



# THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

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## Indian Global Diaspora Celebrate Rishi Sunak's PM Victory



Greetings poured in from throughout the global Indian society as Rishi Sunak became the first Indian-origin politician to take the oath of office as UK prime minister. Sunak's parents are of Indian origin, having moved to East Africa from Punjab (present-day Gujranwala, Pakistan) in 1935 and later to the UK in the 1960s. His father practiced general medicine, while his mother ran a pharmacy. Sunak, 42, is one of the wealthiest people in the UK, with a net worth of more than

£700 million (\$803 million). His father-in-law Narayana Murthy is an Indian business mogul and the owner of the technology firm Infosys.

He is also the UK's first Hindu prime minister from the Conservative Party. Despite the fact that he is a practicing Hindu and that videos of him praying at temples have been widely circulated on social media in India, he has avoided discussing his religion. Sunak succeeded Liz Truss, the UK's shortest-serving prime minister, who served for

only 44 days. Indian lawmakers and members of the public expressed their excitement at his appointment on social media.

Sunak was congratulated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a tweet, he stated, "Warmest congratulations @RishiSunak! As you become UK PM, I look forward to working closely together on global issues, and implementing Roadmap 2030. Special Diwali wishes to the 'living bridge' of UK Indians, as we transform our historic ties into a modern

partnership."

At just 42, Rishi Sunak is the youngest prime minister in modern times - taking the record held by his old boss David Cameron, who was 43 when appointed. His appointment as PM came on the day millions celebrated Diwali, and as a practicing Hindu, he has said one of his proudest career moments was lighting ceremonial diyas (oil lamps) outside 11 Downing Street while chancellor. A traditional Hindu red bracelet, meant for good luck and protec-

tion, could be seen on his wrist when he posed on the steps of 10 Downing Street for the first time as UK leader. PM Sunak joins other World Leaders of Indian origins like US Vice President Kamala Harris, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth who was elected the Prime Minister of Mauritius after holding a number of major positions in the cabinet, and Antonio Costa, the current prime minister of Portugal and who is half Portuguese and half Goan.



Deals on Page 4



## THE US FIJI TIMES

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# Fijian Government



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**Honorary Consul**  
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## THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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# Fiji Airways wins top honours at 2022 World Airline Awards



Fiji Airways has been named winner of the award for the Best Airline Staff Service in Australia & Pacific at the prestigious World Airline Awards, held last night at the historic Langham Hotel in London.

It is the second time passengers have chosen Fiji Airways for this top prize for the Best Airline Staff Service in Australia & Pacific, after the airline previously won the award in 2019. The Best Airline Staff Service Awards assess all frontline service contact points across both the airport and on-board environment, including check-in, lounges, service assistance, boarding and arrivals, as well as the full range of on-board cabin staff service.

Managing Director and Chief Executive of Fiji Airways Mr Andre Viljoen said “it truly is an honour for our airline to be recognized for our commitment to service.

I thank all the hard working staff at Fiji Airways who made this award possible. We won this same award in 2019, and I am proud of the fact that we have not been complacent despite the challenging period that Fiji Airways and indeed the entire aviation industry has faced due to the pandemic.”

“Fiji Airways is focused on major plans to enhance our products and service to continue evolving and offering the best to all our guests,” he added. Edward Plaisted of Skytrax said: “Fiji Airways have embarked on the most comprehensive review and upgrade of product and service during the last 2 years, and the airline management and staff should be delighted with this recognition for having the Best Airline Staff Service in Australia & Pacific. In addition to this success for front line staff service, Fiji Airways should also be delighted with their performance in 2022 which sees the airline rise into the world’s top 50 airlines this year.”

## THE 2022 WORLD AIRLINE AWARDS

The World Airline Awards are wholly independent and im-

partial, introduced in 1999 to provide a customer satisfaction study that was truly global. Travellers across the world vote in the largest airline passenger satisfaction survey to determine the award winners. The awards are referred to by media around the world as “the Oscars of the aviation industry”. All costs of the Survey and Awards event are paid by Skytrax, and airlines do not pay any entry or registration fee. There are no charges for use of the Award logos and results.

The online customer survey operated from September- 2021 to August 2022, together with invitations sent to previous year respondents in the survey database. The customer survey is provided in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese. Over 100 customer nationalities participated in the 2021/2022 survey with 14.32 million eligible entries counted in the results. Survey entries are screened to identify IP and user information, with all duplicate, suspect or ineligible entries deleted. More than 300 airlines are featured in the final Award results.

Fiji Airways, Fiji’s National Carrier has been rated a Five Star Major Airline 2023 in the Official Airline Ratings™ by our passengers. For the 2023 Awards, nearly one million flights were rated by passengers across more than 600 airlines from around the world using a five-star scale. The APEX Official Airline Ratings™ were independently certified by a professional external auditing company.

Fiji Airways Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Mr Andre Viljoen is in California, USA to receive the award on behalf of the airline.

“We at Fiji Airways have worked very hard to elevate the airline to a level where it has been recognized as an APEX Five Star Major Airline. This is no easy feat for a carrier our size, based out of a remote location in the South Pacific.”

“This rating by APEX is a win for a whole of Fiji. While battling the challenges brought on by the pandemic, the National Carrier showed resilience and managed to become a Five Star Rated Airline. We are now counted among the best ‘Major Airlines’ in the world, thanks to the GRIT and TENACITY of our team.” Fiji Airways success in resuming services in a COVID safe manner, the quick ramp up and record number of visitor arrivals contributed to our rating as a Five Star Airline.

Where many airlines of a similar size are struggling, the National Carrier has managed to stay afloat, successfully navigated

the pandemic, and is now soaring to newer heights in terms of bookings and revenue earnings.

Additionally, Mr Viljoen has also been invited to deliver a keynote address on Fiji Airways Journey from **SURVIVING** to **THRIVING**.

The APEX Official Airline Ratings™ were created based on neutral, third-party passenger feedback and insights gathered through APEX’s partnership with TripIt® from Concur®, the world’s highest-rated travel-organizing app.





# Seattle Barbarians Rugby Lands On Sponsorship



## Fofu'anga Seattle Community

On October 15th, the newly bounded Seattle Barbarians Rugby team celebrated their large donation from the Fofu'anga Seattle Community (FSC) club in regards to the establishment of their new sponsorship.

The Seattle Barbarians is a rugby team of diverse Pacific men launching this December 2022, led with the help of soccer sensation and presidential representative, Akuila Rova. On this night, Rova further added that such assistance would be beneficial to the team's objective of creating supportive athletic and academic environments for those wanting to pursue educational opportunities through the sport of rugby. The team's understanding of educational struggles has led many young islanders to be directed in pathways non-helpful

to their rugby careers, and so with this new team they have strived to prevent that. With this goal, the FSC's large donation was entirely inspired by their admiration for the Seattle Barbarians plans in providing extensive accommodations for our young Pacific communities—as they have been determined to do the same.

The Fofu'anga Seattle Community (FSC) is a non-profit organization serving young U.S. Tongans with language, culture, and most evidently kava, to combat young Pacific individuals from enduring conflicting paths. They acknowledge that much of the children within our communities have struggles educationally due to the differentiating circumstances they have chosen. And so with this club, they have severely attempted to obliterate these common commu-

nity struggles by hosting fundraisers dedicated to educational and tuition support, sport teams, families in need and much more. The night additionally began with delicious servings of island cuisines provided by the Seattle Barbarians coaches, Jope Motokana and Sevuloni Tawake, with the help of the teams board directors who seemingly dished the community with various love-styled meals. It was then, the Seattle Barbarians and FSC further concluded their sponsorship celebration with musical performances from cultures of Tongan and Fijian descent. With that, FSC had proudly determined their sponsorship agreement with the Seattle Barbarians with a large donation in hope their connective goals supplement a wide-influence into our Pacific Islander communities.



# Seattle Barbarians Rugby Lands On Sponsorship

## KAVA VINAKA

The Seattle Barbarians Rugby celebrate their new sponsorship with Kava Vinaka, Rajiv Khatri, as he astonishes the team with a large donation in support of their new partnership.

Kava Vinaka is a widely-known kava distribution company residing in the U.S sold to provide the best Fijian kava for individuals but primarily through kava clubs across the nation. The businesses tactics have displayed methods into serving the cleanest kava, made to inhibit underlying health issues and habits both mentally and physically—all of which can be found through their website at [kavinaka.com](http://kavinaka.com) Rajiv Khatri, the owner of Kava Vinaka, granted

the team with his presence on September 9th, as their team conducted their first launch meeting. He was originally invited by the team's presidential representative, Akuila Rova, as he himself was coached by Rova as an adolescent during the soccer legends iconic days. Within the meeting, discussion-al details of upcoming plans and team events were announced that all added into the assurance that this team would be a communal-responsive team dedicated to serving the pacifica community with educational, sport-induced, familial support. Khatri then concluded the meeting adding that his admiration stuck to the team's objective in providing an assisting environ-

ment for pacifica generations wanting to pursue extended opportunities through the sport of rugby—further announcing his significant donation.

The Seattle Barbarians concluded the appraisal with gratitude as they celebrated the bounded partnership reiterating that as their first team meeting, this donation alone has meant a significant amount as this is just the start to a life-long partnership. It's evident that the team has continuously strived to sustain sales of island cuisines for the community to assist in the ventures, but with Kava Vinaka's support it ignites a wide outreach for the teams endeavors.





## NEWS

# Rishi Sunak's wife is richer than the Queen: Tech billionaire's daughter who he met while studying at Stanford has shares in family's firm are worth £430million - making her one of Britain's wealthiest women



Chancellor Rishi Sunak's wife Akshata Murthy (pictured together at their wedding) has shares in her family's tech business worth £430million, making her richer than the Queen

Rishi Sunak's wife has shares in her family's tech firm that are worth £430million, making her one of Britain's wealthiest women, it has been revealed. Akshata Murthy and her relatives hold a multimillion pound portfolio of shareholdings which have come to light amid questions over the Chancellor, who met his future wife while studying at Stanford University, California, failing to declare them in the register of ministers' interests. The assets make Indian-born Akshata richer than the Queen, who is estimated to be worth £350million, according to the Sunday Times Rich List. She is the daughter of one of the richest men in India - billionaire N. R. Narayana Murthy - who has been described as the father of the Indian IT sector and 'one of the 12 greatest businessmen of all time'.

Sunak is the son of a GP father and pharmacist mother who emigrated to Southampton from East Africa in the 1960s, and he studied at Oxford University before winning a Fulbright scholarship to Stanford where the future husband and wife met.

The latest revelation comes after Sunak faced demands to reveal details of his financial

interests last month, after it emerged he set up a 'blind trust' when he was made Chief Secretary to the Treasury in July last year. But critics said there was still risk of conflict as Sunak - reputed to be the richest MP - is aware what he put into the trust. Sunak's wife is the daughter of an entrepreneur in India, co-founding technology company Infosys - in which she owns 0.91 per cent shares, totaling £430million.

Her family are also have a joint venture with Amazon worth £900million a year and shares in the firm running Jamie Oliver's Jamie's Italian and burger chain Wendy's in India. Before becoming Chancellor, Sunak was better known in India than he was in Britain, after he became a household name when he married Akshata, the daughter of a self-made billionaire.

Akshata's father is the 51st richest man in India and ranks at 1135 in the world's billionaire list, according to Forbes. The father-of-two from Bangalore, India, graduated with a science Master's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology before becoming the co-founder and chairman of Infosys. He spent 30 years at the company before resigning in 2011, coming back

in 2013 to pass the management to a CEO in 2014.

The tech giant was worth around £2billion when Southampton-born Sunak travelled on a Fulbright scholarship to Stanford University in California, where he met his future wife after taking Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford. It is today valued at around £33.3billion, with Mr Murphy's real-time net worth estimated at around £2.3billion (\$3.1bn) at the time of writing.

According to his company profile, Mr Murphy, whose wife, Sudha, works as an author, is currently on the boards of Ford Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study in New Jersey and the United Nations Foundation.

He has also served on the boards of Cornell University, Wharton School, the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University and the Rhodes Trust at Oxford, alongside Yale University's international advisory board. On its website, Infosys says that Mr Murphy 'introduced the concept of the 24-hour work day to the world'.

It states: 'Mr Murphy conceptualized, articulated and implemented the Global Delivery Model (GDM) which has become the backbone of the Indian software industry.'

'GDM is based on collaborative distributed software development principles and has resulted in the delivery of superior quality software to global customers delivered on time and within budget. Mr Murphy also introduced the concept of the 24-hour work day to the world. 'Under Mr. Murphy's leadership, Infosys became the leader in innovation in technical, managerial and leadership training, software technology, quality, productivity, customer focus, employee satisfaction, and physical and technological infrastructure.' Sunak and Akshata married in 2009 in her home city of Bangalore in a two-day ceremony attended by 1,000 guests.

Before entering politics, Mr Sunak, who is now a multimillionaire in his own right, studied at the £42,000-per-year

Winchester College and later at Oxford University.

During his time in business, he worked in California, India and Britain for various investment firms including Goldman Sachs. He later set up his own business, Theleme Partners, in 2010 with an initial fund of £536million.

While building the hedge fund he spent a couple of days doing voluntary work for the Conservatives - which was when he decided he would like to go into politics full-time.

Speaking about his decision to go into politics, he once explained: 'It was my parents who motivated me, but not in a political way. 'My dad was a GP, my mum a pharmacist, and I grew up working in their surgery; in the pharmacy; delivering medicines to people who couldn't pick them up. 'People would always stop and talk to me about my mum and dad, saying, 'Oh, you're Mrs Sunak's son, Dr Sunak's son.' And then they'd have some story about how my parents had helped them, or their parents, or children, and I thought that was amazing.

'They had done the same job in the same place for 30 years, and it was clear that they as individuals were able to have an amazing impact on the community around us, and that I found pretty inspiring. And that was my motivation for becoming an MP.'

