



Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 31 January-6 February 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.

Afghan conference one small step

(By Andrew North, BBC correspondent at London's Afghan Conference) War-ravaged Afghanistan seems a world away from the plush, high-ceilinged rooms of Lancaster House in central London, where the conference on rebuilding the country has been taking place (...) (W)ith the signing of a five-year "Afghanistan Compact", it commits both sides - the Afghan government and its outside backers - to key benchmarks of progress in key areas such as security, economic development and better government.

Poverty

There has been a tendency among some in the international community to believe that because Afghanistan now has an elected president and parliament, things are on track.

It is true that that political success does mark the conclusion of the first stage of international efforts to rebuild the country, under the terms of the Bonn agreement that was signed soon after the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

But UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who is attending this meeting, perhaps summed up the mood best.

"Afghanistan is now a nascent democracy," he said. "Yet our optimism is necessarily tempered by the serious challenges the country is facing."

He focused on security, the threat from terrorism, the still rampant drugs trade, which he said meant Afghanistan was still in a "fragile state".

His words were notably more cautious than those of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who said it was "remarkable" what had been achieved in the past few years.

The real problem is that so few Afghans have felt much benefit from the political changes of the past few years. Most live in abject poverty. They have a government, but it does not have much capacity to do anything for them.

What the various Afghan ministers attending the conference along with President Hamid Karzai are saying is that more needs to be done now to strengthen this new government.

And that means the international community trusting Afghan government bodies with more of the aid money, rather than as now giving it to international organisations like the UN and to aid agencies.

Co-ordination plea

It is something Hanif Atmar, the Afghan rural development minister, has been emphasising in the lead up to the conference.

And he said he believed the message was getting through to the country's donors. "They realise this issue is important."

But this new agreement also calls for much more effort by the Afghan side in dealing with corruption.

Shukria Barakzai, one of 68 women in the new Afghan parliament, said there also needed to be much better coordination in the use of aid in the future.

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair focused on the risks of failure in Afghanistan - reminding everyone that it was the 11 September 2001 attacks that brought the international community back to the country, after the world had abandoned it and allowed it to collapse into civil war following the Soviet withdrawal in 1989.

But many of the Afghan officials emerging from the meetings said they were encouraged simply by the turnout.

"It's good to see how many nations are involved here," one ministerial adviser told me.

"This morning, we were listening to the Brazilian foreign minister offering more help," he said. "He told us he didn't have as much money as the big Western countries, but it is very heartening when you hear that."

And some of those big Western countries did make new pledges - Ms Rice said President George W Bush was seeking congressional approval for \$1.1bn in aid for Afghanistan next year, while the UK promised £455m over the next three years. (...)

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/4667504.stm)

BBC News, 31/1/2006

Fact sheet: Counter-narcotics

The U.S. Department of State issued the following fact sheet:
COUNTER-NARCOTICS

Opium poppy cultivation and narcotics trafficking in Afghanistan pose serious challenges to good governance, sustainable economic development, and the rule of law. Counter-narcotics programs supported by the Government of Afghanistan, the U.K, the U.S. and the international community are engaged in activities to discourage poppy cultivation, interrupt the trade in illegal narcotics, and lay the foundations for a broad-based and sustainable licit economy to support Afghanistan's new democratic institutions.

THE AFGHAN NARCOTICS TRADE AND ITS IMPACT:

* **Magnitude** - The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that Afghanistan accounts for 87 per cent of global opium production. Almost 8.7 per cent of the Afghan population was involved in opium cultivation in 2005.

* **Export Value** - The export value of Afghan opiates in 2005 is estimated at \$2.7 billion, or 52 per cent of the size of the nation's legal GDP of \$5.2 billion. However, 80% of this money goes to drug trafficking networks rather than to the roughly 2 million Afghan farmers and laborers believed to be involved in cultivation.

* **Decline in 2005 Production** - Both U.S. and U.N. estimates indicate there were sharp declines in Afghanistan's total area under poppy cultivation in 2005, following a record crop in 2004. However, improved yields in cultivated fields due to better growing conditions meant that total opium production declined by a much smaller amount.

* **Regional Trafficking** - Most Afghan-origin narcotics are exported from the country through Iran and Pakistan, but an increasing amount is also going across Afghanistan's northern border into Central Asia.

