



## Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest:24-31 January 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.

### **Senior UN official visits Afghanistan to push for counter-narcotics measures**

The potential risk of drug cultivation in Afghanistan topped the agenda of just-concluded talks between the senior United Nations anti-narcotics official and leaders in the country, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported on 22 January. Antonio Maria Costa, who heads UNODC, met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, government officials, representatives of coalition countries, the ISAF-NATO Commander and heads of UN agencies during his two-day visit to the country, which ended on Saturday.

*UzReport.com, 23/1/2006*

### **World Bank backs funding via Government**

Cheragh: The World Bank has lent its support to the idea that more of the international aid Afghanistan gets should be channeled through the government. A report issued by the bank says the international community ought to cooperate more closely with the Afghan government by allowing it to manage financial affairs and development programmes. According to the report, 75 per cent of international aid so far has been spent without input from the government. The World Bank's suggestion comes in of the run-up to a major donor conference on Afghanistan which will take place in London on January 31-February 1. The Afghan government has long been pushing for aid to come directly through government channels.

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

*IWPR'S AFGHAN PRESS MONITOR, No. 232, 25/1/2006*

### **Saffron to replace opium in north Afghan province**

The Agriculture Department of Balkh Province in north Afghanistan started a trial project today to explore whether growing saffron is suitable to the soil and climate of the province and can be used as an alternative to poppy cultivation.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 28/1/2006.*

### **About 6,000 people die in Russia annually from drug abuse - expert**

About 6,000 people die in Russia annually as a result of drug abuse, Yevgeniya Koshkina, Russia's chief expert in drug addiction among children, said today. She said almost 350,000 drug addicts had been registered in Russia.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: Ekho Moskvyy radio) 30/1/2006.*

### **Opium Eradication Could Destroy Farmers**

Proposals being considered for the widespread destruction of opium plantations could end up destroying the lives of millions of farmers, an independent report warned Monday. The report was released a day ahead of a summit on the development of Afghanistan called by the British government. The report by The Senlis Council, a drug policy advisory forum, says that in the face of mounting violence and instability in Afghanistan, the focus should be on the real stakeholders in Afghanistan's future. "The Afghan farming communities must be empowered and included in decisions on the future of their country," the report says.

*Inter Press News Service, 30/1/2006.*

## Seizures and Arrests

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### Heroin labs destroyed in Nangarhar

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Erada: Afghan counter-narcotics forces destroyed eight heroin-producing labs during an operation in the eastern province of Nangarhar on January 21. During the operation, the forces seized 371 kilograms of opium and a significant amount of the chemicals used in heroin. The same day, Assadullah Wafa, governor of the eastern province of Kunar, said security officials seized 31 kilograms of explosives in the Dotapur district. No arrests have been made. (Erada is an independent daily run by the Afghan Media and Resource Centre.)

*IWPR'S AFGHAN PRESS MONITOR, No. 23, 23/1/2006*

### 79 Foreigners were caught red-handed over drug-related crimes in Azerbaijan last year

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The state committee against drug addiction and traffic uncovered 2358 drug-related crimes last year. There were 802 dealing, 1354 storing and 141 cultivation crimes recorded last year. As much as 365 kilograms 684 grams of narcotics, psychotropic compounds and precursors, including 17 kilograms 457 grams of heroin, 43 kilograms 780 grams of the poppy straw, 48 kilograms 351 grams of hashish, 237 kilograms 375 grams of marijuana, 690 ampoules and 15724 pills of psychotropic matters and 8 kilograms 841 grams of acetic oxide were revealed and taken away from separate culprits. Also, 512 tonnes of narcotic weeds were found and destroyed last year.

*Azer-Press, 23/1/2006*

### Police seize 60 kg of poppy straw and 19.5 liters of opium from 39-year-old woman in Dnipropetrovsk region

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Police have seized 60 kilograms of poppy straw and 19.5 liters of acetylated opium from a 39-year-old woman, a resident of Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region.

