

Border fencing to help reduce smuggling: collector Customs

Collector Customs, Peshawar Qurban Ali Khan has said that the erecting of fence on Pak-Afghan border besides preventing terrorism will also bring maximum decrease in smuggling and strengthening of the national economy. He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the farewell visit of the Chairman, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to Customs House, Peshawar here on Wednesday.

The Collector Customs said that during the current month of June, Customs Collectorate, Peshawar has collected a revenue of Rs 2 billion in head of different duties and taxes out of which Rs 920.63 million were collected in head of Customs Duty while Rs 679.31 were collected in Sales Tax, Rs 293.61 million Income Tax and Rs 18.92 million in head of Federal Excise Duty respectively.

Besides, revenue collection, the Collectorate has also taken steps for the prevention of smuggling, which has basically turned Model Customs Collectorate into an anti-smuggling agency. During the current financial, he said the collectorate has seized smuggled goods worth Rs 2.40 billion, which is Rs 1.55 billion higher than previous financial year. Similarly, he said that during the current financial year, the collectorate has seized 300 latest model smuggled vehicles while different smuggled goods and a revenue to the tune of Rs 550 million has been collected through the auction of different smuggled goods during the year.

The Collector Customs said that smuggling is like cancer for the national economy, which is inflicting heavy loss on the industries of the country in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. He said that due to the availability of cheap smuggled goods hundreds of industries in the industrial estates of the province have been closed down. According to an estimate, he said smuggling to tune of billions of rupees is carried out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, whose 90% is carried out through FATA and particularly Khyber Agency.

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