

Cook denies murder attempt on accountant

A cook denied the charge of the premeditated murder attempt on a Chili's accountant but confessed to stealing Dh120,346.

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
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Dubai: A cook denied the charge of the premeditated murder attempt on a Chili's accountant but confessed to stealing Dh120,346, the Dubai Court of First Instance heard on Sunday.

Prosecutors accused the 33-year-old Filipino cook with trying to kill the Pakistani accountant — who worked for Chili's — by hammering him on his head repeatedly and stealing the money then running away.

Prosecution records said the suspect, N.J., was arrested minutes before he boarded a plane in Abu Dhabi International Airport following the incident at Mall of the Emirates.

"I am not guilty... I didn't try to kill him. But I am guilty on the grounds of theft," argued the cook when he defended himself before the Court's Presiding Judge Al Saeed Mohammad Barghout. The cook also worked for Chili's.

Preplanned

According to the arraignment sheet, prosecutors said N.J. preplanned the whole scenario and waited for the accountant, M.J., in the mall's parking lot.

The cook allegedly attacked M.J. and battered his head with a hammer and when he collapsed, N.J. allegedly took the money and ran away.

Chief Prosecutor Sami Al Shamsi, Head of Bur Dubai Prosecution, asked the court to implement the toughest punishment — life in prison.

N.J. was charged with premeditated murder attempt associated with theft.

M.J. was rushed to hospital where he was saved.

Presiding Judge Barghout adjourned the case until a lawyer is assigned to defend the suspect.

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