

ROBBERY ATTEMPT

Ex-Regina doctor killed in attack

By **ANGELA HALL**
Leader-Post

Friends of a former Regina doctor murdered in India last weekend say they will remember her as a caring person who was quick to lend a hand.

Dr. Asha Goel, 62, the chief of obstetrics at an Orangeville, Ont., hospital, died in Mumbai, India, while visiting her brother in the affluent suburb of Malabar Hill.

Police in India have said robbery appears to be the motive behind the slaying. Goel was discovered on the floor of the bedroom she used at the home of her ailing brother, who had recently started kidney dialysis, and sister-in-law, who had suffered a stroke. A preliminary autopsy report said she had been beaten to death.

Prior to moving to Ontario in 1987, Goel spent about 17 years at the Pasqua Hospital in Regina.

"We never expected anything like that could happen to our own friend,"



Dr. Asha Goel

said Ved Arora, a retired Regina librarian.

"We're really shocked, the whole community. In Regina, we have a small East Indian community ... and we know each other quite well, so we are like a family."

Goel and her husband, surgeon Dr. Sadan Goel, have two daughters and a son, as well as one grandchild.

Friends who kept in touch with the family through the years described the well-liked doctor as charitable and deeply religious.

"That was her strong point. Wherever somebody is suffering, she wanted to give food, she wanted to give money," Arora said, adding that Goel was a life member of a local Hindu temple.

He said he last talked to Goel about a month ago to tell her he was having shoulder surgery and wouldn't be able to make it to her youngest daughter's wedding.

"We are repenting now, wishing we had still gone."

Family friend Pooran Gupta said Goel continued to visit Saskatchewan and maintain contact with her friends.

"She had left some very good memories and very good relationships here and in Orangeville," said Gupta.

"The whole community is devastated ... especially the way she was murdered."

— with files from Canadian Press