* **Afghan Users** - Drug abuse within Afghanistan is also of growing concern. The UNODC estimates that 170,000 Afghans, or 1.4% of the adult population, use opium and/or heroin.

* **Impact** - The lucrative trade in illicit drugs supports a wide range of criminal activities and security threats, undermines efforts to rebuild the Afghan economy and fuels public sector corruption.

The US is supporting the Government of Afghanistan in its counternarcotics efforts through a comprehensive program based on the following five pillars:

1. **Public Information** - Posters, radio and TV spots, matchbook covers, and other media are being used to increase public awareness of the dangers of the drug trade and address public tolerance of poppy cultivation.

2. **Elimination and Eradication** - Teams of advisors are working with national and provincial government officials to discourage farmers from planting poppy and to organize eradication campaigns against poppy crops that have been planted.

3. **Interdiction** - The U.S. is developing the Afghan government's capacity to destroy drug labs, seize opiates and precursor chemicals and arrest major traffickers. U.S.-trained National Interdiction Unit teams have conducted raids against drug-associated targets around the country.

4. **Law Enforcement and Justice Reform** - U.S. advisors are training prosecutors, judges, investigators, and other justice personnel to improve the Afghan government's ability to prosecute criminal cases, support corrections programs and foster the rule of law.

5. **Alternative Livelihoods** - The U.S. is supporting programs to implement alternative livelihoods programs that provide cash for work opportunities, distribute seeds and fertilizer, train farmers in the production of high-value crops like fruits and nuts, rehabilitate rural infrastructure such as roads and irrigation canals and establish processing, storage, and financing organizations to support strong rural markets.

US Fed News, 31/1/2006.

Putin Says Andijon Crackdown Averted More Unrest

31 January 2006 -- Russian President Vladimir Putin said today his Uzbek counterpart's decision to order a military crackdown in the eastern city of Andijon last year helped avert major unrest in Central Asia. Addressing reporters at a Kremlin news conference, Putin also warned against the prospect of a revolution in Uzbekistan, saying the country is experiencing "very large number of problems." "We don't need a second Afghanistan in Central Asia and we will act very carefully there," he said. "We don't need a revolution [in Central Asia], what we need is evolution that would help consolidate [democratic] values, while averting outbursts such as the one we witnessed in Andijon." The government of Uzbek President Islam Karimov says 187 people, including many security officers, died in the Andijon unrest. By contrast, human rights campaigners claim troops killed up to 1,000 civilians. Uzbek authorities have refused to let the international community investigate the unrest, which they blame on alleged Islamic militants.
(<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2006/01/26bba958-6cee-4619-b538-a9844896dc0c.html>)

RFE/RL, 31/1/2006

World Bank Pledges \$1.2 Billion to Support Development in Afghanistan

The World Bank announced a pledge of US\$1.2 billion to Afghanistan at a major donor conference in London this week. This pledge helped bring to US\$10.5 billion the total pledge Afghanistan received at this week's high-level meeting in London. The Afghanistan Compact agreed between the international donor community and the Government of Afghanistan in London this week, sets out, among a list of goals for the next five years, a commitment to avoid undermining national institution building. Conference participants showed strong support for increased use of government systems, like the budget, to channel their assistance to Afghanistan's priorities. This ensures that Afghanistan has ownership of its development program and ensures value for money. "To be effective, our finances must be provided to support programs and priorities of the government and must support the leadership of the Government of Afghanistan", said Praful Patel, World Bank Vice President for South Asia. "Accountability for implementing development programs and providing services to Afghan citizens ultimately lies with the government and we, in the international community, must come together to help." Following the conference the 24 donors to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund met to discuss details how to improve use of this mechanism that provides funds directly to the government's budget to meet its own priorities. "The ARTF is the best example of how we can coordinate and pool resources to support the government. How do we do even better now and make sure the spirit of coordination infuses all our efforts?" posed Patel at the meeting. The ARTF is administered by the World Bank with contributions so far from 24 donors totaling over US\$1.3 billion. All funds from the ARTF are channeled through the government's budget and are carefully monitored to ensure fiduciary standards are adhered to. It has proved a highly flexible instrument Giving government some budget predictability and reducing multiple reporting requirements by pooling donors into one mechanism. The resources have been used both to fund recurrent government spending like the payment of teachers and health workers and to support 12 projects so far that are providing services and infrastructure in every province of the country. "The 24 donors who have channeled some or all of their support to Afghanistan through the ARTF can be truly proud that some of the best development work is being accomplished through this instrument," said Patel. "Not only is it critically keeping the wheels of government turning but its reaching the very ordinary and very poor citizens of Afghanistan in an uncomplicated way that delivers results directly."

