

shorttakes

XELDEM RESIDENT HELD FOR KIDNAPPING MINOR GIRL

MARGAO: Maina-Curtorim Police arrested one Joshua Bandewadar from Xeldem, for allegedly kidnapping a minor girl. Police have registered the offence against him under Section 137 (2), of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Section 8 of Goa Children's Act. Police said the complainant stated that at around 3.15 pm, at Maruti Mandir, Davorlim, the accused, induced the victim to run away from the house and further took her to Kolhapur, from the lawful guardianship of the complainant, with ulterior motive thereby committing the offence of kidnapping. During the investigation, the accused person was arrested and the minor girl was rescued. PSI, Ashutosh Naik of Maina Curtorim Police station is investigating the case.

DUO BOOKED FOR THREATENING TO KILL NAVELIM MAN

MARGAO: Imam Kasim Khanvale from Navelim complained to the Mardol Police two unknown persons, claiming to be the supervisors of a company with their common intention, wrongfully restrained and threatened to kill him at Keri, Marcel. The complainant stated that the accused tried to assault him with a knife, but he managed to free himself from their clutches. An offence under Sections 126, 351(3), 131, r/w 3(5) BNS 2023 has been registered. Mardol PSI Zaki Hussain is conducting further investigation.

STATEMENTS RECORDED IN ASSOLDA HOUSE TRESPASS CASE

MARGAO: The Quepem Police recorded the statements of a minor boy and two others in the case registered against Sadanand Raut Dessai of Assolda, Quepem for criminally trespassing into a house and for making obscene gestures at a woman. The victim woman lodged the complaint with Quepem Police that Sadanand Raut Dessai, used criminal force by entering her house and pulling her hair and making obscene gestures and further abused her using filthy language. Quepem Police registered an offence under Sections 74, 75, 79, 352, 351(2), 329(4) of BNS against the accused. Police said at present they have recorded the statements and Quepem LPSI, Joycee Carvalho is investigating the case.

Man held for thrashing boy and his grandfather

Team Herald

MAPUSA: A man from Aldona was arrested by Mapusa Police on Tuesday after being accused of assaulting a boy and his grandfather. The alleged attack reportedly stemmed from a dispute between the boy and the man's son over a fight at school.

According to the police, the incident unfolded on March 10 when a woman from Bastora filed a complaint stating that Ajit

Jalmi, a resident of Sai Nagar, Aldona, had assaulted her father and minor son, slapping them and beating them with a wooden stick.

The police explained that, due to the ongoing SSC examinations, the school was holding evening classes. On Monday evening, a disagreement occurred between the two classmates, which escalated into a physical altercation. After school hours, the father of one of the boys and the complainant's father engaged in a

heated argument over the incident. In a fit of rage, Jalmi is accused of assaulting both the complainant's father and the minor boy.

Following the attack, the victim's mother filed a police complaint later that night.

The Mapusa Police have registered an FIR under Section 118(1) of the BNS Act, 2023, as well as under Section 8 of the Goa Children's Act. An investigation is ongoing, according to the police.

Clear pending dues or face eviction: Ponda civic body to market vendors

Team Herald

PONDA: In a stern message, The Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) has put up a notice in the market warning the vendors of eviction if they fail to clear their pending taxes by March 31.

The PMC officials have also brought it to the notice of Municipality that some vendors sitting in shed area(s) of the municipal market are not paying regular sopo fees to the Council.

It may be recalled that the PMC held two meetings one in February and the other earlier this month, wherein it was unanimously resolved that all the vendors conducting business in shed area(s) shall pay the outstanding dues on or before March 31. Failure to pay the sopo fees shall result in their eviction and or confiscation/auction of their goods thereof. It is pertinent to note that over 90 vendors are yet to clear their dues.

Parts of Salcete left in dark

Team Herald

PANJIM: Power supply to areas of Curtorim, Loutolim, Raia and Macazana was disrupted on Tuesday night following a breakdown in the Ponda electricity zone.

Due to breakdown in the Ponda zone, power supplied from the Raia sub-station to

areas of areas of Curtorim, Loutolim, Raia and Macazana was affected.

Electricity department superintending engineer Rajeev Samant said that power to affected areas was supplied from the Cuncolim feeder. The power supply failed at around 7.30 pm and was restored by 9.30 pm, he said.

power shutdown

• **TALEIGAO:** On March 12, from 9 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Bayview and surrounding areas.

• **TALEIGAO:** On March 13, from 9 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Aivao and surrounding areas.

• **VASCO:** On March 13, from 9 am to 1 pm. Affected areas are Dhobighat and areas near

Har Har Shankar building in Mercedes-Vaddem.

