

## Made in Fiji

### Features:

- ★ Love for weaving keeps Rigieta Nuku going
- ★ Reduce, reuse and recycle — a story on Miliana Radrodoro who makes jewellery and handicraft items from what she finds
- ★ Getting the right work wear Ranjit Garments



## Index

North news	4
West news	5
Your views	8-9
Damodar movies	15
Life Cinemas	16
Business	13-16
FEA and WAF notices	34
World	28-30
Sports	39-44

## Weather

**TODAY:** Brief showers over the eastern parts and interior of the larger islands. Elsewhere, fine apart from afternoon or evening showers and isolated thunderstorms. Moderate to fresh easterly wind. Moderate to rough seas.



### TOMORROW:

**CENTRAL:** Some showers.  
**WEST:** Afternoon or evening showers and isolated thunderstorms.  
**LABASA:** Possible afternoon or evening showers and isolated thunderstorms.  
**SAVUSAVU:** Brief showers.  
**ROTUMA:** Brief showers.

Details: **PAGE 33**

## Aussie defence minister in Fiji

By FELIX CHAUDHARY

AUSTRALIA'S Defence Minister Senator Marise Payne is in the country and is scheduled to meet with Fiji's National Security and Defence Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola and Republic of Fiji Military Forces commander Rear Admiral Viliame Naupoto in Nadi.

She is here to discuss Australia's growing bilateral defence relationship and shared regional and global security priorities with Fiji.

Ms Payne said her visit marked a significant milestone in the deepening bilateral defence relationship between the two countries.

In its 2016 Defence White Paper, Australia committed to increasing international engagement particularly with the countries of the South Pacific and South East Asia, to support the region's collective capacity to address common threats and security challenges.

"Fiji is a key regional security partner in the South Pacific and I am pleased that our defence relationship continues to go from strength-to-strength," Ms Payne said.

"Our defence forces are increasing their engagement, particularly in the areas of maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and peacekeeping.

"This visit is an opportunity to further improve close co-operation on important regional and global issues."

Ms Payne will also visit the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Blackrock base, where the army conducts pre-deployment training for its personnel for UN peacekeeping operations.



Marise Payne.  
Picture: liberal.org.au



Reserve Bank of Fiji governor Ariff Ali (right) speaks to the media while Apenisa Tuicakau (left), Esala Masitabua and Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum. Picture: ELIKI NUKUTABU

## Transport to go

By LICE

TRANSPORTATION will be a focus area to be funded by the \$40 million raised by the Government when it issued its first green bonds yesterday.

Following the successful tender of the first tranche of the green bonds this past week, Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said there was a "plethora" of issues which the bonds were earmarked to address.

Although vague about the details of other projects, he said there was a lot of work around clean transportation the Government could address as a result of the availability of the green bond funds.

"The green bonds also qualify for clean transport too, a lot of issues pertaining to transportation, the types of vehicles that we use, what type of technology we can bring in," he said.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said climate resilient development work could not be done in a linear fashion and explained several initiatives to help reduce the transportation sector's carbon footprint.

"It all sinks in as announced in the budget for example, now bus companies will be given 15-year licences, now that gives them a certain level of confidence. That means they can buy buses with newer technology, which means less carbon footprint," he said.

The green bonds also qualify for clean transport too, a lot of issues pertaining to transportation, the types of vehicles that we use, what type of

Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum

# COMING SOON

# \$87m in bids

## Overwhelming response to green bonds tender

By LICE MOVONO

A TOTAL of \$87.71 million in bids for the Government's green bonds were received in the week the first tranche worth \$40m was tendered.

Announcing an "overwhelming over subscribing" yesterday, Minister for Economy and Minister Responsible for Climate Change and the Attorney-General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said the Reserve Bank of Fiji had received \$47.7m in excess of the amount the bonds were aimed to raise.

