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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

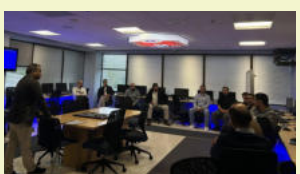
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NEW YORK NEWS
Sunday, April 13, 2025
ISSUE-23
Please send news to
info@nyn.press
Published by NYNN
New York News Networks



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Trump's Tariffs Trigger Market Shake-Up

Jamshed Mozumder

Global financial markets reeled this week following President Trump's announcement of sweeping global tariffs, branded by the administration as "Liberation Day." The move sent shockwaves through currency markets and investor circles, prompting a broad sell-off and rattling the U.S. dollar. The dollar dropped more than 1% against a basket of major currencies, reaching its lowest point in three years. The decline extends an already sharp trend, with the currency down nearly 10% since the beginning of the year. Analysts

Markets responded with sharp declines and increased volatility

The U.S. dollar fell over 1% to a three-year low

Partial rollback excluded China, offering only limited reassurance

cited the abrupt nature of the tariffs and a lack of clarity on long-term trade direction as key drivers behind the market turbulence. While the administration issued a partial rollback—exempting countries other than China for a 90-day freeze—the gesture did little to soothe investor concerns. Many market participants viewed the

exemption as temporary and symbolic rather than a substantive shift in policy. The targeting of China in particular heightened anxiety around escalating trade tensions. The broader impact was felt across global equities and commodities, as investors sought to reposition assets in anticipation of continued volatility. One market observer noted that confidence in the U.S. dollar as a global safe haven is being undermined by shifting and unpredictable policy signals. For now, markets remain cautious, and the world watches for the next move from Washington.

Environmental Gains at Risk from Trade Disruption

● Trump's tariffs may stall clean energy deployment and innovation

Farhana Azmi

The recent imposition of global tariffs by President Donald Trump has introduced new complications to the global effort to combat climate change. While some analysts suggest that the tariffs could result in a short-term reduction in greenhouse gas emissions—driven by a slowdown in international trade and economic activity—climate experts are warning that such benefits are likely to be both marginal and temporary. More concerning, according to environmental analysts, is the disproportionate impact on the clean energy sector, particularly on industries reliant on imports from China. China currently produces more than 80% of the world's solar panels and grid-scale batteries, technologies that are central to global decarbonization efforts. With China squarely in the crosshairs of the new tariff policy, renewable energy projects may face higher costs, delayed timelines, and constrained access to key components. Some observers note

● ●
Experts warn the clean energy sector could face significant disruptions

China, which supplies 80% of the world's solar panels and grid-scale batteries, is heavily affected

that the tariffs risk slowing the transition to clean energy just as momentum was building globally. The clean energy industry, already navigating supply chain volatility and inflationary pressures, may struggle further if trade tensions continue to escalate. Although initial emissions data may show a dip due to decreased manufacturing and shipping, experts suggest these trends do not reflect true climate progress. A climate policy advisor expressed concern that short-term gains could lull stakeholders into complacency, while long-term environmental goals suffer. As global markets adjust to the evolving trade landscape, the clean energy sector finds itself at a crossroads—caught between economic protectionism and the urgent need for climate action.

Free Speech at Risk? Judge Backs Khalil Deportation

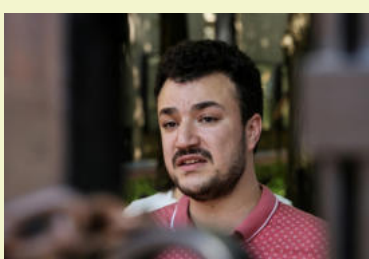


Image Source : abcnews.go.com

Hamid Abdullah

Palestinian organizer and Columbia University graduate Mahmoud Khalil was ruled eligible for deportation by an immigration judge on Friday, based solely on a State Department memo claiming his views oppose U.S. foreign policy interests. The memo,

submitted without criminal allegations, was accepted as sufficient evidence despite objections from Khalil's legal team.

The ruling, delivered at a Louisiana court, drew sharp criticism from civil rights advocates, who called it a threat to constitutionally protected speech. Khalil's lawyers described the proceedings as lacking due process, and a federal court in New Jersey has temporarily blocked his removal. Khalil remains in detention as his wife prepares to give birth. His legal team plans to appeal and may also pursue an asylum claim.



Arts & Crafts

From Blank to Bold: Family Design Night Celebrates Art and Unity

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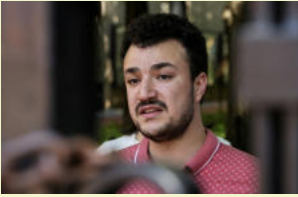


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Cultural Pride

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Turning Pages and Building Minds at Elhaam Academy

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Eid Party by Pakistani American Police Officers

Staff Reporter

Pakistani American police officers, personnel and community members celebrated Pakistani heritage, Pakistan day resolution and Eid-ul-Fitr at the New York police headquarters, One Police Plaza. Awards were given to prominent figures of the Pakistani community. The ceremony was attended by a large number of representatives of the Pakistani community, including Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Asim Iftikhar, Pakistani consul general in New York Amir Ahmed Atuzai. The ceremony began with

the recitation of the Holy Quran. The national anthems of the United States and Pakistan were sung on the occasion, while the police also presented their traditional band. Speaking at the ceremony, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said that there has been an extraordinary increase in the number of Pakistani community members in the New York Police Department, and many officers have been promoted to good positions and are providing services for public safety. The ceremony was also attended by the first Pakistani Inspector in the NYPD, Adeel Rana, Deputy

Inspector Misbah Noor, Captain Waheed Akhtar and others. Addressing participants, Pakistani consul general Aamir Ahmed Atuzai appreciated the services of Pakistani officers and said that they have made their country and nation proud. Mohammad Owais, who is the director of the office of Muslim affairs of New York's Attorney General Letitia James, and police officers said that we are all working together for the development of the city and the protection of its citizens. Awards were also given to social figures and police officers from the Pakistani community in celebration of Pakistani cultural heritage, Pakistan day and Eid-ul-Fitr.

