

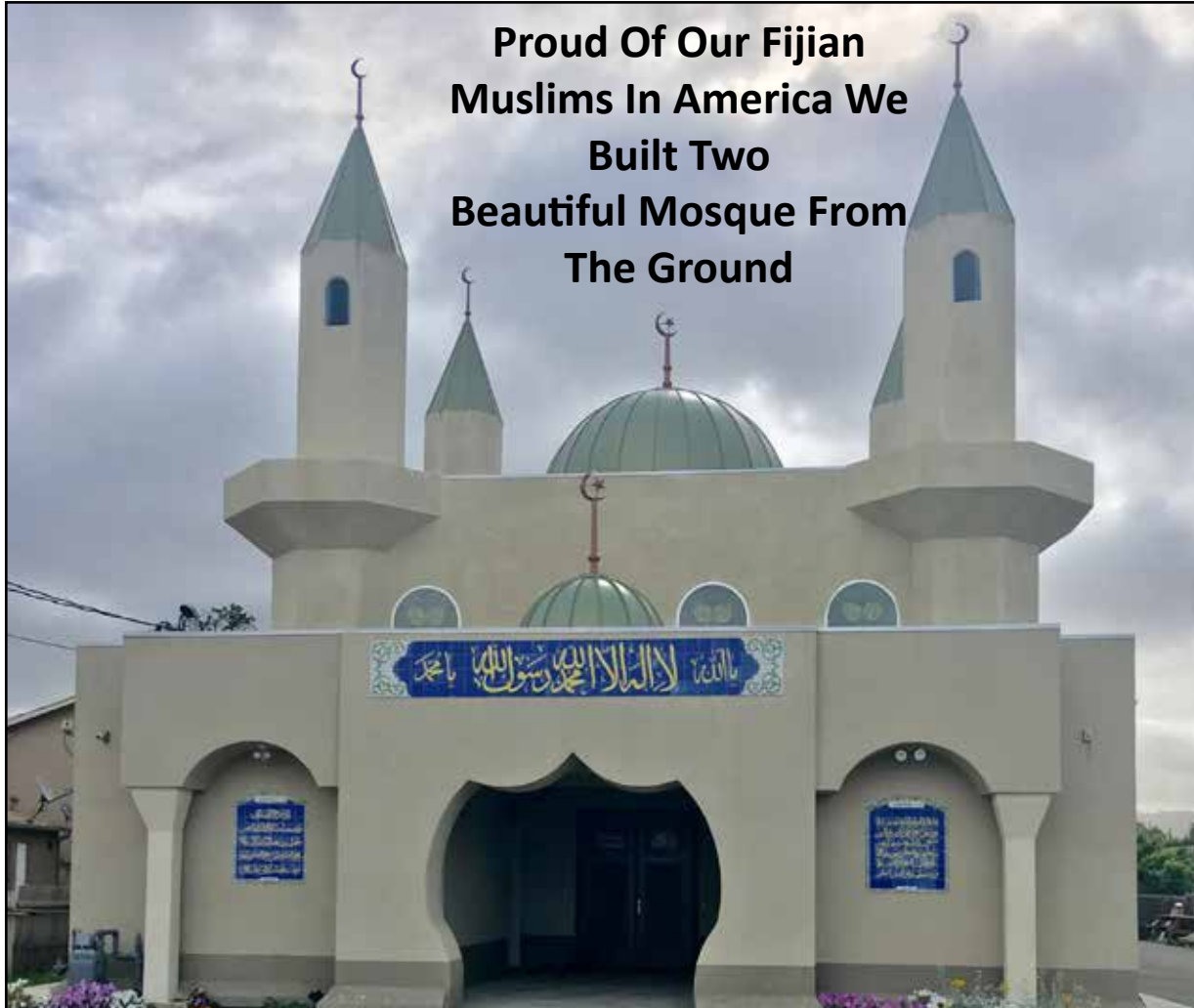


THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

May 2022 Monthly Publication - Subscription Available Pages 56 Volume: 213

Looking to Mecca from Hayward, CA



Proud Of Our Fijian
Muslims In America We
Built Two
Beautiful Mosque From
The Ground

Eid Mubarak To All

The second Fiji Mosque,
(Built in 2020 Hayward , CA)

Gading Jame Masjid
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Masjid History

Established in 2004, Gading Jame Masjid is one of the the largest multi-purpose built Mosques in Hayward, California. We believe that our primary role is to serve the needs of the local community and to work towards the common good. Our strong partnerships with the American Muslim Association and other faith groups and many others have helped us to contribute towards improvements within the local community. This builds on the very essence of our Mosque: a coming together of distinguished Muslims and non-Muslims to create a cohesive and tolerant society.

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PHONE: 650-762-6683

DIRECT: 510-931-9107

EMAIL: INFO@USFIJITIMES.ORG

WEB: WWW.USFIJITIMES.ORG

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



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Frank Bainimarama
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Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum
ATTORNEY-GENERAL



Nazhat Shameem
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of the Republic of Fiji to
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San Francisco U.S.A



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



Mr. Bobby Naicker
Honorary Consul
Vancouver CANADA



Satyendra Prasad
Ambassador | Representa-
tive of Fiji to the U.N

THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

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

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

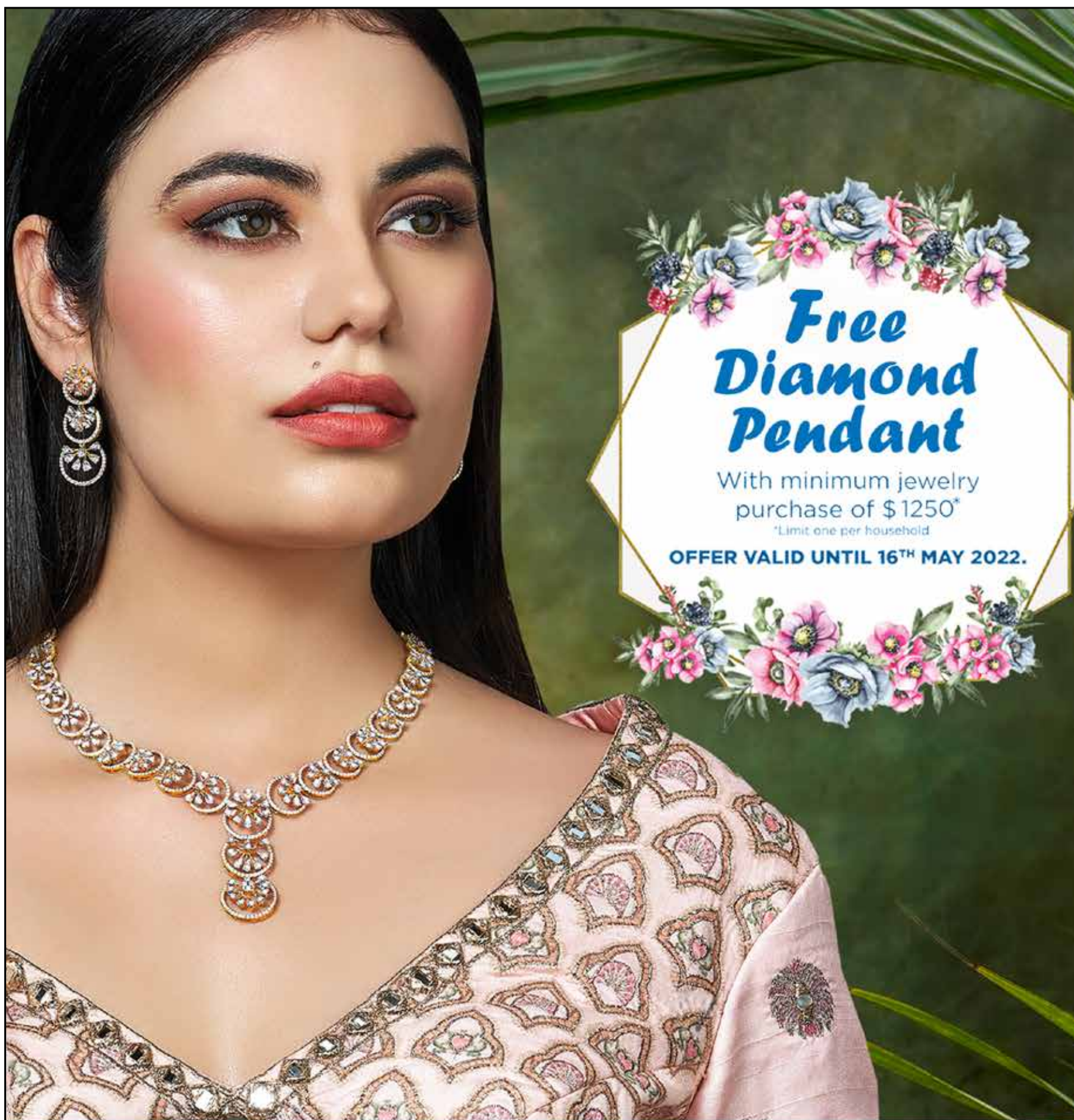
very proud to be associated with major organizations to see that their events are properly covered with pictures, stories and awareness via our social media platforms.

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

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

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News

MODESTO, Calif. -- A 56-year-old Fijian .DoorDash driver died after being shot in Modesto on Monday night after making a delivery in the area, according to police.

Officers responded to reports of the shooting at the 1600 block of Gardenia Road around 9:45 p.m.

When officers arrived, they found the man in his vehicle with several gunshot wounds. The man was pronounced dead at the scene, Modesto police said.

Police identified him on Wednesday as Andrew Satavu, of Modesto California and NADROGA FIJI.

Neighbors of Satavu described him as a kind, friendly man -- always one to offer a wave and a smile.

"We always talked. If we

were out front, we would always visit," said Sherri Fabbri who lives in the home across the street from where Satavu lived with his wife and children. "As nice a man as he is, and the fact that he was working, trying to support his family and, you know, freak thing that happens... I'm speechless."

Investigators are still working to identify any suspects.

"Right now we don't have any indication why he was shot," said Lt. Felton Payne of the Modesto Police Department. "We only know that he had just made a delivery."

In a written statement from

DoorDash, a spokesperson said:

"We are shocked and deeply saddened by this senseless act of violence. Our hearts go out to Mr Satavu's loved ones during this unimaginably difficult time. We have reached out to Mr Satavu's family to extend our condolences and will support them in any way we can. We have also contacted law enforcement to assist the investigation and hope whoever committed this horrific crime is held accountable."

Anyone with information is asked to email Detective Doug Ridenour at RidenourDM@Modestopd.com or call Crime Stoppers at 209-521-4636.



US Fiji Times thanks Ms Shabnam of Coral Coast PR

Mr Buksh and Ms Shabnam at Expo 2020 Dubai

"I want to thank Ms Shereen Shabnam of Coral Coast PR for her immense support to me during my brief visit to the Expo 2020 Dubai and it was through her close collaboration that had enabled me to attend a few international engagements on the margins of the Largest Show on Earth"



US Fiji Times pays homage to Solomon Islands Pavilion

"It was a touching moment for me during my visit to the Expo 2020 Dubai when after visiting my Fiji Pavilion, I then visited the Solomon Islands Pavilion where my two close Fijian Brothers Gabby Abariga and Joji Luita were being engaged by Commissioner General Ambassador Moses Kouni Mose.

Mr Abariga after greeting me then re-told the story of how the Solomon Islands was named and that it was named after our Sulaimān ibn Dāwūd (Arabic: سُلايْمَانُ بْنُ دَاوُدَ, Solomon son of David) who was according to the Quran, was a Malik (مَلِك, king) and Nabī (Prophet) and that Islamic tradition generally holds that he was the third king of Jewish people, and a wise ruler for the nation, it was really touching for me to be enlightened on the history of the Solomon Islands".



