



# THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

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## Fijians Remember the late Queen Elizabeth II

Queen  
Elizabeth II  
1926 - 2022



US Fiji Times and Staff joined fellow Fijians in the USA, Canada, and around the world in paying tribute to Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth II who passed away on Thursday, September 8th, 2022.

For those born in Fiji, the name Queen Elizabeth and the British Royal Family has been part of everyone's life since Fiji got its Independence from Great Britain on October 10th, 1970, as the two countries have been closely associated since the British Colonial leadership of the 1800s". As evident today, names that are still associated with Great Britain include Queen Elizabeth Drive, Albert Park, McGregor Road, and Prince Charles Park to name a few.

The Queen visited Fiji in 1953 and 1963 when it was a Crown Colony, and in 1970, 1973, 1977, and 1982 as the Queen of the Dominion of Fiji. Major visits included the 1953-1954 Commonwealth Tour



*We loved you Ma'am*





## THE US FIJI TIMES



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# Fijian Government



**William Katonivere-**  
**PRESIDENT**



**Frank Bainimarama**  
**PRIME MINISTER**



**Aiyaz Sayed Khayum**  
**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**



**Satyendra Prasad**  
**Ambassador | Representative**  
**of Fiji to the U.N**



**Luke Daunivalu**  
**Permanent Representative**  
**of the Republic of Fiji to the**  
**United Nations**



**Mr. Alika Cooper**  
**Fiji Trade Commissioner**  
**North America**



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



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



**Mr. Bobby Naicker**  
**Honorary Consul**  
**Vancouver CANADA**

## THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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*Happy Navratri*

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## News

## PM Bainimarama meets with Vice President Kamala Harris and thanks the US for its Regional Support

Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama had the opportunity to meet with the Vice President of the United States of America, Her Excellency, Kamala Harris on 4th August, 2022 where they discussed the U.S, Fiji and Pacific engagements at the White House in Washington DC.

As chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, Prime Minister Bainimarama conveyed his appreciation to Vice President Harris for her virtual engagement during the recent Pacific Leaders Forum which was held in Suva.

He informed the Vice President that he welcomed the very significant progress in USA partnerships with the Pacific through its support for our 2050 strategy and the Indo-Pacific engagement.

On behalf of the Pacific Leaders, Prime Minister Bainimarama said they are looking forward to a historic and successful President Biden and Pacific Leaders Summit at the White House in the near future.



## Genuine guardians can apply for aid

Genuine guardians will be able to apply for government's \$180 inflation mitigation assistance from Wednesday next week. Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum made the announcement last night and said applications would be done via schools and Legal Aid offices.

He said guardians would need

to provide a statutory declaration.

The A-G said the ministry had restricted applications to parents because of problems encountered in the past of trying to identify the real guardians as many Fijians claimed to be the carers of the same children.

He said 186,000 students

would have received the \$180 by Monday next week.

The A-G said \$45 million had been paid out to 252,291 Fijians, including 146,982 parents of students below Year 13.

He said 11,923 tertiary students have also received the assistance, including 86,198 social welfare recipients, 5373

after care fund beneficiaries and 1451 on government pension schemes.

He said another 40,000 were currently under assessment and should receive the payment from today until Monday next week.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said some did not qualify because

their parents earned more than \$50,000 a year. When asked why guardians had not been included in the first announcement, he said sometimes two or three family members claimed they were looking after one child, "so all of them could have applied at the same time".

YOUR ONE STOP INDIAN GROCER IN SAN BRUNO

**NEELAM PACIFIC MARKET**



## News

# PM Bainimarama is welcomed by fellow Fijians in San Francisco

Fiji's Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama accompanied by his Permanent Secretary Yogesh Karan & Fiji's Ambassador to United Nation H.E. Ambassador Satyendra Prasad, stopped

over in San Francisco on Thursday, 5th August and met with a few members of the Fijian diaspora.

Fiji's Honorary Consul in San Francisco Mr. Jay Singh

also hosted PM Bainimarama and his delegation at Double Tree South San Francisco.

Also present was Fiji's newly-appointed Trade Commissioner to North America, Mr

Alika Cooper.

PM Bainimarama was on his way to Fiji after attending several high-level UN Meetings with US Secretary of State Mr. Anthony Blinken followed by

an audience with Vice President of the USA Kamala Harris.

It was also a time for those present to be updated on the situation back home.





## Fiji News

# "MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY IS PARAMOUNT"

Acting Permanent Secretary for Communications Tupou'tuah Baravilala opened the two day FNU National Conference on Information and Technology at the Pearl Resort at Pacific Harbour this morning (25/08/22). Ms Baravilala stressed that as technology continues to evolve, universities must continue to make sure that programmes have practical relevance and graduates have work-ready skills to meet industry needs. "This will enable students to have genuine insight into the demands of this fast-paced sector and the multidisciplinary skill-set required such as communication, analytical, and critical thinking, to name a few."

"For Fiji and indeed the region, meaningful connectivity is paramount and part of a strategic, decade-long programme including structural and legal reforms to modernise our economy and develop our telecom-

munications sector, we have made historic strides in bridging the digital divide in our society. We undertook a programme of unparalleled investment with consistent policies and a commitment to working with the right partners, with the right expertise, to develop and roll-out new technologies and strengthen our security posture." APS Baravilala added that Government's efforts are designed to empower every Fijian and to progressively extend Government programmes, services and networks of infrastructure to every Fijian, as they need it. These efforts and the Conference positions us to build trust in the digital economy, meet evolving threats, and support online security, said APS Baravilala. With over 100 participants at the conference, speakers from the ICT industry and the academia will be presenting over the two day programme.



## TAILEVU YOUTH CELEBRATE GOVERNMENT GRANT

Members of Sawa Youth Club are the new recipients of the assistance under the Youth Grant programme and Youth Farm Initiative programme. The Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala, was present at the grant handover ceremony at Sawa Village in Verata, Tailevu on Tuesday (23/08/22). The grant was provided to them in the form of brush cutters and accessories. Minister Bala said Fijian youth who wish to start businesses can always access this Government

grant to assist them in setting up their businesses. "The Fijian Government believes that youth empowerment through their active participation in economic activities, will harness the ingenuity and creativity of these youth and will help Government in building a modern and knowledge-based society," Minister Bala said. Additionally, they were handed over a grant under the Youth Farm Initiative programme comprising of a Rotovator Land Tiller machine and seedlings.



## MINISTER KOYA OPENS FIJI-KOREA BUSINESS FORUM



The Fijian Government has been progressively striving towards branding Fiji as an investment destination of choice. Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport Faiyaz Koya, while opening the Fiji-Korea Business Forum at the Grand Pacific Hotel said, "The total trade between Fiji and Korea over the past five years has been FJ\$165,224,328 on average." "In the past 5 years, Koreans have invested a total of FJ\$34,973,579 worth of projects in Fiji." Minister Koya added there are many untapped trade

and investment opportunities; for instance, Fiji's budding industries such as manufacturing, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), green energy, health, maritime, and infrastructure development. "The speakers today will expound further on these revised procedures that have been put in place to make Fiji more conducive for investment and businesses." "I encourage the audience to seek clarity during the sessions when needed for an impactful engagement."



## Fiji News

# GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES NEW ZEALAND'S GENDER EQUALITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar met with New Zealand's Ambassador for Gender, Social Inclusion and Sports Diplomacy, Louisa Wall in Suva. Whilst briefing Ambassador Wall, Minister Akbar said the Fijian Government's support and commitment to Gender Equality programs and initiatives, and ensuring that no one is left behind lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Fiji's 5 year and 20 year National Development Plan, which asserts gender equality as both a fundamental human rights and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

"During the pandemic, women continued to carry most of the responsibilities for holding our societies together - be it at home, in health care, at school, or in caring for the elderly and

children, the world is still fighting hard for gender equality especially in terms of women and girls' economic security, physical safety, health and access to decision-making spaces". The discussion between Minister Akbar and Ambassador Wall centred around the Ministry's key strategic gender equality initiatives supported by the Government of New Zealand and also discussed ways in which programs and policies such as these will enable structures and mechanisms in Government to be established and will act as "catalyst" to assist and facilitate the process of transformative gender mainstreaming and gender responsive budgeting across Government. Ambassador Wall further added that the New Zealand Government is committed to these efforts and through the newly launched Marama ni Viti Programme it hopes to



continue and strengthen partnerships with the Fijian Government to progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in Fiji.

On behalf of the Fijian Government, Minister Akbar thanked the New Zealand Ambassador for Gender, Social Inclusion and Sports Diplomacy, Louisa

Wall and the Government of New Zealand for their generous support which helped make the implementation of the Gender Equality Program possible.

## HEAD OF STATE MEETS FOOD SHOW PARTICIPANTS



His Excellency, President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere met participants of the Pacific Island Food Revolution Season 3 Finale Television show at the

Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva this morning. Addressing the five teams representing their respective countries and the show management, His Excel-

lency thanked them for bringing the spirit of the Pacific Island Food Revolution to our capital, Suva. "Team Papua New Guinea, Team Samoa, Team

Tonga, Team Fiji, and Team Vanuatu, we are thrilled that you have made Suva your home and brought not only yourselves, but your delicious food culture with you," President Katonivere said. "Suva, the hub of the Pacific and a melting pot of our wonderful regional cultures, is all

the better for having you here in Fiji." "Diversity is people, diversity is food, and it is part of what makes Fiji great," President Katonivere added. "Remember - in keeping with our Pacific way - when one wins, we all win."





## Fiji News

# NEW MULTI-PURPOSE COURT CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN RAKIRAKI



It is the vision and commitment of the Fijian Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama that has made community sporting projects possible. This was highlighted by the Minister for Youth and Sports, Parveen Kumar Bala, while officiating at the ground-breaking ceremony of the new multi-purpose court at Tataiya Memorial School in Rakiraki on Monday (22/08/22). The facility is worth \$163,500 and is 35M by 25M in size.

Minister Bala said over the past eight years, he has overseen many projects in Rakiraki under the current Fijian Government. "This has included roads, bridges, a new fire station, roadside stalls and markets, re-building of schools and homes after natural disasters, relief during COVID-19 and infrastructure such as the new Rakiraki markets, and much more," Minister Bala said. Chand's Maintenance and Renovation Pte Ltd are the contractors of the project.



## PACIFIC E-COMMERCE PORTAL LAUNCHED

"The Pacific Regional E-Commerce Strategy and Roadmap charts the way forward to boost digital trade." This was shared by Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Faiyaz Koya, during the launch of the Pacific E-Commerce Portal at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat this morning (24/08/22). "When implemented, these regional actions will help achieve the level of ambition set out by the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent - both in the thematic area of technology and

connectivity, and in the area of people-entered development." "The Portal that we are launching today provides detailed information on such efforts. This information will not only benefit members who may seek support from certain technical agencies, but will also provide the foundation to monitor overall implementation of our Regional E-commerce Strategy." Minister Koya also acknowledged the graduates of the E-commerce Disciplines for Policy Makers course, for successfully completing this important e-training.



## 'LIGHTNING FLAME BREATHER' GETS THE WAKU-DOKI AWARD

Permanent Secretary of Education, Heritage, and Arts, Dr Anjeela Jokhan, officially presented 9-year-old, Reshav Pratap of Gospel Primary School, the award for his artwork for the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest. The artwork titled, 'Lightning Flame Breather' was considered for this year's Waku-Doki Award at the international level. Waku-Doki, which is a Japanese expression, can be translated as exceeding expectations, bringing joy and heart-pumping excitement. Reshav's dream car which he describes as fast as lightning, met this description, singling him as the winner of the award under this category. 2022 marked the 15th year for the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest. Fiji has taken part in this contest 6 times. Previously, there had been two winners from Fiji though this was not at a global

level. This makes this win all the more special since the Waku-Doki Award selection was done at a global level. Speaking at the award presentation event, the Permanent Secretary acknowledged the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest for providing the youngsters a platform to showcase their talent. "We must believe that our children are next to none. They have the ability to contest at a global level and win. All they need is our support. I thank Reshav's parents for being there for him always," Dr Jokhan said. "They can envision what cars should be like in the future and I am amazed at how, while being creative, some of the participants have also tried to reflect the needs of their society through their creative cars," she added. Reshav is the only son of Mr and Mrs Pratap. His older sister attends Jai Narayan

College. "We're really proud of our son's achievement," Mr Pratap said. Mrs Pratap added that Reshav has always been artistic and she encouraged him to draw when she read the advertisement in the papers during the lockdown period. Similar sentiments were shared by the Head Teacher of Gospel Primary School, Mr Ravolaca said that they were pleasantly surprised when they received the news about the award. "Reshav joined the school in Kindergarten and they have noticed his passion for art since then. His achievement has made them realize the value of children's imagination and it has strengthened their focus on Art class", he added. He is happy and proud of Reshav's achievement and he further stated that the prize money awarded to the school will be used to improve its teaching and



learning facilities. All smiles, little Reshav said that his mom had encouraged him to take part in this contest. "Drawing has always been my passion and I am very happy that I have won

this award and I will use it for my studies," he added. Reshav achieved this award amongst 530,000 participants from 78 countries and regions which is a milestone achievement.



## Fiji News

# Former Fiji Judge, Mr. Jai Ram Reddy Passes Away

US Fiji Times and Staff joined fellow Fiji nationals in paying tribute to former Fiji Judge, the late Mr. Jai Ram Reddy, who passed away in Auckland, New Zealand on August 29th 2022 at the age of 85.

