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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Muslim Nations Reject U.S. Proposal to Relocate Gaza's Palestinians

OIC Calls Displacement Proposal a Violation of International Law

Amir Islam

Muslim-majority nations have strongly rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza, calling it a violation of international law and an act of ethnic cleansing. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and foreign ministers from various countries condemned any forced displacement, stating that Palestinians have the right to remain in their homeland. They urged the global community to oppose such actions and work toward a just and lasting resolution. Instead of relocation, the OIC has endorsed an Egyptian-led initiative to rebuild Gaza and establish a Palestinian administrative committee to oversee reconstruction. The plan aims to provide humanitarian relief, restore essential infrastructure, and ensure Palestinian sovereignty. Muslim-majority nations stress that any long-term solution must prioritize self-determination,



HIGHLIGHT

- Egypt leads efforts to establish a Palestinian administrative body for Gaza's reconstruction.
- Muslim-Majority Countries Back Egypt's Plan for Gaza's Future.
- International pressure mounts as leaders advocate for Palestinian sovereignty.

reconstruction, and the prevention of further displacement. They argue that peace cannot be achieved by uprooting an entire population but rather by addressing the root causes of the conflict. The U.S. proposal has drawn widespread criticism, with international organizations and human rights groups warning that forced

relocation would worsen Gaza's humanitarian crisis and fuel regional instability. Many leaders believe that such a move would undermine peace efforts and escalate tensions. Instead, there is a growing call for diplomatic solutions that prioritize humanitarian aid, reconstruction, and a political framework that guarantees Palestinian rights and

sovereignty. The rejection of the U.S. plan highlights the broader global opposition to forced displacement and underscores the urgent need for a sustainable resolution. Muslim-majority nations continue to advocate for international intervention that focuses on long-term stability and justice for the Palestinian people.

Nationwide Protests Mobilize for Women's Rights on International Women's Day

Farhana Azmi

On International Women's Day, over 500 protesters gathered in San Francisco's Union Square as part of a nationwide Women's March, standing against policies perceived as threats to women's rights under the Trump administration. The event, joined by at least 300 similar protests across the U.S., saw women and allies rallying for various causes, from abortion rights to climate change action. The protests also highlighted issues surrounding LGBTQ rights and the growing influence of figures like Elon Musk in government restructuring efforts. The demonstrations, fueled by grassroots feminist activism, reflected a broader movement calling for gender equality and social justice. Protesters emphasized the urgency of safeguarding women's freedoms amid political challenges, signaling that the fight for equal rights is far from over. These nationwide protests, which echoed the spirit of the 2017 Women's March.

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New York's Mayoral Race Sees Fierce Competition Across Political Spectrum

Political future remains uncertain as challengers gain momentum.

Hamid Abdullah

The 2025 New York City mayoral race is shaping up to be highly competitive, with candidates from across the political spectrum vying for the city's top office. Issues like crime, housing, and economic stability dominate voters' concerns, with each contender offering a distinct vision for the



city's future. Former Governor Andrew Cuomo has

entered the race, bringing political experience and strong name recognition. Despite resigning in 2021 amid controversy, Cuomo aims to restore stability and address NYC's challenges. His entry intensifies the competition, especially in Brooklyn, where he has garnered key endorsements. Mayor Eric Adams faces

one of the toughest re-election battles of his career. While a federal corruption indictment against him was dismissed in early 2025, his approval ratings have plummeted to just 20%. Adams must overcome significant legal and political hurdles to secure a second term. City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams is

running on a platform of integrity, housing reform, and police accountability, earning endorsements from Attorney General Letitia James and labor unions. Queens Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, running as a progressive, advocates for affordable housing, social justice, and stronger tenant protections, reflecting a growing progressive movement in city politics.

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Diplomatic Concerns Rise as U.S. Targets 500 Bangladeshis for Removal

NYN DESK

After Donald Trump assumed the presidency for the second time in the United States, his government has started deporting citizens of various countries who are illegally staying there. The Trump administration alleges that there are also illegal Bangladeshis in the country. They have also started deporting citizens of Bangladesh on this allegation. According to diplomatic sources, the country's government has already

HIGHLIGHT

Trump administration alleges that there are illegal Bangladeshis in the country. They have also started deporting citizens of Bangladesh on this allegation

identified 400-500 Bangladeshi citizens for repatriation due to lack of permission and documents to stay legally in the United States. If they fail to take the

necessary legal protection there, they may all have to return home.