Every year Sunak and his wife throw a summer garden party for local villagers at their magnificent Georgian £1.5million manor house in Kirby Sigston, just outside Northallerton, Yorkshire - leading to him being dubbed the 'Maharaja of the Dales'.

Sir Alistair Graham, a former chairman of the committee on standards in public life, said the Chancellor appeared to have 'taken the most minimalist approach possible' to divulging information. He told The Guardian: 'Perhaps Rishi Sunak should carefully read the "Seven principles of Public Life" to make sure he is fulfilling the two principles of "Honesty and Leadership".' But a Treasury

spokesman said Mr Sunak had 'followed the ministerial code to the letter in his declaration of interests'. It follows Mr Sunak facing demands to reveal details of his financial interests last month, after it emerged he set up a 'blind trust' on becoming a minister. The Chancellor deployed the arrangement, meaning that he does not know how his assets are being invested, when he was made Chief Secretary to the Treasury in July last year.

But critics said there was still risk of conflict as Mr Sunak - reputed to be the richest MP - is aware what he put into the trust. It also means he does not have to disclose fuller details of his investment portfolio. The presence of the trust was revealed in the latest register of ministerial interests.

It came as other official documents revealed that he did not take his salary for five months when he joined the Treasury last year. He waived the £34,000 top up to his MP's salary until just before Christmas. Theresa May also attracted controversy as she made a similar move when she became Prime Minister in 2016. And in the mid-1990s the Tories attacked Tony Blair as it emerged he used a blind trust, when leader of the opposition, to fund his office. Former standards tsar Sir Alex Allan, who quit his role last week after Boris Johnson overruled his conclusion that the Home Secretary Priti Patel breached the ministerial code, is said to have signed off on Sunak's disclosures.

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## US Fiji Times witnesses double Celebrations in London in 2022

CEO/ Publisher Rocky Ali Buksh was witness to two historical events whilst visiting his Cousin Azam Ali in London in October this year when he joined fellow Indian diasporas in the United Kingdom on Monday 24th October to celebrate Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights', and coincidentally to welcome and congratulate the appointment of UK's first Indian-origin Prime Minister, Hon. Rishi Sunak. "First of all, I would like To thank the All Almighty for giving me the opportunity to be in the United Kingdom during these two memorable lifetime events and that the tradition of Diwali had certainly reflected that new light of hope for the people of the UK with the ascension by Rishi Sunak to the high position of Prime Minister of a country of 68,717,410 people. Mr. Buksh was overwhelmed with the sounds of firecrackers through that whole week as the people of the United Kingdom, especially those of Indian origins, rejoiced in their double celebrations.



## Fiji – The Emerging Giants in World Sports

By Jayant Singh

Our national sporting teams has represented our nation in many global events with average

performances but recently things are changing.

We have gone from the days that Fiji was beaten 11-0 to New Zealand in the World Cup qualifying round

or our rugby team thrashed by a great margin by All Black and Wallabies.

Fiji has now stamped its marked in international sporting events at a rapid level. Our unparalleled 6 in a

row win at the Hong Kong sevens is still hard to swallow by our regional partners New Zealand and

Australia. Despite the loss this year nothing has been taken away from the team on its performance and

fitness level of the players.

The national 15 teams are also holding up to these giants at major tournament and equally our women

teams have done wonders amidst the titans in every sport they participated in.

The most surprising performances seen was by far was the national women's soccer team that had

shown its prowess in the game at the OFC tournament are on path to do wonders if a little more effort

in given to their aspirations.

The national sevens team is undoubtedly the best in the world and having to win 2 Olympics gold medal

and World Cup this year sets them far head of any of its arch rivals.

The reason of such improvement has been attributed to many factors but the best to say is that the will

of the players to shine wearing the national colors supersede everything else. The national pride is at a

much-elevated level now than ever.

This pride extending from our international success is encroaching into local festivities and sports as

well.

The country despite being said to be traversing a hard period of sustainability from the covid era, the

spirit of the people to enjoy what is afforded by the sporting bodies is a sign a healthy nation in path to

show resilience and goodwill amongst all.

So may our teams continue to stride ahead and may the sports be the hyphen to link any differences we

are facing in terms of politics and other factors facing the people.

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## Fiji News

# Fiji Ready for Elections Polls in December 2022

Fijians will now go to the Polls on 14th December 2022 after Fijian President His Excellency, Ratu Wiliame Katonivere issued the Writ for General Elections 2022 to the Chair of the Electoral Commission, Mukesh Nand, at the State House on Monday 31st October 2022.

While issuing the Writ, President Katonivere directed that the nominations of candidates must be received at the Fijian Elections Office by 12pm on November 14th. He also commanded the Electoral Commission to endorse the names of candidates who have been elected as Members of Parlia-

ment and for the Writ to be returned on or before December 28th, 2022.

“Whereas by virtue of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, it has become necessary to hold an election on members to sit and vote in Parliament. Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under sec-

tion 59 – 1 of the Fijian Constitution of the Republic of Fiji and section 21 of the Electoral Act of 2014, and on the advice of the Prime Minister, I command you to cause an election to be held according to law of 55 members to sit and vote in Parliament,” President Katonivere stated.

US Fiji Times is encouraging all would-be voters to cast their votes as it is of National importance that the People of Fiji exercise their Democratic Rights and choose their Government of preference. “We wish all our fellow Fijians the very best in the 2022 Elections”.



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Article shared  
by Narendra Narayan  
"US Ambassador, Sai Prema Children's Heart Hospital"

OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE

# GIFT OF LIFE FIJI

NEWSLETTER

April 2022 - September 2022

**81** children given FREE  
heart surgeries in Fiji

**2,305** children given FREE  
echocardiograms in Fiji



## A Special World Heart Day Celebrations at Sanjeevani

- ♥ Completion of 21 life-saving free heart surgeries
- ♥ Announcement of South Pacific's 1st Pediatric Cardiac Conference in April 2023

Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital celebrated the 2022 WORLD HEART DAY in the best way possible – saving 21 children by giving them life-saving free heart surgeries and gifting them a new 'Gift of Life'.

In addition to the celebration was the announcement by Director of the Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital that Fiji will be the host to South Pacific's first ever Pediatric Cardiac Conference in April 2023.

The Conference will be hosted by the Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital and Sai Prema Foundation Fiji and will be attended by distinguished Surgeons, Cardiologists and Specialists from around the world including from esteemed institutions from United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), Singapore, India, Australia and New Zealand as well as by the Chairman of Sai Sanjeevani India Mr. C Sreenivas. The conference will be opened by global spiritual and social service leader Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai.

Director of Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital Fiji Dr Krupali Tappoo said that she was excited about the conference.

"The inaugural Pediatric Cardiac conference will be a ground-breaking moment for Pediatric Cardiac care in Fiji and the Pacific and it will give the entire region the impetus to further its knowledge in this specialised field and broaden the scope of care for the children of our region" said Dr. Krupali Tappoo.

Dr Tappoo added that more extensive details will be released in due course.

Over the past two weeks, a world-renowned team of Heart Surgeons and Specialists from the National University Hospital of Singapore (NUHS) provided free open-heart surgeries at the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital in Suva.

21 children were given a new 'Gift of Life' totally free of cost.



“The children of Fiji are truly blessed to have such incredible surgeons and specialists operating on them and we are truly grateful to have had them here at our hospital. The NUHS team from Singapore, supported by specialist Nurses from Malaysia & Australia as well as the team from Sai Sanjeevani Hospitals India, have sacrificed so much of their time and have made an incredible effort to be here with the one-pointed goal to save the lives of the children of our beloved nation. Fiji should be extremely grateful and proud that our children are cared for by these exemplary human beings who are thinking of them and their families to give them the future they deserve and most importantly, a new 'Gift of Life', completely free of cost.

~ Dr Krupali Tappoo





## Fiji News

# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HOSTS COMMEMORATIVE LUNCH FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

His Excellency, Ratu Wilame Katonivere and Madam Vilomena hosted the Staff of the Office of the President and members of the Fiji Cancer Society to lunch today (24/10/22) to commemorate Prophet Mohammed's birthday, Fiji Day, Deepawali and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In addressing the staff members, His Excellency said that the celebrations were an opportunity for all Fijians to acknowledge our shared diversity, our uniqueness as Fijians and the beauty of life. His Excellency further reiterated the need for all Fijians to be diligent when it came to matters concerning health as many Fijians have lost loved ones to cancer. Mrs Belinda Chan, the CEO of the Fiji Cancer Society was present for the lunch and shared that while Cancer is real, in the 29 years of existence of the Fiji Cancer Society, general stigma still existed. There is little to no understanding of the struggles that anyone with

cancer deals with. She further divulged on the work that the Fiji Cancer Society conducts and its prime role on advocacy awareness and patient support for a cancer free Fiji.

The Fiji Cancer Society's greatest advocacy driver is the celebration of life and that no one fights alone. She closed her sentiments with an encouragement of the staff of the Office of the President – both men and women, to begin and continue the discussions around cancer and early detection and the responsibility of all Fijians to support those who have cancer even if it's just listening to a patient, or talking about what you are going through medically with a medical expert or a trusted person in the journey to eradicate many if not all stigma that surrounds cancer. Mrs Mele Koroi, a 50 year old breast cancer survivor was present at the event and she shared her journey in battling breast cancer. "I was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast



cancer and after being informed of this medically, I drank every herbal medicine you can think of, in trying to avoid the inevitable.

My delayed obedience delayed the necessary treatment that I needed. I am very grateful to my husband and our five children for their support and understanding throughout my

battle with cancer, the Fiji Cancer Society for their genuine concern, empathy and support system during treatments and review dates, as well as the doctors and nurses at the CWM Hospital," Mrs Koroi said. Mrs Koroi further shared that her faith in God helped her immensely in her journey and kept her positive through it all.

She further encouraged women to get checked and when diagnosed to not delay in getting treatment. The combined celebration is also an encouragement for all Fijians to appreciate and acknowledge the many blessings around us that good shall always prevail over evil and that with all struggles we face in life, there is always hope.

## FIJI-SINGAPORE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN

Singapore's unwavering support for Fiji and the Pacific region was acknowledged at a meeting between Singapore's Non-Resident High Commissioner to Fiji and Ambassador to the Pacific Islands Forum, Her Excellency, Mary Seet-Cheng and Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, Mr Yogesh Karan, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headquarters in Suva yesterday (24/10/22). Mr Karan extended the Fijian Government's appreciation for Singapore's partnership with Fiji through the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), which has benefited over 1000 Fijian officials in education and skills development courses in finance, public administration and economic development programmes, amongst others. Singapore is keen to further support Fiji in establishing a regional development cooperation programme for the Pacific. Mr Karan took the opportunity to thank High Commissioner Mary

Seet-Cheng for her recent assistance in organizing the "Singapore Protocol-Diplomacy Training" for Fijian senior officials, held in Fiji, in July this year. Singapore's support to Fiji in times of need, particularly in our national rebuilding efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic; cyclones relief efforts, post disaster recovery in 2020; was also acknowledged at the meeting. The discussions also focused on cooperation in tackling climate change and partnership in the lead up to the COP27 in Egypt and beyond in line with the Paris Agreement. Prospects for economic cooperation in shared priorities, mainly trade, investment, tourism, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and digital connectivity were also outlined at the meeting. Strengthened Institutional Partnerships between Government Agencies – in sharing best practices and systems is also an area of interest; so too are opportunities under the triangular cooperation, in addition Fiji can

partner with Singapore on specific areas in the South-South Cooperation programs that can benefit Pacific Islands Countries. On Regional Cooperation, Mr Karan provided an update on the implementation plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, which presents an opportunity for development partners like Singapore to work more closely with the Pacific Family. In response, High Commissioner Mary Seet-Cheng commended the Fijian Government for the swift actions to revive the Fijian economy, despite the enormous global challenges imposed by COVID-19. She commended Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama for his strong leadership at the Pacific Islands Leaders Forum and the unprecedented commitment to reunite the region to advance Pacific's prosperity. The High Commissioner said Singapore stands ready to provide further support to the 2050 Strategy and development efforts of the Fijian Government. The High



Commissioner will also visit other Pacific Island nations to see how best Singapore will be able to support the region, in the post pandemic era. With over 49

years of diplomatic relations, Fiji and Singapore have continued to collaborate in initiatives promoting economic, social and sustainable development.



## Fiji News

# CENTRECOM OPENS SECOND BRANCH IN NADI

Centrecom opened its second branch in Nadi yesterday (21/10/22), employing close to more than 600 Fijians around the country since its inception in 2014. In his remarks at the opening of the new branch, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said that the Fijian Government has always been committed to ensuring that policies are stable, which includes ensuring that free education is accessible to all Fijians. The A-G explained that the vision of free education enabled companies like Centrecom to set up branches locally because Fiji has a knowledge-based society capable of providing the services that will stimulate the economy. He also highlighted new investments exceeding \$10 million in infrastructure that supports Business

Process Outsourcing companies like call centres and accounting services will be offered a 20-year tax holiday. The 10 year and 15 year tax holiday will also be available for investments between \$2 million to \$5 million and \$5 million to \$10 million, respectively. Sharing similar sentiments Pacific Centrecom (Fiji) Ltd General Manager, Carol Watkins, highlighted that Fiji has a lot of potential in the business processing outsourcing (BPO) industry and has commended the Fijian government for providing opportunities for the BPO sector to access tax incentives that will create more jobs for Fijians. With the ideal new location for the Centrecom branch in Nadi, Ms Watkins added that the company plans to expand in the northern division.



