

## Four HNLC militants killed in Meghalaya



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Four Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) militants including a commander were gunned down and two policemen wounded critically in a fierce gun battle in the heart of Meghalaya capital Shillong on Tuesday night. DGP BK Dey Sawian told newsmen the encounter took place at Cleave Colony near Dhankheti under Laitumkhrach police station around 9 pm.

Acting on specific inputs about the presence of a group of HNLC militants, the police had launched a massive combing operation in the city. The militants, who were traveling in a car, opened fire on the policemen when they were intercepted at Cleave Colony, about 2 km from the Laitumkhrach police station.

The police retaliated, killing four HNLC men on the spot. The militants were led by a commander of the outfit, Safir, who was also killed. Two policemen were also injured in the encounter and one of them was said to be in critical condition. An AK 47, a double barrel gun, a single barrel gun, one grenade and ammunition were recovered from the slain militants. The police was unsure whether there were more militants in the group.

Combing operations were on the area.

Two of the cadres of the HNLC had surrendered before the police in Shillong, while another was nabbed yesterday.

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