



## Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 17 - 31 October 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.

### **Russia: Who Carried Out The Nalchik Raids And Why?**

(By Jeremy Bransten)

Chechen rebel commander Shamil Basaev claimed responsibility today for last week's raids on Nalchik, saying he provided "operational guidance." In recent years, Basaev has claimed credit for many of the deadliest terror attacks in Russia. But both Basaev and Russian officials agree on one thing: most of the militants who took part in the Nalchik raids were local men. What is driving people in this formerly peaceful republic to militancy and is it a sign of a widening conflict in the North Caucasus? (...) In hindsight, the raids on Kabardino-Balkaria's capital are strikingly similar to last year's attacks on Nazran -- the main city in nearby Ingushetia. (...) What the Nazran and Nalchik raids make clear is that the Russian authorities are losing their battle to contain militancy from spreading through the North Caucasus. Chechnya, Daghestan, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, and now Kabardino-Balkaria are being drawn in. (...) Nalchik remains under a Russian security lockdown, so obtaining reliable facts remains difficult. But initial indications are that most of the attackers were young locals, including many young Kabardins. If true, this could be significant because until now, most militants were believed to be Balkars, who make up about 10 percent of the population. The Balkars have historical grievances against Moscow. Like the Chechens, they were deported to Siberia by Stalin during World War II. Ever since returning to their homeland, they have faced discrimination and remained on the economic margins of society. The Kabardins, by contrast, who make up 50 percent of the population, were favored by the authorities. Both groups -- naturally -- have remained wary of each other. But if Balkar and Kabardin militants are now making common cause under the banner of the radical group Yarmuk Jamaat, this could portend trouble for Moscow. Kabardino-Balkaria President Arsen Kanokov hinted last week that the campaign against religious extremism may have been counterproductive, and called the mass closing of mosques by republic officials a "mistake." (...) So what drives young Kabardins and Balkars to answer Basaev's call for holy war? Paradoxically, say experts, it is the government's campaign against Islamic extremism that is driving some young men to radicalism. (...) "Police brutality in Kabardino-Balkaria is rampant," said Aslan Doukaev, head of RFE/RL's North Caucasus Service. "We know that young people detained by the police are often tortured in detention. And this is not the first attack on police. You remember that in December last year, a group of militants also attacked antinarcotics police. So, yes, it's a reaction to rampant police brutality, in a way." (...) Svante Cornell, an expert on the region at Sweden's Uppsala University, told RFE/RL that the authorities have fallen into a trap in the North Caucasus. They have accepted the militants' premise that the conflict with Moscow is religious when in fact it began as an ethnic problem in Chechnya and remains a largely economic and social issue for most people. Instead of focusing on improving the local economy and curbing corruption, local governments -- which answer to Moscow -- have become obsessed with religious extremism. For the militants, it has been a recruiter's dream. "As this conflict has gotten an increasingly strong religious undertone, it has also developed much more of a resonance with the other groupings of the populations of the North Caucasus," Cornell said. "And you've seen the spread of radical Islamic groupings from Chechnya out into the rest of the North Caucasus very much because of the counterproductive policies followed by the Russian leadership and their utter inability to deal with the socioeconomic problems in the region." According to the latest official figures provided by Russian Deputy Prosecutor-General Vladimir Kolesnikov, 91 militants were killed in the Nalchik raids and 36 were captured. Twenty-four policemen were killed in addition to 12 civilians. Some 100 people are being treated for injuries. The hunt for escaped militants continues in the Nalchik area.

*RFE/RL (<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/10/07715887-75ed-40ef-af8d-b31a9ed58983.html>), 17/10/2005*

## **NATO commander says drugs Afghanistan's top threat**

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NATO's military commander U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James Jones on Thursday played down fears of a Taliban or al Qaeda uprising in Afghanistan and said narcotics was the chief threat to democracy in a country that is now the world's top source of heroin. But the Atlantic alliance, working on a plan to turn over security in Afghanistan from U.S.-led forces to NATO troops, has not settled the touchy issue of how to use its troops in counter-narcotics efforts. He spoke a day after an Afghan government spokesman said in Kabul that Taliban gunmen assassinated an Afghan district chief and a school headmaster in southern Kandahar province. Separately on Wednesday, two French soldiers of the NATO-led peacekeeping force were wounded in a roadside bomb blast during a patrol north of the capital. "It is not a question of whether NATO troops will be involved in crop eradication," the general said. "The issue is: what's the totality of the plan, who is going to be doing what, (and) how do we make sure that the Afghans lead in this effort, and how do we wean an economy that is at least 50 to 55 percent dependent on this crop?" he added.

