

American Curry Awards 2025: A Global Culinary Celebration



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Calligraphy to Geometry: The Rise of Islamic Art



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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

The SHORT

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NEW YORK NEWS
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Image Source: apnews.com/Joseph Frederick

Nationwide Protests Shake Trump

Jamshed Mozumder

Thousands of protesters gathered across the United States on Saturday in a coordinated day of action dubbed "50501" — short for 50 protests, 50 states, 1 movement — to voice opposition to a range of policies enacted by President Donald Trump.

- "50501" protests held in all 50 states on Revolutionary War anniversary
• Protesters criticized Trump's deportation policies and job cuts via DOGE
• Calls made for the return of Kilmar Ábrego García, mistakenly deported

growing concerns over Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) initiative, which critics say threatens thousands of public sector jobs.

In Washington, some demonstrators gathered outside the White House, while others targeted Tesla dealerships, highlighting corporate connections to controversial policies.

Ukraine Sanctions Missile Suppliers and Russian Propagandists

Kyiv targets foreign firms and cultural figures tied to war effort

Farhana Azmi

Ukraine has imposed a sweeping new set of sanctions on nearly 100 individuals and entities linked to Russia's war effort, including foreign firms allegedly supporting the production of Iskander ballistic missiles.

Sanctions include Russian cultural figures, defense companies, and foreign suppliers in China and Belarus

Presidential Decrees No. 246 and No. 247 detail the measures

Kyiv aims to disrupt missile production using foreign components

Elektrostal Metallurgical Plant. It also includes several foreign companies, including Beijing Aviation And Aerospace Xianghui Technology Co. Ltd. and Zhongfu Shenyang Carbon Fiber Xining Co. Ltd., which Ukraine says supply materials for missile production.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER'S DAY 2025 Celebration
SUNDAY | MAY 11 4-7 PM
Free henna, Memorable moments for New mother, Why your mother is the best in the world, Poetry, Recognition, Dinner

Indirect Iran-U.S. Nuclear Talks Advance

Officials report "constructive" progress ahead of next round

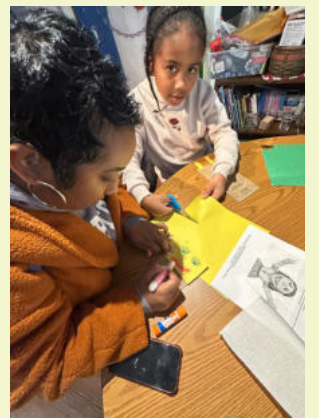


Image Source : newarab.com

Hamid Abdullah

Iran and the United States reported progress after a second round of indirect nuclear negotiations in Rome on Saturday.

as "constructive," noting a better mutual understanding was reached. The next phase will involve technical-level discussions ahead of a third round set for April 26 in Oman.



Awareness

Art Meets Advocacy at ASHO's Puppet Workshop

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Breakthrough Discovery Suggests Life Beyond Earth

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Tense Talks

Indirect Iran-U.S. Nuclear Talks Advance

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Boishakh Parade

Boishakh Spirit Fills the Streets of Jackson Heights

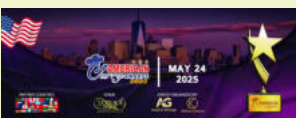
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Healing Hands

Art Meets Advocacy at ASHO's Puppet Workshop

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Taste Triumph

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Together Forward

Elhaam Academy in Jamaica hosts full day of community empowerment events

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Shared Goals

A Beautiful Game for a Beautiful Day

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MUNA Convention Sparks Buzz

Staff Reporter

Philadelphia is ready for MUNA Convention 2025. It will be held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The convention is scheduled for August 8-10, 2025. Theme is: Torchbearers of Islam: Spreading the Faith Globally. Organizers said, Join more than 25 thousand attendees from across the US for a powerful, faith-filled weekend featuring. As a guest Will be present Dr. Yasir Qadhi, Dr. Omar Suleiman and Imam Siraj Wahhaj. At that convention Separate Youth Conferences for Boys & Girls, National Quran Competition, Hackathon & Robotics Showcase, 300+ Bazaar

Vendors, Learning, Fun, and Unity for the Whole Family! REGISTER NOW & GET 20% OFF! Visit: www.munaconvention.com for full details. Don't miss the biggest Muslim convention of the year! The MUNA Convention is a prominent conference organized by MUNA, dedicated to the themes of education and training. This event is set to take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center located in the vibrant city of Philadelphia, United States. The convention aims to gather a diverse audience with a focus on educational advancements and professional development within the sector. This conference not only serves as a platform for

knowledge exchange but also provides networking opportunities for attendees looking to connect with like-minded professionals across the country. The MUNA Convention is expected to attract participants from various regions of the USA, making it a significant event for those interested in education and training initiatives. MUNA is a non-profit, faith-based Dawah and social service national organization. It was founded with the objective of seeking the pleasure of Allah by striving to develop personal, moral and social quality of human life. It was incorporated in the state of New York in 1990

New committee of Comilla Society of USA sworn



Reporter

The newly elected committee of the Comilla Society of USA was officially sworn in during a ceremony held on April 13 at Nirab Restaurant in the Bronx, New York. This regional organization, representing Bangladeshis from the Comilla district living in the U.S., welcomed its new leadership with a formal oath-taking event attended by community

members and prominent guests. Election Commissioner and former president Abul Khair Akhand administered the oath under the chairmanship of outgoing president Mia Mohammad Dawood and outgoing general secretary HM Mizanur Rahman, who both extended floral greetings and best wishes to the incoming team. Newly elected President Zakir Hossain and

General Secretary Ripon Sarkar expressed their commitment to the welfare of Comilla residents both in the U.S. and abroad and called for community support. Distinguished guests included community leaders such as Yar Ahmed Patwari, Monir Khan, Mia Mohammad Dulal, and several freedom fighters including Manjur Ahmed, Abdus Salam, and Zafar Ahmed. A large number of expatriate Bangladeshis, particularly from Comilla, were in attendance. A special prayer was offered for the late mother of Senior Vice-President Sirajul Islam, led by HM Mizanur Rahman. The event concluded with speeches from past committee members congratulating the new leadership.