# PALM SCHEME WILL NOT EMPTY VILLAGES - BALA



Villages will not be emptied by the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme (PALM). This was highlighted by the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala, while bidding farewell to 108 selected Fijian workers under the scheme this week. Minister Bala highlighted that these comments were made by some individuals without contemplating the benefits it brings to Fijian families and their communities. "This scheme will improve living standards for the families of the selected workers and it is the current Fijian Government's initiative towards alleviating poverty." "The scheme has caused transformation and empowered Fijian families to

have improved living standards through better homes, support for their children's education, financial assistance towards community projects such as the construction of community halls and churches and the establishment of small businesses in the community, to name a few," said Bala. "Also this initiative will minimize rural to-urban drift for employment opportunities in our towns and cities as these workers continue to develop their community through remittances received," he added. "The PALM Scheme under the Vuvala partnership with the Australian Government has enormously contributed to Fiji's sustainable economic recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

# PM ENCOURAGES STUDENTS IN THEIR FIELDS OF STUDY AT FNU OPEN DAY

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama visited the Fiji National University (FNU) Open day at the Nasinu Campus yesterday (21/10/22). FNU commenced its Open Day after a lapse of two years due to the global pandemic. The Prime Minister toured the Colleges' booths and interacted with students and was accompanied by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Lyn Karstadt and senior management of the Fiji National University. The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to encourage the students to work hard in school for a brighter future and the better-

ment of their livelihoods. FNU offers both technical and vocational education and training (TVET) at levels 1-6 and higher education at levels 5-10 (up to doctoral degrees). FNU is also a comprehensive university, offering courses across a wide spectrum of subjects including agriculture and fisheries, business and law, humanities and education, medicine and nursing, engineering and science. Fiji National University Open Day continues today at the Nasinu, Natabua and Naduna Campuses.





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## Fiji News

# TOURISM INDUSTRY UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO DISPLAY FIJI'S BEAUTY

"Tourism is uniquely positioned to display Fiji's beauty to the world and must therefore continue to play its part in being its most active supporter and protector of the environment, our sea and land." This message was delivered to participants of the 2022 Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association Talanoa Symposium and HOTECH Tradeshow today by His Excellency, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, at the Sheraton Resort in Nadi. With the theme "Working towards a Sustainable, Marketable, Agile, Resilient and Travel-ready (SMART) Industry", President Katonivere highlighted that the economy, industries and even our partnerships – must be both sustainable and resilient to succeed. "We need to tailor make our visions, strategies, methods and responses with the goal of sustainability, resilience and future proofing our approach." "Resilience and future proofing allows us to be aware of what affects the tourism industry and anticipate the future while developing methods in order to minimise the effects of further economic shocks that future events may pose and in turn

overcome adverse situations." The President mentioned that this was clearly demonstrated when international borders were closed, when tourism businesses were left with little or no resources, but expected to maintain the same level of service. "Further to this, was the pressure to maintain operations without a consistent basis of revenue, while being positively focussed on the re-opening of our international borders." "It was encouraging to learn that there were operators cultivating their own farms to supply their kitchens or look after their staff who could not return home. This truly is the essence of the spirit of veilomani. In our quest to remain sustainable and environmentally friendly, some operators even moved to more renewable and clean energy sources to lower their overhead costs and energy consumption." He also encouraged symposium participants and panelists to approach every conversations with open minds and indulge in an exchange of ideas and information over the two days that benefit those that will use and receive it. "Use this forum and the available networking oppor-

tunity to build on the industry's resilience and adaptability – its ability to be aware of the challenges and risks that while understanding we may not be able

to control or to avoid many of these problems; we can remain open, flexible, and willing to adapt to change." "I also challenge many of you here today

to consider the more sustainable alternatives for energy, recycling and production that will replenish or better manage our natural resources."



## A-G MEETS WITH SINGAPOREAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO FIJI

The Singaporean High Commissioner to Fiji, Her Excellency, Ms Mary Seet-Cheng, paid a courtesy visit to Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, on Monday (24/10/22) to discuss the further strengthening of Fiji and Singapore's bilateral relations. During their meeting, they discussed collaborative partnerships and capacity-building plans in areas of digital cooperation, civil service training, aviation, and urban planning through the Singaporean Cooperation Programme. Her Excellency reaffirmed the support of the Singaporean Government, emphasizing its commitment to continue providing technical assistance in priority areas. The A-G acknowledged Singapore as a significant development and trade partner and conveyed the Fijian Government's intention to continue strengthening relations.





## England Prime Minister

# Britain To Hold Bank Holiday For King Charles' Coronation

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the crowning of King Charles III will be celebrated with an extra bank holiday across the country on Monday May 8, shortly after the coronation itself on 6 May.

King Charles, 73, automatically became king on the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth in September, but the grand coronation ceremony for him and his wife Camilla is taking place next year. The late Queen's coronation in 1953 was accompanied by an extra bank holiday and granting one in 2023 would follow that tradition, said the Prime Minister's office, giving time for families and communities to enjoy the historic event.

"The coronation of a new monarch is a unique moment for our country," Rishi Sunak said in the statement on Sunday. "In recognition of this historic occasion, I am pleased to announce an additional bank holiday for the whole United Kingdom next year." The ceremony will take place at London's Westminster Abbey and will follow the traditional pageantry used for anointing monarchs over the last 1,000 years.

Kings and queens of England,



and later Britain and the United Kingdom, have been crowned at Westminster Abbey since William the Conqueror in 1066. Charles is the 41st monarch in

a line that traces its origins back to William, and he will be the oldest monarch to be crowned. Charles is king and head of state not only of the United Kingdom

but of 14 other realms including Australia, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. This year, Britain has had two extra bank holidays,

one to celebrate the Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee in June, and the second on the day of her funeral in September.

## India, UK Working Sincerely On Free Trade Agreement: Centre

India on Thursday said it is working "sincerely" with the UK for finalisation of the proposed free trade agreement, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Rishi Sunak agreed on the "early conclusion" of the deal. "Both sides are working sincerely on the free trade agreement," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. His comments came when asked about the FTA during a media briefing. "As we have said earlier, the matter of negotiations is best left to the trade ministers and their teams of officials. I cannot comment on the status. I certainly do not have any target date," Mr Bagchi said. The issue of the FTA figured in the first telephonic conversation

between the two prime ministers on October 27. In a tweet on his talks with Rishi Sunak, PM Modi said: "Congratulated him on assuming charge as UK PM. We will work together to further strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We also agreed on the importance of early conclusion of a comprehensive and balanced FTA." In April, the two sides had set a Diwali deadline for concluding the FTA but the deal could not be finalised in view of differences over certain issues. It is learnt that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly took stock of the ongoing negotiations for the FTA during their talks here last week. Cleverly visited India to



attend a United Nations meet on counter-terrorism. To a question on the US not having a full time ambassador to India, Mr Bagchi

said "we would hope the position would be filled soon". The Biden administration had in July 2021 announced the nomina-

tion of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as the next US Ambassador to India.



## England Prime Minister

# UK's Rishi Sunak Committed To Free Trade Pact With India: Downing Street

Intensive negotiations continue towards a free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the UK and new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is committed to achieving a balanced deal, Downing Street said on Wednesday. Rishi Sunak, who took charge at 10 Downing Street last week, had a "very warm" introductory call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which both sides expressed their commitment towards an FTA. The UK Prime Minister's office also reiterated that the focus remains on a balanced trade deal that benefits both sides and therefore no timeframe is being specified after a proposed Diwali timeline had to be abandoned last month amid political turmoil in the UK. "Both sides are very committed to it, intensive negotiations are continuing led by the Department for International Trade (DIT)," a spokesperson told reporters at a Downing Street briefing. "The Prime Minister had a very warm, introductory

call with Prime Minister Modi last week. In terms of the speed of it [FTA], we have been very clear that we won't sacrifice quality to achieve speed. We will sign when we have a balanced deal that represents both of our interests but both sides remain committed," the spokesperson said. In his first phone call after taking charge as Prime Minister last week, Rishi Sunak had referenced "good progress" being made to finalise the FTA. "The Prime Minister hoped the UK and India could continue to make good progress in negotiations to finalise a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement," a Downing Street readout of the call said. The two leaders are expected to meet in person at the G20 Summit in Indonesia later this month, unless they meet at the COP27 Summit in Egypt where the UK Prime Minister has confirmed attendance of the Leader's Day but PM Modi's visit is as yet unconfirmed. Rishi Sunak is on the record expressing his commitment to an FTA



with India while Chancellor of the Exchequer at No. 11 Downing Street when he flagged financial services as a particularly "exciting" aspect of the bilateral trade relationship. The City of London Corporation, the financial hub of the UK capital, has expressed the hope that Rishi Sunak's focus on services would

take the FTA in the right direction. "Services make up around 70 per cent of annual trade between our countries. So, a deal that doesn't deliver for this sector would be a missed opportunity," said Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman at the City of London Corporation. The focus of the FTA negotiations is on

reducing the barriers to trade, cutting tariffs, and supporting easier imports and exports into each other's markets. According to official UK government data, India-UK bilateral trade currently stands at around GBP 24.3 billion a year and the aim is for that to be at least doubled by 2030.

## "Huge Error Of Judgment": UK MP On Rishi Sunak's Controversial Pick

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faced growing pressure Sunday after reappointing interior minister Suella Braverman despite her resignation over a security breach. Mr Sunak reinstated Ms Braverman as Home Secretary when he became prime minister, just days after she quit predecessor Liz Truss's short-lived government. Opposition Labour MP Yvette Cooper on Sunday slammed Sunak's "irresponsible" reappointment of Braverman to the position in charge of domestic security issues, also telling Sky News there were questions over possible other security breaches by Braverman. "It really shows the huge error of judgment that Rishi Sunak has made in reappointing someone just six days after she broke the ministerial code over security lapses," Ms Cooper said. "National security is too important for this kind of chaos, confusion and really irre-

sponsible decision making." Ms Cooper spoke after Labour leader Keir Starmer on Friday said Mr Sunak should sack Suella Braverman, calling it the "strong thing to do". Ms Braverman is seen as representing the most right-wing Tory MPs. She has enthusiastically supported a plan to send migrants arriving illegally in the UK to Rwanda. She reportedly had rowed with Ms Truss over immigration policy but quit over a security breach: sending a sensitive document to her private email account and then forwarding it on. Mr Sunak has insisted that Ms Braverman acknowledged her mistake and took responsibility. Mr Sunak ally Michael Gove, who has returned to the job he did under Boris Johnson's premiership as minister for "levelling up", defended Ms Braverman on Sunday as a "first-rate front-rank politician". He told Sky News Ms Braverman is "working hard



in order to ensure that our borders can be made more secure, and that policing is more effective". Mr Gove told the BBC it was his "understanding" that Ms Braverman swiftly reported the incident in the appropriate way, while the broadcaster reported it

had been shown an email from Braverman asking the recipient: "Can you delete the message and ignore?" Mr Gove insisted such a message would be "standard practice". The scandal came as the Mail on Sunday published an unconfirmed report

that Truss's personal phone was hacked by suspected Kremlin agents while she was serving as foreign minister. Mr Gove told Sky he did not know whether the story was true, but stressed: "We take security issues incredibly seriously".



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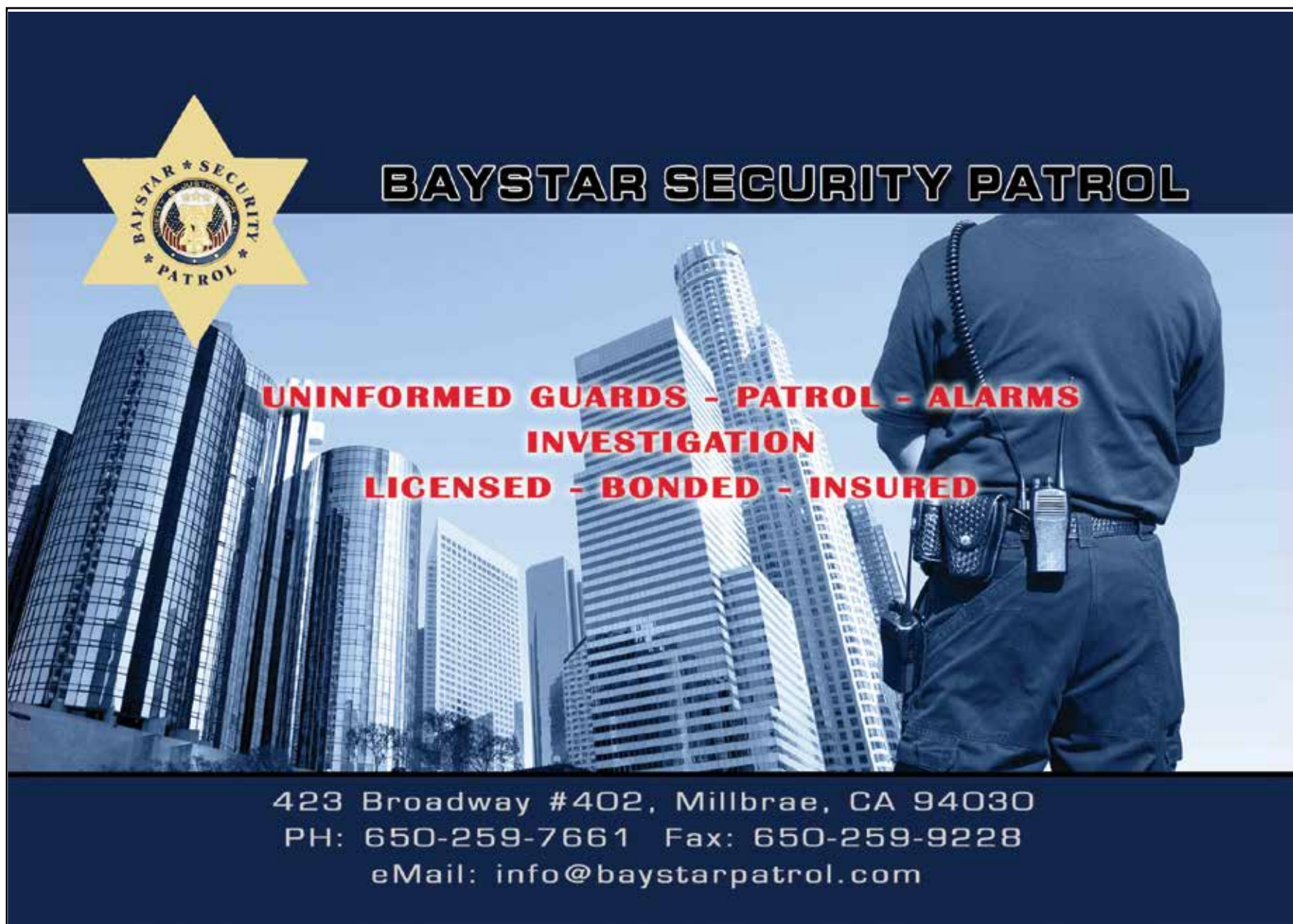
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## Bollywood

# Varun Dhawan reveals he 'shut down' after being diagnosed with vestibular hypofunction: I didn't know what happened...

Actor Varun Dhawan revealed that after being diagnosed with vestibular hypofunction, he 'shut down'. In a new interview, Varun also said that he did not know what had happened to him. He also added that after the Covid-19 pandemic people 'went back to the same rat race'. Varun recalled that he pushed himself for JugJugg Jeeyo to the point, where he felt he 'was running for an election'. JugJugg Jeeyo is a family comedy-drama directed by Raj Mehta and produced by Dharma Productions and Viacom18 Studios. The film stars Neetu Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Kiara Advani, Manish Paul and Prajakta Koli. It released on June 24, and became one of the highest-grossing Hindi films of 2022 with a worldwide gross

of ₹135 crore.