*Reuters News, 20/10/2005*

## **ECO to meet in Kabul**

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(Cheragh) – The Economic Cooperation Organisation, ECO, will hold its third conference in Afghanistan, Commerce Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala said on October 19. Addressing a press conference in Kabul, Arsala said Afghanistan would use the opportunity to encourage foreign companies to invest. The head of the Afghan Investment Support Agency told the same press conference that an American businessman has expressed readiness to construct a three-megawatt power plant in the north of Afghanistan.

(Cheragh is an independent daily run by the Development and Democracy Association)

## **US Aircraft bomb rebels in Kunar**

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(Hewad) – US-led Coalition forces have confirmed that their warplanes bombed areas in the eastern province of Kunar on the night of October 18. A spokeswoman for the Coalition said US jets bombed several areas in the province after Coalition troops came under rocket attacks by militants hiding in the area. She gave no details of casualties.

(Hewad is a state run daily mostly in Pashto)

*IWPR's Afghan Press Monitor No. 179, 20/10/2005*

## **Afghanistan: PRTs Spreading, Though Impact Remains Unclear**

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(By Robert McMahon)

International civilian and military units -- known as Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) -- have now spread to 22 locations in Afghanistan, a sign of their popularity with Afghan, U.S., and NATO leaders. But it's unclear how effective the teams are in stabilizing regions and extending Kabul's control -- their main goals. Three years after they were introduced, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are winning cautious praise from international bodies and the Afghan government. Twenty-two units are now deployed from Faizabad in the northeast to Kandahar in the south. Their roles have evolved since the first team was introduced by U.S. forces in the eastern town of Gardez, but they remain focused on small projects such as building bridges, renovating schools and clinics, and in some cases training Afghan police. (...) But the PRTs handle civil-military activities in different ways depending on the environment and the priorities of troop-contributing countries. The troop contributors set conditions for deploying forces, such as restrictions on how far they can move from bases or the hours of the day they operate. NATO spokesman James Appathurai told RFE/RL that this flexible approach has attracted a growing number of troop contributors. "It's a model that's growing in popularity because it works," Appathurai said. "But the key is, of course, that it's a flexible model. A PRT in the north, where things are pretty relaxed, comparatively, is very different from a PRT in south, where it has to have a much heavier military element." (...) Robert Perito is a specialist with the U.S. Institute for Peace, a congressionally funded organization that on 26 October will release a major study of Afghan PRTs. Perito told RFE/RL that the lack of standardization among PRTs poses some problems. For example, even as NATO expands its jurisdiction in Afghanistan, no single commander can direct the operations of various PRTs until the restrictions of troop contributing countries are removed. Another problem, Perito says, is gauging the effectiveness of the PRTs. "I think that's one of the major failings of PRTs, is that they have not established standards and they have not established measures of effectiveness," Perito said. "What you are left with then is anecdotal information, where people will tell you a story about a PRT doing this or not doing that, and people's impressions, so it is in fact very difficult to evaluate what they have accomplished." U.S. officials say the PRTs provide useful "eyes and ears on the ground" for both military and civilian planners. (...) U.S. Army Lieutenant Darrel Pearman, who helps support the PRT in Parwan, north of Kabul,

