



## Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 13-20 March 2006

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.

### **Afghanistan to ask drug lords to invest profits at home**

Afghanistan will encourage its powerful drug lords to invest their illegally earned profits back into the war-shattered country, according to the governor of the nation's top opium-growing region. The offer comes amid warnings of another bumper poppy crop that will fuel a booming narcotics trade that accounts for 35% of the impoverished nation's income. "We as a government will provide them the opportunity to use their money for the national benefit," said Helmand Gov. Mohammed Daud, during a two-day trip this week to the region by U.S. Ambassador Ronald Neumann. "They must invest in industries. They must invest in construction companies," he said. But he said that so far the government has had no success in attracting the drug lords to open new businesses, and most of the money is being sent overseas. So profitable is the drug trade that it employs about one in 10 Afghans and brought in \$2.8 billion last year, Afghan and U.S. officials say. The vast majority of that goes to traffickers, and only a fraction to the impoverished farmers. About 140,000 hectares of poppies are believed to have been planted this year - an increase of up to 40% from 2005. The opium is refined into heroin before being smuggled out of the country to meet 90% of the world's supply.

*Dow Jones International News, 14.3.2006*

### **Drug traffic problem solution key to Afghan revival-Russia envoy**

Success in the fight against terrorism, economic development and formation of centralised authority in Afghanistan depend on the solution of the problem of manufacturing and trafficking of drugs, Russian Federation Permanent Representative to the United Nations Andrei Denisov said at the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

*Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, 15.3.2006*

### **Afghan National Security Forces focus on poppy eradication**

The U.S. Department of Defense's Central Command issued the following press release: The efforts of senior leaders from the Ministries of Defense, Interior and Counter Narcotics are producing more results for the people of Afghanistan. The planning and coordination among the ministries has produced an Afghan National Security Force that is capable of conducting independent operations with minimal support.

*US Fed News, 15.3.2006*

## **Seizures and Arrests**

### **About 2 Kg of Heroin Seized at Kapitan Andreevo**

Customs officers of the Svilengrad Customs and officers of the Haskovo Regional Service for Organized Crime Control intercepted 1.980 kg of heroin in a joint operation at the Kapitan Andreevo border crossing in the night to Tuesday, the press centre of the Regional Customs Directorate of Plovdiv said. The drug was hidden in a Ford automobile, driven by



a 42-year old Bulgarian woman travelling from Turkey to Bulgaria. The heroin was hidden in a washing powder bag.  
/TK/

*Bulgarian News Agency, 14.3.2006*

### **Criminals conceal drug plantations in southern Russia from aerial surveillance**

Police in Krasnodar Territory intercepted 161 large consignments of narcotics during 2005, compared with only 61 in 2004. The territory's administration told RIA-Novosti that Mikhail Krapivnyy, the head of the local branch of the Federal Service for Drugs Trade Control, disclosed these figures at a conference held on Tuesday [14 March]. "Last year officers exposed and destroyed 650 illegal hemp and opium poppy plantations on a combined area of 243 ha," Krapivnyy said. However, he said, previous methods of combating drug dealers are no longer always successful. "Helicopter surveillance flights over inaccessible places used to be very helpful. But now criminals are sowing their crops not in open terrain but in areas hemmed in by woods, which makes it harder to detect plantations from the air," Krapivnyy explained. Another method being used is public awareness. "Every month the drugs control branch receives hundreds of tip-offs on a confidential telephone line, which makes it possible to expose both drug addicts and drug dealers," the press service added.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: RIA-Novosti) 14.3.2006*

### **Drugs supply route closed off in central Russia**

Over 500 g of heroin were confiscated by the Federal Service for Control over the Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances during an operation to close off a route for supplying drugs to Tver and Moscow regions, ITAR-TASS learnt today from the public relations unit of the federal service's Moscow branch.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: ITAR-TASS) 14.3.2006*

### **Eastern Turkey region seizes 20 kg heroin, this year's drug haul over 430 kg**

Police seized 20.2 kilograms of heroin in eastern city [region] of Van on Tuesday [14 March]. Sources said that police stopped a car carrying foreign plate in Hacibekir district of Van, and found the heroin hidden in the car. Two people were taken into custody. Meanwhile, Van Police Department stated that a total of 434.4 kg of hashish and heroin was seized during operations launched since the beginning of the year.