Speaking with India Today, Varun spoke about the recent times post the pandemic, "The minute we opened doors, don't you think we went back to the same rat race? How many people here can say that they have changed? I see people working even harder! In fact, I started pushing so much harder (with) my film JugJugg Jeeyo, it felt like I was running for an election. I don't know why, but I put so much pressure on myself." He added, "Recently, I just shut down. I didn't know what had happened to me. I had this thing called vestibular hypofunction, (where) basically your balance goes off. But I just pushed myself so hard. We are just running in this race, nobody is asking why. I think there is a



greater purpose (why) we are all here. I am trying to find mine, and hopefully, people will find theirs." Varun will be seen in Bhediya, a horror comedy film helmed by Amar Kaushik. The

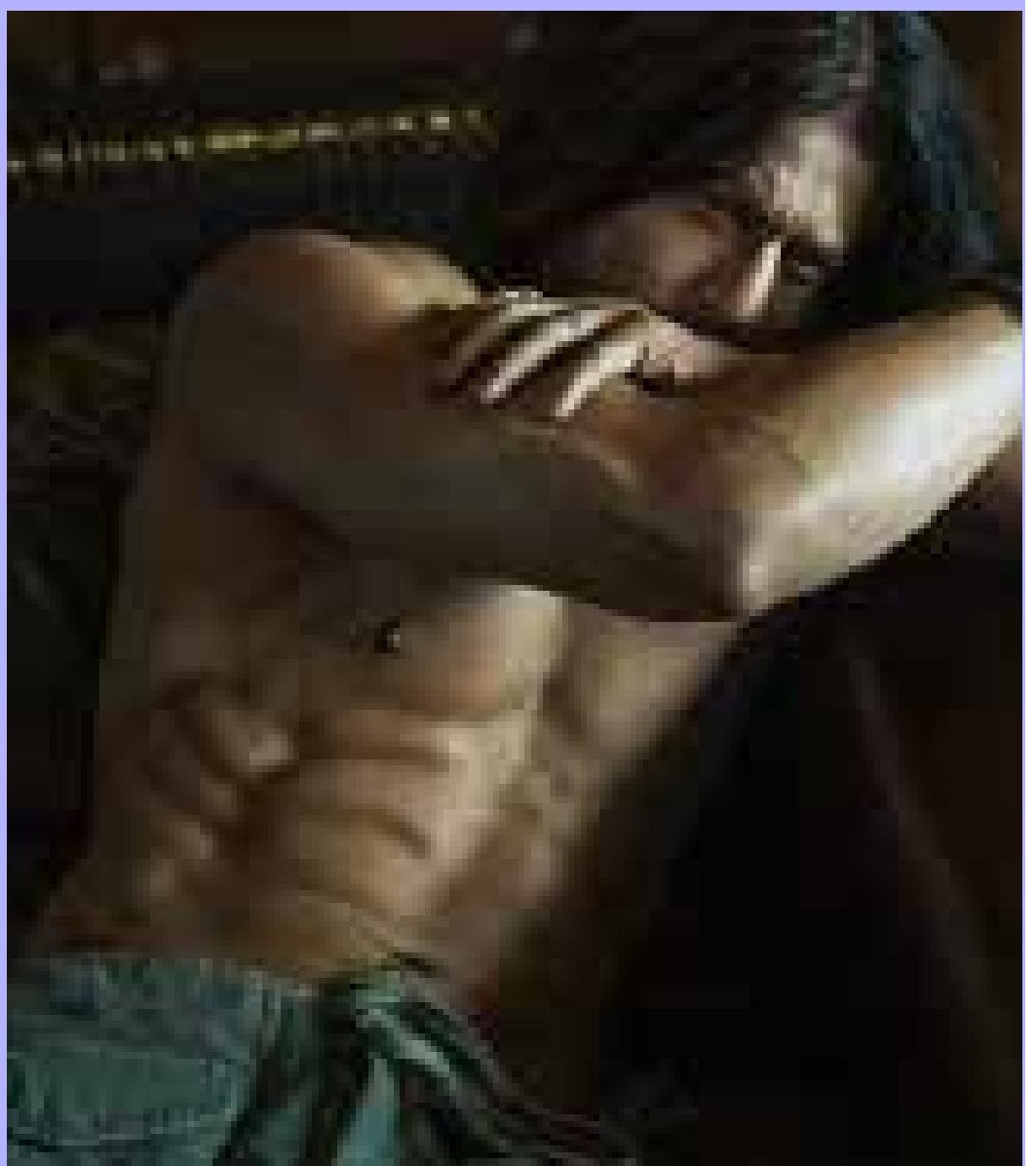
film also stars Kriti Sanon and Abhishek Banerjee and is all set to hit the theatres on November 25. It was shot in Arunachal Pradesh earlier this year. He will also be seen in director Nitesh

Tiwari's next Bawaal along with Janhvi Kapoor. Produced by Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, the film is slated to hit the theatres on April 7, 2023.

## Pathaan: Here's what Shah Rukh Khan feels about comeback after four years, working with Deepika Padukone again

Shah Rukh Khan gave quite a few answers to queries about his comeback film Pathaan on Saturday. The actor conducted an AskSRK session on Twitter during which he spoke about his co-stars Deepika Padukone and John Abraham as well as his action scenes in the film. On being asked about how it feels like to make a comeback after a long gap, Shah Rukh said, "It's like coming back home." The actor was last seen in a full-length role in the 2018 film Zero, in which he played the role of a dwarf. Shah Rukh also came across a fan's tweet: "Socha tha gf ke sath pathaan dekhunga lekin uski shadi kisi aur ke ho jayegi (I had thought of watching Pathaan with my girlfriend but she will be married to someone else). The actor responded to him, "O sorry man. But akele mein bhi film acchi hi lagegi...don't worry (the film will look good even when watched alone)." Talking about working with Deepika Padukone yet again, he said, "Apart from her amazing capabilities as an actor and star...the calming effect that she has on the whole film is amazing." Sharing his experience of working with John, who plays the antagonist

in Pathaan, Shah Rukh said, "Known John for years was a pleasure to work with him. One of the most mild and well-mannered person." Salman Khan has also confirmed a cameo in Pathaan. When asked to say one word for him, Shah Rukh said, "Awesome and very kind (sorry two words) but bhai hai na." A fan asked Shah Rukh about what tips can be learnt from Pathaan director Siddharth Anand. He replied, "Very very hard working and hands on with everything. Too much fun." Ever since the release of Pathaan's power-packed teaser, a lot is being talked about the action sequences in the film. Sharing his experience of shooting the action sequences, Shah Rukh said, "The film was shot in parts during covid so it was really lovely to be working with all my friends in Pathaan...great happiness." Earlier, pictures of Shah Rukh and Deepika from the sets of the film in Spain were leaked online. However, when a fan asked him about his favourite shooting location for Pathaan, the actor replied, "Yash Raj Studio ha ha." Pathaan will hit theatres next year on January 25. Shah Rukh also has Atlee's Jawan and Raj.





## Bollywood

# Jaya Bachchan recalls earning money for the first time at 13: 'Have no idea how much I was paid, never asked my father'

Jaya Bachchan spoke about her first salary on the latest episode of granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda's podcast What The Hell Navya. Jaya Bachchan and Navya were also joined by the veteran actor and politician's daughter Shweta Bachchan as they discussed their relationship with money in the episode titled 'Girls just wanna have funds'.

Jaya recalled earning money for the first time, when she was only 13, but added she has no idea how much she 'was paid'. Jaya had made her acting debut as a teenager in Satyajit Ray's Bengali film Mahanagar (1963). Recalling her first paycheck, Jaya told Navya as the two discussed financial independence with Shweta Bachchan on the podcast, "I had no relationship with money." Jaya said, "I earned money for the first time at the age of 13. I have no idea how much I was paid... I never even asked him (her father). And it never ever bothered me..." Jaya recalled her father Taroon Kumar Bhaduri buying her a record player on which she played Cliff Richard songs with her first salary. "When I went to the institute, I told my father I



don't want you to finance it. I paid for my education," the actor added. Jaya studied at Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.

The veteran actor and politician met actor-husband Amitabh Bachchan for the first time at the Film and Television Institute of India, and then again on the set of their film Guddi (1971) – her

first movie role as an adult.

After dating for some time, Jaya and Amitabh married in 1973. While discussing women's take on money and how they look at finances in the latest episode of the podcast What The Hell Navya, Jaya gave her mother's example. She said, "I remember my mother (Indira Bhaduri) had a little kit, where

she used to put money (and say) 'yeh bhagwan ke liye hai (this is for God)'.

For them (older women) everything (is) 'yeh bhagwan karega, yeh bhagwan ne kiya (God will do this, God has done this)' with good excuses." Jaya, Shweta and Navya Naveli Nanda also discussed the notion that women cannot manage money

as they spoke about how crucial financial independence was for women. Sharing a promo of the episode, Navya wrote in the caption of her Instagram Reels, "Dealing with money is hard, and if you feel that way you're not the only one. To know more, check out the latest episode – Girls just wanna have funds..."

## Shah Rukh Khan talks about overcoming problems a year after Aryan Khan's bail: 'Good will always outweigh the bad'

Fans of Shah Rukh Khan were in for a treat on Saturday as the actor decided to hold an Ask Me Anything session on Twitter. The actor wrote, "We all wake up with questions... today I woke up with answers! So thought maybe we could do a 'Ask SRK' for 15 minutes... if you have time to spare, please ask." (Also Read | Jawan: Shah Rukh Khan film faces plagiarism allegation) When a fan asked him, "Why are you so hot?" Shah Rukh, who is known for his humour, gave a witty reply, "Peri peri sauce with chicken helps... I think." A fan also asked him about the biggest change in his lifestyle post the Covid-19 pandemic. Shah Rukh said, "I think I have become less wanting to do ev-

erything in a rush..." A fan had a unique request for Shah Rukh, and said, "We saw you in the 2007 final when India won. If we again qualify in the final, can you please go there as a lucky charm?" The actor responded, "Insha Allah (God willing). Would be so much fun feel so proud and happy when India is doing well in sports." When a fan asked how he pushes himself to do something that's awfully boring, Shah Rukh replied, "I gear up and finish it as fast as possible." A fan asked how he decides which questions to answer, Shah Rukh responded, "Lots of questions been asked before so try and choose ones I haven't answered before.... it's that simple." A fan asked what he is playing nowadays

on PlayStation and the actor said, "Learning Fortnite from the little one..." He was referring to his youngest child, son AbRam Khan. When a fan asked what motivates him to overcome the problems he has 'faced so far', Shah Rukh said, "One has to believe that good will always outweigh the bad..." A fan asked what motivates him to overcome the problems he has 'faced so far'. Shah Rukh's response comes over a year after his son Aryan Khan was released on bail on October 30, 2021, in an alleged drug case. He was released after spending more than three weeks in jail following his arrest in a Narcotics Control Bureau raid on a cruise ship. Shah Rukh recently celebrated his 57th birth-

day with fans outside his Mumbai home, Mannat. When a fan asked his reaction when he saw so many fans celebrating his birthday outside Mannat, Shah Rukh replied, "It's been years because of Covid restrictions so it was really nice to see people come to visit." Shah Rukh recently celebrated his 57th birthday with fans outside his Mumbai home, Mannat. On his birthday, Shah Rukh attended the SRK Day event in Mumbai and grooved to his iconic track Chaiyya Chaiyya. He also interacted and cut a cake with his fans at the special event held at St Andrews College. He also treated his fans as he unveiled the official teaser of his following action thriller film Pathaan which also stars Deepika Padu-

kone and John Abraham in the lead roles. Helmed by Siddharth Anand, Pathaan is set to hit the theatres on January 25, 2023, in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Apart from that, he also has Rajkumar Hirani's upcoming film Dunki alongside Taapsee Pannu and Atlee's upcoming action thriller film Jawan opposite Nayanthara, which is all set to hit the theatres on June 2, 2023.