told RFE/RL that there has been an improvement in the coordination of projects this year. "Things have become a lot more structured, and smart people have started thinking, 'Hey, we need to start working this in a systematic way,'" Pearman said. "So now we're looking at roads and infrastructure improvements and those types of projects, and we think in a systematic way -- 'OK, so let's try to link this provincial capital with this provincial capital, fix all the roads in between those.' The improved coordination coincides with the increasing deployment to U.S.-run PRTs of full-time staff from the USAID. The agency's assistant administrator for Asia, James Kunder, told RFE/RL that the lack of standardized practices in the 22 PRTs is an obstacle to improving the functioning of ministries -- such as health and education -- in the provinces: "While we can have 22 different perimeter configurations, we can't have 22 different public health reporting systems in Afghanistan because the Ministry of Public Health has declared what the official Afghan public health reporting database will be," Kunder said. "And so this is exactly one of the issues we're looking at that is very critical for the applicability of PRTs in other settings -- how do we make them specific enough to take into account local conditions, but how do we make them consistent enough with the overall Afghan priorities? And that requires a degree of standardization." (...) A report commissioned last summer by Britain's Department for International Development said most PRTs remain primarily military missions. It said they are not equipped to deliver assistance in ways that will have a long-term developmental impact in rural Afghan communities. The report also called for broader efforts by PRTs to increase the capacity of Afghan security forces on the regional level. Kunder of USAID acknowledges the challenges. "I am not going to report perfection to you," he said. "We still have work to do. We still have to get better at this. We still have to make sure that we pay full attention to the priorities of the Afghan ministries, and we're still working out the modalities for accomplishing that and responding to the needs of the local villagers on the ground that the PRT teams encounter on a daily basis." (...) U.S. policymakers are planning to transfer the model to another nation-building effort. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a U.S. Senate panel on Wednesday that, starting next month, coalition-run PRTs will work with Iraqis as they train police, set up courts, and help local governments establish services.

RFE/RL (<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/10/448F8C8D-7BFB-4D84-B965-3FEE0FAE3C4F.html>) 20/10/05

### **Afghan foreign minister cautions against drawdown at Central Asian bases**

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Afghanistan's foreign minister is urging members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) not to weaken support for his country's stabilization efforts. Abdullah Abdullah said that, despite a recent communique, the SCO should recognize the importance of maintaining a robust international military presence in Afghanistan. Separately, the country's women's affairs minister said the new parliament offers hope for lifting Afghan women out of poverty and a culture of violence. Abdullah told a news briefing at RFE/RL in Washington on 17 October that now is not the time to consider reducing the number of international coalition forces waging the antiterrorism campaign in his country.

*RFE/RL Central Asia Report Vol. 5, No. 40, 21/10/2005*

### **China to help Afghan army**

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(Cheragh) – China has announced its readiness to assist the Afghan National Army, deputy defence minister Hodayoun Fauzi said on October 23. In talks with journalists after returning from China, he said the country was ready to help the Afghan army in every sphere. Fauzi added that China was giving Afghanistan two million US dollars which would be spent on logistical support for the army. He said the defence ministry would soon submit a proposal to Beijing detailing its military needs.

*IWPR's Afghan Press Monitor No. 181, 23/10/2005*

### **Editorial: Pakistan plays cat and mouse**

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(Cheragh, October 23, 2005) – Pakistan's establishment will crack down on the Taliban only when it finds the cost of positioning itself as a major regional power unbearable. For over two years, Abdul Latif Hakimi regularly spoke by phone to Pakistani and western reporters and described himself as the spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban. He claimed responsibility, on behalf of the Taliban, for several insurgent attacks. Hakimi's telephone conferences and interviews, conducted on satellite and mobile phones, offered an embellished version of the emerging reality on the ground. After being toppled from power in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Taliban have reconstituted themselves as an insurgent force in certain rural areas, especially in several provinces dominated by the Pashtun ethnic group along the Pakistan-Afghan border. When Pakistani authorities announced on October 4 that Hakimi had been arrested in the southwestern city of Quetta, near the Taliban's traditional support base Kandahar, officials in

Afghanistan were not impressed. They asked why it had taken the Pakistanis so long to silence Hakimi when he operated freely in their country for over two years. What about other Taleban leaders who are said to roam the streets of Quetta and other Pakistani cities and towns quite openly? Pakistan's decision to arrest the Taleban spokesman has been attributed to relentless US pressure.