The World Bank Update (obtained from enora@worldbank.org), 2/2/2006

Farmers demand legal status for poppy cultivation

Afghan farmers, currently on a visit to London, urged the British government on Sunday to shelve plans for eradicating poppy crops in their impoverished country and warned the drive could end up destroying the lives of millions of farmers. At a news conference in London, the growers from Nangarhar, Parwan and Panjsher province asked Britain to help their country legalise poppy cultivation and use opium in manufacturing medicines in domestic laboratories. The news conference was sponsored by The Senlis Council, a drug policy advisory forum. A number of journalists from Kabul also posed questions to the growers via internet.

Pajhwok Afghan News, 4/2/2006

British target lair of the opium lords

British troops heading for Afghanistan's opium capital, the province of Helmand, have been warned that they will have

to undertake a highly dangerous mission to smash the country's biggest drugs market. The market of Baramchah in the Chagai hills near the Pakistan border is set amid narrow ravines so notorious for ambushes that a British officer described it as a place where police "don't seem to be able to keep their bodies connected to their heads".

The Sunday Times, 5/2/2006

Intelligence Brief: Afghanistan

Recent violence in Afghanistan underscores the rise in Taliban, al-Qaeda and drug-related violence affecting the country. On February 3, around 200 Taliban militants launched attacks on government targets in the southern province of Helmand. They were met by government troops and international security forces, in a clash that left handfuls of dead on both sides. Insurgents fleeing the clash attacked again in a nearby district and killed a government administrator. Additionally, the rise in suicide attacks continues, with reports that foreign, al-Qaeda linked militants are infiltrating Afghanistan to launch operations against government and international troops. In early February, authorities in Nimroz province reported that they had arrested a group of foreign militants including three Kashmiri Pakistanis and an Iraqi. On February 6, Ustad Atta Mohammad, governor of Balkh province, told reporters that Afghan security forces had arrested an al-Qaeda operative from Mali, who was caught wearing an explosive vest on his way to meet with the governor. There are also reports that militants experienced in fighting Iraqi security forces and U.S.-led international forces are moving in groups from Iraq to Afghanistan to help train Afghan insurgents in guerrilla tactics and to conduct their own operations against government and international troops. For instance, Nimroz Governor Ghulam Dusthaqir Azad recently said, "There is a big group [of foreign fighters] coming from Iraq. They're linked to al-Qaeda and fought against U.S. forces in Iraq. They have been ordered to come here. Many are suicide bombers." If his statements prove to be correct, it will be furthering a trend that PINR warned about in November 2005: "As the recent attacks in Jordan gain media attention, prepare for more attempts by Islamist militants in Iraq to spread instability into the greater region." Later in 2006, N.A.T.O. will expand its peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, putting the number of N.A.T.O. troops at 15,000. Washington has been pushing hard for the increase in N.A.T.O. numbers because it wants to scale down its troop commitment to Afghanistan in order to provide relief to the U.S. military caused by the heavy guerrilla fighting in Iraq; the U.S. currently has 18,000 troops in Afghanistan. As PINR argued in November 2005, however, "a reduction in U.S. forces could embolden the insurgency" since there is the widespread belief that N.A.T.O. troops are not as effective as U.S. troops. Additionally, the central government in Kabul remains unable to weaken the power of the warlords, with recent reports alleging that southern warlords are strengthening their ties with Taliban fighters. The warlords remain a key component to Afghanistan's thriving drug trade. Moreover, the lucrative drug trade is what finances much of the country's internal violence, including drug-related killings and attacks on government and international troops. PINR argued in November 2005 that "Afghanistan remains a side project to Iraq," and that "as long as the Afghan insurgency and the power of the warlords do not cause greater instability, the Afghan operation will remain on the back burner unless Iraq stabilizes." Despite the recent commitment of US\$10.5 billion in new aid pledged to Afghanistan after an international donors' conference in London, the preceding statement still holds true. The November report also found that "as long as present conditions continue in Afghanistan, the insurgency will not be defeated and the insurgents will continue to exploit weak points caused by the country's fragmented centers of power." In the months since the release of the November report, this conclusion is exactly what has occurred in Afghanistan and explains the increase in violence within the country. (<http://www.pinr.com>)

