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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Trump Doubles Down on Tariffs

Steel and aluminum levies jump to 50% amid global backlash

Alexandar Sullivan

President Donald Trump announced a dramatic escalation of trade policy on Friday, declaring that tariffs on imported steel and aluminum will double from 25% to 50%, effective this Wednesday. Speaking at a rally near U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works in Pittsburgh, Trump positioned the move as essential for securing America's industrial backbone. The announcement coincided with Trump's praise of a \$14 billion deal between U.S. Steel and Japan's Nippon Steel, which he characterized as a partnership to bolster American steel jobs—though the details of



Photo: Trump giving speech

Image Source: infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com

the agreement remain unclear. Critics say it mirrors a previously blocked acquisition due to national security

concerns. Trump argued the tariff hike would protect U.S. manufacturing and prevent foreign

dumping, but the announcement triggered swift backlash abroad. Canada's Chamber of Commerce denounced

the move as damaging to North American trade, while the European Union warned of possible retaliatory measures. Australia called the decision "unjustified." The U.S. is currently one of the largest global importers of steel, with over 26 million tons imported in 2024, according to the Department of Commerce. Analysts warn that increasing tariffs could drive up prices for American consumers and industries reliant on steel and aluminum. While Trump insisted the measure was about "protecting American jobs," critics argue it risks igniting another trade war—this time with key U.S. allies.

Elon Musk Bids Farewell

Leaves government role amid controversy

John Paul

Elon Musk officially stepped down on May 28, 2025, as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) after a controversial six-month tenure. His departure followed criticism of the One Big Beautiful Bill, which he called fiscally irresponsible. Despite backlash over his cost-cutting and controversies, President Donald Trump praised Musk, awarding him a golden key. Musk plans to return to Tesla and SpaceX, leaving open future advisory roles. DOGE's future remains uncertain.

NYC Mayoral Race Heats Up

Mamdani closes in on Cuomo as Adams pivots to independent run



resonated strongly with younger voters and progressive communities across the city. His rise reflects a broader shift within the Democratic base, especially in neighborhoods deeply affected by housing pressures and economic inequities.

HIGHLIGHT

● Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani rises to second place in recent NYC mayoral primary polls.



In contrast, Mayor Eric Adams, who was denied public matching funds over past campaign finance controversies, has pivoted toward an independent re-election bid. Adams' legal battles with the Campaign Finance Board, coupled with his declining approval ratings, have forced a reevaluation of his campaign strategy, including outreach to Republican and moderate Democratic voters. Other contenders, including City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, Comptroller Brad Lander, and former Comptroller Scott

Stringer, continue to poll in the single digits, making upcoming debates on June 4 and June 12 crucial for any breakthrough. Adding momentum to Mamdani's campaign is the recent endorsement from the Muslim Political Forum, a coalition of Muslim-led political

action committees, civic groups, and community leaders. At a public assembly held on May 29 at Diversity Plaza, the Forum emphasized Mamdani's alignment with community values and ranked him as their top choice for mayor. As the primary nears, Mamdani's growing

support is reshaping the race and challenging the dominance of more established political figures. With debates ahead and a fluid electorate, the next few weeks will be critical in determining the direction of New York City's political future.



Lily Anderson

As the June 24 Democratic primary for New York City's 2025 mayoral election approaches, the race

is rapidly tightening. Former Governor Andrew Cuomo maintains a lead with 35% in recent polls, but a surge in support for Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani, now polling at 23%, has added new urgency to the contest. Mamdani's progressive platform, which includes policies such as free public transit, rent freezes, and expanded tenant protections, has

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Staten Island Jewelry Store Robbed

NYN DESK

Police responded to a report of a robbery on New Dorp Lane Friday afternoon. Around 4:02 p.m. the NYPD received a call for a robbery on the 300 block of New Dorp Lane, according to a police spokesperson. At that time, two individuals entered the location and removed jewelry, the department spokesperson added. An NYPD spokesperson identified the robbed store as "Sunrise Jewelry."

