

Man denies forging papers in Dubai to get UK visa

Merchant charged with tampering salary certificate and altering driver's job profile to obtain student visa for son

- By Bassam Za'za', Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 December 17, 2010



Dubai: A merchant was in court on Thursday for forging a Dubai World Ports document promoting a driver's job to a supervisor and increasing his salary to obtain for his son a student visa to Britain.

Prosecutors charged the 38-year-old Pakistani merchant M.A. with forging a salary certificate [from Dh6,000 to Dh12,000] and tampering with the details by upgrading the 45-year-old Pakistani applicant's job description from driver to supervisor and submitting the document to the British Embassy to obtain a student visa for his son.

"It is not true... that's absolutely untrue. I didn't forge any document. I signed an agreement with 45-year-old M.Z. and he is the one who filled in the details. He is the one who submitted the document and the visa application. As per the signed agreement, he is the one who bears the responsibility. I am not responsible for any tampered information," M.A. said in his defence before the Dubai Court of First Instance.

Prosecutors accused M.A. of forging an official salary certificate [from Dubai World Ports] and tampering with the details. He was also charged with stamping the documents and submitting it to the Embassy for visa purposes.

An Emirati employee at Dubai World Ports testified that the forgery was discovered after a British Embassy employee phoned him to check on M.Z.'s details on his visa application.

"When we realised the discrepancy in the salary and job description, I asked her to send me the original document. It turned out to be forged. I summoned M.Z. and he alleged to me when he received the document from our company, the salary was Dh6,000. He didn't mention anything about the rest of the details. He told me that he handed the document to a consultation company that handled the visa application. I reported the matter to the police," the employee claimed during prosecution questioning.

M.Z. claimed to prosecutors: "I spotted a newspaper advertisement about the administrative consultations company which advertised that it was offering student visa services to Canada and UK. M.A. attended my call when I phoned the company... he requested Dh30,000 charges and Dh11,000 down payment. He also asked me to bring a

salary certificate and hand him a copy of my son's passport and school certification. I handed all the required papers to M.A. plus Dh10,000.

"Ten days later M.A. asked me to go with my son to the British Embassy... he handed the papers to my son who submitted it to the visa counsellor and paid Dh500. Five days later, my company informed me what happened and that the salary certificate was forged."

During Thursday's hearing, M.A.'s wife was spotted approaching Presiding Judge Hamad Abdul Latif Abdul Jawad before the bench of judges and submitting a defence on her husband's behalf.

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