

## Authorities to auction off cig haul

MORE than Dhs14 million worth of cigarettes purchased in Dubai and smuggled into India are to be auctioned off after they were seized last week.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in India busted the shipment of six containers holding almost 33 million cigarettes at the Hazira Port in Gujarat.

A DRI officer told 7DAYS: "The cigarettes are of a flavoured variety and could perish if kept for a longer period and would not fetch value if auctioned later on."

"We submitted an application to the court so we could auction the cigarettes sooner and deposit the money with the government's exchequer."

The official said it was the biggest haul of foreign cigarettes ever discovered in India.

He said the stash had been purchased in Dubai and illegally brought into the country because the high import tax on foreign cigarette brands, which makes smuggling a lucrative option.

The official said: "A packet of foreign cigarettes available for Rs100 [Dhs5.89] per pack in Dubai can be sold for Rs190 [Dhs11] in India."

# Warning signs for youth

## Parkinson's not just a disease for old people, expert says

By Megha Merani

YOUNG people in the UAE and their doctors are failing to spot the signs of Parkinson's disease because they think it's a condition only older adults develop, an expert has warned.

The German Neuroscience Centre in Dubai will mark World Parkinson's Day on Saturday with an education and awareness event for Parkinson's patients and caregivers.

Meanwhile, one of the clinic's top neurologists is urging greater awareness in the community and among medical professionals to spot the signs of Parkinson's as early as possible.

Dr Heiki Jacobs told 7DAYS: "Even doctors are missing it. They need more disease awareness too, to spot the signs and diagnose or refer suspected cases to a specialist."

Parkinson's is a disease in which nerve cells that deliver the neurotransmitter dopamine to other cells are reduced in numbers. As cell death spreads in the brain, motor and non-motor function deteriorate.

But often the classic signs - including stiffness, depression and shaking - go unnoticed.

And in some cases, the lack of diagnosis is because of the patient's age.

Dr Jacobs explained: "People think it's the



**CHECK-UP:** More young people in the UAE are being diagnosed with the disease because of genetic factors

disease of the elderly, and it is. The risk is definitely higher with age. But in the UAE we are seeing more young people due to specific genetic factors. There are cases of early onset, people as young as in their 20s and 30s. My youngest patient is 24. Families where the mother and father are related are at higher risk."

The neurologist noted young people think it is "impossible" for them to have Parkinson's.

She said: "A lot of those diagnosed feel social embarrassment and tend to isolate themselves. They also tend to use their medicine in increased

doses because they want to appear normal, but this causes other side effects."

There is currently no cure for the disease, but Dr Jacobs insists early diagnosis can make a huge difference.

"Medication can manage symptoms - reduce tremors and improve cognitive function," she said.

The Parkinson's Disease Awareness Day will take place on Saturday, April 11, at Sofitel Downtown Dubai from 12pm to 5pm. For information, contact 04 429 8578.

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# BBQ SEASON



9-30 APRIL

<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">ALL RIBS</p>  <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: green;"><del>95</del> DHS</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; font-weight: bold;">75 DHS</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">PER KG</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">BANGERS &amp; CUMBERLAND</p>  <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: green;"><del>40</del> DHS</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; font-weight: bold;">32 DHS</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">PER KG</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">BOEREWORS</p>  <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: green;"><del>40</del> DHS</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; font-weight: bold;">32 DHS</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">PER KG</p>
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(Next to Oasis Centre)

The Village  
(Jumeirah 1)

Greens  
(Opp. Dubai Media City)

Abu Dhabi  
(Nation Towers Galleria)

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