**OFFICIAL TRAILER**

**HRITHIK ROSHAN** **DEEPIKA PADUKONE** **ANIL KAPOOR**

**HD**

THIS THUMBNAIL AND VIDEO IS EDITED BY FANCY CINEMA  
THIS VIDEO IS NOT A OFFICIAL TRAILER BUT WE TRY TO GIVE UP  
FEW SECONDS CONCEPT TEASER OR TRAILER  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN IDEA OF MOVIE AND AFTER THAT WE WILL GIVE  
ALL UPDATES OF MOVIE LIKE RELEASE DATE TEASER TRAILER ANNOUNCEMENT

**AYUSH SHARMA**

# RUSLAAN

PRODUCED BY K K RADHAMOHAN DIRECTED BY KATYAYAN SHIVPURI

**EXPERIENCE IT IN IMAX**

HINDI | TAMIL | TELUGU  
COMING SOON

# OFFICIAL TRAILER



**FIJI**  
AIRWAYS





## Recipe Corner

### Shrimp Fried Rice

#### Ingredients

Shrimp Fried Rice isn't just about the ingredients; it's about how these elements come together to create a harmonious flavor. Here's what you'll need:

- 1 cup long-grain rice
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced for garnish

#### Directions

Creating Shrimp Fried Rice is like conducting an orchestra. Each step is crucial to the final masterpiece:

1. Cook the rice as per instructions, then set aside to cool.
2. Heat one tablespoon of oil in a pan. Add shrimp, season with salt and pepper, and cook until pink. Remove and set aside.
3. In the same pan, add the remaining oil. Sauté onions and garlic until translucent.
4. Stir in the beaten eggs, scrambling until just set.
5. Toss in the peas and carrots, cooked shrimp, and rice. Drizzle with soy sauce and stir-fry until everything is hot and well mixed.
6. Garnish with green onions.



### Italian Crescent Casserole



#### Ingredients

Our casserole calls for simple, yet flavorful ingredients:

- 2 cans (8 oz each) refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 cup marinara sauce
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 egg, beaten
- A pinch of salt and pepper

#### Directions

1. **First things first, preheat your oven to a cozy 375°F.**
2. Unroll the crescent dough and line the bottom of a greased baking dish with one can of dough.
3. In a sizzling skillet, cook the ground beef until it's browned. Drain the excess fat like a pro!
4. Stir in the marinara sauce and simmer. Oh, the aroma!
5. Spread this beefy goodness over the crescent layer. Then, layer with ricotta, Parmesan, and a sprinkle of Italian seasoning.
6. Unroll the second can of dough over this cheesy wonderland.
7. Brush the top with beaten egg, sprinkle salt, pepper, and top it off with moz-





# KAVA EXPRESS

Natural Relaxation, fresh  
Quality Kava  
brought to You direct  
from  
the South Pacific Islands  
Savu Savu, Fiji

Waka



Lawena



[www.kavaexpress.com](http://www.kavaexpress.com)  
**510.755.7625**  
[info@kavaexpress.com](mailto:info@kavaexpress.com)

Sashi Prakesh

23839 Comedat Street, Unit 4 • Hayward, CA 94545

We Design & Print • 510-512-2357  
Specializing in Wedding Cards

# MOON INDIAN CUISINE

**MOON**  
INDIAN CUISINE  
INDIAN FIJI PAKISTANI  
CUISINE

*Most Affordable rates and prompt service:*



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



CHEF PAUL

*Over 30 Years of Experience in Resturant  
& catering Business.*



# Former US police officer sentenced in killing of Black man Elijah McClain

Randy Roedema handed 14-month sentence for 2019 killing of McClain, who was put in a chokehold, injected with ketamine.



as he walked home from a convenience store.

Police laid hands on McClain within seconds of stopping him and put him in a carotid chokehold at least twice. He vomited into his ski mask and repeatedly told officers he could not breathe.

The original autopsy conducted on McClain in 2019 found the cause of death to be “undetermined”. However, a revised autopsy report in 2021 concluded McClain died from “complications of ketamine administration following forcible restraint”.

In a separate trial, two paramedics were convicted last month of criminally negligent homicide for injecting McClain with an overdose of the sedative ketamine. They are due to be sentenced in March.

Local prosecutors initially declined to file charges and McClain’s killing received little attention. That changed following the May 2020 killing of George Floyd, a Black man who died at the hands of Minneapolis police.

A former police officer in the western US state of Colorado has been sentenced to 14 months in jail for his role in the 2019 killing of Elijah McClain, a Black man who was not suspected of any crime when police roughly restrained him and paramedics injected him with a powerful

sedative.

Before the judge handed down the sentence on Friday, McClain’s mother, Sheneen McClain, condemned Randy Roedema, the only law enforcement official to be found guilty.

“Randy Roedema stole my son’s life,” she said. “All

the belated apologies in the world can’t remove my son’s blood from Randy Roedema’s hands.”

She also called the sentence “a slap on the wrist”.

Roedema was found guilty in October of criminally negligent homicide and third-degree assault. The same jury

found fellow police officer Jason Rosenblatt not guilty in a joint trial.

Police confronted McClain, 23, on the night of August 24, 2019, after a bystander called 911 to report that a man was dressed in a winter coat and ski mask on a warm night, and was acting suspiciously

## One killed, five wounded in Iowa school shooting

Police identify shooter on first day of classes at Perry Middle and High School as 17-year-old Dylan Butler.

A teenager armed with a shotgun and a handgun opened fire at a high school in the US state of Iowa killing a sixth grader and injuring five others, authorities said.

The shooting at Perry Middle and High School on the first day of classes took place just after 7:30am (13:30 GMT) on Thursday, police said.

The shooter was identified by authorities as 17-year-old Dylan Butler, who attended the school. He died of what investigators believe was a self-inflicted gunshot wound, an Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation official revealed.

Butler had a pump-action shotgun and a small-calibre handgun, authorities said. Mitch Mortvedt, the state investigation division’s assistant director, said during a news conference that au-

thorities also found a “pretty rudimentary” improvised explosive device and rendered it safe.

The suspect’s motive was being investigated and authorities were looking into “a number of social media posts” he made about the time of the shooting, Mortvedt added.

He said one person was in critical condition, but the injuries did not appear to be life-threatening, and the others were stable.

An administrator, later identified by his alma mater as the school’s principal, Dan Marburger, was among those injured as students returned from winter break.

There were few students and faculty in the building at the time of the incident, Dallas County Sheriff Adam Infante said.

Rachael Kares, 18, told



The Associated Press news agency that she was finishing jazz band practice when she and her bandmates heard what she described as four gunshots spaced apart. “We all just jumped,” Kares

said. “My band teacher looked at us and yelled ‘Run!’ So, we ran.” Kares added that she ran out past the football field with others from the school and heard people yelling, “Get

out! Get Out!” as more gunshots were heard.

FBI and United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents responded to the scene.





# 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**





SAN BRUNO

# Dental Excellence

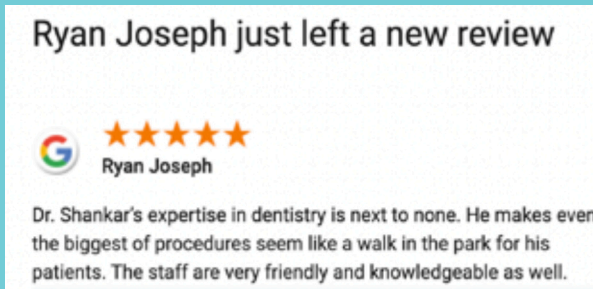
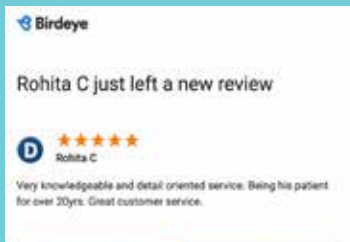
## INTRODUCING ROBOTIC-ASSISTED DENTAL IMPLANT TECHNOLOGY



YOMI - The first and only robotic-assisted surgical system cleared by FDA for Dental Implant Surgery.



*The best dental clinic*



Fiji Office

**OFFICE OF DR. VISHNU SHANKAR**

<https://sanbrunodontalexcellence.com>

**549 RATU MARA RD, SUITE 4  
NABUA, SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS**

**504 LINDEN AVE, SAN BRUNO, CA 94066**

**CALL: 650 - 589 - 8658**



OPEN 7 DAYS



TREATMENT



FAST DIAGNOSTICS



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

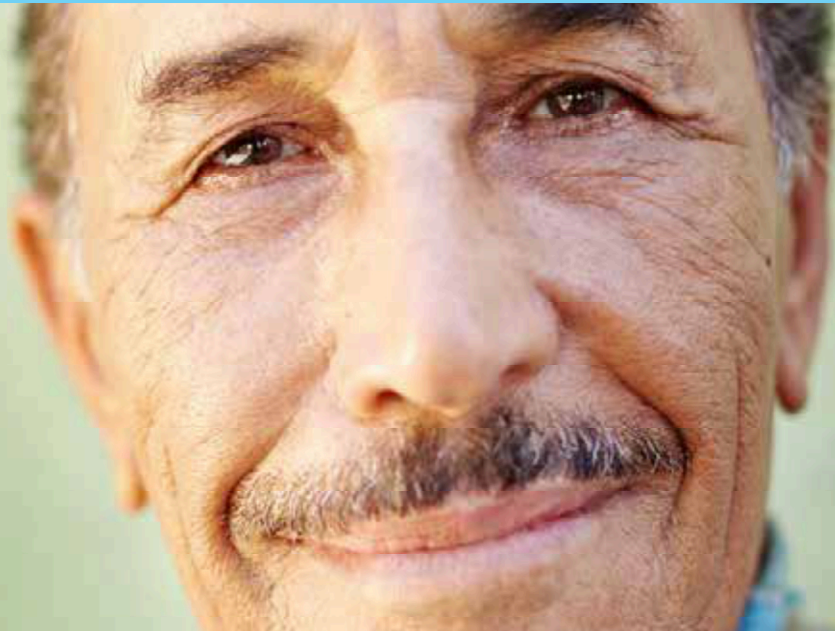


For More Information  
**877-557-7826**  
[www.drugtestingclinic.org](http://www.drugtestingclinic.org)

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!**

**I-877-557-7826**

**WWW.AMERICANHEALTHSERVICES.ORG**

*Take control<sup>®</sup>  
Suboxone & Methadone Treatments can help you get back on track.*



# FAA Orders Grounding of Some Boeing 737 MAX-9 Jets After Emergency Landing

The Federal Aviation Administration said Saturday it will temporarily ground some Boeing 737 Max 9 airplanes used by U.S. airlines after a chunk of a wall appeared to have detached from an Alaska Airlines flight midair.