The Home Ministry held two meetings in Dhaka on Wednesday and Thursday to examine what can be done about the returnees. Wednesday's meeting was chaired by Home Affairs Advisor Jahangir Alam Chowdhury. Meeting was attended by officials from various government departments, including the Special Branch of the Police, Immigration and Civil Aviation Authority.

Seminar in New York to allay the fears of deporting Bangladeshis

Staff Reporter

World Human Rights Development USA organized an immigration seminar to dispel the fears of the community and provide sound legal advice in the current immigration situation. The seminar, held at Chef Mahal Restaurant in Jackson Heights on February 27, discussed what community members can do. The seminar was chaired by Shah Shahidul Haque, founder president of the organizing organization. Shah Newaz, editor-in-chief of Saptahik Ajkal and CEO

of Golden Age Homecare, was present as the chief guest and patron. Special guests were Immigration Attorney Michael Princeton, Edward Scott Strong, Attorney Moin Chowdhury, LaGuardia Community College Professor Dr. Saj Heidi, Advocate Munia Sultana, and Michael Princeton's assistant Lokman Hossain. The special attraction of the event was a group of LaGuardia Community College students who are working as volunteers in community service.



Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
06:00	01:06	04:23	06:58	08:13
05:59	01:06	04:24	06:59	08:14
05:57	01:06	04:24	07:00	08:15
05:55	01:05	04:25	07:01	08:16
05:54	01:05	04:26	07:02	08:17
05:52	01:05	04:26	07:03	08:18
05:50	01:04	04:27	07:04	08:19

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Moin Chowdhury's initiative in mosques of New York City

Reporter

Moin Choudhury, probably the first Bangladeshi-American attorney to be admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of International Trade and the Michigan Supreme Court. December 19, 2010 the City of New York honored attorney Moin Choudhury with a proclamation as a renowned United States Supreme Court Attorney. Mr. Choudhury earned his Master of Laws degree with distinction from Touro Law School in 2002, New York.



In 2005, Mr. Choudhury was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan and started his law practice in Wayne County, Michigan. During the beginning of his practice, he served as a court-appointed criminal defense attorney where he had an opportunity to represent many different clients, including Iraq War veterans in criminal defense cases. Mr. Choudhury is experienced in handling accident cases where he has recovered millions of dollars for his accident victim clients. He also successfully represents clients in immigration matters. Mr. Choudhury is a proud member of the American Bar Association, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Michigan State Bar, and New York State Bar Association (out of state). Mr. Choudhury is a registered Democrat and is very active in the political process, including local, state, and federal elections. He is the managing attorney for the Moin Choudhury Law Firm, P.C. in Michigan. Moin Choudhury is admitted in the United States Supreme Bar and Michigan State Supreme Court only. In New York State Moin Choudhury's law practice is limited to Immigration cases only. In New York and in other states, cases are handled by experienced attorneys who licensed by the relevant States.

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Faith

Jalalabad Association's Iftar Event Inspires Togetherness and Spiritual Growth

Community leaders and members join hands for a spiritual Ramadan gathering

Umme Habiba

The Jalalabad Association of America, Inc. organized a grand Iftar and Dua Mahfil at Gulshan Terrace in Queens, bringing together a large number of community members to celebrate the sacred month of Ramadan. The event, held on the evening of March 2, 2025, marked the second day of fasting and served as a powerful demonstration of unity, faith, and cultural heritage, drawing attendees from across New York and beyond.