News

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama welcomed the Governor General of Australia, David Hurley and his wife Linda Hurley at the Nausori International Airport

Bainimarama was joined by his wife, Mary Bainimarama, Minister for Defence and National Security Inia Seruiratu, Police Commissioner Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho, Fiji's High Commissioner to Australia Luke Daunivalu, and Commissioner Central Josefa Navuku. Hurley inspected a guard of honour mounted by members of the disciplined forces before retiring for the day. He will be accorded a traditional welcoming ceremony today fol-

lowed by a courtesy call to the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere at the State House. The State visit reinforces Fiji and Australia's commitment to regional solidarity and will unfold new opportunities for engagement in climate and ocean action, disaster resilience, economic recovery, defence and security, and socioeconomic development



US Fiji Times visits Expo 2020 Dubai after Qatar FIFA 2022



After supporting Team Fiji at the FIFA 2022 OFC Qualifier in Doha, Qatar, CEO/Publisher Rocky Ali Buksh touched down at Dubai International Airport on March 25th 2022 and headed straight to the Expo 2020 Dubai

to show support to the Fiji Pavilion at Opportunity District. Fiji Embassy Second Secretary Jaljeet Kumar greeted Mr Buksh as they spent the first few days visiting the many attractions in Dubai City.

Rocky was greeted like a Celebrity by Fiji Pavilion Staff as Tappoo Staff Sakeo Mataruru played the Fijian Lali (drum) before shouting 'Bula'.

Pavilion Director Ms Salochni Devi of the Fiji Minis-

try of Commerce expressed her appreciation to Mr. Buksh for buying the remaining traditional handicrafts.

"It's a pleasure for me to be here at the Largest Expo ever on Earth and to support my

Fiji Pavilion, this is indeed a memorable trip for me to the Middle East".

Eid Mubarak

Eid Message From Haji Mohammed Iqbal Khan



Haji Mohammed Iqbal Khan

Alhumdullilah, this Ramadan is truly a blessing in many folds, as we all can recall a really challenging past couple of years. Our heartfelt duas to everyone around the globe who was affected in whichever way by this unprecedented pandemic. Undoubtedly, this has had profound impact on our daily lives; the faithful can learn several lessons from this. Now that the pandemic is taking a downturn, we are facing economic inflation and challenging cost of living period. Let us all encourage each other to observe this Ramadan more modestly. 2021 and now 2022 is showing signs of great hope and Insha Allah we will be able to put this virus behind us very soon. Really looking forward to normalizing our day to day living. As we embarked on another blessed month of Ramadan, we pray for peace and harmony around the globe.

As you are reading this article Ramadan has already started and really looking forward to having an amazing atmosphere all around the globe. The beauty of this month is the blessings are in abundance. On behalf of my entire team at American Muslim Association/Gading Jame Masjid, I would like to take this opportunity to convey Ramadan Mubarak to the community and to all fasting brothers and sisters around the globe. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and fasting is one of the fundamental pillars in Islam. During this auspicious month, capable Muslims are mandated to keep their fast from sunrise to sunset. The month of Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, increasing our good deeds, and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint, and generosity. It is the month to appreciate all the blessings our Creator Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala has bestowed upon us and it also reminds us of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well. Charity (Zakat) giving is another one of the 5 pillars in Islam and is increased in the month of

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

As most of you know, Gading Jame Masjid's grand opening ceremony was originally scheduled for March 2020 but due to the pandemic it was postponed. Since the environment improved, the grand opening ceremony was held on March 5. The program was awesome in many ways. The AMA team organized and executed well. We had a

great turn out for our ribbon cutting ceremony. The Mayor of City of Hayward, council members, neighboring church pastors, neighboring Masjid Imam and board members and community members

were present. The ribbon cutting was carried out by our Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, Ladies League and Youth Team, respectively from the main front gate and all entry doors of the Masjid. The grand open plaque installed in the Masjid courtyard was unveiled by Mayor Barbara Halliday. Our community worked very hard to reach the milestone of building a new Masjid from ground up and everyone deserved the celebration of this great achievement. I thank all those brothers and sisters who have donated and or have contributed in any way towards the construction of the new Masjid, may Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala accept your contributions and reward you all in many folds...Ameen! Many thanks to all those brothers and sisters who worked tirelessly in preparing for the grand opening, may Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala reward you all for your support and dedication and not forgetting those brothers and sisters who donated for the grand opening function, may Allah Subhana Hu Wa Ta'ala reward you all as well. Special recognition and appreciation for brother Rocky Buksh and his US Fiji Times team to be present and capturing this

historical moment for the community to remember for years to come. This Masjid will serve as an abode to future generations, not just as a place of worship but also a place of community functions, recreation, and learning. I also would like to thank all the community members that continue to financially support and participate in the daily and Juma prayers. Gading Jame Masjid has started a 'Food Pantry' program to assist anyone in need and also a Welfare Team to support families in need and to reach out to communities hit by natural disasters. Recently our Welfare Team supported the Tongan community with food and water drive to send to Tonga, this was a very successful event and appreciated by the Tongan community. If you or anyone you know is in need, please contact any of the Board Members or if you are interested in contributing to this noble cause, please let us know. I would like to conclude by praying that may we end this blessed month of Ramadan with peace, harmony, happiness, and with a great celebration of Eid-ul Fitr.

Eid Mubarak

Vinod K Bhindi Honorary Consul of Fiji Los Angeles Government of the Republic of Fiji Vinod K. Bhindi



Assalam walekum,

I would like to pass on my warmest wishes to all the Muslims in the United States and around the world celebrating Eid. Eid is the culmination of the month of Ramadan when the new moon makes its way to the month of Shawaal and on the very first day falls Eid Ul Fitr.

Eid Ul Fitr is the biggest festival celebrated by the Muslim's, and many around the world. It is celebrated after 30 days of Ramadan/Roza. During the Ramadan /Roza period Muslim's pray and read the holy Quran throughout the day. It is during the Ramadan the holy book Quran was revealed by angel Gabriel

to the prophet. It is believed that Ramadan/Roza is the only time where the noble deed or thought escalates ten times. After practicing self denial & doing spiritual introspection for a month..the soul undergoes a renewed purification and Muslims finally celebrate the festival of Eid Ul Fitr and embrace one and all ...sharing

their feast and love and wishing happiness for the world...! Something for all of us to reflect on in the year ahead is "Peace". Peace should not be a choice or a vision, it should be part of our lives. With this note I humbly wish to extend to Muslim's both at home and abroad a very warm Eid Mubarak.

Eid Mubarak

STATEMENT BY
Ambassador Satyendra Prasad
FIJI'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ON THE HOLY MONTH OF 'RAMADAN'—



Bula Vinaka and As-salamu alaikum.

I send my warmest wishes to our Muslim brothers and sisters in Fiji and to our

Fijian communities around the world celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

Muslims throughout the world have for one month, willingly refrained from food, drink and other acts that may invalidate their fast. Those

who participated have no doubt emerged from the holy month of Ramadan with a stronger character and with the ability to subject their desires and emotions to their will.

The essential lessons of Eid-ul-Fitr encourage us to make sacrifices and to reflect

on our own lives and the ways in which we can live for the benefit of our family,

community and our country. During the pandemic and the many climate disasters that followed Fijians around the world embraced these values and helped in whatever way they could to put Fiji on a swift path to recovery and for that we thank you.

As you gather in your mosques and homes to observe this joyous event let us

resolve to direct our hearts towards strengthening our society based on mutual respect, love and understanding.

On this holy festive, wishing you a day filled with lots of laughter and happy moments.

Eid Mubarak from the family and staff of the Fiji Mission to yours!

Eid Mubarak

Bobby Naicker
Honorary Consul of Fiji,
Canada



This Eid is one that will be celebrated with much fanfare as we slowly get through

the worst of the pandemic and get back to some normalcy in our lives. Every

caution should be taken to celebrate the festival of Eid safely with loved ones in a contained environment.

Eid is the greatest festival for the Muslim people. May the delight and the moments measure all the special joys for all of you to treasure.

May the magic of this Eid bring lots of happiness in your life. May you celebrate it with close friends and families and may your hearts be filled with love and joy.

This festival marks the end of Ramadan. Ramadan being the holy month of fasting.

The festival of Eid is celebrated the day after the fast ends. I have fond memories

from when I was a young man in Fiji and then growing up in Canada of what the celebrations meant to my Muslim friends.

They would get up early in the morning. They would take a bath and put on their best clothes. This is followed by a ritual where they took part in decorating their

homes. My friends and their families would embrace each other, me and my family and we would exchange Eid greetings. "Eid Mubarak" was

on the lips of all the

Muslims during this celebration. I remember going to their houses for a celebration of great food, companionship, and sweets.

Eid is celebrated by people of all cultures. Fijians of all designation whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Christians celebrate Eid with the same passion and unity.

The celebration of Eid promotes national integration and the feeling of brotherhood.

It is a festival of love and goodwill. It gives us a message to love all and hate none.

It teaches us to embrace all men and women as brothers and sisters.

May this Eid bring you good health. Please take time to acknowledge those in need

either within our community or back in Fiji. This is an especially difficult time for our

people in Fiji. The pandemic has crippled our tourism-based economy and any help

from abroad will be very much appreciated. This is a special celebration for the poor and for the wealthy. This is one day that wealth does not matter so let us try to see that every Muslim gets to celebrate Eid to the fullest.


Eid Mubarak

***Message from
Jay Singh
Hon Consul, Fiji
San Francisco - USA***




I greet our Fijian Community and friends here in the USA , Fiji and abroad , especially our Muslim Community , with a Joyous Eid. I hope this auspicious day marks the perfect occasion to rejoice in happiness together and tighten the bond of our families. Let the celebration remind us of a sense of responsibility and bring people in harmony . Cherish every moment of this beautiful festival, and may the grace of faith bring days of happiness, weeks of prosperity, months of pure contentment, and hearts filled with love and peace. Eid Mubarak!


Eid Mubarak

***Message From
Rocky Buksh
CEO / Publisher
US Fiji Times***




On behalf of US Fiji times I would like to extend my best wishes to all my readers for a happy and joyful EId –UI-Fitr. This occasion has been the hallmark of the significance of Islam which embodies the essence of togetherness, peace and unity amongst all.

I further extend my best wishes to all our readers abroad that have given the paper an overwhelming support in our effort to keep Fijians abreast with the events affecting our nation.

Eid is on occasion that gives us the opportunity to take a break from our hectic life and render some time with loved ones and friends. In doing so we share the our feeling and affection with “samai” and other goodies that add more sweetness among all.

We want to let continue serving our fellow Fijians brothers and occasions such as Eid has been giving us the opportunity to highlight significance it's to all so that the true meaning and the importance of Eid is known to all.

While we are seeing a turmoil globally with a prevalent war , let us work in togetherness to affect peace thru this auspicious day.

In conclusion I once again wish you all a very joyful eid on behalf of the entire US Fiji Times team here in USA



Eid Mubarak from Mr & Mrs Pramesh Sharma

Eid bring the message of peace , love and happiness.

I would like to wish everyone a very joyful EID. The kids and elders look forward to this very great occasion when everyone gets together to show the gratitude to the all mighty for giving a wonderful world to thank him for everything.

My best wishes to the sick and those not so privileged so that their life gets better and the god gives them strength for a great life as well.

May you all enjoy this great day.



***Shameer Buksh
President - FMSA OF USA***

This holy month Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and a great opportunity for all Muslims to purify their mind, body, heart, and soul by fasting and praying to Almighty Allah. Ramadan is not only for fasting but also a time for us Muslims to dedicate ourselves to self-sacrifice, abstain from taking in water or food, and physical needs.

During this time ask for forgiveness for any wrongdoings and devote ourselves to the almighty.

May Allah ease our hardships and shower us all with loads of peace and prosperity during this holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan Mubarak.

