

## The Star : Scam now targeting people in public places

Written by Administrator

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JOHOR BARU: Members of scratch-and-win syndicates, who usually target people in quiet or residential areas, are now daringly coming out in public places and even approaching people in the town centre.

Their activities came to light when members of the Johor Baru MCA Anti-Scratch-and-Win Squad detained three men and a lady outside a shopping mall in Jalan Wong Ah Fook at 4pm on Saturday.

The squad's chief Kua Song Tuck said that these groups were not at all worried that the Government was planning to ban such contests.

"We called the police and all four were taken away to the Central police station to assist in investigations.

"They were also caught with several scratch and win cards," he said, adding that they (MCA members) spotted the group as they gathered at the shopping complex to attend an event launched by MCA Youth secretary-general Dr Wee Ka Siong.

On Friday, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal said all "scratch-and-win" contests would be banned soon.

He said the ban would affect the contest "from all aspects, even those done by those involved in direct selling".

Citing a recent case, he said there had been cases of "scratch-and-win" scams causing "hurt and damage to society".

Earlier this week, members of such a syndicate beat up a businessman when he refused to take part in the contest.

A police official from the central police station, when contacted, confirmed the arrest of the four and said investigations were underway.