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## FIFA World Cup

# "Brazil No More Dependent On Neymar": Cafu Ahead Of 2022 Qatar World Cup

Legendary footballer Cafu believes Brazil are no longer a one-player side, relying heavily on Neymar, and have it in them to win a record sixth World Cup title in Qatar. The record five-time winners are yet to lift the World Cup trophy since they defeated Germany 2-0 in the 2002 final. Since then it has been European dominance in the mega showpiece. "Now Brazil isn't dependent on Neymar especially this year because there are several players like Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo, Richarlison and Lucas Paqueta," the two-time World Cup winner told reporters on the sidelines of his four-day sojourn in India. "Those players are also capable of winning the Cup for Brazil and this year the side is much different but four years ago, it was all Neymar. If this question was asked to me four years back then I would have agreed that Brazil was very much dependent (on Neymar)." Brazil are clubbed with Serbia, Switzerland and Cameroon in Group G. The top-two teams will advance to the last-16. The quadrennial showpiece kicks off

on November 20 when hosts Qatar take on Ecuador. Brazil will open their campaign with a match against Serbia at the Lusail Stadium on November 24. The desert heat in May-June had forced the organisers to push back the tournament to November-December for the first time ever. "Normally the World Cup starts in June, but this year it's going to start in November. It's also an advantage for some players because normally when the league used to stop then World Cup starts so players can resume with their training and it'll be a big boost for their national team. "It's going to be attractive to have the World Cup in November as in June the players are more tired and now since the league has started the players are fresh and can play well. "I hope Brazil would do well in this World Cup and win it." One of the all time great fullbacks, Cafu feels 'sad' that the quality in defence is missing these days. "I'm very happy to have played with Maldini and Nesta. But I am very sad that we cannot see



any good full backs nowadays, probably because of the lack of quality. But I'm very happy to have played alongside all these big names." Cafu will play an 'All Star' exhibition match along with Indian tennis legend Leander

Paes and hold football clinics at Mohammedan Sporting on Saturday. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com Excited to see the football craze in the country, Cafu hoped India would get to play in the World

Cup one day. "I would be very excited to see India playing in the World Cup and since I have come to India now, I wish India get to play in the World Cup," he concluded.

## FIFA Calls On World Cup Teams To "Focus On Football" In Qatar

FIFA has called on the teams participating in the controversial Qatar World Cup to "focus on football" and stop "handing out moral lessons" in a letter revealed by Sky News on Thursday. FIFA has called on the teams participating in the controversial Qatar World Cup to "focus on football" and stop "handing out moral lessons" in a letter revealed by Sky News on Thursday. Qatar has faced criticism for its human rights record on the treatment of foreign workers on major infrastructure projects for the World Cup, on women's rights and LGBTQ rights. Homosexuality is illegal in the Gulf state and captains from a number of leading European countries, including England, France and Germany, will wear armbands in rainbow colours with the message "One Love" in an anti-discrimination campaign.

Last week, the Australian national team condemned the "suffering" of migrant workers. "Please let's now focus on the football!" FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura said in a letter sent to all 32 World Cup teams, confirmed to AFP by world football's governing body. "We know football does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world.

"But please do not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists." Qatar organisers have defended the country's rights record. After the Australian players' criticism, a World Cup spokesperson said imposing "robust" labour laws had also been a "challenge" for



Australia. Earlier this week, the Arab League states slammed criticism of Qatar as a "defamation campaign" ahead of the tournament.

"One of the great strengths of the world is indeed its very diversity, and if inclusion means

anything, it means having respect for that diversity," continued the FIFA letter. "No one people or culture or nation is 'better' than any other." Qatar Labour Minister Ali bin Samikh Al Marri told AFP on Wednesday that calls for a new compensation

fund for migrant workers was a "publicity stunt". He also accused some of the country's critics of "racism". "They don't want to allow a small country, an Arab country, an Islamic country, to organise the World Cup," Marri said.



## FIFA World Cup

# Lionel Messi Heads To World Cup Ready For Last Chance To Match Diego Maradona

Lionel Messi has been building up to this moment, aware that his fifth World Cup with Argentina almost certainly represents his last chance to get his hands on the trophy. In July he reported back a week early for pre-season training with Paris Saint-Germain and since then he has looked like a man on a mission, determined to head to Qatar in the best shape possible. After a difficult first year at PSG in which he struggled to overcome the trauma of his departure from Barcelona, Messi is now back to something like his best and has scored or assisted 26 goals in 18 games for his club this season. Meanwhile, in Argentina a nation has been holding its breath, hoping the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner does not succumb to an untimely injury. Messi first went to a World Cup as a teenager in 2006 and has scored a record 90 goals from a record 164 caps. He captained Argentina to the final of the 2014 World Cup but 2018 was a desperate disappointment, with Jorge Sampaoli's side losing in the last 16 to a France team featuring Kylian Mbappe, now Messi's teammate in Paris. Now aged 35, Messi goes to Qatar remarkably still looking to score his first goal in the knockout stages of a World

Cup, never mind actually win it. "I feel good physically at the moment. Better than last year, when I arrived at PSG. But when I said this could be my last World Cup, I did so because of my age. After this one finishes we will see how I'm feeling," he said in a recent interview with Directv Sports. "For us, like for all Argentines, it is difficult to be calm, because we are contenders to win the World Cup. "But to win the World Cup you need lots of things to go in your favour, in any given match or in the competition as a whole. But we are going there to fight and we are ready to take on anyone." - Different role - If Messi is to emulate Diego Maradona, who led Argentina to their last World Cup triumph in 1986, he cannot do it alone. There may be nobody as good as him in Lionel Scaloni's side, but they appear a much more convincing team than four years ago, when they were fortunate just to get out of their group in Russia. Argentina go to Qatar on a 35-game unbeaten run that includes their victory in last year's Copa America, their first major tournament success since 1993. There are more survivors from 2018, including Angel Di Maria, who scored the winner against Brazil at the Maracana in that



Copa America final. But there are others who have become key players under Scaloni, from Cristian Romero in central defence to Leandro Paredes and Rodrigo de Paul in midfield and Lautaro Martinez up front. Martinez, the 25-year-old Inter Milan striker, matched Messi's tally of seven goals in qualifying and certainly removes some of the pressure on his captain in that department. Messi's role in the team has changed, according to Omar Larrosa, who played in

the Argentina side that won the 1978 World Cup on home soil. "I think he's going to be different in this World Cup. He is the one making others play now, whereas at previous World Cups his teammates were always giving him the ball," Larrosa told AFP. "I think he's doing his job very well now. You can't ask any more of him." As skipper, Messi is not only an inspiration to his teammates because of what he does with the ball, as footage released this week of his speech

inside the dressing room before last year's Copa America final showed. If Argentina go all the way to the final in Doha then Messi will have the chance to overtake the record for most matches played at a World Cup, which is currently held by Lothar Matthaeus on 25. He may be arguably the greatest player of all time, but it is now or never if he is to crown a magnificent career by winning the greatest prize of all.

## Germany Striker Timo Werner Ruled Out Of World Cup With Ankle Injury

Germany striker Timo Werner has been ruled out of the upcoming World Cup in Qatar with an ankle injury, his club RB Leipzig announced on Thursday. Werner hobbled off early in Leipzig's 4-0 Champions League win over Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday. "Scans today in Leipzig showed that he has unfortunately torn the syndesmosis ligament in his left ankle and will therefore be out for the rest of 2022," the Bundesliga team said in a statement. The 26-year-old has scored 24 goals in 55 international appearances for Germany and netted five times during qualifying.

"This news is very bitter," said Germany coach Hansi

Flick. "I'm very sorry for Timo personally because he's missing out on the World Cup, which he really wanted to play. "But Timo's absence is a great loss, especially for the team. We have to have an excellent striker with a strong goal rate in the national jersey and we'll also be without a real team player. "First of all, we all wish that Timo gets fit again quickly."

Werner rejoined Leipzig from Premier League giants Chelsea in the close season and has contributed nine goals already in all competitions this campaign. Germany kick off their bid for a record-equalling fifth World Cup against Japan on November 23 in Al Rayyan, before further

Group E matches against Spain and Costa Rica. Bayern Munich winger Leroy Sane is also currently sidelined with a knee injury, with Werner's absence adding to Flick's problems up front.

Borussia Dortmund youngster Karim Adeyemi and inform Werder Bremen striker Niclas Füllkrug could be possible replacements for Werner in the squad. Germany captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has not played since October 8 due to a shoulder injury and is also a doubt for the global showpiece. Flick will name his 26-man squad for the tournament on November 16.





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## Health

# Dementia Risk Linked to How Long Blood Pressure Stays In 'Target Range'

Maintaining a healthy blood pressure has been previously linked to a reduced risk of developing dementia, among other conditions. Now, a new study recently published in the journal *Circulation* suggests the duration over which blood pressure is kept within a “target range” may also be a critical factor in staving off brain disease. The findings will be presented at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions conference in Chicago November 5–7 and are considered preliminary until published fully in a peer-reviewed journal. The study is believed to be the first to explore the association between the length of time blood pressure levels stay within a healthy target range and dementia risk. Blood pressure levels and dementia diagnoses Scientists at Beijing Anzhen Hospital in China examined data pertaining to 8,415 individuals, which was collected as part of the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) led by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Participants had an average age of 68, and all had been diagnosed with high blood pressure — but none showed signs of cognitive impairment or decline at the start of the trial. Blood pressure readings were taken once a month during the first 3 months of the trial to help determine the target range — aka “ideal” blood pressure levels. Participants’ cognitive statuses were measured 2 years after the trial began and again another 2 years later. Participants whose systolic blood pressure levels stayed within the target range for more prolonged periods were less likely to receive a probable dementia diagnosis. In fact, for every additional 31.5% of time spent within the target range, the risk for dementia lowered by 16%. Staying within a target blood pressure range The researchers stated that consistency is more important than having fluctuating blood pressure with an average figure that falls within the target range. “Fluctuations with high and low blood pressure can be an added stress on our bodies,” Dr. Rajesh Gupta,

an interventional cardiologist and associate professor at The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences. “Each organ system, including our heart, brain, and kidneys, learns to live within a certain blood pressure range, and fluctuations can cause organ stress or damage.”

Despite the implications of the new research, the study was a retrospective that looked at previously collected data, which means there’s a notable gap in the findings. “These kinds of trials [such as SPRINT] can’t tell you what ‘dose’ of time in target range would make the difference,” Dr. Stanley S. Liu, a cardiologist at the University of Maryland Medical Center and assistant professor of medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, told Healthline. As such, the new research wasn’t able to explicitly state how long blood pressure should stay in a particular range, just that a longer duration is better. Determining healthy blood pressure levels There are two blood pressure measurements: systolic and diastolic. For the study, the researchers focused on systolic blood pressure. Systolic blood pressure is the pressure your blood puts on your artery walls during a heartbeat. Diastolic blood pressure shows the pressure on your artery walls

between heartbeats. In a blood pressure reading (i.e., 130/82 mmHg), the first number refers to systolic, and the second is diastolic. Healthy blood pressure is considered less than 120/80 mmHg. High blood pressure — also known as hypertension — is experienced by almost half of adults in the United States. “Hypertension can occur with elevation of either systolic pressure, diastolic pressure, or both,” said Dr. Patrick Azcarate, a cardiologist with the Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute, told Healthline. What’s more, there are very few noticeable signs of high blood pressure — meaning many people are unaware they even have it. “Some people will notice that they have a headache or feel off when their blood pressure is high, but most people do not feel anything,” Tyler said. What causes high blood pressure? Age is a key factor in developing high blood pressure levels. As people get older, Liu explained that “blood vessels become more stiff [or] less flexible, and blood pressure is tougher to regulate.” Other factors that may cause high blood pressure may include: obesity diabetes diet sleep quality and quantity sleep apnea stress levels smoking genetic or organ-specific problems (i.e., polycystic kidney disease, hyperthyroidism,

hyperadrenalism) How blood pressure impacts the brain High blood pressure can affect both the heart and the brain. “While they may seem unrelated, blood vessel health and blood pressure is very closely linked with brain health and prevention of dementia,” Liu said. “Brain blood vessels are vulnerable to damage from high blood pressure. We often see dementia caused by cumulative damage to the blood vessels that eventually injure the brain through lack of oxygen to brain cells (something we call vascular dementia).” Damage to blood vessels and arteries due to high blood pressure is a primary cause of stroke — with research from 2019 indicating that 1 in 5 people who experience a stroke will develop dementia. “We know that kidneys develop structural damage after being exposed to years of high blood pressure. The same is true for the heart and brain,” Gupta added. Tips to maintain healthy blood pressure High blood pressure is a risk factor for dementia that some people may be able to control. Here are a few ways you can manage your blood pressure on a regular basis: Exercise. “This is the best way to reduce your blood pressure,” said Azcarate. “Currently, we recommend at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise 4-5 times per week.” Control sodium intake.

Your diet should include less than 2,300 mg of sodium per day, which can be difficult to do with a typical Western diet. Eat a healthy diet. The research-backed DASH diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension), which emphasizes fruits, vegetables, and nuts, can help get high blood pressure levels under control. Get sufficient sleep. Adults should try to aim for 7 hours of sleep per night. “Sleep quality and quantity is incredibly important to maintain healthy blood pressure,” Liu said. Check in with your doctor. You can work with your doctor to accurately measure and control your blood pressure. When necessary, blood pressure medications may be an option. Takeaway Regulating blood pressure has been linked to staving off conditions such as heart attack, stroke, and dementia. Now, research suggests the length of time blood pressure remains within a healthy target range is also critical to reducing the risk of concerns, particularly cognitive decline. In addition to being monitored by your doctor, regularly checking your blood pressure can help alert you to possible issues. “You can check your blood pressure at pharmacies and drug stores that have free blood pressure machines,” Tyler said. “You can also buy a home blood pressure cuff.”





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## Fiji Sports

# Canakaivata is a big loss – Gollings

Fiji Airways Men's National 7s team coach Ben Gollings says Elia Canakaivata is a big loss to the team as he brought a different dimension. Canakaivata has joined the Swire Shipping Fijian Drua after an impressive season with the 7s team. Gollings says it is fantastic that he has got the opportunity to join the Drua. He adds this also gives an opportunity for new talent. Fiji will play Japan in their first game tonight at 8.52pm, we face Spain at 4.15pm tomorrow and will later face the USA at 8pm tomorrow. The Cup quarters will start at 3.25pm Sunday, the Cup semis start at 7.45pm Sunday and the final kicks off at 11pm Sunday.



