

# Aircraft cleaner held for trying to steal phone

A cleaner on Tuesday admitted in court that he attempted to steal a cellphone which a passenger had left behind in a Qatar Airways plane.

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Dubai: A cleaner on Tuesday admitted in court that he attempted to steal a cellphone which a passenger had left behind in a Qatar Airways plane.

"Yes I am guilty... I did take the phone and tried to steal it," said the 26-year-old Nepalese cleaner when he appeared before the Dubai Court of First Instance on Tuesday.

Prosecutors said 26-year-old D.B. attempted to steal the cellphone while he was cleaning the plane.

Prosecution records said two policemen foiled D.B.'s theft attempt when they found the cellphone in his possession upon searching him. A policeman from the Comoros Islands testified that they were assigned to search the workers who clean planes.

## Police search

"The cleaners were standing in the search queue... I recognised that the defendant stood perplexed and worried. He was trying to avoid queuing. Then he slid his hand into his pocket, took out a nylon bag and threw it away. I walked up to him and asked him to pick the bag up ... when he opened the bag, I saw a silver-coloured cellphone.

"We detained him immediately and took him for questioning. He admitted that while he was cleaning the Qatar Airways plane, he found the cellphone and kept it," the policeman told prosecutors.

Another policeman [who does not carry personal identification documents] testified that the incident happened around 2.30am and that D.B. admitted his guilt before him.

Presiding Judge Barghout will hand out a verdict on February 1.