



## Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 6 – 12 June 2005

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

### **Bomb rocks Tajik Emergencies Ministry**

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A powerful bomb rocked Tajikistan's Emergencies Ministry on Monday, leaving several people with light injuries. "I do not exclude that this was a terrorist act," Interior Minister Khumdin Sharipov told reporters at the scene. "This is already the second explosion right on the same place." In late January, a powerful blast, believed to be a car bomb, rocked the same building in the centre of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, killing a man. Sharipov said the explosive device had been planted on a wheelbarrow of the sort often used by bazaar traders.

*Reuters, 13/06/05*

### **Kyrgyz MP shot dead in Bishkek**

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A Kyrgyz politician has been shot dead in the country's capital, Bishkek. Eyewitnesses say Surabaldiyev was gunned down by two unidentified men in broad daylight in Bishkek's central square. The parliamentary deputy died on the spot and the two men then escaped from the scene by car. The Kyrgyz authorities are investigating the incident, which they say appears to have been a contract killing. Some of Surabaldiyev's opponents accused him of organising groups of young men who attacked anti-Akayev protestors who eventually drove the former president from power.

*BBC News, 10/06/05*

## **Seizures and Arrests**

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### **Big drug haul in the south of Kyrgyzstan**

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Law enforcement agents from the Osh region seized 870 gr of heroin hidden in the wheel. Already 52 kg of heroin have been seized since the beginning of the year.

*Gazeta.kg, 13/06/05*

### **Tajik and Kyrgyz Drug Control Agencies arrested drug traffickers**

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Four members of the organized crime group were arrested during the "controlled delivery" operation carried out by Tajik and Kyrgyz DCA. As a result 22 kg of raw opium were seized. Three members were citizens of Tajikistan, and two of them were law enforcers from the Sogdian police. The drugs were delivered from Afghanistan into Soghdh, from where the Major and Senior Lieutenant from the UVD of Sogh region would convoy the drugs to Khodjent and from there to Bishkek.

*Asia-Plus.tj, 13/06/05*

### **1 kg of heroin was seized on Osh – Khorog highway**

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At the 215 km of the Osh-Khorog highway the agents of the Osh MOI department to combat drugs found 870 gr of heroin hidden in the truck.

*AKIpress.kg*, 08/06/05

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### **Some 30 kg of drugs burnt in Khorog**

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More than 29.2 kg of drugs, including 8 kg of heroin, were burnt on June 3 in the presence of representatives of the Drug Control Agency's (DCA) directorate for Gorno Badakhshan, Operation Group "Khorog" of the Border Protection Committee (BPC) and the GBAO drug police department. Drugs were seized by Russian border troops in 1997 already.

*ASIA-Plus.tj*, 06/06/05

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### **Iran seizes 18 kg heroin, 184 kg opium**

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Iranian anti-drug police seized nearly 18 kg of heroin and 185 kg of opium in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan on Tuesday. They discovered the heroin in an automobile during a stop-and-search operation.

*Xinhua News Agency*, 07/06/05

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### **German police seize nearly 30 kg of heroin**

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During a raid against a gang of Albanian criminals, police in southern Hesse arrested 12 people and seized 27 kg of drugs. The suspects were charged with at least 50 crimes. In addition to dealing in heroin and stolen goods, the 11 men and one woman reportedly carried out burglaries and frauds, and violated the law on weapons, among other things. The crimes were committed in the whole of Europe but primarily in the Rhine-Main area.

*BBC Monitoring European*, 07/06/05

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### **Drug police seize 33 kg of heroin in Russia's Perm Region**

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Drug police have carried out a major operation in Perm Region. Police officers detained two members of the so-called Afghan-Tajik criminal group and confiscated 33 kg of heroin from them. The drug control service staffers have been following this criminal group for a year. They found out all their supply channels and practically knew who these narcotics were intended for and how much narcotic was in the batch.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union*, 10/06/05

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### **1 kg of heroin seized at Bregovo checkpoint in Bulgaria**

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Policemen and customs officers at the Bregovo checkpoint intercepted 1 kg of heroin in a Serb-registered car bound for Serb and Montenegro, the Vidin Regional Inspectorate of the Interior said. The drug was distributed in four packs and hidden in the rear tyre of an Opel Corsa. The three people traveling on the car, citizens of Serbia and Montenegro, have been arrested.

*Bulgarian News Agency*, 10/06/05

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### **1.5 tons of sized drugs burnt in Alexandrovska Hospital Incinerator in Bulgaria**

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A total of 1,478 kg of drugs have been burnt in the incinerator of Alexandrovska Hospital in Sofia. The drugs burnt included 995 kg of amphetamine and 338 kg of heroin. A total of 570 kg of amphetamine has been detained over the past 18 months, the National Customs Agency said. The cost of the drugs burnt is estimated at 75 million US dollars.

*Bulgarian News Agency*, 10/06/05