New York City Public Schools to Hire 4000 New Teachers

Reporter

New York City Public Schools is hiring nearly four thousand new teachers. Mayor Eric Adams announced the hiring of teachers for the next school year after meeting with Schools Chancellor

Melissa Aviles-Ramos earlier this week. The mayor and schools chancellor announced the hiring of 3,700 new teachers across 60 percent of the city's schools, or 750 schools. The state mandates that by 2028, K-3 classes

will be limited to 20 students, grades 4-8 to 23, and high schools to 25 students. And the money for the new teachers will come from the mayor's executive budget. As a result, no new teacher hiring process

is starting right now. 'Teachers need to be paid according to their status, so that they don't have to worry about financial problems while they work to develop their children's mental health' Adams said.

Prayer Time IN New York

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Number 6

Jalalabad Association of America General Meeting in New York

NYN DESK

The Jalalabad Association of America's annual general meeting was held. The meeting was held at Sanai Restaurant and Party Hall in Jackson Heights on Sunday, April 6. The meeting was presided over by the organization's president, Badrul Hossain Khan, and a large number of Jalalabad residents living in the United States were present at the meeting. The general meeting, moderated by acting general secretary Rukon Hakim, was attended by Bangladesh Society President Ataur Rahman Selim, Society Board of Trustees member and Jalalabad Association Chief Election Commissioner Azimur Rahman Burhan, Jalalabad Association Board of Trustees member and former president Badrun Nahar Khan Mita, Chadrun Noor, Syed Nazmul Hasan Kubad, and others.



The members of the executive committee were present: Vice President Lokman Hossain Luku (Sylhet), Shamim Ahmed (Sunamganj), Md. Shafiuddin Talukder (Habiganj), Md. Javed Uddin (Moulvibazar), Treasurer Md. Alim, Publicity and Office Secretary Faisal Alam, Literature and Culture Secretary Hossain Ahmed, Law and International Affairs Secretary Burhan Uddin, Executive Member Humayun Kabir Sohel. At the beginning of the meeting, a special prayer was offered by Koyesh Ahmed, a lifelong member of the Jalalabad Association of America Inc., seeking forgiveness for the souls of those who died in different parts of greater Sylhet living in exile. Then the program began with the national anthems of Bangladesh and America. Acting General Secretary Rokon Hakim and Mohammad Alim presented the treasurer's report at the meeting.

Entertainment

Eid Celebration Marks Milestone in New York Judiciary's DEI Commitment

Judiciary leadership acknowledges rich traditions of Muslim Americans

Mirza Hasib

In a historic step toward fostering diversity and cultural understanding within the legal community, the New York State Unified Court System held its inaugural Eid celebration on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the Queens County Supreme Civil Court. Organized by the NYC Civil Court Equal Justice Implementation Committee (EJIC) in collaboration with the Queens Supreme Court – Civil Term EJIC, the Office for Justice Initiatives, and the EDIT NYC Criminal Court Equal Justice Committee, the event served as a meaningful platform for education, cultural exchange, and community building within the judiciary. The courtroom-turned-cultural-hall at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY, was filled with warmth and vibrant energy as court staff, judges, and community representatives

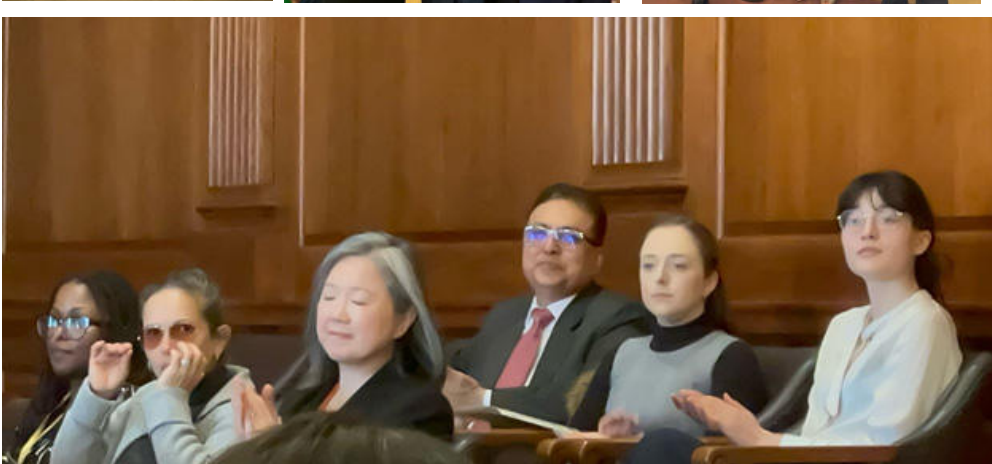
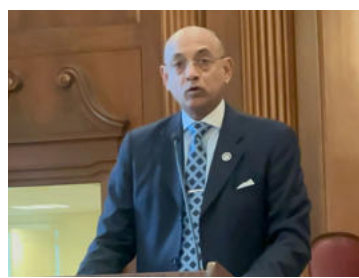
gathered to recognize Eid al-Fitr, the Islamic holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The programme opened with remarks by Hon. Soma S. Syed, a judge in the NYC Civil Court representing Queens County, who is also the first Bangladeshi American elected judge in New York State. Her introduction set a reflective and welcoming tone for the afternoon. Following Judge Syed, Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Administrative Judge for the Supreme Court, Civil Matters, 11th Judicial District, addressed the gathering. Judge Grays, the first African American Administrative Judge of Queens County Supreme Court, is a respected leader with a long-standing commitment to justice and equity. Other dignitaries who offered their remarks included Hon. Norman St. George, First Deputy Chief Administrative

Judge, and Hon. Adam Silvera, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for NYC Courts. Their words highlighted the importance of understanding and celebrating the backgrounds of the diverse communities that the New York judiciary serves every day. The keynote was delivered by Hon. Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Administrative Judge of NYC Civil Court. Judge Ally, a trailblazer in the court system, holds the distinction of being the first Muslim male judge elected in New York State history and the first South Asian judge in an administrative role in the state. A passionate advocate for inclusion, Judge Ally reflected on his personal journey from Guyana, South America, to New York, and his ongoing commitment to public service. His speech underscored the value of representation, the richness of Muslim

culture, and the need for continued efforts to promote fairness and accessibility within the judicial system. Cultural celebration was not forgotten during the event. Attendees were treated to a musical and dance performance by Ms. Nazia Jahan, whose presentation added a lively and emotional layer to the programme, capturing the celebratory essence of Eid. The performance offered a window into the artistic traditions that accompany the spiritual observance, creating an immersive experience for all. Beyond the formal remarks and performances, the event also served an educational purpose. A segment titled “What is Eid?” introduced attendees to the religious and cultural significance of Eid al-Fitr. The presentation explained how the end of Ramadan marks a time of joy, prayer, and reflection for Muslims