Prayer Time IN New York

| FAJR | DHUHR | ASR | MAGHRIB | ISHA |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 04:46 | 12:55 | 04:42 | 07:42 | 09:04 |
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Number 25

Bangladesh Society of Bronx election date changed

NYN DESK

The election of the Bangladesh Society of Bronx New York will be held on May 25. The Election Commission has made partial changes to their previously announced election schedule and rescheduled the voting date to May 25 instead of April 27. The changed election schedule sent by the organization's election commission states that all election activities will be conducted at the commission's temporary office, Nirab Restaurant in the Sterling-Banglabazar area of the Bronx. Submission of nomination papers will be from 5 pm to 9 pm on May 14. Withdrawal of nomination papers and announcement of the final candidate list by the election commission will be from 5 pm to 9 pm on May 15. Voting in this election will be held on May 25 from 5 pm to 9 pm.



The organization's Chief Election Commissioner Mahbub Alam, Election Commissioner Md. Shamim Mia and Election Commissioner Abu Kaiser said. According to the previously announced schedule of the election, nomination papers were distributed from 5 pm to 9 pm on April 10. The nomination fee for the 25-member executive committee president is \$200, the nomination fee for the vice president is \$100, the nomination fee for the general secretary is \$150, the nomination fee for the associate general secretary-treasurer is \$75, the nomination fee for all editorial positions is \$50, and the nomination fee for the executive member is \$40. The Election Commission has said that only members of the organization can participate in the election. The Commission has sought the full cooperation of all concerned to conduct the election in a free, impartial and fair manner.

Heritage

Boishakh Spirit Fills the Streets of Jackson Heights

From floats to folk songs, Bangladesh Day Parade unites generations

Faisal Ahmed

Jackson Heights, Queens, became a sea of red and green on April 13 as the neighborhood hosted the second annual Bangladesh Day Parade, a vibrant and joyful celebration of Bangladeshi culture, heritage, and community spirit. The event took place on the final day of the Bengali calendar month of Chaitra, infusing the streets with the energy of Pohela Boishakh and the pride of a diaspora deeply connected to its roots. The parade, which stretched from 69th Street to 87th Street along 37th Avenue, drew thousands of Bangladeshi Americans, friends, and supporters. Men, women, and children arrived dressed in traditional attire—flowing saris, panjabis, and colorful kurtas—many of them adorned with the green and red

of the Bangladeshi flag. The rhythmic beats of dhol, tabla, and traditional flutes reverberated through the avenue, blending with chants, cheers, and folk songs that echoed the cultural pride of the community. This year's parade was led by Grand Marshal Shah Newaz, editor of the Weekly Ajkal. Mayor Eric Adams, serving as Chief Guest and Special Marshal, marched at the head of the procession carrying the Bangladeshi flag, a symbolic gesture that resonated deeply with attendees. In his remarks, Adams praised the community's "immense contribution to the diversity, economy, and cultural richness of New York City." The event was organized by a dedicated committee including Parade Chairman Aatur Rahman Selim, Chief Advisor Gias Ahmed, Convener

Mohammad Ali, Member Secretary Fahad Solaiman, Organizing Secretary FEMD Rocky, Chief Management Director J. Molla Sani, Chief Coordinator Ahsan Habib, and Chief Event Coordinator Fakhrul Islam Delwar, among others. In addition to Mayor Adams, other high-profile speakers included Senator John Liu, Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and several city council members. They lauded the Bangladeshi community for its hard work, civic engagement, and ongoing efforts to keep cultural traditions alive while contributing meaningfully to American society. Over 60 organizations took part in the parade, including the Bangladesh Society, Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, Astoria

Friends Society, and alumni associations from Dhaka and Jahangirnagar Universities. Their floats were a major highlight, showcasing cultural themes, regional pride, and historical figures. A particularly eye-catching float featured a tribute to Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, drawing admiration from the crowd. The parade also had strong institutional support. More than 150 NYPD officers, including members of the Bangladeshi American Police Association (BAPA), participated in uniform. The NYPD band, mounted police, FDNY, Department of Correction, U.S. Postal Service, and—making their debut—three Bangladeshi Americans serving in the U.S. Army, also marched in the procession. Security was tight but friendly, with NYPD

officers ensuring a smooth and celebratory atmosphere throughout the two-mile route. Volunteers helped manage the crowd while distributing flags and informational flyers about the day's significance. Following the parade, a cultural stage program near 69th Street captivated attendees with lively performances. Songs like "Amar Shonar Bangla", "Taqum Taqum Baaje", and "Aaj Elore El Boishakh" stirred deep emotion and pride. Well-known performers such as Nowshin, Ritchie Solaiman, Ehsan Milon, Nadia Likhon, Zayed Khan, Protique Hasan, Nova, Debashish Biswas, and local artist Rano Newaz lit up the stage, receiving enthusiastic applause. Perhaps the most hopeful aspect of the day was the visible presence of second-

generation Bangladeshi Americans. Many of them, born and raised in the U.S., carried flags, danced to traditional music, and proudly introduced their heritage to friends and neighbors. Organizers noted that this level of youth engagement is essential to the long-term preservation and evolution of Bangladeshi culture abroad. The success of this year's Bangladesh Day Parade demonstrates the community's unwavering pride and its growing influence in New York's multicultural landscape. It was more than just a celebration—it was a statement of identity, resilience, and shared belonging in the heart of Queens. As one participant remarked, "Today, Jackson Heights didn't just look like Bangladesh—it felt like home."



