

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Kohala Hydropower Project
Azad Pattan Hydropower Project
CPEC Gilgit-Baltistan
Mohmand dam POK
Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park



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Contents

Political Developments

- JKSM leader paid rich tributes to late 'Baba e Hurriyat' Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his first death anniversary
- Fraud and fury in Kashmir
- Internal dissent surfaces in the 'Azad Kashmir' government
- Geelani's legacy continues to dominate politics in held Kashmir: APHC leader
- Ali Gilani's thoughts are still a ray of hope for Kashmiri youth
- Geelani was a strong voice of Pakistan in 'IoK:' President of 'AJK'
- Kashmiri diaspora asks 'AJK' government to declare Sept 1 'Youm-e-Baba-e-Hurriyat' day
- Syed Ali Geelani to remain an icon of Kashmiri struggle: President Alvi

Economic Developments

- Incredible Ideas: 03-day Pakistan Real Estate Expo concludes in Mirpur-'AJK'
- Floods will not be used as an excuse to trade with India: Fawad Chaudhry
- 'AJK' government provides 25 crores to Balochistan
- Kohala Hydropower Project creates vast employment opportunities for people: Raja Farrukh Khursheed
- Inquiry into the Neelum-Jhelum project's 'failure' begins

Vernacular Urdu Media

- The struggle will continue on all fronts, including at the base camp till the independence of 'IIOJK': President of 'AJK'
- This year, 117 distinct instances in 'occupied Kashmir' resulted in the 'unlawful' killing of 147 youths: Hurriyat leader
- The people of Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir honor Syed Ali Geelani's struggle: PM Shahbaz Sharief
- PM of 'AJK' applauds Syed Geelani's lifelong fight for Kashmiris' 'right to self-determination'
- Syed Ali Geelani, the Kashmiris' voice, was a 'fervent' admirer of Pakistan: Adviser to PM on Kashmir and GB Affairs
- Even Syed Geelani's grave is a source of fear for India: JI Leader

Political Developments

JKSM leader paid rich tributes to late 'Baba e Hurriyat' Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his first death anniversary

Daily Parliament Times, 29 August 2022

The chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmad Bhat paid tributes to the late 'Baba e Hurriyat' Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his first death anniversary, saying his services for Kashmir 'freedom movement' will be written in golden words. He said that despite his old age and deteriorating health conditions, continuous detention, and curbs, Geelani moved forward and led the freedom movement, and added that he penned down dozens of books related to Kashmir's freedom movement'. He asserted that despite all attempts by the 'occupational troops' and puppet government to crush his spirit, he continued to lead the independence cause with vigor and fervor. The late Syed Ali Geelani will continue to be an inspiration and an icon for the Kashmir freedom movement, and Bhat reaffirmed his commitment to carrying out the mission left behind by 'Baba e Hurriyat.' He also advised the younger generation to follow in his footsteps in carrying out the 'freedom' mission.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/29/altaf-ahmad-bhat-paid-rich-tributes-to-late-baba-e-hurriyat-syed-ali-shah-geelani-on-his-first-death-anniversary/>

Fraud and fury in Kashmir

Editorial, Dawn, 29 August 2022

More 'fraudulent arrangements' are being imposed on 'occupied' Jammu

and Kashmir by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's government. Three years after the 'illegal annexation', 'bifurcations', and 'integration' of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian union, Delhi has continued to 'abuse' the area with deception and force to maintain its 'unlawful' hold over the region. The condition of the Kashmiri people got 'worse' after August 5, 2019, when a new chapter in the 'torturous' history of the 'occupied' area was opened. To avoid a local 'uprising' against the action that effectively 'stripped' the Kashmiri people of all of their rights, a protracted 'brutal' lockdown and communication blackout were implemented, the 'military siege' was tightened, the press was restrained, and Kashmiri leaders were imprisoned.

International human rights organizations claimed 'rampant torture' and 'arbitrary arrests', with people being taken from their homes and kids being 'shot' with pellet guns to 'make them blind'. The most recent report from India's Forum of Human Rights in J&K revealed that 'violations' of human rights had 'persisted unabatedly.' Since August 2019, the PM Modi's government has consolidated its power on Kashmir and has taken 'repressive' moves to prepare for potential elections that would 'legitimize' its 'unlawful activities.' These initiatives have included using 'electoral fraud' as a model to 'weaken' Muslims in the 'occupied' territories. Recently, another attempt to alter the demographics of the area was made with the proclamation by the top electoral official in the 'occupied' valley

that any Indian citizen, even one who is only temporarily residing there, will be allowed to vote. This is a 'brazen violation' of UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir as was the August 2019 action. There are 11 UN resolutions on Kashmir. Specifically, the move contravenes UNSC resolution 38, whose para 2 clearly states that neither party to the dispute can bring about a 'material change' in the situation in Kashmir.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1707336/fraud-and-fury-in-kashmir>

