

A Night of Friendship and Tradition: USA 97-99's Iftar Event

Page-03



Ramadan Spirit Shines at NYPD's Annual Members' Appreciation Iftar

page-07



An evening of reflection and unity at Darul Uloom New York

page-08



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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

The SHORT

Qirat competition organized by Time TV and Bangla Potrica

page-02



Elhaam Academy Brings Community Together for Itiqaf Night

page-04



Save the People Brings Voices Together for a Better...

page-05

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Image Source: UN News

Online platforms called to address anti-Muslim hate speech

UN Secretary-General Urges Global Effort to Combat Islamophobia

Jamshed Mozumder

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has raised alarm over the growing wave of anti-Muslim bigotry, urging global leaders and online platforms to take immediate action against hate speech and discrimination. Speaking on the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, Guterres condemned racial profiling, discriminatory policies, and violent attacks targeting Muslims and their places of worship. "We are witnessing a disturbing rise in anti-Muslim bigotry," he stated. "From racial profiling and discriminatory policies that violate human rights and dignity

Human rights groups report record-high anti-Muslim hate incidents.

Governments urged to protect religious freedoms and social cohesion.

Islamophobia linked to political rhetoric, media bias, and online hate speech.

to outright violence against individuals and places of worship." He warned that this surge in Islamophobia is part of a larger trend of intolerance and extremism, threatening religious freedoms and social harmony. Guterres called on governments to uphold religious rights and create inclusive societies, while also urging social media

platforms to take responsibility for combating online hate speech. His remarks come amid growing concerns from human rights organizations. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) reported 8,658 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination last year, the highest since 1996. The UN highlighted that biased media portrayals and divisive political rhetoric contribute to the stigmatization of Muslim communities. Under-Secretary-General Miguel Angel Moratinos stressed that Muslims face institutional discrimination and socioeconomic barriers, calling for urgent global efforts to address Islamophobia and protect fundamental human rights.

Israeli Airstrikes Kill Aid Workers and Journalists in Gaza

Global condemnation of civilian deaths

Farhana Azmi

Israeli airstrikes in northern Gaza have resulted in the deaths of several civilians, including aid workers and journalists, sparking international condemnation. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claimed that the strikes were aimed at "two terrorists" operating a drone, but humanitarian organizations, including the UK-based Al-Khair Foundation, reported that their volunteers were among the casualties. The attack has once again highlighted the dangers faced by humanitarian workers operating in conflict zones. Al-Khair Foundation, a charity involved in delivering aid to Palestinian civilians, stated that its personnel were carrying out relief work when they were hit. Their deaths have raised urgent questions about the protection of humanitarian efforts in war-torn regions. Journalists, who have been on the front lines covering the ongoing conflict, were also reportedly among the victims. With Gaza already experiencing

Israel claims the attack targeted "two terrorists" operating a drone.

a severe humanitarian crisis, the deaths of aid workers and media personnel add to growing concerns over the safety of those documenting and assisting in the region. The international response has been swift, with human rights organizations calling for an independent investigation into the attack. Critics argue that Israel must take greater measures to prevent civilian casualties, particularly among those working to provide aid. The incident has intensified scrutiny over military operations in densely populated areas and the broader impact on Gaza's civilian population. As the conflict continues, global leaders and humanitarian agencies are urging all parties to respect international laws protecting non-combatants. The deaths of aid workers and journalists in Gaza serve as a grim reminder of the human toll of war and the urgent need for diplomatic efforts to prevent further civilian suffering.

Turmoil in NYC: Mayor Adams Indicted Amid Resignations

Hamid Abdullah

New York City Mayor Eric Adams faces intense scrutiny following his indictment on federal bribery and fraud charges linked to alleged dealings with Turkish officials. Prosecutors accuse him of accepting illegal campaign contributions and luxury perks in exchange for political favors, including fast-tracking a Turkish consulate. The scandal has triggered key resignations, including Chief Advisor Ingrid Lewis-Martin and Police Commissioner Edward Caban, whose phones



Image Source : ABC News

were seized in the investigation. Public approval of Adams has plummeted, with growing calls for his resignation. Meanwhile, his administration continued payments to developer Weihong Hu, now negotiating a plea deal. As federal investigations deepen, Adams' political future remains in jeopardy.