The gathering, one of the largest North American Iftar events hosted by the association, created an atmosphere of spirituality and camaraderie. Hundreds of people, including prominent figures, religious scholars, and local leaders, joined in the event. The occasion was led by Shafiuddin Talukder Shafi, event convener, alongside chief coordinator Javed Uddin and organizing secretary Mohammad Alim. Several key



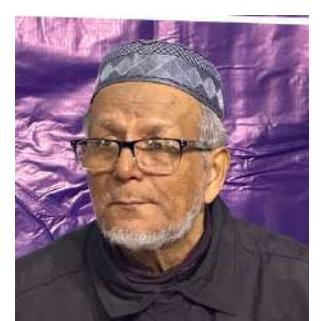
members, including President Badrul Khan and General Secretary Rokon Hakim, played instrumental roles in ensuring the success of the event. As the sun set, the call to prayer echoed through the hall, marking the time for Iftar or breaking the fast. Attendees shared dates, fruits, and traditional foods before joining together for Maghrib prayer and special

dua. The prayers, led by esteemed religious figures, focused on seeking blessings for the Muslim community, peace across the world, and the well-being of the attendees. Throughout the evening, speakers emphasized the importance of Ramadan, highlighting its message of self-discipline, charity, and spiritual growth. Several guests expressed their gratitude for the event's

role in fostering a sense of belonging within the Bangladeshi-American community. The Jalalabad Association of America, Inc., known for its commitment to community service, once again showcased its dedication by organizing an event that resonated with both older and younger generations. Beyond the spiritual aspect, the Iftar program also provided an opportunity for

networking and strengthening community ties. Many attendees reconnected with old friends, discussed future community initiatives, and shared their aspirations for the upcoming year. Organizers also distributed gift bags, a gesture that reflected the values of generosity and compassion promoted during Ramadan.

The success of the Iftar event was made possible by the collective effort of board members, volunteers, and sponsors, including Golden Age Home Care and community activist Fakhru Islam Delwar. Their support ensured a seamless experience for all attendees, reinforcing the community's spirit of togetherness. As the evening concluded, there was a shared sentiment of gratitude and inspiration. The Jalalabad Association of America reaffirmed its commitment to fostering unity and spiritual growth among Bangladeshi Americans. Attendees departed with renewed faith, strengthened relationships, and a deep appreciation for the values of Ramadan. This remarkable gathering once again proved that Ramadan is not just a time of fasting but also a season of generosity, reflection, and communal harmony. The event left an enduring impact on all who attended, setting the stage for continued unity and collaboration within the community.



Philanthropy

Ramadan Preparations Begin with Charity and Service in New York

Hundreds receive free food in Queens as part of Save the People's Ramadan efforts



Abdul Hossain

As the holy month of Ramadan approached, Save the People, in collaboration with UMR and Met Council, hosted a Pre-Ramadan Food Distribution on February 27, 2025. The event, held at 150-15 Hillside Ave, Jamaica, NY, aimed to assist those struggling with food insecurity, ensuring that families could begin Ramadan with dignity and nourishment. With rising inflation and economic challenges, many families in New York City face hardship, making food distribution events like this an essential lifeline. This year, over 1,200

households received Halal chicken, eggs, rice, flour, cooking oil, fresh vegetables, protein-rich items, canned goods, and other essential grocery items. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that families had the necessary food supplies to observe Ramadan with peace of mind. The event was met with overwhelming gratitude from the community. Many individuals, including seniors, single parents, and low-income families, expressed relief at receiving the assistance. For them, the distribution was not just about food but also about hope,

reminding them that they are not alone in their struggles. "This means everything to us," shared one recipient. "With Ramadan coming, we were worried about how to provide for our family, but this support has given us relief." said another recipient. Save the People has been at the forefront of humanitarian work, particularly during Ramadan, when the values of charity and service hold even greater significance. Their collaboration with UMR and Met Council, two organizations known for their commitment to fighting hunger and poverty, helped amplify the impact of the event.