Internal dissent surfaces in the 'Azad Kashmir' government

Dawn, 30 August 2022

A major member of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) launched a clandestine effort to oust Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas on his own, but it appears to have failed so far due to a lack of support from the parliamentary party. Ilyas was elected as the new Leader of the House in April this year, replacing Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, the first pick of Imran Khan, after the PTI clinched a clear victory in July 2021 polls in 'Azad Kashmir.' The 'AJK' capital, however, has recently once more been the subject of rumors that another motion of no confidence is imminent, after Speaker Chaudhry Anwarul Haq's tense interactions with Mr. Ilyas and his claimed covert meetings with some opposition figures to solicit their support for his candidacy for the coveted job. Ilyas' nomination for the AJK premiership was initially strongly

supported by Mr. Haq, but the two have been at odds for the past few months over what he perceives to be the latter's 'extraordinary leanings' toward the president of 'AJK' Sultan Mahmood. According to sources in the PTI, he was particularly enraged by Mahmood being given preference in matters about the Mirpur division, particularly the postings and removals of senior officials. Mr. Mahmood and Mr. Haq are both from the Mirpur division, specifically the Bhimber and Mirpur districts. Ilyas had discussed in detail the prevailing situation with Aamer Mehmood Kiani, PTI's additional secretary general, in the context of the origin of rumors about a no trust against him, and both had resolved to cut the 'conspirators' down to size.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1707460/internal-dissent-surfaces-in-azad-kashmir-govt>

Geelani's legacy continues to dominate politics in 'held Kashmir:' APHC leader

Pakistan Today, 30 August 2022

While paying tributes to 'pro-freedom' Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his first death anniversary, Altaf Hussain Wani, a leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said that his legacy continued to dominate political life in the 'occupied' region, and added that Geelani was a towering personality and an internationally recognized leader who spent all his life advocating the Kashmiris' 'legitimate right-the right to self-determination.' He further said that the deceased leader was an

ideologue and a strong proponent of Kashmiris' rights and that his lifelong struggle and sacrifices for the Kashmir cause will serve as a 'beacon light' for coming generations, who believe in the principle of justice, freedom and human rights. While reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to take the 'ongoing movement' to its logical end, he said that the best way to pay the tribute to Geelani was to 'uphold' his 'mission' and follow the proud legacy he had left behind, added that India must take a leaf out of Kashmir's history and know that it cannot 'suppress' their 'legitimate political struggle' by the dint of force or putting them in jails.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2022/08/30/geelani-legacy-continues-to-dominate-politics-in-held-kashmir-aphc-leader/>

Ali Gilani's thoughts are still a ray of hope for Kashmiri youth

Editorial, Pakistan Observer, 31 August 2022

History demonstrates that those who influenced human thought, lived and were dedicated to a cause, and made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom did not pass away; this is also true of Syed Ali Geelani, who did not pass away but merely disappeared physically. His words will continue to inspire young people in Kashmir. On September 1, 2021, Syed Ali Gilani accepted 'martyrdom' while being held by Indian authorities at his home in Hyderpora, Srinagar. Indian authorities held him under continuous 'illegal' house arrest for more than ten years, but they were unable to 'snatch' the idea of 'independence' and

'resistance' from him. Geelani was stronger than more than a million members of the Indian 'occupied forces', so even after his death, he continued to represent fear for them. Indian forces had forcibly removed Geelani's body for burial at the Hyderpora cemetery during a night-time 'military siege', against the veteran leader's last wishes.

<https://pakobserver.net/ali-gilanis-thoughts-still-ray-of-hope-for-kashmiri-youth/>

Geelani was a strong voice of Pakistan in 'IoK:' President of 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 31 August 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Syed Ali Geelani was the strong voice of Pakistan in 'occupied' Kashmir who raised the slogan 'Hum Pakistani Hain, Pakistan Hamara hay.' In his message released on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Geelani, the president said that Geelani Sahib was a man of principle who remained stuck to his ideology till the last breath of his life and added that he was made to suffer because of his 'political ideology.' He said that at a time when Geelani needed intensive care, the 'brutal' Indian army forcibly detained him and kept him under house detention for several years. Terming Gilani as a symbol of courage and perseverance, Barrister Chaudhary said that Gilani spent his entire life advocating Kashmiris' right to self-determination. The government of Azad Kashmir, he said, would utilize all its resources to accomplish the martyrs' mission of freedom from India

and accession of the entire state to Pakistan.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/31/sas-geelani-was-a-strong-voice-of-pakistan-in-iok-president-ajk/>