Peace & Justice

From Tension to Togetherness in Crown Heights

Quick response by city leaders helps ease racial tensions

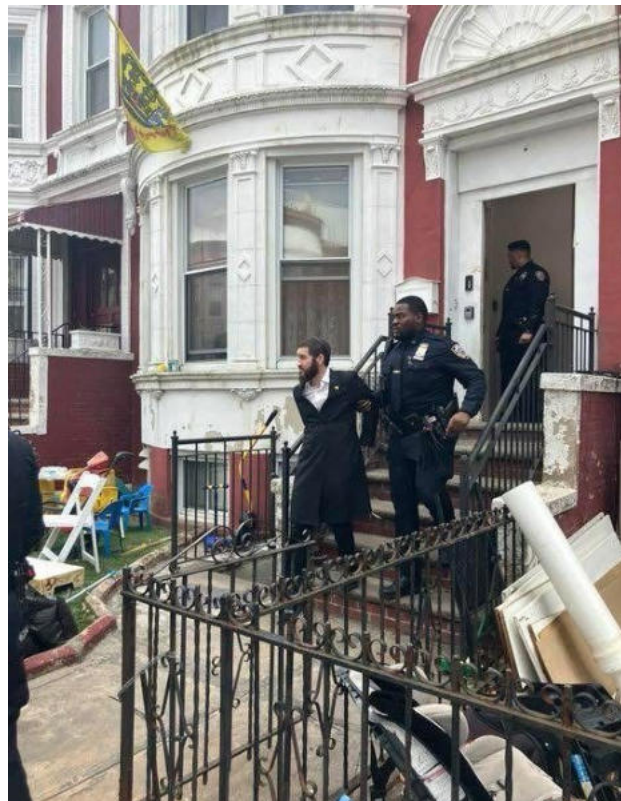
Tayeb Ali

A powerful display of unity unfolded in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood on Thursday, April 17, 2025, as community members gathered at the corner of Kingston Avenue and Eastern Parkway for the Peaceful Rally for Troy McLeod. Organized by civil rights leader Rev. Kevin McCall, the event was held in response to an incident that many feared could ignite longstanding racial tensions in the historically diverse neighborhood. Troy McLeod, a Black man who uses a wheelchair, was reportedly assaulted by his Jewish neighbor, Levi Kabakov, during an altercation that occurred on Shabbos, March 29. According to witnesses, Kabakov was walking with his children when McLeod approached with two unleashed but muzzled dogs. The confrontation quickly escalated, resulting in a physical attack on McLeod. Kabakov has since been arrested and charged in connection with the incident. While emotions ran high in the days following the incident, community



leaders were quick to act—urging calm and advocating for accountability and understanding. Mayor Eric Adams and Pastor Gil Monroe from the Mayor's Office joined the effort to de-escalate tensions and foster a path forward grounded in mutual respect. Rev. McCall, addressing the rally in a crowd, emphasized the importance of standing united. "This is about condemning

violence and demanding justice while keeping our communities together," he said. "We cannot allow one act of aggression to undo decades of progress between Black and Jewish residents in Crown Heights." Jewish leaders also responded promptly and decisively. In a joint statement, Rabbi Yaacov Behrman of the Jewish Future Alliance and Rabbis



Shmuel Rosenstein and Zalman Friedman of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council (CHJCC) said, "There is absolutely no justification for assaulting someone in a wheelchair—ever. The perpetrator has been arrested and charged." Veteran community advocate Rabbi Chanina Sperlin echoed the sentiment: "Nothing justifies assaulting a man in a wheelchair. The Crown Heights

Jewish community and its leadership have condemned this incident in the strongest terms." The peaceful rally drew residents from all walks of life, many carrying signs calling for justice while advocating unity with slogans such as "Condemning the Actions & Uniting Brooklyn" and "Justice for Troy McLeod." Despite the gravity of the event that sparked the rally, the mood was hopeful—rooted in the

belief that open dialogue and accountability could lead to healing. Crown Heights has a long and complicated history of racial tension, but recent years have seen meaningful strides toward coexistence. Thursday's rally served not only as a call for justice in McLeod's case, but as a reminder of the community's collective responsibility to protect that progress. "Quick action by our Mayor and faith leaders helped to prevent deeper divides," one local organizer remarked. "This isn't just about what happened—it's about how we respond together." As the rally concluded, attendees were encouraged to continue speaking out against injustice and supporting community-wide efforts that prioritize peace, equity, and safety for all residents. With strong leadership, clear condemnation of violence, and a united front from both Black and Jewish communities, Crown Heights once again demonstrated its resilience—and its commitment to healing through unity.

Migrant Charged in Violent Queens Assault

Arrest made after surveillance links suspect to knife point rape



Mirza Hasib

A 20-year-old migrant has been arrested in connection with the brutal knife point rape of a woman in Jamaica, Queens, an incident that has shocked the local community and drawn widespread media attention due to the suspect's chilling choice of attire during

the assault. The suspect, identified as Rody Cu Morales, was apprehended by detectives earlier this week at his mother's residence in Queens after surveillance footage linked him to the crime. The footage captured Morales wearing a black sweater emblazoned with the image of "Ghostface,"

the infamous knife-wielding killer from the *Scream* horror film franchise—a disturbing parallel to the nature of the crime he is accused of committing. According to police sources, the assault occurred around 3 a.m. on April 11 near 162nd Street and 89th Avenue. Morales allegedly approached a 50-year-old woman, brandished a knife, and sexually assaulted her before fleeing the scene. The victim was later transported to a nearby hospital, where she received treatment for physical and emotional trauma. Authorities launched an immediate investigation, using surveillance footage from local businesses and traffic cameras to identify the suspect. The distinctive sweater played a key role in

tracking Morales. Law enforcement sources confirmed that this is Morales' first arrest in New York State, though he has been in the United States for several years. He recently arrived in New York City, having previously resided elsewhere. On Wednesday evening, Morales was seen being led out of the 112th Precinct stationhouse in Forest Hills, his hands cuffed behind his back. He did not speak to reporters gathered outside as detectives escorted him into a waiting NYPD vehicle. He was transported to Queens Criminal Court, where he now faces a slew of serious charges, including two counts of rape, assault, sexual abuse, menacing, criminal possession of a weapon, and harassment.

The case has stirred concern across the Jamaica neighborhood, where residents expressed outrage and fear over the nature of the attack. "It's terrifying to think something like this happened right here," said one nearby resident who asked not to be named. "People walk these streets every day. It could have been any one of us." City officials and local advocacy groups are urging the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity. The NYPD continues to emphasize the role of surveillance and community cooperation in solving such cases quickly. "Public safety is our top priority," said one police spokesperson. "This arrest is the result of diligent investigative work and assistance

from the community." As the legal process unfolds, Morales remains in custody awaiting arraignment. Prosecutors are expected to pursue the case aggressively given the severity of the charges. The incident serves as a grim reminder of the persistent threat of sexual violence in urban areas and the importance of maintaining robust public safety measures. Authorities are also urging anyone who may have been in the area or witnessed suspicious activity on the morning of April 11 to contact law enforcement. For the victim, the path to healing begins now, while the community looks to justice and stronger safeguards to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Awareness