No injuries were reported from the scene and no arrests were made as of 5:30 p.m., the NYPD noted. In the wake of the robbery, police were seen inside of Sunrise Fine Jewelry and visiting nearby businesses. Multiple NYPD vehicles and an ambulance were visible outside the store in the vicinity of New Dorp Lane and Clawson Street following the incident. Police searching for two suspects in violent midday robbery

Detectives from the NYPD are urging anyone with information about the suspects or the robbery to come forward as they continue to investigate. Officials have not released the name of the jewelry store or the identity of the injured employee.

No additional injuries were reported in the incident, and police said the robbers targeted a specific display before fleeing. Authorities are asking anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers or the local precinct. A 70-year-old woman was injured when two suspects violently robbed a Staten Island jewelry store in broad daylight.



1.1 Million Immigrants In Queens, NICE Calls For Policy Reform

Staff Reporter

For over 26 years, New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), a nonprofit based in Queens, has worked to improve the lives of immigrant workers across New York City. Founded in 1999 by residents of Jackson Heights, the organization emerged in response to rising anti-immigrant sentiment and has since become a steadfast resource for workforce development and advocacy. Queens is home to one of the largest and most diverse immigrant populations in New York City, with approximately 1.1 million foreign-born residents, making up nearly 48% of the borough's population.

From the 1800s through today, generations of immigrants have come to New York City seeking better opportunities. NICE supports this evolving community by offering resources that help individuals gain a foothold in the workforce, including English language instruction and access to occupational certifications such as OSHA and SST licenses. Despite their contributions, many immigrant workers continue to face legal uncertainty, particularly under the administration of President Donald J. Trump. Chief of Operations at NICE Hidayn Colon Hernandez criticized the "misconception" and "generalization" she believes the Trump administration holds about

immigrant communities. She recalled earlier waves of immigration to the U.S. involving Irish, Italian and Polish populations, and argued that newer immigrant communities deserve equal treatment and recognition. "A good example is Elon Musk," said Hernandez. "He's originally from South Africa—an immigrant himself—and he's built a company, Tesla, that's changing the world. I think this administration holds a narrow and negative view of what an immigrant is. But in reality, being an immigrant is something very positive." Hernandez said the administration has failed to clearly articulate its policies, leaving many immigrants uncertain about their legal standing.

Brooklyn Fire Kills One, Injures Another



Reporter

One man died and another was injured in a fire that tore through an apartment in Flatbush, Brooklyn. Exclusive video shows the tense moment neighbors say a man desperately tried to alert his roommate to a fire as smoke appears to creep over the door. The fire quickly

spread through a second-floor apartment on Lenox Road in Flatbush around 10 p.m. on Wednesday, leaving a trail of damage inside, and in the hallways, from charred walls to busted windows. A 50-year-old man was found dead in his apartment, and a 52-year-old man was taken to SUNY Downstate Hospital with minor burns to

his hands. "It's crazy you go inside, and inside on the second floor it was all dark, the whole apartment was burned down. You go on the third floor that was attacked as well. The fire department they had to go on the third floor as well and they had to blow out all of the windows"—a resident said. Officials say the cause of the fire appears to be electrical. Marlan Telfort told Eyewitness News that the fire spread to a third-floor apartment. "I think

two people were still in there. So, the fire department had to rescue them"—Telfort said. Residents who evacuated were eventually allowed back into their homes. Some of them say their apartments had minor smoke damage. The Red Cross said, it's assisting 15 residents, including four children. Workers spent much of the morning cleaning up the debris. Residents say they are still shaken up after the tragedy.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGRIB	ISHA
03:49	12:54	04:53	08:22	09:59
03:49	12:54	04:53	08:23	10:00
03:48	12:54	04:54	08:23	10:01
03:47	12:54	04:54	08:24	10:02
03:47	12:55	04:54	08:25	10:03
03:46	12:55	04:54	08:25	10:04
03:46	12:55	04:55	08:26	10:05

Number 20

Rally in Manhattan For Release Student Detained By ICE

By ICE

NYN DESK

Elected officials and immigration advocates held a rally Thursday evening, May 29, on the steps of Tweed Courthouse in Manhattan, calling for the release of Dylan Lopez Contreras, a 20-year-old Bronx student currently being held in ICE custody. Attendees at the 6 p.m. rally included U.S. Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, City Council Members Alexa Avilés, Carmen De La Rosa and Gale Brewer, Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, along with representatives from the New York Immigration Coalition. Originally from Venezuela, Contreras attends Ellis Prep High School in the Bronx, where he is learning English in a program designed for older students. He was detained on May 21 after attending a mandatory immigration hearing at a Lower Manhattan courthouse. It is not currently clear where he is being held. The Department of Homeland Security claims Contreras entered the country illegally in April 2024.