Faith & Unity NYC Leaders and Officers Unite for Ramadan Iftar at Police Academy

Recognizing Law Enforcement Leadership for Their Dedication





Elhaam Academy Brings Community Together for Itiqaf Night

Page-04

Community News

today



Adams Indicted?

Turmoil in NYC: Mayor Adams Indicted Amid Resignations

Page- 01



Iftar Event

A Night of Friendship and Tradition: USA 97-99's Iftar Event

Page-03



Itiqaf Night

Elhaam Academy Brings Community Together for Itiqaf Night

Page-04



Transit Dialogue

Save the People Brings Voices Together for a Better Transportation

Page-05



Community Bonding

Ramadan Spirit Shines at NYPD's Annual Members' Appreciation Iftar

Page-07



Faith & Culture

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

Page-10



Qirat competition organized by Time TV and Bangla Potrica

Staff Reporter

Time Television is the First Bangladeshi owned HD channel launching from New York to reach the South Asian Diaspora, and bilingual viewers worldwide. Time Television will air fact-based, in-depth news as well as hard hitting programming that brings the issues deeper from the community, and reaches directly the hearts of the audiences. First initiated in January in 2014, Time Television has built one of the most sophisticated,

HIGHLIGHT

A total of 10 contestants participated in the finals, 5 from each of the two categories.

technologically advanced studios, and appointed experienced and talented crews with proven news gathering capabilities, and creative programming. Time

Television will attempt on diverse contents to reach the most viewers from the many countries and cities through cutting edge technology. Time Television will focus on programming that will attract women, kids and young generation. It will work as bridges between men and women, younger generation and older generations, and most of all immigrants and mainstream population. Time television is meant to dig deeper to remove the briars and bring forth a happy and joyous community.

Selfie Club provides easy way to earn money

Reporter

Bangladeshi-owned social media platform Selfie Club has brought a great opportunity for content creators. From now on, you can earn money by sharing your affiliate link. This has been launched as part of the Selfie Club Content Monetization Program. Selfie Club said that creators can also earn money by sharing their affiliate links. This will be launched for members of the monetization program. For example, if someone becomes

a new member by sharing their affiliate link, money will be deposited in their account. The more members there are by sharing this affiliate link, the more income there will be. A spokesperson for Selfie Club said that Selfie Club is a Bangladeshi-owned social media platform. As a new organization, it is trying to create new income streams for content creators. In the meantime, it is trying to attract creators with cash bonuses and other benefits. To register for Selfie Club, click www.selfieclub.com.



Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:36	01:02	04:31	07:13	08:29
05:35	01:02	04:31	07:14	08:30
05:33	01:01	04:32	07:15	08:31
05:31	01:01	04:32	07:16	08:32
05:29	01:01	04:33	07:17	08:33
05:27	01:01	04:33	07:18	08:35
05:26	01:00	04:34	07:19	08:36

Number 37

Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society's Iftar party

NYN DESK

Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society is an association of Bangladeshi community living in Jamaica, New York. The principal aim of the association is to celebrate, promote, and introduce Bangladeshi culture, heritage, and language to the new generation of Bangladeshis and other communities interested in Bangladeshi culture. Founded in 2011, Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society is run by a committee of 37 members. The society aims to promote unity, cherish diversity, set an example for the next generation, maintain harmony, practice discipline, and develop mutual respect.