Together, they reinforced the message that no one should have to choose between feeding their family and paying their bills. Beyond the food distribution, the event also served as a moment of reflection on the importance of giving back. Volunteers, many of whom were fasting or preparing for Ramadan, found deep fulfillment in serving others. "This is what Ramadan is about—helping those in need and strengthening our community," said one volunteer. The turnout highlighted the ongoing need for food assistance, especially in immigrant

and underserved communities. Organizers noted that while Ramadan serves as a reminder of the struggles of the less fortunate, hunger is a year-round issue that requires continuous effort and support. They encouraged attendees to pay it forward, whether through volunteering, donations, or simply spreading awareness about the cause. As the sun set on the day's efforts, the event left a lasting impression on all involved. The recipients walked away with not just food but also a renewed sense of hope and community

support. The volunteers and sponsors reaffirmed their commitment to continuing such initiatives, ensuring that no family goes hungry—not just during Ramadan, but throughout the year. The Pre-Ramadan Food Distribution was a testament to the power of collective action and compassion. It was a reminder that small acts of kindness can make a significant difference, especially for those facing hardship. As Ramadan begins, the spirit of generosity carries forward, inspiring more people to give, serve, and uplift those in need.



Entertainment

Inspiring the Future: Young Participants Show Enthusiasm for Quranic Recitation

ATV USA Launches North America Quran Recitation Competition 2025

Tahmeed Rahman

With the slogan "Life in the Light of the Quran," ATV USA has officially launched the North America Quran Recitation Competition 2025. The initiative, aimed at inspiring young Muslims to strengthen their connection with the Holy Quran, was inaugurated at a special event held at the Jamaica Muslim Center in New York. The launch ceremony took place on Sunday with the participation of over a hundred children and youth, signifying the enthusiasm and growing interest in Quranic recitation among the younger generation. The event's chief guest, Imam and Khatib Mirza Abu Zafar Beg of Jamaica Muslim Center, highlighted the importance of reciting and understanding the Quran, encouraging participants to use this opportunity to deepen their faith and knowledge. Several distinguished guests also attended the event, adding to its significance. Among them was Sarshina



Pir Saheb, Maulana Shah Mohammad Saifullah Siddiqui, who emphasized the value of religious education and the role of such competitions in preserving Islamic teachings. Other notable attendees included Jamaica Muslim Center's Joint Secretary Fakhru Islam Delwar, Mohammad Kabir, founder of Key/Max Realty, and ATV USA's Station Chief Shamim Al Amin. The event was coordinated and

supported by Elhaam Academy's founder and director, Maulana Muhammad Shahidullah, who has been instrumental in organizing such Islamic initiatives in North America. The overwhelming response from the community has already set a promising tone for the competition, with high expectations for participation from young Quran reciters across the region. The competition has garnered strong

sponsorship and community backing. TapTap Send has come forward as the title sponsor, ensuring financial and logistical support for the initiative. The event is also powered by Utsav.com, with Platinum Partnership from Khalil Biryani House and Gold Partnership from Bangla Travels. Additional support has been extended by Key/Max Realty, Saptahik Nabojug, mortgage broker Shamnun

Shibli, realtor Badrul Chowdhury, Monir Security Training, and several other community organizations. This competition not only provides a platform for children and young adults to showcase their Quranic recitation skills but also fosters a sense of unity and devotion among the Muslim community in North America. Religious leaders and organizers believe that initiatives like these strengthen cultural and spiritual roots

while motivating young generations to stay connected with their faith. Beyond the competition itself, the event served as a reminder of the significance of Quranic teachings in daily life. Many parents and community members expressed gratitude for such an initiative, recognizing its role in shaping the moral and spiritual growth of the youth. The competition is expected to attract participants from across the United States and Canada, with winners receiving recognition for their excellence in recitation. The overwhelming support and enthusiasm for the ATV USA Quran Recitation Competition 2025 reflect a broader commitment to promoting Islamic values and education in North America. With strong community backing, generous sponsorships, and an increasing number of young participants, this event is set to become a cornerstone in the celebration of faith, knowledge, and unity.



