

The Assam Tribune, 2 December 2004

BSF-BDR move to curb border crimes

AGARTALA, Dec 1 – A high-level meeting between Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) held at Bangladesh Rifles Akhaura check post yesterday stressed on the need of more coordination between the two forces to curb the border crimes like infiltration, problems related to erection of Indo-Bangla border fencing, etc. The meeting aimed at discussing several points of mutual interests of both the countries. It was held to establish better coordination between the sentinels of two countries to check trans-border crimes, arms and narcotic smuggling and movement of militants.

The Hindu, 4 December 2004

Heated exchanges over repeal of POTA

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3. Heated exchanges in the Lok Sabha, between the BJP, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) marred the discussion on the introduction of a Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA). The discussion remained inconclusive and will resume on Monday. The BJP and its allies decried the Government's move to repeal POTA and replace it with a law, which they believe is soft on terrorists.

The Assam Tribune, 6 December 2004

'Dhaka not taking action against terror camps'

NEW DELHI, Dec 5 - Despite India furnishing a list of 195 terrorist camps of various proscribed outfits operating in Bangladesh, there has been no response from Dhaka in dismantling them, a top BSF official said today, reports PTI. "We have already furnished a list of 195 training camps to Bangladesh authorities which are located in their territory. But as of now it appears that they have done little to dismantle them and the terror infrastructure exists as before," BSF Director General Ajai Raj Sharma told PTI here. However, Bangladesh denies existence of any terrorist camps on its soil and instead has alleged that Indian soil was being used by those terrorist outfits outlawed in Bangladesh.

The New Indian Express, 6 December 2004

Security beefed up for Babri anniversary

TIRUCHY: The city police have beefed up security arrangements in view of the Babri Masjid demolition day. Over 1,000 police personnel have been deployed throughout the city to prevent any untoward incident. City Commissioner of Police T P Sundaramoorthy said as many as 1,000 police personnel, including 345 constables, 18 inspectors, 41 SIs, seven assistant commissioners and two deputy commissioners, were involved in the security arrangements. The police were keeping a strict vigil on railway stations, bus stands, temples, airport and all vital installations. Police pickets have been posted at 68 places, Sundaramoorthy said.

The Assam Tribune, 6 December 2004

Indian players receive death threat

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, Dec 5 - The Indian cricket team's tour of Bangladesh starting next week today hung in balance following a militant group's threat to kill the Indian players even as a high-level security team flies to Dhaka tomorrow to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation reports PTI. Indian Cricket Board president-elect Ranbir Singh Mahendra said the team's departure for Dhaka, scheduled for December 7, had been postponed following an advise from the government in the wake of the threat issued by a little-known militant group Harkut-ul-Zihad, suspected to be a shadow of Harkat-ul-Jihad Islamia (HuJI).

The New Indian Express, 7 December 2004

POTA repealed, new anti-terror law passed

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Monday passed amidst an opposition walkout a bill to repeal the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) and replace it with a new law. The new law - Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act - was moved by Home Minister Shivraj Patil and passed by a voice vote. Patil, however, assured Left parties that the government would be open to a detailed discussion on their reservations and apprehensions on the provisions of the new law.

The Hindu, 7 December 2004

STF will continue, tackle terrorism

CHENNAI, DEC.6. The Chief Minister, Jayalalithaa, today made it clear that the Special Task Force (STF), formed to track down forest brigand Veerappan, would continue with its original strength to tackle situations caused by terrorism, accidents and major natural calamities. Ms. Jayalalithaa also announced awards and concessions to more persons, who had directly or indirectly helped the STF in its operations against Veerappan.