Art Meets Advocacy at ASHO's Puppet Workshop

“Puppet Like Me!” blends education, creativity, and community support

Taslima Haque

Families, educators, and community members came together for a powerful afternoon of creativity and connection at the “Puppet Like Me!” workshop, hosted by the Autism Society Habitation Organization (ASHO). The event aimed to raise awareness about autism and provide hands-on tools to help participants better understand and support autistic individuals in everyday settings—from classrooms to playgrounds and beyond. The event was led by ASHO’s Founder and CEO, Rubai Rahman, who welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of fostering compassion through inclusive activities. “We’re doing this Puppet Making Workshop to create awareness for autism—how to behave with autistic children in your school, your home, and public places,” Rahman explained. “Even if you couldn’t attend today, we’re hosting another one next month, and we’d love for you to join



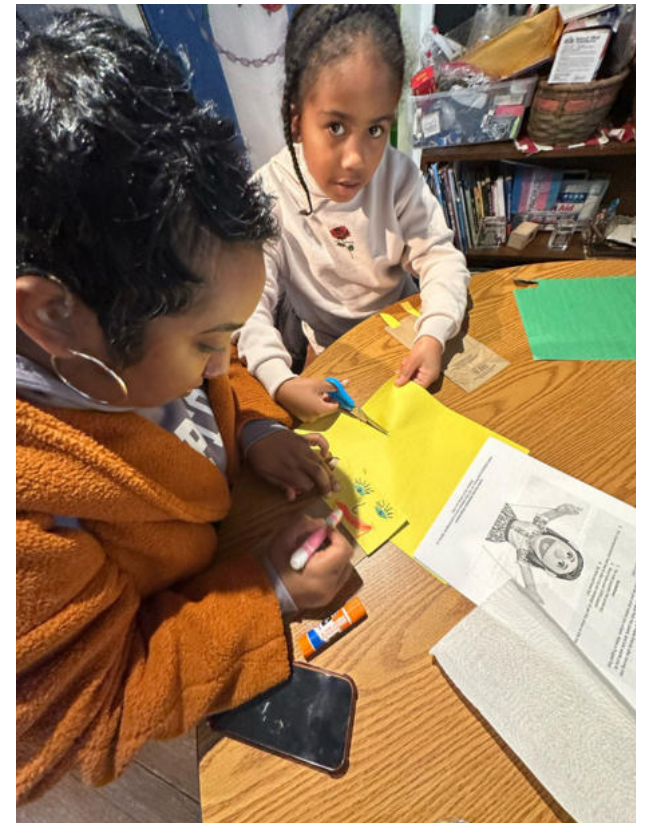
us.” Participants gathered around tables filled with colorful craft supplies as they learned to design puppets that represented themselves and their communities. The creative process was used not only to engage children but also to teach empathy, inclusion, and self-expression—core principles that ASHO advocates for in its

broader mission. Beyond puppet-making, the event also served as an introduction to the range of services ASHO offers. “In ASHO, we have a lot of programs like computer learning, language learning—including English—and skill-building activities like this workshop,” Rahman noted. “We also support families with mental health resources, and we help guide

them through OPWDD (Office for People With Developmental Disabilities) services, including how to get staff support in the home.” The atmosphere at the event was welcoming and interactive, with Rahman encouraging newcomers to sign in and take a seat. Volunteers and staff made sure everyone felt included, helping children with their crafts

and answering parents’ questions about ASHO’s services. Informational materials were available, and families were invited to schedule one-on-one consultations with mental health instructors to discuss their specific needs. For many in attendance, the event was both informative and uplifting. Parents remarked on the value of having a safe, creative space

where their children could thrive and be understood. Others appreciated learning new strategies for interaction and communication, especially in public environments where understanding of autism can often be limited. By combining artistry with advocacy, “Puppet Like Me!” succeeded in opening hearts and minds. It wasn’t just about making puppets—it was about making connections, breaking stigmas, and reminding families that they are not alone in their journeys. As the afternoon came to a close, Rahman encouraged attendees to follow ASHO on social media and visit their website for updates on future events and programs. “Please stay connected with us,” she said. “We’re here to support your family in every way we can.” With more workshops already in the pipeline, ASHO continues to lead with compassion, using creative engagement as a powerful tool to promote inclusion and understanding for individuals with autism and their families.



Entertainment

American Curry Awards 2025: A Global Culinary Celebration

Top chefs, home cooks, and food personalities come together in NYC

Maimuna Chowdury

In a landmark event set to celebrate the richness and global influence of South Asian cuisine, the first-ever American Curry Awards is scheduled to take place on May 24, 2025, at the iconic Terrace on the Park in Queens, New York. Organized jointly by the Khalil Group of Companies and Asha Group, the awards aim to spotlight culinary excellence in both professional kitchens and home environments, while honoring the cultural and entrepreneurial contributions of the curry industry. With preparations in full swing, the event has

HIGHLIGHT

* Award categories include Best Curry Restaurant, Best Chef, Best Home Chef, Food Blogger, Entrepreneur, and more

* Culinary icons and influencers from across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the U.S. are expected to attend

already generated significant buzz across social media and international culinary circles. The main awards night will bring together a distinguished panel of chefs, restaurateurs, bloggers, entrepreneurs, and food lovers from the United States, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, and beyond. Prior to the main ceremony, two Home Chef Competitions will be held to recognize talent from within local communities. The first is scheduled for May 11 at Asha Home Care in Jamaica, Queens, and the second on May 18 at Khalil Biryani in the Bronx. Winners from these regional contests will be honored with the Best Home Chef Award, celebrating culinary talent emerging from home-based kitchens. Award categories will range from Best Curry Restaurant and Chef of the Year to Food Blogger, Curry Legend, Entrepreneur of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement.



United States, Md. Golam Mostofa, Assistant Professor of Hospitality & Culinary at Washington University of Science & Technology (WUST), brings his academic and culinary expertise to the jury.

The panel also includes distinguished culinary experts Rahima Sultana Reeta, Mareena Khandokar, and Lobbi Rahman. Additionally, Shaheda Yesmin joins the jury as a distinguished culinary curator.

Adding further star power, popular food bloggers and digital creators from Bangladesh, including Adnan Faruque Hillol, Iftekhar Rafsan (Rafsan TheChotoBhai), Nusrat Islam (Zoltan BD), and others, have been formally invited.

"This is not just an event, it's a movement," said Md. Khalilur Rahman, founder of Khalil Group of Industries. "The American Curry Awards will become a legacy platform for chefs and entrepreneurs who work with passion and pride in this industry. We're thrilled by the overwhelming response from all over the world."