Faith & Unity

Building Bridges: Interfaith Iftar Strengthens Bonds

A Gathering of Faiths to Promote Harmony and Understanding

Nassr Al-Ghalib

Save The People hosted the 2025 Interfaith Iftar on March 5 at 87-41, 165th St, Jamaica, NY, uniting individuals from diverse backgrounds under the theme "Hate to Hope." This signature event, led by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save The People, served as a powerful platform for peace building, interfaith dialogue, and cultural exchange. Through shared meals and meaningful discussions, attendees explored ways to combat hate with understanding and respect, reinforcing the importance of unity and community strengthening. The iftar was particularly significant as it welcomed students from Elhaam Academy, a Muslim school, and Kinneret Day School, a Jewish institution. Their participation symbolized the importance of interfaith harmony from a young age. Witnessing students



Director of the Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, who spoke about the city's commitment to fostering unity and combatting discrimination. URI Frankel, Director of Special Projects at the NYC Mayor's Office, discussed key initiatives aimed at creating a more inclusive city. Christine Noel, from the 67th Precinct Clergy Council (The GodSquad), shared her insights on faith-based

Paul Radensky, from the Museum of Jewish Heritage, shared perspectives on the historical significance of interfaith cooperation and the need to stand together against hate. Mahedi Hasan, the designated Muslim Liaison for the Hope Building Program, was also in attendance and highlighted the importance of grassroots initiatives in peace building. He passionately spoke

mutual respect, and collaboration. Mahedi Hasan shared a heartfelt message about the true meaning of unity, stating, "Unity is about working together, even though we may be different. When we are united, we can achieve great things. Peace is about respecting one another and spreading kindness." Christine Noel reflected on previous engagements with interfaith youth

"We really have to find ways to work together—not only for our benefit but for everyone. When others see us working together, they will see that we can accomplish amazing things." His message resonated with the audience, reinforcing the core purpose of the interfaith iftar.

A local police officer shared his appreciation for the initiative, calling it "a phenomenal effort" toward stopping violence and bringing peace. He encouraged attendees to take the opportunity to learn from one another and build lasting friendships.

Students from Kinneret Day School also contributed to the evening by sharing insights into Islamic practices. One student explained the significance of Tasbeeh (prayer beads) in Islamic traditions, describing how they are used for reciting Dhikr (remembrance of Allah), such as counting praises like "SubhanAllah," "Alhamdulillah," and "Allahu Akbar." This moment of cultural exchange was a beautiful demonstration of the evening's theme—understanding and appreciating different faith traditions. The event also recognized individuals and organizations that played a key role in making the gathering possible. Special appreciation was extended to Rachel Lit, Matthew Breitenenbach, Paul Radensky, and Irving Rosenstein from the Museum of Jewish Heritage. The contributions of

Tara Sillberg (Anti-Defamation League), Desmond Natim, Avanti Williston (GodSquad), Noah Rosen (MAS), Professor Ation Rahman, Jill BD, and Shuh Soibullah were also acknowledged for their dedication to interfaith unity and peacebuilding. As the evening came to a close, attendees reflected on the profound impact of the interfaith iftar. It was a night where conversations replaced divisions, and understanding took the place of misconceptions. The event reaffirmed that despite religious or cultural differences, communities could come together in harmony and mutual respect. Save The People's Interfaith Iftar 2025 was more than just a meal—it was a movement towards a more inclusive and compassionate society. The gathering underscored that through dialogue, cultural appreciation, and shared learning, bridges could be built, and hate could be transformed into hope. Events like these serve as crucial reminders that fostering understanding and dignity for all people is not just an aspiration—it is a necessity. As we move forward, gatherings like this will continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening communities, celebrating diversity, and paving the way for a future built on peace and collaboration.



engage in meaningful conversations about faith and culture was a testament to the power of dialogue in shaping a more inclusive society. The evening was graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including community leaders, law enforcement officials, and representatives from various organizations. Among them was Vijay Ramjattan, Executive

approaches to healing communities affected by violence. Another notable presence was Matt Abrams Gerber, Vice President for the Center for Shared Society at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. He highlighted the importance of interfaith collaboration in building a stronger and more cohesive community.

about the role of faith in fostering a harmonious society. Local law enforcement representatives attended the event, underscoring their commitment to community collaboration, peace building, and ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all. Throughout the evening, speeches and discussions centered on the themes of unity,

and highlighted the significance of gathering to learn from one another. She expressed gratitude for being part of such a meaningful event, emphasizing how interfaith dialogue fosters love and understanding. Paul Radensky reinforced the importance of collaboration between the Muslim and Jewish communities, stating,

