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The Sunday Times

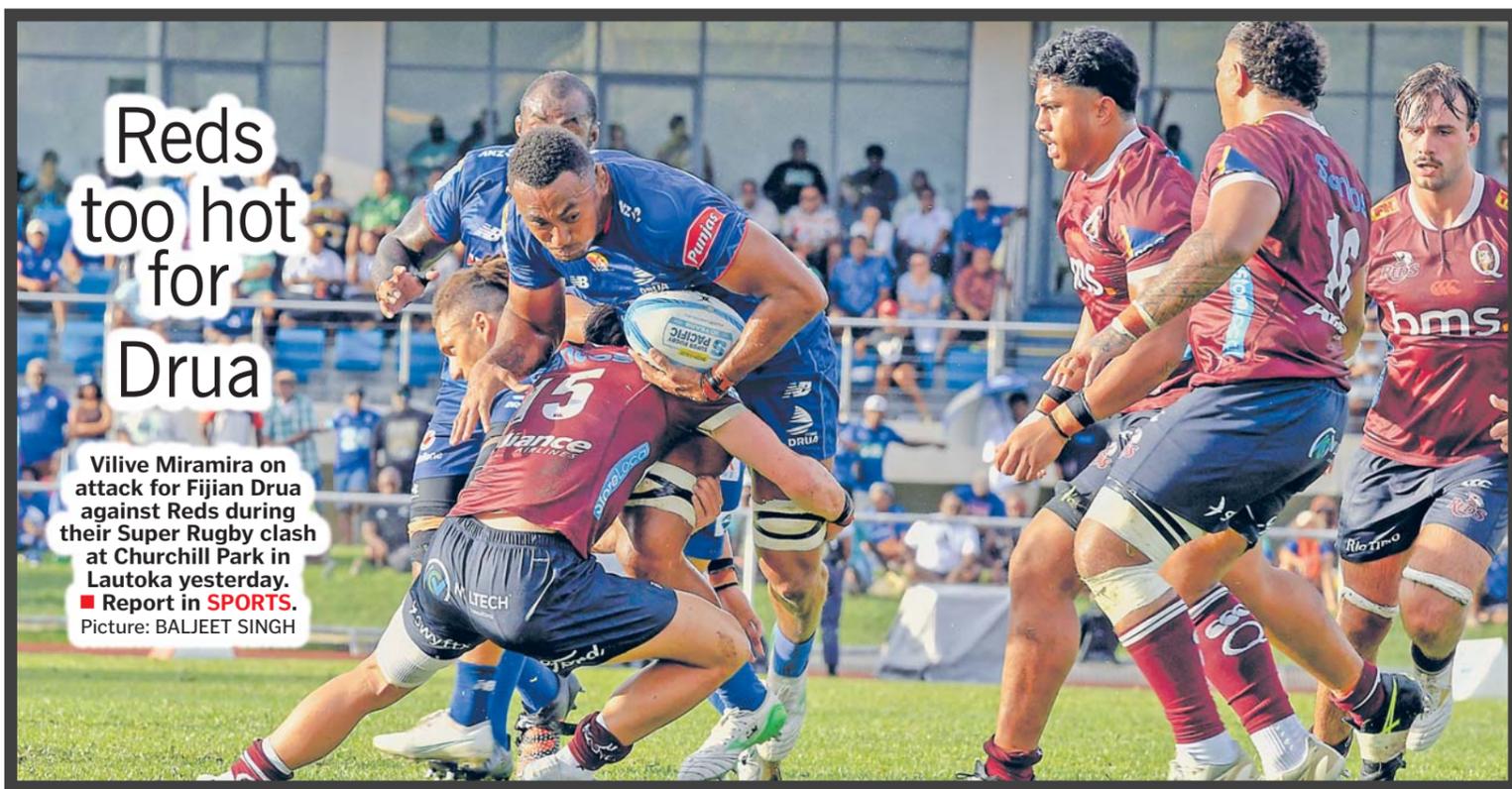
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Reds too hot for Drua

Vilive Miramira on
attack for Fijian Drua
against Reds during
their Super Rugby clash
at Churchill Park in
Lautoka yesterday.
■ Report in **SPORTS**.
Picture: BALJEET SINGH

CATHEDRAL FIGHTS FOR SURVIVAL

By ALIFERETI SAKIASI

A CENTURY-OLD cathedral on Fiji's Rewa Delta, once a symbol of faith and cultural transformation, is now fighting for survival.

Built in 1901 under the vision of the enigmatic French missionary Father Emmanuel Rougier, the Naililili Cathedral stands as both a spiritual landmark and a testament to colonial architecture and craftsmanship.



■ Full report on **PAGES 16-19**

Face-to-face with Oprah

By ANA MADIGIBULI

A CHANCE encounter in the quiet trails of Adelaide has become one of the most unforgettable moments in Elena Baravilala Gardiner's journey.

While taking a nature walk

through Waterfall Gully last December, the Fijian singer unexpectedly came face-to-face with global media icon Oprah Winfrey — a meeting she describes as both surreal and deeply humbling.

There were no flashing lights or grand introductions — just a warm greeting, a brief exchange, and a

heartfelt embrace between two women from vastly different worlds.

Yet in that fleeting moment, Elena says she felt seen, encouraged, and reminded of how far her journey has taken her, from the shores of Ovalau to crossing paths with one of the most influential women on the planet.

The encounter quickly made headlines across Australian media, with photos of the pair shared widely online.

But for Elena, it wasn't about fame. It was a quiet affirmation that purpose, faith, and perseverance can lead to the most unexpected and meaningful connections.



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