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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Khalil's Arrest Divides Lawmakers, Raises Free Speech Concerns

The Trump Administration Defends Arrest, Citing National Security Concerns

Jamshed Mozumder

The Trump administration has defended the detention of Mahmoud Khalil, a 30-year-old graduate student at Columbia University, citing concerns over his pro-Palestinian activism. According to the government, Khalil's actions align with Hamas, which the U.S. considers a terrorist organization, and his presence in the country poses a potential threat to U.S. foreign policy. The administration has not, however, provided specific evidence to support these claims, and Khalil has not been charged with any crime. This assertion is based on a provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act that allows for deportation if an individual's activities are deemed detrimental to U.S. foreign relations. Khalil, a permanent U.S. resident of Palestinian descent, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on March 8, 2025, at his Columbia University apartment in New York City. He had entered



Image Source: Rolling Stone

HIGHLIGHT

●USCMO Joins Calls for Khalil's Release, Cites Anti-Palestinian Racism

●Legal Team Files Lawsuit, Defending First Amendment Rights

the U.S. on a student visa in 2022 and later obtained permanent residency after marrying

an American citizen in 2024. Despite this, ICE agents claimed that his green card had been revoked, though no formal charges have been filed against him. His detention has sparked widespread protests and debates surrounding free speech and immigration policies. The U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) has strongly

condemned Khalil's arrest, arguing that it is politically motivated and an infringement on free speech. They also support a letter from 14 members of Congress demanding his release, accusing the government of anti-Palestinian racism. Khalil's legal team maintains that his detention violates his First Amendment rights.

Protests have erupted in New York City, with demonstrators demanding justice for Khalil. Currently, he remains detained in Louisiana, and his lawyers are pushing for his release on bail, citing his clean criminal record and his wife's pregnancy. The case underscores the ongoing tension between national security

*Economic Expert
Turned Leader:
Carney's Political
Debut*

Hamid Abdullah

Mark Carney, former governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, has been elected leader of the Liberal Party, succeeding Justin Trudeau as Canada's Prime Minister. Carney, 59, was sworn in on March 14, 2025, marking a significant transition in Canadian leadership. Carney's appointment comes amid escalating trade tensions with the United States. President Donald Trump has imposed increased tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum, raising them to 50%, and has provocatively suggested annexing Canada as the 51st U.S. state. In response, Carney plans to strengthen alliances with European nations, seeking to diversify trade partnerships and reduce economic reliance on the U.S. Demonstrating a commitment to assert Canada's sovereignty, Carney is scheduled to meet with King Charles III in London and



Image Source : Reuters

President Emmanuel Macron in Paris. These meetings aim to bolster international support for Canada amid the current geopolitical climate. Domestically, Carney faces the challenge of uniting a divided political landscape, with opposition figures criticizing his elite background and lack of political experience. As Prime Minister, his immediate focus will be on navigating

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Economic Tensions Escalate: U.S. and China in Trade War

China Hits U.S. Cotton, Chicken, and Soybeans with New Tariffs

Farhana Azmi

In a significant move that further escalates economic tensions between the United States and China, China has retaliated against President Trump's 25% tariff on aluminum imports by imposing up to 15% tariffs on several key American goods. These include cotton, chicken, corn, and



Image Source : Nikkei Asia

HIGHLIGHT

●President Trump's aluminum tariff sparks retaliation from China.

soybeans—products that are vital to the U.S. economy. The trade dispute between the two largest economies in the world has intensified, with each side attempting to protect its economic interests while raising the stakes for global trade. The imposition of tariffs by China comes after President Trump's decision to impose hefty

tariffs on aluminum imports, a move aimed at protecting U.S. industries and reducing trade imbalances. China, however, has seen this as an unfair trade practice and has responded with its own tariffs, signaling that it will not tolerate what it perceives as discriminatory actions. For American farmers and manufacturers,

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Eric Adams Iftar Party for Muslim Community

