

TUDRAVU SEEKS OVERSEAS HELP IN DRUG CLAIMS

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Miss Fiji Pageant

03

DAYS TO GO



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‘Parbotti’, the female warden

By JOHN MITCHELL

DURING the colonial days, the ‘Fiji Blue Book’ was a directory containing a list of civil servants.

A name entered in the 1898 Fiji Blue Book belonged to a woman called Parbotti. Her real name was Padam Kaur.

According to internet search results, she was the female warder at the then Suva Gaol from January 1, 1898 to 1901 and was one of 12 paid workers of the Prisons Department.

Kaur (later called Parbotti) arrived in Fiji with her husband, Ram Chander, on June 27, 1885 in the ship, *SS Ganges*.

They were taken to Rakiraki by barge and arrived at Washington Wharf, Nanukuloa, where they worked for the Chalmers family in Penang. After their contract the couple went back to India.

Parbotti and Chander’s grandson, Bhagwan Singh, and great-grandson, Ajay Singh, both returned to Fiji as Indian High Commissioners.

■ Full story on **PAGE 15**

Deaths spark concern

By PHYLLIS SIMPSON

TWO women have died and police have pleaded for information as investigators work on leads made available.

The deaths have happened amidst the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence currently being observed in the country.

Police yesterday confirmed that a woman in Veisari, Lami, was allegedly murdered by her husband, who is believed to have taken her body in their car and headed for Totogo Police Station in Suva where he reported the matter.

The second incident had police asking for information after the body of an iTaukei woman was found in Lautoka yesterday.

■ Full story on **PAGE 3**

A DAUGHTER’S ENDLESS LOVE

A selfless act

By JOHN MITCHELL

MELAIA Talala, 72, tends daily to her 102-year-old father with love.

Throughout her life, she has been a steady pillar of compassion.

First, she took care of her grandmother and mother, and later her youngest sister, whom she raised like her own child, from the age of



three. She even sacrificed the prospect of marriage to devote herself fully to the sick and ageing members of her family. Such is the depth of her love.

In today’s world of chaos, Talala is a rarity. She believes deeply in the power of family, to love without condition, and to stand together through every season in life.

■ Full story on **PAGE 19**

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