CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY
(based on mass media reports)

24.02-01.03.2020

№ 9

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

25.02.2020 Police searches of homes of alleged drug traffickers resulted in the seizure of over 1 kg of heroin. The detainees were 45 and 42 years old. Two residents of Shui district were detained during a special operation in Almaty, who produced and sold drugs. A total of 12,881 kg of hashish and equipment were seized during searches.

25.02.2020 Kazakhstan's KNB officers at the Aktau International Airport detained three Kazakh citizens arriving from Iran in an attempt to smuggle 302 capsules of heroin weighing 1 kg. The detainees were taken to a detention facility in Aktau.

25.02.2020 Employees of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Almaty region found a laboratory cultivating and producing marijuana in house of a 47-year-old rural resident of Ili district during a search. In order to create a microclimate, the house was heated by solar panels. 47 cannabis bushes weighing about 26 kg and 8.5 kg of marijuana were seized. The fact of cultivation of narcotic plants, production and storage on a particularly large scale was registered in the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations.

27.02.2020 Almaty PD officers inspected an apartment rented by an Aktobe resident and found large amounts of amphetamine (weight not specified). A drug dealer came from Aktobe to buy the psychoactive substance "speed", which he ordered online. After getting the drugs, he had to deliver it to Nur-Sultan for sale. He was hired by an unknown person via the Internet to purchase and transport drugs to the capital. The detainee was taken to a temporary detention facility. A pre-trial investigation is currently under way.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

26.02.2020 A 31-year-old drug sales organizer was detained in Nizhny Novgorod by the Interior Ministry's Nizhny Novgorod Region Department of Investigation. During a search of his car, at the place of residence and in caches equipped with it they found and seized 1.5 kg of heroin and 900 g of marijuana. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. The drug dealer has been placed in custody. Citizens who had purchased drugs from the drug dealer for their further retail sale were identified and detained. Investigation is currently under way.
02.03.2020 In the course of investigation of criminal case, the Investigative Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Tyumen Region uncovered involvement of two defendants in organization of a criminal association for illegal sale of narcotic substances. Participants of the criminal community born in 1986, residents of Tyumen and Krasnodar, from August 2018 to May 2019 sold illegal substances via the Internet in the Republic of Crimea, Irkutsk, Sverdlovsk and Tyumen Regions. Through social networks, the organizers recruited participants, whose competence included arranging drugs by caches. In the Tyumen Oblast four members of the criminal association were detained, one of them a woman. Members of the criminal association were managed remotely. Drug payments were made through electronic wallets, and legalization of criminal proceeds from drug trafficking was carried out through financial transactions using bank accounts. Efforts were being made to ascertain the amount of illegal proceeds of crime in cases of money laundering. Currently, organizers and all members of the criminal community are in detention. Investigation is underway. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19671139

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

26.02.2020 Police and Customs of Antigua and Barbuda at Bird International Airport confiscated 13.6 kg of marijuana worth more than $302 thousand. The drugs were found in two buckets placed in large cardboard boxes that were stored in the cargo hold of an Amerijet International aircraft arriving from Miami (USA). http://www.loopslu.com/content/major-drug-seizure-antigua-and-barbuda-5

BRAZIL

24.02.2020 Federal Highway Police (PRF) in Planaltina seized 906 kg of marijuana. The drug was in a hidden compartment in false bottom of a moving truck. During inspection, a false bottom was found in the trunk of the car, where 1,202 packages of marijuana were hidden. The truck driver was arrested and haded over, alongside drugs and the truck, to civilian police station in Planaltina.

https://www.prf.gov.br/agencia/prf-apreende-906-kg-de-maconha-em-planaltina-df/

29.02.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) agents seized 103 kg of cocaine at the port of Paranagua on the Paraná coast. The cocaine shipment was concealed in four bags inside a sugar container. The shipment was destined for the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2020/02/29/receita-federal-apreende-103-kg-de-cocaina-em-contêiner-carregado-de-acucar-no-porto-de-paranagua.ghtml

GEORGIA

19.02.2020 A large consignment of drugs was seized at the Sarpi checkpoint on the Georgian-Turkish border, and a 25-year-old Azerbaijani citizen was detained and accused of illegally acquiring, possessing and importing drugs on a particularly large scale into Georgia. 1,702 MDMA tablets, 490 capsules of "Lyrika", 72 g of amphetamine and 237 g of
26.02.2020 The Semnan provincial police seized 244 kg of opium during a joint operation by Semnan and South Khorasan provincial security forces. Two smugglers were detained and a vehicle confiscated. 

