

shorttakes

KARNATAKA TEEN DROWNS IN VALVANTI RIVER

PORIEM: A picnic turned tragic when 18-year-old Amoth Pachange, a Karnataka native, drowned in Keri Dam in Sattari, on Thursday. The incident occurred when Pachange was swimming in the Valvanti River as his two friends failed to rescue him. The deceased was residing at Baman Bhat, Mercedes. The locals recovered the body, and police are investigating the case.

CURCHOREM MAN BOOKED FOR SEXUALLY HARASSING WOMAN

MARGAO: Quepem police registered an offence against Bepqueagal, Curchorem resident Prakash Velip for allegedly sexually harassing a woman and threatening her family. The police report stated that the alleged accused entered the complainant's balcony through a window, assaulted her and sexually harassed her. Earlier, the accused had followed the complainant and had tried to enter her house. An offence has been registered under various sections of BNS 2023. LASI Pradnya Naik of Curchorem Police Station is conducting further investigations.

SANGUEM WOMAN FILES PLAINT, ALLEGES ASSAULT

MARGAO: A woman from Kalay-Sanguem filed a complaint alleging that on March 19, Narendra alias Baban Gaonkar from her locality and other unknown persons criminally trespassed into her house. The complainant stated the accused persons assaulted her with fist blows and slaps, causing her injuries, and damaged her mangalsutra due to a drainage water issue. Further investigation is in progress.

CAR DAMAGED AT FATRADE BEACH, ITEMS WORTH RS 2 LAKH STOLEN

MARGAO: A car parked at Fatrade Beach, Varcia, was damaged and items worth Rs 2.06 lakh were stolen from the vehicle's boot. Atharva Damle from Bengaluru, reported to Colva police that between 11 am and 3 pm on March 26, the rear window of his car was damaged and two laptops were stolen. Colva Police registered an offence under BNS against unknown persons. LPSI Varshda Naik Dessai of Colva Police Station is investigating the case.

LATERITE STONES ILLEGALLY EXTRACTED, TRANSPORTED IN XELPEM

MARGAO: Unknown persons illegally extracted and transported laterite stones from Survey No 19 in Xelpem -Sanguem using a power tiller machine and a stone cutting machine without permission from the Directorate of Mines. Based on a complaint from Shyam Sawant, Geologist of Directorate of Mines and Geology, Panjim, an offence under Mines and Minerals Development and regulation Act 1957 r/w Rule 3 and 38 of Goa Daman and Diu Minor Minerals Concession Rule 1985 was registered. Police detained a power tiller machine and a stone truck with loaded laterite stones. PSI Krishnadeep Borkar of Sanguem Police Station is investigating the case.

PEDESTRIAN INJURED IN MOLCORNEM ACCIDENT

MARGAO: Abhay Gaonkar lodged a complaint at the Quepem Police Station stating that on March 20, at Nagvem-Molcornem, an unknown scooter rider drove rashly and negligently towards Chirikanali and knocked down pedestrian Kristive Pereira, who sustained head and other injuries. Gaonkar further stated in his complaint that the unknown rider fled the scene without informing the police or giving medical help. Further investigation is in progress.

ASSOLDA WOMAN ALLEGES ASSAULT, LODGES COMPLAINT

MARGAO: Woman from Assolda filed a complaint with Quepem Police accusing Santan Fernandes, Mario Fernandes, Patcy Fernandes and Alisha Fernandes of abusing her and her husband by criminally trespassing into their house. Natalina Fernandes in her complaint further alleged that Santan and Mario assaulted her husband, who sustained grievous rib injuries. The complainant further accused Santan Fernandes of hitting her with a kadappa piece, causing injury and alleged the accused threatened them over a property dispute. Quepem Police registered the offence, and ASI Sandeep Velip is investigating the case.

BAR STAFF ROOM GUTTED IN ANJUNA

CALANGUTE: Most of the belongings of the staff of Guru Bar at Anjuna were gutted in a fire that broke out in the locked staff room on Wednesday evening. Although Mapusa fire station received a call about the fire incident, they contacted their Pilerne counterparts informing them about the incident since the fire tender at Mapusa was not available till evening. A fire tender from Pilerne rushed to the spot, but could not reach the staff room because of the narrow road. However, they tried to douse the fire. A smaller fire tender from Pilerne then reached the spot and extinguished the blaze. The preliminary estimate of the loss is around Rs 2 lakh, officials said. Clothes, identity cards and other documents of the staffers, residing in the room opposite the hotel, were destroyed. The fire-fighting team led by sub-officer Sunny Phayd included Narayan Shetty, Paresch Gawas, Rudresh Pande, Swapnil Naik Hrishikesh, Vinay Kandelkar and Prahlad Khotkar.

