

# Cashing in on fakes didn't pay

## Couple who tricked banks with fraudulent withdrawals arrested

By **M. KUMAR**  
kumar@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A young couple has been arrested for "tricking" banks. They would deposit fake money into a cash deposit machine (CDM) and withdraw real cash from an auto-teller machine (ATM).

Within a month, they had withdrawn up to RM23,000.

However, bank officials got wise to their game.

Police laid a trap for the couple after bank officials detected the trick at three of their branches in Johor Bahru.

The man and his wife were caught red-handed.

Federal Commercial Crime Investigation Department deputy operations director Asst Comm

Rohaimi Md Isa told a press conference yesterday the couple committed the crime almost daily and, at times, would withdraw up to RM1,000 a day.

In another case, police arrested 21 people — most of them Africans — for running "parcel scams."

The police also seized 13 laptops, 16 mobile phones, several bundles of counterfeit US\$100 bills, and RM42,979 in cash.

The scam involves a syndicate member approaching a prospective victim to say there is a parcel from overseas to be delivered to him or her.

The victim would then receive a call from another syndicate member, impersonating as a customs officer, who would ask for some cash to be sent to a bank before the item can be cleared by the Customs.

The syndicates' victims were largely single women in their 40's, who they befriended via the Internet.

ACP Rohaimi said that this was not a new scam as there were 591

cases — with reported losses of RM16mil — last year.

"This year, there have so far been 253 cases with RM4.7mil in losses," he said.

ACP Rohaimi said a Malaysian woman was among those arrested. They are all in their 20s and 30s.

They were picked following a series of raids in the Klang Valley over the past two weeks.

"This syndicate is responsible for 83 parcel scams, with losses of up to RM500,000."

ACP Rohaimi said some members of these syndicates were also involved in "black money" scams.

» This syndicate is responsible for 83 parcel scams, with losses of up to RM500,000 «

ACP ROHAIMI MD ISA

## Lorry driver jailed two weeks for having fake notes

By **YUEN MEIKENG**

meikeng@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A 40-year-old lorry driver was sentenced to two weeks' jail by the Sessions Court here for possessing counterfeit notes with face value totalling RM25,250.

Ng Kok You had pleaded guilty to the offence on June 22.

Judge S.M. Komathy Suppiah agreed with the prosecution that a deterrent punishment should be imposed as it was a serious offence.

"But in lieu of the strong mitigating factors, I sentence the accused to two weeks in prison," she said.

In mitigation, defence counsel Datuk N. Sivaniathan said Ng had shown immediate repentance of his offence when he showed the police where the counterfeit money was kept after they asked him.

"The accused has five children — three children from his first marriage and a pair of two-year-old twins from his second one. Ng's first wife died of cancer while his second wife left him," he said, adding that his eldest child, who is 14, currently looks after her younger siblings while Ng was away at work.

He said Ng was in a desperate position and succumbed to the crime but he did not profit from the offence since he was only in possession of the fake notes.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Lee Keng Fatt said the accused had a large sum of counterfeit money and that public interest should be looked into.

Ng was charged with having in his possession 247 pieces of counterfeit RM50 notes and 129 pieces of counterfeit RM100 notes with the knowledge that they were fake and had the intention to use them as genuine money.

The offence took place on May 28, 2007 at about 11.50pm at an apartment at Jalan Kepong here. He was arrested on June 5, 2007 and charged on June 11 under Section 489 (c) of the Penal Code that carries a maximum 10 years' jail.