"We are pleased to announce the issue of the first green bonds today. The issue follows the overwhelming interest recorded in the week-long tender which saw the floated amount of \$40m being over-subscribed," he said.

Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said local banks, which normally do not invest in bonds

combined to make a bid for the whole value of the \$40m bonds.

Although he thanked commercial banks given that the green bonds attracted the highest amount ever tendered for any domestic bond, Mr Sayed-Khaiyum confirmed that the banks were only issued an allotment of \$13.27m.

Reserve Bank of Fiji governor Ariff Ali said in the event of an excess of tenders, investors are then only allotted the percentage value of their bid against the initial amount on offer which in this case was \$40m.

There are four tranches in total which

the Government hopes will raise a total of \$100m and another three tranches worth \$20m to be issued over the next few months, with the next in December.

According to Mr Sayed-Khaiyum, the green bonds recorded three times the participation response of similar government infrastructure bonds.

Other investors include the Fiji National Provident Fund and one overseas investor. Mr Sayed-Khaiyum said the Government would begin works as soon as possible on areas such as transportation, relocation of villages and sea wall construction.

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# High demand for fuel

NEW YORK - US gasoline demand hit a record in August, delivering a strong end to the summer driving season, according to data released on Tuesday by the US Energy Information Administration.

US gasoline demand rose by a modest 0.9 per cent, or 83,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 9.77 million bpd in August compared with the same month last year, the data showed.

The level was the highest on record, according to the EIA's data. It was the fourth increase in the past five months, EIA data showed.

The strong demand came ahead of much of the historic hurricane activity this year.

Overall, US gasoline demand January through August was relatively flat compared with the same stretch last year, largely because of a poor first quarter, but

it could decline in the months ahead as data is released that takes into account the demand decline from the series of hurricanes that hit the US.

US gasoline demand, which accounts for 10 per cent of global consumption and hit a record high last year, has risen each year since 2012.

US crude oil output fell slightly in the month to 9.20 million bpd in August from 9.23 million in

July, according to the data.

Production has been in a range of 9.07 million bpd to 9.23 million bpd since February, according to the data.

US distillate demand remained strong, rising 2.9 per cent year-on-year to 3.99 million bpd in August, the data showed.

Total oil demand was down 0.6 per cent year-on-year, or 114,000 bpd, to 20.16 million bpd in August, the data showed.

Motor travel data suggests strong driving numbers, but experts have said greater fuel efficiency has taken hold and helped tamp down gasoline demand.

US motorists logged 0.8 per cent more miles on the road in July than they did in the year-ago month, keeping 2017 on pace to break last year's record of total miles driven, according to US Department of Transportation data.

■ REUTERS

## Solar panel imports

WASHINGTON - Members of the US International Trade Commission on Tuesday made three different recommendations for restricting solar cell and panel imports on Tuesday, giving President Donald Trump a range of choices to address injury to domestic producers.

The recommendations range from an immediate 35 per cent tariff on all imported panels to a four-year quota system that allows the import of up to 8.9 gigawatts of solar cells and modules in the first year.

The president's ultimate decision could have a major impact on the price of US power generated by the sun.

Both supporters and critics of import curbs on solar products were disappointed by the proposals, which were unveiled at a public meeting in Washington.



Solar installers from Baker Electric place solar panels on the roof of a residential home in Scripps Ranch, San Diego, California. Picture: REUTERS/MIKE BLAKE

■ REUTERS

## Tourism is sustainable, says Brown

THE Cook Islands Minister of Finance Mark Brown is adamant tourism is sustainable and issues that arise are being dealt with by the government.

Titikaveka MP Sel Napa had called for measures to slow down tourism in Rarotonga, saying the infrastructure is under strain.

Ms Napa said the Asian Development Bank had warned power, water and sewerage were among the facilities that needed upgrading.

But Mr Brown said the Government had a major water project in progress and aimed to get renewable energy running across the country by the beginning of next year.

He said accommodating the recorded number of tourists was manageable.