Staff Reporter

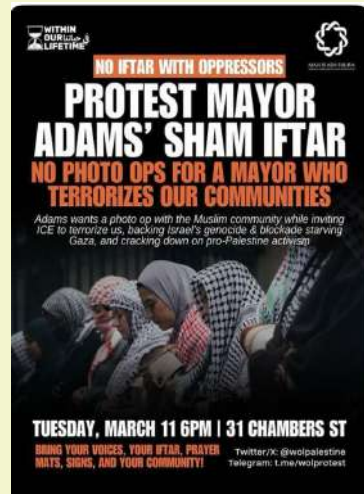
HIGHLIGHT

New York City Mayor Eric Adams hosted an Iftar party in honor of the Muslim community at Gracie Mansion on March 11. Nearly 200 Muslim community leaders were invited to the iftar party. During the event, Adams emphasized the city's unity by highlighting the themes of compassion and sacrifice during Ramadan. Eric Adams also mentioned his administration's decision to allow mosques to broadcast the call to prayer on Fridays. 'You have made an outstanding contribution to all of our progress and prosperity. So on behalf of the

•Adams emphasized the city's unity by highlighting the themes of compassion and sacrifice during Ramadan.

•Muslim community has boycotted this city office, I thank you' Mayor Adams said. The iftar party was attended by mayor's office officials, community leaders, activists, mainstream politicians, and prominent figures from various walks of life in the Muslim community. Outside the venue, hundreds

of pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated against Adams' support for Israel.



Jalalabad Association of South Jersey's Iftar Mahfil

Reporter

The Iftar Mahfil of the Jalalabad Association of South Jersey was held in the bond of harmony. The Iftar Mahfil was organized on March 12 evening at Masjid Al Hera in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The gathering of the expatriate people of greater Sylhet centered around this religious Iftar Mahfil. At the Iftar Mahfil, the Khatib of Masjid Al Hera, Muhaddis Azim Uddin, prayed and prayed for the happiness, peace and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah. Before the Iftar,

Ammar Chowdhury, a member of the expatriate generation, recited from the Holy Quran. Before the Mahfil, the organization's President Amirul Islam Tofi and General Secretary Syed Shaheed, Council at Large candidate Soheli Ahmed spoke. The Iftar Mahfil was attended by prominent figures from various walks of life in the community, including expatriates living in South Jersey, residents of the greater Sylhet region, and a large number of women.



Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:49	01:04	04:27	07:05	08:20
05:47	01:04	04:28	07:06	08:22
05:45	01:04	04:28	07:07	08:23
05:43	01:03	04:29	07:08	08:24
05:42	01:03	04:29	07:09	08:25
05:40	01:03	04:30	07:10	08:26
05:38	01:02	04:30	07:12	08:27

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Protest at Trump Tower against the arrest of a Palestine student

NYN DESK

Protesters protested at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York, condemning the arrest of a Palestinian student and demanding his release. At least 100 people were arrested from there by the police. They were detained on March 13. Earlier, when pro-Palestinian activists protested against Israeli brutality in Gaza at the world-famous Columbia University in New York, a student named Mahmoud Khalil was arrested there. The Trump administration is planning to deport him to his country on charges of involvement in pro-Palestinian activities. The protest program was organized by the pro-Jewish organization Jewish Voice for Peace. Shortly after noon, protesters wearing red shirts gathered at Trump Tower.



At that time, they started chanting slogans like 'Free Mahmoud Khalil.' The New York Police Department said that 98 people were arrested out of the nearly three hundred protesters. However, no injuries or property damage were reported. Khalil was held in immigration detention in Louisiana after his arrest in New York on Saturday. The arrest sparked outrage from Democratic lawmakers, the UN special envoy for the occupied Palestinian territories and civil liberties advocates. The Trump administration had previously revoked Khalil's green card. Khalil, a legal permanent resident of the United States, has been a prominent figure in the pro-Palestinian student movement at Columbia, perhaps the most prominent of the dozens of U.S. universities where demonstrations erupted last year. Trump branded Khalil 'A Radical Foreign Pro-Hamas Student' on social media and has said his arrest is the first 'of many to come.'

Faith

A Celebration of Togetherness: Elhaam Academy's Iftar Strengthens Bonds

Families, Scholars, and Leaders Unite for Ramadan Iftar



Tahim Rahman

The NYC Muslim community came together in an unforgettable night of unity and gratitude as Elhaam Academy hosted its annual Community Iftar, with the generous support of the Zakat Foundation of America (ZFA). The gathering, held in the spirit of Ramadan, welcomed families, scholars, and community members who embraced the opportunity to share in the blessings of this sacred month. As the call to Maghrib prayer signaled the breaking of the fast, the hall was filled with a deep sense of togetherness. Attendees exchanged warm greetings, shared meals, and joined in collective duas, expressing gratitude for their faith and the bonds that unite them. The evening was a beautiful reminder of the strength of the Muslim community in New York City and the values that define Ramadan—compassion,