Kashmiri diaspora asks 'AJK' government to declare Sept 1 'Youm-e-Baba-e-Hurriyat' day

The Express Tribune, 31 August 2022

The Kashmiri diaspora has called upon the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) government to declare September 1 as 'Youm-e-Baba-e-Hurriyat' or 'Day of Father of Freedom Movement' to honor the 'sacrifices' of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani. In a letter addressed to 'AJK' Prime Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan, Kashmiri diaspora leader Fahim Kayani said the commemoration of the first martyrdom anniversary of 'Shaheed' Geelani on September 1 is a step toward recalling his relentless efforts to free 'IIOJK' from India's 'illegal military occupation.' He further claimed that the history of South Asia bears testimony that Shaheed Geelani was one among a few Muslim leaders and scholars whose vision for an Islamic welfare state for the Muslims of the region will be studied for generations to come. Kayani said that the 'AJK' government should also hold 'special' programs to recall the efforts and services of Geelani for the 'liberation' of 'IIOJK' while all educational institutions should hold events on Sept 1 to discuss and debate the life and times of 'Shaheed' Geelani. He also suggested that the 'AJK'

government should announce a policy framework to study the services of Shaheed Geelani so that it is included in 'resistance literature' for future generations.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2373988/kashmiri-diaspora-asks-ajk-govt-to-declare-sept-1-youm-e-baba-e-hurriyat-day>

Syed Ali Geelani to remain an icon of Kashmiri struggle: President Alvi

Pakistan Observer, 2 September 2022

The president of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi has said that 'martyred' Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani was and will remain an 'icon' of the Kashmiris' struggle for the right to 'self-determination.' The president in a message on the occasion of the first 'martyrdom' anniversary of Geelani, said that Geelani's unwavering commitment to the cause of 'freedom' and 'justice' will always remain a call for 'Azadi' for generations to come. He said that Pakistan joins the Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) in paying tribute to Geelani for his unflinching commitment to the Kashmir cause, in the face of persistent 'persecution' and tremendous personal hardship. He claimed that Geelani will be remembered for his unconditional love for Kashmir and Pakistan and his legacy would continue to 'inspire' those carrying his 'mission' forward to bring an end to the 'illegal Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.'

<https://pakobserver.net/syed-ali-gilani-to-remain-an-icon-of-kashmiri-struggle-president-alvi/>

Economic Developments

Incredible Ideas: 03-day Pakistan Real Estate Expo concludes in Mirpur-‘AJK’

Daily Parliament Times, 30 August 2022

The three-day ‘Incredible Ideas - Pakistan Real Estate Expo’ exhibition ended after a successful journey to draw in local investors, including the Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora community in the UK, to make investments in the real estate business under the umbrella of at least 18 top international real estate groups with local presence in different regions of Pakistan. On this occasion, Ch. Yasir Sultan, the minister of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) Housing and Physical Planning, was the chief guest in addition to Ch. Muhammad Mansha, the director general of the Mangla Dam Housing Authority, and other local members of the ruling party. The minister praised the projects and expressed the hope that the participants of the expo would succeed in securing the investment from the Mirpur division, a comparatively fast developing and economically prosperous part of the ‘AJK’. He invited the Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora community settled abroad mostly in the United Kingdom, the US, and Middle East countries to start launching their investments in fast emerging real estate business in Pakistan and ‘AJK’ where due conducive environment including the

ever-lasting safety and security of their investments was available.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/08/30/incredible-ideas-03-day-pakistan-real-estate-expo-concludes-in-mirpur-ajk-2/>

Floods will not be used as an excuse to trade with India: Fawad Chaudhry

UrduPoint, 30 August 2022

Fawad Chaudhry, a former minister of information and broadcasting, and current leader of the PTI asserts that floods would never be used as a ‘justification’ for opening trade with India and that ‘loyalty’ to the sacrifice of Kashmiri ‘martyrs’ is necessary. He claimed in a statement on the social media platform Twitter that PM Modi’s measures are not only ‘anti-Muslim’ but also ‘anti-human’, and that trade with India cannot go without addressing these issues. Floods, according to Fawad Chaudhry, won’t ever be used as a pretext to start doing business with India, and he vehemently disagrees with any such notion.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/important-news/live-news-3260348.html>

‘AJK’ government provides 25 crores to Balochistan

Pakistan Observer, 1 September 2022

The Prime Minister of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that despite financial crises government of ‘AJK’ has assisted 25 crores to flood-ravaged people in

Balochistan. While talking to media persons, he said that torrential rains have caused havoc all across the country and 'Azad Kashmir' has suffered losses worth billions of rupees. He said that imposing cuts on the region's budget amply demonstrated the federal government's 'step-motherly' attitude towards the government of 'Azad Kashmir.'