“The FAA is requiring immediate inspections of certain Boeing 737 Max 9 planes before they can return to flight,” FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker said. “Safety will continue to drive our decision-making as we assist the [National Transportation Safety Board’s] investigation into Alaska Airlines Flight 1282.”

The FAA said it will also ground 737 Max 9 planes that operate in U.S. territory. In total, the order will affect about 171 737 Max 9 airplanes out of 218 worldwide, the FAA said.

The FAA said in a directive that the decision to ground all 737 Max 9 planes stems from “a report of an in-flight departure of a mid cabin doorplug, which resulted in a rapid decompression of the airplane,” referring to the Alaska Airlines incident.

The agency added that it is issuing this directive because of unsafe conditions that could potentially occur in a similar scenario in another aircraft of the same model, including “injury to passengers and crew, the door impacting the airplane, and/or loss of control of the airplane.”

Boeing said it supports the FAA’s decision.

“Safety is our top priority and we deeply regret the impact this event has had on our customers and their passengers,” Boeing said in a statement. “We agree with and fully support the FAA’s decision to require immediate inspections of 737-9 airplanes with the same configuration as the affected airplane.”

A Boeing technical team is supporting the NTSB’s investigation, the statement read.

“We will remain in close contact with our regulator and customers,” Boeing said.

Alaska Airline temporarily grounded all 65 of its 737 Max 9 aircraft Saturday for maintenance and safety inspections. It said a quarter of the inspections were

completed “with no concerning findings” and so far 18 aircraft were cleared to return to service on Saturday. The remaining aircraft inspections are expected to be completed in the next few days.

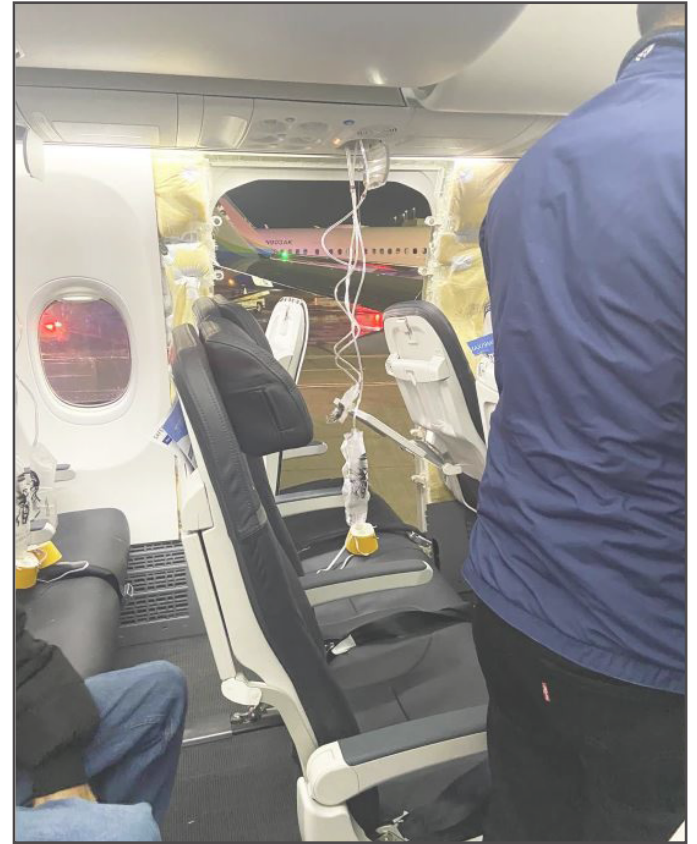
United also temporarily suspended service on select Boeing 737 Max 9 aircraft to conduct an inspection. The removal is expected to cause about 60 cancellations.

‘A loud bang’ Flight 1282, which was bound for Southern California, landed safely at Portland International Airport, Port of Portland spokesperson Allison Ferre said in a statement.

So far, no injuries have been reported among the 174 passengers and six crew members on board, Alaska Airlines said.

The FAA said the plane returned to the airport after “the crew reported a pressurization issue.”

Alaska Airlines described what happened as an “incident.” A photo from a passenger on board showed an entire panel missing from a side of the fuselage, next to a row of seats.



It’s not clear how or when the panel became separated from the passenger jet.

According to FlightAware, an air travel tracking site, the flight took off from Portland at 5:07 p.m. and landed back at Portland at 5:27 p.m.

Alaska said in a statement, “The safety of our guests and employees is always our primary priority, so while this type of occurrence is rare, our flight crew

was trained and prepared to safely manage the situation.”

The flight was destined for Ontario International Airport in San Bernardino County, California.

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg said on X Saturday morning that he has “been briefed on last night’s incident and remain[s] in close contact with FAA on the response.”

## 2 people killed, 9 injured in pileup that closed fog-shrouded I-5 in California



Two people were killed and nine others were injured Saturday in a massive pileup on Interstate 5 in California involving 35 vehicles as thick fog impeded visibility, authorities said.

The deadly pileup occurred on the southbound side of the freeway in Kern County but both sides were closed and traffic was diverted, the California Department of Transportation, known as Caltrans, said on X.

Emergency responders were called around 7:30 a.m. on a col-

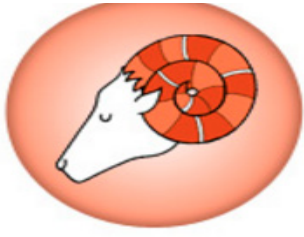
lision report, according to NBC affiliate KGET 17 News in Bakersfield.

Caltrans said the pileup occurred during foggy weather conditions, known in the San Joaquin Valley as Tule fog, which covers the ground in a heavy mist after rain saturates the soil.

Seventeen vehicles and 18 big rigs were involved in the pileup, KBAK reported. Fire department Battalion Chief Jim Calhoun told the station that two people died and nine others were taken to the hospital in unknown conditions.



# HOROSCOPE JANUARY 2024



**Aries**

Mar 21 - Apr 19

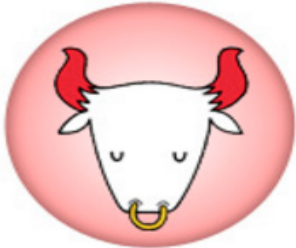
January 2024 horoscope is going to be completely upside down for Aries. You will feel both positive and negative changes in your life related to your personality and work. Aries zodiac sign will be determined to work on themselves and their career which might lead to overdoing things at times. So, it is crucial for you to maintain a balance between your personal life and work. People might mistake your passion for professional development as self-absorption. The best thing to do would be to keep your developments to yourself until your big success.



**Libra**

Sep 23 - Oct 22

As noble as you are for others, it is equally important for you to consider your own emotions. Do not try to suppress everything you are going through just for the sake of others. Sometimes it is crucial to let things out in order to give a peaceful life to yourself and your loved ones. The good news in your Libra January horoscope 2024 is that you might hit a breakthrough at work and reach new heights financially. Your generosity to everyone will be greatly rewarded and god will pave the way for your career development. Keep up with your kind attitude for others and let the good work do the charm for you.



**Taurus**

Apr 20 - May 20

Taureans are usually associated with the planet Venus and are more into materialistic things. However, their inclination for practicality solves it all! Taurus monthly horoscope by date of birth shows that they will have various career options at the beginning of this year. But you need to think and listen to your body before going with a tougher schedule. The best advice for you would be to become more approachable at the workplace and grab the opportunity with your politeness. Friends and relatives will try to bring you down, but you know well how to tackle them. Give zero attention to haters!



**Scorpio**

Oct 23 - Nov 21

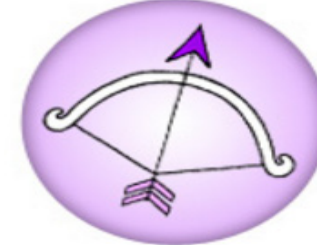
Scorpio's typical behavior is being diplomatic and over-friendly with everyone most of the time. This might bring you in a bad light for most people after some time. Scorpio January horoscope 2024 directs them to lose this facade and go with their own will bluntly. You do not need to wear that fake smile to keep the people around you in delusion. January is the best month for you to take some days off and regain your energy. Also, you need to occupy yourself with something that you totally enjoy. Stop overthinking and the future will not be as hopeless as you're thinking of it right now!