*BBC Monitoring European (Source: Anatolia) 14.3.2006*

### **Suspected Afghan drug trafficker seized on Tajik border**

Tajik border guards, in cooperation with officers from the Tajik Drug Control Agency, have foiled an attempt to smuggle a large haul of drugs in the Moskva section of the Tajik-Afghan border. A source at the State Committee for Protection of the State Border told Avesta that on the early morning of 13 March border guards spotted six trespassers who were attempting to cross the Tajik-Afghan border across the River Panj on an inflatable boat. During the operation, Tajik law-enforcement officers detained only one of the trespassers - an Afghan citizen, Khuseyn Valladi Navruz [name transliterated]. The rest of the trespassers managed to escape to the Afghan side. Five sacks of heroin and cannabis have been seized from the detained man. The weight of the sacks has not been established yet. Two home-made small arms of 13 and 16 calibres were also found on the Afghan trespasser.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source: Avesta website) 14.3.2006*

### **Tajik guards exchange fire with Afghan drug smugglers**

Tajik guards seized 83 kilograms (183 pounds) of drugs, about half of which was heroin, after an hour-long exchange of fire with Afghan drug smugglers, an official said Wednesday.

*Associated Press Newswires, 15.3.2006*



### **Four officials arrested with drugs in south Afghanistan**

---

Police nabbed on Wednesday four law enforcement personnel for alleged involvement in smuggling of 64 kg opium in Shahar-e Safa District of southern Zabol Province, security officials said.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia, (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 15.3.2006*

### **Police seize more than 30 kilos of heroin in southeastern Turkey**

---

Turkish police seized 33 kg of heroin in a car in eastern Erzurum city on Wednesday [15 March].

*BBC Monitoring European (Source: Anatolia), 15.3.2006*

### **Police seize more than 100 kilos of heroin in northwestern Turkey**

---

Turkish police seized 104 kilograms of heroin in northwestern city of Kirklareli.

*BBC Monitoring Newsfile (Source: Anatolia) 15.3.2006*

### **Afghan soldiers caught smuggling heroin in ambulance**

---

Police have arrested two soldiers caught smuggling 64 kilograms (140 pounds) of heroin in an army ambulance in Afghanistan, the world's top producer of the drug, officials said Thursday.

*Associated Press Newswires, 16.3.2006*

### **Drugs officers make seizures across Urals, Siberia**

---

Russian anti-narcotics officers have seized and destroyed drugs including a large batch of heroin in the central Urals city of Yekaterinburg, officials said Thursday. "Drug police officers found 18.5 kg of heroin on the balcony of the occupant they were searching Wednesday," the Yekaterinburg department of Russia's anti-narcotics service said. "The apartment was rented by Tajik citizens," (passage omitted)  
In another Urals region, Kurgan, which borders on Kazakhstan, police destroyed 16.5 kilograms of marijuana, heroin, and hashish, and some 4,000 ampoules of morphine and phentoniol. The drugs were being used as evidence against a large criminal group, and were destroyed after a conviction was obtained, police said.

*RIA Novosti, 16.3.2006*

### **Some 3 kg of heroin seized in Tajikistan**

---

Tajik customs officers have seized about 1 kg of heroin from two young women at Dushanbe airport, the Asia-Plus news agency reported on 16 March.  
The Tajik news agency Varorud reported on the same day that Tajik law-enforcement agencies in northern Tajikistan had seized over 2 kg of heroin from a Kyrgyz citizen on 13 March. "The Interior Ministry's directorate has recorded 37 crimes related to illegal drug trafficking since January this year. They have all been uncovered," the agency said.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia, 16.3.2006*

### **Two policemen arrested in Macedonia for alleged heroin possession**

---

Two Macedonian policemen have been arrested for alleged heroin possession, authorities said Friday. The suspects, who work for Macedonia's Interior Ministry, were arrested late Thursday after a car chase through the capital, Skopje, police said. Around 2 kilograms of heroin with a market value of about euro100,000 (US\$120,000) were found hidden inside the suspects' vehicle.

