



Risty killer was not mentally ill, vengeance drove him

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by **Our Correspondent**

Kochi: The murder of a 10-year-old boy at Kammattipadam in Kochi was not the result of an unsound mind. Aji Devasia (40) stabbed Risty John because he wanted to get even with the boy's father, the chargesheet said. Risty was killed when he was going to a shop near his house in the Cherukarayathu Lane at Pullepady in the morning of April 26. Devasia stabbed the child 28 times to ensure his death. Devasia had carefully chosen the time of the murder when not many people were in the street, the police says in the charge sheet submitted before the Ernakulam Judicial First Class Magistrate. The choice of the deadly knife also suggests that the accused had planned the murder. Devasia was not mentally ill as previously thought. He had been admitted to the Thrissur Government Mental Hospital for drug abuse. He left the hospital on December 4, the doctor has said. Devasia had a problem with Risty's father John, his neighbour. The auto driver would intervene when Devasia tormented his own family members. John had also taken the initiative to send Devasia to the rehab. John had lent money to Devasia whenever he asked but stopped the practice and kept him at a distance when Devasia asked money for drugs. Devasia did not dare attack John. So he targeted his neighbour's younger son. Risty was about to receive his Holy Communion when he was killed. Even Devasia was invited for the function.