## Fiji Volleyball invited to World Congress

Fiji Volleyball Federation was invited to be part of the 38th FIVB World Congress from the 23- 25th September in the Netherlands. The three days FIVB World Congress meeting was held in Arrnhem, Amsterdam and was attended by more than 180 volleyball National Federations (NFs) in the world. Fiji was represented by the Fiji Volleyball Federation President, Mr Kemueli Naiqama. The National Federations were reassured by the FIVB President Dr Arya S Garca F° and his executive board members that FIVB will continuously focused on empowering all NFs, National

Teams and players. Although FIVB had gone through some challenging times during the COVID-19 pandemic, however, they had made wise investments that helped cushion the impact of the pandemic. The International Federations were informed that FIVB now stands in a much healthier financial status and is prepared to take volleyball to the next level. NFs were encouraged to engaged with different arms of volleyball development programmes and apply for technical assistance to strengthen iNFs and National Teams. Mr Naiqama had the opportunity to meet with the FIVB President

to discuss possible opportunities for Fiji Volleyball and the Pacific regional empowerment and capacity building development programmes. Fiji. Suva Volleyball President Savenaca Tuivaga stated that "The association is committed in supporting Fiji Volleyball Federation in the implementation and development of training programs with clubs affiliated to the association". Tuivaga added that "Grass root development and welfare of players within the association is vital for the sport as we need to develop players skills both on court and off court. "Self-development of players is the



key and SVA is fully committed and support FVF in rolling out programs for such purposes"he added. Volleyball Federation held its Annual General Meeting in May this year, which saw a change of leadership to move the

sport forward. Photo Caption – Mr Kemueli Naiqama (2nd left) with FIVB President Dr Arya S Garca(middle) and members of the Oceania Volleyball Board at the FIVB 38th World Congress meeting in Switzerland.

## Kikau, Staines charged; Milne faces lengthy ban

Taane Milne is set to miss the World Cup for Fiji Bati after being hit with a 6-7 match ban. Bati co-captain Viliame Kikau is free to play in the NRL grand final with a guilty plea. Penrith forward Viliame Kikau is able to play in the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final after he was charged with a Grade One shoulder charge offence in his side's Preliminary Final victory. Kikau, who has already been cited for a shoulder charge offence this year, was charged with the Grade One offence for his tackle on Campbell Graham, bringing with it a fine of \$3,000 with an early guilty plea. Team-mate Charlie Staines will also be eligible for selection after he

too was charged with a Grade One Shoulder Charge offence — his charge resulting in a fine of \$1,500 with an early guilty plea or \$2,000 if he unsuccessfully contests the offence at the judiciary. Rabbitohs winger Taane Milne will miss at least the next six games after he was sensationally sent off for his high tackle on Spencer Leniu late in the game. Milne, who was named as part of the extended Fiji squad for next month's Rugby League World Cup, is facing a six-match ban with an early guilty plea or a seven-match ban if he unsuccessfully contests the charge at the judiciary. He will join Cowboys forward Jason Taumalolo on the sidelines to

start the opening World Cup matches after he was charged with a dangerous contact offence in side's defeat to Parramatta. Taumalolo was sin-binned for the tackle on Eels forward Isaiah Papali'i in the 15th minute of Friday's finals match and has subsequently been charged by the Match Review Committee with a Grade Two Dangerous Contact charge. With an early guilty plea, Taumalolo will miss the opening three matches of Tonga's World Cup campaign or four matches if he unsuccessfully contests the charge. Panthers winger Taylan May will be available for selection following his one-game suspension for a careless high tackle,



but will now need to overcome a hamstring injury by Wednesday

in order to take his place in this year's Grand Final.



## Fiji Sports

# Cotter names Flying Fijians squad for Scotland with three debutants

Flying Fijians Head Coach Vern Cotter has named three debutants in the 23-member team which kicks off their Autumn Nations Cup campaign against Scotland on Sunday. Ratu Leone Rotuisolia, who missed the opportunity while in camp during the mid-year internationals, has finally made his cut into the run-on team. Former Fijian 7s and Olympic Games Gold Medalist, Sireli Maqala and Livai Natave are expected to earn their first cap off the bench. Cotter said Maqala has been impressive during training and gives them a number of options to play in the backline. "He has impressed us with his skill sets. He can kick well, with the ball he is strong and tough and he offers us a number of positions as he can play at number 10, 15, and at the center" said Cotter. Saracens-based in-form Loosehead Prop Eroni Mawi, experienced Hooker Sam Matavesi and Tighthead prop Manasa Saulo complete the front row while Temo Mayanavanua pairs up with Ratu Leone Rotuisolia at locks. Albert Tuisue will be at the blindside flank while in an interesting move, Levani Botia will strengthen the forward pack from the openside flanks position. Viliame Mata returns



from injury and starts at number eight. In the backs, Frank Lomani and Vilimoni Botitu will share the halves combination while Kalaveti Ravouvou and skipper Waisea Nayacalevu will control the play in the mid-field. Vinaya Habosi is on the left wing and Setareki Tuicuvu is on right. Veteran fullback Kini Murimurivalu will control the play from number 15. Tevita Ikanivere, Hareiti Hetet and Luke Tagi will provide firepower in the second half while

Apisalome Ratuniyarawa and Kitone Kamikamica will come as replacements in the forwards. Teti Tela has made it into the squad after arriving at camp on Wednesday night and is on the bench with Peni Matawalu and Sireli Maqala. Cotter said they have mapped out a game plan which the players need to follow in order to counter their opponents. "We need to approach the game with a lot of humility. We are a tier 2 team playing a tier 1 team that had a game already

in their bag. We are slowly getting together but we want to get learnings from this plus we have the Rugby World Cup next year so it is really important that we put ourselves up against a very good team and I'm sure from we will come away with individual and collective improvements to be made" said Cotter. He added that the Flying Fijians will stick to its Fijian flair of rugby but will add more structure to it when it comes to scrums and lineouts. Flying Fijians take

on Scotland at 1pm on Sunday. Flying Fijians Team V Scotland Eroni Mawi Sam Matavesi Manasa Saulo Temo Mayanavanua Ratu Leone Rotuisolia \* Albert Tuisue Levani Botia Viliame Mata Frank Lomani Vilimoni Botitu Vinaya Habosi Kalaveti Ravouvou Waisea Nayacalevu {c} Setareki Tuicuvu Kini Murimurivalu Reserves Tevita Ikanivere Livai Natave \* Luke Tagi Apisalome Ratuniyarawa Kitone Kamikamica Peni Matawalu Teti Tela Sireli Maqala \*

## Flying Fijians confident of a good outing against Scotland

Flying Fijians Head Coach Vern Cotter is hopeful of putting up a strong performance in their opening Autumn Nations Cup match against Scotland on Sunday. The task ahead for Cotter and his brigade won't be an easy one as Scotland showed their worth up in the North after closely going down to Wallabies 16-15 in their first test match last weekend. While Scotland will come more settled having a game in the bag, the Flying Fijians are currently trying to work their way out and field a strong team despite a few players returning from club commitments with niggling injuries. Cotter said "We have got a couple of injuries from the weekend club games. Jiuta Wainiqolo is suffering a niggling injury after his club game over the weekend and a few other players carrying minor injuries therefore it's been a slow start to the week with regards to getting a team and dynamic training in place."

Cotter said that a weeks' camp in France has set the platform and those players who have been in camp since last week have had the right mindset and are focused on the mission this season. "There is a much better dynamic than it was in July during the Pacific Nations Cup. During PNC, there was a lot of destruction with players coming back to the island and not seeing families and friends for a while. We feel there is a bit more focus and concentration with regard to these games obviously we will see on the field" said Cotter. Cotter added it's nice to have someone like Viliame Mata back in the team who plays at number eight and knows his role very well. He further added "Sireli Maqala has impressed us with his skill sets. He can kick well, with the ball he is strong and tough and he offers us a number of positions he can play which are at number 10, 15 and at the center. His



someone who is very quick on his feet and he is a player we are enjoying having with us. Kini

Murimurivalu at fullback, bring his experience. He is also a left-foot kicker and he and Maqala

can exchange on how to best use that skill set they have.



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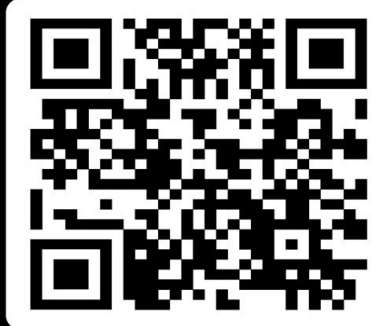
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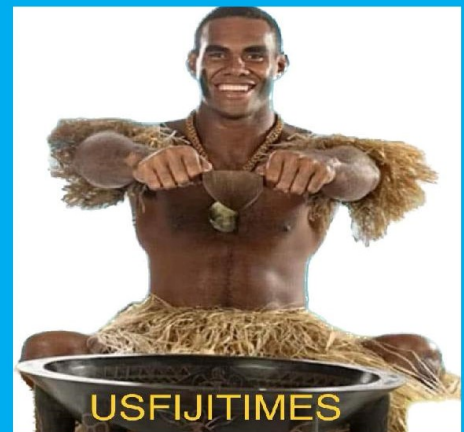
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## Fiji Rugby

# Seruvakula names exciting team for final RWC pool match

Fijiana Head Coach Senirusi Seruvakula has named one of the best available sides to take on France in their final do-or-die pool match at Northland Events Center on Saturday. The impressive front row of Props Iris Verebalavu, Siteri Rasolea and hooker Vika Matarugu will run on for their third straight World Cup game. Captain Asinate Serevi will once again partner with Merevesi Ofakimalino at locks. Karalaini Naisewa moves from number eight to flanks and will pair up with Raijieli Daveua, relegating Sulita Waisega onto the bench. Specialist and experienced forward Sereima Leweniqila returns to her favorite number 8 position for the final pool match. In the backline, veteran halfback Ana Maria Roqica and fly-half Kolora Lomani will share the halves position. Seseenieli Donu

remains at the inside center and will master the midfield with Melaia Matanatabu, who earns her first start. Vitalina Naikore and Raijieli Laqeretabua are on the wings while Roela Radiniyavuni remains is the fullback. Expect more firepower in the second spell with players such as Bitila Tawake, Mereoni Vonosere and Bolou Vasuturaga named on the bench. Talei Wilson and Lavena Cavuru will also put up the tempo of the game if given an opportunity in the final 40 minutes. Seruvakula said "We have named players who are physical and can counter the experienced French side. These players have put their hands up during the training we had for the last two days. He added that even though it's their first World Cup, they will try and give their all to qualify for the next stage. "I know it's a huge



task but nothing is impossible. I believe in these players and I know they are ready to go and give their best shot. We have strong players on the bench who will certainly keep up with the momentum of the game if substituted" said Seruvakula. Fiji-

ana takes on France at 6.15pm FJT on Saturday. Fijiana team V France Iris Verebalavu Vika Matarugu Siteri Rasolea Asinate Serevi {c} Merevesi Ofakimalino Karalaini Naisewa Raijieli Daveua Sereima Leweniqila Ana Maria Roqica Kolora Lo-

mani Vitalina Naikore Seseenieli Donu Melaia Matanatabu Raijieli Laqeretabua Roela Radiniyavuni Reserves Bitila Tawake Mereoni Vonosere Bolou Vasuturaga Sulita Waisega Ema Adivitaloga Lavenia Cavuru Rusila Nagasau Talei Wilson

## Lawaqa Park to host final leg of Fun Flavour Super Sevens Series

Fiji Rugby is pleased to announce the final leg of the Fun Flavour Super Sevens Series will take place this Friday and Saturday at Lawaqa Park in Sigatoka. FRU CEO John O'Connor said "With Hong Kong 7s just around the corner, it's the ideal time to have the final leg of the Fun Flavour Super Sevens Series as this gives an opportunity to both the Fiji Airways Fijian and Fijiana 7s coaches to scout players and also monitor those who are in the extended squad." He added

that he is pleased to say that the two days of the exciting tournament return to Lawaqa Park which initially hosted the first leg in January. "It was here that we started our Fun Flavour Super Sevens Series, but due to the restrictions then, we were not able to have any spectators" said O'Connor. FRU would like to thank the support of the 7s clubs in ensuring our gladiators are well prepared for the HSBC 7s Series and eventually winning the World Rugby Sevens World Cup. O'Connor congratulated

the following men's and women's teams who have been selected to play in the final leg. Fiji Airways Fijian 7s Coach Ben Gollings said "The Fun Flavour Super Sevens Series has been integral towards giving players game time and also identifying new talents and looking at other players." He added "It's a very competitive set of tournaments and it's really supportive of what we need which is to be able to put the players into their clubs and play them in that environment and see how they adapt

and perform." "I'm looking forward to this weekend as it will give us a really good platform as we build into the selection and final week of training before the Hong Kong 7s" said Ben Gollings. Fiji Airways Fijiana Coach Saiasi Fuli said it's the best time for players to shine and get scouted since the majority of the national players are currently part of the Fijiana 15s and a few with the Army at the Defence World Cup. "It's a perfect time to stage the final series and a great opportunity

to identify new players before we kickoff the 2022/2023 World Rugby Sevens Series. We have penciled few players after the completion of the provincial season and this leg will enable the girls to transit into 7s and a great opportunity for us to lock our final squad heading into the new season" said Fuli. Meanwhile, O'Connor has also thanked the major sponsors CJ Patel Pacific Limited and other partners of Powerade, Fiji Water and broadcast partners Fijian Broadcast Corporation {FBC}.