"Dylan Josue Lopez Contreras is an illegal alien from Venezuela who illegally entered the U.S. more than one year ago. Under the Biden administration, he was encountered at the border and RELEASED into the country," said Homeland Security in a statement on X (formerly Twitter). "On May 21, 2025, Contreras was arrested and placed in expedited removal proceedings. Most aliens who illegally entered the United States within the past two years are subject to expedited removals. Biden ignored the law and chose to release millions of illegal aliens, including violent criminals, into the country with a notice to appear before an immigration judge. ICE is now following the law and placing these illegal aliens in expedited removal, as they always should have been." Supporters dispute that claim, saying Contreras entered through a legal channel and had complied with all immigration requirements. "Dylan filed the paperwork to be granted asylum.

OPINION

Qurbani – A Tradition of Sacrifice

Dr. Yassir Mamadou

“Qurbani is not just about the physical act of slaughtering an animal—it’s a reflection of sincerity, piety, and gratitude to Allah.”

that even the less fortunate can celebrate Eid with joy and

dignity. Qurbani is not just about the physical act of slaughtering an animal—it’s a reflection of sincerity, piety, and gratitude to Allah. It teaches Muslims to share their blessings and remain humble before their Creator. In today’s world, many also choose to donate their Qurbani through trusted organizations, extending its

impact globally—especially in regions affected by poverty and conflict. By fulfilling this important sunnah, Muslims strengthen their connection with Allah and uphold a powerful legacy of faith, charity, and compassion.
Dr. Yassir Mamadou
Islamic Scholar & Community Educator

Qurbani, also known as Udhiya, is the sacred act of sacrificing an animal during Eid al-Adha, commemorating Prophet Ibrahim’s (AS) unwavering devotion to Allah. This annual ritual honors the moment when Allah replaced Ibrahim’s son with a ram, symbolizing obedience, submission, and

the essence of sacrifice in Islam. Muslims around the world perform Qurbani after the Eid prayer on the 10th, 11th, or 12th of Dhul Hijjah. Eligible animals include goats, sheep, cows, or camels, and the meat is distributed in three parts: one-third for the family, one-third for relatives and friends, and one-third for the poor and needy. This ensures

NYC’s Mayoral Election Matters for Muslim Voters

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



“Muslim voters are not just participants, but potential power brokers in shaping the city’s future.”

Nonetheless, Mamdani’s rise marks a notable moment in NYC politics: a Muslim candidate unapologetically speaking on global justice issues while centering local needs. The implications of this election for Muslims in New York are profound. A Mamdani victory could usher in a new era of representation, opening doors for policies that address long-standing concerns about discrimination, affordability, and civic inclusion. A loss, on the other hand, might reinforce the barriers that have historically hindered Muslim political empowerment. With the Democratic primary set for June 24, the call to action is clear. Muslim New Yorkers

must seize this moment—not just to cast votes but to assert their role as engaged, informed citizens. Supporting candidates who reflect their values and lived experiences is not just political—it’s a matter of principle and progress. As we approach the ballot box, let us remember: civic participation is not only a right—it is a responsibility.

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah
Founder, Save the People USA
Director, Elhaam Academy | Peace Center | Interfaith Center of USA
Community Leader and Advocate for Interfaith Understanding

As the 2025 New York City mayoral race heats up, it becomes increasingly clear that this election represents a defining moment for the city’s Muslim community. With Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani—an openly Muslim, Ugandan-born democratic socialist—emerging as a serious contender. Muslim voters are not just participants, but potential power brokers in shaping the city’s future. Mamdani’s campaign offers a bold vision that resonates deeply with many Muslims and other marginalized populations. From his proposals for rent freezes and fare-free

public transit to his stance on economic justice, his platform seeks to ease the financial strain on working-class New Yorkers. For communities that often find themselves at the intersection of economic hardship and underrepresentation, these policy ideas are more than political rhetoric—they’re a lifeline. His unwavering support for Palestinian rights and outspoken criticism of Israeli policies have earned him praise from segments of the Muslim population while also generating controversy. This divide is a reminder of the diversity of thought within the Muslim community itself—diverse in heritage, opinion, and political priorities.