**Gemini**

May 21 - Jun 20

Your stars are not in a great position in your monthly horoscope January 2024. This month will be like walking on the edge for you. You might feel good and positive about your ideas on a professional front, but be ready to face your critique and the unwelcoming attitude of your coworkers. Also, be mindful of your timeless relationship with friends, parents, and other allies. Too much inclination towards your new relationship might lead to differences with your friends. Try to give a little attention to all your close acquaintances. Surprises are totally excluded from your horoscope for January 2024. Nothing unexpected will happen. So, plan things and take actions likewise to favor the results in your favor.



**Sagittarius**

There are many important events in your January horoscope 2024. The love relationship with your partner will boom and conversations with them will be much more fluent and easy. Infact the longtime pending business deals will also kickstart and you might have to travel to places related to the same. However, Sagittarius horoscope for January 2024 might take a U-turn in the middle of the month. You may go through some financial crisis while the support from the family will be limited. So, we suggest plan your savings likewise and rest your habit of overspending in the month of November and December. Apart from that, other areas of your life will have positive changes in January.



**Cancer**

Jun 21 - Jul 22

January horoscope 2024 will totally test your over-sensitive instincts. So, try not to get carried on by the negative comments or backdoor judgment you heard about yourself. None of them defines you and despair isn't the solution for you right now. Stay confident in what you are doing and people will be inspired by your independent decision-making attitude. Also, the good news is that the middle of Cancer January horoscope 2024 seems pretty positive and beneficial. Your family relations will improve, your partner will try to understand your point and communication will be the key for your relieved mind.



**Capricorn**

Dec 22 - Jan 19

Good news is awaiting for the Capricorn January horoscope 2024! The natives can expect a good career start in the middle of the month and their economy also seems stable in the month. You will have many profitable business deals and professional opportunities this month. However, don't forget to take your time, consider all the factors, and make a wise decision while signing a contract. Also, one advice for Capricorn relationship horoscope is to not run back to their past relationships, no matter how tempting it might appear. It will be a reason for a terrible loss in the future.



**Leo**

Jul 23 - Aug 22

Leo's constant urge to stay the center of attention all the time will create a rift between their mind and heart in certain situations this month. So, it will be better for you to not look for reaffirmation from others and instead take the initiative to develop your own self. Leo January horoscope 2024 also shows a bit downfall in their financial graph. You might want to stay on a budget and start saving for a smooth livelihood in January. Other than that, take care of your health and eat food rich in potassium and magnesium.



**Aquarius**

Jan 20 - Feb 18

Aquarians are the romantics by nature. This zodiac sign is usually far from reality and enjoys living in their own delusional world. But don't worry, your flexibility to adapt to the situation and understanding will open new possibilities for you. You can make great business negotiations and form new allies at your workplace. Although you might feel things to be a little slow in your January horoscope 2024 but the end of the month will end in blissfulness and content. Meanwhile, your personal relations will also improve and people will want to clear the air with you.



**Virgo**

Aug 23 - Sep 22

Virgos are associated with Mercury and people born under this zodiac sign are usually the most rational and practical ones. However, general human behavior longs for love and appreciation. But sorry to disappoint you Virgos, expecting pleasing words for your effort might be a mistake this month. Infact, many people will try to bring you down and spread rumors about your poor performance at work. But our astrologers suggest you stay strong and confident. The good things are going to come your way, the very next month. One very important piece of advice for you in this monthly horoscope is not to invest your time in unimportant details about other's life. Instead, try to bring the best out of yourself.



**Pisces**

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Before telling the Pisces monthly horoscope January 2024, a word of advice for these natives: Don't be too submissive and afraid of expressing yourself! You are already at your personal best in pleasing people. Avoid overdoing it. The positioning of your planet suggests the days are going to be hard for you at the beginning of the month but you need not be too harsh on yourself. You need to go out, chill with friends, and avoid overthinking about the things that can't be undone. Otherwise, your mental stress will become a big reason for your bad physical health in the coming months. However, not everything is bad. You can expect a good promotion towards the end of the month.



# A new beginning for Reshni Lata



A story of perseverance and courage...the Reshni Lata outreach.

Just as the world was getting ready to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, I received a call from Dr. Raju, the prior Honorary Consul for Fiji based in South San Francisco. He says that he is aware of a young lady who is a recent migrant from Fiji but due to unfortunate circumstances is now unhoused and sleeping outside somewhere in Hayward California. He wanted me to help her out of her current predicament. It seemed like an impossible task trying to find an individual without an address. Dr. Raju gave me a phone number saying that she may be reachable through this phone number. I managed to locate Reshni and we mutu-

ally decided to meet at a local store on Tennyson Road in Hayward. My heart sank when I saw her condition and her dire need for help.

She told me her name was Reshni Lata and she had arrived in this country recently. She said her husband married her in Fiji, brought her over and then left her. Said she had no family support, so she ended up on the street. Reshni said she was currently sleeping with total strangers next to the train tracks off Tennyson Road in Hayward.

Reshni related how she had been living on the streets and in and out of shelters for more than six months.

I asked her what her immediate needs were. She said that she had not eaten for three days and that she needed a tarp to cover her tempo-

rarily shelter from the winter storms. That her belongings were wet during the recent rains...and a board to lay down on the ground to keep her shelter dry. She mentioned that all her legal documents were stolen, and it was very difficult for her to get help from the authorities. She said she did not want to go back to Fiji and be a burden on her parents and a laughingstock for the family. She wanted to eventually work and support herself and her ailing parents in Fiji. It was getting late in the afternoon, and I decided to buy her a new waterproof tent and gave her some funds to buy food for the night. With Reshni's permission I posted her picture and story on social media. The response was overwhelming. Individuals from Hayward, other parts of

California, Seattle, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji volunteered to help by providing shelter, professional resources and funds for her wellbeing. That same day members of the local community and USAFiji.com came out to offer Reshni their assistance in whichever way possible.

Finally, it was decided to place Reshni with Priscilla Singh of Newark, Ca. Priscilla promised to provide Reshni with food, shelter, psychological counseling, and job placement. Reshni is currently living with Priscilla and slowly getting her life together. She is getting help gathering her legal documents. We wish Reshni all the best and are ready to support her in whatever it takes for a speedy integration.

I received more than 150 calls that day offering help and a few calls requesting help. It is imperative that we set up avenues for support and referrals in our community. Just a contact phone number and a list of available resources in your neighborhood can be a life saver.

Special thanks to Sonal Sharma of USAFiji.org for providing the counseling service and support necessary to place Reshni. Sonal can be reached at (510)9091454.

A big thanks to one and all for reaching out with an offer of help and support. We all make our community proud. Please keep up the kind gesture and always reach out if you or anyone you know is in need of help.

**NEELAM**  
**Pacific Market & Fashion San Bruno**  
 492 - 494 San Mateo Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066 PH. (650) 583-5024  
**GENERAL GROCERY OUTLET** Indian, Pakistan, Fijian, Tongan Groceries





# 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



## 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

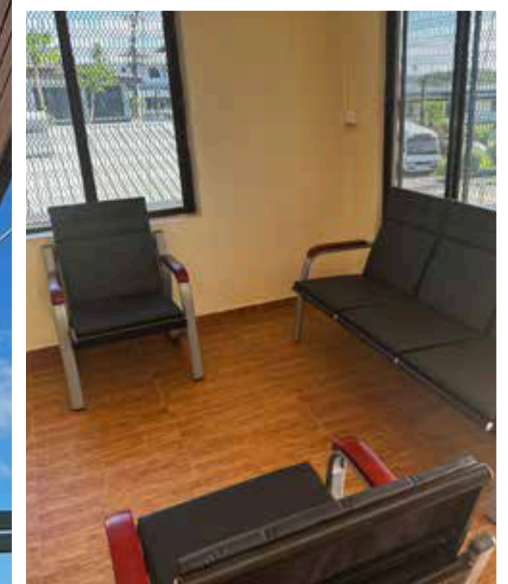
23839 Connecticut Street, Unit 4  
Hayward CA 94545





**KUMAR VACATION**  
**HOME**  
— — — — —  
Lot 38 Kennedy Avenue

**US \$115 per night**  
**3 bedroom 1 bathrooms**  
**3 bedroom s 2 bathrooms**





# Income Tax Preparation

Reliable \* Professional\* Confidential

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE BUSINESS EVALUATION.

## Accurate Accounting Service

650.630.0057 tel 916.897.8791 tel

*Serving the Bay Area and Sacramento*

[www.accurate-accounts.com](http://www.accurate-accounts.com)

### Advertise In

**THE US FIJI TIMES**

Call

510-931-9107

[WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG](http://WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG)



  
**CARING IS AN ART**  
*Crafting moments of care and warmth always.*



# Gardi Sugdub: The Americas' disappearing island



For more than 100 years, the Indigenous Guna people have lived on a tiny Caribbean island. Now, they're poised to become some of the Americas' first climate change refugees. Set some 1,200m off Panama's northern coast in the San Blas archipelago, the tiny Caribbean island of Gardi Sugdub (sometimes written Cartí Sugdub) is home to nearly 1,300 members of the Indigenous Guna community. After surviving Spanish colonisation in the early 1500s, it is believed that a combination of factors (including disease, venomous snakes and clashes with other Indigenous groups) led the Guna to settle along a series of 49 islands as well as a strip of coastline in what is now the Guna Yala autonomous region in the 19th Century.