generosity, and devotion. ZFA's support played a crucial role in making this gathering possible, and their generosity was deeply appreciated by all who attended. The foundation's commitment to charitable work and community upliftment was evident throughout the event, reinforcing the importance of collective responsibility and giving back. The iftar was not just about food and prayer; it was a reflection of the rich cultural and spiritual traditions that bring people together during Ramadan. The room echoed with the laughter of children, the wisdom of elders, and the camaraderie of brothers and sisters in faith. Through heartfelt discussions and shared reflections, attendees left with renewed spirits, inspired by the warmth and unity of their community. Elhaam Academy continues to play a

pivotal role in nurturing future generations, serving as a pillar of knowledge, faith, and guidance. The event highlighted the academy's ongoing commitment to education, spirituality, and strengthening communal ties. As Ramadan serves as a time of reflection and renewal, the iftar was a powerful reminder of the importance of faith-based institutions in shaping a strong and united community. As the night came to an end, a collective prayer was made for continued blessings, peace, and prosperity for the Muslim community. Gratitude was extended to ZFA for their generosity, to the organizers for their efforts, and to all attendees for making the gathering meaningful. The Elhaam Academy Community Iftar was not just a meal—it was a reaffirmation of faith, unity, and the shared responsibility of uplifting one another.



Philanthropy



Community Unites for Ramadan: Hundreds Receive Essential Aid in Queens

Save The People Partners with UMR and MET Council for Community Relief

Hossain Shah

Save the People, in collaboration with UMR and Met Council, organized a Ramadan food distribution event at Elhaam Academy in Queens, NY. This initiative aimed to support families in need by providing essential food supplies, ensuring that everyone could observe Ramadan with dignity and nourishment. Volunteers and organizers worked together to distribute food packages, bringing relief and comfort to many households. The distribution included carefully selected food items to provide balanced meals for families. The packages contained farina, white rice, snack bars, dry

lentils, raisins, peanut butter, spaghetti, shelf-stable milk, applesauce, canned corn, canned peaches, canned kidney beans, canned tuna, canned carrots, canned green peas, canned chickpeas, and mixed canned vegetables. Each item was chosen to support nutritious meal preparation during the holy month. Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People, played a key role in leading the initiative, ensuring that those facing food insecurity received the necessary support. His dedication to humanitarian efforts and strengthening community bonds was evident throughout the event. His leadership inspired both volunteers

and attendees, reinforcing the importance of collective action in addressing social challenges. Several distinguished guests joined the event, emphasizing the significance of interfaith and community-driven support systems. Mehedi Hasan from

Human Rights, were present to show their commitment to helping vulnerable populations. Rahman highlighted the city's efforts in advocating for equitable resource distribution, reinforcing the importance of continued collaboration between local organizations and

of food. People from diverse backgrounds worked together, packaging and distributing food with kindness and dedication. Their efforts reflected the values of compassion and unity, creating an atmosphere of shared responsibility and support. Among the recipients, many expressed their gratitude for the assistance. A single mother shared how the food distribution eased her financial burden, allowing her to focus on providing a stable environment for her children. An elderly man spoke about the rising costs of living and how receiving these essential items gave him a sense of relief and security. These stories

highlighted the real impact of community-driven initiatives and the difference they make in people's lives. As the event came to a close, the atmosphere was filled with gratitude and unity. The Ramadan food distribution was not just about handing out meals—it was about fostering a sense of belonging and reinforcing the importance of compassion. Save the People's ongoing commitment to humanitarian efforts continues to serve as a reminder that kindness and generosity should be a guiding principle in daily life, extending beyond Ramadan into the broader mission of building a more caring and inclusive society.



the NYC Mayor's Office and Rasel K. Rahman, Director of the Queens Community Service Center at the NYC Commission on

government agencies. Volunteers played an essential role in the event, dedicating their time to ensure the smooth distribution



Entertainment

Quran Tilawat Competition 2025 Showcases Young Talent in Jamaica

Contestants from diverse backgrounds compete in a spiritually enriching atmosphere