27.02.2020 Italian police in the port of Livorno, on a ship coming from Colombia, found and seized more than 3 tons of cocaine. Three people who were waiting for the shipment to France were arrested. Drugs seized cost more than 400 million euros. The ship in which the drugs were being transported is registered in the Marshall Islands. 

25.02.2020 The police, in a joint action with Hong Kong Customs officials, arrested five suspected drug smugglers in four separate cases over two days. Four suspects were detained at Hong Kong International Airport, upon arrival from France, Greece and Thailand, with drugs hidden in their suitcases.
1) A 23-year-old male detainee from Bangkok was found to have 26 packages containing 3.4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine (ice) in a false suitcase compartment;
2) Two men, 27 years old, and a woman, 22 years old, who arrived from Paris and were carrying 16.3 kg of ketamine in their suitcases;
3) A 72-year-old man who arrived from Athens (Greece) via Doha (Qatar) and was carrying 5.8 kg of cocaine in his luggage;
4) Officers from the Sha Tin Customs Bureau of Investigation arrested a 23-year-old man from Bangkok, Thailand, who had a suitcase with 18 kg of cocaine seized from him. Drugs seized cost HK$ 35.7 million (US $4.6 million). 

27.02.2020 243 kg of cocaine were seized by the Anti-Drug Police at a checkpoint in the Palo de Leche sector after being transported in a car on the road from the municipality of Toulouse to Victoria, Valle del Cauca. The driver of the truck has been arrested. It arrived from the Department of Cauca and was to be transported to the north in order to be loaded in containers and then transported by boat to destinations in Central America and the United States. The consignment is valued at about 1,215 million pesos. 
https://bucaramanga.extra.com.co/noticias/judicial/asi-fue-la-incautacion-de-243-kilos-de-cocaina-en-valle-del-594319 
Video: https://static.hsbnoticias.com/sites/default/files/video/2020/02/caso-27.mp4
28.02.2020  Anti-Drug Authority, in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), with the support of the Office of the Attorney General, seized **656 kg of cocaine** at the Santa Marta seaport. The cargo was concealed in banana boxes and destined for Europe, which were inside a truck parked at the seaport terminal facilities. Cocaine seized was valued at 3,260 million pesos. https://elarticulo.co/incautan-656-kilos-de-cocaina-en-el-puerto-maritimo-de-santa-marta/

**COSTA RICA**

24.02.2020  State Ministry (MP) officers, together with the Anti-Drug police, inspected a container ship from Honduras in Puerto Santo Thomas de Castillo, Isabala. A backpack carrying approximately **4 kg of cocaine** was found in an aisle of the ship. [https://usf.news/the-americas/central-america/guatemala/localizan-cuatro-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-buque-procedente-de-honduras-prensa-libre/](https://usf.news/the-americas/central-america/guatemala/localizan-cuatro-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-buque-procedente-de-honduras-prensa-libre/)


25.02.2020  Drug Enforcement Police (PCD), together with specialized divers from the National Coast Guard (SNG) of the Ministry of Public Security in Puerto Caldera de Puntarenas, Costa Rica, inspected a ship on board and found five sealed PVC pipes holding **149 kg of cocaine**. The ship arrived from the port of Guayaquil (Ecuador), following the route: Puerto Caldera de Puntarenas (Costa Rica) - Puerto Quetzal (Guatemala) to its final destination in San Diego (United States). [https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/vb.232619856751475/888682781552477/?type=2&theater](https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/vb.232619856751475/888682781552477/?type=2&theater) Video: [https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/888682781552477/](https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/888682781552477/)

**CÔTE D’IVOIR**

23.02.2020  Agents of the Transnational Crime Division (ULCT) of the Autonomous Port of Abidjan found about **30 kg of heroin** in cavities of a container. According to information received from the DEA a container carrying between **30 and 40 kg of heroin** in was arriving in Abidjan from Tangiers, Morocco. Investigation is continuing to track down perpetrators and the origin of drugs. [https://news.abidjan.net/h/669549.html](https://news.abidjan.net/h/669549.html)