• **MARGAO:** On March 13, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are near Hospicio Hospital, Moti Dongor road, Junta Quarters and surrounding areas.

• **MARGAO:** On March 13, from 9 am to 7 pm. Affected areas are Raitolem, Bhatti, Cumborda and Sanduel.

Marcel fish vendors complain of losing business

Say customers are reluctant to visit the market due to wastewater overflowing from a choked drain



The wet floor in the Marcel fish market

Team Herald

PONDA: Complaining of incurring losses, the vendors in the Marcel fish market located behind KTC bus stand have claimed that customers are reluctant to visit the market due to the stinking conditions on account of wastewater overflowing from a drain.

The vendors and customers stated that they had urged authorities to clear choked drain, due to which water is overflowing in the area which has caused the area to stink.

The vendors said that due to the stench they are losing business as many customers do not visit the market to buy fish as the premises have turned slippery due to overflowing stinking water.

The vendors pointed out some senior citizens sustained injuries after falling off due to slippery con-

ditions prevailing in the market

The vendors said the drains are choked with plastic and garbage waste due to which waste water is overflowing which poses a health hazard.

President of the Fish Vendors Association Umesh Bhonsle said, "I had informed the Panchayat about the situation, following which, the choked gutter was cleared. However, a few days later the drain got choked due to which wastewater started overflowing."

He pointed out that this is the only market which lacks a proper seating facility for vendors, forcing them to sell fish by standing throughout the day.

He urged the authorities to improve the market conditions at the earliest.

He said elderly fish vendors are finding it difficult to carry out business by standing for hours.

FROM PAGE 1

CONG REACTS TO ATISHI, SAYS ALLIANCE TALK PREMATURE

Reacting to Atishi's statement that AAP will go solo in the ensuing Zill Panchayat (ZP) and 2027 Assembly elections in Goa, Thakare said that opposition INDIA Bloc has nothing to do with local body elections. It is meant only for State and national-level elections.

Patkar asserted that the party had been strengthening its grassroots presence in all 40 Assembly constituencies. "Finally, if you see, Congress, along with other like-minded parties such as Goa Forward Party (GFP) and AAP, have been unitedly fighting as the Opposition and raising the issues of the people," he added.

South Goa MP Capt Viriato Fernandes wondered if Atishi's comments were a reaction to the work that Congress was doing on the ground. "We are constituting block Congress committees in every Assembly constituency. However, the question of an alliance is the sole prerogative of the high command," he said.

KHAPRESHWAR TEMPLE TO BE AT TWO LOCATIONS

The dispute began after the removal of the historic banyan tree, which stood in the path of the Porvorim flyover. This led to the demolition of the Khapreshwar temple at the site, triggering political and religious tensions. Political parties had accused the Sawant government of compromising on Hindutva, forcing the Chief Minister to promise the reconstruction of the temple.

However, the reconstruction plan sparked disagreements between two local groups. One group demanded the installation of at least a dome at the original temple site, while the other insisted on the construction of a complete temple and the installation of the idol. Minister Khaunte stated that the Chief Minister's meeting resolved the issue by agreeing to both demands.

The dome will be installed at the original site, while the full temple will be constructed at the new location in Socorro

When asked about the presence of 'two Khapreshwar temples' in the same village, Khaunte clarified that both installations would remain within the traditional boundaries of the temple, ensuring that 'Khapreshwar' remains spiritually intact.

Khaunte also criticized the political interference surrounding the temple dispute, stating that some individuals were attempting to create religious divisions. "God does not belong to any caste or religion. Politicizing the issue of Khapreshwar temple is wrong," Khaunte remarked.

He further assured that if both groups reach a consensus on a single location, the government is open to constructing the temple there as well.

POPE NO LONGER IN IMMINENT DANGER: DOCTORS

In a sign of his improved health, Francis also followed the Vatican's week-long spiritual retreat via video-conference for a third day, and spent some time in prayer in his private chapel, the Vatican said.

"It really makes me happy, because we were sad as it looked like he was not recovering," said Sister Maria Letizia Salazar, a nun who was praying for Francis on Tuesday outside the Gemelli hospital. "But now that I've got this news I am very happy." This week also counts some important anniversaries for Francis: Tuesday is the 67th anniversary of his entry into the Jesuit religious order's novitiate, and Thursday marks the 12th anniversary of his election as pope. Doctors on Monday lifted their "guarded" prognosis for the pope, meaning they determined he was no longer in imminent danger as a result of the original respiratory infection he arrived with on February 14. But their caution remained, given Francis' fragility, the severity of the original infection and overall complexity of his condition. Francis, who had part of one lung removed as a young

man, had what was just a bad case of bronchitis when he was hospitalised last month.

