

Vehicle found, Arunav still traceless



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Mithun Baruah 16 December 2017 Updated 17 Dec 7083 views

KHANDUBASTI: Army, police and paramilitary forces deployed in search of Arunav Phukan have been concentrating on Khandubasti where suspected [ULFA](#)-I rebels are believed to have been hiding with the local BJP [leader](#)'s son whom they kidnapped on Friday.

Local residents in the outskirts of the dense jungle claimed to have been hearing the sound of gunfiring from noon suggesting an encounter between security forces and rebels. But there is no official confirmation of any gunbattle.

Security forces on Saturday morning recovered the [vehicle](#) in which Arunav was travelling to the stone query owned by his [father](#) Dilip Phukan, an established businessman in Margherita and a close aide of MLA Bhaskar Sarma.

The abandoned [vehicle](#) was [found](#) near a dense jungle of Laraibasti suggesting that the abductors were not far away from the spot forcing the security people to cordon off the entire area.

Phukan straightly denied receiving any extortion notice from [ULFA-I](#). But sources told Assam Times that the family has received the notice from the rebel [group](#).

Mithun Baruah

Mithun Baruah reports from Margherita.

BY MITHUN BARUAH

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