

# Gamblers beat up cops, snatch revolver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Gamblers beat up a four-member police team led by a sub-inspector (SI) and snatched a loaded revolver from the SI as the cops allegedly tried to extort from them Tk 10,000.

The incident occurred at Amtali under Lohagara Police Station in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said SI Dilip Sarker along with three constables went to the gamblers' den to extort money. The gamblers offered Tk 5,000 but the police team refused to take less than Tk 10,000. This led to an alter-

cation between the two sides and at one stage the gang beat up the policemen and took away the revolver with five bullets.

The police team then fled the spot and returned to the police station.

A big police team yesterday raided Amtali area to recover the revolver and nab the gamblers but failed. But they picked up six innocent people including an elderly woman, locals said.

A case was filed with Lohagara police.

## SHRINE BLAST

## 3 more arrested, cop withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police on Wednesday night arrested three people in connection with the shrine blast of May 21 while yet another police official from Sylhet was withdrawn in a reshuffle that saw three police officials released from duty in last one week.

The arrested were identified as Tarek Mahmud, son of Late Nur Miah, Salam Ali, son of Abdur Rashid and Shamsuddin Ahmed Saju, son of Main Uddin, all hailing from city's Munshipara area, an official said. Of the three, one was arrested from Dhaka.

Police yesterday produced the arrestees before a magistrate's court that placed each on a nine-day remand.

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station SA Newazi, who was withdrawn Wednesday night handed over to the OC of South Surma Police Station Shafiqur Rahman Mukul the same night.

Newazi was asked to join Saroda Police Academy.

The grenade blast that killed three people and wounded 70 including the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury on May 21 at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) prompted the law enforcing authorities to opt for reshuffling.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Sylhet Shahadat Hossain was suspended and withdrawn on May 24 for his neglect in arranging security for the Bangladeshi born British envoy. Shahadat handed over charge to the Additional SP Rezaul Karim on May 25. Besides,

Earlier an intelligence agency had reported fatal flaws in the security measures taken by the local police during the British high commissioner's May 21 visit to Sylhet. It also suggested the police officers in the district headquarters who did not attend duty on that day be withdrawn immediately, said an official.

The speakers said three years have elapsed after the bomb attack at Baniarchar church in Gopalganj. Ten people were killed and 30 others injured in the bomb blast on June 3, 2001.

The government has miserably failed to nab the real culprits

through proper investigation, they said, adding that the government's failure has encouraged other attackers.

The speakers also condemned the bomb attack at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet and demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals.

Presided over by Promod Mankin MP, the rally was addressed by Prof. Kabir Chowdhury, General Secretary of Hindu Boddha Christian Oikya Parishad. Dr. Nim Chandra Bhowmik, General Secretary of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus and General Secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum Sanjib Drong.

The religious fanatics have spread their activities across the country with the patronisation of the ruling alliance, tarnishing the image of the country abroad, he added.

"We do not want to see Bangladesh as a 'moderate Muslim country' but as a secular country," he said.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Dr. AAMIS Arefin Siddique, journalist Kamal Lohani and Justice KM Sobhan also spoke.

High officials including the inspector general of police who visited Sylhet after the blast also detected a number of defects in the security arrangements for the British envoy, sources added.

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