



Narcotics and Organized Crime in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 26 – 30 January 2005

The following are summaries of articles related to narcotics and security in the Central Asian 5 and Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Russia and the Baltic states. Central Asian affairs section comes as a bonus material.

Narcotics

UNODC gave equipment to the Kyrgyz DCA

On the 28th January, representatives of the UNODC Office in Central Asia gave the Kyrgyz DCA equipment to an anti-drug chemical laboratory and devices to analyze precursors. Price of the equipment totaled at \$300,000.

“OON peredala narkobortsam Kyrgyzstana oborudovaniye”, *AKIpress*, 28/01/05

Citizen of Tajikistan is apprehended with 3.8 kg of heroin

On 27th of January, a 30 year old citizen of Tajikistan (Murghab) was arrested with 3.859 kg of heroin in Osh. Law enforcement agents from the MoI of Osh region found narcotics in the hidden compartment of the “ZIL” truck.

“V Oshe zaderzhan grazhdanin Tajikistana s geroinom”, *AKIpress*, 28/01/05

Rampant graft among IMF concerns in Afghanistan

Directors of the IMF executive board "regretted indications that widespread corruption, the rise in drug activities, and the lack of transparency in many areas may have undermined the business environment," the report said. The [Afghan] government was not making progress in the battle to halt opium farming, which generates about 2.8 billion dollars in revenue and is equivalent to about 60 percent of non-drug Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

AFP, 28/01/05

Governor NWFP burnt to ashes huge cache of seized narcotics

Governor NWFP put on fire **narcotics** seized by the Customs authorities and anti-narcotics force during different raids in the frontier province in connection with Custom Day being celebrated the world over on Jan 26. The seized drugs, which were ignited, included 4738.28-Kg hashish, 65-Kg heroin and 54-Kg chemicals here at Regi Lalma. The Governor contended that poppy was mainly sown in border areas with Afghanistan.

Pakistan Press International Information Services, 26/01/05

30-50 percent reduction is envisaged by counter-narcotics ministry of Afghanistan

In an interview with IRIN, Habibullah Qaderi, head of the newly established counter-narcotics ministry, estimated a 30-50 percent reduction in cultivation this year and called for greater long-term donor commitment to assist the ministry in tackling the opium scourge.

IRIN, 26/01/05

Kazakh police detain citizens of Tajikistan with 24 kg of heroin

Officers from Kazakhstan's National Security Committee in Aqtobe province arrested two Tajik citizens with 24.5 kilograms of heroin on 25 January. The report noted that a criminal case has been open but provided no further details.

DK, <http://www.rferl.org/newsline/2-tca.asp>, 25/01/05

Investigation of Tajik ex-drug tsar extended

Military prosecutors have extended the investigation of former Drug Control Agency head Ghaffor Mirzoev by two months to look into new materials in the case. Mirzoev was arrested on 6 August on corruption and weapons charges.

DK, <http://www.hri.org/news/balkans/rferl/2005/05-01-25.rferl.html#29>, 24/01/2005

Central Asian Affairs

French Bouygues gets more contracts from Turkmenbashi

French Bouygues Bâtiment International got a new contract. This time it will build Academy of the Ministry of State Security and the State Border Guard Service with a capacity of 1100 study places in total 14200 square meters. The construction works will cost \$36 million and will be accomplished by February 2007. (As you might remember Bouygues built all the exuberant buildings in Turkmenistan, starting with a ice skating rink and finishing with the Mausoleum to Turkmenbashi's mother. The latter was presented as a gift to Turkmenbashi from Martin Bouygues.)

“Franzuskij Bouygues postroit dlya spetszluzhb Turkmenii zdaniye akademii”, *Turkmenistan.ru*, 27/01/05

New book of verses of Turkmenbashi was published

Turkmenbashi has published the third volume of verses called “Spring of my spirituality”. The Turkmen state news service noted that “each page, each line of this collection is full of the Turkmen soil great son's feeling of unquenchable and passionate love for his roots and all that the author calls the spirit of the nation, its secure foundation, the mighty tree whose life-giving juices have been feeding the Turkmens for five thousand years now.”

“New book of verses by the Turkmen leaders”, *Turkmenistan.ru*, 29/01/05

Election Frenzy and Winds of Revolution

402 candidates were registered in the deputies of Kyrgyz parliament by 27th January

On 27th February there will be elections into the Kyrgyz parliament. It seems that these elections will be a family business both for the ruling regime of Askar Akaev, presently serving deputies and for some representatives of the opposition. *Akaev's clan*: his son Aidar (Kemin district), his daughter Bermet (Bishkek city). One sister of Mairam Akaeva, Ukon will run from Tyup district, the other one Ayazgul was registered in BakaiAtinskiy district. However, later she took self-removal I guess in order to open the way to R. Jeenbekov (candidate from the family).

Former PM Kurmanbek Bakiev (now in opposition) and his two brothers all registered in the Jalal-Abad region. Former ambassadors will not be able to run for these elections, despite the fact that the Parliament passed the amendment to the Constitution thus abolishing a 5 year threshold of an in-country residence for ambassadors. Thus R. Otunbaeva is out of race, U.Sydykov is out (but his son is in), M.Sherimkulov is out (and his son is in). It seems that all people running for these elections are having tactics of running in several groups, in case if one won't get into, the other will.

It is unlikely that Ministry of National Security (SNB) will take side of the opposition movements as it happened in Ukraine. Under the law, SNB reports only to the president. Judging by the line pursued by its head K. Imankulov, his agency will support the ruling regime.

Parliamentary elections in Tajikistan

Similar to Kyrgyzstan on 27th of January there will be elections into the Tajik parliament. However, already several opposition parties were refused registration. Mukhiddin Kabiri from the Islamic Renaissance Party was registered after long bureaucratic struggle, while his rival Akbarali Rakhimov from the People's Democratic Party (pro-presidential party) was registered without any problems.

Nigori Bukhari-zade, “Tsentrizbirkom Tajikistana na strazhe zakona”, *Nemetskaya volna*, 24/01/05