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Fiji News

FIJIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE STATE VISIT TO FIJI BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

The first ever State visit from the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley to Fiji this week, will be a landmark achievement in Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership. The last visit by a Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia was in 1993. This State visit reinforces Fiji and Australia's commitment to regional solidarity and will unfold new opportunities for engagements in strategic cooperation in areas of climate and oceans actions, disaster resilience, economic recovery, defence and security and socioeconomic development, amongst others. Governor-General Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs. Linda Hurley will arrive in Fiji tomorrow evening, following which they will be formally welcomed and received by the Fijian delegation led by the Prime Minister, Hon. Jo-

saia Voreqe Bainimarama and Mrs. Mary Bainimarama. During this State visit, Governor-General Hurley will be meeting with His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere and Prime Minister Bainimarama. Governor-General Hurley will officiate at the opening of the newly refurbished RFNS Stanley Brown Wharf, which is supported by the Australian Government in recognition of the ongoing cooperation with Fiji and the region in areas of defence, security and maritime services. Governor-General and Mrs. Hurley will visit the National War Memorial Site for a wreath laying ceremony, signifying Fiji and Australia's historical links to peacekeeping. The official opening of the Nausori Accommodation Centre, visit to the National Disaster Management Office and SPC Land Resource Division is also part of Governor-General Hurley's



program in the Central Division. For the first time, the State visit will feature programs in the Northern Division, with an official opening of the Maramarua District School Kindergarten and a delegation led by His Excellency the President will host the Governor-General and

Mrs. Hurley for an official visit to the friendly north. President Katonivere said Fiji is proud of this historic visit and looks forward to welcoming Governor-General and Mrs. Hurley to Fiji. He said this collaboration signifies the strong friendship and bilateral relations between our

two nations, which has continued to strengthen over the years. President Katonivere said the visit to Vanua Levu is an exciting one for the people of Vanua Levu, as they will witness and be part of one of the first State Visits to the Northern Division.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES COURTESY CALL FROM THE NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA TO FIJI

Prime Minister, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, received a courtesy call from the new non-resident High Commissioner of Canada to Fiji, Her Excellency Joanne Lemay, at the Office of the Prime Minister this morning (12/04/22). Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama congratulated High Commissioner Lemay on her new diplomatic role and relayed the assurance of the Fijian Government of its interest in enhancing Canada and Fiji's partnership in our mutual priorities. The Prime Minister acknowledged Fiji and Canada's ongoing cooperation in areas of Climate Change and Oceans, which are issues of ut-

most importance for Fiji and the region's development. Canada's support to Fiji in times of great need was recognised, notably through humanitarian assistance and the COVAX facility. The Prime Minister said Fiji is grateful to its development partners like Canada for their support that complements Fiji's commitment to economic recovery and national prosperity. He reaffirmed Fiji's solidarity with Canada on the advancement of shared aspirations for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery, and collectively addressing common challenges imposed by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting

highlighted Canada's intent to establish a diplomatic mission in Fiji and the importance of this venture in realising the maximum potential of Fiji-Canada relations, which have continued to strengthen over the years. The Prime Minister conveyed the Fijian Government's best wishes to High Commissioner Lemay as she assumes her new role and expressed confidence that during her tenure, cooperation between Fiji and Canada would elevate to new levels. In response, High Commissioner Lemay thanked Prime Minister Bainimarama for the opportunity to meet in person and expressed her appreciation to the Fijian Government for the warm welcome and assistance in facilitating her official visit to Fiji. She said, "Even when the global pandemic hindered the ability for Canada and Fiji to undertake in-person engagements such as this, Fiji and Canada have continued to work together to address shared global challenges including climate change, oceans, sustainable

development, as well as supporting the rules-based international order." "Canada wishes to be an engaged and constructive partner for Fiji and the Pacific Island countries, and is committed to play a meaningful role in global action on the issues mentioned above. The colleagues in my team and I look forward to visiting regularly and learning more about Fiji's perspectives and to contribute to these efforts." High Commissioner Lemay mentioned that through the High Commission of Canada in Wellington, Canada has continued to support small-scale community development projects in Fiji through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI or locally known as the "Canada Fund"). Canada has supported the Ministry of Agriculture's project "Enhancing food security through a stable and accessible supply chain for seeds and planting material in Fiji". High Commissioner Lemay looks forward to attending the inauguration of the Smart Greenhouse this week with Prime Minister

Bainimarama. Canada recognises that climate change is an existential threat and therefore, it has joined partners such as Australia, France, the European Union, and New Zealand in the Pacific regional initiative, known as the Kiwa initiative. "This climate finance contribution from Canada to the initiative assists the Pacific region in adapting to the effects of climate change, protect biodiversity, and increase resilience through the financing of projects in areas such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, ocean governance, and the environment." "Guided by Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada has continued to cooperate with international partners on impactful projects, such as the Pacific Island Markets for Change Project delivered by UN Women, which supports female merchants in rural and urban markets by ensuring that markets provide safe, inclusive, and non-discriminatory environment," High Commissioner Lemay said.



Fiji News

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES COURTESY CALL FROM THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA TO FIJI



Prime Minister, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, received a courtesy call from the new non-resident Ambassador of Austria to Fiji, His Excellency Wolfgang Lukas Strohmayer, at the Office of the Prime Minister this morning (12/04/22). Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama congratulated Ambassador Strohmayer on his new role and reaffirmed the Fijian Government's com-

mitment to deepening the scope of bilateral relations with Austria in mutual priorities. Prime Minister Bainimarama acknowledged Austria's contribution to the COVAX facility, which has assisted developing countries like Fiji to rollout COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, and ultimately, reopen their international borders and progressively return to normalcy. Fiji's

partnership with development partners and its importance for sustainable and resilient recovery was recognised. Austria was also commended for its collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, in supporting Fiji's national response to the pandemic last year through the provision of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The ongoing cooperation between Fiji and Austria in areas such as climate change, trade, agriculture, and disaster resilience and recovery were highlighted in addition to the strengthening of partnerships for global peace, security, and socio-economic development. The Prime Minister conveyed the Fijian Government's best wishes to Ambassador Strohmayer as he assumes his new

role, with assurances that with the cooperation of Fijian and Austrian Missions in Canberra, relations would be elevated. In response, Ambassador Strohmayer expressed his appreciation to the Fijian Government for the kind hospitality and assistance provided during his official visit to Fiji. "Austria and Fiji have traditionally very close friendship and excellent cooperation, especially in the multilateral field, I would consider this cooperation as exemplary." "Austria, as a member of the European Union, is an honest broker for the many tasks and programmes, as well as the concerns throughout South Pacific. Austria regards the Indo-Pacific strategy of the European Union as an important contribution to address the common chal-

lenges, like climate change." Ambassador Strohmayer said Austria looks forward to fostering strengthened cooperation with Fiji and the region at all levels. "Given the worldwide uncertainties in a post-COVID world, more than ever the international cooperation of the like-minded countries is in the focus of joint interest." "Austria has a lot of expertise in the field of green technology and renewable energy, so I think given the common challenges arising from the climate change, we are prepared to share all these expertise and technology with the Fijian Government to find ways to get innovative green technology and renewable energy projects to assist Fiji," Ambassador Strohmayer said.

ASSISTANCE TO HELP TRADE ENTREPRENEURS

Business owners and budding entrepreneurs can now take advantage of monetary assistance provided by the Fijian Government to aid them in expanding their business. This follows the launch of the Trade Enhancement Programme by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya this afternoon (12/04/22). "We need to provide a safety net to those unemployed or on reduced hours/salary and we need to limit the economic fallout from doing permanent, structural damage and bring the Fijian

economy back across a broad front," he said. "We have always maintained that no Fijian should be left behind— whether during the better days of continuous positive economic growth or when we are working through recovery post-pandemic," he added.

"The Fijian Government has always kept the interest of ordinary Fijians and businesses at heart and will continue to do so. We believe that assistance must be targeted to the situation and the needs of the people of Fiji." "This programme is

dedicated to provide support to those with a special trade, new or existing micro enterprises that have an annual turnover of less than \$50,000 - who are skills based or operating in the trade field," he added. The Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, has allocated \$500,000 for the implementation of this programme and applicants qualify for a maximum of \$500 assistance to help them grow their business.

Each application will be assessed on its merit and quality. Minister Koya adds that all ap-



plications will be received and processed online through the portal and this programme will continue until funds are fully

utilised. Applications that have a full set of documents will be assessed on a first come – first serve basis.

RAINBOW PRIDE FOUNDATION 3-DAY BASIC BUSINESS TRAINING WORKSHOP OPENED BY MINISTER KOYA

Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism, and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, this evening (11/04/22) opened a 3-day Basic Business Training workshop, organised by the Rainbow Pride Foundation in partnership with

their participation in the training, Minister Koya said the Fijian Government actively encourages Fijians to engage in business and supports them with training, mentoring and funding. "The whole cusp of this training

will be able to venture into business activities, to become your own boss and provide for your family and the community," Minister Koya said. "All of you here know how creative you are – the things you have done, the things you are yet to accomplish in the normal thread of life – and you are an integral part of it. This is why, for this community, it's hugely important to continue accessing such opportunities." "We continue to elevate as many Fijians as we can through our training and capacity building programmes so that no community is not left behind in this commercially driven world," he added. The Ministry's training



programmes largely look at how one can start, improve and grow your business. We look at Basic Bookkeeping, Budgeting, Costing and Pricing, Post Disaster Business Recovery, Personal Entrepreneurial Competence and Co-operative Management.

Minister Koya highlighted that in the last financial year, the Ministry undertook 63 trainings, through which more than 1,300 Fijians have been empowered in confidently starting, improving and expanding their businesses ventures.



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Fiji News

PM BAINIMARAMA OFFICIALLY OPENED THE SERUA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING

“The Fijian Government has dedicated more than \$43,350,000 to projects to benefit Serua directly.” While opening the Serua Provincial Council Meeting, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said, “That was money spent right here in this community, including more than \$20 million for roads, more than \$10 million for telecommunications and con-

nectivity, more than \$5 million for schools, more than \$2.6 million for electrification and more than \$1 million for water and sewerage.” “But the point is that Serua has benefited greatly from this Government. To put it more plainly, Serua is now a better place to live.” Prime Minister Bainimarama added that the Fijian Government has set about methodically and

with determination to transform Fiji - to make it more modern and competitive in the world economy, to guarantee that all Fijians are treated equally and have the same opportunities, and to improve standards of living for everyone. “We have done what is best for Fiji and best for our future generations. We have listened to what the people have told us.”



FIJI RECEIVES BUDGET-SUPPORT PACKAGE FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



Today (08/04/22) we announce a budget-support package for Fiji's climate-change sector of AUD1 million from the Australian Government. The package will boost adaptation and mitigation efforts in Fiji and strengthen the resilience of Fijian communities. This budget-support package will help Fiji meet the targets delineated in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) by promoting a shift to lower-emissions development and supporting innova-

tive solutions to climate change. Speaking at the signing ceremony, the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes said, “Australia is pleased to provide financing support to assist in the implementation of Fiji's Climate Change Act, help meet Fiji's Paris Agreement commitments, and pilot innovative solutions through local actions.” Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum added, “Fiji's Climate Change Act is a piece of legislation that we hope

can serve as a model in our region and to the world. The findings of the latest IPCC Report spell out in terrifying detail what our people will face if the world fails to match Fiji's net-zero ambition. This kind of support from our friends in Australia represents a strong and valuable partnership that is vital to meeting Fiji's climate goals — now it's time for all high-emitting nations to step-up and action equally-ambitious emissions-slashing commitments.” One of the key pillars of the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership is a joint commitment to building cooperation on international and regional issues, including action on climate change. High Commissioner Feakes recognised Fiji's ongoing global leadership on climate change advocacy and action and acknowledged Australia and Fiji's engagement at COP26 in Glasgow. Australia has a target to achieve net-zero

emissions by 2050, which High Commissioner Feakes said presents an opportunity to scale up Australia and Fiji's collaboration in this area. He further noted Australia is on track to reduce emissions by up to 35 per cent by 2030. High Commissioner Feakes also pointed out that Fiji was one of the first international partners to join Australia's Indo-Pacific Carbon Offsets Scheme (IPCOS). IPCOS will help boost public and private investment in climate action and practical projects in the region, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating more economic opportunities for communities. Fiji's Climate Change Act 2021 provides an ambitious legal framework for mitigation and adaptation action. Congratulating Fiji on the passage of the Act, High Commissioner Feakes said, “This new partnership will support implementation of the Act, in line with Fiji Govern-

ment priorities,” and noted that flexible finance can leverage further resources by enabling feasibility studies and trialling solutions that can be scaled up. Operationalisation of the Act is a priority for Fiji, and the outcomes of this new funding will support Fiji's efforts in this space. Minister Sayed-Khaiyum highlighted the fact that Fiji's Climate Change Act commits the country to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the challenge of both mitigating and adapting to climate change. It was essential, he said, to put Fiji's commitments into law, which demands action. Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges facing the Pacific. Under this new partnership, Australia and Fiji will continue working alongside each other to ensure our communities remain safe, resilient, and prosperous.