The eldest of five children born to Pethi and Yenkattama Reddy, Jai Ram Reddy was born at Lautoka Hospital on 12 May 1937. Both his paternal grandfather, Byanna Reddy, a (Kshatriya) from the Cud-dapah District in what is now Andhra Pradesh, and his maternal grandfather, Iyyappa Reddy, a social worker and a founder of the Lovu Sangam Primary School, emigrated to Fiji in 1903 on the Elbe III.

Educated initially at Sri Vivekananda High School in Nadi and then at DAV College in Suva, Reddy enrolled in the University Entrance class at Wellington Technical College, New Zealand, in April 1955, and was the only non-accredited student in the college to pass the examination that year. He went on to enroll in the Law faculty of Wellington's Victoria University in 1956, graduating in 1960, when he was admitted to the New Zealand bar. He was subsequently admitted to the bar in Fiji the following year. From 1961 to 1966 he was Staff Solicitor and Associate at the law firm of A. D. Patel & Co in Nadi, Fiji. From 1966 to 1968, he

served as Crown Counsel and was Principal Legal Officer in the Attorney-General's Office from 1968 to 1970. He was the senior partner in a law firm of Stuart Reddy & Co of Lautoka, Fiji. From 1988 to 1997, he was sole practitioner in Lautoka.

In 2000, Reddy was appointed President of the Fiji Court of Appeal. He resigned in the wake of the overthrow of the constitutional government of Fiji in 2000, but was reappointed to the post in January 2002. He resigned the Presidency of the Court of Appeal on 18 April 2003 to take up his position with the Rwanda tribunal, but remained a member of the court.



## BA WOMEN VENDORS RECEIVE REFURBISHED ACCOMMODATION



Sleeping on the side of the market in Ba town while waiting for the market to open will now be a thing of the past with the opening of the newly refurbished Ba Women's Accommodation centre today (22/08/22). The accommodation centre which was opened by the Minister for Local Government, Premila Kumar, will support hardworking women vendors who travel long distances and hours to sell their produce. Commending the initiative which was initiated in 2018, 69-year-old Merewai

Ratoto of Tabalei village, highlighted how grateful she is to the Fijian Government for such initiatives. "I am thankful that the accommodation was opened today, it will help me a lot, help my family and I will be able to save more money. "Now we don't have to sleep outside as this accommodation will be there for us. Minister Kumar highlighted that women accommodation centres are currently available in Suva, Sigatoka, Ba, Nadi, Namaka, Rakiraki, and Labasa markets.

## FANCA SILVER JUBILEE NATIONS WORLD CUP COMES TO A CLOSE

The first group of 12 workers from the 24 that completed their 4 days Pre-Departure Briefing (PDB) left our shores yesterday (21/08/22), to Cable Beach Resort in Broome, Western Australia under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme.

These selected workers were given a farewell by the Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Mr Osea Cawaru on Friday (19/08/22)

afternoon. During the farewell, Mr Cawaru reminded these workers to maintain positive personal values, which are vital in lifting and maintaining the Fijian brand. "Having positive values will overcome various challenges faced and will allow you to focus on your set goals and purpose of you joining the program and also your selection."

"These values will enable employers to provide positive feedback to the Ministry that

will result in more employers visiting Fiji for more recruitment and selection of more Fijian citizens."

"Your respective 'Vanua', Government and your families have faith in you, that you will perform your work to the best of your abilities and also that you will abide by your Contractual Agreements that you have signed. "Those who are married, respect those vows - always remember your children back home, your spouse who

is here in Fiji - they all have high hopes for you." "Be honest, transparent, hardworking, and work as a team - These are all moral values, therefore it is important that you live them. This journey is similar to our other Fijian citizens playing sports such as rugby where it requires all team members to work together and support each other in order for the team to win.

There are rules to be followed and penalties if rules are not followed or cards flashed for

disciplinary issues." urged Mr Cawaru. The Permanent Secretary acknowledged the selected workers and their Australian-approved employers for their continued support and confidence in the recruitment of Fijians under the PALM scheme.

The 24 selected workers will be absorbed with Cable Beach Resort and the Double Tree Hilton in the Hospitality & Accommodation Industry on 9-month contracts before returning back to Fiji.



## News

## Statement from The King following the death of The Queen



The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty The Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all

members of my family.

We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother.

I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people

around the world.

During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained

by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held.

*" Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today. "*

I speak to you today with feelings of profound sorrow. Throughout her life, Her Majesty The Queen – my beloved Mother – was an inspiration and example to me and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can owe to their mother; for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example. Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today. Alongside the personal grief that all my family are feeling, we also share with so many of you in the United Kingdom, in all the countries where The Queen was Head of State, in the Commonwealth and across the world, a deep sense of gratitude for the more than seventy years in which my Mother, as Queen, served the people of so many nations. In 1947, on her twenty-first birthday, she pledged in a broadcast from Cape Town to the Commonwealth to devote her life, whether it be short or long, to the service of her peoples. That

was more than a promise: it was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life. She made sacrifices for duty. Her dedication and devotion as Sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss. In her life of service we saw that abiding love of tradition, together with that fearless embrace of progress, which make us great as Nations. The affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign. And, as every member of my family can testify, she combined these qualities with warmth, humour and an unerring ability always to see the best in people. I pay tribute to my Mother's memory and I honour her life of service. I know that her death brings great sadness to so many of you and I share that sense of loss, beyond measure, with you all.

The role and the duties of Monarchy also remain, as does the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility to-

wards the Church of England – the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted. In that faith, and the values it inspires, I have been brought up to cherish a sense of duty to others, and to hold in the greatest respect the precious traditions, freedoms and responsibilities of our unique history and our system of parliamentary government. As The Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the Constitutional principles at the heart of our nation. And wherever you may live in the United Kingdom, or in the Realms and territories across the world, and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.

My life will of course change as I take up my new responsibilities. It will no longer be possible for me to give so much of my time and energies to the charities and issues for which I care so deeply. But I know this

important work will go on in the trusted hands of others.

This is also a time of change for my family. I count on the loving help of my darling wife, Camilla. In recognition of her own loyal public service since our marriage seventeen years ago, she becomes my Queen Consort. I know she will bring to the demands of her new role the steadfast devotion to duty on which I have come to rely so much. As my Heir, William now assumes the Scottish titles which have meant so much to me. He succeeds me as Duke of Cornwall and takes on the responsibilities for the Duchy of Cornwall which I have undertaken for more than five decades. Today, I am proud to create him Prince of Wales, Tywysog Cymru, the country whose title I have been so greatly privileged to bear during so much of my life and duty. With Catherine beside him, our new Prince and Princess of Wales will, I know, continue to inspire and lead our national conversations, helping to bring the marginal to the centre ground

where vital help can be given. I want also to express my love for Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas.

In a little over a week's time we will come together as a nation, as a Commonwealth and indeed a global community, to lay my beloved mother to rest. In our sorrow, let us remember and draw strength from the light of her example. On behalf of all my family, I can only offer the most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your condolences and support. They mean more to me than I can ever possibly express. And to my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want simply to say this: thank you. Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years. May "flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest".



## News

# ‘A moment of sorrow and deep reflection’

When Queen Elizabeth II first visited Fiji in 1953, it was the chiefs who performed the traditional ceremonies to welcome her. Such was the special place Her Majesty had in the hearts of the iTaukei people, says Joji Kotobalavu, a lecturer at the University of Fiji School of Law who served as permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office under four of Fiji's PMs — Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Sitiveni Rabuka, Mahendra Chaudhry and Lasenia Qarase.

He described the Queen's passing as “a moment of sorrow and deep reflection” because of

her close connection with the people of Fiji.

“You have to remember that she visited Fiji six times — 1953, 1963, 1970, 1973, 1977 and 1982,” he said.

“And her first visit was in December 1953, only six months after she was crowned.

“Fiji had a real constitutional connection with Her Majesty because she visited Fiji as our Head of State.

“And the iTaukei people will always be grateful to Queen Elizabeth right from the signing of the Deed of Cession on

October 10, 1874, when Ratu Cakobau ceded Fiji to the British Crown under Queen Victoria. And she reciprocated in two very important ways.

“Firstly, the British Crown recognised the authority of the chiefs over their people — provided they administered their people in accordance with the laws of the British Colony. Secondly, the British Crown recognised, through the British Government, through the principle of common law, ownership of tribal land by the iTaukei landowners according to custom, tradition and usage.”

Mr Kotobalavu said Queen Elizabeth continued Britain's close relationship with the Fijian people by sending her son Prince Charles to convey to then PM Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Instruments of Independence in October 1970.

He said while all her visits to Fiji were significant and historic, her 1973 was memorable in many ways. During that visit Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara assured her that even though Fiji had gained full independence in 1970 — the people of Fiji would always cherish the long historical and consti-

tutional links with the British Crown.

On a personal note, he said a brief interaction with Her Majesty remained as vivid today as it was when he met her almost 50 years ago as a senior official in the Department of Foreign Affairs which was part of the Prime Minister's Office at that time.

“She invited us onboard at the end of her visit, and gave those of us who had helped with her visit, an autographed picture of herself. What struck me was how she took the time out to personally acknowledge us.”





## News

# Chaudhry recalls having lunch with the Queen



Former Prime Minister and Fiji Labour Party Leader Mahendra Chaudhry says he was only 11 when Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne in 1953.

And he never thought he would one day have the privilege of having lunch with Her

Majesty, seated right next to her.

“That momentous occasion came during the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) in Durban, South Africa in 1999 when I was Prime Minister.

“I was invited to lunch along

with five other Pacific Island leaders

. “All of us were relatively newly elected to office and rather nervous about the protocols to be observed but she immediately put us at ease by engaging in a conversation about our re-

spective peoples and countries.

“She was charming and friendly throughout the lunch which appeared to have been carefully planned to reflect the values of healthy eating. “It was an experience I have treasured ever since.”

Mr Chaudhry said Fiji mourned with the people of Great Britain at the passing of the British monarch and Head of the Commonwealth. “We send our deepest condolences to the Royal family and the people of Great Britain.”



Huge Crowds Of People Gathered Outside Buckingham Palace To Mourn Queen Elizabeth II

*The longest-serving monarch of the United Kingdom died Thursday at the age of 96, not long after the royal family announced that doctors were concerned for her health. Flags were lowered to half-staff while people stood under umbrellas to shield themselves from the rain as many laid down flowers to pay their respects. Some people held tins of gin and tonic to honor the queen's drink of choice.*



## NEWS

# Shammer Buksh is first Muslim World Cup President from the USA to take 4 Teams to FANCA Tournament

Shameer Buksh will go on record as the first USA FANCA President to prepare and take along 4 Teams to the 2022 FANCA Silver Jubilee Championship held in Fiji from 17th to 21 August, 2022. President Shameer was in charge of the Main, Over 35, Over 40 and Over 50 Teams, and is a first-ever achievement by any President of the Muslim Soccer Community in the USA to have toured abroad to play at a FANCA organised tournament.



## FANCA 2022 Welcome Dinner is biggest ever since 1997

The FANCA 2022 official welcome dinner held at the luxury Sofitel Hotel in Nadi on Tuesday 16th September, 2022

has been considered as the one of the best organized functions since FANCA was established 25 years ago.

Invited guests which included Officials and Players from USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Fiji including re-

ligious leaders and corporate partners, were all amazed at the VIP treatment given to them.

The host Fiji and the respec-

tive sponsors must be highly commended.





## NEWS

# Fiji Police support and presence at FANCA 2022 are greatly appreciated.

The significant presence of uniformed officers of the Fiji Police Force during the FANCA 2022 Silver Jubilee in Nadi from 17th to 21st September 2022 was duly noted. US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher Rocky Ali Buksh also met briefly with Assistant Commissioner of Police/Chief Operations Officer Mr. Abdul Khan during the tournament.





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## NEWS

# FANCA brings people together – AG

Fiji's Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum attended the 25th Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and USA (FANCA) Silver Jubilee banquet dinner held at the Sofitel

Resort and Spa in Nadi on 16th August 2022.

In his remarks, the A-G acknowledged the founders of FANCA for their vision some years ago since its inception in

1997, emphasizing the significance and importance of such events, as they provide the opportunity for Fijians who have migrated abroad to visit families and friends in Fiji during

the tournament. The FANCA Nations World Cup takes place every two years in different countries, offering Fijians the opportunity to reconnect with their families and friends in a

social and sporting environment, but they were cancelled in 2020 when New Zealand was given the right to host.





## NEWS



# FANCA brings people together – AG







**Attendance at Friday Prayers was always an important part of Team USA that took part at FANCA 2022.**





## Sports

## USA and Canadian born Fijians love their Motherland

US Fiji Times had carried out a research during the 2022 FANCA Silver Jubilee championship and were surprised to note the large number of USA and Canadian individuals who had fell in love with their Motherland Fiji ever since arriving for the first time. "Many of them just can't wait to get back to Fiji and rediscover their family roots."



