

# Sting operation leads to haul hashish worth Dh400,000

Undercover policeman posed as drug buyer to arrest peddler.

- By Iman Sherif, Staff Reporter
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Abu Dhabi: A sting operation triggered by a tip-off has led to the seizure of 50kg of hashish worth Dh400,000 in Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi Police also arrested the alleged peddler who was trying to sell the narcotic drug.

Brigadier Hamad Ahmad Al Hammadi, director of the criminal investigation division in the Abu Dhabi Police, said: "The close monitoring by Abu Dhabi Police has led to the arrest of two suspects involved in this operation, one of them being a university student."

The seizure was made in mid-December when the anti-drug trafficking department got a tip-off that a 22-year-old named N.M.K. had allegedly smuggled in a large quantity of hashish that he was trying to sell.

## Cosmetic tubes

"An undercover policeman posed as a drug buyer and set a date to seal the deal," said Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Al Darmaki, head of the Abu Dhabi anti-drug trafficking section.

"The police then detained the [alleged] drug dealer with 50kg of hashish packed in 94 plastic tubes carrying the tag of a cosmetic brand alongside a cash amount serving as evidence to convict him," Lieut Col Al Darmaki said. During the interrogation, N.M.K. said his role was limited to selling the drugs in exchange for a commission from the gang leader who was based in his homeland.

## Land entry point

N.M.K. added that after getting into the country through a land entry point, he headed to one of the emirates in a rented car as directed by the gang leader by phone.

The gang leader told him about the hiding place of the bags in an agricultural area on the main road.

N.M.K. also identified another potential buyer named B.H.T., an unemployed 30-year-old Arab, who had agreed to buy 2kg from him.

Lt Col Al Darmaki called on the public to report any suspicious acts as the UAE is keen on remaining drug free and combating drug trafficking that threatens the wellbeing of the society.

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