Faith & Unity

Building Bridges: Interfaith Iftar Strengthens Bonds



Peace & Unity

Leaders Gather in NYC for Unity Through Ramadan

Second Annual Interfaith Iftar Fosters Unity Among Diverse Communities

Kaiser Ahmed

New York City witnessed a powerful moment of unity and togetherness on the evening of March 6, 2025, as political, religious, and community leaders gathered for the Second Annual City-State Interfaith Iftar at the Dreiser Loop Community Center in Co-op City, Bronx. This prestigious event was organized in partnership with COPO, the National Center for Health Equity, the Healthcare Education Project, and the Peace Center of USA, along with other organizations. It brought together people from diverse faiths to celebrate the spirit of Ramadan. The gathering fostered interfaith dialogue and strengthened community bonds. As the sun set and the call to Maghrib prayer echoed through the venue, Muslim attendees broke their fast, shared a meal

with people of other religion that symbolized unity, respect, and mutual understanding. The event provided a unique opportunity for leaders and citizens alike to connect beyond religious and political boundaries, embracing the values of compassion and coexistence that Ramadan represents. New York City Mayor Eric Adams acknowledged the significance of the event, expressing his commitment to supporting the city's Muslim community. In a social media post following the gathering, he wrote, "Honored to join my Muslim brothers and sisters tonight, breaking bread together in the Bronx at the second annual City/State Interfaith Iftar. Ramadan is a special and holy time for these New Yorkers, and we are always proud to ensure they feel supported by their city."



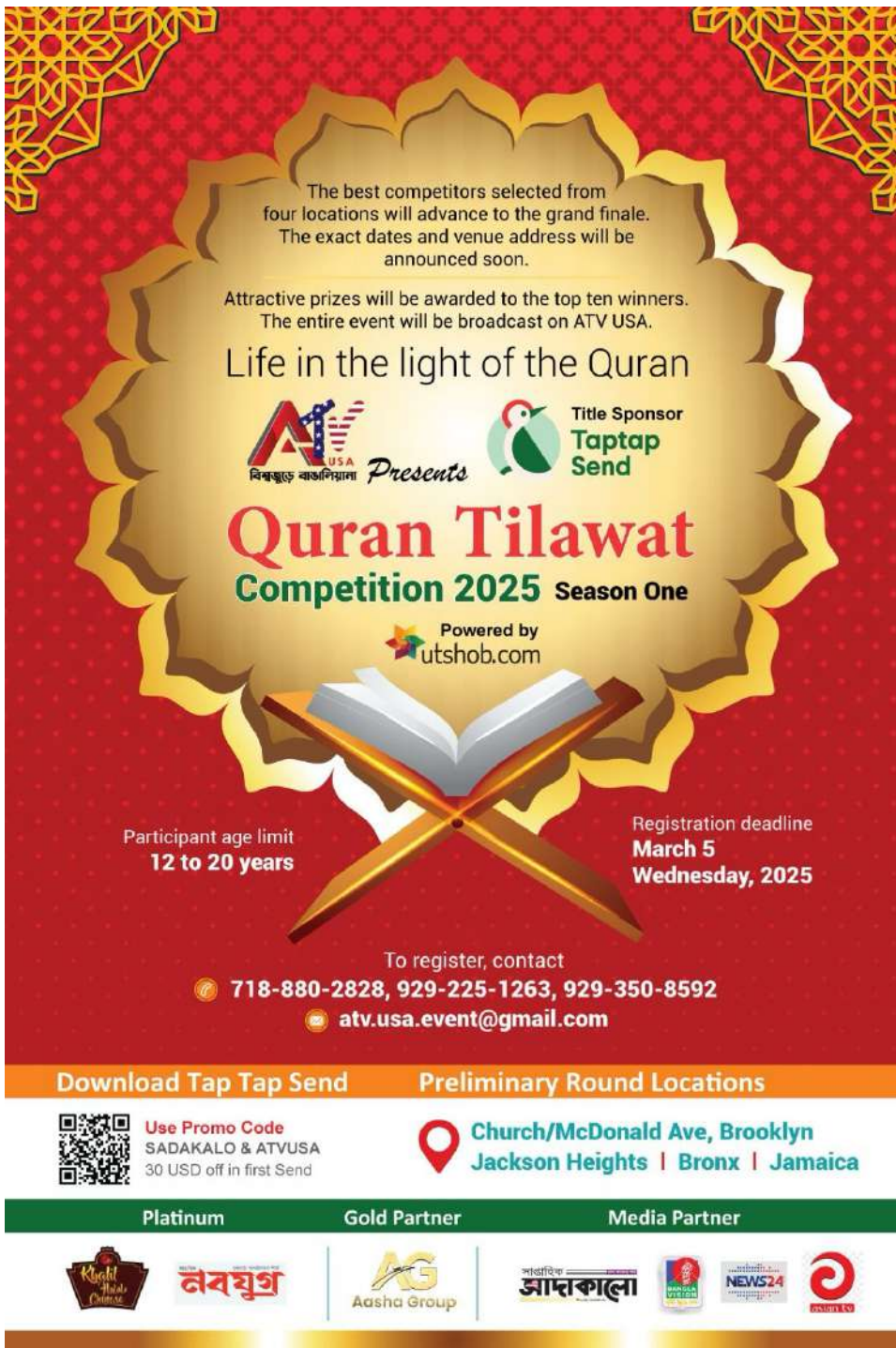
His words reflected the sentiment shared by many in attendance—an affirmation that New York stands as a beacon of religious diversity and inclusion. The interfaith gathering was attended by prominent religious figures, city officials, activists, and members of various faith-based organizations. Discussions during the evening emphasized the importance of interfaith collaboration in addressing societal challenges, including poverty, healthcare disparities, and social justice issues. By bringing together people of different backgrounds, the event underscored how faith communities can work collectively to promote peace, mutual respect, and social cohesion. A key focus of the iftar was the role of