INVESTITURE OF FIRST LADY: MADAM FILOMENA KATONIVERE AS PATRON OF THE FIJI GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

First Lady, Madam Filomena Katonivere was conferred as the Patron of the Fiji Girl Guide Association today (08/04/22) at the State House. As Patron of the Fiji Girl Guide Association, the First Lady invited and encouraged more girls and young women in Fiji to join the Girl Guides Association. The Girl Guides Association is a movement that is focused on empowering members to contribute positively to their communities and providing opportunities that support independent and resourceful girls

and women. “This ceremony and my investiture as Patron to the Girl Guide Association is rather special to His Excellency and I because, as a young girl, this was a movement that I was a part of. It taught me to care for the environment and my neighbours and to learn life skills at an early age which I still hold close to my heart today.” Mrs Katonivere also shared her enthusiasm at the opportunity to work with the Association in enabling members to contribute to a caring, peaceful and just world, while also providing op-

portunities which support the development of capable, creative, resilient and resourceful girls. The Fiji Girl Guides Association to its core promotes a holistic approach dealing with the intellect, spiritual, physical, emotional, social and moral development of all members. Mrs Katonivere appealed to the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to support the promotion of the Girl Guides movement in schools

and communities as a tool to assist citizens to become holistic and contributing global citizens. The Fiji Girl Guides Association

was established in 1930 and has close to 4850 members, with membership growing every year



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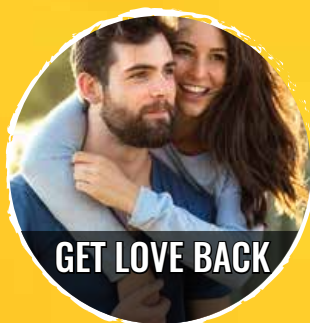
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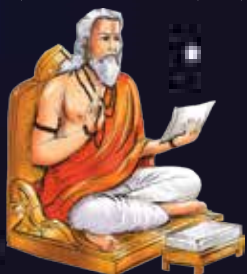
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Fiji News

PS POOLE WAS CHIEF GUEST AT THE SECOND NATIONAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY CONSULTATION

The Permanent Secretary for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Jennifer Poole was the chief guest at the 2nd National Child Safeguarding Policy Consultation at the Ministry's Conference Room in Suva this morning (07/04/22). PS Poole said the Fijian Government is committed to keeping children safe from all violence, abuse, and exploitation. "The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has developed a zero draft National Child Safeguarding Policy, making it the first national policy of its kind in Fiji. The policy acknowledges that there are a number of potential risks associated with delivering services to children, including the potential for abuse or exploitation of children by employers and employees of Government, Non- Government Organisations and the private sector. The policy outlines a number of concrete actions that will be taken to safeguard children in the delivery of services

in a 'child-safe' and 'child-friendly' manner." PS Poole added that in respect of Article 19 of the UN CRC, Government sectors and Civil Society Organisations are committed to play an active role in taking all appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected from all forms of abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has the care of the child. "The policy, consultation with Government Ministries, Civil Society Organisations, and private sector stakeholders and it is very important in ensuring that no stone is left unturned for the safeguarding of all children in Fiji." "The 2013 Fijian Constitution guarantees Fijian children the right to be protected from all forms of violence, abuse neglect, and exploitation. It specifically states that 'Every child has the right to be protected from abuse, any form of violence, inhumane treatment, and hazardous or exploitative



labour' in Article 41 (1) (d). Every Fijian child deserves to grow up nurtured and with the provision of safe and effective care. Each one of us has the responsibility to promote their welfare and protect them from harm," she mentioned. PS Poole stated that when children leave their homes, they come into contact with different people, different

situations, and environments in school and in workplaces. "When a child steps out of their home, they are vulnerable, at risk and even can be exposed to abuse and which depending on its severity, leave lasting effects as they grow up. Abuse can affect their confidence as adults." "The Consultation for this policy is vital in leaving no

stone unturned, especially when the safety of Fijian children is on the line. The outcome of today's discussions will contribute to the finalisation of the policy and I hope that we will all be encouraged and empowered regarding the significance of child safeguarding and be reminded that it is our responsibility to protect our future leaders."

PM BAINIMARAMA OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED BULA OUTSOURCING

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama launched another addition to the Business process outsourcing (BPO) sector – Bula Outsourcing, this evening (06/04/22). In acknowledging the organisation, PM Bainimarama said that Fiji has a skilled, young, literate, English-speaking and tech-savvy workforce with neutral accents

easily understood by an Aussie, Kiwi, British or American. "We have a stable business environment that has produced consistent strong economic growth through consistent policy making for a nine-year period, prior to the pandemic," he said. "Bula outsourcing began its operations during the pandemic, which surely



demonstrates its confidence in Fiji—in our world-class ICT infrastructure, our policies, our competitive business costs, our people and of course our attractive tax incentives." "Our aim is to create an identity for Fiji as a preferred destination for businesses to outsource their services," he added. PM Bainimarama added that Fiji has the right elements for a successful BPO sector. "The BPO sector

currently employs more than 7,000 Fijians and has the potential to generate about 100,000 jobs in the next 10 years," he said. "Government has provided an annual marketing grant of \$200,000 to the BPO Council to promote Fiji as an ideal BPO destination, and we will continue to provide attractive tax incentives for the industry as well as support the development of dedicated IT and BPO

parcs." "The executives and staff of Bula Outsourcing have taken the company – a staff of 10 when it was established last year – to a staff of 70 today," PM Bainimarama added. PM Bainimarama also encouraged the organisation to expand their charitable initiatives to complement the Fijian Government's continuous efforts to empower Fijians, in particular, those on the margins of society.



Fiji News

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

His Excellency, President Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, received the credentials of the non-resident Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Fiji, Mr Roi Rosenblit, at the State House this morning (05/04/22). As a career diplomat with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1994, Ambassador Rosenblit specialises in diplomacy, foreign relations, national security, and political analysis. Ambassador Rosenblit has served in Russia and the Middle East in Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is an economic union of Arab states bordering the Gulf of Arabia. He was the Israeli ambassador to Senegal, the Gambia, Cabo Verde, Guinea, and Guinea Bissau from 2018 to 2021, after which he was appointed Ambassador Designate to the Pacific countries.



FIJI REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Fijian Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama took centre stage last night (04/04/2022) to highlight the importance of strengthening engagement with our diaspora communities. While delivering his remarks virtually at the opening of the Global Diaspora Summit 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said our communities abroad make a huge contribution to Fiji, particularly through remittances and investment. "Remittances are now Fiji's second-largest source of foreign exchange. In fact, over the last 10 years, remittances averaged the equivalent of 4.7% of our GDP," he said. "Diaspora communities are particularly important in traditional societies like ours, where family ties are strong. Remittances supplement the incomes

of family members in normal times. But they increase during emergencies, such as pandemics, natural disasters and conflicts." The Head of Government reiterated that Fiji fully supports the vision of the Summit to promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to diaspora engagement. "We engage actively with Fijians abroad through our diplomatic missions. This includes creating opportunities for our diaspora to participate in socio-economic development back home, and our recent launch of a national digital transformation programme has made it easier for diaspora communities to invest in Fiji." "Fijians living abroad bring experiences, new perspectives and even skill-sets that we need as Fiji grows and modernises. We want to capture all that ex-



perience and the goodwill that comes with it." Prime Minister Bainimarama, at the same time, reinforced the Fijian Government's stand in welcoming any citizen who wants to stay fully engaged with Fiji. "No Fijians who become citizens of another country need to give up their Fijian citizenship, and we encourage Fijians living abroad to vote in national elections," he said. "This journey is not complete, and Fiji will continue to pursue additional opportunities to build our engagement with diaspora communities." The three-day Summit which began

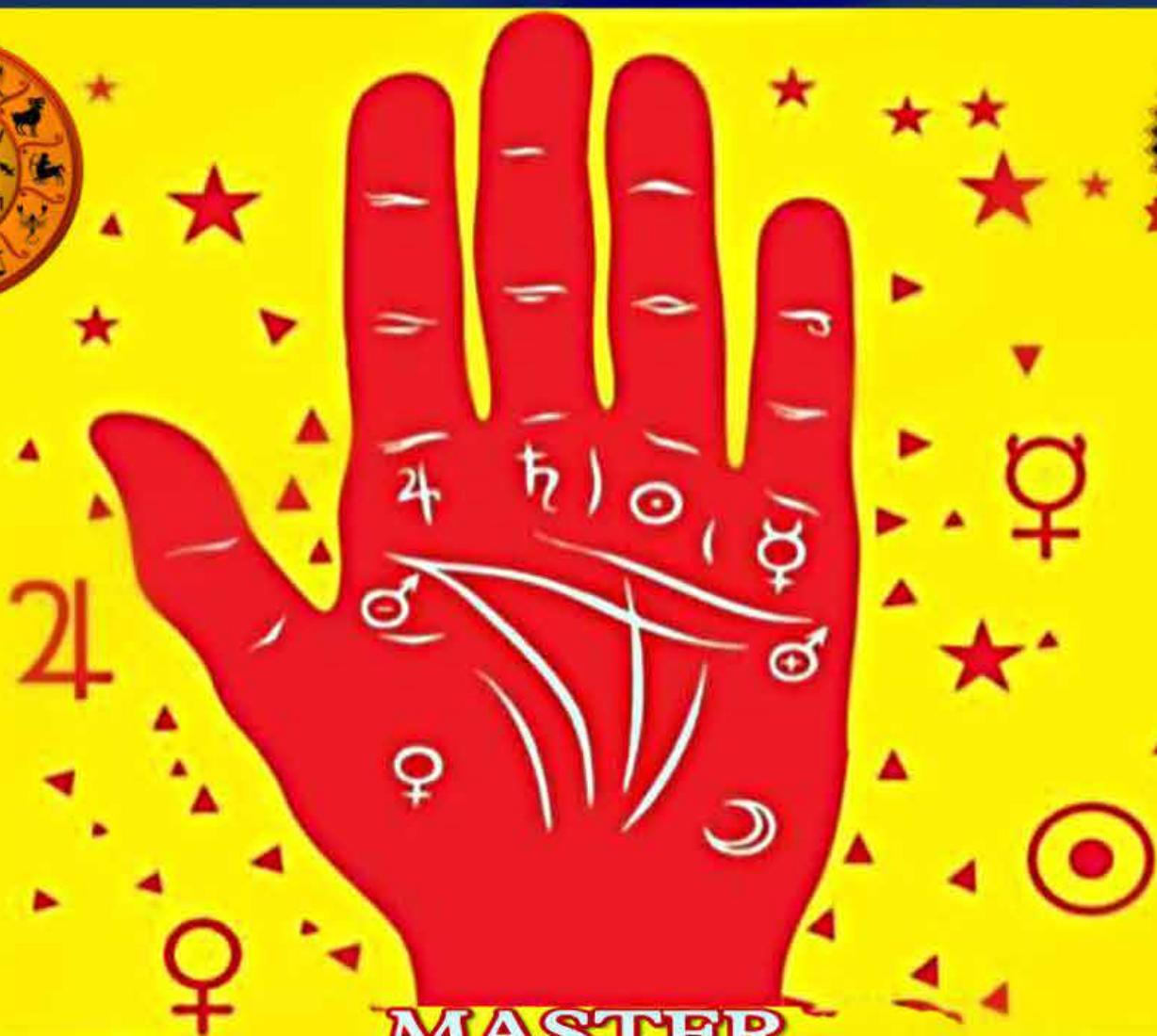
yesterday is being organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Government of Ireland and other lead participating states. The Summit aims to deliver a collaborative vision and programme of progress for governments and other stakeholders through meaningful and structured dialogue with diaspora and transnational communities. Fiji is represented at the Summit by the Fijian Immigration Department, led by Director Ms Amelia Komaisavai with senior officials Mr Yogendra Kumar, Mr Deepak Karan and Ms Ilisapeci Rayawa.

The Summit will embrace the vision of a whole of government and whole of society approach to diaspora empowerment in order to give attendees the opportunity to robustly chart a new vision and agenda at the highest political level to enhance the importance of engaging with transnational communities as agents and accelerators of sustainable development. Meanwhile, Fiji is one of the lead participating states of the Summit, and this is largely due to the Fijian diaspora's engagements and recognition of their notable contributions to Fiji.



