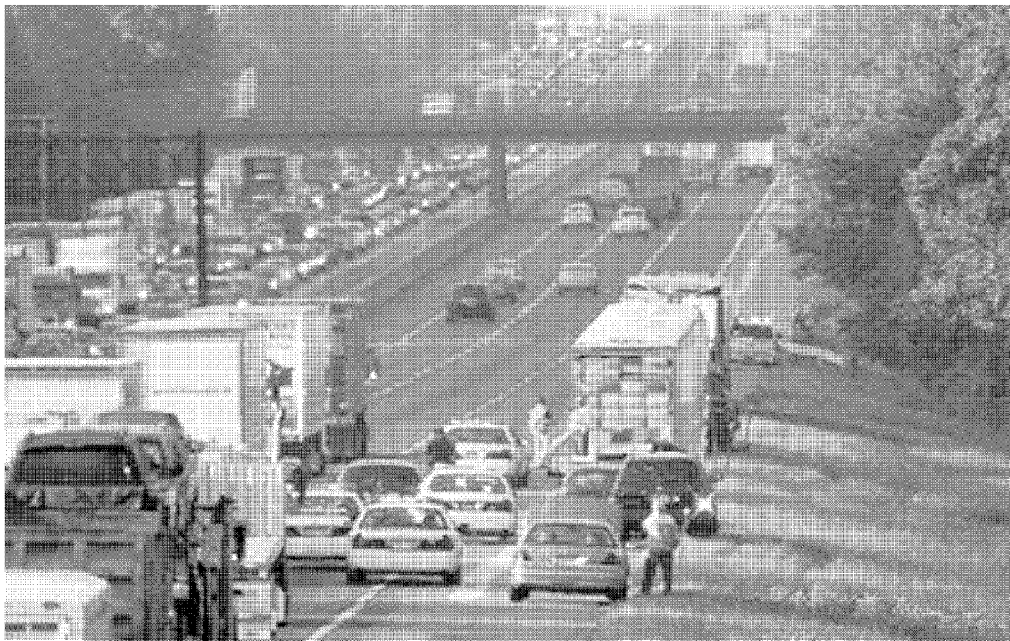


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ROUTINE TRAFFIC STOP YIELDS MULTI MILLION DOLLAR SEIZURE

- Nearly \$3 Million in illegal cigarettes seized
- Two men arrested in connection



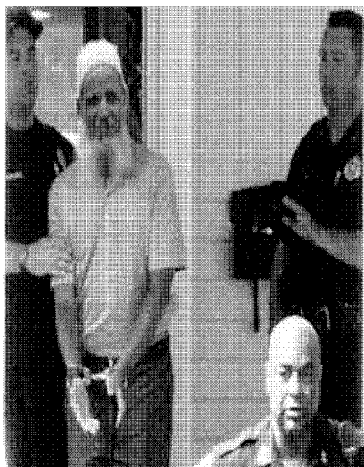
By Randy Ray/Courier Post

By Jerry Peters/Courier Post Staff

New Jersey State Police recovered nearly \$3 million dollars worth of untaxed cigarettes following a traffic stop on the New Jersey Turnpike near Exit 3 in Barrington, N.J. according to a department press release.

Captain Steve Dipert of the NJSP Bellmawr Barracks advised that at approximately 1:00 PM, Troopers stopped a semi truck for a routine traffic violation in the North bound lanes of the Turnpike. A subsequent search of the truck revealed it contained over 980 cases of cigarettes. An inspection of the cases revealed the absence of tax stamps on the packages. The driver, identified as Gamir Patel of Fedburg, VA, was cited for traffic violations and is being held pending further investigation. A female passenger was released. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) confiscated the cigarettes and is conducting further investigation into the shipment.

Taxes on cigarettes have continued to rise over recent years to a high of \$4.35 per package in the state of New York.



By Marquis Livingston/Fedburg Gazette

Police lead Yaser Mohammed from his home in Fedburg, VA after he was arrested in connection with nearly \$3 million in smuggled cigarettes.

By Skip Stites/Courier Post Staff

A second man has been arrested as a result of the ongoing investigation involving a semi tractor trailer hauling nearly \$3 million dollars in untaxed cigarettes.

Fedburg VA Police announced the arrest of Yaser Mohammed, of the 1900 block of Rutherford Drive, Fedburg, VA in connection with the above mentioned investigation. Fedburg authorities, along with ATF Agents arrested Mohammed at his residence after receiving information from the New Jersey State Police regarding the seizure of the untaxed cigarettes.

Mohammed is currently being held at the Rappahannock Correctional Center and is scheduled for an initial appearance before the U.S. Magistrate, Fedburg/Spotsylvania, VA.

11 PAGES
INSIDE

■ Rockaway River
collapses stretch
of I-287, Page 7

■ Mulshine: Why
N.J. is the 'Nanny
State,' Page 19

■ Coping with the
aftermath, Your
Towns, Page 21

■ Addressing the
extra insurance
claims, Page 34

■ 'Mr. Hurricane'
takes on Irene,
Page 35

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Sunny with a
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TONIGHT
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a low around 57°

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34 BUSINESS
68 CLASSIFIED

COMICS
36 CROSSWORD
37 EDITORIALS

36 HOROSCOPES
21 TOWNS
23 OBITUARIES

43 SPORTS
37 SPOTLIGHT
36 TODAY
42 TV-SCANNER



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