But after inhabiting this 400m-by-150m island for more than 100 years, Gardi Sugdub's residents will soon be forced to abandon their island home – and that's because the island may soon disappear under the sea.

Since the 1990s, residents on the densely packed island have noticed that their thatched- and tin-roof homes are flooding more and more, especially during the November-to-February rainy season. According to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the sea around Gardi Sugdub is now rising 3.4mm per year (more than double the rate during the 1960s). Since most of the Guna-inhabited islands lie only 0.5m to 1m above the water, "it is almost certain that all the islands will have to be abandoned by 2100," said Steve Paton, the director of the Institute's oceanographic monitoring programme.

As sea levels continue to rise, the same ocean that has historically helped to preserve the Guna's culture, language and colourful mola clothing is

threatening its very survival. Yet, unlike other Guna communities affected by climate change, the residents of Gardi Sugdub have a plan. In 2010, the island's leaders began working with the Panamanian government to develop a new village on the mainland from which they once fled. Known as Isber Yala, the planned community is being built by the islanders on land they already own. At first glance, Isber Yala couldn't be more different from Gardi Sugdub: instead of tightly packed wooden and metal houses facing the sea, the new community is comprised of prefabricated concrete homes set several kilometres from the ocean. Families are scheduled to begin relocating from the island to the new community in February 2024, and when they do, the Guna will be among the first climate refugees in the Americas. The 365 islands that comprise the San Blas archipelago are renowned for their beauty and are mostly uninhabited. Gardi Sugdub is by far the most densely populated of the 38 islands and 11 mainland communities where the Guna live. To reach Gardi Sugdub (whose name means Crab Island in the native Guna language), you can either drive 110km north-east from Panama City to the coastal settlement of Cartí or take a short flight to the Cartí airport. From there, the only way to arrive on the island is via a boat-taxi operated by local Guna members, which operate every few hours. Whether building dug-out canoes to fish in the surrounding sea or paddling to the mainland to harvest building materials, the Guna have developed a unique cultural identity that's inextricably linked to their environment. According to Blas López, one of the community leaders involved in the construction of Isber

Yala, being evacuated from Gardi Sugdub could disrupt the islanders' culture. "Now, after [hundreds of] years, the community of [Gardi] Sugdub is going to move and this will have an impact on them, so a process of adaptation will be necessary for the people in this new environment," he said.

When Panama gained its independence from Colombia in 1903, the Guna (who had historically straddled the Colombia-Panama border) were divided and Panama's nascent government embarked on a campaign to "civilise" the Guna. The forced assimilation was intended to rid the Guna of their language, dress and traditions, but the Guna resisted. This resistance culminated on 25 February 1925 when the Guna declared their independence. Though this revolution, known as La Revolución Dule ("The Dule Revolution", referring to the word the Guna use to call themselves: "Dule" or "People") barely lasted a week, it initiated a peace agreement that allowed the Guna to maintain their traditions and granted them a level of political autonomy they enjoy to this day. One of the most important elements of this autonomy is the saila (a political and religious leader) who oversees each Guna village from a Congress House. "The Congress House, called Onmaket Nega in the Guna language, is a fundamental element for our community. It has enormous cultural value and is [where] the population is summoned to discuss social and community problems. It also has a fundamental spiritual and Indigenous worldview, since this is where the saila transmits all [Guna] ancestral knowledge through songs," said López. "It is a place where harmony with nature is taught, with the sea, the forests and all the elements that make up us [Guna] as an Indigenous community." The Guna inhabiting the San Blas archipelago have historically made their livelihoods off fishing – and were even known to provide seafood to some of the finest restaurants in Panama City. But in recent years, as access to the Pan-American highway has improved, rising sea level and overcrowding on Gardi Sugdub has intensified and the destruction of nearby coral

reefs has accelerated, fishing has become more challenging. As a result, many islanders have turned to tourism. Some now transport tourists with their taxi-boats from the mainland to Gardi Sugdub and other nearby islands, while others have opened small restaurants and modest lodgings on nearby islands where tourists can stay overnight surrounded by idyllic landscapes. There is even a tiny museum on Gardi Sugdub dedicated to Guna culture. Traditional Guna clothing is quite striking, especially in the case of women who wear traditional garments called molas whose vibrant prints are inspired by the flowers, birds, reptiles and plants that inhabit the Guna Yala region. According to some historians, molas come from an earlier time when the Guna painted their bodies to scare away spirits. This paint completely covered one's front, back and sides, because the Guna believe that the Universe is made up of different levels in which there is no empty space. It usually takes between 60 and 80 hours to hand-sew each cotton mola, and the reverse applique method of layering each design is traditionally taught by mothers to daughters. Since the Panamanian government actively tried to eradicate molas prior to The Dule Revolution, they remain an important symbol of the Guna's identity and autonomy. "I have been quite affected by the rise in sea levels because I live near the water, so every time the tide rises, the water enters my home," said Magdalena Martínez, who owns a small convenience store on Gardi Sugdub. "This is something that has always happened here, but recently it has been occurring in a much more violent way." Rising sea levels isn't the only reason Gardi Sugdub is becoming uninhabitable. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, the island was nearly half its current size when it was first settled, but over the years residents have taken the surrounding coral reefs, garbage, rocks and cement blocks to expand the landmass. While this "filling" practice has helped create more space on the island (whose highest point is just 1m above the sea) the destruction of the coral reefs that histori-

cally buffered it from storms has also left it more susceptible to erosion and flooding. Furthermore, since there is no proper sewage system, most human waste ends up in the ocean, which causes diseases for those who swim in it. Despite years of "filling", Gardi Sugdub now faces a huge population density problem, as it has become impossible to build more houses. Hygienic and sanitary conditions are also poor as the island doesn't have reliable access to clean water. An underwater water pipe reaches Gardi Sugdub, but it frequently runs dry, leaving residents to paddle to a river on the mainland to get fresh water. And while some residents proposed relocating the community to a larger nearby island, studies have shown that rising sea levels are affecting the entire archipelago to such an extent that by 2050, scientists believe many others near Gardi Sugdub won't be inhabitable. "We are all affected in one way or another by the rise in sea level, because every time it rains and the sea level rises, our house looks like a swimming pool and we sleep on top of that pool. For the future of the community, it is better for us to move inland, although in my opinion, I don't know if that is going to be the solution because in a few years the water may even reach the new community. Furthermore, I also believe that this is a problem that not only affects our community, but also affects the entire Guna Yala región," said Dalys Morris, a schoolteacher on Gardi Sugdub.

After years of delays, Isber Yala's 300 homes are finally expected to be completed in February 2024, at which point families are supposed to begin evacuating the island. According to López, there is still a lot of work to do – including creating a water sanitation system – and he remains sceptical that Isber Yala will be inhabitable next month. Still, with each prefabricated house designed to have electricity and access to clean drinking water, and the community equipped with a health centre and a brand-new Congress House, Isber Yala could provide the residents of Gardi Sugdub the one thing they currently lack: a secure future.





*Fiji's  
Finest  
Water*



**Recognised for our  
International Excellence**

We have been participating in The International Taste & Quality Institute awards since 2005 making us the first company from Fiji. Amongst a crowded field of competitors we have consistently enjoyed ITQI's highest award - the 3 star Superior Taste Award.

Now Bestowed with a Diamond Award status which recognises our regular and consistent attainment of 3 Star Superior Taste Award.





# The 16-year-old who's become the U.K.'s unlikely sports icon



Teenage darts sensation Luke Littler said he would prepare for Wednesday's final the way he normally does for any match, by eating a ham-and-cheese omelette followed by a pizza.

He is only 16. But Luke Littler has risen to sudden stardom in Britain with an unlikely run that has him on the verge of a world title.

Littler has become a sensation after making it into the World Darts Championship final as an unseeded player. Millions will be tuning in Wednesday to watch his bid to become the youngest winner of the sport's most prestigious competition. The teenager — who goes by "Luke TheNuke Littler" on Instagram, where he has

amassed a following of more than 500,000 — has outclassed world champions on his way to the final, winning the hearts of raucous crowds at London's Alexandra Palace and viewers across the country over the holiday period.

"No words! Crazy to think I'm in a World Championship final in my debut," Littler told NBC's U.K. partner network Sky Sports after his semifinal win against 2018 champion Rob Cross on Tuesday. "I was happy winning one game but I could go all the way!"

Littler's fairy-tale ascent from youth world champion to the cusp of the senior title has transcended the world of darts, winning him fans and celebrity admirers across the

U.K., with the British media dubbing him a "prodigy" on front pages.

English soccer stars have asked him to pose for photos, and a British prostate cancer charity celebrated Littler for wearing its logo on his shirt throughout the tournament and spreading awareness.

But due to his age, little is known about the teen, and he has admitted that media attention is very new to him. The Professional Darts Corporation, or PDC, lists Littler on its website as born in 2007 and from the town of Warrington, in northern England.

Last week Littler, who was number 164 in the PDC rankings, shared a video of himself playing darts at 18-months-

old, while still wearing a diaper.

"It's completely unprecedented," British darts commentator Rod Studd told NBC News. "What normally happens in darts is people develop their skill, develop their ability to play on big stages in front of TV cameras and huge crowds, and it takes a lot of time."

But Littler managed to take the biggest stage in darts by storm.

"People knew that Luke Littler was a promising talent and possibly a prodigiously promising talent," Studd said. "He won the World Youth Championship earlier this year. But that's a big step from what's happening in the world championship against seasoned professional players that have won big tournaments many, many times."