## Buksh and Janif Family inspire our Youths to pursue professional Football



US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher Rocky Ali Buksh and his Brother in law Mohammed Janif who resides in Canada are passionate about helping our young American and Canadian born Boys to seriously consider taking up professional football as an optional career. Mr Buksh and Mr Janif who have both been involved in their respective Teams from the USA and Canada since the inception of FANCA in 1997, both that we Parents need to show our full support to our children who have a invested interest in Sports as this is one form of ensuring that they stay off the streets and do not associate themselves with the wrong group. Mr. Janif has been supporting his three Sons;

Nadim, Wasim and Zain who have been attending FANCA tournaments for the past years. At this year's 25 Silver Jubilee for FANCA, Janif and his Sons took part in the Legends and Over 35 Category. At age 65, Mohammed Janif was part of the Canada Team that beat Australia Legends in the final of their category by 4 goals to 3. Rocky adds that with the next FANCA due in New Zealand in 2024; "We as Parents have a very important role to play in guiding our children and that organizing tournaments within the next few years are part of our responsibility to in order to remain engaged with our young people".

## Team USA Officials Congratulates Team Fiji in FANCA 2022 Win

Team USA Over 35 Veterans Technical Advisor Rocky Ali Buksh and Manager Mo Ali congratulated Team Fiji after their Main Team walked away with \$4,000 while runners-up New Zealand received \$1,000 at the 2022 FANCA Muslim World Cup Silver Jubilee Championship held from 17th to 21st August. Rocky Buksh said that it was evident from the start of the championship that Team Fiji would spark some surprises in a tight competition over 5 days at Nadi's Prince Charles Park. Mr Ali said that despite the stiff competition over the 5 days, the large spectators that were present daily were treated to top-class Football.



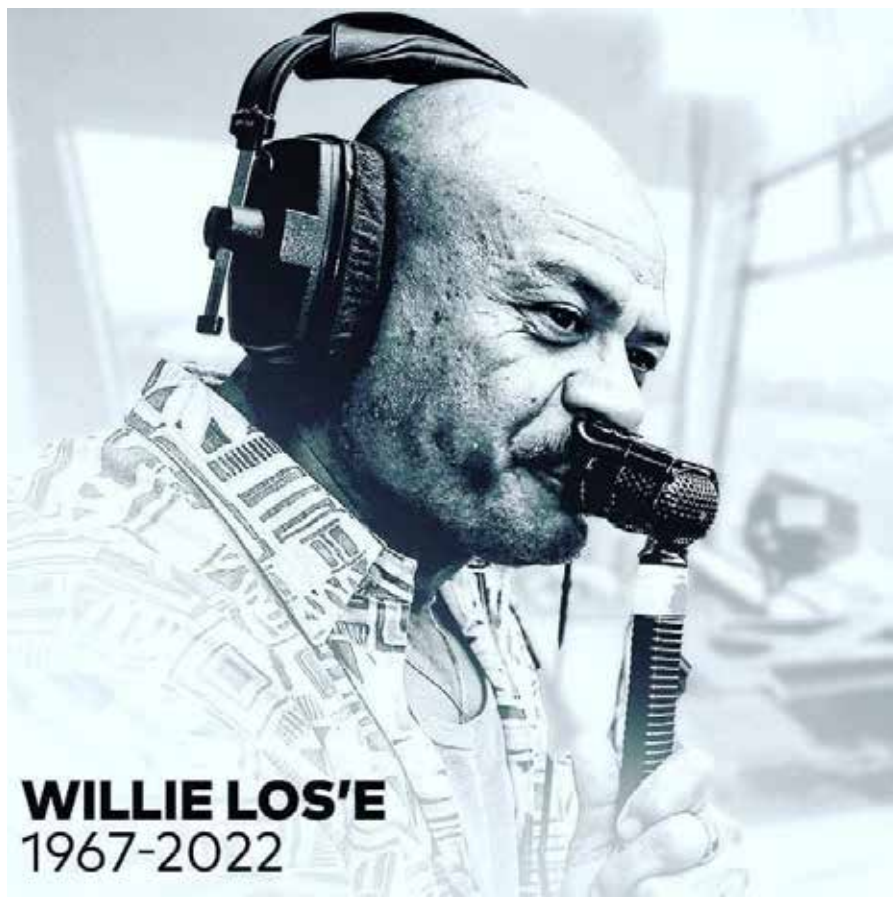



## Sports

# US Fiji Times remembers TV Commentator Willie Los'e

We share with the Family of the late Willie Los'e, one of the most colorful Television Commentators from the Pacific Islands who later joined the World Rugby Commentary Team. Lo'se died in South Africa where he was due to commentate at the 2022 Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament.


Whenever our Media Team would meet him at any HSBC Sevens tournament, Willie would also display his true Pacific approach by saying 'Bula'.





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## World News

# EU and Thailand cap tumultuous decade with a partnership agreement

The EU has finally sealed a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with Thailand, its sixth with a Southeast Asian country, as both sides seek to repair relations that frayed following a military coup in Bangkok eight years ago. It may provide the needed momentum to relaunch talks over a full free trade agreement. The PCA, which is still awaiting a formal signing, improves bilateral ties on a range of issues, from human rights to counterterrorism. Brussels sees it as yet another step in its path to boosting relations with countries in Southeast Asia, an increasingly important region economically and geopolitically for the bloc. Negotiations for an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (ETFTA) were launched in March 2013 but put on hold following a military coup in Bangkok in May 2014, after which bilateral relations remained frosty for several years. The coup also put the brakes on the initial PCA deal — more limited than a full free trade agreement — which had been agreed in 2013. Partnership agreement returns to the table. The European Council, the EU's main decision-making body, gave the green light in late 2019 to restart formal talks again following a long-delayed general election in Thailand, which was won by the same military leaders who took power during the coup. The first round of preparatory talks for the revised PCA began in July of last year.

It was concluded after a seventh meeting this June. The two sides also renewed talks regarding the possible ETFTA. “The PCA will enhance the political dialogue on issues of global concern and will give more scope for mutually-beneficial cooperation in a wide number of policy areas,” said the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's foreign and defense ministry, in a statement. “It will be a roadmap, which will positively frame EU-Thai relations in the years to come,” it added. Paola Pampaloni, the deputy managing director of the EEAS, and Chulamane Chartswan, deputy permanent secretary of Thailand's foreign ministry, closed the negotiating process for the PCA deal on Friday. Pending institutional procedures from the EU and Thailand, it will be formally signed at a later date, David Daly, EU ambassador to Thailand, told DW. Mutually beneficial deal The PCA is an “important vehicle to strengthen the dialogue in the economic and trade domain,” said Guillaume Rebiere, executive director of the European Association for Business and Commerce in Thailand. Bilateral trade in goods between the EU and Thailand rose to €35.4 billion in 2021, up from €29.3 billion the previous year, according to EU data. The EU is the second-largest investor in Thailand, after Japan. “Thailand is an important trade and politi-

cal partner and, therefore, this agreement is also important in strengthening the role of the EU within Southeast Asia,” Rebiere added. “Both businesses and investors will be encouraged by the signing of this agreement.” The deal makes sense for both sides, noted Trinh Nguyen, a senior economist covering Emerging Asia at Natixis. “It would signal a boost to relations from both sides as they both are more willing and eager to work with one another to diversify sources of growth and investment,” she added. Partners in diversification For Thailand, long reliant on its vast tourism industry, the decline of Chinese visitors since the pandemic has forced it to rethink its dependence on Beijing and find other sources of growth. Bangkok is also conscious of the need to seek out trade links away from the US and China, two of its main partners. “Expanding access to trade and investment with the EU, the largest economic bloc in the world, is part of that strategy,” said Nguyen. The EU is also “warming up” to Thailand as it seeks to diversify from China as geopolitical risks rise and as Brussels increasingly views Beijing as a competitor, she added. “The willingness to negotiate with Thailand through the signing of the Framework Agreement is part of that growing closer in relations not just Thailand but also the rest of Southeast Asia and India,” Nguyen said. In December, the



European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold a summit of national leaders for the first time in Brussels, a milestone in bloc-to-bloc relations that celebrate their 45th anniversary this year. A free trade agreement next? The PCA's conclusion may also indicate that both sides are inching closer to a free trade agreement (FTA), which would be the third the EU has struck with a Southeast Asian country after landmark deals with Singapore and Vietnam. “There is no immediate link between the PCA and the FTA process,” stressed Daly, the EU ambassador to Bangkok. But judging by how the EU has negotiated FTAs with other Asian countries, the timeline would suggest that a trade deal with Thailand would follow a PCA, said Nguyen. Vietnam, for instance, signed a similar PCA with the EU in 2015, four years before their landmark FTA was approved. “We’ve still got other hurdles to cross but certainly [an FTA] is closer,” she added. Bryan Tse,

lead analyst Thailand at the Economist Intelligence, reckons the FTA would be signed between 2024 and 2026 unless politics “gets in the way”. Bangkok is currently on edge after the country's Constitutional Court ruled last week that Prayut Chan-o-cha, the prime minister, must temporarily step down as it considers whether he has exceeded an eight-year term limit in office that his own government introduced. Prayut was the military chief who took power after the 2014 coup. “The EU and Thailand are not particularly close economically, compared to China, US or other ASEAN members, so this is more of a diversification tactic for both parties and a reflection of the growing importance of Southeast Asia in terms of global trade for other countries,” said Tse. “The region remains one of the most economically dynamic places globally and also amid simmering China-Western tensions as well as the COVID shock to crucial supply chains.”

## China accuses Washington of cyber-spying on university

A Chinese police agency on Monday accused Washington of breaking into computers at a university that U.S. officials say does military research, adding to complaints by both governments of rampant online spying against each other. Northwestern Polytechnical University reported computer break-ins in June, the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center announced. It said the center, working with a commercial security provider, Qihoo 360 Technology Co., traced the attacks to the National Security Agency but gave no details of how that was done. The announcement accused the U.S. agency of taking information about the uni-

versity's network management and other “core technologies.” It said Chinese analysts found 41 “network attack” tools that it said were traced to the NSA. The American Embassy in Beijing didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. China and the United States are, along with Russia, regarded as global leaders in cyber-warfare research. Washington accuses Beijing of misusing its capabilities to steal commercial secrets and has filed criminal charges against Chinese military officers. China accuses the United States of improperly spying on universities, energy and internet companies and other targets. Security experts say the ruling Communist Party's

military wing, the People's Liberation Army, and the Ministry of State Security also sponsor hackers outside the government. Northwestern Polytechnical University, in the western city of Xi'an, is on a U.S. government “entity list” that limits its access to American technology. Washington says the university helps the PLA develop aerial and underwater drones and missile technology. Last year, a Chinese man, Shuren Qin, was sentenced to two years in prison by a federal court in Boston after he pleaded guilty to exporting underwater and marine technology to Northwestern Polytechnical University without required licenses. The NSA, part of the De-

partment of Defense, is responsible for “signals intelligence,” or obtaining communications and other data. The Computer Virus Emergency Response Center, set up in 1996 by the police department of the eastern city of Tianjin, describes itself as the Chinese agency responsible for the inspection and testing of anti-computer virus products. A report by Qihoo 360 in 2020 said hacking tools used in attacks on Chinese companies and government agencies in 2008-19 were traced to the Central Intelligence Agency by comparing them with code in CIA tools disclosed by the Wikileaks group. Monday's statement accused the NSA of carrying out other “malicious

network attacks” in China but gave no details or any indication of whether any damage was done. The statement gave no indication of how Chinese analysts concluded the NSA was behind the attacks. The hackers targeted a “zero day,” or previously unreported, vulnerability in the school's security, the statement said. It said the break-ins were conducted from servers in 17 countries including Japan, South Korea, Sweden, Poland, Ukraine and Colombia. The statement described what it said were NSA software tools with names such as “Second Date” and “Drinking Tea” but didn't say which might have been used at the university.





# RUGBY RETURNS 2023



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## News

# Canadian Fijians welcome Fiji Airways to Vancouver



Our Fijian diaspora in Canada welcomed Fiji Airways first promotional flight from Nadi International Airport to Vancouver, Canada on 10th August 2022. Upon arrival, the delegation was enthusiastically welcomed by a large number of the Fijian

diaspora living in Canada. In the lead up to direct flights between Nadi and Vancouver, the promotional flight included a delegation led by Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. He was accompanied by Fiji Airways CEO Andre Viljoen, senior civil

servants, executives from Fiji Airways, Tourism Fiji, Fiji Airports, representatives from the hotel industry, and many traveling Fijians who were visiting family in Canada. Also present was Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations,

Ambassador Satyendra Prasad, Fiji's Honorary Consul to Canada Mr. Bobby Naicker and Fiji's Honorary Consul to San Francisco Mr. Jay Singh. The promotional trip was designed to ensure travelers are aware of the direct flights operated by Fiji

Airways when choosing their next holiday destination. It will also allow the Fijian diaspora to know that home is just one direct flight away.

## Former Fiji Judge, Mr. Jai Ram Reddy Passes Away

US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher joined fellow Fiji nationals in the USA and around the world in paying tribute to former Fiji Judge, the late Mr. Jai Ram Reddy, who passed away in Auckland, New Zealand on August 29th 2022 at the age of 85. The eldest of five children born to Pethi and Yen-kattama Reddy, Jai Ram Reddy was born at Lautoka Hospital on 12 May 1937. Both his paternal grandfather, Byanna Reddy, a (Kshatriya) from the Cuddapah District in what is now Andhra Pradesh, and his maternal grandfather, Iyyappa Reddy, a social worker and a founder of the Lovu Sangam Primary School, emigrated to Fiji in 1903 on the

Elbe III. Mr. Reddy had a long and illustrious career as a lawyer, politician, and judge and had helped established a reputation as a staunch advocate for equity, social justice, and racial equality in Fiji. He served twice as leader of the opposition in Parliament, first from 1977 to 1983 and a second time from 1992 to 1999. Following his time in politics, Reddy served as the president of the Fiji Court of Appeal in the early 2000s. In 2003, he was selected by the UN General Assembly as a member of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He finished serving as an international judge in 2008.