*IWPR's Afghan Press Monitor No. 185, 28/10/2005*

### **Sergei Ivanov: Anti-drug belt must be built around Afghanistan**

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Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov has proposed creating an international anti-drug security belt around Afghanistan, with the participation of Iran. "Heroin producers in Afghanistan annually earn about \$30 billion. A huge share of this money flows out of Afghanistan to other parts of the world, including Iraq, Chechnya, Indonesia, the Philippines and Western Europe," Ivanov said on NTV television on Saturday evening. "A security belt must be built around Afghanistan. I wouldn't disregard Iran's capabilities in this respect. Iran is a long-standing fighter against drug trafficking," the Russian defense minister said.

*Interfax, 30/10/2005*

## **Seizures and Arrests**

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### **242 Crimes related to drug trafficking reported in Northern Tajikistan this year so far**

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In January-September 2005, officers of the Drug Control Agency's (DCA) directorate for Sughd Province have intercepted 101.722 kilograms of drugs. The totaled included more than 67 kilograms of heroin. The source in the Sughd drug control directorate has told Asia-Plus that over the same nine-month period joint operations carried out in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies and power-wielding structures in Tajikistan and the law enforcement agencies of the CIS states have led to seizure of 205.242 kilograms of drugs, including 151.4293 kilograms of heroin, in the region. "Besides, during the "Poppy 2005" Operation carried out in the region from May to October this year the Sughd drug control officers revealed 12 cases of drug trafficking and intercepted 47.925 kilograms of heroin, destroyed 175,792 bushes of wild hemp in the city of Chkalovsk and Jabborasulov, Bobojonghafurov and Mastchoh districts," the source said. In total, over the past nine months officers of the law enforcement agencies and power wielding structures have discovered 242 related to drug trafficking and intercepted totaling 373 kilograms of drugs, including 192.3 kilograms of heroin.

*Asia-Plus, 21/10/2005*

### **Tajik official: Traffickers killed, arms and drugs seized on Afghan border**

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Tajik border guards have seized over 30 kg of heroin at the Tajik-Afghan border section controlled by the Panj border guard detachment, the chairman of the Tajik State Border Protection Committee, Saidamir Zuhurov, has told a news conference in Dushanbe while summing up the results of a session of the CIS council of border troop commanders. An Afghan trafficker was killed in a shoot-out and 15 kg of heroin seized on the Panj section of the border in the early hours of 16 October, Zuhurov said. There was a clash with the Afghan traffickers on the section of the Panj detachment's 11th border outpost on 18 October. As a result, two traffickers were killed, the body of one was washed away by the river. A rifle made in Britain and 16 kg of heroin were seized from the scene. Zuhurov told the session of CIS border troop commanders that a report had been prepared on guarding the Tajik-Afghan border and on the results reached by Tajik border guards following the hand-over by Russian colleagues. The report also looked at steps, which the Tajik government and the border guard troop command are taking, and at what should be done in the future, including with the help of CIS border guard troops. "After protection of the Tajik-Afghan border had been handed over [from Russia to Tajikistan], servicemen from Tajik border guard troops in cooperation with other power-wielding agencies seized some 1,158 kg of drugs, over 50 guns, communications equipment and over 9,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibre. A large number of Afghan traffickers were arrested, 20 criminal cases were opened against them. Two very big armed Afghan groups have been arrested on the Sar-i Chashma section of the Tajik-Afghan border over the last nine months of this year. These groups were involved in trafficking considerable batches of drugs. They were also stealing cattle from the local population and taking our nationals hostage," Zuhurov said. He added that three gang leaders had been killed in this district.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source of the report: Avesta), 21/10/2005*

### **Turkey seizes one tonne of heroin, detains nine suspects**

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Turkish police have seized one tonne (2,300 pounds) of heroin and detained nine suspects in operations in the country's biggest city Istanbul, the city's police chief said Saturday. After tracking the suspected smugglers for five months, police carried out raids Friday in three districts of the city and a western suburb, police chief Cellattin Cerrah told a news conference. Newspapers estimated the haul to be worth 15.7 million euros (about 18.8 million dollars). Police also found cash worth over 176,000 euros which they believe was earned through drug trafficking. Cerrah said the narcotics originated from Asia, without specifying a country, and most were bound for Europe.