The Power and Interest News Report (PINR), 6/2/2006

Seizures and Arrests

Large batch of heroin seized in Siberia

Police in Surgut have seized the largest over the last few years batch of heroin - some 8 kg, the press service of the [Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area] Interior Directorate told ITAR-TASS today.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: ITAR-TASS) 31/1/2006.

Russian police seize two heroin batches

Officers of the Saratov Region traffic police and the regional directorate of the Federal Drug Control Service have

detained two men carrying about 24 kg of heroin, the press service of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs' main directorate for the Volga Federal District has reported on Tuesday [31 January].

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: Interfax) 31/1/2006.

Over half a ton of opium said seized in southern Afghanistan

A huge quantity of opium was recovered from a car in the Tarnak area of the restive southern province of Kandahar, a security official said on Tuesday. The 510 kg of opium was seized after local police and the Afghan National Army (ANA) began searching vehicles following the arrest of a "would-be" suicide bomber in the area Monday evening.

BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 31/1/2006.

Some 7 kilograms of heroin seized in Perm

A major drug supply channel has been stopped in the Kama Region. "Operatives have seized 6.6 kilograms of heroin in the flat hired by representatives of the gypsy diaspora who arrived from the Nizny Novgorod Region," Itar-Tass learnt at the Perm Interior Department on Tuesday.

ITAR-TASS World Service, 31/1/2006

Heroin parcel seized in Siberia

Drug police in the Russian city of Norilsk have seized six kilograms of heroin, Russian RIA news agency reported on 1 February.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: RIA news agency) 1/2/2006.

Another large batch of heroin seized in Siberia

The staff of the Federal Drug Control Service have seized 12.6 kg of heroin in Surgut (Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area), RIA-Novosti was told on Wednesday [1 February] at the federal service's directorate for Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: RIA Novosti) 1/2/2006.

Afghan officials arrest man trying to send heroin to London by post

Officials of the Counter-Terrorism Department which is part of the Interior Ministry say they have arrested a person who wanted to send 100 g of heroin to London by post.

BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 1/2/2006.

Russia: Heroin consignment intercepted at St Petersburg checkpoint

Staff of the directorate of the Federal Service for Control Over the Illegal Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances for St Petersburg and Leningrad Region have detained a drugs courier transporting 3 kg of heroin.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: Interfax) 1/2/2006.

Croatian police arrest six drug smugglers

Six truck drivers have been arrested in Croatia for smuggling illegal narcotics into Western European countries including Britain and The Netherlands, police said Wednesday. The six -- four Croatians, an Austrian and a Bosnian -- were detained in eastern Croatia on Tuesday at the culmination of an international investigation, said a police statement. The suspects were arrested on evidence gathered over 12 months. Drugs seized during the investigation include 45

kilograms (nearly 100 pounds) of heroin discovered at the British port of Dover and 470 kilograms (more than 1,000 pounds) of marijuana found in Germany during an operation near the northern town of Hamburg. The drugs were destined for Britain and The Netherlands, said police, adding they were searching for two more suspects, a Croatian and a citizen of neighbouring Serbia-Montenegro.

Agence France Presse, 1/2/2006.

Two drug smugglers apprehended in Badakhshan

Two men were arrested with 60 kilograms of heroin on the Badakhshan-Baghlan Highway in northern Afghanistan, security officials said on Wednesday.

Pajhwok Afghan News, 1/2/2006

NZ soldiers destroy nearly two tonnes of opium in Afghanistan

New Zealand soldiers working on the reconstruction of war-torn Afghanistan have destroyed nearly two tonnes of opium.