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## Health

# Tomato flu contagion: safety and precaution are key

In the last few months, India has witnessed a surge in tomato flu or tomato fever cases across states. What started with a few cases identified in the Kollam district of Kerala, has now crossed a hundred cases in the country. Lancet Respiratory Medicine published a report titled 'Tomato flu outbreak in India' on August 17, which drew attention to the condition. It stated that the non-life-threatening, rare viral infection is in an endemic state, however vigilant management is desirable to prevent further outbreaks. The viral flu gets its name from tomato-like red blisters that spread all over the body of an infected person. It generally targets children between one and five years of age and even adults with weaker immunity. Although highly contagious, so far no fatalities related to tomato flu have been reported. While the doctors and scientists are still investigating the paediatric illness, noticing the increase of cases in India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) recently issued an advisory to states on tracking, tracing and treatment of the flu. Surge in flu cases While the community is trying to live with COVID-19 infections and the subtle existence of monkeypox infections, the new tomato flu virus has created another panic, especially for children. Tomato flu is a viral illness that starts with rashes, blisters or ulcers in the mouth. India's southern states have reported over a hundred cases so far, and all the children are below five years of age. Doctors suggest that for the past two years, everyone lived in closed indoor spaces away from infections. Now with the ease in restrictions and normalcy in life, people are getting sensitive to new endemics. Similar is the case for tomato flu. With the reopening of schools, exposure to the outside environment and infections has increased for children. Dr Fazal Nabi, Consultant, Paediatrics, Global Hospital, Parel, Mumbai shared, "The infectious agents can remain in a kid's body for several weeks after the infection subsides. This makes them favourable carriers." Touching

unclean surfaces and putting things directly into the mouth, also makes children more prone to the flu. Similarities between tomato flu and other infections With the change in weather and the increase in flu and other viral infections, similar signs and symptoms are being noticed amongst the infected. The primary symptoms observed in children with tomato flu are suspected to be similar to those of chikungunya or dengue, and the blisters as similar to those of chickenpox or even monkeypox. To check for dengue or chikungunya, tests are done and when these viral infections are ruled out, contraction of the tomato virus is suspected. As for chickenpox, the blisters do not happen under the palm and feet which differentiates it from tomato flu. Commenting on the difference between tomato flu, a variant of HFMD, and monkeypox, Dr Trupti Gilada, Infectious Disease Specialist, Masina Hospital, Mumbai shared, "Most importantly, monkeypox is uncommon in children whereas HFMD affects children

under the age of seven mostly. The rashes in HFMD are mainly over palms, soles and oral cavities. These rashes can spread over the buttocks and thighs also, but it is not very common to have a rash all over the body. They are almost always mild and resolve without any treatment. However, in the case of monkeypox, rashes spread from head to toe sequentially. Involvement of the face, genital area, palms and soles are characteristic. The rashes begin in one to three days of fever and can last for up to two to four weeks." The Centre issued advisory also clearly addressed that tomato flu is not at all related to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), monkeypox, dengue, and/or chikungunya. Symptoms and treatment Tomato flu is a self-limiting infectious disease and the signs and symptoms resolve after a few days. When reported, initially the symptoms include mild fever, loss of appetite, malaise and occasionally a sore throat. After the fever, small red spots appear which change to blisters and then to ulcers.

Some cases also report vomiting, nausea, fatigue, diarrhoea and dehydration. It is advised for parents to consult a doctor if the child is symptomatic. Since the infection can spread quickly, the affected person must remain in isolation until confirmed. As of now, there is no specific drug or vaccine available for tomato flu. It is recommended to stay in isolation, take rest, have plenty of fluids, and a hot water sponge for relief in irritation and rashes. Other than this, Dr Ashok Gawdi, Consultant, Paediatrics, Apollo Hospitals, Navi Mumbai shared that supportive treatment is given in the form of topical calamine lotion for blisters, paracetamol for pain, anti-allergic for itching and topical mouth gels for oral ulcers. Precautions and prevention Although tomato flu is a non-life threatening disease, it is important to closely monitor the cases and take appropriate action to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control. Speaking to ETHealthworld, Dr Aditya Chowti, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Fortis

Hospital, Cunningham Road, Bangalore, firstly advised people not to panic and asked parents to see the doctor at the earliest with the onset of symptoms. He further added, "Tomato flu is largely preventable so sanitisation is important to be taken care of. Also, the kids infected shall not touch surfaces unnecessarily and avoid close contact with the other healthy children." Listing out preventive measures, it is advised for infected children to limit contact even via sharing toys, clothes, food, or other items with other non-infected children. Maintaining proper hygiene and adhering to preventive guidelines is best for the safety of all. The new influenza virus variant comes after the public healthcare system has suffered enough COVID-19 waves and the new monkeypox infections. To not lead tomato flu into another frightful situation, especially for children and immunocompromised adults, the key is to be aware of the symptoms, treatment and precautions to follow.





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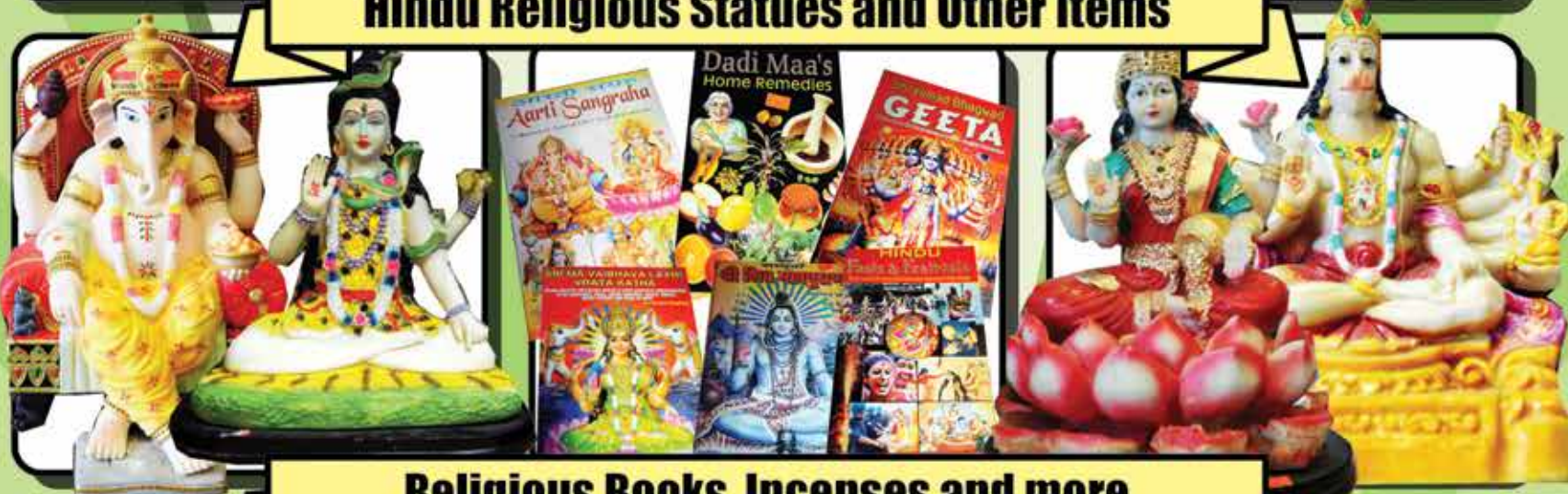


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## Health

# EU: Completely new Covid strains possible in winter

The Hague: Entirely new Covid variants could emerge this winter but existing vaccines should protect people from serious illness and death, the EU's drug agency said on Friday. The comments came as the EU prepares to roll out a booster campaign. It will include a mix of newly approved jabs adapted for the now dominant Omicron strain, and the original vaccines developed to fight the virus, the European Medicines Agency said. But people "should not wait for a specific vaccine", EMA vaccines chief Marco Cavaleri said. "There might be a completely new variant emerging that we are not able to predict today." On Thursday, the EMA approved vaccines by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna that are adapted to tackle the older BA.1 subvariant of Omicron.



## Insurance leaders, others to brainstorm on workplace mental health

In apparent bid to spur productivity by workers and achieve their potential by promoting positive action for diversity, insurance leaders and mental wellness experts have concluded arrangement to discuss the wellness and mental health in the workplace. This year's Dive In Festival, the global event for diversity and inclusion in insurance, will focus on 'Building Braver Cultures', calling on the industry to build environments where people feel safe, valued, respected, and free to express themselves. According to a statement from the organizers, "The insurance professionals and experts have agreed to come together to discuss the theme of mental health during Nigeria's event 'Breaking the Taboo: Wellbeing and Mental Health in the Workplace', taking place September 28, 2022, at 10 am (WAT). For the third year running, the festival will take place virtually, allowing worldwide participation to create positive change in the workplace." Speaking on the impact of the festival, Mary

Alade, Chief Strategy Officer, Aon Reinsurance, said, "The dive in Festival's mission is the same as when we launched – to highlight the business case for diverse and inclusive workplaces and bring about positive change in the insurance sector. This year we want to take a focused step towards breaking traditional taboos that have eroded our empathy as employers and contributed to the poor mental health of our workforce. "We must build braver working cultures where everyone is recognised and empowered to speak and behave authentically. This year, we hope to influence an impactful movement and stir positive change in the insurance industry." She further noted: "Against an increasingly rising percentage of mental wellness cases, consequences, and mounting global pressure to promote and protect mental health in the workplace, the theme for the 2022 Dive In Festival couldn't be more fitting. The festival is expected to cover subjects such as employers' empathy, flexible



working opportunities and options, mental health and wellness, workplace therapy, roles of human resources managers in ensuring work-life balance, and other inexhaustible conversation pillars." Alade added that participants of Dive In Nigeria 2021 gained expert insights from industry powerhouses like Omokunbi Adeoti, Head,

Human Resources, Divisional Director, Leadway Assurance Company Limited; Abimbola Shobanjo, Head, Corporate Responsibility Unit, AIICO Insurance Plc; Nike Anani, Next-Gen mentor and Co-founder, African Family Firms; and Esther Awoniyi, Financial Broadcast Journalist and Business Anchor, CNBC Africa. They discussed

generational gaps in the workplace and its impact on productivity and business outcomes. Just like past discussions have brought about notable changes in the workplace, this year's edition is expected to start new conversations and ultimately build brave, diverse, and inclusive workplaces.



## Health

## Legionnaires' disease claims fifth life in Argentina: officials

Buenos Aires: Legionnaires' disease has claimed a fifth life among patients and staff at a clinic in northern Argentina, provincial health officials announced Sunday. The health ministry in Tucuman province had announced four earlier deaths on Saturday, all in the clinic in San Miguel de Tucuman, and said a total of 11 people had been infected by the rare, but severe, lung disease. The latest death was that of a 64-year-old man with co-morbidities, officials said. Of the six others infected, three remain in hospital and the others

are being monitored at home, said Luis Medina Cruz, the Tucuman health minister. Local officials said they are examining the clinic's water supply and air conditioning system. The disease, which first appeared at a 1976 convention of the American Legion veterans group in the United States, has been linked to contaminated water and unclear aeration systems. Symptoms include high fever, aches and trouble breathing. An Argentine laboratory identified the disease as Legionnaires' after ruling out Covid-19, flu and hantavirus.



## Researchers report encouraging immunotherapy options for relapsed myeloma patients

Researchers have published results that show encouraging therapeutic options for patients with blood cancer and multiple myeloma after first-line treatment with bispecific antibodies fails. Bispecific antibodies are a type of antibody that can bind to two different antigens at the same time -- they are meant to enhance the immune system's destruction of tumour cells. While new T cell-based immunotherapies, or "T-cell redirection" therapies, such as chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy and bispecific antibodies have revolutionized cancer treatment, doctors still need to determine what second-line treatments (also known as salvage therapy) are effective after a patient relapses. In the August 26 online edition of Blood Advances, Mount Sinai researchers

report that sequential use of different T-cell redirection therapies in these multiple myeloma patients is possible and could lead to good patient outcomes and survival. In a retrospective analysis, researchers identified 58 multiple myeloma patients who participated in a bispecific antibody clinical trial at Mount Sinai and underwent salvage therapy due to relapse. Patients were followed for an average of 30.5 months after the end of the trial and underwent an average of two salvage therapies over that period. Nineteen patients received T-cell redirection therapy as the first salvage therapy, and the rest received a non-T-cell redirection therapy, such as chemotherapy. Thirty-two per cent of patients who underwent T-cell redirection therapy as a first salvage therapy



needed to undergo a second salvage therapy due to relapse or nonresponse to therapy. In significant contrast, 79 per cent of the patients treated with a non-T-cell redirection therapy needed to undergo a second salvage therapy. Some of this group of patients had T-cell redirection therapy as their second salvage therapy, resulting in a total of 28 patients who received T-cell redirection as either a first salvage therapy or second salvage therapy. Depth and duration of response to the first bispecific antibodies treatment did not predict response to the second T-cell redirection therapy, indicating that even if patients did not respond to an initial T-cell redirection therapy, there may


still be an option to effectively treat with a second course. The overall response rate of the 19 patients who transitioned from the initial bispecific antibodies to T-cell redirection therapy as the first salvage therapy was 84 per cent, compared to 49 per cent in those who received other types of therapies. "As the clinical use and advancement of T-cell redirection therapies continue to grow, effective strategies are needed to manage outcomes for patients who relapse or are unresponsive to this initial treatment," said senior author Samir Parekh, MD, Director of Translational Research in Myeloma, co-leader of the Cancer Clinical Investigation program at The Tisch Cancer Institute, and a


member of the Icahn Genomics Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "This study shows patients relapsing after initial bispecific antibodies therapy can benefit from a second bispecific antibody or CAR-T cell therapy." Studies are underway to understand how T cells function after initial T-cell redirection therapy and how they are activated in sequential bispecific antibodies and CAR-T cell treatments. "Future clinical trials incorporating sequential combinations of T-cell redirection therapy will build upon these findings to further develop treatment guidelines and improve long-term outcomes for multiple myeloma patients," Dr Parekh said.