The infection progressed into a complex respiratory tract infection and double pneumonia that has raised questions about the future of his pontificate.

He was still keeping his eye on things, however. The Vatican said he had been informed about the floods in his native Argentina, sent a telegram of condolences and expressed his closeness to the affected population. In addition, a Vatican cardinal close to Francis spoke out Monday to deny some negative media reports that have circulated in his absence.

The Vatican development office released a letter written by Cardinal Michael Czerny to one of Francis' close friends, the Argentine social justice activist Juan Grabois.

Grabois had travelled to Rome to pray for Francis at Gemelli hospital, and some Italian media reported that he had tried to forcibly get into Francis' 10th floor hospital suite, a claim he denied.

In the March 6 letter, Czerny told Grabois that Francis "knew of your presence in Rome and your daily vigils of prayer and spiritual solidarity at Gemelli Polyclinic and I'm sure this gave him a true comfort and support."

"Additionally, I know that you join me in strongly repudiating the unfounded versions that have circulated in some media about alleged inappropriate behaviour in the hospital," Czerny wrote.

The Vatican is always abuzz with rumour but has gone into overdrive with speculation about Francis' health and talk of conclaves, even though Francis is very much alive and in charge.

The fact that Czerny felt it necessary to defend one of Francis' friends suggested that the rumour and maneuvering in Francis' absence had crossed a line.

RS 1,500 CR 'SIPHONED OFF' FROM TRUST THAT RUNS LILAVATI HOSPITAL

He said LKMMT will ensure that every individual involved in these illegal activities is held accountable. "We request the Enforcement Directorate to take swift and decisive action in investigating these financial crimes under the provisions of the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act)," he stated.

After receiving control of the trust after a long legal battle, the present trustees allegedly identified large-scale irregularities in the affairs of the hospital management body by their predecessors and decided to conduct a forensic audit. Chetan Dalal Investigation and Management Services (CDIMS), and ADB and Associates were appointed as forensic auditors.

The auditors found large-scale irregularities, manipulation, siphoning of funds in the affairs of LKMMT by its erstwhile trustees, Mehta claimed. "We undertook audits and the forensic auditors have come up with more than five reports, which clearly states that more than Rs 1,500 crore has been siphoned and misappropriated by this illegal group of trustees. This money has been siphoned off by former trustees most of whom are NRIs and residents of Dubai and Belgium," he alleged.

On the basis of the findings of the forensic audit, the current trustee filed three complaints at the Bandra Police Station alleging forgery and misappropriation of funds. After registration of FIRs, the case was transferred to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) which is carrying out an investigation.

Further, the third FIR at the Bandra Police Station alleged that Rs 1,200 crore was misappropriated by indulging into illegalities with third-party distributors in respect of procurements for the hospital.

In addition to these FIRs, Mehta said another case is under investigation in Gujarat in respect of theft of valuables from Lilavati Hospital's facility in the adjoining state. Speaking about black magic rituals performed in the hospital premises, he said "We have discovered more than seven urns with human hair and skulls."

Meanwhile, the Mumbai police's EOW has initiated a probe into an alleged cheating case of Rs 85 crore regis-

tered against three former trustees of the hospital, officials said on Tuesday.

The case, registered at the Bandra Police Station on December 30 last year on a complaint of the LKMMT, had been transferred to the EOW on orders of the magistrate's court, an official said.

The complaint was filed by one of the current trustees of the hospital after he found that between 2002 and 2023, the accused 'purported trustees' seized control of the trust by allegedly using fake documents, he said.

They unlawfully utilized Rs 85 crore for advocate fees for personal cases under the pretext of purchasing medical equipment and for personal expenses, the official said.

Based on the complaint, a case related to cheating and criminal breach of trust was registered at the Bandra Police Station, he said.

'THE NEXT BLAST COULD SPELL DISASTER FOR TILLARI'

Villagers described how quarry operators drill over 60-meter boreholes filled with ammonium sulfate, intensifying the danger.

"The quarry operations have now encroached upon our village border. They drill boreholes over 60 meters deep, fill them with ammonium sulfate and carry out blasting, which we hear every day. The intensity of these blasts has caused cracks in our houses. So now, what are we supposed to do?" questioned the villagers.

In addition to safety concerns, the community faces heavy dust pollution from over 350 trucks transporting materials daily. Villagers told O Herald that dust from the quarry has coated their crops, reducing yields and damaging soil quality. Livestock have also suffered, with several animals developing respiratory issues linked to airborne particles. Residents fear that chemicals used in the blasting process could contaminate groundwater, threatening their primary water source.