New Zealand Press Association, 2/1/2006

International drug dealers detained in central Russia with over 40 kg of heroin

Personnel of the FSB [Federal Security Service] directorates in Bashkortostan and Chelyabinsk Region have put an end to the activities of an international drug-trafficking group consisting of Tajik nationals. "An illegal consignment of small heroin bricks amounting to 42 kg with seals which are used by Afghan manufacturers has been confiscated in Bashkortostan," the head of the press service of the republic's FSB directorate, Igor Kovalenko, told ITAR-TASS today.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: ITAR-TASS) 2/1/2006.

ISAF soldiers confiscate opium in south Afghan province

Soldiers of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) recently confiscated 386 kg of opium in Kandahar Province.

BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan state radio) 2/2/2006

Georgian police seize "unprecedented" quantity of Iranian heroin

At dawn today police officers in Tbilisi arrested one of the most important narcotics dealers in Georgia and seized an unprecedented amount of high-quality heroin. The Interior Ministry told Prime-News that they had seized 2kg of Iranian-produced heroin which contained no impurities and was worth 600,000 dollars on the black market.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: Georgian news agency Prime-News) 2/1/2006.

THE WCO Chair: The South Caucasus is used for transportation of Narcotics from Afghanistan to Europe

The South Caucasus region is used as a transit country for transportation of narcotic substances from Afghanistan to Europe. The chair of the World Customs Organization Michel Dane said this to journalists. "Today heroin is produced in large volumes in Afghanistan and then is delivered to Europe through this region. It is transported via the Great Silk Way route or Balkans", - he noted.

Azer-Press, 2/2/2006

Tajik police officer gets long jail term for drug dealing

A court hearing of the case of a group of five people, including a police officer, has ended in Tajikistan's Khatlon Region, a source at the regional prosecutor's office told Avesta.

BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source: Avesta website) 2/1/2006

Turkish police seize over 24 kilos of heroin in east

Turkish police seized 24.4 kilograms of heroin in eastern city of Van, sources said on Thursday [2 February]. Acting on a tip-off, narcotic teams staged operations to some houses in Van, seizing 24.4 kilograms of heroin. Five people were arrested in operations.

BBC Monitoring European (Source: Turkish news agency Anatolia) 3/2/2006.

Heroin dealing pensioner nabbed in Russia's Samara

More than 23 kg of heroin has been seized from a pensioner in Samara, ITAR-TASS was told by the press service of the regional directorate of the Russian Federal Service for Control Over the Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances today.

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: ITAR-TASS) 3/2/2006

Police seize more than 40 kilos of heroin in eastern Turkey

Police confiscated 41 kilograms of heroin and 34 kilograms of hashish in operations launched in eastern city of Erzincan.

BBC Monitoring European (Source: Turkish news agency Anatolia) 3/2/2006

Bulgaria: Police official views successes in combat against narcotics

The police arrested 2,634 persons for production and distribution of narcotics last year, Col Vasil Kostadinov, chief of the Detective Police Division of the National Police Service Directorate (NPSD), told a news conference here on Friday [3 February]. The NPSD and the regional police units detected 953 persons dealing in narcotics. Of these, 415 were selling cannabis, 335 heroin, 36 cocaine, and 167 designer drugs. Of 1,205 persons detected as drug users and dealers combined, 485 were underage. Police detected 2,501 drug-related crimes in 2005, up from 2,316 in 2004. Of the 2,443 case files referred for preliminary proceedings, 1,957 were against drug users and dealers and 486 against drug dealers. In 2005, the police carried out 2,352 specialized operations and checked 5,514 school areas. The law enforcers found 289 new locations frequented by users and dealers. Police officers seized 4,052 kg of dry cannabis, more than 39 kg of heroin, 4,961 ecstasy pills, 355 kg of amphetamines and 128 litres of precursors last year and destroyed 6.8 hectares of cannabis plantations. The NPSD noted an upward tendency in the production, use and distribution of amphetamines, and a levelling off of the use and distribution of heroin. One in five street heroin suppliers offers amphetamines as well, according to police statistics. Col Kostadinov said that abandoned houses and buildings start to be used on a massive scale as locations where narcotics are taken. Apart from the conventional selling methods, new forms of supply are used: via the Internet, by telephone order, and through direct sale from home. The 36 overdose deaths last year break down by age as follows: three aged under 18, 30 aged between 18 and 30, and three aged over 30. Replying to a question, Col Kostadinov said that information is available on policemen's connections with street drug dealers. He declined to say how many such alerts had been received. He noted that such information was referred to the Interior Ministry's Inspectorate Directorate. Answering another question, Col Kostadinov said that the alerts refer to daily contacts, appointments and telephone conversations between policemen and dealers. He said there is no information on whether the policemen have been paid to shield the distribution of narcotics.

