

Roof leakage compels Shiroda primary school students to sit on wet floor

Raising health concerns, parents hesitate to send their children to school; two parents withdraw their kids; roof of another school in Khandepar covered with sheet for past two years

Team Herald

PONDA: The reopening of schools was an unpleasant experience for some students of Government Primary School in Tarivada, Shiroda, who were forced to sit on the wet floor due to the roof leakage.

Parents, who arrived to drop off their children, complained of severe leakages at the primary school as they claimed that essential roof repair work on the building, which also houses the Anganwadi, has been left incomplete with broken tiles, leading to significant leakages in the classrooms despite the arrival of monsoon.

Consequently, parents are hesitant to send their children to school, and it is learnt that at least two parents have already with-



(Left) A tarpaulin placed on the floor in the Anganwadi classroom of GPS in Tarivada, Shiroda. (Right) The roof of the GPS, Keryawada-Khandepar covered with plastic sheet



drawn their children from the primary school, which has an enrollment of only 12 students.

In the Anganwadi classroom, while a tarpaulin has been placed on the floor, parents report that the floor remains damp, raising concerns about their children's health and the

potential for illnesses such as cold and fever. Ten students are enrolled in the Balwadi.

It is pertinent to note that a contract for the repair work was awarded some time ago, but the contractor apparently failed to complete the work.

Given the impact on the

students' well-being and education, parents have appealed to the government to address this issue and ensure that the required repairs are carried out immediately.

Meanwhile, parents have highlighted that the dilapidated condition of the Government Primary School

in Keryawada-Khandepar, stating that the roof has been covered with a plastic sheet since the past two years.

Approximately 28 children are currently studying at the school. In addition to the roof's condition, parents have noticed cracks in the walls and a dilapidated

swing in the school garden, which poses a risk to the students.

The parents stated that they have already informed the Education Department officials about these issues. They are worried about the safety of their children, especially considering the dilapidated state of the roof.

Margao Health Centre steps up war against dengue & malaria

Team Herald

MARGAO: Margao Urban Health Centre (UHC) has intensified its efforts to prevent vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.

Medical Officer Dr Baptista Mascarenhas said staff members are conducting random slide tests on passengers arriving by train and checking hotel guests with fever symptoms.

He noted that sudden rain followed by dry spells creates ideal mosquito breeding conditions. The centre is holding awareness drives, advocacy workshops for officials, and field visits

to clean potential breeding sites. Dr Mascarenhas emphasised that community hygiene and participation are key to disease prevention.

Vector-borne diseases remain a significant public health concern in Goa, especially during monsoon. Health authorities across the State have been instructed to stay alert and intensify surveillance in vulnerable areas.

With increasing urbanisation and stagnant water sources contributing to mosquito proliferation, local bodies are being urged to step up sanitation efforts and ensure timely waste disposal.

Bastora assault: Moira trio sent to police custody

Two four-wheelers used in commission of the crime attached; cops on the hunt to nab 17 others

Team Herald

PANJIM: The three accused arrested by the Mapusa Police for the alleged merciless assault on Nachinola couple have been remanded in five days of police custody by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Mapusa.

Acknowledging the seriousness of the crime, the court remanded the trio comprising Ranganath Shetye, Vinod Shetkar, and Kausal Shetye, all residents of Moira.

In a latest development, the police also attached two four-wheelers that were used by the accused in crime. The vehicles are report-

“The police are actively pursuing those who are currently at large and are confident of nabbing all those involved in the case. We have formed special teams who have fanned around the area in order to trace the whereabouts of the accused

— Wilson D'Souza, Mapusa DySP

edly owned by Tulsidas and Kartik.

Meanwhile, it is alleged that 17 others, who were part of the gang that assaulted Vivek Shirodkar and his pregnant wife Shruti, are still at large.

Advocate Vinayak Porob, a criminal lawyer from Mapusa, representing Shruti, filed an application supporting the remand and assisting the case of the pros-

ecution. The application detailed the brutal assault on the couple by a group of 15-20 people wielding dangerous weapons, with the intent to kill them and their unborn child, and also outrage the victim's modesty.

Porob argued that the severity of the crime, particularly the brutal assault on the three-month pregnant victim, necessitates the

custody of the accused to unearth the details of the remaining absconding accused. The application emphasised that police custody is crucial for identifying and apprehending the other accused and recovering the dangerous weapons used, without which the investigation's purpose would be undermined.

Meanwhile, Mapusa DySP Wilson D'Souza affirmed that the police are actively pursuing those who are currently at large and expressed confidence in nabbing all those involved in the case. “We have formed special teams who have fanned around the area in

order to trace the whereabouts of the accused,” stated D'Souza.

It may be recalled that Vivek and his Shruti, sustained severe injuries in a brutal attack on Monday evening by around 25 unidentified persons. The couple from Nachinola were attacked following a reported minor dispute earlier that day concerning a parking issue, which escalated later when they opened their food van for business. The same group, armed with iron rods, wooden sticks, choppers, and knives, attacked them, forcibly removed Vivek from the van, and assaulted both him and his pregnant wife.

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