interfaith initiatives in bridging gaps between communities. Religious leaders from different traditions took turns speaking about the values of Ramadan and the shared principles of charity, kindness, and gratitude that exist across all faiths. The event also served as a reminder of the significant contributions of New York's Muslim community in various sectors, from public service to business and education. The presence of community organizations such as the Healthcare Education Project and the National Center for Health Equity highlighted the importance of supporting underserved populations through healthcare access and education. Several speakers emphasized the need for continued

collaboration between faith-based organizations and social service providers to uplift communities in need. Beyond the formal speeches, the heart of the evening lay in the simple act of breaking bread together. Attendees enjoyed a meal that included traditional Ramadan delicacies, creating an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. The event also provided a platform for informal networking, where individuals from different professional and social spheres could engage in meaningful conversations about faith, culture, and shared aspirations for a more inclusive society. As the night concluded, participants left with a renewed sense of connection and purpose. The success of the Second Annual

City-State Interfaith Iftar reinforced the importance of such gatherings in fostering dialogue, mutual respect, and solidarity among diverse communities. Many attendees expressed their hope that this tradition would continue to grow, serving as a model for interfaith harmony across the nation. With its increasing participation and impactful conversations, this annual interfaith iftar is becoming an essential fixture in New York City's cultural and religious calendar. By bringing together people from different walks of life, the event not only celebrates the sacredness of Ramadan but also reaffirms the city's unwavering commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and unity.





The best competitors selected from four locations will advance to the grand finale. The exact dates and venue address will be announced soon.

Attractive prizes will be awarded to the top ten winners. The entire event will be broadcast on ATV USA.

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Taraweeh Prayers Bring Spirituality to Times Square

A moment of reflection amid the bright lights of Manhattan.

Habiba Sultana

As the holy month of Ramadan began, Muslims gathered in New York’s Times Square to perform Taraweeh prayers, a special nightly ritual observed during the month of fasting. Despite the cold and windy conditions, more than 100 worshippers joined in the communal prayers, creating a striking contrast between the spiritual gathering and the bright LED billboards that illuminate the heart of Manhattan. Many in attendance were first-time participants, drawn by the opportunity to experience Ramadan in such an iconic location. Salman Al-Hanafy, a 20-year-old forklift operator from Cairo, expressed his amazement at seeing so many Muslims praying together in Times Square. "It’s good to come here as Muslims. I saw Muslims from everywhere — I was surprised, it’s my first time here," he said. The event was not only about prayer but also about engaging the wider community.



