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Boy stabbed to death by neighbour

• Staff Reporter



Lini, mother of Risty John (inset), inconsolable on seeing her son's body.

A 10-year-old boy was stabbed to death by his neighbour here on Tuesday morning.

According to the police, the incident happened at 7 a.m. when Ritsy John, a fourth standard student of St. Albert's School in the city and a resident of Parapally House, Pullepady, was returning home after buying eggs through a narrow road.

Suddenly, the accused, identified as Aji Devassia, walked in from the opposite side and attacked the boy without any provocation. On an alert by a witness, local people rushed to the spot and caught the accused. He was later handed over to the police.

"At first, it seemed that Aji was embracing the boy but as the boy fell down, I could realise that it was a brutal attack. Even as I raised an alarm, he continued to stab the boy in his neck and face," said Annie Jose, the witness.

The boy's parents, Lini and John, who rushed to the spot, found their child lying in a pool of blood and it was his mother who extricated the knife from the victim's neck. The boy was soon rushed to a hospital nearby but was declared brought dead. An autopsy report later said the boy suffered a total of 27 injuries, including 17 stab wounds in his neck and face.

The police, meanwhile, maintained that Aji had been mentally unstable and added that the exact reason for the attack was yet to be ascertained. "On a complaint from Aji's mother, about his becoming violent towards her, we had earlier admitted him to a mental hospital at Thrissur. He was released only a week back," said M.P. Dinesh, Commissioner of Police, Kochi city.

However, local people claimed that the accused was addicted to liquor and drugs. "He used to watch the children playing games and on many occasions we found him lying unconscious in an inebriated state.

There were also reports that he threw stones at passersby on Monday evening," claimed one of his neighbours.

The accused has been booked under IPC Section 302 and remanded in the Ernakulam sub-jail.

Ritsy was slated to attend his first Holy Communion along with his brother Abel this Saturday.

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