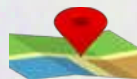







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## Fiji News

## 40 AGED-CARE PILOT WORKERS FAREWELLED

A total of 40 aged care pilot workers who initially graduated from institutions on caregiving and individual support were farewelled by the Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Mr Osea Cawaru during the closing of the Pre-Departure Briefing (PDB) today (26/08/2022). In collaboration with APTC, these workers have completed the course duration of 4 months to 1 year and were chosen to 'pilot' through their upskilling of their qualifications/training to meet the Australian standards. "Upon arrival in Australia, you will undertake supervised work placements with your employer." "After completing your work placements, you will continue working for

the same employer for up to 4 years under the Scheme based on good performance," said Mr Cawaru. "I know that you will learn and experience a lot whilst completing your learning in areas around the Sunshine Coast in Queensland." Utilise well all the learnings to their full potential in order to open doors for other women who wish to be part of the aged-care industry soon," added PS Cawaru. These selected pilot workers were visited by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Albanese in July this year were very impressed with the demonstrations conducted and applauded the work done by the institutions in preparing these workers for an employment opportunity in the Australian Aged-Care industry.



The Australian Government is expecting to expand in this industry and improve Australia's labour mobility programmes

which will result in more employment opportunities for Fijians as well as a boost for our economy. The 40 aged care pilot

workers are expected to leave our shore on Monday, the 29th of August, 2022.

## GERMANY REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR FIJI AND THE PACIFIC REGION

The German Government has reaffirmed its support to Fiji and the Pacific region in its efforts to advance economic recovery and resilience. This was articulated this afternoon (25/08/22) at a courtesy call received by the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, Mr Yogesh Karan from the (GIZ) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Country Director for the Philippines and Pacific Islands Mr Immanuel Gebhardt. PS Karan congratulated Mr Gebhardt and wished him well on his new appointment as he assumes his new role at GIZ. He said Fiji and Germany continue to strengthen relations over the

years and GIZ is a reflection of the German Government's support in international cooperation for sustainable development. On behalf of the Fijian Government, PS Karan acknowledged the existing collaboration with the German Government through the GIZ in areas of climate adaptation, sustainable energy, forest conservation, marine and coastal biodiversity management, amongst others.

PS Karan said the newly launched 2050 Strategy outlines priorities that GIZ and other development partners can use as a guide to work with Fiji. He highlighted that amidst the global challenges, enduring partnerships remains crucial

to building a sustainable future which is greener, bluer and better for the present and future generations.

In response, Mr Gebhardt said the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs has outlined in its Policy Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific region, that it will continue to expand support to Fiji and Pacific Island states, underlining the importance of sustainable natural resource use for economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the German Government, GIZ will continue to support Fiji and the Pacific Island partner countries by assisting national governments in their efforts in climate change adaptation

and mitigation, low carbon sea transport, climate change education, human mobility, ocean governance and conserving key ecosystems for the benefit of national economies and local livelihoods. The GIZ Country Director highlighted that there are new opportunities for engagements in particular support enhancing Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) through actions to mitigate carbon emissions and adapt to climate change, as well as supporting national effort's to strengthen and broaden sustainable blue economy sectors. He extended his appreciation to PS Karan for the opportunity to meet in person and whilst ac-

knowledging that the discussions they had will take Fiji and GIZ cooperation to greater heights.

GIZ has been working in Fiji and Pacific partner countries for more than 40 years, supporting national efforts in sustainable forestry and agriculture, renewable energy, mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Current areas of support include further technical and additional financial support to the NDC Hub – which provides country- and sector-specific technical assistance to Pacific Island countries for NDC implementation, enhancement, and financing.

## HEAD OF STATE RECEIVES KOREAN AMBASSADOR



Korea's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Fiji, Mr Park Young-kyu made a courtesy visit to His Excellency, the President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere at State House yesterday (25/08/22). The visit by Ambassador Young-kyu follows President Katonivere's congratulatory letter to his Korean Counterpart President, Yoon Suk-yeol, who was elected into office in May of this year. Part of the discussion this morning centred on the World Expo which will be held in Korea in the year 2030 and the bilateral ties between Fiji and Korea. Ambassador Young-kyu has been serving in Fiji since November 2020.





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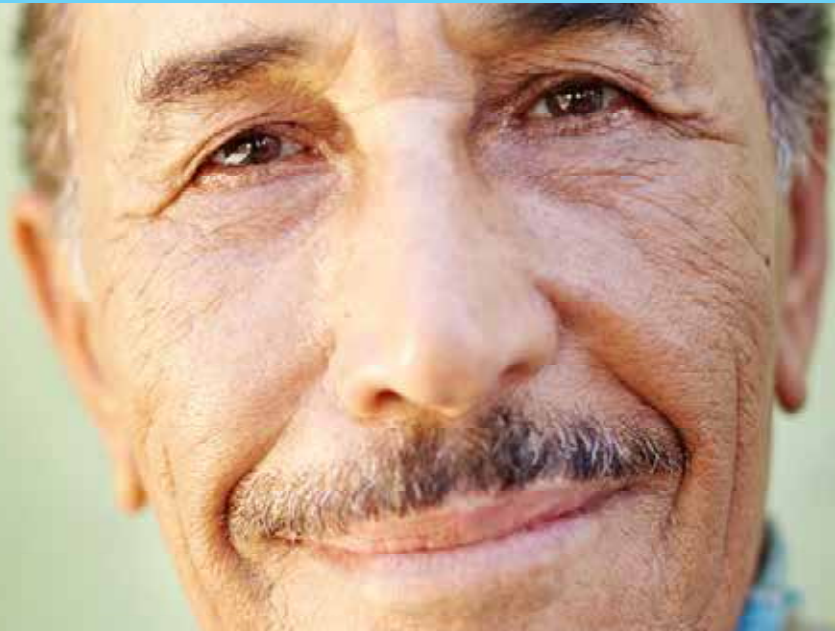


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## Sports

## Barca newcomers lead 3-0 win at Sevilla

Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha and Jules Koundé showed why Barcelona mortgaged part of its future for them by producing goals in a commanding 3-0 win at Sevilla in the Spanish league. Lewandowski made it five goals in four appearances since moving from Bayern Munich, ex-Leeds winger Raphinha scored his first for Barcelona, and Koundé provided two assists against his former club to secure a third straight win.

Barcelona climbed into second place, two points behind Real Madrid, which ended Real Betis' perfect start to the league after beating Sevilla's other club 2-1 in Spain's capital. Barcelona turned the momentum from the 18th minute when Gavi Páez launched Ousmane Dembélé on a counterattack. The forward, a constant menace to Sevilla, played Lewandowski clear for

him to chip the ball over goalkeeper Yassine Bounou. Fernando cleared it off his line but it fell to Raphinha to nod home. Lewandowski, who has failed to score only in his debut, doubled the lead when he controlled a long ball from Koundé with his chest, and without letting it touch the ground, swept it past Bounou with his right foot. Éric García added a third goal in the 51st when Koundé generously headed down a cross by Raphinha for his fellow defender to tap in. Only Bounou stopped Lewandowski from recording a third brace in a row. All told, this was why manager Xavi Hernández urged Barcelona president Joan Laporta to do whatever he must to give him the talent to renew a team whose decline was accelerated by Lionel Messi's departure last year. Heavily indebted, Barcelona sold off part



of its future television rights and other assets to sign the trio for 160 million euros. Xavi praised 18-year-old Gavi for his tackling in midfield, and Lewandowski. "It's not only the goals, but how he wins high balls; he is a wonderful outlet. And how

he commands our pressure to recover the ball. He is a fantastic player with his sense of timing," Xavi said about the Poland striker. "He is helping us a lot with his leadership, with the things you don't see when you watch the game, how he helps the staff and his teammates. It

is amazing to have him on the team." Sevilla, which finished fourth last season, remained winless with one draw and three defeats. Julen Lopetegui's team next faces Manchester City in the Champions League opening round on Tuesday.

## Was Just Really Sick of Letting People Down: Nick Kyrgios after Beating Daniil Medvedev in US Open

Australian maverick Nick Kyrgios sent defending champion Daniil Medvedev crashing out of the US Open in an explosive last-16 clash on Sunday and revealed he is motivated by "not letting people down". Wimbledon runner-up Kyrgios triumphed 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to reach his first quarter-final in New York where he will face another Russian, Karen Khachanov. Kyrgios fired 21 aces and a total of 53 winners past his Russian opponent who will now lose his world number one ranking as a consequence of his defeat. The 27-year-old crowd-pleaser has endured a tumultuous career ever since he exploded into the scene at Wimbledon in 2014.

It was there that as a teenager, ranked at 144 in the world, he shocked Rafael Nadal. Ever since, however, Kyrgios has been better known for his controversial on-court behaviour, run-ins with officials and thousands of dollars in fines. "I was just really sick of letting people down," said Kyrgios as he explained a rejuvenation in his career which saw him reach the Wimbledon final in July. He took a set off Novak

Djokovic before the Serb star raced away to a seventh title at the All England Club. "I feel like I'm making people proud now. I feel like there's not as much negative things being said about me. I just wanted to turn the narrative around. "I just was feeling so depressed all the time, so feeling sorry for myself. I just wanted to change that." Now he is determined to keep his renaissance on track when he faces Khachanov on the Arthur Ashe Stadium in Tuesday's quarter-finals. The last time he met the Russian, he came through in five sets in the third round of the 2020 Australian Open. "LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT" Kyrgios had never got past the third round in New York before this year, describing his form as "really average". "I hadn't won a match on Ashe before this week. I feel like I've been able to showcase. There's a lot of celebrities here, a lot of important people here watching," he said.

"I wanted to get on that court and show them I am able to put my head down and play and win these big matches. "For the tennis world I think it's important as well. People were really starting to doubt my ability to pull



out matches like this at majors." In a fast-paced, big-hitting first set on Sunday, Kyrgios broke to lead 4-2 before Medvedev immediately repaired the damage. A marathon tiebreak saw a 22-shot rally and Kyrgios save three set points.

The Australian clinched the opener on a fourth set point of his own after 63 minutes of tennis played at breakneck speed. A furious Medvedev added spice to the encounter by complaining to umpire Eva Asderaki-Moore about the noise from the Kyrgios player box when he was

serving from their end. At the changeover, the Russian even threatened to refuse to play on if the disruptions continued. Kyrgios left the court for a bathroom break but when he returned, his high-energy level dropped dramatically and Medvedev swept to a 5-1 second set lead on his way to levelling the contest. Kyrgios then made the baffling decision to come around to Medvedev's side of the net to finish a point in the second game of the third set. His illegal manoeuvre cost him what would have been a break

point. "I'm going to look like an idiot," said the Australian after the match. However, he quickly broke the equally baffled Russian for a key 3-1 lead before pocketing the third set.

A fired-up Kyrgios broke for 2-1 in the fourth set, was handed a code violation for swearing and responded with back-to-back aces timed at 122mph and 131mph to stretch to 3-1. He backed it up with another break for 4-1 as Medvedev wilted under the barrage before Kyrgios sent down his 21st ace to seal victory.



## Food

# Chocolate Modak Recipe

**Chocolate Modak Recipe**
**Total Time: 15 min**
**Prep Time : 10 min**
**Cook Time : 05 min**
**Serves: 2 Servings**
**Ingredients**

1. 150 gm Khoya
2. 50 gm Sugar
3. 1 gm Elaichi Powder
4. 25 gm Chocolate Compound

**How to**

1. Grate khoya and mix together with grated chocolate, sugar and elaichi powder.
2. Divide the mixture into small equal sized roundels
3. Put the roundel into modak shaped mould and set the shape.
4. Take out and serve with garnish of chocolate sticks.