Aqeeb Islam

The Jamaica qualifying round of the ATV USA Quran Tilawat Competition 2025 was an awe-inspiring event that brought together young reciters, scholars, and community members to celebrate the beauty of Quranic recitation. Held at Elhaam Academy, the event marked an essential stage in the competition, where talented participants showcased their skills in an atmosphere filled with spirituality and devotion. Competitors demonstrated their deep understanding of Quranic pronunciation, melody, and rhythm, impressing both the audience and judges with their dedication. Each participant took the stage with grace, reciting verses with remarkable precision and emotion. The competition was not merely about performance; it was an opportunity for individuals to connect with the divine words of the Quran, fostering a stronger bond with their faith. A key highlight of the event was the participation of young children and teenagers, who brought immense passion and commitment



to their recitations. Their confidence and eloquence reflected the dedication they had put into mastering the art of tilawat. The competition provided a platform for these young reciters to not only showcase their talents but also inspire others in the community to engage more deeply with the teachings of the Quran. The event was made possible through the support of sponsors, including Taptap Send as the title sponsor and Utshob.com as a powering partner. Their contributions

helped elevate the competition, ensuring that the best talents received recognition and encouragement. The competition's structured format, starting with qualifying rounds at four locations and culminating in a grand finale, created an environment of excitement and anticipation. The judges, consisting of respected scholars and experienced reciters, carefully evaluated each performance based on criteria such as pronunciation, melody, and overall presentation.

Their expertise ensured a fair and competitive selection process, with the best competitors advancing to the final round. The exact date and venue for the grand finale will be announced soon, adding to the anticipation among participants and their supporters. One of the most exciting aspects of the competition was the announcement of attractive prizes for the top ten winners. These prizes are not only a recognition of talent but also a means of encouraging young

reciters to continue their journey of learning and devotion. The competition's grand finale promises to be a spectacular event where the best voices will come together in an ultimate showcase of Quranic excellence. Beyond the competitive aspect, the event served as a reminder of the power of the Quran in bringing communities together. Parents, teachers, and community leaders expressed their appreciation for ATV USA's initiative in organizing such a

meaningful event. The competition reinforced the importance of Quranic education and highlighted the role of young people in preserving and passing down the art of tilawat to future generations. The entire event will be broadcast on ATV USA, allowing a broader audience to witness the remarkable talent and dedication of the participants. This initiative ensures that the competition reaches beyond the event venue, inspiring viewers worldwide to appreciate and engage with Quranic recitation. The broadcast will provide an opportunity for families and supporters to relive the special moments and celebrate the achievements of the young reciters. As the competition moves towards its grand finale, the excitement and anticipation continue to grow. The event has already left a lasting impact on participants and attendees, strengthening their connection to the Quran and fostering a sense of unity within the community. ATV USA's dedication to promoting Quranic recitation through such competitions is a testament to the enduring significance of faith, knowledge, and excellence.



Faith & Unity

Festivals of Faith and Color Bring Communities Together in NYC

Muslims, Hindus, and Jews Mark Their Traditions in a Spirit of Togetherness

Muhammad SHAHIDULLAH

New York City recently witnessed a vibrant and heartfelt celebration of Ramadan, Holi, and Purim, three festivals rooted in different religious traditions but united by common themes of renewal, generosity, and community. These celebrations showcased the city's spirit of multicultural harmony, reinforcing the idea that diversity is a strength rather than a division. As the sacred month of Ramadan began, Muslim communities across the city engaged in fasting, prayer, and charitable acts, emphasizing self-discipline and empathy. From neighborhood mosques to community centers, evening iftars brought families and friends together, highlighting the importance of gratitude and giving back to those in need. Among the key figures promoting interfaith harmony



during these events was Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA, who played an active role in organizing community iftars and fostering dialogue between different faith groups. At the same time, the Hindu festival of Holi infused the streets with

color and joy. People of all backgrounds gathered in parks and open spaces to play with vibrant powders, dance, and share sweets, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and the breaking down of social barriers. The festivities created a sense of unity, proving that cultural traditions can bridge

gaps and bring people closer. Meanwhile, the Jewish festival of Purim brought an atmosphere of celebration with costumes, feasts, and acts of charity. The festival, which commemorates resilience and standing against oppression, also encouraged

generosity through the giving of food and donations to those in need. Synagogues and community centers across the city opened their doors to festivities that emphasized joy, solidarity, and remembrance. These three celebrations, though distinct in their origins,

reflected shared values that resonate deeply in a diverse city like New York. Across boroughs, interfaith gatherings and community events provided an opportunity for neighbors, colleagues, and friends to embrace the lessons of compassion, renewal, and unity. Leaders like Imam Muhammad Shahidullah have emphasized the importance of such events in strengthening social cohesion and fostering mutual respect among different communities. As the celebrations concluded, they left behind a powerful reminder: diversity is not just about coexisting, but about learning from one another and strengthening the bonds that define the city. By celebrating together, New Yorkers reaffirmed their commitment to building a community where traditions are honored, differences are embraced, and unity prevails.