worldwide, and provided historical context tracing the linguistic roots of the word “Eid” back to ancient Aramaic. With over 1.9 to 2.3 billion Muslims globally, and more than 4.4 million Muslims living in the United States, the segment emphasized the global scale and diversity of the Muslim community, while also noting the historical presence of Muslims in North America dating back to the 16th century. The event was supported by numerous co-sponsors, including the Asian American Judges Association of New York, the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean Bar Association of Queens, the Muslim Bar Association of New York, and the Queens County Women's Bar Association, among others. This coalition of legal and cultural organizations reflects a growing recognition of the need for collaboration and

inclusivity across all facets of the justice system. The inaugural Eid celebration at the Queens courthouse not only acknowledged a significant religious observance but also marked a turning point in the judiciary's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. With a robust turnout and participation from high-ranking members of the state's judicial leadership, the event signified a broader movement toward creating a court system that reflects the people it serves—diverse, inclusive, and informed. As Judge Ally and others noted throughout the programme, efforts like these are essential in building bridges between communities and institutions. This celebration stands as a model for how the legal system can embrace cultural understanding, not just as a value, but as a living, breathing part of its daily work.



Faith & Unity

Empowering Congregations Through Dialogue and Development

Interfaith Summit brings city officials and clergy together for strategic planning



Maimuna Chowdury

In an atmosphere charged with purpose and collaboration, New York City's interfaith leaders gathered for an impactful summit on April 10, 2025, to confront several urgent challenges facing their congregations, from mental health to land development. Hosted at 1 Center Street in Manhattan, the event was part of the ongoing initiative titled "Let's Talk, Let's Empower," spearheaded by the Office of the NYC Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams. The event commenced with a moment of

reflection and unity, as interfaith leaders representing three major religions offered opening prayers. Their collective presence set the tone for a summit focused not only on policy and programs but also on community strength, compassion, and shared values. Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams welcomed attendees by opening the floor to questions and concerns from faith leaders and community members in the room. Participants raised pressing issues facing their neighborhoods, particularly those that have intensified in

recent years under federal policy shifts. Attendees shared that changes in law, immigration regulations, taxation, and threats of deportation had placed significant pressure on local communities. Some community members expressed that they are often asked difficult legal and policy questions by others, but they don't always have the answers or resources to provide guidance. The conversation highlighted the gaps in information access and the need for clearer support systems at the local level. The summit's first session, "How New York City Faith Leaders Can Support Their Congregations' Mental Health and Well-Being: Trauma-Informed Care," was led by Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Bentsi-Addison, Senior Director of Faith-Based Initiatives at NYC Health + Hospitals. She addressed the importance of

trauma-informed care, focusing on how faith leaders can play a pivotal role in recognizing and supporting mental health needs in their congregations. Strategies were shared around creating safe spaces, reducing stigma, and connecting individuals with professional care when needed. The second session, led by Malcolm Punter of Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement Inc., focused on land development and the practical considerations involved when religious institutions work with developers. Topics included zoning, legal protections, financing, and ensuring that new developments align with both faith-based missions and community needs. The presentation aimed to empower leaders to navigate these complex processes with

greater confidence and oversight. The summit was moderated by Imam Hassan Akbar and featured contributions from respected clergy, including Rev. Fredrick Crawford of Union Grove Baptist Church and Rev. Khalil James, Pastor of Mt. Zion AME Church. Their insights helped contextualize the presented material within the lived experiences of their congregations across the boroughs. Throughout the morning, attendees engaged in open dialogue, collaborative networking, and resource sharing, making connections that extended beyond the program's agenda. Multiple participants remarked on the usefulness of being able to directly raise concerns and seek solutions from city leaders in a setting built on trust and understanding. As the summit

concluded just after noon, faith leaders left with printed resources, new contacts, and actionable guidance. Many expressed a renewed sense of direction and solidarity. The combination of spiritual grounding and practical tools reinforced the unique and powerful role that houses of worship play—not just as places of prayer, but as anchors for social support, legal advocacy, and mental health guidance. The "Let's Talk, Let's Empower" initiative continues to offer a model for how civic institutions and religious communities can work in tandem to address real-world challenges. With more sessions expected in the coming months, the program is shaping up to be a vital platform for engagement, education, and empowerment throughout the city's diverse faith landscape.



Culture

Queens Marks Eid with Celebration of Culture and Community

Elhaam Academy and Muslim leaders honoured for their lasting contributions

Tayeb Ali

Queens Borough Hall came alive on the evening of April 7, as Queens Borough President Donovan Richards hosted a heartfelt celebration marking Eid al-Fitr, the Islamic festival that concludes the holy month of Ramadan. The event brought together leaders, families, students, and cultural influencers in a vibrant expression of faith, community, and mutual respect.

At the centre of the celebration were joyful musical performances and cultural showcases by students from several Islamic institutions.

Among them, Elhaam Academy stood out for its passionate and well-coordinated presentation. The students, dressed in traditional attire, brought a sense of pride and unity to the gathering. Their musical performance drew heartfelt applause from a packed room of community members and dignitaries alike, making it one of the most memorable moments of the evening.

Alongside Elhaam Academy, students from Ideal Islamic School, the Al-Mamoor School,



and Fetty Sinaga also took the stage to share in the celebration. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, filled with the aroma of traditional treats and the sound of festive music. In his address, Borough President Richards spoke about the deeper significance of Ramadan and Eid, reflecting on the values of discipline, charity, and devotion. He said the holiday is a time to reflect on discipline, devotion, humility, and sacrifice, and to reaffirm the bonds that draw communities together. He emphasized that Ramadan was not

only a time of fasting but also of spiritual renewal, encouraging acts of charity and opening one's heart to neighbours and community. Richards reiterated his administration's unwavering support for the Muslim community, saying, "I hope when all of you leave tonight, you leave with full hearts and a determination to make this borough a better place for your family to call home." He also stated that Borough Hall will always defend the Muslim community from any attack, no

matter where it comes from, and committed to continuing investments in the well-being and success of Muslim residents. A highlight of the evening was the recognition of key Islamic community leaders and organizations for their contributions to the borough. Honourees included the Queens Village Mosque Masjid Ar-Rahman, Elhaam Academy in Jamaica, American Council of Minority Women Founder Bazah Roohi, the Nusantara Foundation—which is run by prominent

Indonesian Muslim scholar Imam Shamsi Ali—and the Islamic Unity and Cultural Center, a mosque representing the Bosnian community based in Long Island City and Richmond Hill. The celebration was further enriched by the presence of Imam Tahir Kukaj, NYPD Chaplain and Staten Island Albanian and Muslim Community Clergy Leader, who led the attendees in prayer. In his remarks, Imam Kukaj praised the leadership of Borough President Richards, saying "Queens borough, you are

blessed. You're blessed to have a leader that prays for you, loves you back and leads with humbleness and compassion." He thanked Richards for hosting such a meaningful event and expressed hope that his example would inspire others.