Match after match, Littler has performed at "stratospheric levels" usually seen from established elite-level players, Studd said, with supreme confidence where "nothing appears to bother him" under pressure.

"It's as if he is throwing darts in his own lounge room," he said. "This boy is making this look so effortlessly easy."

Littler's combination of confidence, accuracy and style has won him an army of fans, Studd said, who may not have even known him just weeks ago when the tournament kicked off.

A former junior coach told British public broadcaster the

BBC on Wednesday that he recognized Littler's talent before he was 11. "I'd say he's the Ronaldo of darts," Karl Holden said. "He is a freak of nature."

If he wins Wednesday, Littler will become the youngest world champion in PDC history, Studd said, with Dutch player Michael van Gerwen winning the title at age 24 in 2014.

"Twenty-four was considered young, so 16 is just beyond belief," he added.

The teenager told Sky Sports he will prepare for the final the way he does for any match, namely by eating a ham-and-cheese omelet in the morning, followed by a pizza and then practice later in the day. He has also told the BBC that he loves to celebrate his wins with a good kebab.

He will face fellow English player Luke Humphries in Wednesday's final, where they will compete for a 500,000-pound (\$631,000) prize. Littler has already guaranteed himself a minimum of 200,000 pounds (\$252,000) in prize money, according to the PDC.

Humphries said ahead of the match that he thought Littler was "scarily good" when he played him when Littler was just 12 years old.

"He has shown that he is the real deal and regardless of what happens tomorrow, he has got a massive bright future," Humphries said Tuesday.

## Fifa rankings: Women's World Cup winners Spain reach top spot

Women's World Cup winners Spain have reached the top of the Fifa rankings for the first time as England remain fourth.

Spain beat England 1-0 in the World Cup final in August and become the fourth team to hold the top spot.

Previous leaders Sweden drop to fifth, with the USA up one spot to second and France climbing two into third.

Scotland slide two places to 25th with Wales dropping

three spots to 32nd, while Northern Ireland are 46th.

Germany, the Netherlands and Japan hold on to their places in sixth, seventh and eighth respectively, with North Korea sitting ninth and Canada completing the top 10.

Brazil, who failed to get out of the group stage at this year's World Cup for the first time since 1995, lose their place in the top 10 after falling two places to 11th.



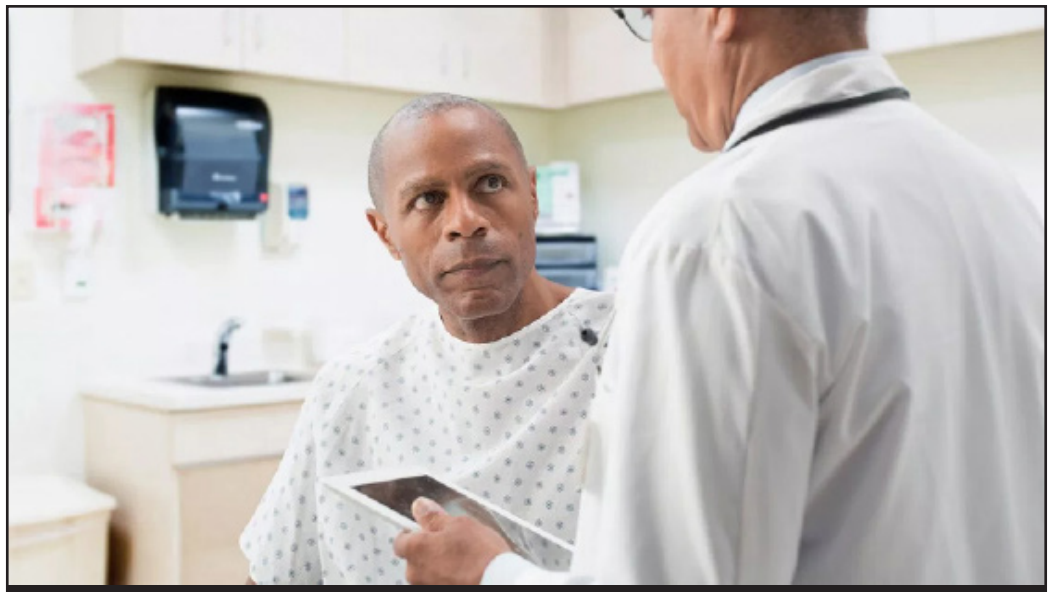


## Health News

# Some People with Diabetes Are Turning to DIY Devices. It's a Bad Idea

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers against using unapproved devices for managing diabetes because of the risk of serious adverse health effects. The announcement comes in response to an incident in which a patient suffered an insulin overdose after using one such device. "By using products that have not been reviewed by the agency for safety and effectiveness, patients with diabetes may be putting themselves at risk for serious injury or even death," said Dr. Jeff Shuren, JD, director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health, in a statement. Trusted Source Despite the apparent risks, unapproved devices may appear attractive to some people because of the cost or availability of FDA-approved devices. What are these devices for? Diabetes management devices include multiple systems that can work in concert with one another to monitor blood glucose and deliver insulin to the bloodstream. A continuous glucose monitoring system uses data from a sensor embedded under the skin to track glucose levels. An insulin pump is attached to the skin and delivers insulin into the bloodstream via a catheter. An automated insulin dosing system is designed to do both:

measure glucose from a monitoring system and automatically appropriate doses of insulin. In some cases, devices for managing diabetes are only designed to work together as a whole system; in other cases parts are designed so that they can essentially be swapped out for other approved parts — known as "interoperability." DIY diabetes devices The FDA authorized the first-ever interoperable insulin pump in February 2019 Trusted Source. The agency has stated that these devices give people greater freedom to "tailor their diabetes management to their individual device preferences." However, the FDA warns that unapproved versions of these devices can be dangerous even if used within approved systems. The market for unapproved interoperable devices — where parts claim they can be added to approved devices, but have not been vetted — has also led to a scenario in which some patients are creating their own ad hoc diabetes management systems by wiring together in a chain interoperable parts and systems. These do-it-yourself (DIY) systems use an insulin pump, continuous glucose monitor (CGM), and insulin dosing algorithm to create a closed-loop system similar to that of the current FDA approved systems,



Dr. Kevin Pantalone, DO, an endocrinologist at Cleveland Clinic, told Healthline. However, diabetes management devices rely on complex algorithms to convert blood glucose data received from the sensor into values that are readable by insulin dosing devices. Pairing different devices together can therefore result in inaccurate and potentially dangerous doses of insulin. "There are numerous algorithms and devices out there that can be paired by patients to develop a DIY system. This is a concern, as these algorithms and pairings have not been studied in controlled trials, so their effectiveness and more importantly their safety, are largely unknown and

based on anecdotal experiences," Pantalone said. In a safety communication issued by the FDA, it warned that use of these devices can result in complications that may require medical intervention or hospitalization including low blood sugar, coma, diabetic ketoacidosis, and death. This is not the first time the FDA has warned people with diabetes about unapproved or "gray market" products for managing the condition. In April 2019, the agency issued a statement Trusted Source discouraging consumers from purchasing pre-owned test strips or unapproved test strips for blood glucose monitoring. The agency found that unapproved test strips were frequently sold

through online marketplaces including Amazon, eBay, and Craigslist. But the FDA was less forthcoming in their new warning about where people were able to purchase unapproved diabetes management devices. In an email to Healthline, a spokesperson for the FDA declined to comment further on the names of any brands, parts, manufacturers, or vendors of the unauthorized devices, explaining that the FDA does not comment on specific companies. The spokesperson also declined to comment on where the unauthorized devices are coming from and whether they were being imported or manufactured domestically.

## Common Diet Supplement May Help with Heart Health

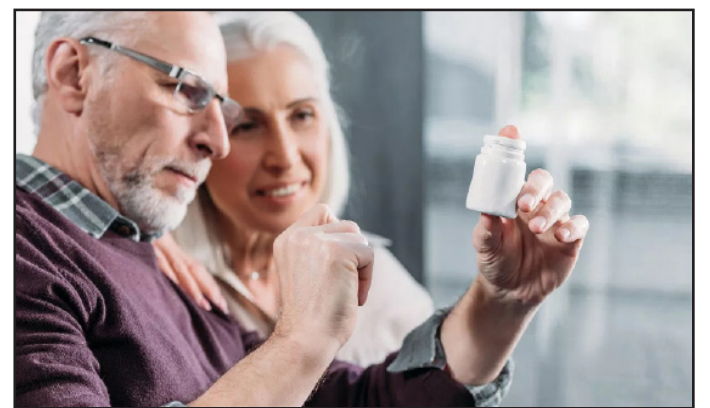
A popular and widely used dietary supplement for joint pain could also be beneficial for your heart. According to new research Trusted Source published in *The BMJ*, habitual use of the supplement glucosamine was found to be associated with a significantly lower risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and its more severe consequences like stroke. However, researchers point out that despite this association, their work doesn't establish a causal link between glucosamine and better CVD outcomes. "Our study suggests a potential new beneficial effect of glucosamine on cardiovascular health. The practical implication would be upon further evidence from future studies,

such as clinical trials, that verify such effects as causal," said Dr. Lu Qi, a professor in the department of epidemiology at Tulane University and one of the study's authors. Nonetheless, the data from the study is robust. Glucosamine and a potentially healthier heart? Using national health resources in the United Kingdom, Qi and his colleagues looked at results of nearly a half-million people. Individuals reported supplement use and were followed, in some cases, up to 10 years. During that time any events related to CVD were recorded. None of the study participants had CVD at the start of the study. During the follow-up time, those who reported using glucosamine had

a 15 percent lower overall risk of CVD events. It was further associated with a 9 to 22 percent lower risk of CVD death, coronary heart disease, and stroke, compared to nonusers. Other experts say that the results look promising, but more work needs to be done to establish a mechanism for glucosamine's potential benefits for heart health. "The event reduction effects attributed to glucosamine will need to be proven in a randomized control study looking at a specific dose, specific formulation, and regimen," said Dr. Guy L. Mintz, director of cardiovascular health and lipidology at Sandra Atlas Bass Heart Hospital in Manhasset, New York. "I think this is a promising

first step in looking for another tool to reduce cardiovascular events." Mintz wasn't affiliated with the study. This isn't the first study to take note of glucosamine's beneficial relationship with CVD. Its results are in line with an Australian study from 2012 Trusted Source

of 266,848 adults 45 years and older. Researchers found a negative association between taking glucosamine, heart disease, and other cardiovascular conditions. The authors of that study noted that this "revealing" finding warranted further investigation.