*Ukrainian News, 23/1/2006*

### Russia: St Petersburg media highlights 1-15 Jan 06

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A 30-year old Azerbaijani citizen trying to sell 1.7 kg of heroin has been arrested in St Petersburg's Krasnogvardeyskiy district. A criminal case into illegal purchase, storage and sale of drugs has been opened. The Azerbaijani gave a written undertaking not to leave the city.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: Rosbalt news agency) 24/1/2006*

### Russia: Leningrad Region media highlights 1-15 Jan 06

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Customs and drugs control officers have confiscated 103 g of heroin from a Russian citizen at the Torfyanovka border crossing point to Finland in Leningrad Region, Regnum news agency reported quoting the press service of the Northwestern Federal District Customs Directorate.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union, (Source: Severinform news agency) 24/1/ 2006.*

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### **Bulgarian customs officials seize 6.8 kg heroin at border checkpoint**

Some 6.8 kg of heroin have been seized by the customs officials at the Kapitan Andreevo border checkpoint. The narcotic has been discovered in a private BMW vehicle with a Bulgarian registration, driven by A.P., 27, a Bulgarian citizen travelling from Turkey to Bulgaria.

*BBC Monitoring European (Source: Bulgarian news agency BGNES website) 24/1/2006.*

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### **Russian serviceman caught selling heroin in Tver Region**

The Federal Security Service [FSB] directorate for Tver Region has shut down a narcotics distribution channel in the upper Volga area, the directorate's public relations service told ITAR-TASS today.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union (Source: ITAR-TASS) 24/1/ 2006.*

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### **155 kg heroin seized at Kapikule border gate**

Turkish police seized 155 kg heroin at Edirne's Kapikule Border Gate on Wednesday.

*Anadolu Agency, 25/1/2006.*

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### **Tajik police seize over 200 kg of heroin so far in 2006**

Yesterday officers of the Tajik Interior Ministry department for combating the illicit drugs trade carried out four operations to detain drug dealers. The ministry told Avesta that 39-year-old Shamsullo Sayfulloyev had been detained in Dushanbe's Somoni district as a result of a special operation carried out in the capital. Nearly 15 kg of heroin were seized from him when he was searched. Another operation in the capital resulted in the seizure of more than a kilo of heroin from the basement of the house of Rustam Siddiqov, who was detained earlier. Ayubjon Kholiqov and Amin Shodiqulov were detained in the course of two operations in Hisor District. About three kilos of heroin were seized from them. Criminal cases have been launched into these incidents and investigations are under way. This year Tajik law-enforcement personnel have seized more than 280 kg of drugs, over 200 kg of which is heroin.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia, 26/1/2006.*

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### **Drugs seized, two smugglers arrested in Herat**

Police in the western Herat province said they had arrested two people with 105 kilograms of drugs on Herat - Qala-i-Naw road last night.

*Pajhwok Afghan News, 26/1/2006.*

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### **Serbian police seize heroin, arrest seven persons**

The Belgrade police and [Serbian Interior Ministry's] Service to Fight Organized Crime have seized 3.5 kilograms of heroin, half a kilogram of paracetamol, a pistol and a large amount of ammunition, and they have detained seven persons over this incident, the Serbian MUP [Interior Ministry] today said.

*BBC Monitoring European (Source: Serbian independent news agency FoNet ) 27/1/2006*

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### **Over 500 grams of heroin seized in Ingushetia**

Officers of the Ingush Drug Control Department and a mobile detachment of the Russian Interior Ministry have conducted a successful operation to reveal drug dealers in the republic on Friday. As Itar-Tass learnt at the Ingush Interior Ministry, three residents of the republic, living in the municipal district of Nasyr-Kortovsky, sold a drug control officer 21 grams of heroin. While examining the house of a criminal, some 600 grams of heroin were discovered.

*ITAR-TASS World Service, 27 January 2006.*

### **Five drug smugglers apprehended in Yekaterinburg**

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Five suspected smugglers of about 270 kilograms of heroin, including the shipment organizer and carrier, have been detained in Yekaterinburg, head of the Sverdlovsk regional department of the Federal Drug Control Service Maj. Gen. Viktor Dementyev told Itar-Tass on Friday. He said charges had been brought against the suspects. The cost of the shipment is 260 million rubles. "The total weight of the shipment, including the packing, neared 288 kilograms, while the net weight was approximately 270 kilos," Dementyev said.

*ITAR-TASS World Service, 27 January 2006*

### **Over 15 kg of heroin seized from Afghan national in Tajik capital**

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An Afghan citizen has been detained on suspicion of drug trafficking in the Tajik capital [Dushanbe]. The Tajik Internal Affairs Ministry has told Avesta that officers of the directorate for combating illegal drug trafficking have detained Namazbay Jorakhan [name as transliterated], 37-year-old resident of the Afghan town of Takhor, in Dushanbe's Somoni District.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia (Source: Avesta website) 28/1/2006.*

### **Kuwait Times: Iranian blacksmith held for selling opium in Jleeb**

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Farwaniya police arrested an Iranian blacksmith for drug offences. Police sent an undercover agent posing as customer to buy a small quantity of opium from the man. Police arrested him while he handed over the drugs. Later, police searched his garage Jleeb Shuyukh and found 500 gm of opium. He confessed that he received 4 kg of opium from Iran and that he had sold all of the drugs except for the remaining 500 gm which was confiscated by police. A case was filed.