The Hindu, 10 December 2004

Parliament passes POTA Repeal Bill

NEW DELHI, DEC. 9. Parliament tonight passed the Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Bill and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod by a voice vote after a marathon debate and a walkout by the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. While the Samajwadi Party abstained from voting, the AIADMK opposed the new amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Bill that replaces POTA. Both the Bills were passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Hindu, 13 December 2004

Attack on Parliament: Martyrs remembered

NEW DELHI, DEC. 12. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Delhi police today paid tributes to their brave colleagues who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty while countering the terrorist attack on Parliament on December 13, 2001. All the five militants, who were trying to enter Parliament House, were eliminated in that encounter. When the terrorists entered the Parliament complex on that fateful day, constable Kamlesh Kumari of the CRPF was the first one to have alerted the security personnel about their presence. She was, however, gunned down by the terrorists. In recognition of her outstanding bravery, the President conferred on her the nation's highest peacetime award, Ashok Chakra, posthumously.

The New Indian Express, 14 December 2004

BJP takes on Government on security

NEW DELHI: Members of the Lok Sabha urged the Government to come up with a comprehensive strategy to strengthen internal security in order to curb terrorism, Naxalism and cross-border infiltration in the country. Taking the Government to task on its handling of sensitive issues, BJP's V.K. Malhotra said, "The UPA Government's policies include appeasement of their vote-banks, even if they have a 'jehadi' mindset. And it is not good at all." He criticised the Home Minister for calling terrorists in J&K as "brothers" and referring to Naxalites as his "children".

The Hindu, 14 December 2004

Bomb hoax

VADODARA, DEC. 13. Following a hoax telephone call about a bomb planted in the Ahmedabad-bound Karnavati Express, the train was halted tonight at Vadodara railway station, police sources said here. An anonymous caller told the police control room that the bomb was planted in S-4 coach. Bomb disposal squad, aided by dog squad, searched the train but no bomb or explosive was found. - PTI

The Hindu, 14 December 2004

Country bombs seized in raid on Tirumullaivoyal house

CHENNAI, DEC. 13. In a joint operation, the city and Chengalpattu East police seized 10 country-made bombs from a house at Senthil Nagar, Tirumullaivoyal, early today. The bombs were used by a gang, which operated across districts for criminal activities, the police said. These were immediately defused. According to the police, 'Urundai' Raja of Kanyakumari and his associate Lakshmanan of Karaikudi were arrested in Karaikudi last week. Interrogation revealed that the other members of the gang, headed by Binny of Kanyakumari, hired a house on Pallavan Street, Senthil Nagar.

The Hindu, 16 December 2004

Bomb hoax at railway station in Thanjavur

THANJAVUR, DEC. 15. A postcard information that a bomb has been planted in the railway station here turned out to be a hoax. The station master received the letter that said that the culprits involved in the murder of Arivalagan of the Thamizhar Viduthalai Peravai recently should be arrested immediately. If they were not arrested, the railway station would be exploded with a bomb on December 15. The station master informed the Railway Protection Force, which informed the local police. A police team with a sniffer dog conducted a thorough search of the station, parcel office, track, trains and parked vehicles and found the threat a hoax.

The Hindu, 21 December 2004

Maoists blow up rail track

PATNA, DEC. 20. Activists of the CPI (Maoist) blew up a portion of a railway track and a bridge near Karbandiya in Rohtas district affecting train traffic on the Howrah-Delhi grand chord section today. In pamphlets left behind at the site, the outfit warned it would disrupt the Rashtriya Janata Dal's rally on December 23 protesting the State Government's ban on the rally of its frontal organisations here on December 5. The activists had taken the cabin man hostage before carrying out the operation.

The Hindu, 22 December 2004

Grenade material unearthed

Nizamabad, December 21: The police unearthed a huge dump of material used in manufacturing of hand grenades on the village outskirts of Kothapally in Kamarpally mandal today. The dump contained springs, striking pins, safety pins and inside container. Except outer caps of the grenade all parts required for grenade making were recovered, said the Superintendent of Police, N. Madhusudhan Reddy.

The Assam Tribune, 31 December 2004

India, China to take part in anti-terrorist exercises

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 – Accepting China's keenness to upgrade its forces' counter-terrorism skills, India has agreed to allow contingents of People's Liberation Army (PLA) to participate in its future multilateral anti-terrorist exercises. "The Chinese military leadership expressed keenness to sharpen its anti-terrorist skills" Army Chief Gen NC Vij told PTI after his return from a week-long visit to China and said India would invite them to participate in the exercises.