# STONE UNIVERSE INC. NATURAL STONE

Natural Stone, Porcelain Pavers, Travertine & Much More!



## About Stone Universe

Stone Universe Inc being a Wholesaler Supplier of Natural Stone defines the style in Landscaping and Hardscaping industry since 1999. We carry trend-setting Natural Stone from India & other countries, Porcelain Paver from Spain and Travertine collection from Turkey. Our motive is to fetch the people with the customized product range where quality speaks itself & rates are highly affordable.

## Get in touch

📍 North California | South California | Washington | Maryland | Texas | Wisconsin



Call :- 510-278-8303  
Fax :- 510-278-8606  
[www.suistone.com](http://www.suistone.com)

## Our Product Line

- Pool Coping
- Paver Flooring
- Flagstone
- Slab
- Step
- Pebbles
- Thin Veneer
- Stepping Stones
- Ledgestone
- Cobblestones
- Cap Stone
- Porcelain paver





# Nathan Singh to hang his gloves after boxing in 2024 and plans to become a nutritionist



Fiji boxer Nathan Singh has announced his retirement from boxing after this year and plans

to shift his focus to building his career as a nutritionist.

He says there's life after boxing and he has seen boxers today having nothing and are still trying to build their houses as they are in their 30s and 50s and are struggling to live a stable life. He says his family understands that there's life after boxing and is supporting him as he focuses on his business with his wife and 2 children and has chosen a path of becoming a nutritionist.

Singh says he has been boxing for almost 20 years now and has been focused on doing the same thing over and over again and now wants to switch to where he can make money and have a good career.

He says ever since he started his boxing career he was not interested in fighting for the

Fiji belts as he believes it has no value.

He further says before his retirement his local fights will be against Mohammad Ali in March, Mikael Ravolaca, and Ratu Rakuro Daunivavana.

He says he has fought more quality opponents than anyone has in Fiji and even though he does not have any belts in terms of rating, other boxers may not match his boxing abilities where his elder brother has also inspired him.

Singh says he wants to help boxers get out of poverty and will train the youths in the academy and work as a nutritionist.

The Singh and Ali bout is set for the 2nd of March at the FMF Gymnasium in Suva under the Bluewater Boxing Promotions.

# Nigel Khan is new Suva coach : Cava and Rabo named as assistant coaches

Former Rewa and Tailevu Naitasiri mentor Nigel Khan will lead Suva football as its new head coach. Suva FA has a panel of coaches led by Khan and is joined by former Whites and national players Inosi Cava and Pita Rabo. "Nigel has coached Rewa

and Tailevu Naitasiri and he brings a wealth of experience. I can say most of the top Rewa players were coached by him. He is the head coach of Suva, and a businessman as well," Suva football president Intiaz Khan stated.

"We have a panel so he will be as-

sisted by Inosi and Pita. They will stand on the sideline when Khan is not around. If all three are unavailable, then I will stand there and coach the team myself.

"They will be looking after the main team along with our development officer who is running our

under-19 team as of last year plus our team manager and director who will look after player welfare."

Coach Nigel Khan will have his first training run with the Suva teams on Saturday at the University of the South Pacific ground in Laucala Bay.





# COPD Tends to Hit Women Harder Than It Does Men

Women with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) experience worse symptoms than men with the same condition. The big question now facing medical professionals is why. Researchers have found women living with COPD report a lower quality of life than men with the disease, despite also reporting smoking fewer cigarettes. The findings are scheduled to be presented at the American Thoracic Society's international conference in Dallas this week. "Women with COPD experienced increased symptom burden, poorer quality of life, more frequent exacerbations, and more impaired functional status than their male counterparts," Dr. MeiLan Han, author of the study and a professor of internal medicine in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Michigan Health System, told Healthline. COPD is a term used to describe a number of progressive lung diseases, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and nonreversible asthma. Common symptoms include shortness of breath, wheezing, frequent coughing, and tightness in the chest. COPD is a progressive disease with no known cure. In the United States, more than 11 million people have COPD, but experts say millions more are likely living with the disease without realizing it. Many may dismiss shortness of breath or a cough as just part of getting older, but experts say it can be a sign of something more serious. "COPD can significantly impact quality of life. Patients with more advanced COPD struggle to breathe and experience a sensation of air hunger. Patients may be limited in their activities of daily living, and even leaving their home can be a challenge. Sleep quality is impaired in patients with COPD, and daytime energy levels are decreased," Dr. Gaurav Singh, a clinical assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Stanford University, told Healthline. COPD is the third-leading cause of death from disease in the United States. Women are more likely to die from COPD than men.

"Women are more susceptible and more vulnerable than men with regard to COPD. Faster decline in lung function with more severe airflow limitation, as well as increased symptom burden related to COPD in women compared to men, has been reported in other studies. Compared to men, women experience more shortness of breath, more depression and anxiety, and lower quality of life," Singh said. Women more affected by COPD The research presented this week shows that women are more likely to report lower quality of life than men living with the same condition. Dr. May-Lin Wilgus, a co-author of the study and assistant clinical professor in the division of pulmonary and critical care at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, says this is in keeping with what she sees in her own practice. "Women are

an assistant professor in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of California Davis School of Medicine, says COPD can significantly affect patient mood. "One of my colleagues refers to this as 'death by armchair,' as the impaired pulmonary function leads to the patients not being able to do activities of daily living and normal activities that give them pleasure. As their disease progresses, their ability to interact with the world around them decreases, and hence their mood is negatively affected," Kuhn told Healthline. The impact of smoking The main cause of COPD in the United States is smoking, with about 90 percent of COPD cases attributable to cigarettes. Despite this, women with COPD report smoking less than men with the same disease. Experts say this may be because tobacco smoke affects women more severely than

genetic factors that determine how women's bodies react to and metabolize cigarette smoke may also be responsible," Singh said. "The fact that women develop COPD with less smoking than men suggests that women are more susceptible to developing COPD. This has been confirmed in several studies, with women being about 50 percent more likely to develop COPD than men. "Women experience greater decline in lung function, resulting in more severe airflow limitation, compared to men, even with a less extensive history of smoking cigarettes," he added. powered by Rubicon Project Not just men Historically, COPD was predominantly considered to be a disease of older men. In the late 1960s, tobacco companies began targeting women, and as a result, more women began smoking. Despite more women presenting with symptoms that could

typically also have more exposure to indoor air pollution from biofuel exposure during cooking in developing countries. Women tend to be diagnosed with COPD at a more advanced stage compared to men, due to biased views that COPD is more common in men. Awareness of the increased prevalence of COPD and adverse outcomes due to COPD in women, which now surpass rates in men, is essential," he said. Given the potential bias against women receiving diagnoses of the disease, Wilgus says patients, particularly smokers, should be proactive in speaking with their doctor. "The symptoms of COPD can develop even decades after quitting smoking. Any current or former smokers who experience breathlessness, cough, or wheeze should be checked for COPD by their physicians, which generally includes a breathing test called



attuned to their symptoms and tend to seek medical care when symptomatic. In addition, women with COPD are more likely to have comorbid anxiety and depression as compared to men with COPD, which may affect perception of COPD respiratory symptoms," Wilgus told Healthline. Dr. Brooks Thomas Kuhn,

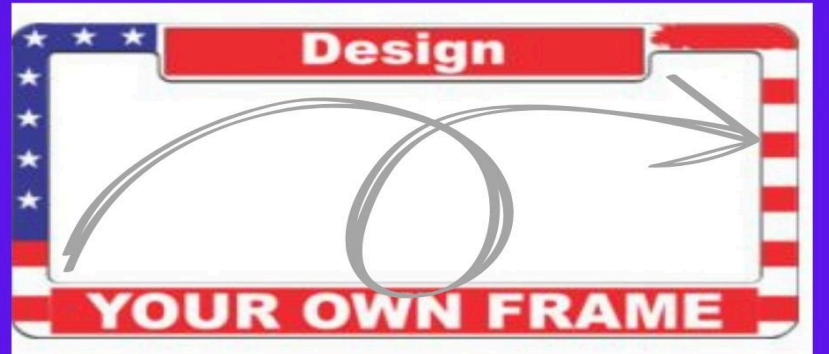
men. "Women are thought to be more susceptible to the effects of tobacco smoke. While the reasons for this are unknown, some theories suggest that this may be due to women having smaller airways than men on average, which results in exposure to smoke at higher concentrations. Other biologic and

be attributed to COPD, experts say many physicians still hold biased views that it's a man's disease. "Smoking rates have increased in women over the past several decades, while they have declined in men. This is likely an important reason that COPD is now more common in women," Singh said. "Women

spirometry. "Previous studies have shown that women may be less likely than men to be diagnosed with COPD or tested with spirometry due to physician bias, despite presenting with similar symptoms; hopefully this will continue to change as we increase awareness about COPD in women," Wilgus said.