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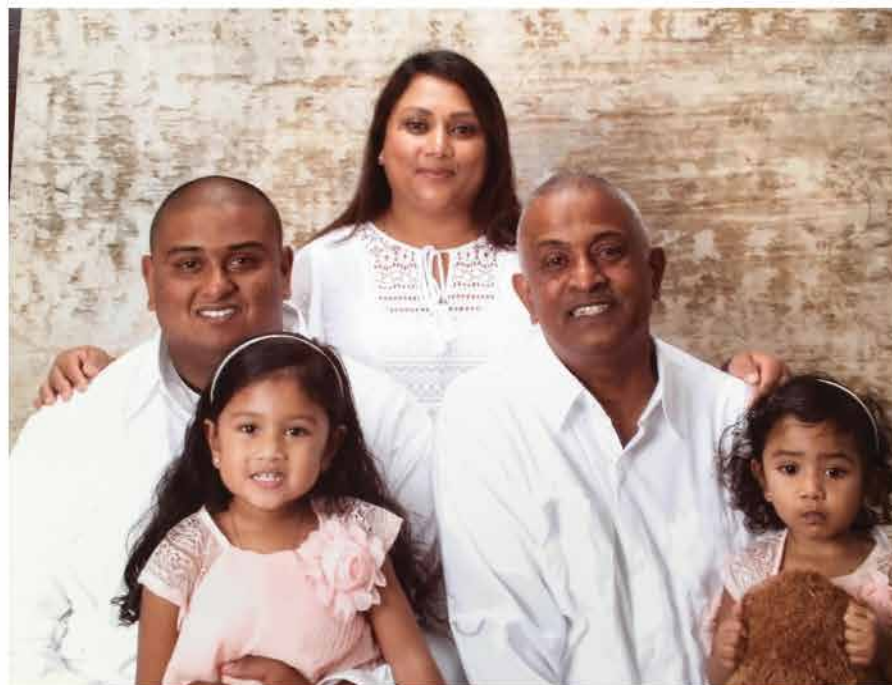
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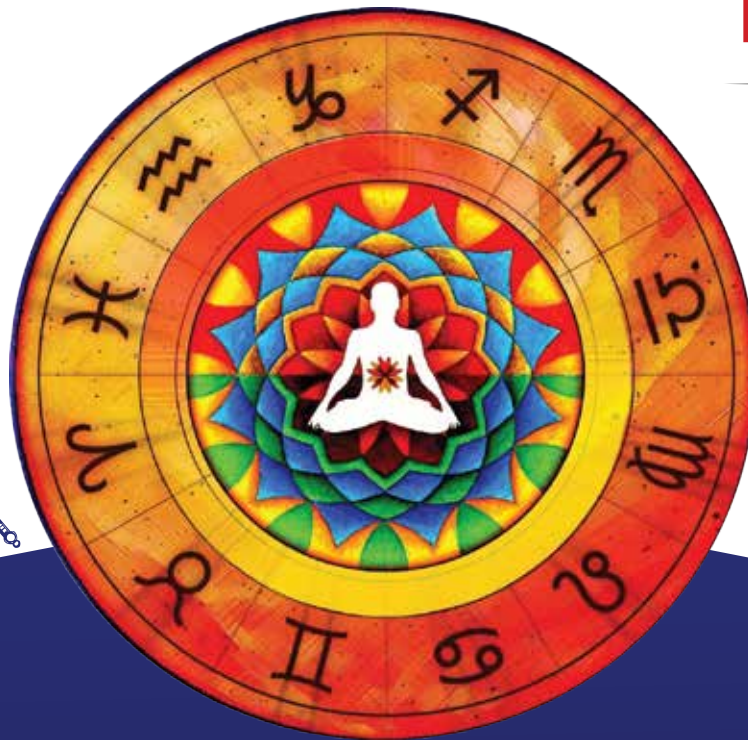
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In 2022, Mother's Day lands on Sunday, May 8! Mother's Day celebrates motherhood and is a day to make an extra-special effort to recognize and appreciate mothers' roles in our lives. Often this day is extended to generations of mothers—grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers—as well as to mother figures.

In the United States, Mother's Day is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in May. Although Mother's Day is a national holiday widely observed in the U.S., it is not a federal or public holiday (when businesses are closed). Festivals honoring mothers in ancient times were often tied to gods and goddesses.

The Phrygians held a festival for Cybele, the Great Mother of the Gods. The Greeks and Romans also honored the mother figure of their gods.

Even today, an important festival in India, Durga-puja, honors the goddess Durga.

During the Middle Ages, people would return to their home or "mother" church once a year during the middle of Lent. (Back then, children would often leave to work at the tender age of 10!) Historians theorize that it was the return to the "mother" church that led to the tradition of children getting the day off to visit their mother and family.

In 16th-century England, this celebration became "Moth-

ering Sunday." Children—mainly daughters who had gone to work as domestic servants—would be given the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to return to their mothers and home parish. The eldest son or daughter would bring a "mothering cake," which would be cut and shared by the entire family. Family reunions were the order of the day, with sons and daughters assuming all household duties and preparing a special dinner in honor of their mother. Sometime during the day, the mother would attend special church services with her family. Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday; the fasting rules were re-

laxed for that day. (Often, the gospel for the day was about Jesus feeding the crowd with loaves of bread.) The traditional cake, called a Simnel cake, is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste. The cake was made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top, representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

In the United States, three women were most instrumental in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day: Ann Reeves Jarvis, Julia Ward Howe, and Ann's daughter, Anna M. Jarvis. Learn more about these three great women who fought for children's welfare, health and peace.

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Food

3 Ingredient Banana Pancake Recipe

3 Ingredient Banana Pancake Recipe

Total Time: 10 mins

Serves: 2 Servings

Ingredients

1. 2 Bananas
2. 2 Eggs
3. 2 tbsp oats/flour

How to-

4. Blend bananas, eggs and oats to a smooth batter.
5. Heat a pan, pour 2 scoops of batter.
6. Flip the pancake so that it cooks evenly from both sides.
7. Serve it with maple syrup and butter!



Crispy Calamari Rings Recipe

Crispy Calamari Rings Recipe

Total Time: 35 mins

Serves: 2 Servings

Ingredients

1. 110 Squid rings
2. 60 Tempura batter
3. 1 Lemon (half)

4. 1 Parsley sprig
5. 20 Thai chilli sauce
6. 20 Refined flour
7. 5 Garlic confit

How to-

1. Dust the squid rings with refined flour.
2. Dip in the tempura batter

and deep fry it till golden in colour.

3. Served with lemon half, garlic confit, Thai chilli sauce and parsley sprig.



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RAKIRAKI FARMER PLANS TO EXPAND LIVE-STOCK FARM AFTER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The Prakash family of Barotu, Rakiraki plans to expand their small livestock farming business after the handover of a sheep farming shed by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management this week. Funded under the Ministry's Self-Help Programme (SHP), the assistance is aimed at generating income for the family. The Prakash family has a stock of 62 sheep and 15 goats at their Barotu farm. Ajneel Avinesh Prakash has been farming with his father, Mr Anand Prakash, for more than six years. In 2016, they faced a major setback after majority of their livestock died during the height of TC Winston. Mr Prakash said that the assistance from the Ministry would significantly boost their

business and empower them to grow further. "In the past, we didn't have a proper shed, so we lost a lot of our stock, but now we have a good shed, where we can safely raise our sheep and goat. We really want to thank Government for this assistance. With the provision of the new shed, we hope to grow our farm to be able to earn more money to support our family," Mr Prakash said. In handing over the newly built shed, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu, said that the project was about the economic empowerment of rural Fijians. "There are a few reasons why it is so important: one is that it contributes to food security and nutrition security of the country; two, it reduces import levels and in-



creases export levels; and most importantly, it protects livelihoods and income security. The Ministry has provided the shed

for Mr Prakash and the family so they can expand their goat and sheep farming project. It is also important for the safety

and security of the animals," Minister Seruiratu said.

NAVIAGO HOUSEHOLDS THANK MINISTRY FOR DRAINAGE



The Ministry of Waterways recently completed a total of 2400 meters of drainage works in Naviago Settlement in Lautoka. These drainage works will address flood water intrusion on farmland and benefit close to 120 households, 40 Sugarcane farms, and 5 vegetable farmers in the settlement. Mr Sheik Sahib, an advisory councillor, said farmers and residents were both negatively affected by floodwaters during the rainy season. "This is a low lying zone which is near to the 2 rivers and due to the overgrown grass and silt in the main drains, the farms and close to 60 households in

the settlement would often get flooded," he said. "Now after the completion of these drainage works, we have seen during the recent flood in the western division, the water level had gone down very quickly. We would have seen many houses flooded if drainage had not been done," said Mr Sahib. The advisory councillor further added that sugarcane and vegetable farming is a major activity in the settlement which provides food and income security to households. The Minister for Waterways, Environment, and Agriculture Dr Mahendra Reddy said they will continue to

deliver services to communities and settlements vulnerable to floods. "It is our core role to take immediate action to address this problem to allow farmers to fully utilise their land and further increase their production," he said. He said this drainage assistance would help farmers to achieve their targets in terms of farming either vegetables or sugarcane. This will also help the supply chain in the local as well for overseas markets. The 2400 meters of drainage works included the removal of all debris, grass, shrubs, and vegetation to allow for unobstructed water flow.

Bollywood

After backlash, Akshay Kumar apologises for endorsing pan masala brand

Actor Akshay Kumar has extended an apology to fans and well-wishers after social media users criticised him for appearing in an ad for the chewing tobacco brand Vimal Elaichi. Many social media users and fans were of the opinion that Akshay, who is a fitness enthusiast, should not endorse a gutka or chewing tobacco brand. While Vimal Elaichi is marketed as a mouth freshener, fans have criticised the actor for his association with the chewing tobacco company. The recently released ad by Vimal Elaichi features actors Ajay Devgn, Shah Rukh Khan and Akshay Kumar. SRK and Ajay have also appeared in other ads released by the brand in the past. After its release, fans dug up an older video of Akshay Kumar saying that he would "never do a gutka ad". In the older video of a press meet, Kumar is heard saying that he had received offers from gutka companies to act

in their ads. But he said that he endorsed the 'Swasth Bharath' or 'Healthy India' concept, and wouldn't do anything "bad" in light of it. On Wednesday, April 21, the actor issued a formal apology after the ad aired. "I'm sorry. I would like to apologise to you, all my fans and well-wishers. Your reaction over the past few days has deeply affected me. While I have not and will not endorse tobacco, I respect the outpouring of your feelings in light of my association with Vimal Elaichi. With all humility, I step back," Kumar said in a tweet. He also noted that he will be contributing the entire endorsement fee charged by him towards a worthy cause, while also adding that the brand would continue to air his ads till the contract he signed with it comes to an end. He further pointed out that he will be mindful about the choices he makes in the future. "I have decided to contribute the en-



tire endorsement fee towards a worthy cause. The brand might continue airing the ads till the legal duration of the contract that is binding upon me, but I promise to be extremely mindful in making my future choices. In return, I shall forever con-

tinue to ask for your love and wishes," the tweet read. The actor, however, has not mentioned the duration of his contract for the Vimal Elaichi ad. Gutka and other products that contain tobacco are regulated under the Cigarettes and other

Tobacco Products (Prohibition, Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act of 2003. With this, as is the case with liquor, tobacco products cannot be advertised through any medium directly.

Ananya Panday & Ishaan Khatter break up after 3 years of being together

Over the last few years, Ananya Panday and Ishaan Khatter have been quite vocal about their love for each other. Time and again, they have confirmed that their "relationship status" was no longer single and were even spotted together at multiple parties and holiday destinations. And now, Pinkvilla has news that might break the heart of some who considered Ananya and Ishaan to give them some couple goals. According to our highly placed sources, Ananya Panday and Ishaan Khatter have called it

quits after being together for 3 long years. "The two bonded well on the sets of Khaalii Peeli and that led to the beginning of a new journey. However, after living their lives together for 3 years, they have decided to finally end their relationship. It has been a mutual call and the things have ended on a positive note. The two will continue to be cordial going forward," revealed a source close to the couple. The source insists that the two might even do a film together if an offer comes their way and are handling the break-

up with maturity. "It's all fine for them on the friendship front, and they have parted ways on a good note. They realised that their way of looking at things was a little different from each other and hence the decision," the source concluded. Interestingly, just a month back, Ishaan and Ananya were spotted together being the comfortable self at Shahid Kapoor's birthday bash. The decision to part ways was taken very recently, and this is news which will surely take the industry by surprise.



Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani call it quits on romance

It seems that another Bollywood romance has come to an abrupt end. The latest rumours doing the round state the actors Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani have called it quits on their romance after years of dating. The couple, who met on the sets of 'Shershaah', stopped meeting each other as they have

'fallen out of love' states BollywoodLife.com. While the reason behind their separation is still unknown, it does come as a heart-break to fans and shippers who were rooting for a wedding announcement. Although both Sid and Kiara have never admitted to their relationship, the pair have often been spotted heading out

on romantic holidays, partying together and even meeting each other's families. Rumours were rife that the couple was set to make their relationship official, if not go all the way and take the plunge. On the work front, Kiara is getting ready for the release of her horror comedy 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' opposite Kartik Aaryan

and Tabu. The film is all set to hit the screens on May 20. The actress also has 'Jug Jugg Jeeyo' opposite Varun Dhawan, 'Govinda Naam Mera' with Vicky Kaushal and was also spotted over the weekend at a film studio office, hinting at another big project on the cards. Sidharth, on the other hand, is currently in

Turkey. He has a number of other projects lined up, including 'Mission Majnu' alongside Rashmika Mandanna. He also has Karan Johar's action flick 'Yodha' and 'Thank God' with Ajay Devgn and Rakul Preet Singh. The hunk will also be seen headlining Rohit Shetty's OTT debut series 'Indian Police Force'.

Bollywood

SS Rajamouli speaks about the major difference between a star and a director

SS Rajamouli has hit a hat-trick with RRR. The maverick filmmaker shattered box office records with his recently released film RRR starring Ram Charan and Jr NTR in the lead. The film also starred Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn in pivotal roles. Rajamouli is also the force behind the magnum opus Baahubali- The Beginning and Baahubali-The Conclusion. Now, with the success of RRR, Rajamouli has become a superstar in his own way. In a recent interview with Bollywood Hungama, SS Rajamouli said that while he is aware of people watching

films because of his name, but believes that there are differences between a movie star and a director. Talking about the difference between onscreen stars and directors, Rajamouli said, "I'm aware that I have a certain number of fans, I'm aware that they want to come to the movie, looking at my name. I'm aware of it. I'm not saying I'm not aware of it. But the difference between a star and a director is that they come to my films assuming that I'll tell them a good story. They don't come to watch me they want to come to watch my story. But with the

star is that they don't care about the story, they want to come to watch the star himself. That is a whole lot of difference. "So one or two flops, my yardstick may be thrown out, but even 10 flops, the star will still be a star because they're coming to watch him and not the story. That's the difference between the stars and director," he added. Meanwhile, SS Rajamouli who is still basking in the success of RRR, will be soon working on a film starring Mahesh Babu. The film will be made on a large scale and is an action-adventure movie.



Alia Bhatt-Ranbir Kapoor are now Married couple; First pic of their marriage is here

Bollywood star couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are now married. Ranbir-Alia tied the knot in a private ceremony. The couple had recently visited Indian designer Beena Kannan, the lead designer of Seematti textiles, which specialises in bridal wear. In the wedding picture that is now being circulated on social media has gone viral. Alia looked radiant in the bridal lehenga, while Ranbir looked like the perfect 'dulha'. There is no doubt that Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are one of the most adored couples of Bollywood. The couple has been dating for over four years and fans were eagerly waiting for

them to announce their wedding soon. Earlier, in 2020, Ranbir Kapoor had said that he and Alia would have been married already, were it not for the Covid-19 pandemic. The power couple will be seen together in 'Brahmastra', the final schedule of film was filmed in Varanasi. 'Brahmastra', a film based on the combination of mythology and science fiction. The film is set to be released in the theatres on September 9 in five Indian languages – Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada. Superstar Amitabh Bachchan, Naagin actress Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni will also be seen in the film.

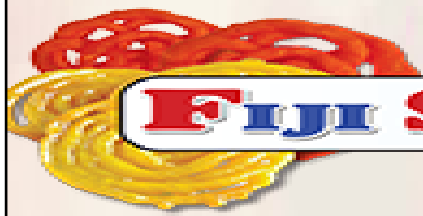


Pratik Gandhi shares his 'humiliating' experience with Mumbai police during VIP security, netizens point out PM is in town



Actor Pratik Gandhi took to his Twitter handle to express his distress over the jamming of Mumbai Western Express Highway. He also shared how Mumbai police pushed him in some warehouse when he decided to walk to his shoot location. "Mumbai WEH is jammed coz of 'VIP' movement, I started walking on the roads to reach the shoot location and Police caught me by shoulder and almost pushed me in some random marble warehouse to wait till without any discussion. #humiliated"

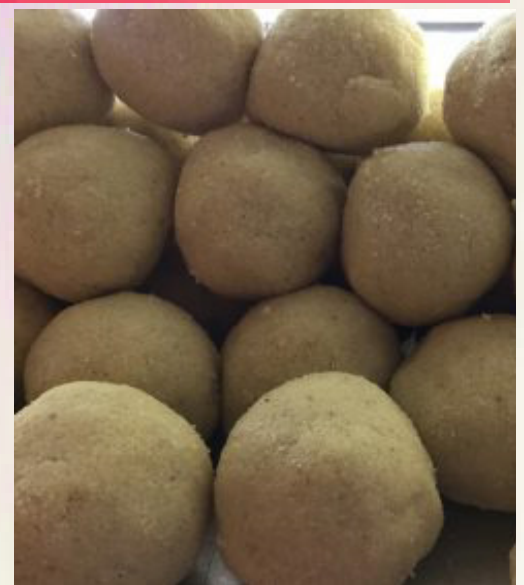
Minutes after his post, Netizens pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting the city, and hence that could be the reason. Pratik, who then aware of the matter responded to the comment, by saying, "Oops .I didn't know" Meanwhile, on the work front, Pratik Gandhi is currently shooting for his next with Patralekhaa. The duo will be sharing the screen space together for Jyotirao Phule-Savitribai Phule's biopic. Apart from that, he also has a project with Vidya Balan, Ileana D'Cruz and Sendhil Ramanamurthy.



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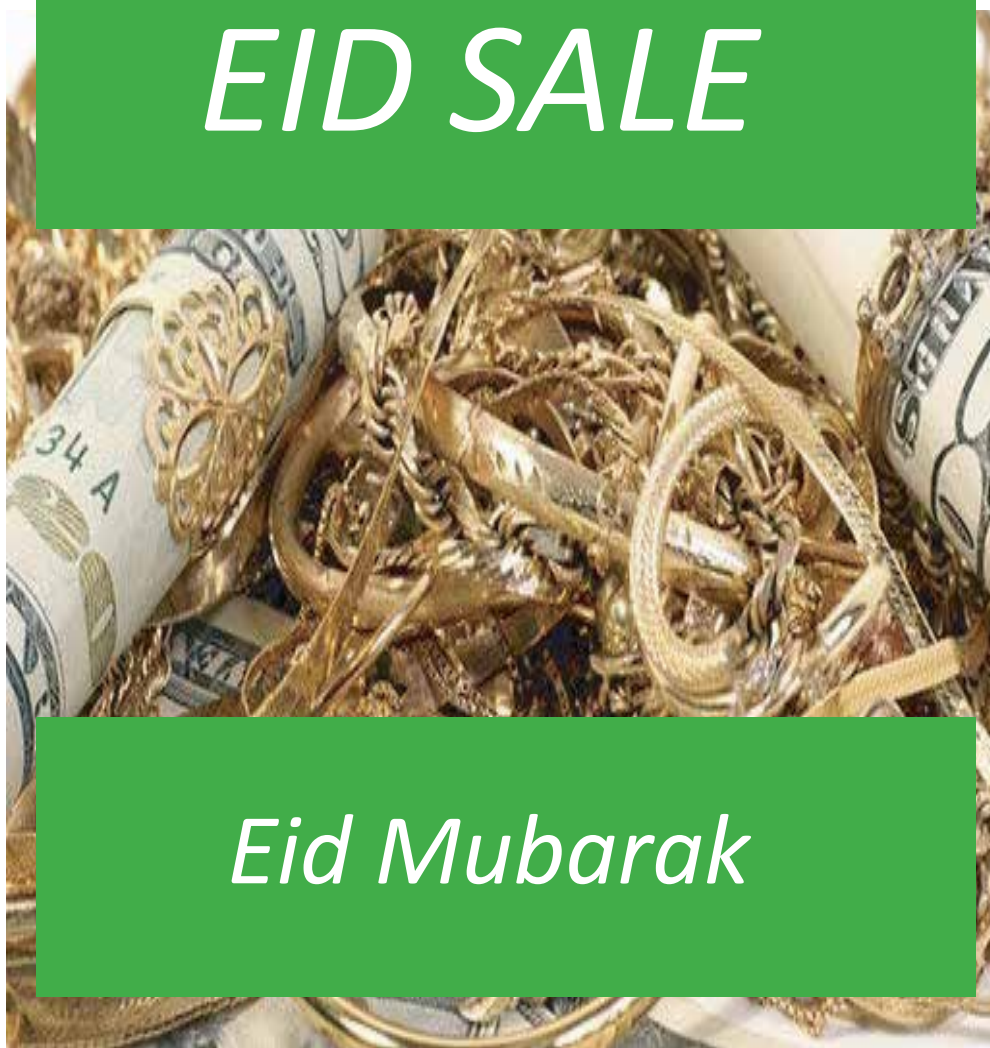
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Bollywood

Baba Siddique Iftar party: Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Sanjay Dutt headline the star-studded affair

Baba Siddique, the former member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, hosts an Iftar party every year. However, due to the COVID-19 crisis, for the last two years, he was not hosting a lavish and star-studded affair keeping the safety restrictions in mind. Now that things are returning to normalcy, Siddique has hosted his famous Iftar party in Mumbai and that's all people can talk about today. The bash is being hosted at a grand scale at Taj Lands End. The internet has been taken over by photos and videos from the bash. The first guest to arrive was TV actress Rashami Desai. She was seen wearing a traditional suit with her hair styled in soft curls. The actress posed with Siddique and his son

Zeeshan for a couple of clicks. Apart from her, TV stars like Sana Khan, Urvashi Dholakia, Hina Khan, and more were also spotted. Renowned scriptwriter Salim Khan also arrived at the party venue. Siddique was seen holding his hand and posing with him for a couple of clicks. His son and actor, Salman Khan, also arrived at the venue looking dapper as ever. Salman is always the highlight of Siddique's Iftar bash and rightly so!