*Kuwait Times, 28/1/2006.*

### **Heroin seized on Tajik-Afghan border**

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An Afghan citizen was detained by officers of the Tajik Internal Affairs Ministry's directorate for combating illegal drug trafficking and servicemen of the State Committee for Protecting State Border of Tajikistan on the Farkhor section of the Tajik-Afghan border on the night of 28 to 29 January.

*BBC Monitoring Central Asia, (Source: Tajik news agency Asia-Plus website) 29/1/2006.*

### **Turkish police arrest two Bulgarians involved in heroine trafficking**

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Edirne [northwestern Turkey], 29 January: The two Bulgarian citizens, who were detained in connection with the 167.7 kg of heroin that was found in a truck that was to leave Turkey through the Kapikule border gate, have been placed under arrest. An AA [Anatolia] correspondent has ascertained that 310 packets of heroin were found in a truck that approached the Kapikule border gate to leave the country on Wednesday, 25 October. The heroin was hidden in the textile products in the vehicle, which was driven by T.Z., a Bulgarian citizen. The truck was registered as K 1501 AC. The correspondent also ascertained that the heroin has a market value of 4m new Turkish lira. T.Z. was detained together with E.D., who is the owner of the textile products on the vehicle.

*BBC Monitoring European (Source: Turkish news agency Anatolia) 29/1/2006.*

### **(ANF of Pakistan:) Two arrested, drugs seized**

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The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has arrested two alleged drug smugglers and recovered a large quantity of contraband from their possession, says an official statement issued here on Saturday. On a tip-off, ANF commander Brig Mohammad Najmul Hassan Jameel deployed a team at the Indus Highway tunnel checkpoint on Friday. The team stopped a truck (AE-0195) and found 313kg of hashish and 32kg of opium on it. Accused Munawwar Hussain and Muhammad Ashfaq, both residents of Khanewal, were arrested. A case has been registered against the accused at the ANF police station in Kohat. Medical Camp: A large number of patients were treated at a free medical camp held

jointly by Khyber Health Care Welfare Trust and Baybay Welfare Trust for polio-affected and handicapped people. The camp was organized at Bijli Ghar (Mardan) for the physically disabled people on Saturday.

*Frontier Star, 29/1/2006.*

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### **Russian police seize 4 kg of heroin in Sverdlovsk Region**

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About 4 kg of heroin has been seized from a 43-year-old resident of the town of Aramil in Sverdlovsk Region, the law-enforcement bodies told ITAR-TASS, adding that "the drugs were found in his Zhiguli [Lada] car". An investigation is under way.

*BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union, (Source: Interfax) 30/1/2006.*

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### **Drug precursor chemical seized in eastern Afghanistan**

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Security officials Monday [30 January] claimed arresting two persons with 2,400 kg of chemicals used in manufacturing of heroin. Spokesman of the provincial police headquarters, Col Abdul Ghafur, told Pajhwok Afghan News police on a tip-off arrested two people who were carrying ammonium chloride in Nazian District.

*BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Pajhwok news agency website) 30/1/2006.*

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### **Police seize 20 kg of drugs in eastern Turkey**

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Gendarmery seized more than 20 kg of drug (heroin and hashish) during security checks on roads in eastern city of Van on Monday [30 January].

*BBC Monitoring European, (Source: Turkish news agency Anatolia) 30/1/2006.*

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### **ANFS recovers huge quantity of narcotics**

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Anti-Narcotics Force, Sindh (ANF), here on Monday, has recovered 37. 752 kg of heroin, 5 kg opium and 31. 450 kg Hashish in different raids in Karachi.

*Pakistan Press International Information Services, 30/1/2006.*

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### **Five kilograms of heroin seized Perm**

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Police have discovered five kilograms of heroin in the flat of a 57-year-old resident of Perm during a special operation for combating drug trafficking, Itar-Tass learnt at the Main Interior Department of the Perm Territory on Monday.

*ITAR-TASS World Service, 30/1/2006.*