The event not only recognized the spiritual significance of Eid but also served as a powerful reminder of the strength, diversity, and unity that define Queens. With broad support from city leaders, interfaith voices, and local families,

the evening sent a clear message: Queens proudly stands with its Muslim community and values the cultural richness they bring. The celebration was more than a festive gathering—it was a symbol of

belonging, unity, and mutual appreciation. As students like those from Elhaam Academy performed and celebrated, they weren't just marking the end of Ramadan—they were stepping into the spotlight as proud representatives of a vibrant, resilient, and essential part of Queens' diverse community.



Book Fair

Turning Pages and Building Minds at Elhaam Academy

A five-day celebration of stories, learning, and community in Queens

Tasfia Khan

The hallways of Elhaam Academy are buzzing with excitement as students, families, and staff participate in the school's ongoing annual Book Fair, which kicked off on April 14 and continues through April 18, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily. Located at 87-41 165th Street in Queens, the fair has transformed the school into a vibrant marketplace of imagination, education, and community spirit. The event was inaugurated by Councilwoman Nantasha Williams, whose presence underscored the importance of literacy

and educational enrichment in the community. Open to students, parents, teachers, and all members of the public, the fair is designed to foster a shared love for reading and learning. Known for its commitment to nurturing



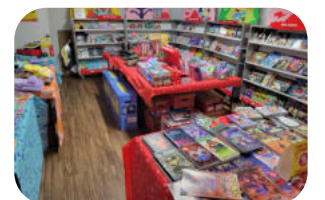
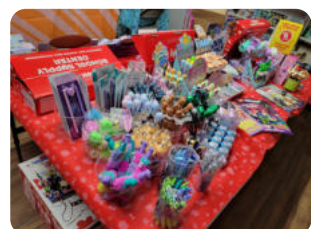
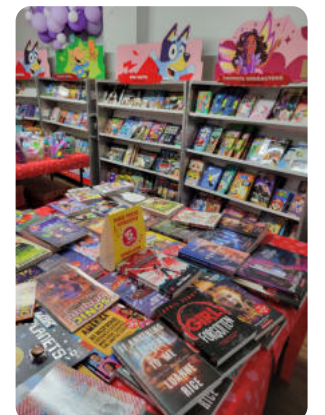
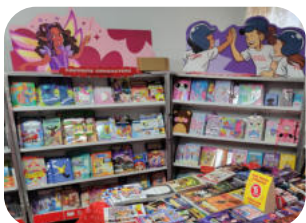
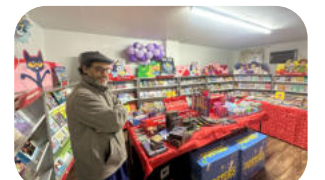
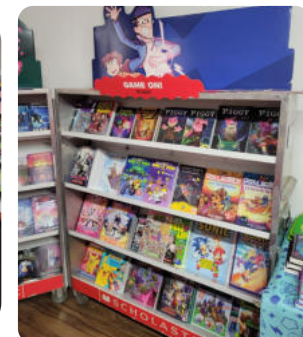
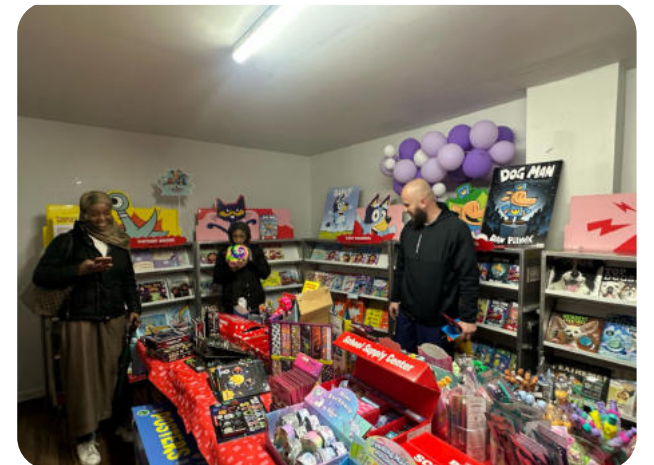
young minds within an Islamic educational framework, Elhaam Academy is using this

week-long celebration to promote literacy, cultural identity, and storytelling across all age groups. Book stalls stocked with genres ranging from cartoon books, comics, mangas, fantasy stories, horror tales, science fiction novels, and picture books ensure that every visitor finds something engaging. But the fair offers more than just books. Tables are also filled with a variety of educational materials and fun items, including notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, school bags, and even toys—making it an ideal spot for families to explore and shop for both inspiration and essentials.

“This is not just about books—it’s about creating an atmosphere where learning is celebrated,” shared a staff member from the organizing team. “We want students to see reading as something joyful and empowering.” Student volunteers are actively supporting the event, helping younger attendees select books and assisting with managing supply stalls. Their participation adds a layer of engagement and pride, strengthening the school’s sense of ownership and community. Teachers are hosting live read-aloud sessions throughout the day, offering students an opportunity to

experience stories in a fun, interactive way. Meanwhile, student-led book reviews and recommendation boards are displayed throughout classrooms and hallways, encouraging peers to explore new titles. Parents visiting the fair have praised its inclusive approach. One parent remarked, “It’s amazing to see such a wide range of books and supplies that reflect both our cultural values and our children’s interests. The fair makes reading accessible, exciting, and fun.” With its strong tradition of combining academics with cultural programming, Elhaam Academy continues

to use events like the Book Fair to create immersive educational experiences. The fair has become a space where families, educators, and students come together to support not only reading, but also personal growth and community connection. As the Book Fair continues throughout the week, visitors are encouraged to stop by, explore the offerings, and share in the joy of learning. Whether someone picks up their first comic, a new favorite novel, or a fresh set of school supplies, the message is clear: learning is a celebration—and everyone’s invited.