The organization has the following goals: Develop a support group of people who will always be there to help others professionally and personally. Promote group activities for people of similar interests and create bonds between people in the tri-state area that abandon isolationism and strengthen unity. Cultivate a sense of community through various volunteer activities (tutoring kids in poor neighborhoods, setting up personal chat rooms for those kids having trouble adjusting in school, cleaning up schools, etc.) Establish a network of leaders from various professional backgrounds from which our members can benefit. Create an environment where our members can grow and strive to become influential leaders of tomorrow. Sponsor professional advancement workshops and seminars by featuring prominent speakers. Publish quarterly newsletters and develop an interactive presence on the Internet. Coordinate structured networking events. Provide financial transparency to the organization. Since its foundation,

Unity

A Night of Friendship and Tradition: USA 97-99's Iftar Event



Former Bangladeshi students reunite for an evening of faith, food, and friendship.

Kaiser Ahmed

The USA 97-99 community, a Facebook-based group for former students who completed SSC in 1997 and HSC in 1999 in Bangladesh, gathered for a special iftar party in New York. The event took place at Sagar Chinese Restaurant in Queens, bringing together members from various states to celebrate Ramadan and reconnect with old friends. The evening began with a welcoming speech by Shams Shahriar, one of the administrators of the group. Jamil Sarwar Johnny, another key organizer, expressed his gratitude to

everyone for attending, highlighting the importance of staying connected despite the geographical distances. The event was not just about breaking the fast but also about reviving friendships and strengthening the bonds that were formed decades ago in their school days. Attendees included members of USA 97-99 along with their families, making the gathering a wholesome and joyful experience. The restaurant was filled with laughter, stories, and a deep sense of nostalgia as people caught up with one another after years apart. The event carried the warmth of

Bangladeshi traditions, making it feel like a home away from home for many participants. Hosting the event were Khondoker Sumon, who managed the program's flow, and Shah Mohammad Saifullah Siddiqui from Char Chhaina Darbar Sharif, who led the dua and prayers. The spiritual aspect of the event added to the significance of Ramadan, reminding everyone of the importance of faith and gratitude. The iftar was followed by Maghrib prayers, after which a delicious dinner was served. The menu reflected the rich flavors of Bangladeshi

cuisine, offering guests a taste of home while sharing meaningful conversations. The atmosphere was filled with warmth, as the gathering provided a rare opportunity for members to relive memories and create new ones. USA 97-99 was established in 2018 and has since grown into a strong network of over 500 members. While the group initially started as a social media platform for reconnecting, it has evolved into an active organization engaged in charitable activities both in the U.S. and Bangladesh. Beyond annual events

like iftar parties, reunions, and cultural celebrations such as Pohela Boishakh and barbecues, the group also extends its efforts toward helping underprivileged individuals and supporting community initiatives. During the event, organizers reflected on how far the group has come and its future aspirations. Jamil Sarwar Johnny shared that USA 97-99 is continuously expanding, with members from across the country joining their activities. The organization aims to maintain these meaningful traditions

while also giving back to the community through service-oriented projects. The success of this iftar gathering demonstrated the enduring connections formed during school years and the power of social media in bringing people together, even across continents. For many attendees, it was not just a night of celebration but a reminder of the importance of maintaining cultural roots and friendships. As USA 97-99 continues to grow, the organization remains committed to fostering unity, cultural appreciation, and community service.

A Spirit of Unity: Dhaka University Graduates Gather for Special Iftar in New York

Fostering Strong Alumni Connections Through Shared Traditions

Muhammad Zulkarnain

In the heart of Jackson Heights, New York, an evening filled with community spirit, reflection, and celebration unfolded as the Dhaka University Graduates Club gathered for a special iftar event during the holy month of Ramadan. The occasion brought together alumni, students, and friends to break their fast, share in the joy of the season, and reaffirm the strong bonds that unite them as Dhaka University graduates, even miles away from their homeland. Held at Chef's Mahal on