*Agence France Presse, 22/10/2005*

### **Tajik police seize 16 kg of heroin from Afghan drug runner**

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An Afghan drug trafficker carrying 16 kg of heroin was detained at the Farkhor sector of the Tajik-Afghan border on the night of 22 to 23 October. Since the beginning of October, Tajikistan's law-enforcement agencies and border guards have seized over 500 kg of heroin.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source of the report: ITAR-TASS), 23/10/2005*

### **Tajik border official detained for heroin possession**

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Airport police officers have confiscated 11 pounds of heroin from a Tajik border guard official at the Dushanbe airport, the Tajik Interior Ministry said Monday. The ministry said police had discovered the stash inside the Niva-Chevrolet belonging to Imatsho Kanoatov, the deputy head of the intelligence department of the border protection committee.

*RIA Novosti, 24/10/2005*

### **Accused drug lord is first Afghan extradited to US**

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An accused Taliban-linked drug lord has become the first Afghan extradited to the United States, where he faces charges he conspired to ship millions of dollars of heroin to U.S. streets in what he called a "jihad," prosecutors said on Monday. Baz Mohammad (47) is accused of conspiring to import more than \$25 million of heroin into the United States since 1990, said Michael Garcia, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, at a news conference. Mohammad pleaded not guilty to two counts of conspiring to violate U.S. narcotics laws. In June, President George W. Bush called him one of the world's most wanted drug kingpins. Mohammad, who was arrested in Afghanistan in January, was extradited on Friday. Garcia said he was the first person sent from his country to face U.S. charges. According to an indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court, Mohammad controlled opium fields in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, the second largest opium-producing region, and used laboratories in Afghanistan and Pakistan to convert the opium to heroin before smuggling it to the United States. His organization provided financial support to Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers and "related Islamist-extremist organizations in Afghanistan," in exchange for the Taliban providing protection to its drug crops, the indictment said.

*Reuters News, 24/10/2005*

### **110 kilograms of opium seized in Helmand**

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Security personnel seized 110 kilograms of opium in this capital city of the southern Helmand province, officials said on Monday. Deputy provincial police chief Haji Mohammad Ayub said that a counter-narcotics force unit recovered the opium from a house in Safian area on Sunday. The house owner, however, managed to escape. The drug seizure came days after the torching of about 2.5 tonnes of opium at the Lashkargah airport.

*Pajhwok Afghan News, 24/10/2005*

### **Tajik agencies seize over 20 kg of heroin from Afghan national**

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Over 21 kg of heroin was seized as the result of a joint operation of law-enforcement agencies and Tajik border guards last weekend [22 October]. The head of the Tajik Interior Ministry department for combating illicit drugs trade, Fayzullo Gadoyev, said that an Afghan national had been detained on the territory of border post No 3 at the Farkhor

sector of the Tajik-Afghan border on 22 October. He attempted to smuggle a large batch of hard drugs from Afghanistan to Tajikistan.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source of the report: Asia-Plus), 25/10/2005*

### **Afghan counter-narcotics police seize 170 kg opium in Helmand**

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Afghanistan's special counter-narcotics unit personnel have seized two hauls of opium weighing 170 kg and arrested a drug peddler in southern Afghanistan, officials said on Wednesday. Haji Mohammad Ayub, Helmand's deputy security chief, said 150 kg of opium were recovered from a drug dealer's house in Safian village in Lashkargah. But the owner of the house managed to escape before the raiding party's arrival. The seizure came hard on the heels of the recovery of 110 kg of opium from the same village. According to another report, security forces in Ghazni arrested a drug trader with 20 kg of opium, Ghazni security chief Brig-Gen Abdorrahman Sarjang identified the detainee as Nazer, who was allegedly involved in drug pushing.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source of the report: Pajhwok Afghan News), 26/10/2005*

### **Afghanistan uses mosques to tackle opium crop**

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Afghanistan secured funding Wednesday for a project that will see Islamic leaders use their mosques to preach against the cultivation of poppies, a crop used to supply the bulk of the world's heroin. The government signed a memorandum of understanding with the Colombo Plan group of 25 countries in Asia and the Pacific to establish and operate 25 mosque-based drug prevention and aftercare centres across the country. "We want to discuss drugs from the religious point of view, the disaster which exists in Afghanistan. We want to explain its illegitimacy via religion," Religious Minister Niamatullah Shahrani said after signing the document. Counter-narcotics Minister Habibullah Qaderi said the project had already trained the 25 religious leaders who would use their mosques to preach against drugs and the cultivation of poppies. "Mullahs will preach in mosques that poppy cultivation, use, trade and process is forbidden according to Islam and the constitution and is bad for health," he said.