Four arrested for smuggling khair wood in Ponda

Mastermind flees to Maharashtra by bike, habitual offender among four others arrested for illegal tree felling

Team Herald

PONDA: The Forest Department arrested four individuals for smuggling khair wood worth Rs 2 lakh in Ponda.

The accused were caught transporting Khair wood in a rickshaw with two bikes, wooden logs, and tools used for illegal cutting.

Range Forest Officer (RFO) Narayan Prabhudesai said the mastermind Sandesh Naik from Maharashtra, fled on a scooter, and another accused, Babu Vitthal Joshi from Bicholim, was arrested.

Prabhudesai stated that Sandesh had been caught earlier on two occasions for the same crime and Babu had been arrested by the Collem Forest team previously for a similar crime.

Prabhudesai said, "The chain of smugglers is working in an organised and systematic manner operating like an industry. Today several axes, pickaxes, spades, found at site, were seized. These tools were used for digging at the root to cut the



Accused caught transporting wood in a rickshaw with two bikes, wooden logs, and tools used for illegal cutting

“The chain of smugglers is working in an organised and systematic manner operating like an industry. Today several axes, pickaxes, spades, found at site, were seized. These tools were used for digging at the root to cut the entire stem. Felling khair, which is a rare species, can attract upto two years punishment.”

— Narayan Prabhudesai, Range Forest Officer

He said, "Khair tree's extract is used in chewing betel leaf, cloth dying, and tea. It is also used in traditional medicine and fodder for life stock besides

being used in digestive aid and treating skin conditions. Due to low supply, its price has increased, resulting in felling activities by smugglers from Maharashtra with help of conduits in Goa."

Earlier also on various occasions several accused have been arrested from Maharashtra and their accomplice in Goa, for helping them in tracing and cutting khair trees in the State.

Auxiliary Bishop assures support to TAG

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Tiatr Academy of Goa (TAG) has been recognised for its unwavering efforts in encouraging and promoting tiatr-related activities. In a significant gesture of support, Auxiliary Bishop Simião Purificação Fernandes assured his support to the TAG and its initiatives.

On Wednesday, a delegation from TAG, led by Anthony Barbosa, President of TAG, accompanied by member Pedro Vaz and Dr Fr Luis Gomes, met the Auxiliary Bishop at the Bishop's House. During this meeting, they extended a formal invitation to the Bishop for the upcoming International Seminar on Tiatr, scheduled to take place at St Xavier College, Mapusa.

In his interaction with the TAG members, Bishop Fernandes expressed his appreciation for the work undertaken by the Academy. "The presence



TAG delegation extended a formal invitation to the Auxiliary Bishop Simião Purificação Fernandes for the upcoming International Seminar

of Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev Dr Simião Purificação Fernandes will be a blessing for the event. We are hopeful of receiving support from religious leaders across Goa in promoting tiatr-related activities," said Anthony Barbosa, President of TAG.

The International Seminar on Tiatr, themed "Echoes from the Past, Voices

of Today," will take place today, March 28, at the Seminar Hall of St. Xavier's College, Mapusa. The seminar is expected to foster academic discussions, research, and critical appreciation of Tiatr as a cultural and literary form, and it promises to be an enriching platform for exploring the legacy and contemporary relevance of Tiatr.

Boat owners demand expansion of fishing jetty at Kharewado

Allege govt giving step-motherly treatment to traditional community from Vasco

Team Herald

VASCO: The All-Goa Fishing Boat Owners Association on Thursday reiterated their demand to expand the existing fishing jetty at Kharewado, since it was inadequate for about 250 trawlers operating from the area.

Former Minister and All Goa Boat Owners Association (AGBOA) president Jose Philip D'Souza criticised the government for ignoring their long-pending demands particularly of the Vasco-based fishing community. "We are not asking for a long jetty as proposed by the Mormugao Port Authority but only to extend the existing jetty to accommodate their needs. We don't want a jetty that disregards the sentiments of our traditional canoe owners. We just need an extension of the current jetty, which is inadequate for

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—Jose Philip D'Souza, AGBOA president

250-odd fishing boats operating at Kharewado." According to D'Souza, the present jetty can accommodate about 10 boats at a time, leaving the rest struggling to unload their catch. Fish is a perishable item and due to delay in unloading, there is immense wastage.