37-19 73rd St, the event, which ran from 5 PM to 7:30 PM, began with a heartfelt dua (prayer) led by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah. His words resonated deeply, invoking peace, blessings, and gratitude for those present. It was a moment that set the tone for the evening, reminding everyone of

the shared values of community, empathy, and togetherness that Ramadan represents. The event was presided over by Masudur Rahman, who delivered a powerful speech emphasizing the importance of staying connected to one's roots and maintaining a strong network of

Dhaka University alumni. His words highlighted the value of these gatherings not just for reminiscing but for building a support system that endures through time and space. Rahman also reflected on the club's mission to foster solidarity and contribute to the continued success of the university. Among the distinguished guests were Monir Hosen, Akram, and Alumni President Shah Alam. Shah Alam's address resonated with attendees as he spoke about the role of alumni in supporting each other, emphasizing the strength of unity

among graduates from different fields and backgrounds. His message underscored how the club serves as a bridge, connecting past and present students, encouraging them to continue giving back to their alma mater and the broader community. The gathering wasn't just about reconnecting with old friends but also about making new memories. For many, it was an opportunity to reminisce about their time at Dhaka University and reflect on the lasting friendships formed during their academic years. These shared experiences served as a reminder of the

importance of education in shaping character and creating lifelong bonds that transcend borders. As the evening came to a close, attendees left the venue with a renewed sense of camaraderie and purpose. The event was a beautiful celebration of Ramadan, but it also exemplified the power of education, the value of community, and the importance of staying connected with one's heritage. The Dhaka University Graduates Club's Iftar gathering not only nourished the body but also strengthened the spirit of unity and mutual support among alumni in New York.



Education



Elhaam Academy Brings Community Together for Itiqaf Night

An evening of prayers, nasheeds, and heartfelt gratitude

Tahmid Rahman

Elhaam Academy recently hosted a spiritually uplifting Youth Itiqaf Night, bringing together over 30 young attendees for an evening of faith, learning, and deep reflection. The event, held on March 21, created a powerful atmosphere of connection and devotion, where participants engaged in meaningful discussions, prayers, and community bonding. The night was filled with enriching experiences, beginning with a special

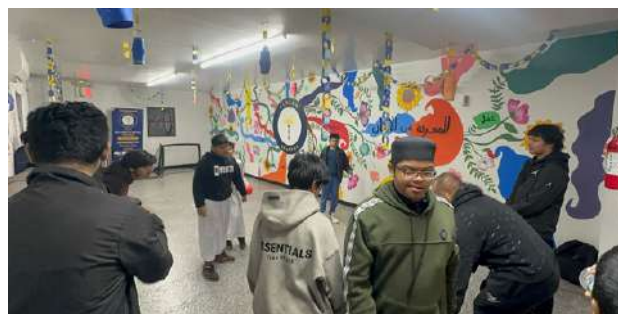
dinner sponsored by Muscare. The generosity of Seema Ahmed and her family added to the warmth of the gathering, ensuring that everyone felt welcomed and supported. Attendees expressed their gratitude for the sponsors, who played a vital role in making the evening a success. A major highlight of the event was an inspiring talk by guest speaker Hussain Yarabbary, the Executive Director of the Muslim Community Network. He spoke about the importance of community engagement

and faith-driven leadership, encouraging the youth to be proactive in their spiritual and social lives. His words resonated deeply with the audience, sparking discussions about personal growth and responsibility. The spiritual essence of the night was further strengthened by Sheikh Ibrheem, who led an insightful session on the significance of Itiqaf and devotion in Islam. His guidance prepared the attendees for a heartfelt Tahajjud prayer, creating an atmosphere

of serenity and deep reflection. The prayer session provided a moment of tranquility for many, allowing them to reconnect with their faith and seek inner peace. Adding to the spiritual ambiance, Sayed Rabbani and Sayed Mustanjid Rabbani captivated the audience with their soulful nasheeds. Their melodious recitations filled the room with a sense of unity and devotion, reinforcing the sense of brotherhood among the attendees. The beauty of the nasheeds left many

