Atta Mohd is the lonely custodian of 200 graves of the ‘unidentified’ in the Valley

TRAGEDIES BURIED IN KASHMIR GRAVES

Atta Mohd has buried more than 200 bodies in a graveyard behind his house in Tchahal village of Jammu and Kashmir’s Uri district in the last 20 years. None of those people he buried had a name. In police records they were described as ‘unknown’ or ‘unidentified’. ‘Pakistani militant’, possibly the worst epithet, was reserved for many of them.

“I am always with the faces of the people I have buried here,” says 67-year-old Mohammad. “But what is more painful is when I am called upon to open the graves to retrieve the bodies.”

The graves are of those who have died in ‘encounters’ with security forces and later handed over to local residents as bodies of Pakistanis or ‘unidentified militants’.

Mohammad can remember prising opening at least 20 graves so that the bodies could be exhumed to help people find relatives who had disappeared from families from as far away as Shopian, 150 km from Tchahal, and even Srinagar 100 km away.

The tragic stories are not restricted to Uri alone. The search for missing people by desperate relatives has often ended in one of the unmarked graves located in the dozens of graveyards that lie across the frontier districts of Baramulla and Kupwara.

On numerous occasions people have exhumed bodies of their loved ones days, weeks and sometimes months after the encounter, Mohammad says.

By Parvaiz Bukhari in Tchahal/Uri (Baramulla)

Can Lindsay Lohan look like Marilyn?

SEE PAGE THREE
She went into coma after teacher hit her

By Garima Pant
In New Delhi

IT HAS been three traumatic months for 15-year-old Rinki. The Class X student of Dinkar National Model Public School at Kondli is still battling for life after she went into coma over a month ago. But there is some hope now. She has started blinking her eyes.

After returning from school on November 16, Rinki had had a day’s complaint. But the grade 10 girl couldn’t open her eyes. She couldn’t speak. She couldn’t hear.

Only five days later did she tell her parents that Dhirendra Singh, her teacher, had hit her on her head with a wooden rod.

The reason, she had decided to discontinue tuition.

Rinki’s friends confirmed the incident.

They said she was bolted in a room after she fainted due to the beating. Rinki regained consciousness after 40 minutes.

“Rinki decided to give up the English and maths tuition and put her elder sister studied as she was fed up with Dhiren-

Teaching in the head with a wooden rod

dra’s attitude,” says Naresh Kaushik, her

Atta Mohammad (top) at Uri in Baramul and Jana, Dar’s mother,的说法.

“We can claim 13 Naxalite

She was admitted to the PGIMS, Rohtak, in Haryana and, after a brief stay, was shifted to AIIMS, New Delhi, in January. Her doctors there said she was in a severe state of encephalitis. Rinki’s life was in danger. Her parents were heartbroken.

Four musketry rifles, two GF

But the news wasn’t entirely bad. Rinki showed signs of improvement.

On Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Mail Today, Wednesday, February 20, 2008

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The joint security operation

The joint security operation had involved the CRPF, the Orissa Police and Greyhounds of the Andhra Police.

Not a single body of a Naxalite has been recovered so far.

The CRPF report also puts a question mark on the state government’s version of arms recovery from the ‘encounter’ site.

CRPF doesn’t back Orissa government’s claim

The Orissa government has started dumping excavated earth on the adjacent farm land and has started building a third layer of graves. There is just no land available.

The joint security operation in Orissa’s forests with the help of army helicopters and sniper dogs, as the presence of landmines is suspected.

The CRPF has started investigating the recovery made by the joint team of the CRPF, Greyhounds and the Special Police Forces Group (SOG) and Greyhounds.

“We can claim 13 Naxalite deaths in an encounter in Chhattisgarh on Monday by our 31st Battalion as we have recovered all these 13 bodies, including those of four women Naxalites,” said A.P. Maheshwar, IG (operations) of the CRPF.

The CRPF’s version of the recovery is: 30 NFPU members were killed in an encounter near Giridih in Sanjiram region of the Giridih district.

CRPF does not back the state’s official figures.

Doubts have again been raised over the Orissa government’s claim that security forces killed 20 Naxalites on Sunday.

On Tuesday, CRPF officials did not mention any rebel casualty in their report on the attack.

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The government has said that over 1,000 weapons and nearly two lakh cartridges were recovered from a Naxalite camp near Nagargarh.

On Monday, chief minister Naveen Patnaik said 40 per cent of the weapons looted from Nagargarh had been recovered.

Gopal Nanda, DGP, Orissa, said over 400 guns had been recovered but did not confirm if AK47s and INSAS rifles were among them.

Parvaz.Bukhari@mailtoday.in

Garima pant@mailtoday.in

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New Delhi

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