"All we are asking from the government is support and action to resolve this issue. We are fighting to save our village from the heavy blasting at the stone quarry site," said the villagers.

The environmental impact extends to the Tillari Dam, a crucial water source for Goa. Villagers warned that constant blasting near the dam's structure could weaken its foundation, raising the risk of a catastrophic breach. "We are not just fighting for our village," said a protester. "We are trying to prevent a disaster that could affect thousands."

On the fifth day of the protest, some officials visited the site but failed to provide concrete solutions. They requested documents and promised a future meeting with a dedicated committee.

"This has gone on for 18 years," lamented one protester. "We've had enough. We will not accept empty promises — only written assurances that blasting will stop."

Villagers called on Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to visit the site and take immediate action.

"We have no faith that our government will take action — so far, they have done nothing," they said, expressing doubts about the Maharashtra government's willingness to intervene.

As O Herald departed from the protest site under the scorching sun, villagers remained in their tents, enduring the relentless heat. On the journey back to Goa, the intense pollution filling the air served as a stark reminder of the daily struggles the villagers continue to endure.

AIRTEL STRIKES DEAL WITH MUSK'S SPACE FOR STARLINK IN INDIA

Airtel said that its agreement with SpaceX is subject to receiving authorisations to sell Starlink's satellite communications-based services in India, Airtel said in a statement.

The agreement will enable Airtel and SpaceX to further explore how Starlink could complement and ex-

pand Airtel's offerings, and how Airtel's expertise in the Indian market could complement SpaceX's direct offerings to consumers and businesses.

Under the pact, Airtel and SpaceX will explore offering Starlink equipment at Airtel's retail stores, Starlink services via Airtel to business customers, opportunities to connect communities, schools, and health centres, among many others, in even the most distant rural parts of India.

Airtel and SpaceX will also explore how Starlink could help expand and enhance the Airtel network, as well as SpaceX's ability to utilise and benefit from Airtel's ground network infrastructure and other capabilities in India, the statement said.

Sunil Mittal at India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024 had joined his rival Mukesh Ambani-led Jio to make a strong case for satellite companies paying license fee as well as buying airwaves for their telecom services just like legacy companies do, in a bid to create a level-playing field.

He had said that satellite companies who have ambitions to come into urban areas, serving retail customers, just need to pay the telecom licenses like everyone else and they are bound to the same conditions as telecom operators.

"They need to buy the spectrum as the telecom companies do, and need to pay the license as the telecom companies do, and also secure the networks of the telecom companies," he had said.

SpaceX and other satcom players have opposed the auction route for spectrum allocation.

Musk had first termed the demand made by Jio for shunning sector regulator TRAI's consultation paper on satellite broadband being allocated and not auctioned as "unprecedented".

After Mittal's speech in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at IMC, Musk asked if it was "too much trouble" to allow Starlink to provide internet services in India.

In the same month, Airtel asked telecom regulator TRAI to price the satellite spectrum (radio waves frequencies for transmitting signals) in a manner that addresses the concerns on a level playing field between terrestrial operators and satellite operators offering services directly to customers in urban areas and retail customers.

Starlink has been pitching for allocation of spectrum at less than 1 per cent of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) — which is the revenue earned from sale of telecom services.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is yet to issue its recommendation on spectrum price for satcom services.

Telecom operators are charged 8 per cent of their AGR as licence fee every year and spectrum charge separately every year besides paying upfront amount for getting the rights of their usage.

APPOINTMENTS

REQUIRE ACCOUNTANT MALE

Location: **Mushirwado, Colvale, Bardez, Goa**
Shift: 8.30 am to 7.30 pm
Gender: Male
(Must have own vehicle)
Salary: ₹25000/- starting

- Requirements:**
- * Experience in billing & invoicing
 - * Generate invoices & bills as per guidelines
 - * Knowledge of GST (preferred)
 - * Proficiency in Tally Prime
 - * Accurate data entry & record-keeping
 - * Attention to detail & accuracy
 - * TIME 8.30 am to 7.30 pm

To Apply send your resume on *9822146899

WANTED MANAGER

For a society having 150 plus members located at Colva, Salcette - Goa to oversee its daily operations including member facilitation.

- Requirements:**
- + Strong communication and computer skills
 - + Valid Two wheeler driving license must
 - + Graduate with prior experience in housing society management preferred.

Kindly email your resume to: goa.leslie@gmail.com OR

Contact: 8888918432/ 9890720398