inspired, making the night even more memorable. The event was skillfully organized and led by Arif Rahman and Mahin Bhuiyan, whose efforts ensured a smooth and engaging experience for all participants. Their dedication in bringing together youth for such an impactful evening was widely appreciated, as it provided a safe and supportive space for personal and spiritual growth. By the end of the night, attendees left with a renewed sense

of faith and a deeper understanding of their spiritual journey. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to take part in such a meaningful gathering, emphasizing the importance of events like these in fostering a strong sense of community. Elhaam Academy's Youth Itiqaf Night not only strengthened individual faith but also reinforced the bonds that unite the Muslim youth in their shared journey of learning and reflection.



Awareness

Save the People Brings Voices Together for a Better Transportation System

Jamaica Community Leaders Discuss Transit Priorities with NYC DOT

Abdul Alim

Community engagement took center stage as Save the People organized a crucial forum with NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, providing Jamaica residents with a platform to discuss transportation issues directly with city leadership. Held at JMC, the event brought together community members, local leaders, and transportation advocates eager to shape the future of transit in their neighborhood. The forum served as an opportunity for residents to share their concerns about road safety, public transit efficiency, and infrastructure improvements. With increasing congestion, pedestrian safety challenges, and the need for more accessible transportation options, attendees highlighted the everyday struggles they face while commuting. Many voiced concerns about inadequate bus routes,



shared understanding that improving transit and infrastructure requires collaboration. The dialogue reinforced the commitment of city officials and local advocates to work together in addressing concerns and implementing practical solutions. The forum ended on a hopeful note, with Commissioner Rodriguez reaffirming his dedication to making transportation more efficient, safer, and accessible for all. By bringing city officials and the public together, the event demonstrated the power of civic engagement in shaping urban development. Attendees left the discussion with a renewed sense of involvement, knowing that their voices had been heard and their concerns taken seriously. As efforts to improve transportation in Jamaica and beyond continue, the role of community-driven initiatives like this forum remains essential in fostering progress and positive change.



poor street conditions, and the lack of bike lanes, urging the DOT to prioritize community needs in future planning. Commissioner Rodriguez listened attentively to the concerns raised and outlined several

ongoing and upcoming initiatives aimed at improving transportation in the area. He emphasized the importance of community input in shaping policies that affect daily commuters and assured attendees that their voices

would be taken into consideration. Discussions included potential roadway redesigns, expanded bus services, and enhanced pedestrian safety measures, all aimed at creating a more accessible and efficient transportation network. Local leaders and community advocates stressed the need for continuous engagement between the NYC DOT and the

neighborhoods it serves. They expressed appreciation for the opportunity to directly interact with city officials and discuss real, on-the-ground issues affecting residents. Many attendees acknowledged the efforts of Save the People in facilitating the discussion, ensuring that community perspectives remain at the forefront of transportation planning. Throughout the event, there was a



Faith & Unity

NYC Leaders and Officers Unite for Ramadan Iftar at Police Academy

Recognizing Law Enforcement Leadership for Their Dedication



Hossain Shah

New York City's Police Academy Auditorium was filled with the warmth of unity and the spirit of Ramadan as officers, community leaders, and city officials gathered for a special iftar dinner. The event, hosted by the NYPD Traffic Enforcement District and supported by C.W.A Local 1182 and other unions, was more than just a meal—it was a celebration of faith, service, and the deep connections that bind New York's diverse communities together. The evening commenced with the ceremonial color guard march and the

Pledge of Allegiance, setting a tone of respect and patriotism. Imam Abdu Saddiq's recitation from the Quran echoed through the hall, reminding attendees of the values of compassion and gratitude that Ramadan represents. Chaplain Kukqi, in his opening speech, highlighted the significance of such gatherings, where people from all backgrounds come together to share in the spirit of community and mutual respect. Mayor Eric Adams took the stage, delivering a speech that resonated with the attendees. He acknowledged the contributions of

