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6 years' jail for credit card fraud

OVER two days in April, a Malaysian bought nearly \$50,600 worth of watches, cameras, cellphones, laptops and jewellery with fake credit cards.

But before Jason Phang Kah Yuen could return to Kuala Lumpur on the third day to collect his cut – 10 per cent of the value of the loot – he was nabbed in a Geylang hotel. The 34-year-old was jailed for six years by a district court yesterday.

He came here on April 22 on the orders of a Malaysian syndicate, together with Ng Chee Hong, 33, who drove the car. The pair, who shopped mainly at Mustafa Centre and Orchard Towers, made nearly 60 purchases before being arrested in their hotel room in Lorong 18 Geylang on April 24.

Police found 13 counterfeit credit cards and a forged Indonesian passport on Phang, while goods amounting to \$38,250 were recovered from the room and the car. The court heard that the duo had made an earlier trip on April 11, also for the purpose of using fake credit cards, but no details of these offences were revealed.

Asking for leniency, Phang told the court he had borrowed money from unlicensed moneylenders to start a food business in Malaysia, but it failed. He had a debt of about RM100,000 (S\$40,800) at the end of last year. One of the loan sharks proposed that he used the fake credit cards. Phang said he agreed because he was desperate.

Ng has yet to be dealt with.