Unity

Building Bonds Over Iftar: MusCare Brings Community Together



Local Leaders and Community Members Join in a Night of Reflection

Omar Sheikh

The spirit of Ramadan came alive in Hicksville as MusCare hosted a heartfelt Community Iftar on March 15th, bringing people together in an evening of reflection, generosity, and unity. Held at Kababjees on South Broadway, the event welcomed attendees of all backgrounds to share in the blessings of the holy month while supporting a great cause. As the sun set and the call to Maghrib prayer

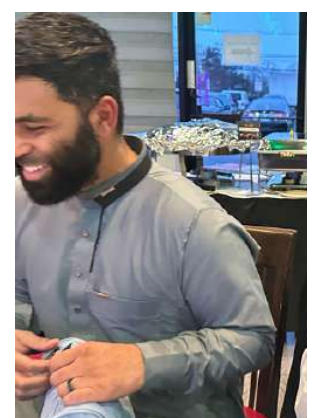
echoed, guests gathered around tables filled with delicious traditional dishes, embodying the essence of Ramadan—faith, togetherness, and compassion. The event was graced by esteemed speakers, including Qari Nazrul Islam, Br. Saleem Rahim, and Br. Mohammad Hassan, who delivered inspiring messages on the significance of Ramadan, the power of giving, and the importance of fostering strong community ties.

One of the defining moments of the evening was the emphasis on collective support and charitable giving. Ramadan serves as a reminder of the struggles faced by many, and MusCare's initiative sought to channel this awareness into action. Through heartfelt discussions and shared reflections, attendees were encouraged to uphold the values of generosity, kindness, and empathy beyond the month of fasting. The Iftar was more

than just a gathering; it was a testament to the strength and resilience of the local Muslim community. The first 20 guests to arrive were treated to special gifts, adding an extra layer of warmth and excitement to the occasion. The atmosphere was filled with joy and camaraderie as people from diverse backgrounds came together, breaking bread in a celebration of shared values. Events like the MusCare Community Iftar

highlight the power of local initiatives in fostering meaningful connections. In an increasingly fast-paced world, where time for personal interactions is often limited, such gatherings serve as a reminder of the importance of human connection and mutual support. The event reinforced that Ramadan is not just about fasting but about giving back, strengthening relationships, and uplifting one another. As the evening drew to

a close, guests left with renewed spirits, inspired to carry the essence of Ramadan forward in their daily lives. MusCare's dedication to community-building and charitable endeavors stood as a shining example of how faith and action can create lasting positive change. The event underscored a simple yet profound message—when a community comes together with sincerity and purpose, the impact extends far beyond a single night.



Community Affairs

Turkish House Event Highlights Women's Empowerment on Global Stage

Minister Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş and UN Representatives Join Talks in New York

Kaiser Ahmed

A high-level event was held at the Turkish House in New York as part of the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), bringing together key dignitaries and international delegates for discussions on gender equality and social progress. The gathering served as a platform for Türkiye to reaffirm its commitment to advancing women's rights and social development on the global stage.

Among the distinguished guests were H.E. Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, Türkiye's Minister of Family and Social Services; Amb. Muhittin Ahmet Yazal, Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye in New York; and Amb. Ahmet Yıldız, Türkiye's Permanent Representative to the UN. Their presence highlighted Türkiye's active engagement in international dialogues concerning women's empowerment and



social services. The event focused on key issues related to gender equality, economic inclusion, and social policies aimed at uplifting women. Minister Göktaş emphasized Türkiye's dedication to fostering a more inclusive society, highlighting ongoing initiatives to support women's education, employment, and leadership roles. She also underscored Türkiye's role in contributing to the

UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to gender equality and social justice. Ambassador Yıldız addressed Türkiye's diplomatic efforts in advocating for women's rights, stressing the importance of international collaboration in tackling gender-based disparities. He reaffirmed Türkiye's stance on working with global partners

to implement effective policies that empower women and enhance their participation in all sectors. The gathering at Turkish House also provided an opportunity for international delegates to exchange insights on best practices and policy frameworks that have successfully driven gender-focused reforms in different regions. The discussions highlighted the importance of cross-border cooperation in

addressing persistent challenges faced by women worldwide, including access to education, economic independence, and protection from gender-based violence. Ambassador Yazal, in his remarks, noted the historical and cultural significance of Turkish House as a venue for fostering meaningful dialogue. He expressed pride in Türkiye's contributions to global discussions on social

justice and gender equality, emphasizing that such engagements reinforce the country's commitment to a more equitable future. The event underscored Türkiye's proactive role in international forums and its dedication to shaping policies that advance women's empowerment. By hosting the event as part of CSW69, Türkiye demonstrated its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring that gender equality remains a central focus of global development efforts.

As the UN Commission on the Status of Women continues its work, the discussions at Turkish House will contribute to shaping actionable strategies and policies that promote gender equality on a broader scale. Türkiye's leadership in these conversations signals a continued commitment to social progress, ensuring that women's voices are heard and their rights upheld in global policymaking.

Blood Moon Spectacle Leaves Stargazers in Awe Across Two Continents

Rare Lunar Event Engages North and South American Skywatchers

Habibul Bashar

A mesmerizing celestial event captivated stargazers across parts of North and South America on the night of March 13-14, 2025, as the Moon turned a deep red hue, creating a stunning "Blood Moon." This rare total lunar eclipse drew millions of onlookers, offering a breathtaking spectacle that left viewers in awe of the wonders of the universe.

A lunar eclipse occurs when Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, casting its shadow onto the Moon's surface. During a total lunar eclipse, the Moon is fully immersed in Earth's shadow, causing it to take on a striking red tint. The color is the result of sunlight scattering through



Image Source: AsianImage

Earth's atmosphere, with the longer wavelengths (red light) being refracted onto the Moon, while the shorter wavelengths (blue light) are absorbed. This particular eclipse was especially significant, as it was

visible across a wide area, providing perfect viewing conditions for people in North America, including major cities like New York and Los Angeles. Stargazers in South America were also able to witness the spectacle, with many

setting up telescopes and attending public viewing events to get the best view of the Blood Moon. Lunar eclipses are a regular occurrence, but total eclipses of this magnitude are less frequent, making this a rare and exciting opportunity for both amateur astronomers and casual skywatchers. The event sparked widespread interest, with people taking to social media to share photos and videos, discussing the science behind the eclipse, and marveling

at the red-hued moon. As the Moon gradually passed through Earth's shadow, observers across the Americas were filled with wonder and amazement. The spectacle also provided an opportunity for educational outreach, with observatories and universities hosting events to teach the public about the science of lunar eclipses and their cultural significance. The total lunar eclipse of March 13-14, 2025, served as a reminder of the awe-inspiring beauty of the cosmos, offering a rare chance to pause and reflect on the vastness of the universe and our place within it. It was a night that brought people together, united by their shared appreciation for the wonders of the night sky.



Image Source: Tumirador

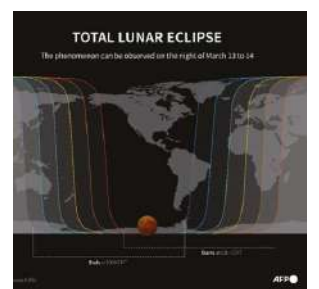


Image Source: NASA



Image Source: goodnewsnetwork

United Nations

CSW69 Highlights the Hidden Value of Unpaid Care Work

STPUSA and Advocates Push for Action at CSW69 Leadership Sessions



Ayesha Tabassum

The 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) gathered global leaders, policymakers, and advocates in New York to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. A key side event, "Care at the Core: ASEAN Leadership in Advancing Gender Equality through the Care Economy," featured a video message from Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, emphasizing ASEAN's commitment to addressing unpaid care and domestic work.