**MYANMAR**

01.03.2020  Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) in Shan State seized more than **24 kg of heroin** from a car that was on its way to Mongton Township. City police have opened a case against two suspects, and a search is underway for one suspect who fled the scene. On the same day, a drug dealer was detained in the village of Ivangan, in the same state, carrying **24 kg of opium** on his motorcycle. [https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/03/01/over-24kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-myanmar](https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/03/01/over-24kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-myanmar)
25.02.2020 The largest cocaine seizure in the history of the island in Aruba, the Caribbean. Universal cargo ship called ARESSA left the port of Guarana, Venezuela, for Thessaloniki, Greece, in early February. About 1 ton of cocaine was found on board ARESSA. The ship was intercepted in international waters and arrested following the discovery of drugs. Seven crew members, including the captain, were arrested. Ship has been taken to Oranjestad. (General cargo ship "ARESSA", IMO 7612498, DWT 2649, built in 1978, flag of Cameroon. The ship was registered in Cameroon in 2019, earlier it was owned by Russia until 2017, the Russian leadership was still a manager).

http://www.maritimebulletin.net/2020/02/26/largest-drug-bust-in-aruba-history-ship-crew-arrested-russian-trace/
https://twitter.com/PolicijaCG/status/1232594490533261312/photo/3
http://twitter.co/ConflictsW/status/123242239710358656

25.02.2020 Customs in the port of Vlissingen during customs control February 13 found 45 kg of cocaine on a ship arriving from Ecuador. The drugs were concealed within the ship's hold walls. On 25 February, customs intercepted 15 kg of cocaine on a ship arriving from Peru. The drugs were also concealed in the walls and ceiling of the ship's hold. All the cocaine found was destroyed.

https://www.crimesite.nl/douane-pakt-twee-coke-zendingen-in-vlissingen/

28.02.2020 Customs found 35 kg of cocaine during a routine inspection at the port of Rotterdam. The drugs were hidden in a refrigerated container that had arrived from Ecuador with a cargo of mangoes. The cargo was shipped through Peru. At the terminal where the drugs were found, four of the criminals involved in smuggling were arrested. Investigation is being carried out by HARC team by customs, FIOD, seaport police and the Public Prosecutor's Office in Rotterdam. Drugs seized have been destroyed.

https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/02/28/cocaine-tussen-mango%E2%80%99s

01.03.2020 Police found several hundred kilos of cocaine in the port of Rotterdam. The shipment was then handed over to customs. Drugs were hidden in an empty container that supposedly served as a storage area. On 28 February, Customs found a shipment of 35 kg of cocaine at the port of Rotterdam, and four people were also arrested here. Investigation is being carried out by the HARC team through Customs, FIOD, the seaport police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Drugs that have been seized have been destroyed.

https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/03/01/cocaine-in-lege-container

UAE

26.02.2020 Dubai Police (UAE) in a special operation prevented an attempt to smuggle 5.6 tonnes of Captagon. The seized pills had a market value of AED 1.8 billion (over US$490 million). The Captagon pills were concealed inside electric cable coils. The Captagon was delivered from Syria to Jebel Ali by a 70-year-old Arab from Sharjah. The shipment was to be exported to another Arab country. Officers took part in the operation and examined over 200 containers with a specially trained dog. The Anti-Narcotics Police Unit then monitored trucks used to transport electrical cables with drugs to Sharjah and Ajman. That 15-day monitoring led the police to four Arab smugglers - a 70-year-old Arab, his assistant and two truck drivers - who were detained in police custody on January 28 this year. Smuggling was
organized by the said Arab through his brother, who is located in a "Eurasian country".  
Video: https://twitter.com/i/status/1232582426477592577

**PANAMA**

**25.02.2020** National Police, together with the Drugs Prosecutor, seized **23 kg of cocaine** in a container located in a Pacific port. The drug was discovered during an intelligence operation and the container arrived in Panama from Colombia.  
http://www.radiolaprimerisima.com/noticias/resumen/279586/autoridades-incautan-23-paquetes-de-droga-dentro-de-contenedor-en-panama/  
Video: https://twitter.com/i/status/1232418073564581890

**PAKISTAN**

**26.02.2020** Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan (ANF) seized **1102kg of heroin** during an operation in Nokandi, Balochistan. The operation took place in the Gardi Jungle in the Dalbandin district of Chaghai. The drugs were smuggled from Afghanistan for shipment to Iran.  