Infosec

Cybersecurity Meets Defense: WUST Hosts International Military Team

Saudi officers engage in ethical hacking training for academic enhancement

Humayun Azad

The Washington University of Science and Technology (WUST) recently welcomed a visiting military delegation from Saudi Arabia, offering a hands-on academic training experience focused on cybersecurity education. As part of their academic enhancement program, the delegation spent time in the university's renowned Security Operations Center (SOC) Lab, where they were introduced to a suite of cutting-edge cybersecurity tools and techniques.

The visit, which underscores the university's commitment to global academic collaboration and technological innovation, featured a detailed briefing on the SOC Lab's core activities. The Saudi team was given a comprehensive overview of how the lab operates, its role in preparing students for careers in cybersecurity, and the real-world applications of ethical hacking and digital defense. The highlight of the session was a live demonstration of an



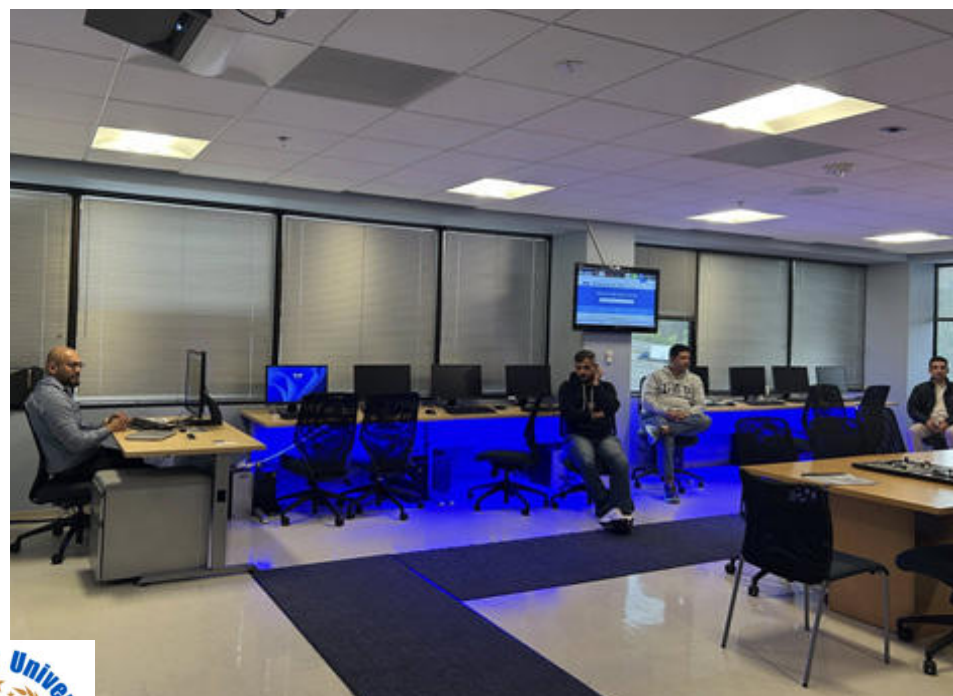
ethical hacking lab, during which participants observed a simulated cybersecurity breach and learned how such incidents are detected, analyzed, and mitigated using industry-standard tools. The demonstration showcased the depth of hands-on training students receive at WUST, offering a direct look into how the lab equips them with practical skills highly sought after in both public and private sector cybersecurity roles. According to WUST staff, the university

believes in immersive, practical education. "You can't learn without dirtying your hands," one of the lab facilitators noted, emphasizing the value of experiential learning. This philosophy was evident throughout the session, where military participants not only observed the operations but were encouraged to ask questions and explore the lab's interactive features. The lab visit also aimed to contextualize the importance of cybersecurity within both

civilian infrastructure and defense frameworks. With cyber threats evolving at a rapid pace globally, initiatives like this visit help foster mutual understanding and shared knowledge across international lines. WUST's SOC Lab serves as both a training ground and innovation hub, designed to reflect real-world working environments. Students working in the lab learn how to operate intrusion detection systems, perform vulnerability assessments, and

simulate both offensive and defensive cybersecurity strategies. By replicating the high-pressure scenarios found in corporate and government security environments, the lab ensures students graduate not only with theoretical knowledge but also with the technical proficiency needed for immediate employment. The Saudi military delegation's presence marked another step forward in WUST's efforts to build international educational

partnerships, especially in fields critical to national and global security. The university has long positioned itself as a leader in cybersecurity education and regularly hosts delegations, students, and researchers from around the world. Looking ahead, WUST expressed interest in continuing and expanding these training exchanges. University officials noted that such visits strengthen ties between institutions and pave the way for ongoing collaboration in research, education, and workforce development. WUST encourages further participation in its SOC Lab activities and offers interested individuals the chance to explore its ethical hacking labs through scheduled visits. RSVPs are required and can be made via soclab.wust.edu. By offering a platform where international teams can learn alongside American students, WUST continues to champion a vision of cybersecurity education that is inclusive, practical, and future-focused.



Learn & Fun

Faith, Family, and Fun Shine at MCC Kids Night

Event blends Islamic values with fun-filled activities for local families



Sourav Hasan

Families from across Queens gathered at Elhaam Academy on Saturday, April 12, for a lively evening of fun and community bonding at the MCC Kids Family Night. Held from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the academy's campus on 165th Street in Jamaica, the event welcomed children and families of all ages for a joyful blend of entertainment, snacks, and Islamic-themed learning. Sponsored by the Muslim Community Center (MCC) and Save the People, the event was designed to offer families a safe and inclusive environment where children could engage with one another

while enjoying age-appropriate activities rooted in positive values. The evening featured a variety of attractions, including a free toy raffle, snacks



and candy giveaways, a spirited Islamic trivia game, and a lively kids' pizza party that had young guests eagerly lining up for a slice. The trivia game, a particular highlight, encouraged learning through play, as children excitedly answered questions about Islamic history and teachings in exchange for small prizes. Parents expressed appreciation for the effort to blend fun with faith-based education. One mother noted that events like this are essential in "helping children feel connected to their community while learning in an enjoyable setting." Volunteers and organizers ensured the evening ran smoothly, maintaining a festive

atmosphere throughout. The open invitation to all age groups fostered a strong sense of inclusion and community, with toddlers, teens, and parents all participating in various activities. As the evening came to a close, children left smiling, clutching their toys, treats, and new memories. Events like MCC Kids Family Night reflect the shared goals of Elhaam Academy, MCC, and local partners—to create welcoming spaces that nurture both the spiritual and social needs of youth and families. It was an evening that proved once again that when communities come together, learning and laughter go hand in hand.



