

# Man charged with burning Dh250,000

Prosecutors accused the 35-year-old Indian accountant of arson and theft and causing intentional damage and loss to the taxi company.

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: An accountant has been charged with deliberately setting fire to Dh250,000 in cash and stealing a similar amount from the taxi company where he worked.

Prosecutors accused the 35-year-old Indian accountant of arson and theft and causing intentional damage and loss to the taxi company.

Jail wardens failed to bring 35-year-old S.T. from his detention in Al Rashidiya Police Station and present him before the Dubai Court of First Instance on Tuesday.

Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout adjourned the hearing until December 27 so the suspect can be produced in court to hear his charges.

According to the arraignment sheet, prosecutors said S.T. deliberately set fire to the money bag which contained Dh500,000. He burnt Dh250,000 and stole the rest. He is additionally charged with causing intentional damage and financial loss to the company. The company's Indian manager testified that one of the employees informed him over the phone that the accounting office was on fire.

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"I rushed to the company's premises to check what happened. We had left nearly half a million dirhams in a money bag which we kept inside a wooden cupboard. The money was our cabbie drivers' daily revenues. I discovered that half of the money got stolen and the remaining half was burnt," the manager claimed during prosecution questioning.

The Dubai Police criminal laboratory report confirmed that the fire was started deliberately. The alleged arsonist had set fire to a piece of paper and put it inside the money bag, said the report.

Preliminary interrogations led to the arrest of S.T. When questioned by the police and prosecution, S.T. said he was responsible for collecting the daily revenues from the company's drivers.

Prosecution records referred to him [S.T.] admitting that he decided to steal the money. He alleged that he decided to set the money bag afire and steal the money.

According to records, police recovered the money in the possession of S.T.'s brother. The defendant alleged to prosecutors that he hid the stolen money in a bag which he kept with his brother. The trial continues.

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