Asha Group CEO Akash Rahman echoed the sentiment, adding, "Our goal is to host an event that is not only professionally managed, but also globally recognized. We have brought together a seasoned team from the U.S. and Bangladesh to ensure excellence at every level."

The event is expected to draw a diverse audience, including business leaders, elected officials, community activists, and food industry professionals, reflecting the cultural and economic significance of South Asian cuisine in the American landscape. As anticipation builds, the American Curry Awards promises to be a groundbreaking celebration of culinary skill, creativity, and cultural pride—an event where spice meets spotlight, and tradition meets innovation.

HIGHLIGHT

* The first-ever American Curry Awards will take place on May 24, 2025, at Terrace on the Park, New York

* Organized jointly by Khalil Group of Companies and Asha Group

* Pre-events include Home Chef Competitions in Queens (May 11) and Bronx (May 18)

Organizers emphasized that this event is not just an award show, but a platform to elevate the global reputation of curry-based cuisine and those who create it. The panel of judges for the American Curry Awards reflects the event's global prestige and diversity. Among the jury members is Tony Khan, recognized as one of the world's top chefs, alongside Dr. Izzat Husain, a culinary expert and active member of the Indian Culinary Forum. Also serving on the panel is Rossahm Bin Rusli, a Malaysian culinary authority, and Montaser Masoud, a certified trainer with the World Culinary Association (WAC). Joining them are Sylvester Rozario, a seasoned hospitality consultant and culinary professional; Mahmoud Yassin, a respected figure in the culinary world; and Oli Khan MBE, a prominent leader in the British-Bangladeshi catering and business community. From the

Education

Elhaam Academy in Jamaica hosts full day of community empowerment events

By Ramy Mahmoud and QNS News Team

Elhaam Academy in Jamaica became a central hub for community engagement on Saturday, April 12, hosting a trio of impactful events focused on family connection, self-defense education and literacy. The day's programming was organized in collaboration with local and citywide partners, including Save The People, Malikah, the Muslim Community Center (MCC), and New York City Council Member Nantasha Williams. Located at 87-41 165th St., Elhaam Academy is a faith-based educational institution in Council District 27, serving families in Southeast Queens neighborhoods including Jamaica, Cambria Heights, Hollis, and St. Albans. The school frequently partners with grassroots organizations to support academic and social programming for students and their families. The day began with Council Member Nantasha



Photo: Council Member Nantasha Williams along with Southeast Queens families gathered for a full day of events at Elhaam Academy in Jamaica.

Williams officially opening a community Book Fair as part of the Malikah Event at Elhaam Academy. The fair featured a range of books for children, teens, and adults, with a focus on inclusive and diverse literature. Activities included storytelling sessions, educational workshops, and family-friendly literacy programming. The event was presented in collaboration with Save The People, a nonprofit

focused on humanitarian aid and educational support. Elhaam Academy Principal Shahana Solid, Save The People Executive Director Mohammed Shahidullah, and Office Assistant Manager Fatima Niass also attended the opening. Following the book fair opening, Malikah led a self-defense training workshop tailored for women and girls of all ages. The interactive session was facilitated

by a certified Malikah instructor and focused on personal safety, confidence, and empowerment. Council Member Williams, who represents Southeast Queens and serves on the City Council's Women and Gender Equity Committee, spoke at the event and emphasized the importance of creating safe spaces and providing resources to underserved communities.

Malikah, a New York City-based grassroots organization, provides training in self-defense, healing justice, organizing, and financial literacy. Also in attendance was Rubaiya Rahman of ASHO, who spoke about the group's upcoming puppet-making workshop at King Manor Museum during Spring Break. The day concluded with MCC Kids Family Night, hosted by Mohamed Bahe, founder of the

Muslim Community Center (MCC), and powered by Save The People. The event brought dozens of families together for a festive evening featuring a pizza party, Islamic trivia, toy giveaways, candy, and large-scale games like Connect Four. The event transformed the academy into a lively space focused on faith, family, and togetherness. The night was supported by Save The People, whose sponsorship helped provide toys, food, and supplies. Throughout the day, Elhaam Academy demonstrated its ongoing commitment to education, safety, and social support. All the events were designed to engage the local community, provide practical resources, and foster a sense of belonging among families in Southeast Queens. For more information about future programs, email info@elhaamacademy.org or follow @savethepeople.usa on Instagram and Facebook. News Courtesy : QNS.com



Photo: Elhaam Academy's Principal Shahana and Council member Williams.



Photo: Elhaam Academy at 87-41 165th St.



Photo: Mohamed Bahe, Founder of MCC.



Photo: Save The People Executive Director Mohammed Shahidullah.



Photo: Malikah hosts self-defense workshop for women and girls.



Photo: MCC Family Night closes the day with games and celebration. Fatima Niass, Office Assistant Manager with children enjoying the games and prizes.



Image Source : Ramy Mahmoud

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Sports

A Beautiful Game for a Beautiful Day

Youth soccer event promotes health, unity, and fun at St. John's University



Sakin Auhin

Under clear skies and the warmth of a spring afternoon, the Jamaica Muslim Center Youth (JMCY) and the St. John's University Muslim Students Association (MSA) came together on April 19th for a spirited and inclusive soccer event that brought children, teens, and college students onto the same playing field—literally and figuratively. Dubbed the Spring Soccer Run, the event took place at the university's well-kept

soccer field, where energy ran high and smiles were everywhere. The program welcomed players from ages 8 to 17, dividing them into age-appropriate groups to ensure fair play and a competitive, yet friendly, atmosphere. From elementary schoolers to college students, the field was a dynamic tapestry of sneakers, goals, laughter, and encouragement. The event officially kicked off at 5:00 PM, following a 4:30 PM meet-up at Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC).