"What we're starting to see now is that increase numbers and benefits flowing down the grassroots levels with the increase number of holiday homes being put for holiday accommodation, so the increase use of Air BnB is seeing direct benefits flow down to home owners, land owners who are putting up holiday homes for short term stays."

■ RNZI

# US investment firm launches crypto-currency funds

NEW YORK - Multicoin Capital, a US investment firm with a multi-year horizon, said on Thursday it had launched two funds that would invest in digital currencies or tokens, as it sought to tap robust demand for virtual assets that allowed for instant, borderless transactions.

Both funds have a combined \$US10 million (\$F20m) in assets, with a target of \$US100m (\$F208m), Kyle Samani, Multicoin's managing partner, said in an interview with Reuters.

Mr Samani expects the firm to

hit that goal in the first quarter of 2018.

Multicoin has a long-term investment view, typically three to four years, said managing partner Tushar Jain.

That's far longer than the typical horizon of digital currency funds of just a few months.

"We'll adjust the percentage of the portfolio during that time. We only invest in assets that will hold for that time frame," Mr Jain added.

The firm actively manages two funds: Diversified and Concentrated.

The Diversified fund holds between 20-30 tokens at any given time, while the Concentrated Fund has six to eight digital assets.

"We look for protocols that replace middlemen with network participants," Mr Samani said.

"We've spent a lot of time looking at the market opportunities and at which protocols are best suited to take advantage of those opportunities."

Mr Samani and Mr Jain came out of the NYU Stern School of Business and both have tech entrepreneur backgrounds.

Crypto-currency funds have mushroomed in 2017 as the market capitalisation of digital tokens exploded to roughly \$US170 billion (\$F353b).

The price of bitcoin alone topped nearly \$US6000 (\$F12,481) eight years after it burst into the scene.

Out of bitcoin came blockchain, a digital ledger of transactions that has underpinned its technology.

There are more than 100 crypto-hedge funds that manage between

\$US2-\$US3b (\$F4b-\$F6b), according to data Autonomous NEXT, which tracks future technology in the financial services industry.

The research firm said 75 per cent of the crypto funds were launched this year.

Multicoin's Mr Jain also pointed out that one big difference between his firm and other funds is that the company has developed new tools and security measures to invest responsibly in the token ecosystem.

■ REUTERS

**JETPOINT SUPERCENTRE, MARTINTAR NADI | TAPPOO CITY, NARARA PARADE, LAUTOKA | RUPS NAULU SHOPPING COMPLEX, NAKASI**

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MOVIES	NADI PH: 672 7888 / MB: 968 0674	NAKASI PH: 341 0596 / MB: 891 1753	LAUTOKA PH: 666 6200 / MB: 891 1391
	CINEMA 2,3 & 4	CINEMA 2,3 & 4	CINEMA 1 & 2
<b>A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS</b> (R16) Thu	10:15am, 12:40pm, 4:10pm, 8:45pm	10:40am, 12:5pm, 9:10pm	1:05pm, 6:20pm
Fri	10:00am, 12:25pm, 9:10pm	12:45pm, 8:50pm	6:55pm
<b>GOLMAAL AGAIN</b> (PG) Thu	10:00am, 5:55pm, 8:40pm	6:15pm	10:00am, 1:30pm, 5:10pm, 8:20pm
Fri	10:15am, 1:25pm, 8:30pm	10:05am, 1:15pm, 6:20pm, 8:40pm	1:00pm, 5:10pm
<b>THOR: RAGNAROK (ATMOS)</b> (PG) Thu	1:05pm, 6:00pm, 8:50pm	5:40pm	
Fri	10:00am, 12:45pm, 5:45pm	5:40pm	
<b>THOR: RAGNAROK</b> (PG) Thu	10:10am, 3:05pm	10:00am, 12:45pm (3D), 3:30pm, 9:20pm	10:15am, 3:30pm, 8:45pm
Fri	9:10pm	10:00am, 10:30pm, 9:30pm	10:15am, 4:10pm, 9:15pm
<b>ITTEFAQ</b> (PG) Fri	10:05am, 1:20pm, 5:20pm	5:35pm	10:00am, 1:30pm, 8:20pm
Fri	6:35pm	3:50pm, 8:50pm	
<b>JIGSAW</b> (R16) Thu	4:30pm, 7:00pm	4:20pm, 6:40pm	
Fri		10:25am, 6:25pm	
<b>GEOSTORM</b> (PG) Thu	10:25am, 9:05pm	10:30am	
Fri	6:40pm	3:35pm	
<b>ONLY THE BRAVE</b> (R13) Thu	12:55pm, 6:10pm	3:50pm	
Fri	2:45pm	1:05pm	
<b>THE FOREIGNER</b> (R16) Thu	3:30pm	3:05pm	
Fri	4:25pm	10:15am, 6:00pm	
<b>SECRET SUPERSTAR</b> (PG) Thu			

