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WEATHER

TODAY:

Occasional rain and a few thunderstorms over eastern Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Tavuni and Lau and Lomaiviti Group. Isolated heavy falls expected.



TOMORROW

CENTRAL: Few showers
WEST: Fine weather
NORTH: Labasa, some rain, few thunderstorms; same for Savusavu

DETAILS: P47

Debris litter

By SAMANTHA RINA

WAVES as high as three metres washed on to parts of the Coral Coast yesterday morning, leaving in their wake debris and litter scattered on the beach, housing compounds and roads.

On the Queens Road, leading to Vatukarasa Village, an isolated beach known as Silitva appeared to have suddenly extended across the road which was covered in a layer of sand as thick as 31 centimetres.

Strewn across the road and the beach were driftwood, seaweed, coconuts and plastic bottles among other debris.

At 12.50pm, curious motorists who had stopped along the beach to get a glimpse of the waves got a surprise when waves washed onto the beach and seawater inundated the road and areas where they stood.

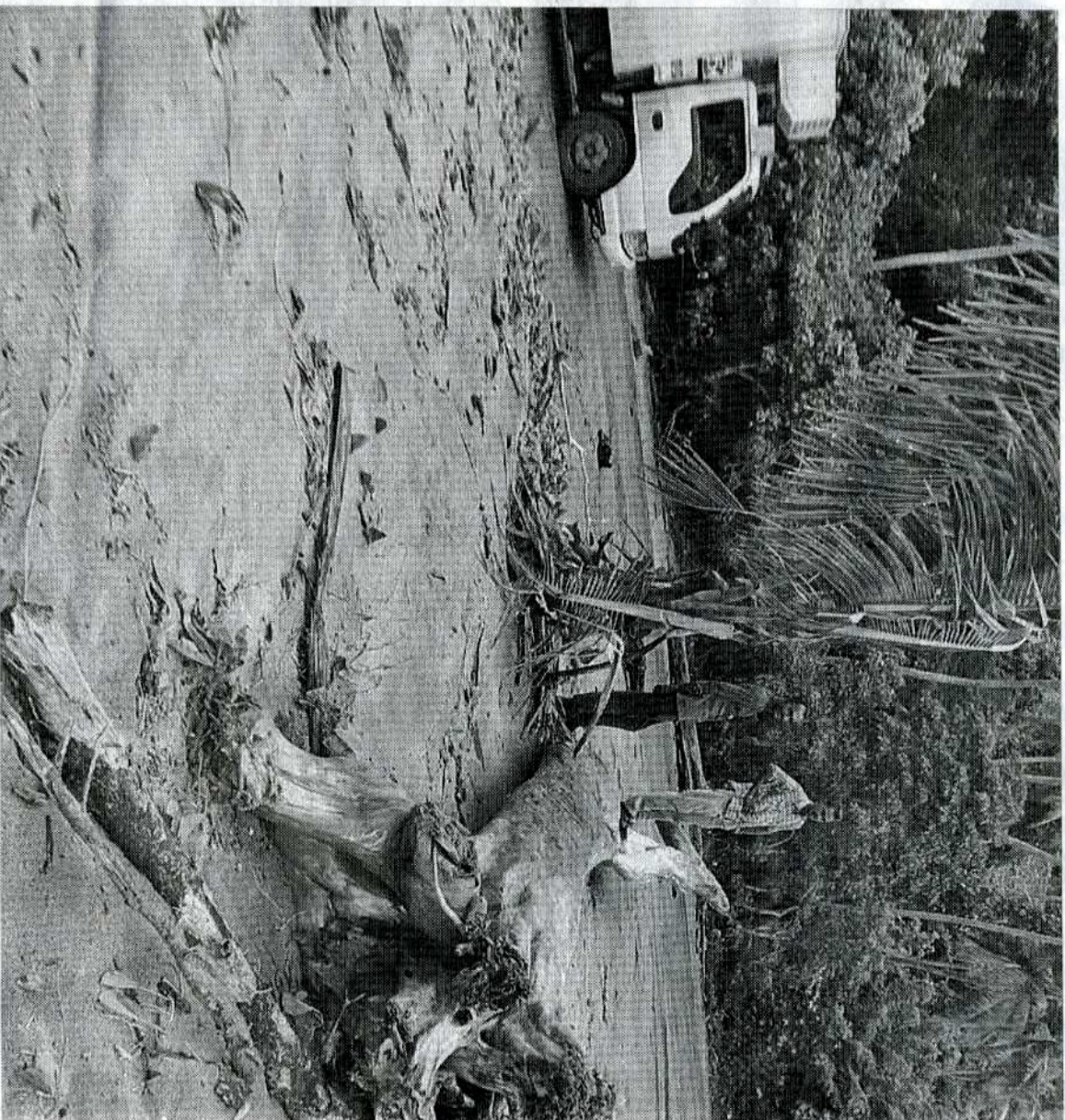
Not far from the village, children were seen playing in the sea. Asked whether they were afraid of the rough seas and huge waves washing on to the shore, they replied "no". Their parents were nowhere in sight.

Vatukarasa, Malevu and Votua villages showed no signs of being affected by yesterday morning's sea swells forecast by the Meteorology Department except for their debris-strewn beaches and inundated compounds.

People in most of the villages stood along the shore yesterday morning to witness the sea swells that were forecast by the Meteorology Department three days ago.

The weather forecaster yesterday said they received a call at 8.25am from a person who reported sea swells.

"The warning of sea swells remains in force. We had issued warnings in our marine bulletins in the last three days," he said.



Waves threw debris from the sea on to the sand-covered Queens Road near Vatukarasa.

Police on standby

By SAMANTHA RINA

POLICE officers remained on call last night as they patrolled areas along the coast.

Force spokesman Inspector Atunaisa Sokomuri said no curfew had had been imposed as they were advising people to take precautions and be careful.

"We want people to listen to the weather reports on radio so they are updated about the situation.

"Officers are patrolling coastal areas through coordination with our Western Division Command Centre and community police posts along the Coral Coast," he said.

Insp Sokomuri said he was unaware if the National Disaster Management centres had been activated but they were liaising with the Weather Office for updates.

The Fiji Meteorology Services said many people mistook the swells for tidal waves.



Yadua villager Vaciseva Navaci sits on debris washed up to her house to monitor the sea. Picture: ATU RASEA

CORRECTIONS compiled by LAITIA TURAGABECI

THE Fiji Times, on May 17, published an article on Page 2 which said the Director of Public Prosecutions, Avesha Jina, stated in court Ratu Tevita Uluilakeba Mara had failed to surrender his passport as required by the court. In fact, what she stated was that she had received confirmation from the Magistrates Court criminal registry that Ratu Tevita had surrendered his passport. The error is regretted.

An article on Page 10 in **The Fiji Times** edition on May 19 had Pepte as a district in Rotuma, it should have read Pepei. The error is regretted.

RATU Tevita Uluilakeba Mara faces a charge of sedition, not any charge additional of inciting mutiny as reported yesterday. We apologise for this.

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