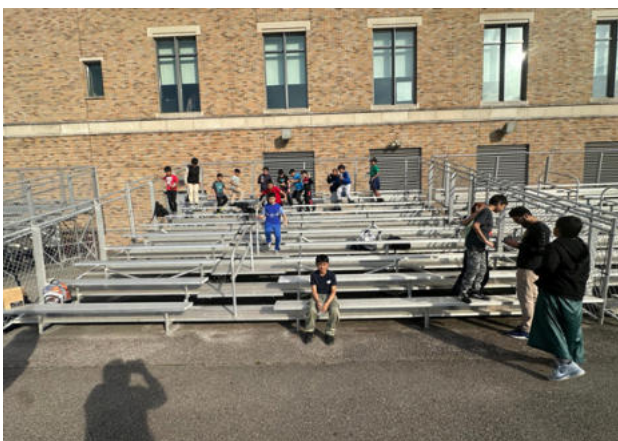
Community volunteers were instrumental in transporting the young athletes to St. John's University, ensuring the event remained inclusive and accessible for families across the neighborhood. As groups assembled, teams were formed based on age, with elementary students playing short scrimmages, middle schoolers displaying footwork and agility, and high schoolers battling it out in fast-paced mini-matches. The older teens and

college students, including members of the university's MSA, brought leadership to the field, offering encouragement and sharing tips with their younger counterparts. The atmosphere was festive and communal, underscoring the event's deeper purpose—to build bridges between local youth and the college community. It was more than just a game; it was a reminder of the power of sports to foster unity, confidence, and growth.

"Seeing the little ones running around with so much joy, playing next to college students they look up to—it's exactly what we wanted to create," said one of the event's organizers from the JMC Youth team. "This is how you plant seeds for future leaders, future athletes, and future community builders." Throughout the two-hour event, the soccer field became a place of shared learning and cultural connection. For many of the younger players, it was their first time on a university

campus, a formative experience that organizers hoped would serve as inspiration for academic and personal goals. Meanwhile, college students from St. John's MSA had the chance to give back, acting as mentors both on and off the field. Parents and spectators stood along the sidelines, cheering for their children and taking in the vibrant energy of the event. Some parents expressed how meaningful it was to see institutions like JMC and St. John's working together to provide safe, fun, and enriching activities for their children outside the classroom and mosque. At the end of the games, participants were treated to a much-anticipated meal from Shah's Halal Food, which was served picnic-style near the field. For many, the delicious and hearty plates of rice, salad, and chicken served as a perfect way to unwind, share stories from the matches, and connect with friends old and new. One parent noted, "My son was so excited to

come out today. He met new friends, played hard, and now he's full and happy. It's the kind of event that makes you proud to be part of this community." As the sun dipped behind the university buildings and the players began to leave with full stomachs and happy hearts, the message of the day was clear: community, collaboration, and care go hand-in-hand with competition. The success of the Spring Soccer Run left both JMCY and SJU MSA members optimistic about future joint events. Plans are already being discussed to expand similar programs over the summer, potentially including basketball clinics, academic workshops, or mentorship panels. In a borough as diverse as Queens, where cultures, faiths, and generations converge, events like this soccer run do more than fill a calendar—they create connection, character, and community that lasts far beyond the final whistle.



Culture

Calligraphy to Geometry: The Rise of Islamic Art

An elegant tradition gains recognition in American mainstream and academic circles.

Maimuna Chowdury

Across the U.S., Islamic art is experiencing a powerful resurgence—both as a treasured historical tradition and a vibrant form of modern cultural expression. From world-class museums to community centers, there's a growing appreciation for Islamic aesthetics, not just for their visual beauty, but for their role in building understanding between cultures and connecting people with Muslim heritage, past and present. Take the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, for example. It houses one of the largest and most diverse collections of Islamic art in the Western world—over 15,000 pieces that span more than 1,300 years and cover a geographic range from Spain to South Asia. Since 2011, visitors have been able to explore these masterpieces in 15 beautifully renovated galleries. The collection includes everything from illuminated Qurans and intricately carved ivories to glowing mosque lamps and richly woven Persian carpets—each piece telling its own story while also showing how connected the



Image Source : metmuseum.org

Islamic world has always been. On the West Coast, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) stands out for its commitment to Islamic art. One of its highlights is a reconstructed 18th-century reception room from Damascus, Syria. With its ornate woodwork and elegant Arabic calligraphy, the space offers a rare and immersive look into Ottoman-era Syrian homes—something far richer than what textbooks can offer. Meanwhile, in Houston, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH) is steadily building its own collection. Thanks to partnerships with the al-Sabah Collection of Kuwait and the Hossein Afshar Collection, the

museum now displays hundreds of items—beautiful examples of calligraphy, metalwork, ceramics, and scientific tools. In 2023, they opened permanent galleries dedicated to Islamic art, part of a larger push to showcase global cultures in immersive and engaging ways. While historic artifacts provide important context, it's the work of contemporary artists that's bringing Islamic art into today's conversations. Egyptian artist and scholar Bahya Shehab, for instance, uses Arabic calligraphy as a medium for protest. Her project "A Thousand Times No" began as a study of the Arabic word "la" (no) across centuries of Islamic

art, and evolved into a series of bold street murals that stand against injustice. Her work has resonated globally, appearing in cities like New York and D.C. Then there's Syrian-American artist Mohamad Hafez. His deeply emotional miniature installations recreate war-ravaged neighborhoods of Damascus and Aleppo. Using a mix of found objects, bits of architecture, and Quranic verses, he captures the pain of exile and the longing for home. His pieces have made their way into major museums, including the Brooklyn Museum and the Toledo Museum of Art. However, Islamic

art isn't confined to elite institutions. It's flourishing in community centers, libraries, mosques, and festivals. In Dearborn, Michigan—home to one of the largest Arab-American communities in the country—local exhibitions often feature calligraphy, pottery, and textiles by regional artists. These grassroots efforts are about more than showcasing talent; they create spaces for connection and cultural exchange. As one organizer put it, "Islamic art helps us connect with our heritage, but it also helps us connect with others." Schools and universities are catching on, too. Institutions like Harvard, Princeton, and UCLA

now offer programs in Islamic art history. These classes go beyond the surface, diving into everything from Mughal miniatures to Moroccan tilework, while encouraging students to think critically about representation, colonialism, and preservation. What's especially powerful is how Islamic art is changing public perception. At a time when Islam is often misunderstood in mainstream media, art offers a different kind of story—one grounded in beauty, intellect, and spirituality. Whether it's a detailed Quranic script or a modern installation, Islamic art transcends borders and time. And as more Americans engage with this rich visual culture, the effects are meaningful: Muslim communities see their stories honored and celebrated, while others gain a deeper, more nuanced understanding of a civilization that has helped shape the world. Through exhibitions, education, community events, and the work of bold contemporary artists, Islamic art continues to grow—and in doing so, it adds to the diverse and evolving cultural fabric of the United States.