Muslim officers within the NYPD and spoke about the importance of interfaith understanding in maintaining the city's strength and unity. His words were followed by remarks from Detective Amen, senior advisor to the mayor, who emphasized the essential role of collaboration between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Inspector O'Sullivan, Commanding Officer of the Traffic Enforcement District (TED CO), reflected on the dedication of traffic enforcement officers and their vital role in ensuring public safety. He presented a special award to Chief Rivera,

Chief of Patrol and Chief of Transportation, recognizing his leadership and service. Chief Rivera expressed gratitude and reiterated his commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive work environment within the NYPD. TED XO Captain Khanzada spoke about the importance of teamwork and perseverance, presenting an award to Inspector O'Sullivan in recognition of his leadership. XO Islam then took the stage, honoring union presidents Alexander Saddik, Marvin Robins, and Rebecca Greene. Saddik and Greene

shared brief remarks, highlighting the dedication of NYPD officers and the impact of their service on New York's communities. One of the most notable moments of the evening was the recognition of Executive Director Sepulveda, who received an award for his contributions to public service. His brief speech reinforced the idea that law enforcement and community engagement go hand in hand in building a stronger, safer city. Religious and civic leaders also played a key role in the event. Mufti Faisal spoke about the deeper meaning of Ramadan, encouraging attendees to embrace values of kindness, justice, and service. Inspector Rana, former president of the Muslim Officer Society and current CO of the NYPD Intelligence Public Security Section, reflected on the progress of Muslim officers in law enforcement and the importance of representation. Inspector Abdullah, the highest-ranking Bangladeshi officer in the NYPD and CO of the 81st Precinct, closed the speeches

with a powerful message about the strength found in diversity and the significance of events like the Ramadan iftar. As the evening progressed, attendees shared a meal, breaking their fast together in a moment of unity and gratitude. The gathering was a testament to the NYPD's commitment to inclusivity and respect for the diverse communities it serves. Officers and community members engaged in meaningful conversations, strengthening relationships that go beyond duty and into the heart of public service. The Ramadan iftar dinner was not just about recognizing faith—it was about reaffirming a shared mission of service, respect, and understanding. In a city as diverse as New York, such events serve as a powerful reminder that unity is built through shared experiences and mutual appreciation. As the night came to a close, the sense of camaraderie and purpose was clear—together, through respect and service, a stronger and more connected community is built.



Faith & Unity

Ramadan Spirit Shines at NYPD's Annual Members' Appreciation Iftar

Fostering Inclusivity Through Shared Meals and Blessings

Yusuf Ahmed

The 17th Annual Members' Appreciation Interfaith Iftar Dinner hosted by the NYPD Muslim Officers Society at NYPD Headquarters was a heartwarming and memorable event. Held during the sacred month of Ramadan, the occasion brought together officers from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the power of unity and shared experiences in fostering community and understanding. The event served as an important platform for interfaith dialogue, where attendees shared not only a meal but also blessings, strengthening the ties among the city's law enforcement and various religious communities. The Iftar dinner, which was attended by



members of the NYPD, their families, and invited guests, marked a significant milestone for the Muslim Officers Society. Over the years, the annual event has become an important tradition, offering a moment of reflection, gratitude, and connection. Officers and

guests alike enjoyed a variety of traditional dishes, breaking their fast together in a warm and supportive atmosphere. The evening also featured a series of short speeches emphasizing the values of peace, unity, and collaboration between different faiths and

cultures. One of the key themes of the evening was the importance of fostering mutual respect and understanding between the NYPD and the Muslim community. Through this gathering, the Muslim Officers Society sought to bridge gaps, promote

inclusivity, and highlight the vital role that diversity plays within the police force. As the NYPD continues to serve the diverse population of New York City, events like the Iftar dinner serve as a reminder of the importance of community engagement

and building relationships based on trust, respect, and empathy. The success of the 17th Annual Members' Appreciation Interfaith Iftar Dinner underscores the significance of celebrating shared values and promoting inclusivity in institutions like the NYPD. As the evening came to a close, attendees left with a renewed sense of connection to one another and a deeper commitment to working together for a more united and harmonious society. The event not only celebrated the spirit of Ramadan but also highlighted the importance of interfaith cooperation and the role of law enforcement in upholding the values of peace and justice for all.