Empowerment

Defending with Dignity: Elhaam Academy Hosts Empowerment Event Self-defense workshop unites community leaders and families



Tamzida Mushfiq

In an afternoon marked by unity, strength, and shared purpose, Elhaam Academy opened its doors to Muslim women and children from across Queens for a free self-defense training held in collaboration with the nonprofit organization Malikah. The event provided participants with not just vital tools for physical defense, but also a space for empowerment, dialogue, and solidarity. The event brought together community members from diverse backgrounds, all united by a common goal: to promote safety, confidence, and resilience in the face of growing concerns

around personal and communal security. Rooted in Elhaam Academy's commitment to education, empowerment, and community service, the training gave women and children a vital opportunity to learn how to protect themselves and support one another in real-world situations. Participants were guided through sessions focused on situational awareness, de-escalation strategies, and self-defense techniques, all conducted in an atmosphere of support and respect. The training was specifically tailored to meet the needs of Muslim women and young participants, recognizing the unique



vulnerabilities and challenges they may face in public spaces. The event featured an inspiring lineup of

speakers and facilitators, beginning with remarks from Council Member Nantasha Williams, whose presence underscored the importance of civic support for community-led safety initiatives. Also speaking were Rubaiya Rahman from ASHO, Fatima Niass from Save the People, and Shahana Olid representing Elhaam Academy, all of whom highlighted the value of collective empowerment through education and advocacy.

A representative



from Malikah, Deena, led several hands-on activities and instructional segments.

Malikah is known for its mission to build power for women through self-defense, healing, and organizing. Their collaboration with Elhaam Academy for this event reflected a shared vision of cultivating strong, self-aware individuals who can also be advocates for their communities. Throughout the afternoon, participants were encouraged to speak openly about their experiences, fears, and motivations for attending. One attendee mentioned that she joined the training because her daughter was recently harassed on public transportation, and she wanted both of them to feel more prepared and protected. Others said they valued being in a space where their identities were respected and reflected. Parents expressed appreciation for the event's inclusion of children, noting that instilling these skills at a young age fosters lifelong confidence. "There's something incredibly powerful about a space where both mothers and daughters are learning side by side," one parent shared after the session. "This training wasn't just about physical defense—it was about

mental strength and community." Elhaam Academy, located in Jamaica, Queens, continues to build a strong reputation for hosting events that blend educational value with cultural and community awareness. With past initiatives ranging from book fairs to holiday celebrations, this self-defense training added a new dimension to the academy's commitment to holistic development and community well-being. By the close of the training, participants had not only learned new techniques but had also built connections and found renewed confidence. The atmosphere was one of shared encouragement, with hugs, smiles, and affirmations filling the room. As safety concerns continue to affect marginalized communities across the city, events like this remind everyone of the power of grassroots action and the importance of standing together. The message at Elhaam Academy was clear: self-defense is more than physical—it's about knowing your worth, owning your space, and lifting others along the way.



Law & Justice

“They Killed Him in Front of Us”: Rozario Family Speaks Out

Queens vigil draws public officials and calls for mental health reform

Sakin Auhin

One year after 19-year-old Win Rozario was shot and killed by NYPD officers in his Ozone Park home, his family and supporters held a vigil and march demanding justice. The event, held on April 10, 2025, drew dozens of supporters to Frank McConnell Park in Richmond Hill, followed by a march to the 102nd Precinct, where calls for accountability echoed through the streets. Rozario, a Bangladeshi American teen, was experiencing a mental health crisis when he called 911 on March

27, 2024. Body-worn camera footage released by the New York State Attorney General’s Office shows Officers Matthew Cianfrocco and Salvatore Alongi arriving at the home. They were directed by Rozario’s mother and brother to the kitchen, where Rozario appeared holding a pair of scissors. The footage shows officers deploying tasers. Rozario’s mother and brother pleaded with them not to shoot. When Rozario grabbed the scissors again, Officer Cianfrocco fired four shots, fatally wounding him. He was transported to Jamaica Hospital

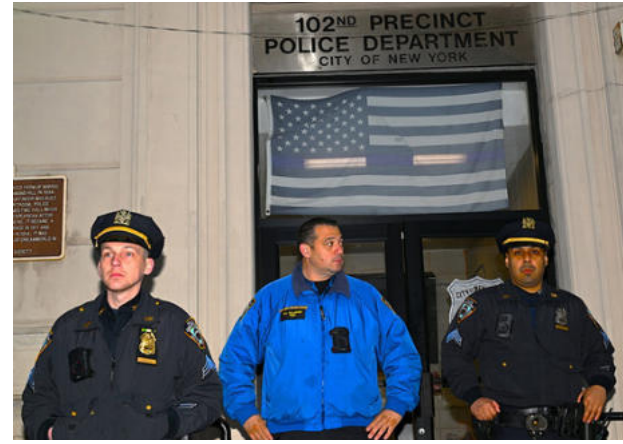
Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. At the vigil, Rozario’s mother, Notan Eva Costa, addressed the crowd: “The NYPD robbed my son of a natural life. The police that murdered Win must be fired and prosecuted.” His brother, Utsho Rozario, added that no one from the NYPD or the mayor’s office had updated their family on the internal investigation. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and State Senator Jessica Ramos, both present at the event, emphasized the failure of the city’s



mental health response. Ramos, also a mayoral candidate and mother of two, called for a system that includes culturally competent therapists and social workers. “Win Rozario was not a criminal,” she said. “He was a young man with challenges who needed care, not force.” Williams added, “It’s been a year. No one has been disciplined. That makes no sense at all. We need change now.” Also joining the event were members of the Justice Committee and Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), organizations demanding that NYPD

be removed from responding to mental health crises. Loyda Colón, Executive Director of the Justice Committee, said the officers escalated the situation. “They entered Win’s home and created chaos. This was a cold-blooded murder.” During the protest, community members held signs and chanted slogans in English and Bangla. Protesters demanded that Officers Cianfrocco and Alongi be fired and prosecuted, and urged supporters to contact Attorney General Letitia James to demand action. One of the protest

banners, written in Bangla, translated to: Take action for Win Rozario... Call NY Attorney General James to prosecute the officers. Despite investigations by the Attorney General’s Office and the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the family says they’ve received no updates or justice. For many in Queens’ South Asian and immigrant communities, Rozario’s death symbolizes a deeper issue: a system ill-equipped to address mental health with compassion. The fight for answers continues.