# Mushroom Noodles Recipe

**Mushroom Noodles**
**Total Time: 30 min**
**Prep Time : 15 min**
**Cook Time : 15 min**
**Serves: 2 Servings**
**Ingredients**

1. 200 gms Noodles
  2. 300-400 gram Mushrooms
  3. 1/2 tbsp Chopped Garlic
  4. 1/2 tsp Chopped ginger
  5. 1 tsp Chopped green chilies
  6. 1/2 tsp Black pepper or white pepper
  7. 1/2 cup Chopped spring onions
  8. 1 to 2 tsp Finely chopped celery (optional)
  9. 2 to 2.5 tbsp Oil
  10. 1 tbsp Soya Sauce
  11. 1 tsp Rice vinegar or regular vinegar
- Spring onion greens for garnish salt as required

**How to**

1. Start by boiling noodles al dante, and keep them aside.
2. Heat oil in a wok or kadai or a pan. On a low to medium heat, first add chopped garlic, chopped ginger and chopped green chilies. For a spicy hot tasting noodles, you can increase the quantity of green chilies.
3. Saute for a few seconds, then add chopped spring onions. Add both the white and green part. Reserve 2 tablespoon of the greens for garnish.
4. Stir and saute the spring onions till they turn translucent. Then add the sliced mushrooms.
5. Stir the mushrooms very well and saute them on a medium to high heat stirring occasionally. The



6. mushrooms will leave water while cooking. Continue to saute till all the water dries up and the mushrooms become light golden from the edges. Then add ground black pepper.
7. Add soy sauce and stir very well. Add the noodles. Add salt as required.
8. Stir and toss the noodles very well. Add rice vinegar or regular white vinegar. Stir and mix. Switch off the heat and lastly add the
9. chopped spring onions greens. Give a final stir and serve mushroom noodles plain or with dry veg manchurian or veg manchurian gravy or veg balls in hot garlic sauce.

# Crispy Calamari Rings Recipe

**Crispy Calamari Rings**
**Total Time: 35 min**
**Prep Time : 15 min**
**Cook Time : 20 min**
**Serves: 2 Servings**
**Ingredients**

1. 110 Squid rings
2. 60 Tempura batter
3. 1 Lemon (half)
4. 1 Parsley sprig
5. 20 Thai chilli sauce

6. 20 Refined flour
7. 5 Garlic confit

**How to**

1. Dust the squid rings with refined flour.
2. Dip in the tempura batter and deep fry it till golden in colour.
3. Served with lemon half, garlic confit, Thai chilli sauce and parsley sprig.





## Food

# Quick Salted Caramel Pie Recipe

**Quick Salted Caramel Pie**
**Total Time: 2 hrs**
**Serves: 4 Servings**
**Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 Cups Marie Biscuits (crushed)
- 5 Tbsp Butter, unsalted
- 2 tsp Sugar, powdered
- 3 Cups Cream Cheese
- 2 1/4 Cups Heavy Cream
- 1/2 Cup Brown Sugar

**For Salted Caramel:**

- 1 1/2 Cups Brown Sugar
- 110 Gram Butter, unsalted
- 1/2 Cup Double Cream
- A pinch of Salt

**How to-**

- Mix the first three ingredients together and flatten into your serving dish. There, that's your super-fast crust done. Cover and keep in the fridge while you work on your filling.
- Now, for the salted caramel. Pour in 1/3 cup of water into a saucepan, bring to the boil and add in the sugar, stirring gently until it melts and starts bubbling. Carefully pour in the butter, and whisk until everything is fully mixed.
- Add the cream in and mix thoroughly. Add the salt, and you're done! Now let the mixture cool.
- Mix in the cream cheese, brown sugar and cream thoroughly, until they make a thick creamy paste.
- Add in your cooled caramel mixture, mixing well, pour into your crust and refrigerate overnight, at least 12-14 hours.
- Your pie would be set and ready to eat the next day.



# Eggless Coffee Cupcakes Recipe

**Eggless Coffee Cupcakes**
**Total Time: 1 hr 10 sec**
**Serves: 4 Servings**
**Ingredients**

- Dry ingredients:
- 1 cup Maida/ flour
- 1 tsp Baking powder
- 3/4 cup Sugar, powdered
- 1 1/2 tbsp Cocoa powder

**Wet ingredients:**

- 1/2 tsp Vanilla essence
- 5 tbsp Butter (softened, salted. In case you are using unsalted butter, add 1/4 tsp salt)
- 3/4 cup Milk (to make the batter smooth. Adjust the milk quantity according to your batter's smoothness)
- 1 tbsp Coffee powder + 1 tsp water, to make a paste (You can increase or decrease according to your coffee tolerance)

**How to-**

- Pre-heat the oven to 200 degrees C. Line the cupcake moulds with paper cupcake liners.
- In a bowl sift maida, baking powder, cocoa powder and sugar.
- Add in softened butter, vanilla essence, coffee paste and milk till a smooth batter forms.
- Pour the batter into the moulds and bake at 180 degrees until done. (Approximately 15-20 minutes)
- You check if they're done by inserting a toothpick into the cupcake. If the



- toothpick comes out clean, it means it's done.
- Take the cupcakes out of the oven. Let them cool entirely. Note: Do not frost

- them unless they are completely cool as the frosting will start to melt
- You can frost the cupcakes with mascarpone cheese

with a shot of whiskey or some coffee butter cream. Here, coffee cream cheese frosting has been used.

# Chilli Garlic Omelette Recipe

**Chilli Garlic Omelette**
**Total Time: 15 min**
**Prep Time: 5 min**
**Cook Time: 10 min**
**Ingredients**

- 2 Eggs
- 1/2 tsp Chilli Flakes
- To taste Red Chilli Powder
- Salt To Taste
- 3-4 Cloves Garlic (Chopped)

**How to-**

- Break two eggs in a glass,
- whisk it properly.
- Once done add chopped garlic, salt, chilli flakes and red chilli powder.
- Mix everything again.
- Heat a dollop of butter in a pan, pour the whisked egg batter, flip and cook the omelette from both sides.
- You can also add a slice of cheese to give it a balanced taste.
- Serve and enjoy!





## Sports

## Indian govt slams Wikipedia for false info on Arshdeep Singh

Indian government on Monday slammed Wikipedia for publishing false information on cricketer Arshdeep Singh's page that linked him to the separatist Khalistani movement, saying such incitement cannot be permitted. Singh faced vitriolic attacks on social media by some users after he dropped a crucial catch in a thrilling Super 4 Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday. After the missed catch, information on his Wikipedia page was changed to link him to the separatist Khalistani movement. Minister of State for IT Rajeesh Chandrasekhar took to Twitter to slam such a move. "No intermediary operating in India can permit this type of misinformation (a)n(d) deliberate efforts to incitement (a)n(d) user harm – violates our govt's expectations of safe and trusted internet," he said. It was also said the Ministry of Electronics and IT has summoned

executives from Wikipedia to explain the false post but officials denied any such move. According to the edit history of the cricketer's Wikipedia page, an unregistered user replaced the words "India" with "Khalistan" at several places on the profile and his name was changed to "Major Arshdeep Singh Bajwa". But the changes were reversed within 15 minutes by Wikipedia editors. The slanderous linking of him to the Khalistani movement was said to have been done by elements in Pakistan. Big social media firms have drawn flak in the past over hate speech, misinformation and fake news circulating on their platforms. The government had last year notified new IT rules to make digital intermediaries more accountable and responsible for content hosted on their platforms. The rules required social media companies to take down contentious content quicker, appoint grievance



redressal officers and assist in investigations. Significant social media intermediaries — those with more than 50 lakh users — have to follow additional due diligence, including the appointment of a chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer and all three officials will have

to be residents in India. The IT ministry, in June, circulated the draft rules that propose a panel to hear user appeals against inaction on complaints made, or against content-related decisions taken by grievance officers of social media platforms. At present, "there is no appellate mechanism provided by inter-

mediaries nor is there any credible self-regulatory mechanism in place", the ministry had said. Several cricketers and politicians have backed Arshdeep Singh saying anyone can make a mistake in a high-pressure game. Pakistan needed 34 runs to win when Ravi Bishnoi came in to bowl the 18th over.

## Jemimah Rodrigues nominated for ICC 'Player of the Month' award

Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues was on Monday nominated for the ICC 'Player of the Month' award for her impressive performance at the Commonwealth Games in August. The nominations in the women's category also feature the gold medal-winning Australian duo of Beth Mooney and Tahlia McGrath. Rodrigues was one of the pillars of the Indian team that went all the way into the finals of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. She ended the tournament fifth on the run-scorers list with 146 runs in five matches. Rodrigues was India's top run-getter with an unbeaten 56 off 46 balls in the crucial clash against Barbados to help her side secure a semifinal spot. Mooney, on the other hand, was the highest run-scorer at the Birmingham CWG. She kicked off the month with a brilliant unbeaten 49-ball 70 against Pakistan in Australia's final Group A game, following

it up with a patient 29-ball 36 in the semifinal clash against New Zealand, batting her side out of trouble after the early wickets. McGrath impressed with her all-round brilliance. She was one of the key factors in Australia making history and bagging the gold medal in the first-ever women's tournament in the event's history. She finished the tournament as the joint second-highest wicket-taker with eight wickets in five matches. England Test skipper Ben Stokes, Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe and New Zealand all-rounder Mitchell Santner are the nominees in the men's category. In the second Test against Proteas at Manchester, Stokes broke the back of the South African middle-order with the wickets of Aiden Markram and Rassie van der Dussen as the visitors were knocked over for 151. He followed it up with a brilliant century that came when England were in a spot of bother



having lost early wickets on day two. Raza enjoyed a tremendous August. Going head to head against Asian giants India and

Bangladesh, Raza notched up three centuries in the month. Santner too enjoyed a brilliant month both with the bat and ball

in hand and played a crucial role in the Black Caps' six wins out of eight in the month.



## Sports

## World Cup beer policy finally agreed by Qatari organizers

Organizers of the World Cup in Qatar have finalized a policy to serve beer with alcohol to soccer fans at stadiums and fan zones in the Muslim-majority country. FIFA said Saturday fans will be allowed to buy Budweiser beer with alcohol within the eight stadium compounds — though not at concourse concession stands — before and after games, and during evenings only at the official “Fan Festival.” That is being held in a downtown Doha park. Game tickets promising access to Champagnes, wine, liquor and beer for hospitality clients at Qatari stadiums have been on sale since February 2021 as part of corporate packages offering “premium beverages.” The beer policy affecting most fans was announced just 11 weeks before the first game and finally fulfills an expectation since Qatar campaigned 12 years ago to be the first World Cup host in the Middle East. Budweiser has been the exclusive World Cup beer brand since 1986 and

parent company AB InBev renewed its deal through 2022 with FIFA in a 2011 signing after Qatar was confirmed as host. FIFA said Saturday that Budweiser with alcohol will be sold “within the stadium perimeter prior to kickoff and after the final whistle.” “Inside the stadium bowl ticket holders will have access to non-alcoholic Budweiser Zero,” soccer’s world body said. “At the FIFA Fan Festival, Budweiser will be available to purchase from 6.30 p.m.” Qatar’s organizing committee and AB InBev declined comment Saturday on the issue. Alcohol is more available in Qatar than some Middle East states though it is served only in hotel restaurants and bars that have licenses. It is illegal to consume it elsewhere. Still, Qatar has had to relax its regulation of alcohol for the 29-day tournament starting Nov. 20. It is expected to attract more than 1 million visitors including fans from 31 other nations to the tiny Emirate. Qatar has tested its alcohol policies



at games soccer including the 2019 Club World Cup that featured Europe’s then-champion Liverpool, South American champion Flamengo and Mexican club Monterrey. Qatar is not the first World Cup host to ease its stance on alcohol. Before the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, pressure from FIFA led local lawmakers to pass a special bill exempting the tournament

from a ban on selling alcohol at stadiums. Qatar beat four rival bids, including the United States, to win a World Cup hosting contest where candidates were expected to respect FIFA’s deals with commercial partners. At the time of the FIFA hosting vote in 2010, those World Cup deals included MATCH Hospitality selling corporate packages and AB InBev. Both firms re-

upped with FIFA one year later. “It is important to remember,” MATCH Hospitality executive chairman Jaime Byrom told The Associated Press in a recent interview, “that the entire bid process of the FIFA World Cup is designed to deliver the kind of World Cup experience that all fans from around the world have a reason to expect and to look forward to.”

## Road Safety World Series Season 2 schedule announced; India Legends vs South African legends on Sep 10

The second season of the Road Safety World Series was recently announced. The season will see legends from Indian cricket like Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh and many more in action. The tournament will take place in four cities: Kanpur, Indore, Dehradun, and Raipur. September will mark the beginning of the second season, while October will mark the start of the final leg of the tournament. The tournament will kick-off on September 10 at Kanpur where India Legends take on South African legends. India, New Zealand, Australia, Sri Lanka, West Indies, South Africa, Bangladesh, and England will be among the teams playing. In addition to the two semi-finals and the summit clash, there will also be a third-place playoff. The RSWS is supported by the Government of India's Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Information and Technology, and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.





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## Health

# Global Covid cases surpass 600 mn: WHO

The global Covid-19 caseload has surpassed 600 million, a grim milestone in the pandemic that is still continuing after it first broke out in early 2020, according to the latest data from the World Health Organization. As of Friday morning, the overall caseload stood at 600,555,262, with a total of 6,472,914 deaths. The US is the worst hit country with the highest number of Covid cases and deaths at 93,216,822 and 1,034,719, respectively. In terms of cases, India comes in second with 44,436,339, followed by Brazil with 34,414,011. Brazil accounts for the second highest deaths at 683,851, while India in the third place with 527,911 fatalities. In terms of WHO regional offices, Europe and the Americas have so far reported more than 248 million and 175 million confirmed cases, as well as 2,077,355 and 2,817,530 deaths, respectively. The two

regions combined account for over 70 per cent of the world's total confirmed cases and over 75 per cent of deaths. Though the weekly numbers of new Covid-19 cases and deaths have continued to decline, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said last week that the world had passed "the tragic milestone of one million reported deaths so far this year", reports news agency. "We cannot say we are learning to live with Covid when one million people have died with Covid-19 this year alone, when we are two and a half years into the pandemic and have all the tools necessary to prevent these deaths." The WHO has called on all countries at all income levels to vaccinate those most at risk, and to ensure access to life saving treatment, while continuing testing and sequencing of the virus. Omicron remains the dominant variant, with the BA.5



sub variant representing more than 90 per cent of sequences shared with the WHO. However, the number of sequences shared per week has fallen by 90 per cent since the beginning

of this year, and the number of countries sharing sequences has dropped by 75 per cent, making it difficult to understand how the virus might be changing. With colder weather approaching in

the northern hemisphere, Tedros has warned that an increase in hospitalisations and deaths from Covid-19 can be expected in the coming months.