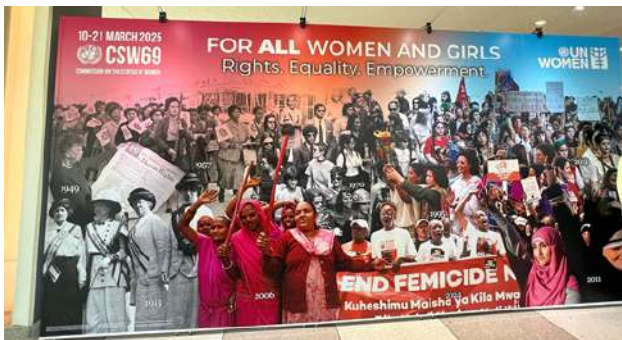
The event underscored the pressing need for policies that recognize and redistribute caregiving responsibilities, which remain a significant barrier to economic and social equality for women. The Commission on the Status of Women, established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946, is the primary global body dedicated to promoting gender equality and documenting the realities of women's lives worldwide. Over the decades, it has shaped international standards on women's rights,

monitoring progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Each year, representatives from UN Member States, civil society organizations, and UN agencies convene at the UN headquarters to review gender-related policies, assess gaps in achieving equality, and push for further action. The 2025 session placed a particular focus on the role of care work in gender disparities. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn's message reinforced ASEAN's role in addressing the often-overlooked issue of unpaid care labor,

which disproportionately affects women and limits their economic opportunities. ASEAN countries have been working toward gender-sensitive policies that recognize caregiving as an essential component of economic growth and social well-being. The side event highlighted efforts to integrate care economy policies into national development strategies, ensuring that both paid and unpaid care work receive the recognition and support they deserve. Unpaid care work, including household chores, childcare, and eldercare, remains a major factor preventing women from fully participating in the workforce. Despite its crucial role in sustaining societies, this labor is largely invisible in economic measurements. Speakers at the CSW69 side event stressed the need for increased investment in public care services, workplace policies that support caregivers, and economic frameworks that account for the value of unpaid work. These measures would enable women to pursue professional growth without being disproportionately burdened by domestic

responsibilities. The discussions also acknowledged that caregiving is not solely a women's issue but a societal responsibility. Policies promoting shared parental leave, flexible work arrangements, and affordable childcare services can help balance responsibilities between men and women, fostering a more equitable economic system. ASEAN's initiatives serve as a model for other regions aiming to address care work as a fundamental component of gender equality. CSW69 was not only a platform for high-level discussions but also an opportunity for grassroots organizations to amplify their voices. Save The People USA (STPUSA) leaders actively participated in leadership discussions, contributing their insights on gender equality and social development. Their engagement highlighted the importance of local advocacy in shaping global policies and ensuring that the commitments made at international forums translate into meaningful change at the community level. The outcomes of CSW69 will be

forwarded to ECOSOC for further action, with expectations for concrete policy recommendations that address the care economy. The conversations held at the Commission are a reminder that while progress has been made, systemic barriers to gender equality remain. Global cooperation, policy reforms, and investments in social infrastructure are crucial in closing these gaps and ensuring that care work is recognized, valued, and equitably distributed. As the world continues to work toward gender equality, the leadership demonstrated by ASEAN and the active participation of organizations like STPUSA reaffirm the collective responsibility in building a future where women's contributions—both seen and unseen—are acknowledged and supported. The commitments made at CSW69 must now translate into tangible actions that empower women, reshape economic structures, and create societies that recognize caregiving as a shared duty rather than an individual burden.



Faith & Culture



Honoring Faith and Culture: A Successful Evening of Tilawat and Iftar at Bangladesh Society

An Evening of Blessings and Community Connection

Salehin Ifti

The Bangladesh Society recently hosted a remarkable event that brought together the local community in celebration of the blessed month of Ramadan. The event, which took place at their community center, featured a Quran Tilawat competition followed by a heartfelt Iftar meal, offering a chance for people of all ages to come together in unity and faith. The evening kicked off with the Quran Tilawat competition, an event that captured the essence of Ramadan through the recitation

of the Holy Quran. Participants, ranging from children to adults, showcased their talent and devotion as they recited verses from the Quran with beautiful clarity and deep reverence. The competition was a powerful reminder of the significance of the Quran in the lives of the Muslim community, and it provided an opportunity for participants to connect with their faith in a meaningful way. As the evening continued, the community gathered for Iftar, the meal to break their fast. The air was filled with a sense of

camaraderie as families, friends, and neighbors came together to share in the blessings of this sacred month. For many, this Iftar represented more than just a meal; it was a symbol of the unity and spirit that defines the Muslim community, especially during Ramadan. The evening's atmosphere was one of joy, gratitude, and reflection, as attendees shared stories, laughter, and prayers. The event also served as a reminder of the importance of communal support and charity during Ramadan. As the Quran Tilawat competition brought the