All Image Source: qns.com

Arts & Crafts

From Blank to Bold: Family Design Night Celebrates Art and Unity

Families gather for custom design workshop and fun-filled community event



Tasnia Tonni

Families, laughter, and a burst of artistic flair filled Elhaam Academy on Saturday, April 12, as the school hosted its much-anticipated “Design Your Own

T-Shirt” workshop in collaboration with Baitulmaal and Sitwat Silly Creations. Held at 87-41 165th Street in Queens, the event welcomed parents and children for a colorful evening of hands-on

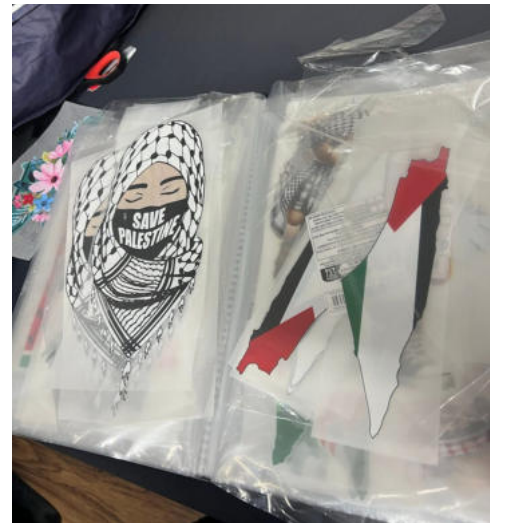
creativity and community bonding. The workshop kicked off at 5:30 PM, quickly transforming the academy’s space into a lively hub of paint, design tools, and imagination. Participants

had their choice of blank items—black t-shirts, hoodies, drawstring bags, and beige or black tote bags—to customize with fabric paints, stencils, glitter, and more. From cheerful slogans to vibrant floral designs and bold names in calligraphy, each piece became a unique expression of personality and joy. The event was designed not just as a creative outlet but as a way to bring families together in a relaxed, positive environment.

Parents and children worked side-by-side, many collaborating on matching apparel or decorating items for loved ones. Organizers noted that the event fostered intergenerational bonding and allowed both kids and adults to step away from routine and experience the freedom of artistic play. Organized by Elhaam Academy, known for its community-centered educational approach, the evening was further

enriched by support from Baitulmaal, a humanitarian organization, and Sitwat Silly Creations, a local business that brought the materials, guidance, and flair that made the event shine. The activity was also part of a broader initiative by MusCare at MCC Queens, which continues to promote mental wellness and community engagement through events like Family Night. One parent at the event shared that experiences like this are invaluable for families, especially in fast-paced urban life. Many expressed appreciation for having a safe, welcoming space where their children could express themselves freely. One participant noted that seeing their child so engaged and proud of their design was “the highlight of the week.” Volunteers and staff played an essential role in making the evening run smoothly. They guided participants

through the design process, ensured materials were replenished, and kept the energy upbeat. Children were frequently seen helping each other with brushes or stencils, creating a cooperative, joyful atmosphere. By the end of the night, participants walked away not only with customized creations but with cherished memories. Tables once lined with plain materials were now scattered with vibrant, wearable art—each item telling a story crafted by hand and heart. As the community gathered for a final round of photos and shared laughter, the message was clear: when families come together to create, they build more than just art—they build stronger bonds. With continued efforts from Elhaam Academy and its partners, events like this ensure that creativity and community go hand in hand—one design at a time.



A Warm Welcome at Elhaam Academy

Councilwoman Williams celebrates education and community spirit

Queens Councilwoman Nantasha Williams paid a special visit to Elhaam Academy this week, where she was welcomed by enthusiastic students, teachers, and administrators. The visit, held at the school’s campus in Jamaica, Queens, was filled with warmth and joyful exchanges as the councilwoman toured classrooms and met with young learners. Williams, who represents New York City Council District 27, expressed



genuine excitement and happiness upon seeing the students engaged in their school environment. She was greeted with smiles and greetings from children eager to share their

projects and classroom experiences. Teachers and staff shared highlights of the school’s educational approach, which combines academic excellence with cultural and

community values. The visit underscored the importance of local government engagement with educational institutions and the need for continued support for programs that uplift youth in underserved communities. Councilwoman Williams has been a vocal advocate for youth development, equity in education, and community empowerment. Elhaam Academy continues to grow as a center for academic

and moral education in Queens, and visits like this reinforce the mutual appreciation between schools and civic leaders. The councilwoman’s presence was a meaningful moment for students, many of whom were excited to meet a city leader who represents their community and champions their future. As the visit concluded, Williams left with smiles, handshakes, and renewed encouragement for the school’s mission—

fostering bright futures, one student at a time.



Peace & Unity



“Faith in Your Borough” Brings City Hall to Bronx Communities

Mayor Adams connects with local congregations at Fordham University

Faisal Ahmed

“When faith meets government, real change becomes possible” — that was the spirit echoing through the ballroom of Fordham University’s McShane Campus Center on Thursday, April 10, 2025, as Mayor Eric Adams brought his ‘Faith in Your Borough’ tour to the Bronx. In a continued effort to strengthen ties between city government and faith-based communities, Mayor Adams visited the Bronx as part of his “Faith in Your Borough” tour, an initiative designed to give interfaith leaders a direct line to city agencies and senior officials. The event took place at Fordham University,

where religious leaders gathered for a productive dialogue focused on borough-specific issues. The session was moderated by Pastor Gilford T. Monroe, the Executive Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships (OFCP). With faith leaders seated side by side with representatives from agencies such as the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Buildings (DOB), Department of Finance (DOF), FDNY, and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the event embodied a hands-on approach to civic engagement. Running from 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM, the