**27.02.2020** Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized 2,849.097 kg of drugs in 21 anti-drug operations, including **1,700.1 kg of hashish, 1,411.9 kg of heroin, 6,907 kg of crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 0.190 kg of opium**. Seized drugs are estimated to cost Rs. 35.32 billion. 24 criminals, including one foreign national, were arrested and three cars were seized.  

**28.02.2020** Customs intelligence officers seized **5 kg of heroin and 3 kg of hashish** during an inspection on the Ring Road of a van for possible drug smuggling. During the inspection of the vehicles, a suspicious pickup truck was inspected, and packages of drugs were hidden in its hidden cavities. The driver, a resident of Jamrud, has been taken into custody. The Phandu Police Station has a registered drug case against him.  

**SAUDI ARABIA**

**24.02.2020** Saudi Arabia's General Directorate of Narcotics has stopped an attempt to smuggle **1.608 million tablets of amphetamine (Captagon)** hidden in packages with powder glue. Five smugglers, including one Saudi national and two Syrians, have been arrested.  
https://www.arabnews.com/node/1632641/saudi-arabia  
https://www.spa.gov.sa/2038639

**SINGAPORE**

**25.02.2020** Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested a 62-year-old male and female Singaporean citizen suspected of drug trafficking near Toa Piaoch East. About **299 g of crystalline methamphetamine (ice) and 2.012 kg of heroin** were seized. At the same time, another CNB team detained a 38-year-old Malaysian national who was carrying $11,200 from drug trade in his car. Investigations are under way against all suspects. Drug
seizures are worth around USD 171,000. [https://mothership.sg/2020/02/singaporeans-malaysian-heroin-arrested/]

### USA

**24.02.2020** Border Patrol Agents at Welton Station, located at Interstate BCP 8, Yuma, Arizona (USA), found more than 100 packets of more than **46.72 kg of methamphetamine, 4.54 kg of cocaine and nearly 1.81 kg of heroin** in a false floor when checking a Chevrolet Cruz vehicle. The total value of the drugs is 440,000 US dollars. The driver, a 24-year-old U.S. citizen from Avondale, Arizona, had a Secure Electronic Network for Rapid Travel Interview (SENTRI) card, which provides accelerated processing at the U.S./Mexico border for pre-registered travelers. The driver was arrested on charges of smuggling drugs, drugs, car, and SENTRI card were confiscated. [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/yuma-sector-arrests-us-citizen-caught-smuggling-440k-worth-drugs]

**27.02.2020** Border patrol agents working with Mexican law enforcement agencies discovered a cross-border tunnel that ran under the streets of Nogales, Arizona. Agents from the Tucson Sector and the Mexican National Guard found the entrance to the tunnel in the floor of an existing Grand Avenue drainage system in Mexico. The tunnel, located approximately 580 yards (530 meters) west of the Dennis DeConcini junction at the port of entry to Nogales, was dug by hand. There were no supports, ventilation or lighting in the tunnel. It runs approximately 15-20 feet (4.5-6 metres) underground at its deepest point and extends approximately 30 feet (9.2 metres) from start to finish, where it was left unfinished by cartel. U.S. Border Patrol regularly works with the Mexican government to ensure border security, including preventing drug smuggling and movement of people across the border. [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/126th-cross-border-tunnel-discovered]

**28.02.2020** A Chevy Tahoe driven by a 41-year-old driver from Hagerstown was stopped on the Point of Rocks Bridge by officials from the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Maryland. Upon inspection, two large boxes filled with sealed bags of **21.14 kg of cocaine and 1.454 kg of fentanyl** were found in the trunk. The driver is charged with two counts of possession of drugs, possession for distribution, possession of large amounts of drugs and importation of drugs into the state. [https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/crime/over-46-pounds-of-cocaine-and-3-pounds-of-fentanyl/65-59610322-9d66-40ba-9f72-9d30c8b07329]

### TURKEY

**01.03.2020** Narcotics Division of the Adana Police seized **14.65 kg of cannabis** imported into Adana from eastern provinces. The police stopped and searched a suspicious vehicle, and drugs were found by a dog inside a stash equipped with a spare tire in the bottom of the vehicle. The 30-year-old driver has been taken into custody. [https://www.haberinnabzi.com/otomobilden-14-kilo-650-gram-esrar-ciki-45941h.htm]