*Associated Press Newswires, 17.3.2006*

### **ANF arrests 9, seizes drugs worth Rs 150 million**



---

Regional Directorate Anti Narcotic Force (ANF), Rawalpindi has seized drugs worth Rs 150 million besides recovering 1586 liquor bottles and arrested 9 accused during five separate raids.

*Frontier Star, 17.3.2006*

---

### **Afghanistan destroys 25 heroin laboratories**

Government forces helped by local villagers have destroyed more than two dozen drug laboratories in eastern Afghanistan, an official said Saturday. (passage omitted) "We were helped by hundreds of villagers and together we destroyed 25 labs," said district chief Sayed Sherzaman. He said some opium was also seized and destroyed in the province's Shinwar district, the largest opium producing region in Nangarhar.

*Agence France Presse, 18.3. 2006*

---

### **Afghan official says poppy cultivation increases in southwest**

[Correspondent] Security officials in Herat have seized over 150 kg of drugs here. Herat Security Commander Gen Ayub Salangi told a news conference today that police had managed to seize a vehicle with 177 kg of opium. He asserted that the opium was brought from Helmand Province [southern Afghanistan]. He added that the opium was skilfully hidden in the vehicle.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia, (Source: Radio Sahar, Heart) 18.3.2006*

---

### **Tajik border guards detain Afghan drug dealer**

Tajik special services thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large batch of Afghan drugs through the Tajik-Afghan border this morning, a source at the State Committee for Protection of the State Border has told Avesta. The source said that an attempt to violate the state border had been foiled by servicemen from the Tajik border troops in conjunction with officers from the Interior Ministry's directorate for combating drug trafficking near the village of Qizilsu of Farkhor District in Khatlon Region early this morning. "A 20-year old Afghan national, Amanollah son of Rahmatollah, was detained as a result of the operation," the source said. Four sacks were seized during a search. Two of the sacks had 29 synthetic packages containing a narcotic substance similar to heroin and the other two sacks contained cannabis. The State Committee for Protection of the State Border seized 216.5 kg of drugs, including 118 kg of heroin, in February. Since the beginning of the year, 30 cases of illegal crossing of the border have been thwarted and 30 violators detained.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source: Avesta website) 18.3.2006*

---

### **Police seize 200 kilos of heroin in southern Afghanistan**

Afghan police have seized 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of heroin from a truck in the southern province of Zabul and detained its driver and helper, a senior police officer said Sunday. The heroin was concealed in a truck loaded with salt and heading to the nearby city of Kandahar on Saturday, said provincial police chief Mohammad Nabi Mullahkhil.

*Agence France Presse, 19.3.2006*

---

### **Over 40 heroin labs destroyed in east Afghanistan**

More than 40 small and big heroin factories have been destroyed in Shinwari, Achin, Nazian and Spin Ghar Districts of eastern Nangarhar Province, security officials said on Sunday. Spokesman for the provincial police headquarters Col Abdol Ghafur told Pajhwok Afghan News the labs were demolished during an operation carried out with the help of locals.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 19.3.2006.*

---

### **Iranian police kill 10 drug runners - IRNA**

Iranian police have killed 10 armed drug runners on the border with Afghanistan, a senior police officer said on Sunday.



### **UNDCP to conduct drug addicts survey in April**

---

United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in collaboration with Anti-Narcotics Force Pakistan is in the process of conducting fresh survey of drug addicts in Pakistan to check the current trends in drug abuse and increase or decrease in the drug use. Sources in ANF told The Nation that they are in the process of recruitment of staff for data collection and by mid April they would initiate the process of data collection for which questionnaire has been already prepared. Previously the survey on drug addicts was conducted in year 2000 and roughly some five lakh /500.000/ /heroin/ addicts were found in whole of the country with majority of their concentration in big cities like Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and Faisalabad. It was further noted that the drugs were spreading at alarming pace in rural populace.

*The Nation, 19.3.2006*

### **Kazakh border guards seize over 15 kg of Russia-bound heroin**

---

Kazakh border guards, jointly with the Syryn customs post officers (in West Kazakhstan Region), have thwarted the transit of 15 kg of heroin to Russia.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source: Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency) 20.3.2006*

### **Russian police seize 65 kg of heroin in Volga region**

---

Members of the Russian Federal Security Service [FSB] have seized more than 65 kg of heroin in Samara Region.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: RIA Novosti) 20.3.2006*