programme opened with remarks from Pastor Monroe, who framed the gathering as an opportunity for real-time problem-solving. “This isn’t just a listening session — this is about building bridges and bringing resources directly to where they’re needed most,” he noted. Mayor Adams engaged directly with attendees, listening to concerns about public safety, youth programming, housing stability, and education. His presence underscored his administration’s broader commitment to faith communities as vital partners in shaping local solutions. “Faith leaders have always been on the front lines,” Adams said. “Whether it’s during crises or

everyday challenges, our congregations are meeting needs with love, compassion, and resilience.” The “Faith in Your Borough” initiative, which includes bi-monthly five-borough tours and “Evening of Faith” events, seeks to connect religious and community leaders with the tools and support necessary to address hyperlocal challenges. The format offers something rare in municipal governance: unfiltered access to commissioners and senior administration officials in a setting grounded in trust and collaboration. City agency representatives at the event fielded questions, offered

technical assistance, and shared updates on ongoing projects and grant opportunities. These practical discussions empowered leaders to advocate more effectively for their congregations, especially in areas like building compliance, education access, and youth development programmes. For many attendees, the event was a refreshing sign that City Hall is taking the concerns of faith communities seriously. Several leaders praised the administration’s proactive outreach, noting that it helped demystify government processes and encouraged long-term relationship-building. As the Bronx stop concluded, participants

expressed appreciation for the opportunity to voice concerns and receive immediate feedback. The tone was optimistic, with many faith leaders saying they looked forward to continued engagement through upcoming borough sessions. With initiatives like “Faith in Your Borough”, the Adams administration is reaffirming that faith-based organisations are not only spiritual anchors but also critical civic stakeholders. By creating space for dialogue and problem-solving, the city is helping to ensure that every borough — and every community within it — feels heard, respected, and supported.



Youth Voice

Voices of Tomorrow: MUN Summit 2025 Convenes in New York

Global youth leaders and policymakers gather to shape a cooperative future.



Tamim Iqbal

As global challenges grow more interconnected and complex, the role of youth in diplomacy has never been more critical. Recognizing this urgency, the MUN Summit 2025 brought together young leaders, diplomats, and civil society actors from around the world to reaffirm their commitment to inclusive and sustainable global cooperation. Held on April 13, 2025, at the Hilton Midtown in New York, and streamed

live through a hybrid format, the summit was co-hosted by MUNers Across Borders (MAB) and the National Model United Nations (NMUN). With support from the Portuguese Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the Youth Model United Nations Conference, the event gathered participants under the theme "After the Pact: Recommitting to Global Diplomacy and Fighting for a Better Future." The summit opened with a high-level ceremony titled "Igniting the Future – Youth at the Heart of

Global Change," setting the tone for a day focused on elevating the voices and visions of young changemakers. Throughout the day, panels and sessions emphasized the importance of youth participation in multilateral policy, sustainable development, and peace building efforts. Among the featured speakers was Ambassador Brian Wallace, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, who addressed the relevance of

empowering young people within diplomatic systems and institutions. He underscored the importance of youth leadership in achieving global commitments and driving long-term peace and progress. Clarissa Estep, Vice-President of the National Model United Nations, highlighted the unique role that Model UN simulations play in equipping youth with the tools of negotiation, critical thinking, and diplomacy. Her message reaffirmed how simulations like these bridge the gap between academic exercises and real-world engagement in international relations. From the perspective of youth representation at the United Nations, Oscar Lopez, serving as the UNA-USA Youth Observer, focused on the responsibility young people carry in shaping current policy discussions. He emphasized that global issues cannot be addressed without involving those

who will inherit their consequences—and that youth should no longer be viewed as leaders of the future, but rather as leaders of today. Throughout the conference, participants engaged in interactive sessions, policy simulations, and thematic discussions that tackled the pressing challenges of our time—from climate change and digital governance to equity in global development. Whether attending in person or virtually, delegates expressed a shared understanding that multilateralism must be revitalized through greater inclusion, especially of underrepresented voices. The Model UN Summit 2025 also served as a space to celebrate the contributions of the broader simulation community, acknowledging how these platforms prepare students and early-career professionals

to take on global roles. The summit reinforced the idea that diplomacy is not reserved for institutions alone—it is a collaborative process driven by diverse perspectives, grassroots engagement, and international solidarity. Organizers emphasized that the event was not merely about dialogue but about catalyzing long-term impact. By connecting youth leaders with diplomats, policymakers, and institutional supporters, the summit created new channels for mentorship, collaboration, and advocacy on a global scale. As the day concluded, it was clear that the MUN Summit 2025 had accomplished more than just hosting another conference. It galvanized a new generation of global citizens who are ready—and already working—to ensure diplomacy adapts, evolves, and delivers for a better world.





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Bangladesh Stands with Palestine

Demonstrators call for global action to halt Israeli aggression



Image Source: tbsnews.net

Habiba Sultana

Thousands gathered at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka on April 12 for the “March for Gaza,” a mass protest in solidarity with Palestinians amid ongoing Israeli military action in Gaza. Organized by a coalition of religious, political, and civil society groups, the event called on Muslim nations to cancel all agreements and sever diplomatic ties with Israel. Religious leaders including Shaykh Ahmadullah and Mizanur Rahman Azhari addressed the

rally, emphasizing that Bangladesh’s support for Palestine transcends politics. A central declaration, read by Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman, called for the reinstatement of the “Except Israel” clause in Bangladeshi passports and a ban on Zionist-affiliated products. The protest also demanded government-led humanitarian assistance to Gaza and educational reforms to include Palestinian history in national curricula. State leaders, activists, academics, and national cricket

players expressed solidarity through video messages, echoing the public’s growing concern over the situation in Gaza. Flags of Bangladesh and Palestine filled the venue as chants of “Free Palestine” and “Boycott Israeli products” echoed through the crowd. Organizers called for continued awareness and unified Muslim support against what many participants labeled a humanitarian catastrophe. The rally concluded with a collective call for justice, resistance, and remembrance.



Image Source: thedailystar.net



Image Source: RoseTv24



Image Source: tbsnews.net



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Image Source: thedailystar.net



Sue Cromer photography



Sue Cromer photography

Tulip season has arrived in full color. Gardens are bursting with vibrant blooms, offering the perfect backdrop for spring strolls and photo ops. Now is the best time to visit and enjoy nature’s most cheerful display.

Photo Gallery