

## 2 more youths go missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more youths have recently gone missing from the capital while the four who disappeared from Banani on Thursday are still traceless.

One of the two, Sayeed Anwar Khan, 18, went missing on Monday night and his father Anwar Sadat Khan, a businessman, filed a general diary (GD) with Banani Police Station yesterday morning.

Sayeed's family mounted a search everywhere but could not find him, said a police official, citing the GD.

Recently, Sayeed completed his O level and was preparing for further studies.

One of his relatives, wishing not to be named, said they had last contacted him around 10:00pm on Monday over phone when he was returning to his home in Banani after his karate classes at Kalabagan.

The other youth, Imran Farhad, 19, a first-year medical student, went missing on November 29. His mother Sabina Yasmin lodged a GD with Cantonment Police Station on December 2.

Imran, son of Asaduzzaman, a Bangladeshi expatriate in Saudi Arabia, left home for his medical college around 8:00am but never returned, said Kabir Hossain, an inspector

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of the police station, quoting the GD.

Imran's phone has been switched off since then.

His family looked for him everywhere but could not find him. He is five feet four and has fair complexion. He wears glasses and has beard, according to the GD.

Contacted, Sabina said her son is a student of Care Medical College in the city.

One of Imran's aunts said, "We have contacted the law enforcement and security agencies but are yet to get any information on him."

She said they came to know that Imran had last texted a girl from his cell phone, saying he was leaving. The girl, however, said she has no idea about his whereabouts, added the woman, wishing not to be named.

Meanwhile, the disappearance of the four youths from Banani on Thursday night still remains a mystery.

Since the Holey Artisan attackers and other militants had become traceless in a similar fashion, the sudden disappearance of the youths might alarm many.

Talking to this correspondent last night, Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We are yet to find the whereabouts of the four youths."

"We are continuing our drives to trace them," he said, adding that the incident was being investigated by the local police along with the Detective Branch of police.

Of the four, Zain Hossain Khan Pavel and Shafayat Hossain are students of North South University and childhood friends, while Mahedi Hasan is a student of BM College in Barisal, and Mohammad Sujon is an employee at an advertising firm in the capital, according to their families and friends.

Families of the youths, who are upset at their going missing, said they did not think any of them could be involved in militancy.

However, of the four, Shafayat used to make Facebook posts on strict religious adherence, according to his friends.

Contacted, Shafayat's father Ali Hossain, a businessman, said, "Minutes before my son went missing, my wife had talked to him. He promised to come back and help his younger sister with her studies in 10 minutes. But his phone was turned off and we have no idea what happened to him."

He also said Shafayat used to assist him in his business and he stayed with him most of the time. "My son has nothing to do with militancy," he said.

Families of the three others said they have been to the law enforcement agencies in the last few days but to no avail.

Police were yet to find any clue about the sudden disappearance of the youths or whether they have any links with militancy, said Sohel Rana, sub-inspector at Banani Police Station.

Sohel, who is investigating the matter, said they have collected security camera footage of a restaurant where the four had snacks together before going missing.

"We are investigating," he added.