He further pointed out that due to overcrowding at the jetty, often big boats collide against each other, causing damages that cost lakhs of rupees. The situation is such, that many a times, some boats cannot set sail for fishing and those out at sea cannot return to unload their catch thereby

making business unviable. Many traditional fishermen have sold their boats and left Goa or even the country to seek other jobs, leading to the decline in the traditional fishing industry. "When will the government finally understand our plea and repair the jetty?," he asked.

D'Souza said that the government repaired and renovated fishing jetties at Malim, Betul and Cutbona and also small jetty at Cortalim. But Kharewado jetty was ignored, he said alleging that the government is giving step-motherly treatment to the fishing community from Vasco.

Choked town functioning on a 20-yr-old traffic plan

SHYAM ZAMBAULIKAR

MARGAO: Margao's traffic congestion has reached a breaking point due to haphazard parking, lack of designated spaces, and encroachments on roads and footpaths. Still functioning on a traffic management system introduced 20 years ago, the town's rapid expansion and growing vehicle population have outpaced infrastructure, making mobility increasingly difficult.

Encroachments by handcarts and street vendors remain a major issue. Authorities have attempted crackdowns, but vendors persist, occupying critical road space. Motorists face bottlenecks as customers stop abruptly to buy produce, while pedestrians are forced onto busy roads, risking safety.

Senior citizen Laximan Naik highlighted the growing travel times, frustration, and rising pollution. "Most parking spaces are occupied all day by business owners and employees, leaving little for short-term visitors," he said, leading to double parking and abandoned vehicles worsening congestion.

Advocate Pritam Morais urged a futuristic traffic management approach, integrating AI to optimize flow and safety. He warned that the upcoming court complex at Old Market, expected to be operational in two years, could worsen congestion unless adequate parking is planned. "Authorities must act proactively to prevent gridlock at Margao's entry point," he said.



“Most parking spaces are occupied all day by business owners and employees, leaving little for short-term visitors.”
—Laximan Naik, senior citizen

“Authorities must act proactively to prevent gridlock at Margao's entry point. A futuristic approach integrating AI can optimise traffic flow and enhance road safety.”
—Pritam Morais, advocate

“Designated parking areas have been discussed for years but remain unimplemented.”
The Four Road Junction near the Power House faces persistent gridlock due to poor traffic regulation
—Prasad Naik, advocate

“A structured pay-parking system would improve organisation and prevent accidents.”
—Santosh Naik, resident



“The department has urged the Margao Municipal Council to implement new strategies to mitigate congestion.”
—Sanjay Dalvi, Margao Traffic Cell Police Inspector

“Despite complaints, the Traffic Cell has yet to act against illegal handcarts obstructing pedestrian movement.”
—M A Raiker, resident

urged the Margao Municipal Council (MMC) to implement new strategies. One proposal includes a pay-parking system on busy roads to regulate parking and discourage long-term vehicle occupancy. Resident MA Raiker criticized illegal handcarts and fruit vendors in Malbhat, particularly outside the State Bank of India (SBI) branch, for obstructing pedestrian movement and worsening congestion. "Despite complaints, the Traffic Cell has yet to act," he said. Santosh Naik recalled a past Traffic Cell letter emphasizing the need for streamlined parking. He supports a structured pay-parking system to improve organization and prevent accidents. With Margao's traffic woes worsening, residents and experts are calling for modern traffic solutions, improved public transport, regulated parking, and better infrastructure. Effective implementation of these measures is crucial to easing congestion and enhancing urban mobility.

power shutdown

• **MARGAO:** On March 28, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are opposite Costa Factory road, Oil Factory, near Shivam building, Holy Crosses, opposite Anand building, opposite Costa Factory and surrounding areas.

• **MARGAO:** On March 29, from 9 am to 6 pm. Affected areas are Subhash Timblo Bhavan, Saini Motors, opposite Subhash Timblo Bhavan, Jaghanath Gangaram Pednekar Jewellers, Reliance Adira building, near PNG Jewellers and surrounding areas.