

shorttakes

HOAX BOMB SCARE AT ARPORA HOTEL



CALANGUTE: A prominent five-star hotel in Arpora on Sunday received an email claiming that there was a bomb planted in the hotel premises, setting off panic. The scare turned out to be a hoax. As a precautionary measure, all guests and staff were evacuated from the premises, while the police and bomb disposal squad checked the hotel. The fire brigade was also on standby. However, no explosive devices were found. Further investigations are on to ascertain the source of the email, police said.

2 BOOKED FOR INTRUDING INTO A HOTEL, SHOOTING A VIDEO WITHOUT CONSENT

CALANGUTE: Saligao Police registered an offence against Atmaram Gadekar, a resident of Canca and Imran, a resident of Khorlim, Mapusa, for allegedly intruding into Casa de Catson Hotel in Sangolda and shooting a video without consent. According to the complaint filed by Lajjit, an employee of the hotel, the two suspects entered the premises without permission and started recording the staff, guests, and other areas. Upon being questioned, they allegedly abused and threatened the employees. Saligao Police registered a case and commenced investigations.

RIDER KILLED IN CASARVARNEM ACCIDENT, CAR DRIVER DETAINED

PANJIM: A resident of Chandel died after a fatal accident between a car and a bike at Casarvarnem, Pernem, on Sunday night. The deceased is identified as Suhas Narulkar, who succumbed to his injuries while undergoing treatment at a hospital. According to eyewitnesses, the car driver drove his vehicle in the wrong land and dashed against the rider. The driver has been detained, and further investigation is on.

CALANGUTE POLICE RAID 'ILLEGAL' SPA, FIVE WOMEN RESCUED

CALANGUTE: In a late-night operation on Saturday, the Calangute Police raided an alleged illegal spa and massage parlour located in Khobrawaddo, Baga, Calangute and rescued five women who were allegedly being forced into immoral activities. The operation was initiated following a complaint lodged by a Calangute Panch member. The complaint stated that the establishment was operating without the necessary legal permissions and was engaged in illicit activities. Authorities have confirmed that further investigations into this matter are currently underway.

MURDER: TWO CALANGUTE BEACH SHACK OWNERS GRANTED BAIL

CALANGUTE: On Saturday, the JMFC, Mapusa, granted bail to Calangute beach shack owners Agnelo Silveira and his son Schubert Silveira, who were arrested on December 30 last year for allegedly killing a tourist from Telangana. The beach shack owners, along with two of their staff, had been arrested for allegedly assaulting tourists from Telangana during a brawl at the Marina beach shack. The incident occurred after the staff refused to serve the tourists food as the establishment was closed. An argument arose over the bill and a subsequent request for more food and drinks was denied, leading to a fight.

OUR LADY OF CARMEL FEAST CELEBRATED IN CURTORIM

CURTORIM: The feast of Our Lady of Carmel was celebrated at Our Lady of Carmel Chapel in Anvottem, Curtorim. The main celebrant for the Feast Mass was Fr Blaise Robert Lobo, Director of the Diocesan Youth Centre, Goa. The Chaplain of Our Lady of Carmel Chapel, Fr Milagres Dias, along with Fr Gerald Da Costa, also participated in the celebration.

BSNL CABLES DAMAGED IN VALPOI, COMPLAINT FILED IN POLICE STATION



PORIEM: The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) cables have been damaged during the excavation work for an underground power line in Sattari due to which telecommunication services in Sattari region is severely affected. The disruption has left residents and businesses without internet connectivity.

Irrked by hundreds of calls from the consumers everyday complaining of no network, the BSNL official on Saturday filed a police complaint at the Valpoi police station regarding the damage of their cables by the electricity department.