# CUSTOM LICENCE PLATE FRAMES



LICENCES FRAMES COME IN A SET OF 2. YOU CHOOSE WHAT YOU NEED ON YOUR PLATE FRAME

**CONTACT: RAYHAN**  
**PHONE: 707-595-0934**

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
**\$25**  
**PAIR**

**FIJI SEVENS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2024**

*Sand Canyon Country Club  
Santa Clarita*

**LOS ANGELES**

**FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March 8 am**

Entry Fees: \$145 includes Skins Gross, Net Prizes & Dinner

*Entry Closes FEBRUARY 18th 5 pm*

**Venmo your Fees: FIJI GOLF CLUB - PRAMESH SHARMA**



# SEATTLE BARBARIANS PRIME TIME AWARDS NIGHT



On Saturday, December 16th, the Seattle Barbarians Rugby club based out of Seattle, Washington hosted their first ever Prime Time Awards Night event in which they showcased a multitude of awards and musical entertainments with DJ Luce Screwz himself and Polynesian Cultural Center's top Emcee, Telesia Tonga, to help celebrate the

event and first year together. The night was filled with dancing, laughter and victorious fun from all those who attended as they entered through a red-carpet and photobooth entrance with various island cuisines to enjoy. This team was established back in December of 2022, when Fiji's once soccer sensation, Akuila Rova, announced his presidency

and curation of the team. Since then, the team has showcased their amazing achievements in securing the #1 seed for the Pacific Northwest Region within their first year together. They have also displayed their involvement within the community realm by assisting students from all over towards higher education goals along with financial help, feeding the home-

less, and much more. Thus, with the help of Emcee, Telesia Tonga, the Seattle Barbarians President Akuila Rova presented awards to the following players: Best Forward Player of the Year to Levi Penter, Best Backline Player of the Year to Mika Setafene, Best Rookie of the Year to Darien Sasaki, and lastly the Most Valuable Player of the Year to Penisoni Leua.

Additionally, the Seattle Barbarians Rugby would like the opportunity to express their utmost gratitude to all their dedicated supporters, families, donators, players, officials, and sponsors who have supported them throughout their first year together alongside this event successfully. The team recognizes the support and cannot wait to "Raise the Bar" again this year!





# Fly Travel

Get the best deals

**Vijay Maharaj**  
**916 548 4956**

**BEST DEALS ON  
AIRFARES TO INDIA,  
FIJI, AUSTRALIA, NEW  
ZEALAND**

**PRIVATE GUIDED  
TOUR TO INDIA**



**(916) 548 4956 (VIJAY)**  
**(510) 461 9282 (PUSHPA RAM)**



**maharajvijay@hotmail.com**



**7000, Franklin Blvd. 100 Suite  
190, Sacramento, CA 95823**



## Tyrrell Hatton in contention despite travel woes and body aches

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Tyrrell Hatton being in tournament contention has become routine over the past five years, but his name atop The Sentry's leaderboards this week is somewhat surprising considering his troubles getting here.

Hatton took the clubhouse lead early Friday thanks to an 11-under 62, a career-best score for the Englishman. It was highlighted by a 30 on the back and an eagle at the 18th. Hatton is normally hard on himself, even in success, but he agreed it was a special display ... mostly because he feels like hell from this trip.

"If I'm being honest, body didn't feel great, and tee to green wasn't, didn't feel amazing," Hatton said Friday at the Plantation course. "I had a mad day on the greens. Every putt I seemed to look at went in, which is a nice feeling."

Hatton explained his body was feeling stiff, which sounds pretty generic and doesn't exactly help the "Are golfers athletes?" argument.

But Hatton has a reasonable excuse for being banged up, his trip from England to Hawaii taking close to 26 hours door-to-door, which included some wait time on the runway thanks to mechanical issues.

"Heathrow [airport] to L.A., then we had a three-hour stop over in L.A., sat on that plane for 90 minutes," Hatton explained, "so you have to get off that plane, wait another hour and a half to get on another plane. Then you fly from L.A. here and land, yeah, about four hours later or three hours later than you had planned."

Not helping matters was that Hatton admittedly is not in the best of shape following the holidays. "I wouldn't say I looked after myself in the December period, maybe that played a part," Hatton said, smiling. "Yeah, so body hasn't been moving well. I'm sure if you had seen some flight tracers of some of my tee shots you would be disgusted."

Hatton is being a tad hard



on himself, as he still had a positive SG/approach figure on the afternoon. However, he beat his Round 1 score by seven shots, thanks to his putting, gaining more than 3.4 strokes on the green Friday. That didn't account for a 97-foot putt he dropped just off the putting surface on 18, allowing Hatton to finish five under on his final four holes. "I guess it shows how

much of a stupid game it is," Hatton said. "Obviously, I putted amazing today, that's the big thing for how my score ended up as low as it was. Yeah, with how bad my body felt, I'm surprised that, going out this morning, that score was just not even entering my mind."

It will be interesting to see how Hatton fares this weekend now that he's loosened

up. The feeling may be short-lived, though. After playing down the road at the Sony Open next week, he's making the trip to Dubai, then to Orlando before heading to California for the West Coast Swing.

"I mean, I'm a plank of wood as it is, by the end of that trip it's going to be brutal," Hatton said.

## Fashion report card: Hawaiian-shirt Viktor Hovland returns, Jason Day debuts funky pants and more at The Sentry



New PGA TOUR season, old styles.

The 2024 season kicked off from The Sentry as part of Opening Drive, the PGA

TOUR's two-week celebration in the Aloha State. And the opening outfits might bring back some memories.

Traditionally, players gravi-

tate toward tropical print at The Sentry. Sometimes they've taken it a step further. Who can forget how J.J. Spaun, 2022 Valero Texas Open champion, divided the

golf world wearing an untucked, floral button-down Aloha shirt at the 2023 edition of the tournament?

Or let's go even further back memory lane to the original Kapalua un-tucker, a 29-year-old Rickie Fowler — a tropical print aficionado in his own right — who had critics rearing in the 2018 edition of the tournament. "It's very Maui," Fowler said at the time. This year, the Sentry Insurance Foundation is donating \$1,000 per Aloha-themed clothing item (hat, shirt, pants, shoes) in Round 2 to fundraising efforts towards relief for the Aug. 8 Maui fires. Within the print lies a purpose.

So grab a red marker and take a seat at your desk. It's time

to hand out some style grades. Jordan Spieth donned his signature Under Armour blue, peppered with red hibiscus flowers. Sepp Straka, wearing Mizzen+Main, and Justin Rose, clad in Peter Millar, assisted in covering the spectrum of blues.

Hawaiian shirt-clad Viktor Hovland is back and better than ever. He added to the legend of his first-round Masters look with an eye-catching tropical coral J. Lindeberg polo. Akshay Bhatia joined him in tackling the flamboyant colors in a Greyson Clothiers tropical print complemented by navy pants and a snakeskin belt



# Raiwalui: World Cup to impact Fiji rugby

Former Flying Fijians coach Simon Raiwalui believed the impact of their Rugby World Cup outing was huge for Fiji in pushing 15s rugby.

Raiwalui said the sport had grown in both the men's and women's space, something Fiji Rugby wanted to do for quite a while.

The interests from players piqued since the rise of the Swire Shipping Fijian Drua in the Shop N Save Super Rugby Pacific as well as the Rooster Chicken Fijian Drua Women in Rugby Australia's Super W competition.

This was pushed into the space they wanted with the Flying Fijians performance at the 2023 world cup, beating tier one teams in Australia as well as England during the build-up campaign.

Reaching the quarterfinal after 16 years gave 15s rugby an extra push.

"Obviously 7s is huge and we are trying to get 15s into

that same space. I think all men and women now is into that (15s space). They want to play the sport as the game is growing at a huge rate for both men and women so it's a huge opportunity for younger players coming through to come forward and play for the Drua or look for opportunities overseas," the former lock stated.

"Beating the Wallabies was the highlight for me. We really came into the world cup knowing that we had a tough start with Wales, the Wallabies and we really targeted those two games. Unfortunately, we didn't get the win against Wales but I'm really proud that we got the win against the Wallabies."

The former Fiji Rugby Union general manager of the high performance unit added now teams know that Fiji can find the balance in flair, structure and physicality.

"I think we really wanted to concentrate on when team's attack us, there were set-piece,



discipline, and fitness so our focus was around brutality and bringing the old school back, we've always been physical as a team, physical as a player but

it was getting the structure and being able to do it consistently throughout the match. What really helped us was being able to compete at a level with those

teams and think those we played against would say were quite a physical, brutal team."

## No excuses | Serevi: We have players, we play more



The physicality and competitiveness of other teams in the HSBC Sevens Series should not be an excuse for the below par performance of the Fiji Airways

Fiji men's 7s team.

Waisale Serevi, regarded as the best 7s player, in an interview with this newspaper blatantly laid out the harsh reality

of the current national 7s team that has been on a winless run in the past 15 tournaments.

Fiji last tasted glory on the world series at the Toulouse 7s in 2022.

Fiji 7s head coach Ben Gollings had highlighted time and again of how physical the series had grown, and his team would need to match that.

