



## Narcotics, Organized Crime & Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 6 – 12 December 2004

The following are summaries of articles related to narcotics and security in the Central Asian 5 and Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan. Where possible, web addresses for the entire article are provided.

### **Hamid Karzai was sworn in as president**

---

Hamid Karzai was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president, promising to bring peace to the war-torn nation and end the economy's dependence on narcotics. Two of the men most responsible for easing him into power, U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, were among those watching as Karzai placed his hand on the Koran to take an oath of allegiance in the heavily fortified presidential palace in Kabul.

Factiva.com, 9/12/04

### **Yearly present by Turkmenbashi**

---

On December 9, Niyazov signed a decree to appoint General-Major Geldymukhammed Ashirmukhammedov as a Minister of National Security, previously he used to be minister of Interior. Niyazov also signed other decree appointing minister of National Security Annageldy Gummanov as a first deputy to the minister of Foreign Affairs. Colonel Akmamad Rakhmanov became new minister of Interior, previously he used to work as a deputy of minister of Interior.

“Glava Turkmenii uvolil ministra natsbezopasnosti za “myagkoye serdtse”, *Reuters*, 09/12/2004

### **Ex-Director of TajikGaz, Makhmadruzi Iskandarov is arrested in Moscow**

---

Russian law enforcement agents arrested the leader of the Democratic opposition party of Tajikistan, Makhmadruzi Iskandarov on the request of a chief prosecutor of Tajikistan. Iskandarov was a member of the United Tajik Opposition (UTO) and warlord during the civil war (1992-97). Officially he is going to be charged for financial frauds when he was Director of TajikGaz. He was fired in November 2003. Iskandarov said that he was persecuted not for financial frauds but for his criticism of referendum results under which Emomali Rakhmonov can be elected till 2020.

“Rossiya zaderzhala lidera tadjhiskoi oppozitsii po pros’be Dushanbe”, *Reuters*, 10/12/2004

### **Three killed in Helmand**

---

Three persons including security personnel were killed and four smugglers were injured in firing incident in Helmand province of Afghanistan. According to reports, international narcotics smugglers were passing by a check in check post in Greshak district. Security men signaled them to stop instead they resorted to firing. In the firing three persons including a security man and two smugglers were killed. Four smugglers were also wounded.

“3 killed in Helmond”, *Pakistan Press International Information Services*, 10/12/04

### **Uzbek Prisons - A Survivor’s Guide**

---

First-hand account of torture, humiliation and forced confessions in a penal system ruled by thuggish police and gangsters in Uzbekistan.

Ruslan Sharipov, “Special Report: Uzbek Prisons - A Survivor’s Guide”, *Institute for war and peace reporting*, 10/12/04

## **Niyazov held ceremony of reburial of his parents and brothers in the family mausoleum**

---

Last weekend, Saparmurat Niyazov participated in the re-burial of ashes of his parents and brothers. They were moved to the family mausoleum in Kypchak village, birthplace of Niyazov. The family mausoleum was erected on the territory of the recently built Mosque, which is the biggest in Central Asia. It was a present from Martin Bouygues, head of the famous French company which builds all administrative and cultural sites in Turkmenistan. (Moving of ashes of his parents next to the mosque signals that Turkmenbashi is practically making his parents saints and people will come for pilgrimage?)

“Saparmurat Niyazov perezahoronil prah svoih roditelei I brat'yev v semeinom mavzolee”, *Turkmenistan.ru*, 13/12/04

## **One more shiny medal for Turkmenbashi**

---

Russian Academy on Security Studies awarded Turkmenbashi with the medal of “Peter the Great” for “significant personal contributions to ensure stability and well-being of Turkmenistan, peace and security in the Central Asian region, and for great achievements in the development and strengthening of friendly relations between the people of Turkmenistan and Russia. In addition, he also became the Professor of that academy.

“Turkmeniya otmechaet devyatyu godovshinu priznaniya neutral'nogo statusa gosudarstva”, *Turkmenistan.ru*, 13/12/04

## **Seizures and Arrests**

### **Pakistani ANF seizes 2.120 kg heroin, 39 kg hashish**

---

Anti Narcotics Force has seized 2.120 kg heroin and 39 kg hashish in two different raids in Sikanderabad and Muslim Town, Kotri, District Dadu. Israr Ahmed and Imran Khan were arrested with 7 kg hashish from their possession. On the disclosure of accused Israr Ahmed, raiding party carried our raid at the den of Muhammad Khan Brohi at Muslim Town, Kotri and recovered 32 kgs hashish from his den. However, accused Brohi could not be arrested. ANF arrested two foreigners namely Christopher Attenga (**Cameroon** National) and Awele (**Nigerian** National) and recovered 138 capsules containing 2.120 kgs heroin of fine quality. The foreign nationals were carrying recovered capsules in their bodies.

“ANF seizes 2.120 kg heroin, 39 kg hashish”, *Pakistan Press International Information Services*, 6/12/04

### **Large drug trafficking route from Tajikistan into Russia was liquidated**

---

Tajik DCA arrested mother and son in Chkalovsk (north of Tajikistan) with more than 15 kg of heroin in their house. According to the DCA the arrested people were dealing in drugs for a long time. At present they are trying to track the whole network transcending borders of several states. Starting 2004, Tajikistan intercepted more than 7 tons of drugs, 2/3 of which is heroin.

“Likvidirovan krupnyi kanal postavki iz Tajikistana v Rossiyu”, *Itar-Tass*, 06/12/04

### **70 kg of heroin was seized in Moscow**

---

Law enforcers from the Federal service on narcotics control seized 70 kg of heroin in Kolomna city in Podmoskovye. It was a controlled delivery. At the Kolomna check point, customs officers stopped a truck which was carrying 17 tons of dill from Central Asia. After a careful search they found 66 kg of heroin in the spare tire.

“V Podmoskov'ye zaderzhan gruzovik s rekordnoi partией geroina”, *Newsru.com*, 11/12/04