

ANF UNEARTHED HIGHLY ORGANIZED DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING THROUGH PIA FLIGHTS

In the last three months, four major cases of drug trafficking have been discovered in PIA Planes. In 1st case, on 3 April 2017, 15 Kg Heroin was found hidden in PIA Boeing 777 at Karachi. In 2nd case, on 15 May 2017 reportedly 11 Kg Heroin was recovered at Heathrow Airport. On 22 May 2017, 14.7 Kg of Heroin was recovered from yet another Boeing 777 at Benazir Bhutto Airport, and 4th incident occurred on 31 May 2017 whereby 2.4 Kg Heroin was found in another Boeing 777 aircraft at Karachi Airport.

While investigations were still in progress after the first incident to find out culprits involved, the incident at Heathrow Airport happened which tarnished image of National flag carrier. DG ANF Major General Musarrat Nawaz Malik, HI (M) took serious notice and directed Field Staff as well as Intelligence setup to focus their efforts towards thorough scanning and sterilization of all major airports besides ensuring scanning of all foreign bound PIA flights. During the course of action different airport departments/ stakeholders were approached which included PIA, CAA, ASF and other airport service providers. More than 100 staff members of various organizations were interviewed or interrogated and thorough scanning of all available data was evaluated.

As a result of hectic efforts enough leads were found and simultaneous operations were conducted at Rawalpindi, Lahore & Karachi to get hold of the entire ring. Alhamdulillah, in last couple of days ANF made substantial progress and unearthed at least two major drug trafficking rings which were mostly Karachi based.

Arrests made at Karachi

- Akbar Alias Badshah. He is an ex PIA baggage employee and a high ranking person in drug trafficking organization who has been arrested today in morning at 0300 hours. He acted as chief coordinator and his responsibilities included recruitment of individuals at Karachi Airport, handing over drug packages and disbursement of facilitation charges/ commission to the team members.
- PIA Cleaner Pervaiz Masih. Pervaiz Masih was recruited by Saleem Natiq. further made his accomplice to PIA Driver Shahid. They both worked for notorious Drug Smuggler Shahida who got arrested in Nepal few years ago, while her rest of the group dissolved. In current setting Akbar alias Badshah Khan, instigated Pervaiz Masih for drug trafficking and made him a vital member of Drug Trafficking Organization. Pervaiz Masih then recruited other members in the network to transport drugs inside the airport and plant it in the planes.
- Pervaiz Alam. He is a Traffic Supervisor in PIA Karachi. Pervaiz Masih introduced him with Akbar. Pervaiz Alam used to get drugs (Heroin) from Akbar and used to take the packets to a predetermined location inside the airport.
- Shujat Hussain and Muhammad Saqib. They are shuttle operators in PIA. Their job was to pick the drug packages dropped by Pervaiz Alam and put the stuff in their lockers/ at safe place and on suitable occasion in coordination with Pervaiz Masih, any one of them with his team would take the drug packets in the plane.

- Iqbal Masih, Maqbool Masih and Gopi Darshan. They are PIA employees working as sanitary workers. Any one of them alone or in collaboration with others under oversight of Shujaat / Saqib, they would place the packages in the designated space of the plane.
- Imran Baig. He is employed as PIA Maintenance Staff (HTV Operator) on contract basis to wash the aircrafts. He revealed that he used to receive drugs from Saleem Natiq and Pervaiz Masih and transport these from outside to inside the airport.
- Waseem Fareedi. He is an employee of PIA Engineering Staff. Another PIA Engineering Staff Syed Ghulam Yazdani (Senior Tech and Vice President Peoples Unity Karachi) used to supply drugs to him. He was also a carrier to move drugs from outside to inside the JIAP.
- Syed Ghulam Yazdani. He is Senior Tech and Vice President Peoples Unity Karachi, who used to receive drugs from Akbar (introduced to him by Saleem Natiq) and keep them at his residence located in PIA Model Colony till an opportune moment.

Arrests made at Lahore

- Saleem Natiq. He is also a PIA employee who was posted from Karachi to Lahore in Apr 2017 after the 1st discovery of heroin on 3 Apr. He has been arrested from Lahore.

Arrests made at Rawalpindi

- Saleem Khan. He is an ex employee from PIA lower staff, terminated after drug case. He would obtain essential info regarding schedule of aircrafts arriving and departing from JIAP from Syed Anwar Shah and pass it on to Akbar. He would also render expert opinion on weight and size of the packages according to the cavity where drugs were to be placed. He has been arrested at Rwp on a tip off after having disappeared from Karachi, 2 Kg Heroin recovered from him.
- Syed Anwer Shah. He is serving in IT Dept of PIA and had access to complete info about schedule of aircrafts including their stay in maintenance hangers. He also established contact with Akbar occasionally. He has been arrested at Rwp on a tip off along with Saleem Khan, 1 Kg heroin was also recovered from him.