## Life Expectancy in the U.S. Has Dropped and It's Not Just Due to COVID-19

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds U.S. life expectancy has fallen by nearly three years in the first two years of the pandemic. "U.S. life expectancy at birth for 2021, based on nearly final data, was 76.1 years, the lowest it has been since 1996," the authors wrote. COVID-19 and drug overdoses are behind the decline. According to CDC provisional data, deaths due to COVID-19 were the main reason for the decline. In 2021 COVID-19 caused at least 460,000 deaths in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Trusted Source, making it the third leading cause of death in the U.S. However, the second greatest contributor to the decline in life expectancy is accidental injury, driven primarily by drug overdoses, which killed over 100,000 U.S. residents last year. Dr. Lawrence Weinstein, chief medical officer at American Addiction Centers, told Healthline that we're seeing drug overdoses have such an impact on life expectancy because the use of any substance is becoming "more and more dangerous." "In 2021, for the

second year in a row, a record number of overdose deaths were recorded," he said. "And that increase is undoubtedly due to the ever-growing presence and lethality of fentanyl." According to Weinstein, the opioid epidemic has now become the fentanyl epidemic. Weinstein said that from around 2010, fentanyl quickly overtook heroin in causing more overdose deaths. Over the past 10 years or so, those deaths took place mainly among those who used opioids. "Now, we're entering a new wave of this crisis; fatal overdoses are now occurring in those who are unaware that they've taken fentanyl," he warned. Psychostimulants are a class of drugs that include cocaine and methamphetamine, and Weinstein said these drugs are now being mixed with fentanyl to extend supplies of these drugs. "Someone who uses psychostimulants is opioid naive, meaning they have no tolerance to opioids," he explained. "What may be considered an average amount to someone with an opioid use disorder becomes fatal in someone who does not have that addiction." Weinstein added that more lives are being lost because

there is an increasing population that is unknowingly ingesting fentanyl, "and for the majority of them, it is a mistake that can only be made once." American Indian and Alaskan Native people saw biggest decline. The report found that American Indian and Alaskan Native peoples lost nearly seven years for an average life expectancy of only 65 years. "The contribution of liver disease, cirrhosis, along with obesity and diabetes continue to account for ongoing deaths and morbidity among Native Americans," said Dr. Robert Glatter, an ER physician at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. The report found that non-Hispanic white people experienced the second biggest drop among racial and ethnic groups. White American life expectancy fell by one year, to just under 77 years. Life expectancy for U.S. women fell about 10 months, to about 79, while for men it dropped a full year, from roughly 74 years to 73. Black Americans saw the third biggest decline (over eight months) to 70 years and 10 months. "In a nutshell, it [CDC data] indicates improved and more effective vaccination rates among Black and His-

panics, a greater effort to wear masks and implement extra measures of protection measures," said Glatter. "Combined with more resistance among white persons to resist such protective measures." Suicide was another factor. The CDC report found that suicide was a factor in life expectancy decline for 2021. According to Glatter, the prevalence of depression, anxiety, and suicides reached crisis proportions in 2020. "Such mental health conditions, especially among teens, continue to have adverse impacts on families, educational metrics, and quality of life for those affected," he said. Weinstein emphasized the role drug addiction can have in suicide rates, explaining that there are instances in which a fatal overdose is done purposely, although the overwhelming majority of overdose deaths are unintentional. "With that said, a substance use disorder can be the catalyst that leads to a death by suicide for many reasons," he noted. "Inability to obtain substances, a co-occurring mental health condition, and other environmental factors could all be causes that drive an individual to a suicide." Still early data "Ba-

sically, provisional data means that all the data collected hasn't yet been fully analyzed," said Peter Pitts, former FDA Associate Commissioner, and president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest. "In that respect, I think that the conclusions are premature," he continued. Pitts said something else to note, is that the data sets among many of these communities are small, which doesn't mean they're inaccurate, just that they represent broad conclusions based on small population numbers. Pitts noted as an example, that the report didn't break down its findings to show how life expectancy impacted upper-income white Americans. "So only focusing on disaster-mongering headlines I think is a disservice to the broader importance of these data," he said. The bottom line A new report finds U.S. life expectancy declined significantly in 2021, with Native Americans and non-Hispanic whites most affected. The biggest contributors to this decline are COVID-19 and drug overdoses, the report found. Experts say this report uses provisional data, and it could take years to break this down to arrive at the most accurate conclusions.



## Sports

## Women's World Cup qualifiers round-up: Wales on brink of play-off spot while Northern Ireland beat Luxembourg

Carrie Jones' first international goal settled the contest in Volos, the teenager slotting home at the second attempt in the 34th minute after Gemma Evans had flicked on a long free-kick into the box. The three-point haul in their penultimate qualifier keeps Wales second in Group I and they will clinch a play-off spot if they avoid defeat against third-placed Slovenia in Cardiff next Tuesday. Meanwhile, Rebecca McKenna scored a late winner as Northern Ireland beat Luxembourg 2-1 in their penulti-

mate World Cup qualifier. Sarah McFadden opened the scoring with a well-placed header from Demi Vance's 52nd-minute corner, but the home side equalised in the 80th minute when Amy Thompson's shot went through the hands of goalkeeper Jackie Burns. However, Thompson was immediately sent off after being shown a second yellow card, seemingly for taking her shirt off in celebration, and Northern Ireland took advantage when McKenna fired into the bottom corner with five minutes



remaining. Although Kenny Shiels' side cannot qualify for the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next summer, the win secured third place in Group D behind England and Austria. Fenna Kalma scored a last-minute winner to give the Netherlands a 2-1 victory over

Scotland in their international friendly in Zwolle. Arsenal forward Vivianne Miedema fired the home side into the lead after 10 minutes, but Scotland equalised just two minutes later as Claire Emslie latched on to a superb pass from Kelly Clark to drill a low shot into the far cor-

ner. Victoria Pelova hit a post as the Dutch pressed for a winner and it eventually came a minute from time as Renate Jansen's deflected shot was tipped on to the bar by Lee Gibson and Kalma tapped home the rebound from close range.



## Ghana has a plan to win the 2022 FIFA World Cup - Minister

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Mustapha Ussif has disclosed that all the stakeholders of the Black Stars have put in place a plan to ensure that Ghana wins the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. According to the Minister, Ghana would live up to its reputation as a football powerhouse in Africa by winning the World Cup. Mr Ussif made this known on Saturday at a press briefing held in Accra as part of the Coca-Cola FIFA World Cup trophy tour. "As a football powerhouse of Africa, Ghana is hopeful and believing that Insha Allah, come November-December, we will be bringing the trophy back here to Ghana as the champions of the football family," he said. "We are very hopeful and we have a plan with the key stakeholders of the sports industry to put our plans together, so we have the belief that Insha Alla in December, the Stars will shine in Qatar". Competitive For the Ghana Football Association President, Kurt Okraku, his target for the team was for them to qualify from Group

H where they are scheduled to play Portugal on November 24, South Korea (November 28) and Uruguay (December 2). He added that the Black Stars and the GFA Executive Council were determined to rewrite history but required the support of the Ghanaian public to do so. "We would be very, very competitive, our singular determination is to go out of the group and once we come out of the group, the rest is open for everybody," Mr Okraku said. "...We are Ghana and we would show to the world that we are Ghana, let us all rally behind the team". For his part, FIFA legend and ambassador of the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour, David Trezeguet said he was delighted to be in the country and looking forward to seeing Ghanaians experience the trophy. Describing the feeling of winning the World Cup in 1998, Trezeguet said it was a "dream come true" to win the World Cup in front of the French public. The Vice President Franchise Operation West Island & Mid Africa of Coca-Cola, Rodrigue



Bila said his outfit was thrilled to have partnered FIFA to send the World Cup trophy around the world. He also disclosed that

Ghana was the first country to receive the trophy in Africa on the 2022 edition of the trophy tour. Mr Bila was hopeful that

Ghanaian fans would seize the opportunity to make lasting memories with the iconic solid gold trophy.



## World News

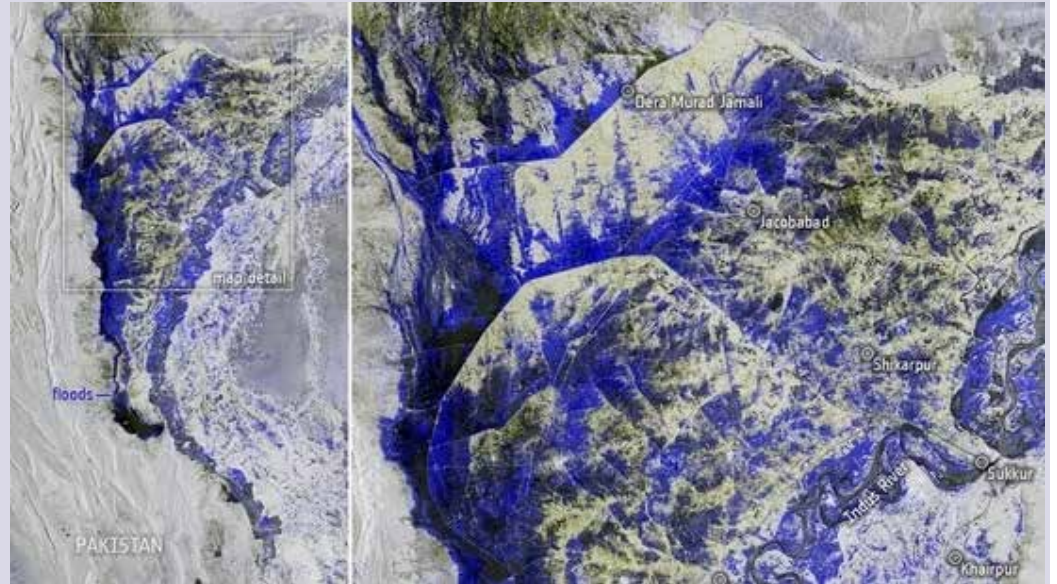
## Over one-third of Pakistan underwater, overflowing Indus creates long lake

More than a third of Pakistan is now underwater due to what the United Nations chief called "monsoon on steroids". The flood-ravaged country has received ten times heavier rainfall than usual since mid-June.

The satellite images shared by the European Space Agency show the extent of the flood that has claimed more than 1,100 lives and affected over 33 million people in Pakistan. Houses, agricultural lands, and infrastructure have been washed away in one of the worst floods in the country's history. An overflowing Indus River has effectively created a long lake, tens of kilometres wide, according to satellite images. The blue to black colours in the image shared by ESA after mapping the data captured from space

by Copernicus Sentinel-1 show where the land is submerged. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who recently took over the reins after ousting Imran Khan over the economic crisis, said it will cost at least \$10 billion to repair damaged infrastructure.

Pakistan is facing twin crises of food and health due to the unprecedented floods. "Our priority right now is to help save and protect lives as waters continue to rise. The scale of these floods has caused a shocking level of destruction -- crops have been swept away and livestock killed across huge swathes of the country, which means hunger will follow," said Saleh Saeed, chief executive of the Disasters Emergency Committee, a United Kingdom-based aid



coalition.

The World Health Organization has classified the flood as an emergency of "the highest level," warning of a rapid spread of disease due to the lack of access

to medical assistance. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the flooding has led to new outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, skin infections, respiratory tract infections, ma-

laria, and dengue, warning that the loss of crops and livestock will have a significant impact on the nutrition and health of many communities who depend on these resources.

## China quake: Deadly tremor rocks Sichuan city in lockdown

At least 65 people have been killed after a 6.6 magnitude earthquake hit southwestern China, state media said. The quake struck at 13:00 local time (05:00 GMT) on Monday in Sichuan province at a depth of 10km (6 miles). The impact severed telecommunications lines and triggered mountain landslides that caused "serious damage", local media reports say. Some 21 million people in Sichuan's capital Chengdu were last week ordered to stay at home because of Covid rules. The epicentre of the quake was at Luding, a town in a remote mountain region located about 226km southwest of Chengdu, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. State broadcaster CCTV said 17 people died in the city of Ya'an, while 29 deaths were reported in the neighbouring prefecture of Ganzi. "Another 16 people were missing and 50 were injured," CCTV said late on Monday. Tremors shook buildings in Chengdu and the neighbouring mega-city of Chongqing, leaving roads blocked and cutting communication lines in areas home to more than 10,000 residents. The shocks also forced some power sta-



tions to shut down in the areas of Garze and Ya'an, CCTV said. More than 500 rescue personnel have been despatched to the epicentre, while workers laboured to clear roadblocks caused by landslides, according to state broadcaster CGTN. Chengdu residents reported seeing people running out of their high-rise apartments in a panic after receiving earthquake alerts

on their phones. "There were many people who were so terrified they started crying," Laura Luo, an international PR consultant, told news agency Reuters. When the shaking began, "all the dogs started barking. It was really quite scary". "Some of my neighbours on the ground floor said they felt it very noticeably," Chen, a resident of Chengdu, told AFP news agency. "But

because Chengdu is currently under epidemic management, people aren't allowed to leave their residential compounds, so many of them rushed out into their courtyards." On Friday, Chengdu became the latest city to be locked down by Chinese authorities, in an attempt to stem the rise in Covid cases. The latest disaster comes months after a 6.1-magnitude earthquake

tore through Sichuan in June. Sichuan is a earthquake-prone area, as it lies along the eastern boundary of the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau. The earthquake also called into memory an 8.0-magnitude quake which hit Wenchuan county in northwest Sichuan in 2008, which killed 70,000 and caused widespread destruction.