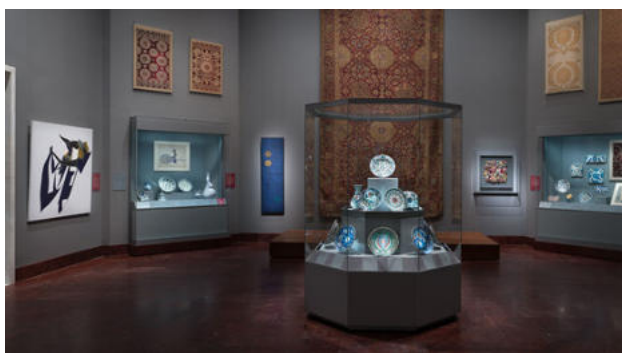
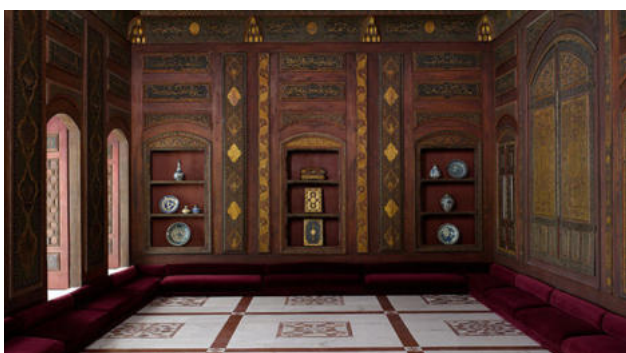


Image Source : metmuseum.org

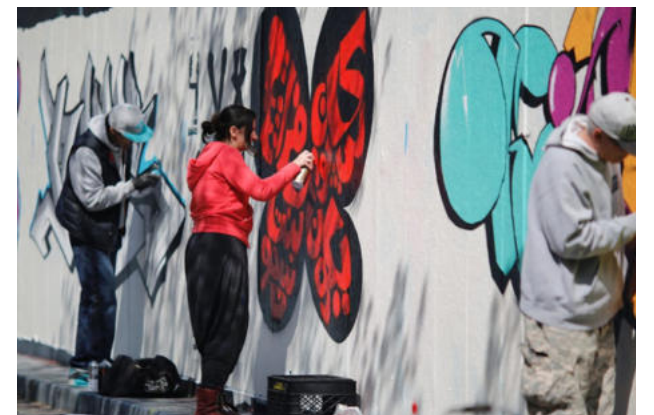


Photo : Artist Bahya Shehab. Image Source: MOSAIC FILMS, INC/ cnn.com



Photo : Shehab's installation was 7-meters tall. Image Source: Artist Bahya Shehab/ cnn.com



Photo : The "King Umberto II Polonaise" Carpet (early 17th century). The Hossein Afshar Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Image Source: theartnewspaper.com

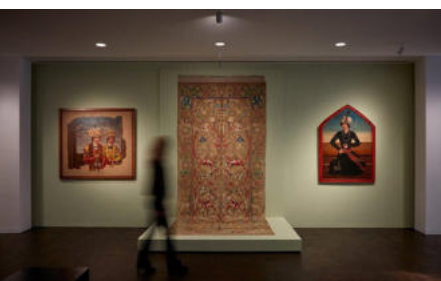


Photo : The new Hossein Afshar Galleries for Art of the Islamic Worlds at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Image Source: Richard Barnes/ theartnewspaper.com



Photo : Qur'an Manuscript in Maghribi Script. Morocco, end of Rabi' al-Awwal, AH 718 / 1318CE. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Image Source: theartnewspaper.com





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Breakthrough Discovery Suggests Life Beyond Earth

Molecules linked to life on Earth found in K2-18b's atmosphere

Habiba Sultana

In what could mark a historic breakthrough in the search for extraterrestrial life, scientists using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) have detected molecules in the atmosphere of exoplanet K2-18b that, on Earth, are closely associated with biological activity. The team, led by Professor Nikku Madhusudhan at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy, identified dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and dimethyl disulfide (DMDS)—compounds typically emitted by marine phytoplankton and certain bacteria. The detection, based on light spectrum analysis of K2-18b's atmosphere, offers what researchers are calling the "strongest evidence yet" for potential life beyond Earth. The findings were detailed in a recent paper published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*. K2-18b, located 124 light-years from Earth in the constellation Leo, is more than twice the size of Earth and orbits a cool red dwarf star.



Picture: Exoplanet K2-18 b An artist's illustration of exoplanet K2-18 b, assuming it hosts a water ocean. The image also features the neighboring exoplanet K2-18 c near the dwarf star K2-18. Image Source: NASA / CSA / ESA / J. Olmsted (STScI) / Science: N. Madhusudhan (Cambridge University)/ planetary.org

While the planet itself remains unreachable with current technology, JWST's advanced instruments enable scientists to examine the light passing through its atmosphere, revealing the presence of trace gases. "This is the strongest evidence yet that there is possibly life out there," Prof. Madhusudhan told BBC Radio 5Live. "I can realistically say that we can confirm this signal within one to two years." He noted that the concentration of DMS appears to be thousands of times higher than what exists on Earth—if biologically produced, a potentially staggering implication.

HIGHLIGHT

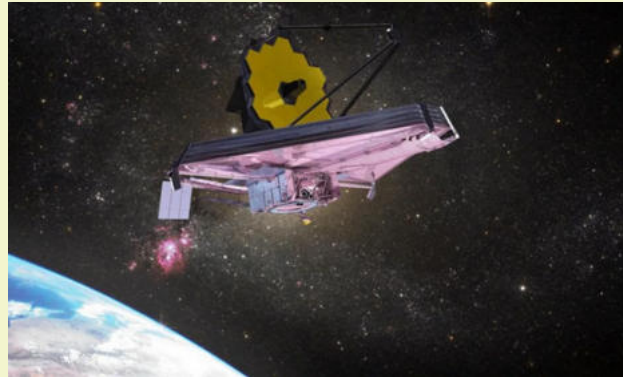
●Discovery made by Prof. Nikku Madhusudhan's team at University of Cambridge

●The data currently reaches a 3-sigma confidence level (99.7%)

●Further technical verification needed; scientists urge caution

●Research published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*

Despite the excitement, the team has urged caution. The detection currently reaches a 3-sigma confidence



Picture: The James Webb Space Telescope is powerful enough to analyse the atmosphere of planets that are hundreds of trillions of miles away.

