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Credit-card fraudster hit Changi airport shops

He is jailed four years for using fake cards to buy watches in transit area

A FRAUDSTER used forged credit cards carrying his own name to buy expensive watches, but this did not save him from getting nabbed.

Ang Lip Kwing, a Malaysian, was jailed for four years by a district court yesterday.

The 29-year-old man pleaded guilty to possessing five fake cards – forged by a syndicate – and conspiring to cheat stores at Changi Airport in October.

Asking for a stiff sentence, Deputy Public Prosecutor David Chew pointed out that the syndicate was “highly sophisticated, considering that the counterfeit cards were made from scratch and embossed with Ang’s name”.

The purchases, however, were to

be billed to unsuspecting people whose cards had been cloned, he said.

The court heard that Ang was unable to repay a loan to an illegal money-lender in Malaysia.

The loan shark gave him the five fake credit cards and instructed him to buy as many expensive watches as possible from shops in the transit area of Changi Airport.

The commissions he earned would go to offset his debt.

The court was not told how large these commissions were, but the syndicate paid for the air tickets.

In early October, Ang flew to Singapore to scout around for the best shops at which to use the forged credit cards.

He came back on Oct 25, arriving

from Penang at 11am.

He used one of the forged cards to buy a Tag Heuer watch for \$1,830.

However, the forgery was discovered soon after Ang left the boutique, and he was arrested while trying to buy an Omega watch for about \$2,000 from another shop.

He pleaded for a short sentence, saying he regretted his offences.

DPP Chew argued against any leniency as Ang had come to Singapore with only one aim: to break the law.

The prosecutor said: “The plan was to check out of the arrival hall and to



Ang pleaded guilty to possessing five fake credit cards that were forged by a syndicate.

check into the departure hall of the airport on the same day, with the sole purpose of committing the credit card fraud offences in the transit area within a short span of time.”

The plan was to hit and run and this made detection and the arrest of culprits very difficult, he added.

“The syndicate is aware that tourists are prone to splurge on high-value items like branded watches in duty-free shops.

“By masquerading as a tourist in the

transit area, Ang and the syndicate knew that the sales personnel would be less suspicious.”