Bollywood actors like Shilpa Shetty, Sanjay Dutt were also papped at the bash. Shilpa picked a pretty pink suit for the occasion and looked stunning. Coming to Siddique's bash, as per media reports, chefs have flown down from Lucknow, Bangalore and Kashmir to



give the guests a finger-licking meal. Speaking about the bash, Siddique in a statement said, "Since we were in the middle



of a pandemic, I decided not to host Iftaari for the last two years. I really missed coming together with my friends and I

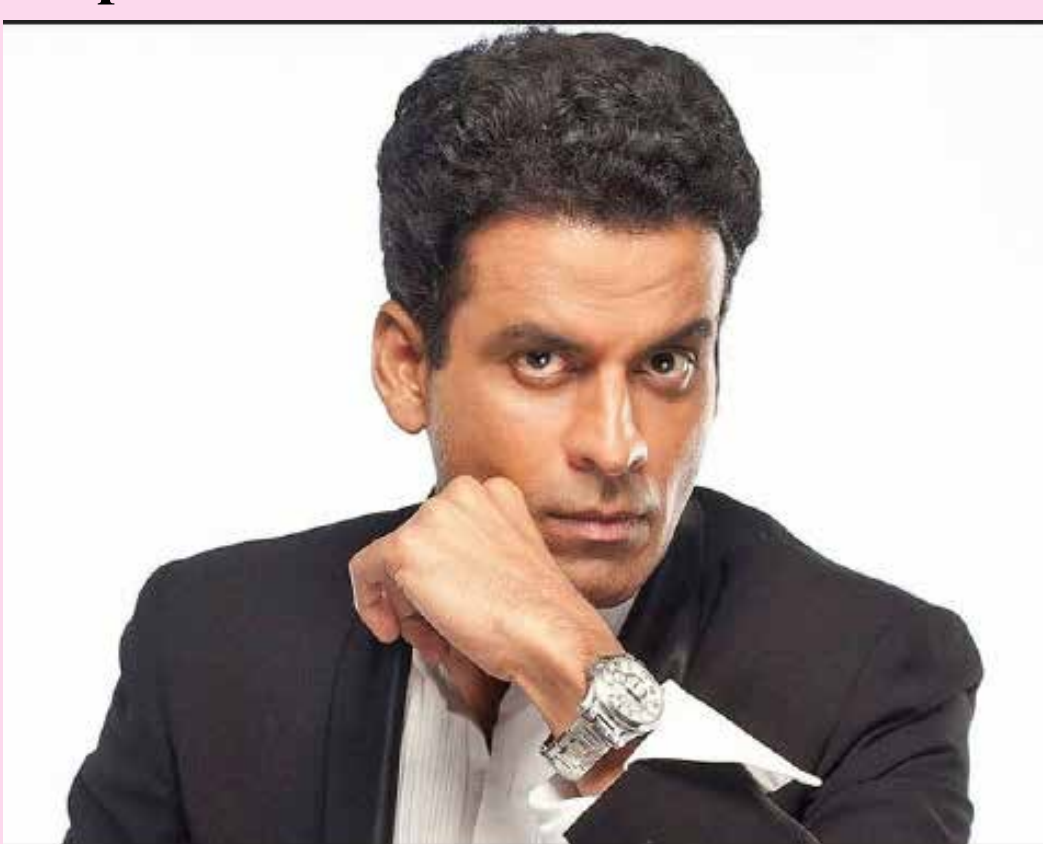


am delighted that this year, our family is once again hosting the event. We can't wait to see all our guests on the 17th of April."

When Manoj Bajpayee Revealed He Was Close To Committing Suicide & Said "My Friends Would Sleep Next To Me..."

There have been a lot of debates surrounding nepotism in the film industry and how real talent gets sidelined. However, there are actors like Pankaj Tripathi and Nawazuddin Siddiqui among others who have shown their ability without anybody's help. Among them is Manoj Bajpayee who had his fair share of struggles before becoming a star. In one of the interviews, he even spoke about his low phase of life and revealed thinking about suicide. The actor who has been in the industry for over two decades has worked on some memorable and blockbuster films. His prominent films include Satya, Rajneeti, Gangs of Wasseypur, bandit Queen among others. He also ventured into the OTT space with Amazon Prime Video's The Family Man. Manoj Bajpayee, who hails from a small village in Bihar, spoke about his life with Humans of Bombay where he even spoke about thinking about suicide. The actor said, "I'm a farmer's son; I grew up in a village in Bihar with 5 siblings—we went to a hut school. We led a simple life, but whenever we went to the city, we'd go to the theatre. I was a Bachchan fan & wanted

to be like him. At 9, I knew acting was my destiny." There have been a lot of debates surrounding nepotism in the film industry and how real talent gets sidelined. However, there are actors like Pankaj Tripathi and Nawazuddin Siddiqui among others who have shown their ability without anybody's help. Among them is Manoj Bajpayee who had his fair share of struggles before becoming a star. In one of the interviews, he even spoke about his low phase of life and revealed thinking about suicide. The actor who has been in the industry for over two decades has worked on some memorable and blockbuster films. His prominent films include Satya, Rajneeti, Gangs of Wasseypur, bandit Queen among others. He also ventured into the OTT space with Amazon Prime Video's The Family Man. Manoj Bajpayee, who hails from a small village in Bihar, spoke about his life with Humans of Bombay where he even spoke about thinking about suicide. The actor said, "I'm a farmer's son; I grew up in a village in Bihar with 5 siblings—we went to a hut school. We led a simple life, but whenever we went to the city, we'd go to the the-



atre. I was a Bachchan fan & wanted to be like him. At 9, I knew acting was my destiny." "But I couldn't afford to dream & continued my studies. Still, my mind refused to focus on anything else, so at 17, I left for DU. There, I did theatre but my family had no idea. Finally, I wrote a letter to dad—he wasn't angry & even sent me

Rs.200 to cover my fees! People back home called me 'good for nothing' but I turned a blind eye," added Manoj Bajpayee. Although he's considered one of the top stars in Bollywood today, unfortunately, he was rejected from the National School of Drama not once, but thrice. Manoj Bajpayee said, "I was an outsider, trying to fit in. So, I

taught myself English & Hindi, Bhojpuri was a big part of how I spoke. I then applied to NSD, but was rejected thrice. I was close to committing suicide, so my friends would sleep next to me & not leave me alone. They kept me going until I was accepted." Stay tuned to Koimoi for more throwback stories.

Health

"Indian Jab In My Arm": Boris Johnson Praises India's Vaccine Contribution

Visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson commented that he had "the Indian jab" as he talked about the UK-India collaboration in producing vaccines that inoculated more than a billion against Covid.

Boris Johnson, on his first visit to India, dwelt on the partnership between the two countries and referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- whom he called "Narendra" -- as his "khaas dost (special friend)".

"We are extending our partnership as science superpowers and building on the collaboration between Oxford AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute of India, which vaccinated more than a billion people globally against Covid. I have the Indian jab in my arm, and a power of good it did for me...So many thanks to India. And that has helped India to become what Narendra has called the pharmacy of the world," said the UK



PM, addressing a joint press conference with PM Modi. Mr Johnson also said Britain and India had agreed to a "new and expanded" defence and security partnership. The two countries have a "shared interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific open and free", he added, calling the new partnership "a decades-

long commitment". The UK is creating an India-specific open general export license reducing bureaucracy and reducing delivery times for defence procurement, added the British PM. According to reports, around five million people in Britain were vaccinated with Covishield, the India-made

version of the Oxford AstraZeneca Covid shot. PM Modi said the two leaders stressed on the need for an end to the war in Ukraine and the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. "We reiterated the importance of territorial integrity and sovereignty of all nations," he said.



Cancer: Huge DNA analysis uncovers new clues

UK scientists have undertaken a huge "archaeological dig" of cancer in the UK, analysing the complete genetic make-up - or whole genome sequence - of tumours from about 12,000 patients. The team says the unprecedented amount of data allowed them to uncover new patterns in the DNA of cancer - hinting at causes that are not yet understood. They add that the genetic clues will ultimately help improve diagnosis and treatment. The research is published in Science. Cancer can be thought of as a corrupted version of our own healthy cells - mutations to our DNA change our cells until eventually they grow and divide uncontrollably. Traditionally many cancers have been categorised by doctors based on where they are in the body and the type of cells involved - but whole genome sequencing can provide another layer of key information. 'Dinosaur footprints' Whole genome sequencing is relatively new, but is already available on the NHS for a small number

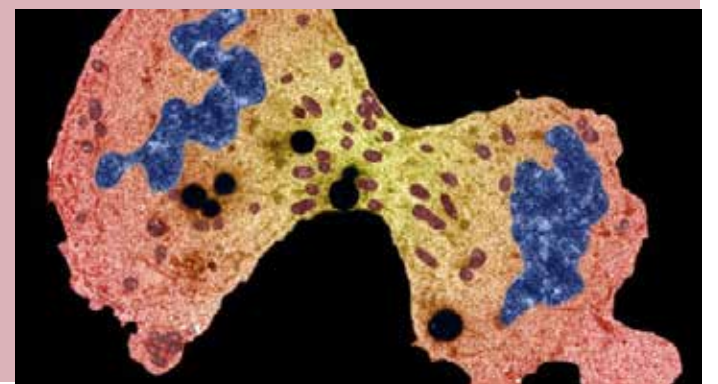
of specific cancers, including some blood cancers. The NHS long-term plan aims to make it more widely available, through the NHS Genomic Medicine Service. Lead researcher Prof Serena Nik-Zainal, a consultant at Cambridge University Hospitals, told the BBC the study was like an "archaeological dig" of people's cancer. She added: "We can see the patterns or imprints in the field of their cancers - like dinosaur footprints - of what is going wrong with their cancers. "And everyone's cancer is different. To know we can personalise each person's cancer report means we are a step closer to personalising treatment for them." Led by the University of Cambridge, the research team analysed anonymised DNA data provided by the 100,000 Genomes Project - an England-wide project to sequence the whole genomes of patients affected by cancer and rare diseases. With thousands of genetic changes seen in each tumour they analysed, researchers were able to detect specific combinations of genetic altera-

tions - so-called "mutational signatures" - that may be key to cancers developing. Comparing the data to other international genetic cancer projects, they confirmed patterns that are already known, and uncovered 58 new ones. Some signatures can provide clues about whether patients have had exposure to environmental causes of cancers - such as smoking. Others provide more information about genetic abnormalities that may be amenable to specific drugs, researchers say. Researchers also created a computer programme to help scientists and doctors check whether patients who have had whole genome sequencing have any of the newly discovered mutational clues. 'Challenging journey' Aubrey, a two-year-old girl from Bedfordshire, was diagnosed with cancer when she was only 16 months old. She did not take part in the study. But whole genome sequencing helped doctors identify the type of cancer she has - a rhabdomyosarcoma - a rare cancer that generally affects muscles

attached to bones. The results helped make sure she is on the best treatment. Anna, Aubrey's mother, said: "Because of the unusual way Aubrey's cancer presented, the doctors were not sure of the exact cancer type."

"The whole genome sequence test helped doctors to know how to treat her and keep her stable. "Whilst we still have a challenging journey with Aubrey's diagnosis and treatment, we are relieved to know she does not have cancer that was inherited, and we do not have to worry that it could affect our son or other members of the family as well." "What is your genome? Your genome is the information needed to build the human

body and keep it healthy. It is written in chemical code called DNA. The genome is made of segments of DNA called genes and other genetic material. Most cancers are caused by cells with unusual changes in their genome. Prof Matt Brown, chief scientific officer of Genomics England, said: "Mutational signatures are an example of using the full potential of whole genome sequencing. "We hope to use the mutational clues seen in this study and apply them back into our patient population, with the ultimate aim of improving diagnosis and management of cancer patients." The research is supported by Cancer Research UK.



Obituary



Eqbal Hussain (aka Ballu) former secretary, treasurer, manager and president of Fiji All Blacks.