<https://pakobserver.net/ajk-govt-provides-rs-25-core-to-balochistan/>

Kohala Hydropower Project creates vast employment opportunities for people: Raja Farrukh Khursheed

Daily Parliament Times, 1 September 2022

Raja Farrukh Khursheed, an activist familiar with Kohala Hydropower Project said that the installation of three projects-the 600 MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, the 700 MW Azad Patan Hydropower Project, and the 1124 MW Kohala Hydropower Project will require a 20% advance payment from the Pakistani government. As part of the second phase of the CPEC project to satisfy the energy needs of Pakistan and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) and to produce inexpensive, environmentally friendly energy, 03 thousand 428 megawatts of hydroelectric power will be built for 07 billion dollars over the following six years. Once the projects are completed, Pakistan and 'Azad Kashmir' will be energy independent and these projects will also create vast employment opportunities for millions of people. The second phase of CPEC will help rebuild the country's infrastructure and

promote foreign investment that will bring prosperity to the region.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/09/01/kohala-hydropower-project-create-vast-employment-opportunities-for-people-raja-farrukh-khursheed/>

Inquiry into the Neelum-Jhelum project's 'failure' begins

Dawn, 2 September 2022

The Ministry of Water Resources in collaboration with the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) will conduct an inquiry into the 'failure' of the 969 megawatts Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project and hire international 'experts' for the investigation process. The Ministry of Water Resources and WAPDA has started the investigation process and the former has sought expressions of interest from international research companies. The sources said that the investigation would determine whether it was a bad 'design' or 'substandard construction' behind the 'failure' and after the investigation by international experts, the ministry will determine the officials responsible for the project's 'failure.' The Ministry of Water Resources said that WAPDA had been entrusted with investigating the damage caused to the Mohmand dam by the recent devastating floods. The Neelum-Jhelum hydropower plant was part of a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power scheme in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', designed to divert water from the Neelum River to a power station on the Jhelum River. The construction of the project began in 2008 after a Chinese consortium was

awarded the construction contract in July 2007.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2374343/inquiry-into-neelum-jhelum-projects-failure-begins>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The struggle will continue on all fronts, including at the base camp till the independence of 'IIOJK': President of 'AJK'

Mahasib, 31 August 2022

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while speaking at a Cadet College event noted that 'our forebears' 'valiant' battle and sacrifices have led to the 'freedom' of 'Azad Kashmir', and that we will now continue to work to bring attention to the Kashmir conflict on a global scale and to expose Indian 'atrocities' committed in the 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir, where residents have been suffering under the 'ruthless repression' of more than 700,000 troops stationed throughout the whole region. The president commended the Kashmiris for their 'sacrifices' and added that we salute the 'martyrs' of 'occupied Kashmir' who have laid down their precious lives for the noble cause. He reaffirmed the government's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people and declared that the 'struggle' would continue on all fronts until the 'independence' of the 'occupied Kashmir.'

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/muzaffarabad.php>

This year, 117 distinct instances in 'occupied Kashmir' resulted in the 'unlawful' killing of 147 youths: Hurriyat leader

Urdupoint, 30 August 2022

According to the Hurriyat leader, Abdul Hameed Lone, 147 youngsters were 'extra-judicially executed' in 117 separate incidents in 'occupied' Kashmir this year. He claimed in a statement that three more Kashmiri teenagers had died in a fake encounter in Shopian part of 'occupied Kashmir.' He alleged that young people were killed during the 'fabricated' search operation in the region by the Indian 'occupying forces.' He claimed that 16 Kashmiris were slaughtered in 'fake' encounters in August, making a total of 147 youngsters 'extra-judicially' killed in 117 separate occurrences in 'occupied' Kashmir this year. He claimed that since the threats made by the head of the Indian police, Dilbagh Singh, the number of 'fatalities had steadily grown' and that the Indian 'occupying' forces had been allowed to 'slaughter' Kashmiris. He demanded an investigation by the UN and human rights organizations into the 'killing' of Kashmiri youth by Indian 'occupation' troops.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/kashmir/live-news-3260379.html>