BBC Monitoring European (Source: Bulgarian news agency BTA) 4/2/2006

Pakistan authorities seize drugs in North-West Frontier Province

The Anti-Narcotic Force (ANF) has seized a huge quantity of narcotics and arrested one smuggler by foiling a smuggling bid into Punjab from NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. A press statement issued here Saturday [4 February] said that Anti-Narcotics Force Rawalpindi Range received information that a gang will attempt to smuggle the huge quantity of narcotics from NWFP to Punjab. (...) On searching, 289 kg Charas, 8 kg Garda and 8 kg opium was recovered from the secrete cavities of the vehicle. (...)

200 kilograms of opium, rockets seized in Balkh

Police in the northern Balkh province Sunday recovered 200 kilograms of opium and four rockets dumped in a garden.

Pajhwok Afghan News, 4/2/2006

Tajik agency nets over 9 kg of heroin

In the run up to Tajik Police Day, to be marked on Monday, 6 February, officers of the [Tajik] Drug Control Agency detained another organized criminal group, which had long been involved in drug trafficking from Afghanistan through the Afghan-Tajik border to Dushanbe via Khatlon Region's territory, Avaz Yuldoshev, head of the agency's public relations department, has told Avesta. Yuldoshev said in the last phase of the operation, which had been planned for two months, over 9.5 kg of heroin was seized from a specially-equipped cache inside a VAZ-2109 car, which was approaching the capital in the area of the Korvon market. The owner of the drugs, a 23-year-old resident of Khatlon Region's Qumsangir District; the drug runner, a 25-year-old resident of Kolkhozobod District; and the client a 40-year-old resident of Dushanbe; have been detained in connection with this case. The agency's investigation team found that the consignment of drugs was intended for further trafficking to the Russian city of Krasnoyarsk. To achieve this goal, the client was going to use the service of so-called swallows from among the residents of the capital. Agency officers are now taking measures to pin down the remaining members of the criminal group.

BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source; Avesta website) 6/2/2006

Kyrgyz ex-police officer detained on drug charges

Two natives of [southern] Osh Region have been caught red-handed when trying to sell about 2 kg of heroin, the press service of the Kyrgyz Drug Control Agency said today.

BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source: Kyrgyz AKIpress news agency website) 6/2/2006

Raids in Afghan provinces produce 578 kg of drugs

Counter-narcotics officials claimed capturing 294 kg of narcotics in Logar and Balkh provinces [east and north]. A press release issued here on Monday [6 February] said the narcotics had been captured by the intelligence network of the counter-narcotics police during separate operations. The release said 200 kg of heroin were recovered from a container in the Nazian area of the Mohammad Agha District of central Logar Province. In a separate operation, 184 kg of opium were captured in Mazar-e-Sharif, said the release. Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry says the government forces recovered 183 kg of charas from a car in the southern Kandahar province. The ministry's spokesman General Zahir Azimi said the charas were seized in the border town of Spin Boldak [Pakistani border] last night. He added a trafficker had also been arrested, who was under investigations.

BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 6/2/2006

Rawalpindi: Huge quantity of narcotics recovered

170 kg of fine quality charas, 500 grams heroin and 32 capsules were recovered by the staff of Police station anti narcotics force Rawalpindi in two different operations, says a PR issued by Regional Directorate Anti Narcotics Force Rawalpindi. According to the details Lt. Col Wasif Sajjad, Joint Director RDANF Rawalpindi received special information about the smuggling of the huge quantity of narcotics from NWFP to Punjab. Accordingly a raiding party under the supervision of Capt Wajid Bashir Minhas, Assistant Director along with Mr. Tanveer Ul Hanif, Insp, Mr. Mujtaba Mehdi, ASI and others was organized and a naka was laid at Wah Garden G.T road.

The Baluchistan Times, 6/2/2006

