

Man held for duping used car sellers in Dubai

Accused of handing out dud cheques after luring victims with offers above the advertised price.

- By Sara Janahi, Staff Reporter
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Dubai: Police arrested a suspect accused of conning used car sellers by promising them attractive rates only to leave them with dud cheques.

Dubai police arrested the Egyptian suspect A.L. last week for allegedly duping used car sellers who placed classified ads.

Brigadier Khalil Ebrahim Al Mansouri, Director General of the General Department for Criminal Investigation (CID) at Dubai Police, said police received three complaints during September about an Egyptian man who allegedly made purchases of used cars with cheques that were later returned by banks.

The cheques were issued in the name of a company that hasn't been operative for 10 years. The suspect would contact people who placed classified ads before proposing meetings at undisclosed locations to take the deal ahead.

"He usually bought the car with Dh20,000 to Dh30,000 extra than the advertised price. The car owners' greed and carelessness usually helped in completing the transaction," said Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Humaid Al Merri, Director of the Criminal Investigation Division of Dubai Police.

"The suspect made sure that the transaction was completed after 1 or 2'oclock so the victims won't have enough time to head to the bank to cash the cheque. They had to wait till the next day in order to discover the cheques were invalid," said Lt. Col. Al Merri.

"We placed ads in newspapers claiming to want to sell a used car. After several times the suspect finally contacted us and asked to meet somewhere in order to finish the transaction," he added.