03/08/1957-04/09/2022

*Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'oon.
It is with a heavy heart we sadly announce the passing away of Eqbal Hussain (Ballu) of San Francisco California.*

He was the son of late Abdul Gani and Majidan Gani of 266 Fletcher Road Vatu-waqa Suva Fiji Island. Husband of Zarina Hussain and father of Ashiya, Zubair, Zuhair and Fareema. Brother of Kazim, Sattar, Abbas and late Mohammed Hussain. Sisters are Maihrul Ali, Kamrul Janif, Ahroon Samut, Nazmun Islam, mahrooma Nur Nisha

THE US FIJI TIMES



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Sports News

World Snooker Championship 2022: Mark Williams through, Ronnie O'Sullivan leads

Mark Williams produced a devastating display to thrash fellow Welshman Jackson Page 13-3 and reach the quarter-finals of the World Championship in Sheffield. The three-time champion made six centuries and eight breaks of 50 or more to win with a session to spare. Williams will face defending champion Mark Selby or China's Yan Bingtao next. Ronnie O'Sullivan is on the verge of the quarter-finals, needing one more frame to defeat Mark Allen. Six-time champion O'Sullivan opened up a commanding 12-4 lead and has been in relaxed mood at this World Championship with a camera crew following him for a documentary. In the lead-up to the match, Northern Irishman Allen commented that it was "not the Ronnie O'Sullivan show", but 'The Rocket' showed his prowess by surging 6-2 ahead in the first session. The Englishman, who is aiming for a record-equalling seventh world crown, was on for a maximum 147 break in the 12th frame but, after potting 11 reds and 11 blacks, he lost position. How-

ever, a 100 break in the final frame of the second session put him on the cusp of the last eight when they conclude on Saturday afternoon. Scotland's Stephen Maguire, who had to qualify for the tournament, is closing in on a surprise victory over UK champion Zhao Xintong, leading 11-5. World number 40 Maguire needs only two more frames to reach the last eight when they resume on Saturday morning. Fowl and a miss - pigeon stops play In a bizarre incident before the sixth frame between defending champion Selby and Yan, a pigeon somehow made its way into the Crucible Theatre, startling the Chinese player while he was in his chair. "I don't believe it, we've got pigeon here," former world champion Ken Doherty said during commentary on BBC Two. "Have you ever seen anything like this? Those pigeons will do anything for a free seat." The bird walked across the table before flying towards a surprised Selby, who had left the arena after the fifth frame. It made its way backstage, where it was caught by



a member of staff. Selby and Yan are locked at 4-4 after the first session before resuming on Saturday morning. 'Absolutely ridiculous' Williams Williams called 20-year-old Page his "fourth son" because they practice together and Page plays cards and eats pizza with his three sons. But the master taught his protege a lesson in cue-ball control, stroking in a record-equalling six tons in the match and taking his tally to 10 for the tournament. Wil-

liams opened up a 7-1 lead in the first session, making further runs of 74, 53, 50, 75, 51, 65 twice and 56 to stun Page on his Crucible debut. The pair were supposed to conclude on Friday night but the early finish means 47-year-old Williams can enjoy a rest until he returns to action on Tuesday. Williams said: "If it was anybody else with a session to spare it would be 'good, hammered him', but I don't feel like that playing Jackson. "I played really well, kept

him under pressure and it is a good learning curve for him. He can bounce back. "I didn't really give him any chances. I did not ease up all game and he can't be too disappointed. I can't play any better than that at my age." World number 90 Page said: "He was unbelievable in the first session and it set the tone of the match. "He ran away with it and it takes your very best to compete with that. He was just absolutely ridiculous. You can't fault it."

Leclerc and Verstappen say they share mutual respect despite having 'hated' each other during karting days

It's no secret that Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc had a fiery rivalry in their karting days, the pair clashing on the road to F1 – but now the Red Bull and Ferrari title contenders have matured well beyond that. Leclerc and Verstappen went face-to-face back in junior karting categories with both gunning for a future seat in F1. This season, they're both seemingly in championship-worthy machinery, though it's Ferrari's Leclerc who leads the standings ahead of the team's home race at Imola with Verstappen lagging behind due to his two DNFs in three races.

On Thursday, Leclerc said of Verstappen: "It's always been very close, especially in the junior categories. In karting, I remember it was either me or him and that's why we hated each other at one point, because very often it didn't end in the best way possible!" And

on a rainy Friday at Imola he explained further: "I think it's a very different situation. We have matured a lot, we are much older – even though we are still 25 years old, which is still quite young. At this time there were episodes which made us hate each other, I'm pretty sure, on some occasions, but then you grow up – obviously we've both achieved one of our dreams which was to arrive in Formula 1 – and at that time it was just a dream; everything looked impossible. "So, it's great now to be fighting in Formula 1 and there's a lot of respect for each other. So yes, it has changed, for sure." Reigning champion Verstappen echoed Leclerc's words and said the pair can "laugh about it" after going toe-to-toe in karts. The pair have of course gone wheel-to-wheel this season in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia (where Verstappen took his first win of 2022), before Leclerc



dominated to win again in Australia and consolidate his championship lead. "Like Charles said, we've matured a lot and we're both in Formula 1 and I mean we are in two top teams and fighting for race wins, and what happened in go-karting, it's actually – you can laugh about it now – good times," said Verstappen. "I mean, we

basically grew up through go-karting from, I think, 12 years old, and of course we were very similar in age. We already had a lot of go-karting battles but also we made our way through to Formula 1. And not only the two of us – a lot of drivers like George [Russell], Carlos [Sainz], we already saw each other at the go-karting tracks

and now we are all here in F1 basically fighting with top teams. "It's really nice to see that and I hope it can continue for a long time," concluded the Dutch driver. Imola hosts the first Sprint of the season with rain pelting the track ahead of Friday's FP1 and qualifying session.

Sports News

Edmonton, Canada 2022 Heritage Cup Champions... FIJI!!!!

Fiji electrified the tournament with its dazzling play and lethal attack and overwhelmed teams with their speed. Perhaps the best performance ever by a Fijian side in Edmonton. The team made history when it qualified for the semi finals, then the finals and eventually capturing gold for the first time ever! The boys would like to thank all the fans for the support from kick off too the final countdown in each and every game. The fans are going to be the reason why this tournament will be remembered forever. Final Score Fiji 7 Somalia 3.



Top Left: Zakhil Weber, Avnit Sharma, Habib Assem, Imtiaz Kasim, Ibrahim Jetishi, Kartik Goundar, Abhilash Sharma, Shiva Naidu, Nahhid Alami, Rilind Idrizi, Andreas Shilin(coach), Justin Kumar(coach). Bottom Left: Imran Ali, Iyaaz Kasim, Deepak Krishna, Shafeel Khan, Shivam Maharaj, Sanjesh Bali, Kelvin Nand, Alvin Nand, Ashik Ali(coach) Missing: Eric Baran

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SEATTLE TISI/TIV/TIM Sangam, expands its horizons to Host Sangam Cup Mega tournament during the Memorial Day weekend on 28^h & 29th May, 2022.

The tournament will be open to all Fiji Island descendants living in USA and Canada – in line with the theme

“Expanding the horizon”

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

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

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Tournament will have Trophies and Cash prizes to winning teams .

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

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

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

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

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

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

VOLLEYBALL TEAM REGISTRATION \$30

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

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

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

Email – seattlesangam@yahoo.com



In Memory of
Eqbal Hussain
Of Fiji All Blacks



MAY 7th, 2022

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B. EAST BAY
C. FIJI ALL BLACKS
D. OAKLAND F.C

POOL 2

E. NORFOLK
F. UNITED F.C
G. SAN MATEO

8.30am	Monterey	vs	East Bay F.C	Ground 1
8.30am	Norfolk	vs	United F.C	Ground 2
10.00am	Oakland F.C	vs	All Blacks	Ground 1
10.00am	United F.C	vs	San Mateo	Ground 2
11.30am	Oakland F.C	vs	Monterey	Ground 1
11.30pm	Norfolk	vs	San Mateo	Ground 2
1.00pm	East Bay F.C	vs	All Blacks	Ground 1

Semi-Final

2.30pm	Winner P1	vs	Runner up P2	Ground 1
2.30pm	Winner P2	vs	Runner up P1	Ground 2

Final

4.00 PM



Fijiana Drua cap off unbeaten season with historic comeback win over Waratahs



Fijiana Drua 32 defeat NSW Waratahs 26 to win Super W title

The Fijiana Drua have sensationally ended the NSW Waratahs' long reign of dominance, capping their unbeaten debut season by winning the Super W rugby title with a 32-26 comeback victory at Melbourne's AAMI Park.

"It is more than just a game to these girls. It's years of hard work, sacrifice," Drua lock Jade Coates said amid delirious scenes on and off the field.

"This is history for us and a day we'll never forget. It's created a pathway for girls and women playing rugby.

Joma Rubuti (left) of the Fijiana Drua celebrates scoring a try with Vani Va'aga Arei (centre) during the Round 8 Super W Rugby match between the Fijiana Drua and ACT Brumbies.

'We can't stop talking about them': Fijiana Drua revolutionise women's rugby in Australia

Read more

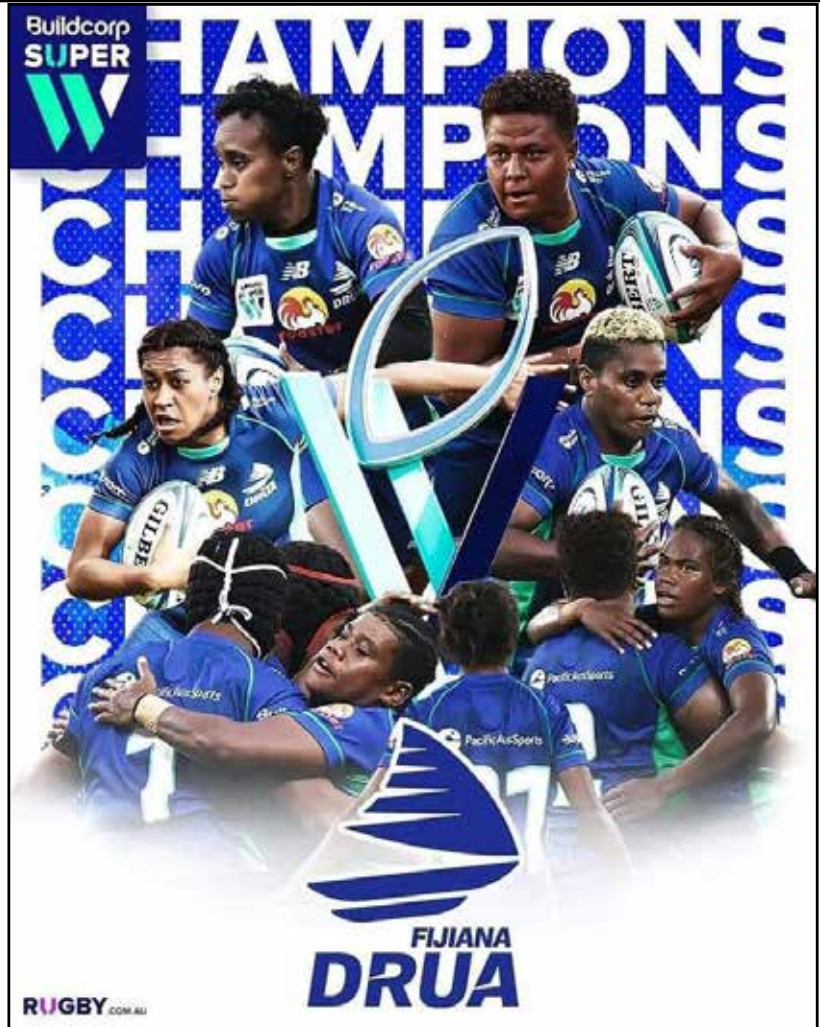
"We played for past players, present, future players and our supporters. This is the start of

something and we'll only go up from here."

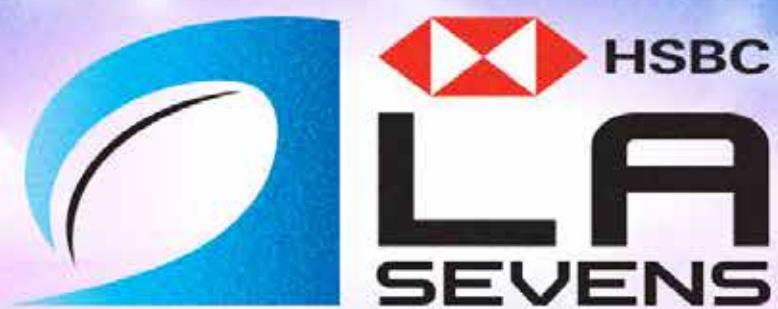
After a dominant, unbeaten run of 19 games over five Super W seasons, the Waratahs had been hot favourites for a fifth Super W title in five attempts. But when the Fijiana Drua gave notice of their own intent three weeks ago, defeating NSW 29-10, it set up a grand final for the ages.

In their first season, the GFold Coast-based Fijiana Drua, a late inclusion in Super W amid the challenges of COVID-19, have caused an explosion in women's rugby in Fiji. In making today's grand final they composed a remarkable 184-51 for-and-against record, a feat that won them the Super W minor premiership and set up today's decider. And, in a torrid contest at

AAMI Park in Melbourne, the newcomers were pushed further than at any point in their dominant season, with NSW dominating the set piece from the get-go and matching the razzle-dazzle Drua in



open play. Player of the match Vitalina Naikore opened the scoring for the Drua after a tight 20 minutes and it opened the floodgates at both ends, with Waratahs hooker Natalie Delamere then scoring three tries in 19 minutes either side of halftime. In between the Drua worked their magic, Mere-walesi Rokouono's cross-field kick finding a flying Kolora Lomani for a brilliant try. Source: TheGuardian



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