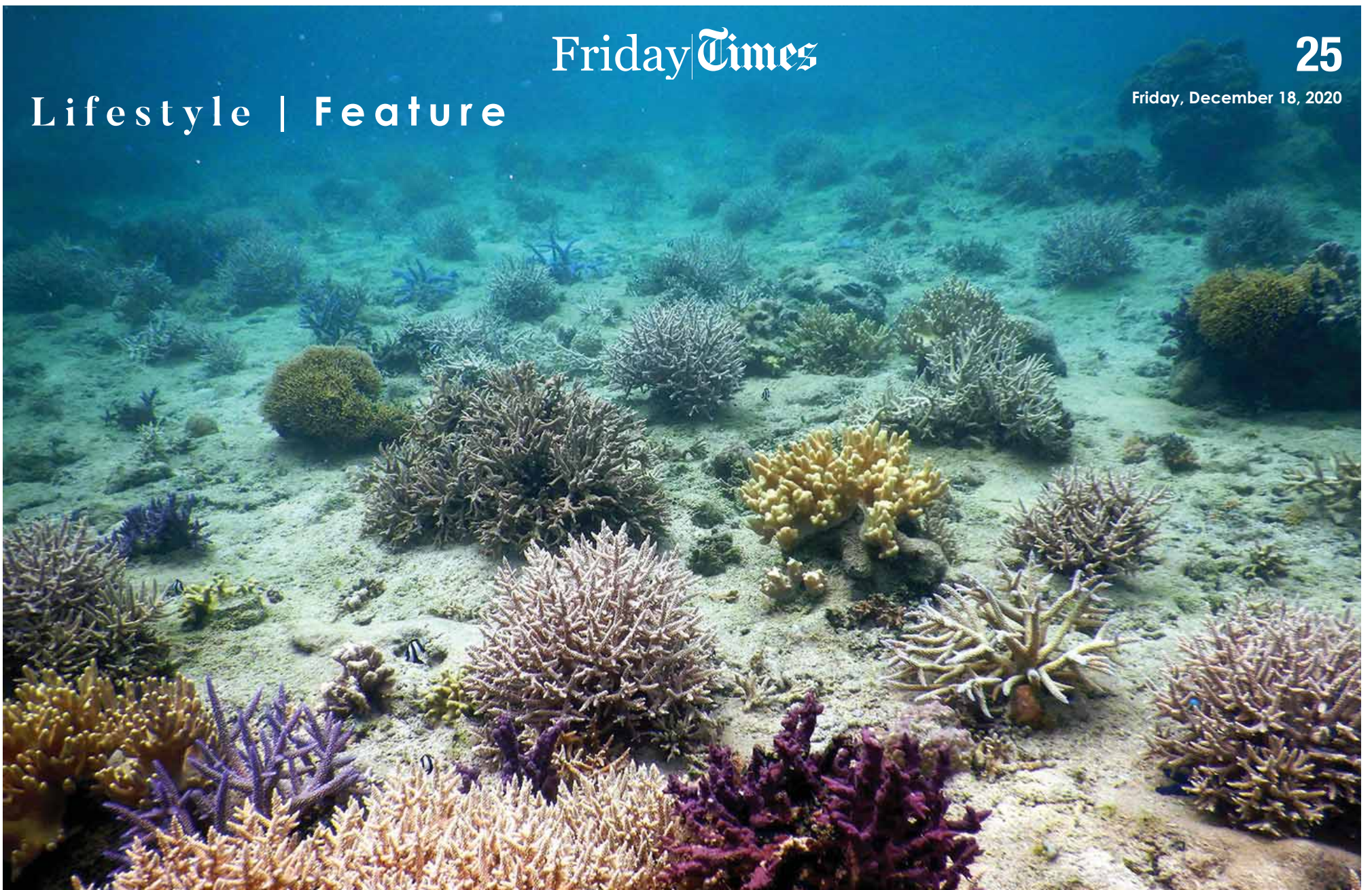


## Lifestyle | Feature



This photo shows fish swimming through the coral on Fiji's Coral Coast.— AFP photos

### 'Life's pretty tough'

The Manila-based Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities said the pandemic had exacerbated climate challenges facing Pacific island nations that were not of their making. "Tourism has all but evaporated, remittances have shrunk to a trickle, and disruptions to international trade have come as a hammer blow," executive director Red Constantino told AFP. "And no help

seems to be forthcoming from their wealthy neighbors," he added, pointing the finger at Australia and New Zealand which have both been accused of lagging on climate. Pal opened his dive shop three years ago, fulfilling an ambition created when he first took scuba lessons as a teenager.

But with no overseas visitors in Fiji, the beachside hut he operates from a high-end resort is shuttered and all staff have been

laid off as Pal scrapes by on his savings. "I've been at home for the past eight months, there's been no income coming in," said Pal, a father of four boys. "Life's been pretty tough. To make a living I switched from diving into farming and, since I love the ocean, fishing. "Once, twice, three times a week we go out (fishing), do a bit of vegetable farming to keep my family running."



A diver swimming through the coral on Fiji's Coral Coast.



Fish swimming through the coral on Fiji's Coral Coast.



An aerial view of the Fiji's Coral Coast