## News

# PASSPORT SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED IN SAN FRANCISCO



Passport services have been made easier for Fijian passport holders in the United States of America. The Fijian Government through the Department of Immigration will install

state-of-the-art e-passport biometric equipment at the Fijian Trade Commission in San Francisco in two weeks time. Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama assured the Fijian di-

aspora that services to Fijians will commence at the earliest possible time. As a result, Fijians in California and nearby states won't have to travel all the way to

Washington D.C, sometimes for days by road to have their passports renewed or to apply for new passports.

Prime Minister Bainimarama, while on his official visit to the U.S, witnessed first-hand the growing need for these services in the West Coast, where the majority of the Fijian diaspora live and work in the USA.

The Prime Minister said the Trade Office was a fitting location for our decentralised passport issuance system to cater to the large number of Fijians living in California and nearby states.

Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and Immigration, Mr Yogesh Karan said Immigration officials will be in San Francisco in two weeks time to install the e-passport biometric equipment and also to train the

Trade Commission and Fiji Mission staff on how to operate the new equipment.

Fiji's new e-Passports contain a range of enhanced security features that will make it far more difficult for people to enter the country illegally, establishing a more secure Fijian passport and bringing greater integrity to our immigration system.

Fijian e-passport holders will also be protected against forgery, identity theft, passport tampering, and reproduction. Prime Minister Bainimarama is accompanied on this visit to San Francisco by Permanent Secretary Karan and Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad.

## Group of Fijians living in the US offering to help Government extend dialysis treatment to smaller towns



A group of Fijians living in the United States of America are generously offering their "helping hands" to help Gov-

ernment to extend dialysis treatment to smaller towns. The group, which is made up of Fijians with medical back-

grounds based in San Francisco, is offering their services for free to Fiji. Group head Mr Daven Kumar, while present-

ing their project proposal to Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama in San Francisco last night, said their services will be solely focused on kidney patients who cannot afford dialysis treatment. Kumar says that they will provide their services free of charge and aim to travel throughout Fiji to reach those in rural and maritime islands. He says that they are happy to work with the Ministry of Health and the

Government to ensure this project is up and running at the earliest possible time.

Prime Minister Bainimarama welcomed the project and advised the group to link up with relevant authorities in Fiji and discuss the necessary procedures and processes which they need to comply with. Bainimarama thanked the group members for their generosity in giving back to their country in this form of service. Fiji's Honorary Consul in San Francisco, Mr Jay Singh has committed \$US50,000 towards the project. Mr Singh said his commitment to the project is another way of showing solidarity and support to improve the lives back at home. Prime Minister Bainimarama assured the Fijian diaspora that they are a central part of the Fiji story and Fiji welcomes their contributions to our social and economic development.



## World News

## Russia revokes media license of top independent newspaper

A court in Moscow on Monday upheld a motion from Russian authorities to revoke the license of a top independent newspaper that for years has been critical of the Kremlin, the latest move in a months-long crackdown on independent media, opposition activists and human rights groups. The ruling against Novaya Gazeta, Russia's most renowned independent newspaper, comes amid Russia's grinding military campaign in Ukraine and the Kremlin's effort to silence critics of what it calls a "special military operation". Dmitry Muratov, Nobel Peace Prize-winning editor-in-chief of the newspaper, called the ruling on Monday "political" and "not having the slightest legal

basis," and he promised to contest it. Roskomnadzor, Russia's media and internet regulator, petitioned the court to revoke Novaya Gazeta's licence, accusing it of failing to submit the newsroom charter to authorities on time. Novaya Gazeta announced March 28 that it was suspending operations for the duration of what it referred to in quotation marks as "the special operation" in Ukraine, the term that Russian authorities insist media must use for the military action in Ukraine. Its team, however, launched a new project, Novaya Gazeta Europe, from abroad, criticising the operation in Russia's ex-Soviet neighbour. Days after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine



on Feb 24, Russia's Kremlin-controlled parliament approved legislation that outlawed alleged disparaging of the Russian mili-

tary or the spread of "false information" about the country's military operation in Ukraine. Dozens of Russian independent

media outlets were banned as a result, while other announced halting any reporting related to Ukraine.

## One dead, 8 missing after small plane crashes near Seattle in US

One person died while eight more people, including a child, went missing after the float plane they were travelling in crashed at Mutiny Bay, about 30 miles north of Seattle, Washington, on Sunday, said officials from the US Coast Guard. One body has been recovered from the spot. Various agencies, such as the Island County Sheriff, Snohomish County Sheriff and the Coast Guard, have been pressed into service at Mutiny Bay to find the missing persons. According to Flightradar24, the float plane was a 55-year-old de Havilland Canada DHC-3 Otter. The US Coast Guard said the plane was flying from Friday Harbor to Seattle Tacoma International Airport and was in air for 19 minutes before it crashed.



## New British Prime Minister Liz Truss's First Address as PM



After prevailing against Rishi Sunak in the fiercely contested Conservative leadership race, Liz Truss will take office as Britain's next prime minister. When Liz Truss takes office tomorrow, she will have to deal with a financial crisis that has never occurred at a period of peace. We are informed that she will do so with £100 billion in public funds, which is a huge increase above the amount her predecessor, Boris Johnson, spent on fur-

loughs during the Covid crisis. For a prime minister who spent the summer running for office on a promise to stop giving out such "handouts," this will demand a clear U-turn. But Truss will be served by bare need. Energy producers, merchants, and consumers are all crying in pain. Numerous small enterprises are in danger of failing. Truss will be obliged to call upon Labour's state interventionism after 12 years of Tory rule.





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## Sports

# Golfing Friends attend Fiji Sevens World Cup 2022 tournament in LA

Los Angeles Fijian Golf enthusiast and Fiji Sevens World Cup Golf tournament Director Pramesh Sharma welcomed more than 20 golfers to the Olivas Links Golf Course on Friday 26th August for the Fiji Sevens World Cup Golf tournament.

The tournament is held every four years and coincides with the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament. Tournament Director Mr. Pramesh Sharma told US Fiji Times that this is the 18th tournament that he has organized which has also attracted golfers

from throughout America and its purpose is to attract Fiji golfing enthusiasts and Friends of Fiji for a day of competitive golf before cheering for Team Fiji at the LA Sevens.

Mr Sharma thanked all participating Golfers that had made

the effort to attend this years tournament.

At the conclusion of the one day tournament, Conrad Gray and Pramesh Sharma were declared top winners followed by the following winners in their respective categories.

Division II Champion was Mahendra Lalji, Net Champion Shiu P Mangal, NTP # 5 Conrad Gray, # 8 Ramesh Lal, # 13 Ravi Shankar and # 17 Bobby Gill.

The Longest Drive was won by Doug King whilst Division II was won by Vinod Chhabra.



FIJI SEVENS GOLF WORLD CUP 2022

**Conrad Gray**  
Open Champion



OLIVAS LINKS

**Pramesh Sharma**  
Net Open Champion

US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher Rocky Ali Buksh had the pleasure of extending an invite to Fiji's Honorary Consul to Los Angeles , Mr. Vinod Bhindi and Mr. Pramesh Sharma to the Dignity Health Sports Park VIP Lounge during the two day 2022 LA Sevens event.





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## Sports

## Fiji Rugby Sevens Fans love LA Sevens

US Fiji Times believes that the large presence of Fiji Rugby Sevens fans at the 2022 LA Sevens is what made the whole tournament more exciting and enjoyable. The colorful Fiji Blue flag and various apparels brought life and excitement to the 2 day tournament and that we all look forward to coming in much big numbers again in 2023.



## US Fiji Times 'Bula Pacific' booth will be bigger at LA Sevens 2023

We take this time to thank each and every one of you and your respective Family's for visiting our 'Bula Pacific Booth', and we promise to make it even bigger and more attractive in February 2023. See you all in LA next year.



## Our Boys lose to Team New Zealand in the LA 2022 Sevens

It was another heart-felt loss to our large Fiji Rugby fans that had gathered over two days to watch the final between Fiji and Pacific neighbors New Zealand at this years' Los Angeles Sevens. A converted try to Moses Leo saw New Zealand win 28-21. Veteran Jerry Tuwai showed his experience and footwork breaking through the New Zealand defensive line before Kaminieli Rasaku showing his strength, shrugged off a

number of defenders to score their first converted try. New Zealand hit right back with a penalty try after Waisea Nacuqu illegally tackled Tone Ng Shiu out of play. They hit the front minutes later through Reagan Ware. Nacuqu returned after being sent to the Sin Bin for a shoulder charge and levelled the scores 14-all at halftime, scoring in between the sticks. A minute into the second spell the All Blacks 7s executed some

nice offloads and hit the front again with Ng Shiu crossing over. Filipe Sauturaga gave fans some hope after scoring from the scrum five metres away from the try-line locking the scores at 21-all. Again, it was our defense and missed tackles that saw Leo sneak away for the winning try. Congratulations to our Pacific Islands Rugby neighbors New Zealand and better luck next time Team Fiji in LA 2023.





## Sports

## Two great supporters of US Fiji Times at USA Rugby Sevens events

Former USA Rugby Chief Rob Cornelius (left) and AEG Rugby Director Dan Lyle have over the past many years provided support to US Fiji Times CEO/Publisher Rocky Ali Buksh. We say thank you Rob and Dan and wish you the best as we all look forward to February 2023



## 18 Teams battle for NAFSA 2022 in Fremont

The 2022 NAFSA Soccer Tournament attracted a total of 18 Teams during the 2 day competition from 3rd to 4th

September, 2022 at Fremont as fans were treated to some highly competitive football. Teams in the Open Pool 1 included Com-

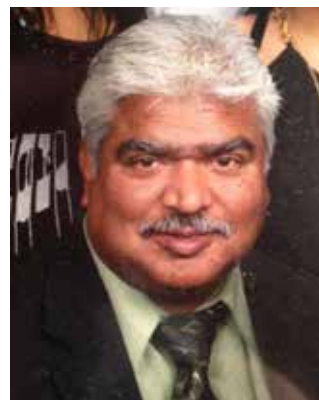
bine, East Bay, Seattle, San Mateo and Norfolk with FC United, Fiji All Blacks, Elk Grove and Flagstaff in Open Pool 2. The

Masters Teams included Los Angeles, San Mateo, Edmonton, Ba, Cobra, Monterey and Palo Alto. The splendid weather

at Fremont provided spectators the opportunity to enjoy the 2 day tournament and to also meet old friends including new ones.



*NAFSA / CANAM 1st Place Winner  
Flagstaff in Open*



*Message from :  
President of  
Fiji Soccer League  
of California  
Shiri Rupan*

I would like to thank Fiji Soccer League of California officials and our sponsors for hosting 45th NAFSA/CAN AM 2022 Soccer Tournament . Congratulations to the winning team: Flagstaff Canada. Special thanks to Combine Brothers, Mr. Anil Singh and Vick Govind you made Mr. Govind Reddy's dream come true by playing under one banner, thank you all participating teams, family and friends, Mr. Aten Singh Mr. Sheik Ali for trophy donation, Mr. Rocky Ali Buksh Media coverage, Mr. Gyan Singh supplying tents, table, chairs, Mr. Mahen Singh DJ, Mr. Abdul Rauf MC. note: we wish you well Nafsa-usa Can-am 2023 thank you so much



*2022 NAFSA Champions Palo Alto  
Masters*





## Fiji wins Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 in Cape Town

Fiji beat New Zealand 29-12 to claim the men's title in Cape Town, a third World Cup crown for the flying Fijians but their first since 2005. It stopped the New Zealanders from claiming their third straight title.

It was Fiji's third world title, but their first since 2005, while New Zealand had won the previous two editions in 2013 and 2018. Fiji scored five tries against the All Blacks, whose defence had only been breached twice in their first three matches.

Fiji made a sensational start, scoring two tries in the first two minutes through Joseva Talacola and Kaminieli Rasaku. Moses Leo hit back for New Zealand but Elia Canakaivata and Filipe Sauturaga crossed the All Blacks line again to give Fiji a 24-5 half-time lead. Two yellow cards early in the second half threatened to undermine Fiji, but New Zealand's Akula Rokolisoa was also sent to the sin bin soon after he narrowed the deficit with a try. Pilipo Bukayaro sealed victory for the Fijians in the last minute.

"This is huge for Fiji," coach Ben Gollings told SuperSport TV. "The boys have been fantastic. We can score tries but we also have to stop them and it was a huge defensive performance."