## We are the underdogs says Laqeretabua

England-based Raijieli Laqeretabua believes Fijiana is the underdogs of the tournament and is ready to battle the experienced teams which have been lined up in front of them at the Rugby World Cup. Laqeretabua said "We are the underdogs in the tournament which will allow us to be focused and keep ourselves humble and do our best in the game. I'm confident in training and clarities have been going very well and it's just about the game now." The former

Saracens player said they have been working hard on certain areas and are looking forward to improving it against South Africa on Sunday. She added that South Africa who has been in the World Cup before will be a tough side to play against as they are a forward-oriented team that will try to push our scrums, mauls, and line-outs. "They are a physical side and they have strength all around but I'm confident that my girls will bring the best game as we also

have our strengths as well. We are really excited and I think it's just another challenge for us and we have had a lot of positives from the game against England and a lot of work ons done for the second pool match." Laqeretabua made her debut for the Fijiana against Australia in the test match earlier this year. She also featured in the Oceania Championships which was held in New Zealand. She said it's always a proud moment for her and the family to represent

the home country. "It's always an honor to represent my home country and be able to play for the girls and to be the first Pa-

cific team to be in the World Cup," said Laqeretabua. Fijiana takes on South Africa at 4.45pm FJT on Sunday.





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## World

# Brazil, Indonesia and DRC in talks to form 'Opec of rainforests'

The big three tropical rainforest nations – Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo – are in talks to form a strategic alliance to coordinate on their conservation, nicknamed an “Opec for rainforests”, the Guardian understands. The election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, has been followed by a flurry of activity to avoid the destruction of the Amazon, which scientists have warned is dangerously close to tipping point after years of deforestation under its far-right leader, Jair Bolsonaro. During his first speech as president-elect, Lula pledged to fight for zero deforestation in the Amazon, while Colombia has proposed creating an Amazon bloc at Cop27, and Norway’s environment minister is moving to reinstate a billion-dollar fund to protect the rainforest after it was halted under Bolsonaro. Brazil, Indonesia and DRC are home to 52% of the world’s remaining primary tropical forests, which are crucial to avoiding climate catastrophe, and the conservation talks are fulfilling a campaign promise by Lula.

The alliance could see the rainforest countries make joint proposals on carbon markets and finance, a longtime sticking point at UN climate and biodiversity talks, as part of an effort to encourage developed countries to fund their conservation, which is key to limiting global heating to 1.5C (2.7F) above pre-industrial levels. The three countries – home to the Amazon, Congo basin and Borneo and Sumatra forests, which are threatened by commercial logging, mining and illegal exploitation – signed an agreement at Cop26 in Glasgow to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. Oscar Soria, campaign director of the activism site Avaaz, said the alliance could be an “Opec for rainforests”, akin to the oil producers’ cartel, which coordinates on the fossil fuel’s production levels and price. Before being elected, Lula said any alliance could be expanded to other rainforest countries, such as Peru and Cambodia. “This deal could be a promising step forward, as long as Indigenous

peoples and local communities are fully consulted in the process and their rights and leadership respected,” Soria said. “These three ecosystems are critical for the ecological stability of the world, and the answer for these forests to thrive lies with the people that live in them.”

Carlos Nobre, a Brazilian Earth system scientist and co-chair of the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), said Lula’s election was a moment of opportunity for rainforest conservation. “The president-elect is already working with DRC and Indonesia to protect all tropical forests on the planet. He also reiterated the commitment of his government to get to zero deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon during his presidency,” he said, explaining that SPA would launch a proposal for an “arc of restoration” covering more than 1m hectares (about 4,000 sq miles), mainly in the southern Amazon near the Andes. “Implementing such a project will protect the Amazon rainforest from reaching the tipping point and also will remove more than 1bn tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere for several decades – a mandatory goal to combat the climate emergency,” he said. Joseph Itongwa Mukumo, an Indigenous Walikale from DRC’s North Kivu province, said any alliance must recognise the role Indigenous communities play in protecting forests. He said: “The IPCC [UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] scientists tasked with advising Cop negotiators made clear in a recent report the urgent need to recognise the rights of Indigenous peoples and support adaptation of ecosystems, calling us ‘fundamental to reducing the risks of climate change and for effective adaptation (with a very high level of confidence)’. “Proposals to conserve tropical forests that fail to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the forests of Africa, Latin America and Indonesia, cannot succeed.” At Cop26 in Glasgow last year, three big initiatives to protect the world’s forests were launched: a commitment by more than 140 world leaders to halt and reverse deforestation,



the creation of a working group of producers and consumers of commodities linked to deforestation, and a commitment by major commodity producers of soya, palm oil, cocoa and cattle to align their business practices with the 1.5C target. However, despite the agreement, data from Global Forest Watch shows that Brazil, DRC and Indonesia were among the top five countries for primary forest loss in 2021, with 11.1m hectares of tree cover lost in the tropics overall last year. As you’re joining us today from India, we have a small favour to ask. The planet’s future hangs in the balance, and with the Cop27 climate summit taking place in Egypt, there is a small but real

chance for meaningful change. With so much at stake, this is the most important summit of its kind. Will global leaders squander this moment, or can they come together, finally, to mobilise? At the Guardian, we are committed to keeping the climate crisis front and centre of our journalism, exposing inaction, reporting on the latest science, and holding the powerful to their promises. We will not stop giving this issue the urgency and attention it demands. We have a huge global team of climate writers around the world and have recently appointed an extreme weather correspondent. Our editorial independence means we are free

to write and publish journalism which prioritises the crisis. We have no shareholders and no billionaire owner, just the determination and passion to deliver high-impact global reporting, free from commercial or political influence. And we provide all this for free, for everyone to read. We do this because we believe in information equality. Greater numbers of people can keep track of the global events shaping our world, understand their impact on people and communities, and become inspired to take meaningful action. Millions can benefit from open access to quality, truthful news, regardless of their ability to pay for it.





## World

# Canada orders China to divest from country's mining companies

Canada has ordered China to immediately sell its holdings in three Canadian mining companies, as the need for investments in the extraction of critical minerals clashes with growing concerns over national security. On Wednesday Canada's industry minister, François-Philippe Champagne, said three Chinese companies would be required to divest from junior mining companies. "While Canada continues to welcome foreign direct investment, we will act decisively when investments threaten our national security and our critical minerals supply chains, both at home and abroad," Champagne said in a written statement. The order comes after a "multi-step" review by Canada's national security and intelligence agencies, which determined that the three companies must leave the Canadian mining industry on national security grounds.

Critical minerals and metals include lithium, cadmium, nickel and cobalt. They are essential for clean energy technologies, including turbines and electric cars and solar panels. They are also a necessary part of laptop computers and rechargeable batteries. In recent years, China has become the largest refiner and processor of critical minerals, building an extensive supply chain that relies on overseas mines for raw materials. Canada has extensive, largely undeveloped deposits of nickel and cobalt and Chinese companies have made up a growing share

of foreign investment in the industry. Earlier this year, the Canadian mining company Neo Lithium Corp was taken over by the Chinese state-controlled firm Zijin Mining Group Co, a move that prompted parliamentary hearings into the possible national security threats posed by increased investment by China. According to Champagne's directive, Sinomine (Hong Kong) Rare Metals Resources Co Ltd, Chengze Lithium International Ltd and Zangge Mining Investment (Chengdu) Co Ltd must sell their stakes in Power Metals Corp, Lithium Chile Inc and Ultra Lithium Inc. The move comes a week

after Ottawa tightened rules on foreign investments in the critical mineral sector. Champagne said investments by state-owned firms will only be approved on "an exceptional basis" and will apply not only to takeovers, but also small investments. Amid concerns over China's growing dominance, nations have banded together. Earlier this year, countries including Britain, Canada, the US and Australia established a global partnership to secure access to critical minerals. Relations between China and Canada have remained tense since the arrests of the Huawei executive Meng Wenzhou, and the Canadian

businessmen Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor in 2018. Recent reports that China is operating covert police stations inside Canada, prompting an investigation by federal police, has further chilled relations. China pushed back on Thursday, calling Canada's move a breach of cooperation between the two nations and an attempt to damage global supply chains.

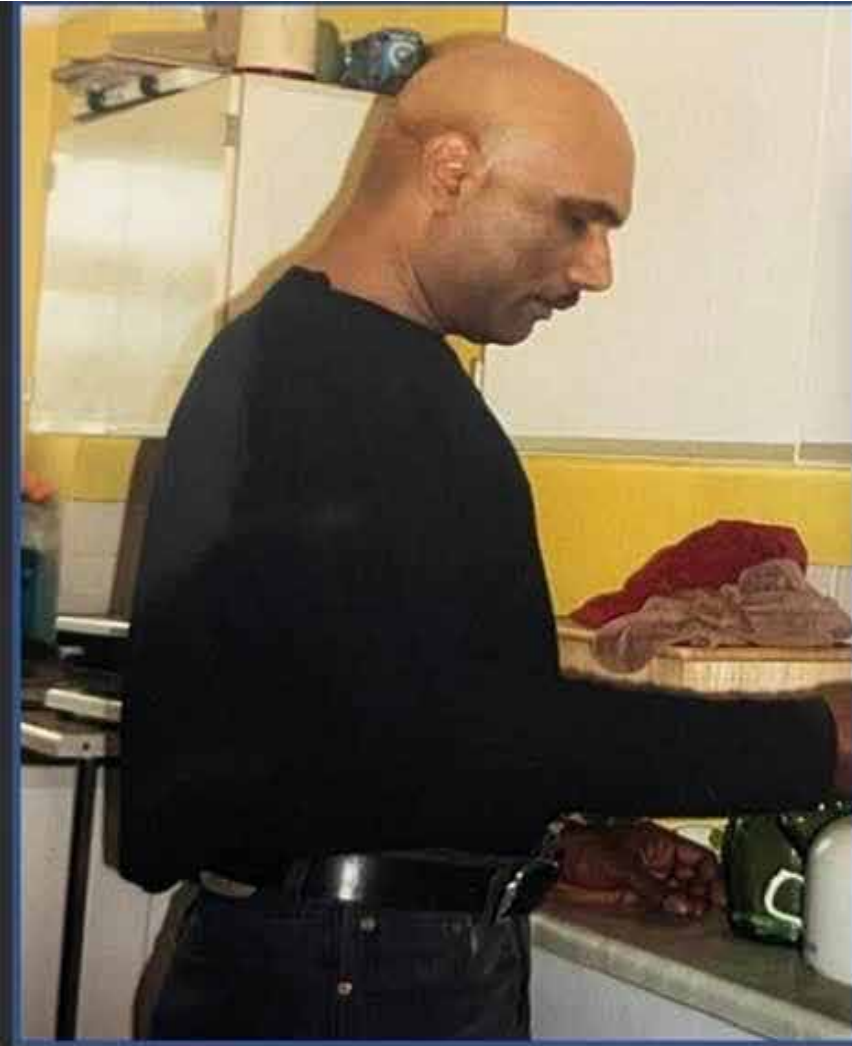
"China urges Canada to stop the unreasonably targeting Chinese companies [in Canada] and provide [the companies] with a fair, impartial and non-discriminatory business environment," a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao

Lijian, told reporters, adding Beijing would defend the rights and interests of Chinese companies abroad. ... as you're joining us today from India, we have a small favour to ask. Tens of millions have placed their trust in the Guardian's fearless journalism since we started publishing 200 years ago, turning to us in moments of crisis, uncertainty, solidarity and hope. More than 1.5 million supporters, from 180 countries, now power us financially – keeping us open to all, and fiercely independent. Unlike many others, the Guardian has no shareholders and no billionaire owner. Just the determination and passion to deliver high-impact global reporting, always free from commercial or political influence. Reporting like this is vital for democracy, for fairness and to demand better from the powerful. And we provide all this for free, for everyone to read. We do this because we believe in information equality. Greater numbers of people can keep track of the events shaping our world, understand their impact on people and communities, and become inspired to take meaningful action. Millions can benefit from open access to quality, truthful news, regardless of their ability to pay for it.





## Obituary



### *A Tribute To A Best Friend*

*Sunlight streams through the windowpane  
unto a spot on the floor....  
then I remember,  
it's where you used to lie,  
but now you are no more.  
Our feet walk down a hall of carpet,  
and muted echoes sound....  
then I remember,  
it's where your paws would joyously abound.  
A voice is heard along the road,  
and up beyond the hill,  
then I remember it can't be yours....  
your golden voice is still.  
But I'll take that vacant spot of floor  
and empty muted hall  
and lay them with the absent voice  
and unused dish along the wall.  
I'll wrap these treasured memorials  
in a blanket of my love  
and keep them for my best friend  
until we meet above.*



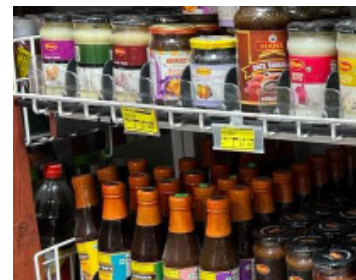


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# US Fiji Times conveys best wishes to Team USA for Pacific Cup 2022 in Fiji

US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher and former Team Manager for the USA All Star to the Pacific Cup from 2015 to 2018 Mr. Rocky Ali Buksh, has conveyed his very best wishes to the Team that will be competing in Fiji for the 2022 Pacific Cup tournament which will be held from November 24-27. Rocky said that Team USA was always a good team and that he was glad to have managed the Team which reached the semifinals and finals in 2017. "My heart will always

be with Team USA no matter the outcomes of any tournament as we must always have pride in our young people as football is very much of their future and that I will always lend support to the Team but due to some emergency, I will not be able to accompany Team USA to Nadi this year". The winner of the 2022 Pacific Cup will walk away with \$10,000.



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AUSFFI ALL STAR	SUVA FC
BA FC	LABASA FC
NADI FC	LAUTOKA FC
USA ALL STAR	NZFFI ALL STAR

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## Sports

# US FIJI OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

The 2022 US FIJI OPEN was held @ Olivas Links GC in Ventura California. Open Division was won by Joseph Pieper with a gross score of 74. Ramon Panggat won the Net with a 68. Viti Flight was won by Justin Renaux and the Net By Cullen West. The Vanua Flight was won by Brandon Farraye and the Net by Rocky Lal. Team was won by Viti Golf Club. Long Drive was won by Cullem West and NTP by Justin Renaux on # 5. Division II was won by Jashpreet Singh with a gross score of 85 and the Net was won by John Fernando with the Net Score of 68. Kadavu Flight was won by Scott Burke and the Net by Anthony Marrow.