Serevi, who is coaching Tabadamu during the Ranger Viti Natusara 7s tournament along with former national representative Emosi Mulevoro, reminded the national team that Fijians are made to play sevens rugby.

"I believe it comes to a time now that people are talking about the HSBC tournament as tougher. Some of the coaches are saying that it is getting tougher. We are made to play 7s rugby and I believe the reason I said they need soul-searching is because we haven't gone to win any for the last 14 or so tournaments which is a record itself, a couple

of tournaments we didn't even reach the quarterfinals," said the 7s legend.

"We have the players, we play more tournaments than any other team in the world, we have the experience, and we cannot say that they are better than us.

"If you say that then it is not good for us. We need to try and get better now, Fiji is not going up or down, its stagnant so other teams have found a way to go one up.

"That one up must come from the coaches, the assistant coaches and all the players. They must find a way to get there.

"I want the players to know the people of Fiji are supporting them, people are talking and criticising because they've seen where we are now. It's not because we don't like them, it's the reality, it's the national 7s team.

"They must remember we are the Olympics champions, the world cup champions, and they must make sure to work hard and show that we are the best 7s team in the world."

With the new year came new opportunities and the upcoming

Perth 7s in Australia is a chance for the Fiji 7s team to prove they have learned from past losses.

"The good thing is we have a tournament coming up in Perth and they should lift their hands and say that they are ready to start winning tournaments," Serevi said.

"I believe we should learn from all the games we've played. The number of tournaments we have played is enough games to look at and see where are going. They must figure out their defensive structure and organise their attacking structure so that they can work together.

"Now the teams that are playing as a team are winning tournaments, yes, we are individual players, but we need to find a way to play together as a team in attack and in defence."

Serevi and Mulevoro, who will lead Tabadamu to the McDonald's Fiji's Coral Coast Sevens, wished the team well in their upcoming tournaments especially the Olympics Games in France.



# Cristiano Ronaldo Wins 1st Prize in 2024, Scoops Maradona Award

Ronaldo had a strange year in 2023. Following Portugal's early 2022 World Cup exit and a tarnished relationship with Manchester United, he left Europe to embrace the riches of Saudi Arabia.

He was among the first European stars to move to the Middle East, setting the tone for an unprecedented shift in world football dynamics, which made the Saudi Pro League one of the world's most attractive destinations.

Despite switching to the desert in the autumn of his illustrious playing career, the 38-year-old has preserved his ever-present desire to win and score goals.

Even though his trophy-laden playing career is nearing its end, he shows no signs of slowing down. The numbers never lie. In Ronaldo's case, they're staggering.

In addition to averaging 0.88 goals per game for Al-Nassr,

the Portugal captain excelled at international level, playing a prominent role in the Selecao's historic European Championship 2024 qualifying cycle.

Led by new manager Roberto Martinez, the Euro 2016 winners steamrolled to the top of Group J with ten victories, a feat they never achieved throughout their storied history. Ronaldo's contribution was immense. Alongside Manchester United ace Bruno Fernandes, he soaked up the limelight as Portugal's standout performer, rolling back the years to net ten goals in nine matches in 2023.

Only Belgium stalwart Romelu Lukaku's haul of 14 goals bettered the Portuguese superstar's tally in Euro 2024 qualifying, showing he's still a force to be reckoned with even at 38.

With 54 goals for club and country, Ronaldo finished

2023 as the world's most prolific player, and it took him only 59 games to hit this outrageous figure.

Some people would argue he's no longer playing at the top level, yet it takes nothing away from the ex-Sporting Lisbon prodigy's everlasting appetite for scoring.

However, Ronaldo was not the only player to smash a 50-goal barrier in 2023. Three other European powerhouses joined this select club.

New Bayern Munich talisman Harry Kane hit the ground running in the Bundesliga from the outset, as he heads into 2024 as the division's top-scorer with 21 goals.

Kane only needed 15 league appearances to hit a 20-goal landmark, which, combined with his splendid scoring record for Tottenham Hotspur and England, took his overall tally to 52.

Paris Saint-Germain speed demon Kylian Mbappe went toe-to-toe with the Three Lions skipper as the two ended 2023 as the joint-best European goalscorers.

Of his 52 strikes, 42 came for Les Parisiens.

He bagged 34 league goals in 2023 en route to becoming the first player to win the Ligue 1 top-scorer award five times in a row in 2022/23 and moving top of the scoring leaderboard in 2023/24.

Manchester City's scoring machine Erling Braut Haaland was the only remaining player to book his place in the 50-goal club in the last calendar year. Haaland's remarkable maiden campaign in the Premier League entered the division's folklore, with the Norway international setting the new record for the highest number of goals scored in a

single season.

The 23-year-old tallied 36 goals in 35 top-flight appearances and added 12 more in the Champions League in 2022/23 as Pep Guardiola's all-conquering side won a historic treble.

His numbers continue to grow. Despite missing the last couple of games through injury, Haaland is the league's joint-top scorer alongside Liverpool hero Mohamed Salah.

The 50-Goals Club 2023  
Cristiano Ronaldo: 54 goals (44 for Al Nassr, 10 for Portugal)

Harry Kane: 52 goals (25 for Bayern, 18 for Spurs, 9 for England)

Kylian Mbappe: 52 goals (42 for PSG, 10 for France)

Erling Braut Haaland: 50 goals (44 for Man City, 6 for Norway)



**SAUDAGAR CASH AND CARRY**  
28700 Mission Blvd, Hayward CA - 510-885-0430



Sports

**Fiji's Coral Coast  
sevens**

**'Discover the passion'**  
YOUTH · MENS · WOMENS

**FEATURING  
AMBASSADOR  
ALL STARS TEAM**

<b>DAY 1 THURSDAY</b>	<b>18TH</b>	<b>JANUARY, 2024</b>
<b>DAY 2 FRIDAY</b>	<b>19TH</b>	<b>JANUARY, 2024</b>
<b>DAY 3 SATURDAY</b>	<b>20TH</b>	<b>JANUARY, 2024</b>

**FREE ENTRY!**

**QLIK**design

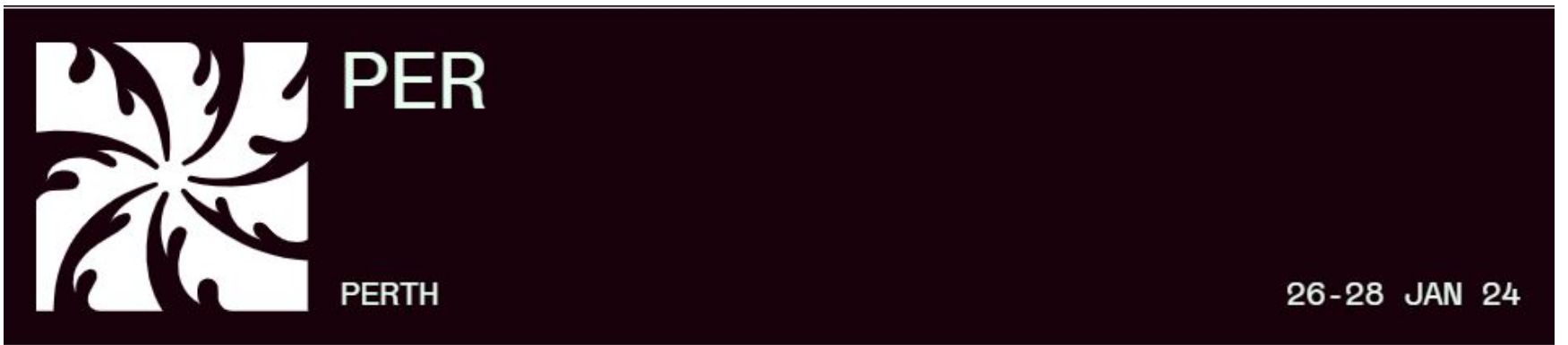
Web Designing, Branding, Logo, Social Media Marketing

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

[www.qlikdesign.com](http://www.qlikdesign.com)



# HSBC RUGBY SVNS NEXT STOP . .



## Fiji 7s kick start preparation for Perth 7s at Lawaqa Park

The Fiji Airways Men’s National 7s side began their preparation for the upcoming HSBC SVNS Perth 7s at Lawaqa Park today. It was a test of speed, strategy and excitement for the players.

Some prominent players were seen on the field including, Kaminieli Rasaku, Pilipo Bukayaro, Waisea Nacuqu, Terio Tamani, Josua Vakurunabili, Sevuloni Mocenacagi, Filipe Sauturaga, Vuiviawa Naduvalo and Jeremaia Matana. Also, a few new faces were seen on the field.

Fiji is currently in 3rd place on the points table with 30 points.

The Perth 7s will be held from the 26th to the 28th of this month.




RUGBY. MUSIC. FOOD.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
BUY AT [SVNS.COM](https://svns.com)




SCAN ME

# HSBC SVNS LOS ANGELES

DIGNITY HEALTH SPORTS PARK  
02-03 MARCH 2024





**SVNS  
LAX**

**SHOW US A PITCH  
WE'LL SHOW  
YOU A PARTY**

**RUGBY. MUSIC. FOOD.**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**BUY AT SVNS.COM**



**DIGNITY HEALTH SPORTS PARK,  
LOS ANGELES. 02-03 MARCH 24**





# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Wishing you a year filled with boundless adventures, incredible destinations, and unforgettable moments.*

*Let the winds of 2024 carry you to new heights.*



**FIJI**  
AIRWAYS



**FIJIAIRWAYS.COM**