Faith

An evening of reflection and unity at Darul Uloom New York

Save The People Joins NYC Agencies in Hosting Community Iftar

Mahdi Abrar

The Muslim community in New York City gathered for a powerful and inspiring evening at Darul Uloom New York, where the "Iftar in the City" event brought together people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate faith, resilience, and unity. The gathering, co-sponsored by several city agencies, was a testament to the strength and vibrancy of the Muslim community in the city.

With support from Save The People, the event provided a warm and welcoming space for attendees to reflect on the significance of Ramadan while fostering stronger community connections. As the sun set and the call to prayer echoed through the masjid, the atmosphere was filled with a shared sense of devotion and gratitude. The event was co-sponsored by the NYC Commission on Human Rights, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnership, the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, and the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. Their participation



that the gathering was not just a meal but a meaningful experience for all involved. The organization's ongoing efforts to support community engagement and social justice initiatives were widely appreciated, with many attendees expressing gratitude for their commitment to positive change. As the evening continued, guests engaged in heartfelt conversations, sharing stories of perseverance and hope. The gathering served as a reminder of the power of unity and the importance of fostering spaces where people of all backgrounds can come together in mutual respect and understanding. By the end of the night, attendees left with a renewed sense of community and faith, inspired by the spirit of Ramadan and the collective strength of those who had come together. "Iftar in the City" was more than just a meal—it was a celebration of identity, solidarity, and the unwavering resilience of New York City's Muslim community.



underscored the city's commitment to promoting inclusivity and ensuring that Muslim New Yorkers feel valued

and supported. Throughout the evening, community leaders and city officials addressed the

on the challenges faced by Muslim immigrants, the importance of interfaith collaboration, and the need to combat discrimination and hate crimes. These conversations reinforced the idea that events like this are not just about breaking fast together but also about strengthening the bonds that unite diverse communities. Save The People played a significant role in making the event a success, ensuring

[NEXT PART 9 PAGE]



Faith

An evening of reflection and unity at Darul Uloom New York



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.





Alarming Spike in Misconduct Complaints Against NYC School Employees

Critics Raise Concerns Over Lack of Accountability

Habiba Sultana

In 2024, New York City schools saw a sharp increase in misconduct complaints filed against Department of Education employees. The Special Commissioner of Investigation for NYC schools received 11,874 allegations, yet only about 4% were investigated, raising serious concerns about accountability and transparency within the education system. The rise in complaints highlights various issues, from administrative misconduct to allegations of inappropriate behavior by teachers and staff. While the severity of these claims varies, the low investigation rate has sparked criticism over whether the Department of Education is doing enough to maintain a safe and fair learning environment. Some argue that by failing to investigate most complaints, the department may be enabling a culture where misconduct goes unchecked. This lack of action has led to



Image Source: AOL.com

HIGHLIGHT

- Allegations range from inappropriate behavior to financial misconduct.

- Only 4% of reported cases were formally investigated.

growing distrust among parents, students, and educators. Many question whether the department is effectively protecting students, especially given the increasing number of complaints. Transparency concerns also persist, as the

public remains largely unaware of investigation outcomes. With allegations ranging from bullying and harassment to fraud and negligence, critics believe the response has been inadequate. City officials have since called for reforms to improve the investigative process and increase transparency. Advocates argue that the current system is overwhelmed and in need of more resources to ensure that complaints are handled properly. Some propose the involvement of a

third-party agency to independently review cases and prevent conflicts of interest within the Department of Education. Beyond the school system, the issue has broader implications. If complaints continue to rise without appropriate action, it could weaken efforts to hold educators and staff accountable. Additionally, the public's trust in the school system may deteriorate further if these concerns remain unresolved. Without an effective mechanism to