The Lau Flight was won by Anthony Rhoads and the Net by Thomas McGough. The Yasawa Flight was won by Marvin Smith and the Net by Ralph Grierson. Long Drive was won by Anthony Rhoads and NTP was won by Jashpreet Singh on # 13. Senior Champion Pramesh P Sharma Net Champion Ralph Grierson. The Ladies Championship was won by Connie Lee and the Net by Kyla Kuntz who also won the Long Drive. Net year the event will be held in Seattle for the 5th Time. Course tba.



*Net Champion - Division 2  
Ralph Grierson*



*Senior Champion  
Pramesh P Sharma*



*Open Champion  
Joseph Pieper*



*Division II Net Champion  
John Fernando*



*Division II  
Champion  
Jashpreet Singh*



*Left Connie Lee Ladies  
Open Champion  
& Kyla Kuntz Net Champion*



*Ramon Panggat  
Net Champion*





# Sports





## Fiji Sports

# Australia break Fiji hearts to win Hong Kong Sevens

Australia beat Fiji 20-17 with a last gasp try to win sensational Hong Kong Sevens title France claim the bronze medal thanks to a 19-17 victory over Samoa Return of Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens a resounding success with world class sevens played in front of a large and vibrant crowd Hong Kong was the first of 11 rounds in the men's 2023 World Series, the women's Series starts with a combined event in Dubai on 2-3 December 2022 The 2023 Series is set to be the most competitive yet, with Paris 2024 Olympic qualification and Series relegation at stake Australia clinched a thrilling final 20-17 to claim the Cathay Pacific/HSBC Hong Kong Sevens crown and bring to an end Fiji's dominance that had seen them take the last five titles in Hong Kong. A pulsating end-to-end final played in an electrifying atmosphere was settled in the final minute when Nathan Lawson scored in the corner to cue wild celebrations from the Australia contingent. It had been 1,308 days since the last final was played in Hong Kong back in 2019, and the highly anticipated comeback edition certainly made up for lost time with a classic encounter between Fiji and Australia. Double Olympic champions Fiji led through tries from Josua Vakurinabili and a pair from Waisea Nacuqu, but Australia hit back through Henry Hutchison, twice, and Tim Clements before Lawson sealed the comeback victory to continue the fantastic form which saw them clinch the 2022 HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series title Fiji were aiming to continue their love affair with Hong Kong with a record breaking sixth straight title but it was not to be for the Pacific Islanders. France were losing finalists last time Hong Kong hosted a Series event in 2019 but had to settle for bronze on this occasion, seeing off Samoa 19-17 thanks to a pair of tries from Stephen Perez Edo Martin and one from tournament top try scorer Aaron Grandidier who ran in 11 tries and 55 points over the weekend. This was perhaps the most hotly contested Hong Kong Sevens in history as two quarter-finals and one semi-final required ex-



tra time to separate the teams in highly competitive contests, before the closely fought bronze and gold medal finals. Australia reached the final with a 10-7 win over a valiant France outfit thanks to a finely executed golden point penalty kick from the outstanding Maurice Longbottom following an earlier try from Josh Turner. Longbottom had already shown match-winning exploits earlier in the day, scoring a sensational try in extra time as Australia performed a remarkable comeback from 19-5 down to beat Ireland 26-19 in the quarter-final. Australia had qualified for the knock-out matches thanks to pool victories over New Zealand (24-17) and Hong Kong (43-0) despite a 22-17 defeat to Samoa who to Fiji's route to the final saw them squeeze past Commonwealth champions South Africa 12-7 with tries from Joseva Talacolo and Jeremaia Matana to clinch in a tense quarter-final, before overcoming Pacific neighbours Samoa 19-7 in a pulsating semi-final, with two scores from Filipe Sauturaga and one from Joseva Talacolo. Fiji had progressed through their pool on Friday and Saturday with free-scoring wins over Japan (59-12), Spain (35-

21) and the USA (24-0). Samoa had earlier broken Argentinean hearts with a try from Vaovasa Afa Sua in extra time securing a 19-14 quarter-final victory, while France proved too strong for USA in the last quarter-final with a pair of tries from Aaron Grandidier. The highly experienced Olympic bronze medalists Argentina beat a youthful USA 36-0 to finish fifth. New Zealand bounced back from their disappointment of failing to reach the quarter-finals in Hong Kong for the first time ever, by securing fifth place with a trio of victories on Sunday. The All Blacks Sevens triumphed over Kenya 34-0, Spain 24-7 and Canada 33-5 to finish ninth. Uruguay showed plenty of potential on their debut as a Series core team, recording impressive victories over Great Britain (19-17), Kenya (10-7) and Japan (33-10) to finish in a respectable 13th place. Australia captain Nick Malouf said: "After having done so well last year, to come out here and back it up straightaway and win Hong Kong for the first time since 1988, incredible. I think we're cutting a few years off our coach's life leaving it so late! "We knew coming into this

weekend that we've just got to keep grinding and doing what we've been doing really well, working hard for each other and we know they're going to come for us now so we have got to keep getting better. "There's not much between the teams. This is the Olympic qualifying year, so everyone's going to be coming in red hot and it's going to make for great viewing and tough games on the pitch." Fiji coach Ben Gollings said: "At the end of the day, we made a final and we've been consistent. It's bitterly disappointing that we lost. Ultimately 30 seconds of rugby was the difference in the end but credit to the boys was a tough year and they stuck at it and like I said the consistency and being in another final is fantastic. Hong Kong was the first of 11 rounds on the men's HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series 2023, which promises to be the most competitive and exciting Series to date with more at stake than ever before as the top four ranked men's and women's teams will earn Olympic qualification for Paris 2024. At the other end of the table in the men's competition the number of teams for the 2024 Series will reduce from

16 to 12 to equal the number of women's teams and align with the Olympic competition structure, meaning fans can expect an intense battle to avoid relegation throughout the 2023 Series with every match and every point counting towards the final Series rankings. The Series' next stop is Dubai where the women's Series will commence, as part of a combined event with the men on 2-3 December 2022, before both men's and women's teams move on to Cape Town on 9-11 December. The women's pools for Dubai see the all-conquering reigning World, Commonwealth and Series champions Australia in Pool A alongside the USA, Canada and China. In Pool B reigning Olympic champions New Zealand will face France, Great Britain and Brazil. Pool C sees Olympic bronze medalists Fiji together with Ireland, Spain and newly promoted Japan. The men's draw sees Pool A with Australia, South Africa, Great Britain and Kenya. Pool B is Fiji, Argentina, New Zealand and Uruguay. Pool C includes France, Ireland, Spain and Uganda. Pool D is made up of Samoa, USA, Canada and Japan.



## Fiji Sports

# SCOTS OVERCOME FIJI FOR FIRST WIN OF END-OF-YEAR SERIES

It was unconvincing, but Scotland got the job done and recorded their first win of their campaign by beating Fiji 28-12 at Murrayfield on Saturday. The hosts were only 14-12 ahead at the break but pulled clear after the interval in a match where they outscored Fiji four tries to two. Victory came after Scotland started their end-of-year programme with a 16-15 loss to Australia at Murrayfield last weekend — a match where the Scots were without their England-based players for a Test that fell outside the official Autumn window. Scotland face New Zealand a week on Sunday before rounding off their Autumn series against Argentina. The hosts looked set for a smooth afternoon when Turner's early try put them ahead, but the visitors — under the charge of former Scotland head coach Vern Cotter — hit back with their tries

and temporarily had the hosts on the ropes. Touchdowns either side of the interval from Hastings and Van der Merwe helped Gregor Townsend's side regain the upper hand, however, before replacement White added a further score in the closing stages. In just the second minute, Fiji suffered a setback when debutant Rotuisolia was sent to the sin-bin for foul play. The hosts made the extra man count as they bossed the early stages and after a sustained period of pressure, Turner pushed his way over from a rolling maul in the seventh minute for the game's opening try. Hastings — given his chance to stake a claim for the stand-off berth vacated by high-profile absentee Finn Russell — was successful with the conversion. The Pacific islanders had a good chance to get their first points on the board in the 11th minute when they were

awarded a penalty in front of the posts, but Tuicuvu sent his kick wastefully wide from. The Scorers For Scotland Tries: Turner, Hastings, Van der Merwe, White Cons: Hastings 2, Kinghorn 2 For Samoa: Tries: Tuicuvu, Rotuisolia Con: Botitu Teams: Scotland: 15 Stuart Hogg, 14 Darcy Graham, 13 Chris Harris, 12 Cameron Redpath, 11 Duhan van der Merwe, 10 Adam Hastings, 9 Ali Price, 8 Matt Fagerson, 7 Hamish Watson, 6 Jamie Ritchie (captain), 5 Grant Gilchrist, 4 Richie Gray, 3 Zander Fagerson, 2 George Turner, 1 Pierre Schoeman. Replacements: 16 Ewan Ashman, 17 Rory Sutherland, 18 Murphy Walker, 19 Jonny Gray, 20 Jack Dempsey, 21 Ben White, 22 Blair Kinghorn, 23 Sione Tuipulotu. Fiji: 15 Kini Murrumurivalu, 14 Setareki Tuicuvu, 13 Waisea Nayacalevu, 12 Kalaveti Ravouvou, 11 Vinaya



Habosi, 10 Vilimoni Botitu, 9 Frank Lomani, 8 Viliame Mata, 7 Levani Botia, 6 Albert Tuissue, 5 Ratu Leone Rotuisolia, 4 Temo Mayanavanua, 3 Manasa Saulo, 2 Sam Matavesi, 1 Eroni Mawi. Replacements: 16 Tevita Ikanivere, 17 Livai Natave, 18 Luke Tagi, 19 Apisalome Ra-

tuniyarawa, 20 Kitione Kamikamica, 21 Peni Matawalu, 22 Teti Tela, 23 Sireli Maqala. Referee: Nic Berry (Australia) Assistant referees: James Doleman (New Zealand), Pierre Brousset (France) TMO: Brett Cronan (Australia).

## Rugby League World Cup: Kiwis survive huge scare from Fiji to advance to semifinal

The Kiwis are through to the Rugby League World Cup semifinals — but not without an almighty scare from Fiji. The New Zealand side trailed for more than an hour and could have lost in the last few minutes, before eventually squeaking home 24-18. For a long time it felt like a repeat of the nightmare 2017 scenario, with Fiji set to ambush the Kiwis again at the quarter-final stage. Wing Jordan Rapana was an unlikely hero, kicking four pressure goals and diving over for a try on the hooter to seal the result. The Kiwis will face Australia next week, though they will need a quantum leap in quality to get close to the world champions. The Kiwis were down 12-0 after 17 minutes, then 18-6 early in the second half. They started to dominate in the final quarter, but had to defend three consecutive sets on their line in the final stages, where any score from the Bati would have seen New Zealand out of the tournament. The Kiwis walked the tightrope for most of the match and coach Michael Maguire's reaction said it all, as he was frozen in the seat

for a few minutes after the final whistle. This was meant to be the game that everything came together for the Kiwis — after mixed efforts in the group stages — but it never really happened as they were plagued by mistakes and ill-discipline, though they at least showed considerable courage and spirit to fight back. Full-back Joseph Manu was again outstanding — with 304 running metres — while the forwards did well to match up to a willing Fiji pack. Fiji were massive underdogs with the bookmakers but tore up the script with a remarkable performance. Maguire opted for Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad at centre, while Nelson Asofa-Solomona was in the second row, though he later switched to the middle. Everything that could go wrong in the first quarter from a Kiwis perspective, did. Fiji were up for the fight but the men in Black and White were their own worst enemies. They gave away needless yardage penalties, as well as six again sets, to give Fiji momentum and they were good enough to take advantage. Clever hands from Api Korois-

au and Viliame Kikau created space for Maika Sivo to power over — though Rapana and Peta Hiku had misread the numbers. Six minutes later, Kevin Naiqama ran a brilliant line to slice through between Dylan Brown and Nicoll-Klokstad to extend their lead. The Kiwis were in a hole. A clever scrum move created space for Ronaldo Mulitalo to flash over and Rapana responded to recent criticism to convert from the sideline. That should have been the start of something but it never eventuated in the first half, despite plenty of possession in the right areas. A long-range Mulitalo break went unrewarded and balls were dropped close to the line, as the committed Fijian defence compressed the space and time superbly. The issues continued after the break. Rapana coughed up near halfway before Naiqama scored a brilliant solo try, catching Brown cold from dummy half. Back rower Briton Nikora forced his way over through three defenders, to give the Kiwis some hope and they started to, finally, win the arm wrestle. A magnificent

Brandon Wakeham tackle prevented Mulitalo from scoring, before Kenny Bromwich shelled the ball metres before the line. A Mulitalo fumble then gifted the Fijians a goal-line dropout, though the Kiwis held on. New Zealand finally levelled in the 62nd minute through Manu, after Brown had created space for Mulitalo on the left flank. But the indiscipline continued, as a Hiku push gave away a penalty — via a captain's challenge — which meant a Sivo knock-on went unpunished. If that was unfortunate, the Kiwis got lucky with their own challenge, after

Manu was stripped of the ball and Rapana's clutch 30-metre penalty gave them the lead. But New Zealand still made it hard for themselves, with consecutive unforced errors inviting Fiji into their territory. It looked dicey — but somehow they hung on — before Rapana's late, late try finally put Fiji away, after the Kiwis managed a repeat set. Kiwis 24 (Ronaldo Mulitalo, Briton Nikora, Joseph Manu, Jordan Rapana tries; Rapana 3 cons, pen) Fiji 18 (Kevin Naiqama 2, Maika Sivo tries; Brandon Wakeham 3 cons)







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