*Agence France Press, 26/10/2005*

### **Major drug batch seized in the Urals**

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Over 20 kilos of heroin produced in Pakistan and with a street value of around \$100,000 have been seized in the Sverdlovsk region, in the Urals, a local official said Thursday. "In late October, narcotics officers conducted an undercover operation, delivering a batch of drugs from the Altai region to Yekaterinburg," a service officer said. "This helped close down a channel of delivering drugs to Russian territory." Two citizens of Tajikistan suspected of organizing the deliveries were arrested.

*RIA Novosti, 27/10/2005*

### **Tajik border guards seize 30 kg of heroin from Afghan smuggler**

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An Afghan national was detained in possession of 30 kg of heroin in the Farkhor section of the Tajik-Afghan border last night, the head of the operational department of the Tajik State Border Protection Committee's headquarters, [Col] Mahmadscho Iskandarov said. He added that the operation had been held jointly with local police officers. The colonel said that Afghan drug mafia structures were continuing attempts to smuggle large batches of drugs, mainly heroin, across the border. Several dozens of laboratories producing heroin from the new opium harvest are concentrated in the neighbouring state's northern provinces, including near the border line with Tajikistan, Iskandarov said. Tajik border guards conducted four operations in October alone, detaining several Afghan smugglers and seizing about 100 kg of heroin.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source of the report: ITAR-TASS), 28/10/2005*

### **Heroin seized from Tajik nationals in Russia's Krasnoyarsk**

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Almost one kilogram of heroin has been seized from two Tajik nationals in Krasnoyarsk, a source in the city law-enforcement agencies said.

### **Macedonian police seize heroin at border crossing with Kosovo**

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Macedonian police seized 18.6 kilos of heroin in a freight vehicle which transported sponges on 28 October at Blace border crossing. The 36 packages of drug were hidden in one of the reservoirs of the vehicle owned by Kosobres trading company and driven by S.I. (52) from Kocani, police informs. Besides the driver, also R.K. (26) from Skopje, who was one of the owners of the company, was detained, while the other co-owner L.H. (55) is the citizens of Serbia and Montenegro - Kosovo.

*BBC Monitoring Europe (Source of the report: MIA, )30/10/2005*

### **100 kilograms of opium seized in Balkh**

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Police in the northern Balkh province said they had seized 100 kilograms of opium and arrested the alleged smuggler. Following a tip-off, police raided a market and after searching a suspected truck loaded with timber, they recovered the contraband.

*Pajhwok Afghan News, 30/10/2005*

### **Thirty opium laboratories destroyed in east Afghanistan**

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The Afghan Special Narcotics Force (ASNF) has set ablaze 30 opium laboratories, several large drugstores and a huge quantity of tools used in heroin production in eastern Nangarhar Province. In a series of operations launched over the past four days, the ASNF torched the illegal drug laboratories. The force also destroyed over 4,000 kg of opiates and 5,000 kg of chemicals used in changing opium into heroin.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source of the report: Pajhwok Afghan News), 30/10/2005*

### **Afghan police arrest Nigerian national on charges of smuggling heroin**

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At least 23 kg of heroin were seized from a Nigerian national and from a vehicle in Jalalabad yesterday. A senior counter-narcotics official, Mohammad Shirin, said that a Nigerian national intended to smuggle heroin from Pakistan to Afghanistan. He added: "The Nigerian national was detained from a vehicle in Samerkhel area on Jalalabad-Kabul road yesterday." He was detained for carrying 2.1 kg of heroin, placed in three sandals and food tins." Another counter-narcotics official told AIP that 21 kg of heroin were seized after a tip-off from a Corolla car in Jalalabad last night. It is worth mentioning that several Nigerian nationals were arrested at Kabul airport on charges of smuggling heroin a few days ago. It seems that the Nigerian smugglers have now chosen Peshawar and Kabul to smuggle heroin to the outside world, in particular to Dubai.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source of the report: Afghan Islamic Press), 31/10/2005*