The people of Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir honor Syed Ali Geelani's struggle: PM Shahbaz Sharief

Urdupoint, 1 September 2022

The late Syed Ali Geelani was a 'symbol' of Kashmir's 'independence' according to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the Kashmiris' attribution of the title 'Baba-e-Hurriyat' was a recognition of his 'legendary' battle. In his message on the first death anniversary of Geelani, the PM said that the struggle of Ali Geelani was a 'golden' chapter in the history of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and the Kashmir 'freedom' movement. He said that with the motto 'Kashmir to become Pakistan', Geelani was more than just one person but also a 'movement' and a cause. The prime minister claimed that India could not 'extinguish' the Kashmiris' fervor for 'freedom' by 'stealing' the mortal remains of the late Ali Gilani and that Geelani is praised by the people of Pakistan and Kashmir, and added that his catchphrase, 'we are Pakistani and Pakistan is ours,' still reverberates around the globe.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/important-news/live-news-3262253.html>

PM of 'AJK' applauds Syed Geelani's lifelong fight for Kashmiris' 'right to self-determination'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 1 September 2022

Tanveer Ilyas Khan, the Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir'

(AJK), paid tribute to 'liberation' leader and former chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Shah Geelani, and said that the late leader was an 'epochal figure' who led the 'freedom movement' against India with the utmost courage and perseverance. He asserted that it would be impossible to quickly fill the political void left by the passing of Syed Geelani and that Geelani was the symbol of 'resistance' against 'injustice, adding that the 'proud legacy' he left behind would act as a 'torchbearer' for future generations. He added that the Baba Hurriyat, who 'heroically' faced every obstacle in his path and stood as a rock in the face of 'Indian persecution', could not be deterred from pursuing the cause of liberation despite years of struggles and tribulations. He claimed that Geelani devoted his whole life to the 'freedom movement' of Kashmir and the rights of Kashmiris, adding that he was imprisoned and detained for most of his life, but these trials and tribulations could not dampen his undying spirit and passion for the 'freedom' of Kashmir. While referring to the continued 'bloodshed' and 'unending violence' in the region, he urged the United Nations, OIC, and other human rights organizations should take effective notice of the ongoing 'brutality' and 'barbarism' in the 'occupied' Kashmir and hold the Indian government 'accountable' for the 'crimes' its 'army' has been committing in the 'occupied' territory.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/1.jpg>

Syed Ali Geelani, the Kashmiris' voice, was a 'fervent' admirer of Pakistan: Adviser to PM on Kashmir and GB Affairs

Urdupoint, 1 September 2022

The adviser to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharief for Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Kashmir affairs, Qamar Zaman Kaira said that Syed Ali Geelani was a 'fervent' supporter of Pakistan and thought of himself as its 'integral part', and added that he was also the voice of Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC). While paying tribute to Syed Ali Geelani, he said that a year had passed since the loss of such a strong and influential voice from Kashmir and added that he led Kashmiris in a 'non-violent' campaign for their country's independence and served as their voice. He claimed that Syed Ali Geelani and his family were subjected to 'oppression' by the Indian government as a result of their struggle for 'freedom' and that Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC used to respond to his voice. He said that Geelani was a strong supporter of Pakistan and thought of himself as a citizen of that country. He claimed that after Geelani passed away, a curfew was put in place in the 'occupied' valley because the Indian government was so 'terrified' of him.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3262284.html>

Even Syed Geelani's grave is a source of fear for India: JI Leader

Jasarat, 2 September 2022

The former National Assembly member and deputy leader of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan, Mian Mohammad Aslam said that India's failure stems from its 'fear' of Syed Ali Shah Geelani's grave, and added that the name Syed Ali Shah Geelani refers to both a movement and a vision. He said that Ali Shah Geelani created history by serving years in an Indian prison and after his death, millions of his 'ideological adherents' will continue his work. 22 crore people are 'supporting' his cause, and that he was a symbol of 'resistance.' He further claimed that Kashmiris do not accept any formula and that they would continue to fight until they achieve 'complete independence', and that it is unacceptable to divide Kashmir. He said that Geelani spent his entire life fighting for Kashmir 'freedom' and the supremacy of the Islamic faith and that India was terrified when Syed Ali Geelani passed away, so instead of giving his body to his family, he was 'forcibly' buried, which is equivalent to openly interfering with Islam.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/09/01/mian-aslam-leader-jamaat-e-islami/>

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Disclaimer

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