**OPENING TOMORROW** **ITTEFAQ**

**NOW SHOWING** **JIGSAW**

**GOLMAAL AGAIN!!!**

**NOW SHOWING** **A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS**

**NOW SHOWING** **THOR: RAGNAROK**



# Vehicle third party policy

By SERAFINA SILAITOGA

THE Land Transport Authority has started initial works to cater for the new motor vehicle third party insurance policy by January 1 next year.

LTA's chief executive officer, Carmine Piantadosi said motor vehicle owners would start paying the compulsory third party policy with them from January 1.

## LTA to collect insurance fee

"That should be fully operational and works are progressing very well for this new system," he said.

"By January 1 or even before, vehicle owners will be paying the compulsory third party insurance when they come and renew the vehicle permits.

"Our role is to collect the fee when the person comes in to register the vehicle and we process it at LTA."

He said the fees would be given to the newly-formed Fiji Accident Compensation Commission. "So, vehicle owners won't be paying insurance companies any

more for their compulsory third party but will pay us, the LTA.

"However, the insurance companies can still provide policy for car insurance but it won't be able to give out third party insurance.

"The fees for the compulsory insurance will not increase

from the current one that is paid to insurance companies."

Mr Piantadosi said the exact prices had not been released yet.

Government, in its 2017/2018 National Budget, announced this system with the LTA.



Piantadosi.  
Picture: FILE



Minister for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau and his staff members with outgoing New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji Mark Ramsden during the High Commissioner's farewell ceremony at the Ministry of Fisheries office in Suva on Tuesday. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU

## Minister thanks outgoing Kiwi high commissioner

By MERE NALEBA

THE Minister for Fisheries, Semi Koroilavesau, has thanked outgoing New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji, Mark Ramsden, for the role he played in providing assistance to the ministry.

Speaking at a farewell ceremony on Tuesday, Mr Koroilavesau said Mr Ramsden made a lot of positive impact on the ministry and the highlight of this co-operation between the high commission and the ministry was the six months deployment of the NZ Naval ship HMNZS *Hauea* to monitor Fiji's EEZ.

"During the past 12 months since the ministry was established, I have had a lot of discussions and interactions with you in our intention to improve our capabilities in coastal fisheries," Mr Koroilavesau said.

"The reposition of *Hauea* created a lot of positive impact to Fiji. It has also highlighted to us to improve our capability in monitoring, surveillance of coastal fishing which has been forgotten for some time."

Mr Ramsden said it felt like he was leaving at a time when the ministry and the high commission were just getting things in order.

"So, I think we are at a start of a partnership in coastal fisheries. I think the *Hauea*'s deployment has been hugely successful. It's a great example of co-operation between New Zealand and Fiji because we here have a NZ naval ship stationed in Fiji, and Fijian navy, fisheries officers, revenue and customs officers on board the ship alongside their NZ counterparts and a bit over six months."