community closer, the Iftar meal reinforced the values of generosity and togetherness. Participants, young and old alike, expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to join in such a meaningful gathering, and many appreciated the chance to reflect on their personal spiritual journeys during this holy month. The Bangladesh Society's efforts to host such an event highlight their commitment to strengthening community ties and promoting religious and cultural awareness. The society continues to be a cornerstone for the

local community, offering a space for people to celebrate their faith, learn from each other, and grow together as a united group. As the event concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper connection to both their faith and their community. The Quran Tilawat competition and Iftar at the Bangladesh Society embodied the true spirit of Ramadan, fostering unity, faith, and gratitude among those in attendance. The success of the event speaks volumes about the importance of such gatherings, as they not only provide an

opportunity to celebrate but also serve as a reminder of the values of compassion, reflection, and togetherness that define the holy month. Moving forward, the Bangladesh Society's continued efforts to host events like this will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and development of the local Muslim community, ensuring that the spirit of Ramadan lives on in the hearts and minds of all who attend. With such a strong commitment to fostering unity and faith, the Bangladesh Society is sure to remain a vital part of the community for years to come.





World Must Not Turn Its Back on Rohingya Refugees, Says UN Secretary-General

António Guterres Calls for Urgent Action as Food Rations Face Drastic Cuts

Hasibun Nahar

UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, delivering a stark warning about the humanitarian crisis unfolding due to global aid reductions. Calling the camps “ground zero” for the impact of these cuts, he urged the international community to take immediate action to prevent further suffering among the more than one million Rohingya refugees sheltering in Bangladesh.

“We are at risk of cutting the food rations in this camp,” Guterres stated during his visit. “That would be an unmitigated disaster that we cannot accept because people will suffer and even people will die.” He stressed that he would continue advocating for the necessary support, declaring, “My voice will not end until the international community understands that they have the obligation to invest now.”

Guterres arrived in Bangladesh on a four-day official visit at the invitation of Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus. His visit, which took place during the holy month of Ramadan, was a mission of solidarity with both the Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi



host communities who have opened their land, forests, and resources to support them. He joined refugees in breaking their fast at an Iftar meal, underscoring his respect for their faith and culture. “Fasting and having an Iftar together with you are proof of my deep respect for your religion and your culture,” he said. Bangladesh has been hosting over a million Rohingya refugees, most of whom fled Myanmar after brutal military crackdowns in 2017. The exodus followed years of systematic persecution, which the UN previously described

as a “textbook example of ethnic cleansing.” Many more have continued to arrive in recent years, escaping further violence and discrimination in Myanmar. “Rohingya refugees have come here for what people anywhere seek: protection, dignity, safety for them and their families,” Guterres said. Despite the efforts of Bangladesh and humanitarian organizations, the situation remains precarious. Guterres highlighted the looming food crisis as one of the most immediate threats, warning that aid cuts could reduce food

rations to just 40% of 2025 levels. “We have a special obligation to ensure the aid reaches Rohingya refugees and show that the world has not forgotten them,” he said. Beyond the urgent need for food aid, Guterres also addressed the long-term challenges faced by the Rohingya community. “People here are also hungry for education, skills, and opportunities for independence,” he noted, warning that desperation has led some Rohingya families to risk perilous sea journeys in search of a better future. He also pointed to the environmental

challenges facing the camps, noting that extreme weather conditions, including cyclones, floods, and fires, pose additional dangers to an already vulnerable population. While humanitarian aid is crucial, Guterres reiterated that the real solution to the crisis lies in Myanmar. “My message to all parties in Myanmar is clear: exercise maximum restraint, prioritize the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, and prevent further incitement of communal tension and violence.” He emphasized that the

ultimate goal should be the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, but acknowledged that the current conditions there remain dire. “The solution must be found in Myanmar,” he stated. “We will not give up until conditions allow for the voluntary, safe, and sustainable return for all refugees here.” He called on the global community to step up efforts to ensure peace and justice in Myanmar so that Rohingya refugees can one day return to their homeland. As he concluded his visit, Guterres made a final appeal to world leaders, urging them not to abandon the Rohingya people during this time of crisis. “This is the holy month of Ramadan, the month of solidarity. It would be unacceptable that in the month of solidarity, the international community would reduce the support to the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.” He vowed to continue pressing for action, stating, “We will do everything to ensure that does not happen.” With the fate of the Rohingya refugees hanging in the balance, Guterres’s words serve as a crucial reminder that their suffering must not be forgotten. As the international community debates its next steps, his message is clear: inaction is not an option.