Image Source: Arab News



Image Source: New Straits Times



Image Source: Themedialine.org

HIGHLIGHT

•Copies of the Qur’an were distributed to both Muslims and non-Muslims.

•Palestinian flags were displayed as a symbol of solidarity.

Volunteers handed out copies of the Qur’an to curious passersby,

explaining the significance of Ramadan and fasting. Ahmad Yasar, a 20-year-old IT student, noted the high demand for Qur’ans, especially in French. "A lot of people are interested in the Qur’an, we have almost run out of French ones," he shared, emphasizing the importance of such gatherings in raising awareness about Islam. The atmosphere was

enhanced by the soulful recitation of Nasheeds, Islamic devotional songs, as children took turns reciting verses from the Qur’an. Alongside the prayers, a mound of donuts was delivered to those distributing religious texts, adding a touch of warmth to the cold evening. Beyond the spiritual aspect, the event also served as a platform

for social and political expression. Some attendees displayed Palestinian flags, standing in solidarity with the people of Gaza. A speaker wearing a hat emblazoned with the colors of the Palestinian flag and a young boy waving a banner reflected the sentiments of those concerned about ongoing conflicts. New York City has been a hub for protests and

demonstrations on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly following the events of October 7. Since the Hamas-led attack on Israel, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,100 people, the conflict has escalated, with Gaza suffering heavy casualties. According to Gaza’s health ministry, over 31,000 people, mostly women and children, have died due to Israel’s military campaign. The presence of Palestinian flags at the Times Square prayer gathering underscored the deep concerns many Muslims feel about the crisis. Despite the political undertones, the event remained focused on faith, community, and unity. Against the backdrop of one of the world’s most famous intersections, the gathering served as a testament to the resilience and devotion of the Muslim community. As Ramadan continues, such events highlight the importance of faith, solidarity, and dialogue in a multicultural city like New York.

Councilwoman Shahana Hanif Under Investigation for Possible Conflict of Interest

\$149,000 in Public Funds Allegedly Directed to Husband’s Groups

Jamshed Mozumder

Brooklyn Councilwoman Shahana Hanif is facing public scrutiny after allegations surfaced that she directed more than \$149,000 in taxpayer money to nonprofits affiliated with her husband, Abdullah Younus. The organizations in question are the Arab American Association of New York and the Arab American Family Support Center, both of which provide services to immigrant communities in the area. The accusations have raised concerns over potential conflicts of interest and the misuse of public funds. Hanif, who represents Brooklyn’s District 39, has strongly denied any wrongdoing, asserting that the funds allocated to these organizations were used to support

essential services for immigrant and Arab American communities. In a statement, she emphasized the positive impact of these nonprofits, which she claims have been vital in addressing social and economic challenges in the district. However, critics argue that the close ties between Hanif and the organizations in question could create a conflict of interest. The fact that her husband is involved in the management of both groups has raised alarms about the transparency and fairness of the allocation process. Questions have been raised about whether the allocation of funds was appropriate or whether Hanif’s actions were motivated by personal interests rather than the public good. The controversy has

HIGHLIGHT

•The funds were allocated to nonprofits such as the Arab American Association of New York and the Arab American Family Support Center.

•Hanif denies any wrongdoing, asserting that these groups provide necessary services to the community.

prompted calls for an investigation into the fund allocation process and potential ethical violations. Despite the backlash, Hanif remains firm in her defense, insisting that the funds were distributed in accordance with proper procedures and that



Image Source: yahoo.com

the nonprofits provide much-needed support to vulnerable communities in her district. The situation has sparked a wider discussion about the role of public officials in overseeing the distribution of taxpayer

money to local organizations. While some defend Hanif’s actions as being in line with her commitment to serving her community, others question whether the relationship between the councilwoman and her husband’s

organizations crosses an ethical line. As the investigation continues, Hanif’s political future may be influenced by the outcome, with the public and officials alike closely monitoring how this controversy unfolds.