address misconduct, some fear that students and teachers could be left vulnerable in an environment lacking proper oversight. In response to these challenges, some have suggested more extensive training for school employees on ethics, professional conduct, and accountability. The idea is that by addressing the root causes of misconduct and equipping staff with better resources to handle difficult situations, the number of complaints may decrease over time. However, critics argue that training alone is insufficient without real consequences for those who engage in misconduct. Another pressing concern is the potential for corruption within the education system. When complaints go uninvestigated, unethical behavior may spread, creating deeper systemic issues. Some warn that a lack of accountability could encourage misconduct, leading to further abuses of power and a decline in the overall

quality of education. If staff believe there are no repercussions for their actions, misconduct could become normalized. The debate over how to fix these issues continues, with many calling for an overhaul of the current complaint-handling process. Strengthening oversight, allocating more resources, and ensuring impartial investigations are among the proposed solutions. However, real change will require a commitment from leadership at all levels. Without meaningful reforms, the problem may persist, further eroding public confidence in the school system. For now, NYC's education system stands at a crossroads. With a record number of complaints and a troubling lack of investigations, it must reassess its policies and procedures to ensure greater accountability. The outcome of this situation will not only shape the future of the Department of Education but also impact the experiences of students and teachers citywide.

Crowd Management Crucial for Safe Ramadan Observances in Makkah, Says Sheikh Al-Sudais

Security and Health Protocols Enforced to Protect Pilgrims During Peak Ramadan Period During Last Ten Nights of Ramadan

Gazi Selim

Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais, the head of the Presidency of Religious Affairs at the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque, has called on worshippers in Makkah to cooperate with local authorities in managing crowd flow during the ongoing final ten nights of Ramadan. These sacred days hold immense spiritual significance, and with millions of pilgrims gathered in Makkah, ensuring their safety and maintaining order is crucial. Al-Sudais emphasized that adherence to safety and crowd management

guidelines is vital to the well-being of all worshippers. As Makkah becomes a central gathering place for Muslims worldwide, the sheer number of visitors during the last ten nights poses challenges. With heightened spiritual reflection and prayer taking place during this time, the potential for congestion and safety risks grows if guidelines are not followed. To mitigate these risks, authorities have put in place several measures to streamline crowd movement. These include designated prayer areas, regulated entry points, and scheduled prayer times



Image Source: Safa Soft

to ensure an even flow of worshippers. Al-Sudais urged visitors to remain patient and comply with the instructions provided by security and health personnel, emphasizing that safety must always take precedence over convenience. The Sheikh's call for cooperation comes as the Saudi government has invested in

improving the infrastructure and operational capacity of the holy sites. Health protocols, such as social distancing, mask mandates, and sanitation stations, have been implemented to protect worshippers in light of ongoing global health concerns. For many Muslims, the final ten nights of Ramadan represent an opportunity for intense spiritual reflection. The city has witnessed a surge in visitors, and by

cooperating with crowd management measures, pilgrims can ensure that the focus remains on worship, rather than logistical challenges. In recent years, Saudi Arabia has enhanced its ability to manage large crowds using technology such as crowd-tracking systems and advanced surveillance. These efforts help guide worshippers and maintain order even during peak times. Sheikh Al-Sudais' message is clear: while the experience of being in Makkah during Ramadan is spiritually significant, it must be paired with a collective

sense of responsibility. By following the safety guidelines and cooperating with authorities, pilgrims can help maintain a safe and peaceful environment that allows everyone to focus on their worship. As the final ten nights unfold, Makkah's authorities remain vigilant and prepared, ensuring that worshippers can engage in their spiritual duties without unnecessary distraction or danger. Sheikh Al-Sudais' call for cooperation reinforces the importance of collaboration to preserve the sanctity of these final nights of Ramadan.