

DGCI seizes Rs 1.6 billion smuggled goods in November

The Directorate General of Customs Intelligence has made record seizure of smuggled goods worth Rs 1.6 billion during November 2017, reflecting an extraordinary increase of 329 percent as compared to November 2016. Sources told *Business Recorder* here on Thursday that the current spree of the performance of Customs Intelligence hit the new pinnacle in November 2017 when the Customs Intelligence, under leadership of its Director General Shaukat Ali, surpassed all previous records of seizures of goods in a single month.

The major increase of 329 percent in seizure of smuggled goods during November 2017 also clearly reflects intensified enforcement actions of the agency across the country.

The latest data revealed that the Directorate General of Customs Intelligence seized smuggled goods worth Rs 1690 million during November 2017 (329% higher than November 2016). The anti-smuggling activity of Directorate General ran across all parts of the country and outreach of the operations covered diversified areas of Customs working. Major crackdown on smugglers has been carried out at Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Peshawar regions. Seizures of 78,160 Q-Mobile Phones valuing Rs 662.6 million at Karachi and 9,793 Q-Mobile Phones with accessories valuing Rs 350 million at Lahore remained the mainspring of the anti-smuggling activities.

During November 2017 the Directorate General seized a total of 90,838 mobile phones across the country valuing more than one billion rupees. In pursuit of a robust anti-smuggling strategy, Customs Intelligence choked known as well as lesser known routes of smuggling all over the country. Customs Intelligence, Peshawar made a very important detection in clearance of radiation generating equipments at Peshawar, using fake and forged NOCs issued on behalf of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA). Customs Intelligence successfully raided a godown of M/s Laiba International in Peshawar and seized radiation apparatus including CT scan and MRI machines. Value of the seized apparatuses was Rs 70 million. Moreover, the importer had previously, and unlawfully, imported/cleared identical radiation generating equipments valuing Rs 42.70 million. The criminal proceedings in the case have been initiated by Customs Intelligence, Peshawar. Similarly, during an enforcement operation at Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad, Regional Directorate Rawalpindi of Customs Intelligence busted a racket involved in the smuggling of mobile phones and seized assorted mobile phones, tablets and batteries valuing Rs 17.5 million.

Two persons have been arrested red-handedly and criminal proceedings are underway against them after lodging an FIR of the case. A very significant seizure of 220kg of hashish concealed beneath the floor and dashboard/seats of the car was made by Customs Intelligence Quetta. Value of the seized hashish is Rs 20 million in the international market, sources quoted data of seizure during November 2017.