USP vice-chancellor Rajesh Chandra, right, presents a gift to Mark Ramsden during his farewell at USP on Tuesday evening. Picture: ATU RASEA

## Termite infestation

By REPEKA NASIKO

THE Lautoka Residents and Ratepayers Association believes the termite infestation in the Sugar City has got worse.

Association president Maude Elbourne said residents had borne the costs of the infestation which had affected residential homes.

"Some have had to rebuild parts of their homes at a cost when in many cases they do not have the money to spare," she said.

"Alternatively, those who can't afford repairs will have to live with the burden of the inevitable with the destruction of parts of their properties. In saying this, no one doubts the effort the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji is putting into controlling the infestation but from what we've heard and seen this year, the density and amount of the swarming appears to have increased and is of grave concern."

She said residents had been following instructions from BAF every year during swarming seasons.

"People are told to turn off all their lights and light fires in their yards when the termites rise.

"This is of little help and dangerous in and around the western side at this time of the year during the dry season along with the fire danger that goes with it.

"Also, the amount of smoke in some of the residential areas whenever this happens, which can be three to four times in as many weeks, stays in the air almost like fog for a few hours.

"Not only is it unhealthy but it certainly doesn't say much for our contribution to global warming.

"In the long run if there aren't better controls, the extent of infestation cost and burden to many who do not have the money to repair weakened structures and damaged properties will be astronomical."

# Top national security role for former minister

By LITIA CAVA

FORMER minister for defence Timoci Natuva has been appointed the director general for National Security Secretariat (NSS).

Mr Natuva said NSS was still in its development stage and it should be running smoothly by June next year as the secretariat continued to advertise and recruit staff members.

He said NSS reported directly to the Prime Minister Voreqe Baini-

marama, who heads the council.

Mr Natuva takes over from Fijiji's High Commissioner to Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Esala Teleni, who was the chairperson for the National Security and Defence Review Committee.

Mr Natuva said the phase of the chairmanship had now been completed and they were now recruiting staff members for the establishment of the NSS.

"We are now recruiting staff for

NSS who looks after the national security strategy for the completion of various white papers," he said.

"When there was a chairman, there used to be a skeleton staff. Now we are recruiting people to take up posts."

Mr Natuva said NSS would be responsible for looking after secu-



Natuva.  
Picture: FILE

rity issues faced by different government ministries.

"We will look at all the security issues for Fiji. The consultation has already been done with whole of government in the past 12 months by Teleni and the ministries are aware of what we are doing.

"On the gaps, for example food security, the question is — are we self-sufficient in rice, potatoes because we are still importing and that is one of the spectrum that we

are looking at.

"So the whole spectrum of security in Fiji we look after, we identify the gaps and we work on what needs to be done as we work in consultations with other ministries on how we can revert the whole security issues and come up with plans of actions that needs to be done in order to fulfil what is required by the whole of government."

Mr Natuva was appointed to the post last week.



### Grassroots issues

RNZ - A media operator says candidates in the Tongan election have taken a grassroots approach to campaigning and reaching the public. This week a former head of the state broadcaster expressed concerns the public was missing out on election issues because of the canning of a national talkback show and the sidelining of prominent journalists.



### Call to end repatriation

RNZ - A Cook Islands MP Tamaiva Tuavera wants New Zealand to stop sending young offenders, who are New Zealanders of Cook Island descent, back to the islands. Mr Tuavera said sending young people in trouble with the law in New Zealand to the Cook Islands in the hope they would be rehabilitated doesn't work. He said extended families in the Cook Islands could not look after them without additional support.



### Solar power farm

RNZ - A Chinese investor is behind Tonga's first private solar power farm. The Pacific Community's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency is overseeing the commissioning of the two megawatt power station. The centre's manager Solomone Fifita said the agency's role was to foster renewable power developments by involving the private sector.