An official of BSNL, Valpoi said that the services of BSNL have been disrupted due to the mischief of contractor of electricity department who is not discharging his duties in responsible manner as a result the BSNL cables have been damaged at Dhava-Tar, Thane, Zarme, Valpoi town and several other places in Sattari. "The whole administration including Police, emergency services is disrupted" he said. Official from BSNL further said that the contractor of electricity department should replace the damaged cables at his own cost or else strict action would be taken against him since they have already filed a complaint. It is noted that the BSNL Valpoi gets more than 100 calls per day due to no network in the taluka and its officials are helpless since the damage is underground and its difficult to trace.

Sewage leak leaves Pajifond's Junta Quarters stinking

Residents demand immediate intervention by PWD & Margao civic body; want damaged sewage line repaired and affected area sanitised to prevent disease outbreak

Team Herald

MARGAO: For over a week, untreated sewage continuously leaking into the open spaces surrounding residential buildings of Junta Quarters in Pajifond, Margao, has triggered major health concerns among the locals, with the authorities yet to address the issue.

The residents have complained that the leak appears to be due to a damaged underground pipeline. The foul smell and stagnant water have created extremely unhygienic conditions, especially for children who often play in the area.

"This is not just an inconvenience, it's a serious health hazard," said Sobha Desai, a long-time resident



Sewage flowing into the open spaces surrounding residential buildings of Junta Quarters in Pajifond, Margao

of Junta Quarters. "The authorities have been in-

formed multiple times, but there has been no response. We are forced to live with this unbearable stench and the fear of disease," she added

Despite repeated complaints to the civic body, the residents claim there has been no inspection or repair work carried out so far. The open sewage is not only an eyesore but also a breeding ground for mosquitoes, increasing the risk of diseases like dengue and malaria.

"The children here are at risk every day," added Mohan Naik, another resident.

"They play outside in the evenings, but now we're scared to even let them step out. We don't want to wait for someone to fall seriously ill before action is taken," he added. The situation is con-

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-Sobha Desai, resident of Junta Quarters

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cerning given that this is a densely populated residential area. The flow of sewage through open spaces near homes not only causes discomfort but also raises serious environmental and public health concerns.

Residents have demanded immediate intervention from the Public Works Department (PWD) and the

Margao Municipal Council. They have called for urgent repairs to the damaged sewage line and proper sanitisation of the affected area to prevent any outbreak of diseases.

Until then, the people of Junta Quarters remain in distress, waiting for authorities to act before the situation worsens.

HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE

JOSEPH FERNANDES



Auxiliary Bishop Fr Simião Purificação Fernandes carries the statue of Our Lady of Grace during procession on the occasion of feast at Our Lady of Grace Church in Bicholim, on Sunday

Ponda civic body to build shelter for strays at Varkhandem Passes resolution to increase both house and commercial taxes

Team Herald

PONDA: In the wake of the tragic death of a 19-month-old child in a stray dog attack last month, the Ponda Municipal Council (PMC) has decided to construct a dog shed to address the growing stray dog menace and ensure the safety of locals.

The new facility will be built on a 2000 square metre plot of land in Bandora Comunidade, located behind the PMC crematorium at Varkhandem. PMC Chairperson Anand Naik confirmed that the land acquisition was made possible through the

efforts of Agriculture Minister Ravi Naik.

Currently, PMC spends between Rs 40,000 to Rs 45,000 monthly on dog sterilisation programmes. Chairperson Naik also stressed that dog feeding should be confined to designated areas by dog lovers and warned against feeding dogs raw chicken waste, as locals have reported that it leads to aggressive behaviour in the animals.

In another significant move, the PMC passed a resolution to increase both house and commercial taxes after a long period. The

last house tax increase occurred in 1996, when it was raised to Rs 5 per square metre, with a further increase to Rs 7 in 2019.

The new hike will raise the rate to Rs 10 per square metre, a modest Rs 3 increase. Compared to other councils in Goa, where house tax is above Rs 20, the PMC's tax remains relatively low. Commercial tax has also been increased by Rs 5.

Naik urged residents to apply for sewerage connections to prevent water pollution and protect local nullahs.

