

Bank employee held for embezzling Dh5m using colleague's identity

Allegedly called clients seeking information on pretext of security update

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Dubai: Police have arrested a suspect accused of embezzling Dh5 million from different accounts in a bank using a colleague's identity.

The bank employee, who worked at a bank in Dubai for two years, allegedly used his colleague's passport copy to purchase a phone SIM card from Sharjah, telling the store owner that he was picking up the SIM card for his friend.

"We received a complaint early November stating that a man complained that an unidentified person hacked into his bank account and transferred a great amount of money to another bank in another country," Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Humaid Al Merri, Director of the Criminal Investigation Division of Dubai Police, said in a statement.

The suspect, M.A, allegedly called customers from the number he purchased in his colleague's name telling them the bank was in the process of updating account information, including changing PIN numbers.

"The customers who he embezzled were not aware enough of embezzlement operations and provided the suspect with all their personal information when he called them," Lt. Col. Al Merri said.

The suspect would tell bank clients that the bank would send them their new PIN number through an SMS message. He would then contact the bank's customer service department and claim that he was a customer who had forgotten his PIN number; he would answer all the personal questions that the customer service staff would ask him after which the bank would send the new account password through an SMS message to the customer.

"The suspect then would call the customer again, claiming that he is the bank employee, and will ask him for his PIN number, which the customers usually provided," Al Merri said.