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NRI's killer caught, mastermind at large

By: Bhupen Patel

September 10, 2003

Even the confession of the killer isn't enough for Malabar Hill police to initiate action against the mastermind of the murder of a 62-year-old NRI in August.

On August 24, Dr Asha Goel was found in a pool of blood by a maidservant in her Sudhakar Co-operative Housing Society flat at Dhabolkar Marg, Malabar Hill. After investigations, police arrested Pradeep Parab, a friend of one of the maidservants.

On his arrest, Parab confessed to the murder. He also disclosed that a relative of Goel had offered a reward for the murder. He said he had made a phone call from his mobile phone to Goel's relative a few minutes after the killing.

According to Parab, the motive behind the murder was Little Lodge guesthouse in Bhuleshwar, which Goel owned and which the relative wanted.

An officer, who was present during Parab's interrogation, said, "I was there while the investigators were recording his (Parab) statement. Parab mentioned the name of the relative but it was not taken on record by the investigators." Police have already procured Parab's mobile phone details and confirmed the relative's involvement. However, senior police inspector M U Patil of Malabar Hill police station denied Parab had been arrested. "We have not arrested anyone so far. We are constantly interrogating Parab. Why only Parab? We have questioned all the maidservants and the watchman of Sudhakar Cooperative Housing Society," he said.

However, police inspector Suresh Makdum confirmed Parab's arrest and added that "Parab has been remanded to police custody till September 12."

Case file

Goel had come to Mumbai from Toronto in the second week of August to visit her brother Suresh Chandra Agarwal.

Agarwal had undergone kidney dialysis and his wife had suffered a stroke.

Goel was living with the couple at Sudhakar Co-operative Housing Society.

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Mumbaikar

On the night of August 24, Goel was found dead in her bedroom with a severe head injury and two stab wounds on her neck. When the Agarwal couple was informed about the murder by a maidservant, they called the Malabar Hill police.

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Initially, Agarwal told the police that robbery was the motive behind the murder as it was discovered that Goel's gold ring and Rs 1.20 lakh was missing from her house.

However, since the culprit seemed to have gained entry into the house without a struggle, police suspected the involvement of someone Goel knew.

During the course of investigations, the maidservants and building watchman told police that Parab had visited Goel the evening of the murder and he was taken into custody for investigations.

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