Image Source: bbc.com / NASA

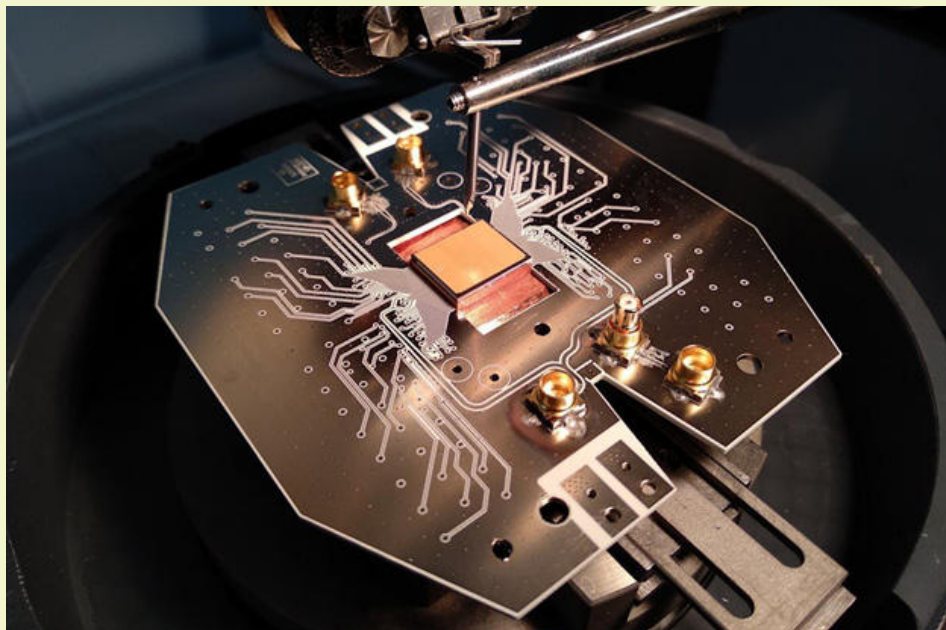
level, or 99.7% certainty, falling short of the 5-sigma (99.9999%) threshold typically required for scientific confirmation. "There is still a 0.3% chance that it might be a statistical fluke," Madhusudhan explained in an interview with BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "So we want to be really thorough, and make more observations." The Cambridge group is now collaborating with other research teams to investigate whether DMS and DMDS might also be generated through non-biological processes, such as volcanic activity or exotic geochemical reactions. "Even with

perfect data, we can't say for sure that this is of a biological origin," noted Prof. Catherine Heymans, Scotland's Astronomer Royal and an independent expert. The potential presence of DMS has ignited a scientific debate over the composition of K2-18b itself. Some researchers suggest the absence of ammonia in its atmosphere may indicate a vast ocean beneath, supporting the possibility of aquatic life. Others, including Prof. Oliver Shorttle of Cambridge University, caution that an ocean of molten rock could also explain the missing ammonia—hardly a hospitable

environment for life. Further complicating the picture, Dr. Nicolas Wogan at NASA's Ames Research Center has proposed that K2-18b may be a mini gas giant with no solid surface at all. These competing theories reflect the immense challenges of interpreting data gleaned from starlight filtering through distant planetary atmospheres. Still, the significance of the findings is hard to ignore. "Decades from now, we may look back at this point in time and recognize it was when the living universe came within reach," Prof. Madhusudhan reflected. "This could be the tipping point where suddenly the fundamental question of whether we're alone in the universe is one we're capable of answering." The research team plans additional JWST observations to either confirm or rule out the biological nature of the chemical signatures. Until then, the astronomical community is watching closely. As Dr. Subir Sarkar, a co-author from Cardiff University, said: "Keep watching this space."

Cracking the Quantum Code

From security risks to supercomputers, quantum tech gains serious momentum



Picture: Quantum computing microchip Image Source: universalquantum.com / aol.com

Tamanna Nasrin

The quantum revolution is no longer theoretical. As 2025 unfolds—hailed by the United Nations as the "International Year of Quantum"—major players in technology and government have decisively entered the race to develop quantum computing into

a transformative force across industries. IBM leads the pack with plans to launch the world's first quantum-centric supercomputer this year. Featuring over 4,000 qubits, the system is designed using the modular IBM Quantum System Two architecture, which is both scalable

●IBM to unveil a 4,000+ qubit quantum-centric supercomputer this year

●Amazon, Microsoft, Google debut next-gen chips focused on scalability and error correction

and upgradable. IBM CEO Arvind

Krishna described the project as "something remarkable" and emphasized its potential to drive the next wave of foundational computing technology. Meanwhile, competitors are not far behind. Amazon recently introduced its Ocelot chip, focused on solving long-standing challenges of error correction and scalability. Microsoft followed with its Majorana chip, and Google unveiled the Willow chip in late 2024. Nvidia also announced it is building a new quantum research lab in Boston, signaling that the broader tech ecosystem is taking quantum development seriously. Government involvement is accelerating as well. The U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) expanded its Quantum Benchmarking Initiative, tapping 18 companies to explore multiple methods of

creating qubits—ranging from superconducting to trapped ion approaches. Microsoft and PsiQuantum have already reached the final phase of DARPA's program, while IBM, IonQ, and Rigetti are newly onboard. But with progress comes peril. Experts warn that the same computing power that promises innovation could also compromise global cybersecurity. Encrypted data—whether financial records, government secrets, or blockchain technologies—could become vulnerable in a post-quantum world. Karl Holmqvist, CEO of quantum security firm Lastwall, cautioned that "anything internet-connected will likely have problems," and stressed the urgency of quantum-proof encryption. Despite the risks, industry momentum shows no signs of slowing. According to Boston Consulting

Group, the quantum sector attracted \$1.2 billion in venture capital in 2023, and could generate between \$450 billion and \$850 billion in global economic value by 2040. The estimated market size for hardware and software alone could reach up to \$170 billion. With salaries for quantum professionals now ranging from \$150,000 to over \$500,000, hiring managers are increasingly scouting for talent. Yaad Oren of SAP Labs emphasized the value of curiosity and adaptability in this evolving field. "We need experts," he noted, "but also change agents. Quantum is still being built from the ground up." As the field moves beyond scientific curiosity to industrial utility, 2025 may well mark the tipping point—where quantum computing steps out of the lab and into the real world.