Video: [https://izle.haberler.com/2020/03/01/araca-gizlenmis-14-kilo-650-gram-esrar-bulund-12968956.mp4]
26.02.2020 Customs in the Odessa region on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border detained a foreigner - bus driver - with a kilogram of methadone. Synthetic drug was being smuggled out of Ukraine by a Moldovan citizen who was driving a bus from Odessa to Chisinau. Three bags with transparent crystalline substance - 1 kg of methadone - weighing up to 1 kg were found in the cabin under a seat during inspection. The driver was detained and the substance was seized and handed over to Moldovan law enforcement authorities. https://www.unian.net/incidents/10891346-v-odesskoy-oblasti-na-granice-s-moldovoy-zaderzhali-voditelya-avtobusa-s-kilogrammom-metadona.html

02.03.2020 SBU officers have prevented a smuggling of 31 kg of cocaine by an international transnational criminal group from a Latin American country to Ukraine. In mid-February this year, a freight container with vehicles arrived at the sea trading port "Yuzhny" in Odessa from a South American country. During customs inspection of the cargo, 31 briquettes with quality cocaine were found. The cost of seized drug is about 90 million UAH (3.6 million USD). Criminals planned to smuggle some of imported cocaine into the EU countries. During a special operation, three members of a criminal group in Kyiv, including one foreign co-organizer of the drug business, were detained. Arrest was carried out after placing cocaine for transfer to the EU in a specially manufactured cache in a courier vehicle. According to available data, group members planned to smuggle 500 kg of cocaine this year for further sale in Ukraine and EU countries. Investigations are continuing to bring to justice other individuals involved in drug trafficking. The operation was carried out by officers of the Main Department for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime in cooperation with the SBU office in Odessa region, the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine under the procedural supervision of Kyiv Local Prosecutor's Office No. 6. https://ssu.gov.ua/en/news/1/category/2/view/7216#.73EYsrIQ.dpbs
https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/2/view/7216#.w86vqmaK.dbps
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=22&v=ti-YP3D9pf4&feature=emb_logo

02.03.2020 The police of Kiev eliminated the largest network of Internet-trafficking in Ukraine and a laboratory, where up to 100 kg of psychotropic substances were produced every month. Organizers and members of OCG were detained. About 300 kg of narcotic substances and more than 2 tons of precursors worth 110 million UAH were seized. The perpetrators established sales through Internet shops, which worked on Internet platforms of announcements and messengers. Drug trafficking routes were identified, 7 contactless wholesale purchases of narcotic drugs were made by the police and 40 inter-regional controlled deliveries of wholesale consignments of psychotropic substances were made. During numerous searches, a powerful drug lab was found, several warehouses were discovered and 9 active OCG members were detained. The main organizer was a resident of Kiev, while other participants were residents of Chernigov, Kiev and Kiev region. Special equipment for mass production of drugs and a large number of illegal substances, computers, gadgets, bank cards, seven premium-class cars used by the criminal group members, as well as other items of evidentiary value were seized. The special operation was carried out by the Kiev police under the procedural supervision of the Kiev Prosecutor's Office, with participation of members of the DPN of the National Police of Ukraine.
FRANCE

29.02.2020 Customs seized 27 kg of cocaine, 52 kg of heroin and 50 kg of ketamine near Dunkirk, worth €3.3 million. Customs checked a truck of a Lithuanian company transporting tiles to the UK near a ferry terminal in Lun Plaza. The driver, a Lithuanian citizen, claimed that he was unaware of drugs, which were allegedly loaded in the Netherlands. Investigation commissioned by Lille's Judicial Police has so far failed to identify a possible sector and possible suspects. Under judicial supervision, the driver must be brought before the court. [https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2020-02-29---130-kg-of-cocaine--heroin-and-ketamine-seized-from-a-truck-.rJYSopwEl.html](https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2020-02-29---130-kg-of-cocaine--heroin-and-ketamine-seized-from-a-truck-.rJYSopwEl.html)

SRI LANKA

25.02.2020 Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) officers arrested six suspects - two Maldivians and four Sri Lankans - from the Dehivala and Maharagama districts, aged 26 to 28, and seized over 4.29 kg of heroin. Two vehicles were seized and suspects were taken into custody. PNB is conducting further investigations into the incident. [http://www.adaderana.lk/news/60989/six-including-maldivians-busted-with-4kg-of-heroin](http://www.adaderana.lk/news/60989/six-including-maldivians-busted-with-4kg-of-heroin)