GRAM SABHA ROUNDUP

Navelim gram sabha postponed, panchayat secretary accused of falsifying meeting minutes

Villagers upset over a construction licence granted to higher secondary school

Team Herald

MARGAO: The Navelim gram sabha was abruptly postponed on Sunday as chaos erupted with the members accusing the panchayat secretary of falsifying meeting minutes.

The secretary refused to set a new date, further infuriating the villagers already upset over a construction licence granted to the Rosary Higher Secondary School.

Tensions prevailed from the outset, as sarpanch Michael Cardozo was remained absent, fearing his Portuguese citizenship status would be raised. Members questioned the

legality of the panchayat resolution approving the school extension, as both Cardozo and Robin Rodrigues, who supported the move, face disqualification over foreign citizenship. The residents argued that the resolution is null and void from the date of their disqualification.

Deputy sarpanch Velinda Dias, who chaired the meeting, was unable to answer questions related to the school project and other key matters. Former sarpanch Paul Pereira was barred by the sabha from intervening.

The gram sabha strongly objected to the omission

CAMORLIM SARPANCH QUILTS AFTER SERVING FOR OVER TWO DECADES

MARGAO: In a significant development, Camorlim Sarpanch Basilio Fernandes stepped down from his post after serving for 22 years.

Fernandes, a respected figure not only in Camorlim but also across South Goa, is known for his innovative ideas and unwavering commitment to public service. Speaking to the media after formally announcing his resignation recently, Fernandes said, "I have been the Sarpanch of this village for the last 22 years and during my tenure, I have tried my best to serve the people and the village. Now, it is time for new leaders to take the chair and continue the work for the betterment of Camorlim." His leadership has been credited with driving several development projects and fostering community participation in local governance. Villagers recalled his efforts in improving infrastructure, addressing environmental concerns, and promoting transparency in panchayat affairs.

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of critical issues from the minutes, including the discussion on panchayat assets raised by Antonio Alvares and allegations of misuse of RDA funds to construct illegal floors at Rosary College.

"If the minutes do not reflect the video recording, we will take action," warned

Simon Fernandes, demanding accountability.

George Barretto criticised the panchayat for approving the construction licence without prior public discussion, despite previous assurances. Cruz Rodrigues slammed the body for ignoring Navelim's exhausted carrying capacity and worsening traffic chaos.

Following a complaint by the Navelim Consumer and Civic Forum, the TCP Department sent a letter to the panchayat regarding traffic congestion, but villagers dismissed it as a formality under political pressure.

Two months after hotmixing, Assagao's main road caves in After it was dug up for laying water pipeline and underground cables, the road was finally hotmixed just two months ago, following protests

Team Herald

ASSAGAO: After a challenging year marked by dust and mud due to the digging of the Assagao main road for water pipeline and underground cable laying (11 KV and 33 kV), the road was finally hotmixed just two months ago, following numerous protests. However, despite not even experiencing a single monsoon season, this newly hotmixed road has already begun to cave in.

This situation appears to be a clear case of substandard work and a lack of coordina-



The main road at Assagao which gave way

tion within the Public Works Department (PWD). The apparent miscommunication between the roads and water supply divisions has left residents questioning the purpose and cost-effectiveness of the hotmixing. Barely two months after completion, the road is being dug up at various locations by the water supply division. It appears that at sites with pipe valves, either chambers were not properly provisioned or asphalt was not executed correctly, leading to the road being dug up or collapsing. Locals are concerned about the road's condition after the monsoon season, given

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-Hanumant Naik, Assagao Sarpanch

its current state.

Owen Braganza, a local activist, had previously pointed out that the hotmixing work was not being carried out adequately and predicted that the road would not withstand the monsoon.

Sarpanch Hanumant Naik said, "When so many crores

are being spent on hotmixing, it is the bounden duty of the PWD roads section to ensure that before hotmixing all necessary allied works are done. This only reflects how rampant mismanagement is going on between the two sections of the roads and water within the same PWD."