Teaching of Hajj

Dr. Md. Ebrahim Khalil



send Zakat and other aid to poor countries. Rich countries can give priority to poor Muslim countries in hiring workers. The Hajj journey is difficult and expensive. During this journey, a person stays away from his family for many days. He stays away from his financial income. He stays away from everything and stays only with Allah. He stays near the House of Allah. Greed and desire are removed from his heart. He learns to be patient. He learns to spend. He is freed from

stinginess. Thus, his heart becomes generous and pure. Hajj teaches us to live together. It makes us pay attention to each other. We learn to prioritize each other. Wearing the same clothes and doing the same things makes us feel like we belong to each other. Love grows among all. If these teachings of Hajj are accepted, Hajj becomes successful. The purpose of Hajj is fulfilled. Otherwise, Hajj becomes a mere formality.
Dr. Md. Ebrahim Khalil

In Islam, Hajj is a combination of a person’s spiritual, financial, and physical worship. Through it, Allah Almighty teaches several important lessons. Hajj is not just a formal act of worship. It is not just about putting on Ihram, performing Tawaf, staying at the plain of Arafah, walking (sa’ee) between the hills of Safa and Marwa, or sacrificing in Mina. In addition to all these formalities, Hajj has some important lessons. For example,

Hajj teaches Muslims from all over the world to work together. In this, we can see the true form of the universal brotherhood of Islam. During Hajj, Muslims from different countries can discuss their problems. They can find ways to solve the problems together. Hajj teaches Muslims to increase inter-trade and financial cooperation. For example, during this time, one country can learn about the financial situation of another country. Rich countries can

A Call for Environmental Action

Amira Khan

The environment is the foundation of all life on Earth, yet it continues to face unprecedented threats from human activity. Climate change, pollution, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity are not distant problems—they affect our air, water, food security, and health today. It is imperative that we, as global citizens, take responsibility for preserving and restoring the

natural world. The consequences of environmental degradation are already evident. Rising global temperatures contribute to more extreme weather events—hurricanes, droughts, and floods—that disrupt communities and economies. Plastic pollution chokes oceans, harming marine life and entering the food chain. Forests, often called the “lungs of the

planet,” are being destroyed at alarming rates, impacting carbon absorption and accelerating climate change. Addressing these issues requires urgent and collective action. Governments must implement stronger environmental policies that promote renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and conservation. Businesses need to adopt eco-friendly

practices, reducing waste and emissions. Equally important, individuals must embrace sustainable lifestyles—reducing plastic use, conserving water, supporting green products, and raising awareness. Protecting the environment is not just an ecological imperative; it is a moral one. It involves safeguarding the planet for future generations and ensuring

justice for communities disproportionately affected by environmental harm. Our shared future depends on the choices we make today. Let us commit to environmental stewardship with urgency and dedication—because there is no planet B.
Amira Khan
Environmental Science Student

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

BAAG and CAIR-NY Amplify Muslim Voices in Albany

Joint legislative advocacy tackles discrimination, education equity, and religious freedom



Emily Parker

In a powerful show of civic engagement and unity, over one million Muslim New Yorkers were represented at the New York State Capitol on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, during Muslim Legislative Advocacy Day, hosted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations of New York (CAIR-NY) and the Bangladeshi American Advocacy Group (BAAG). Gathering at the iconic Million Dollar Staircase at noon, organizers, advocates, and community leaders

delivered a strong call to action for inclusive policies, religious recognition, and civil rights protections. The press conference, a central feature of the day's programming, highlighted pressing legislative issues affecting Muslim communities statewide. From securing public school holiday recognition for Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, to defending the First Amendment rights of students on college campuses, the comprehensive agenda presented by CAIR-NY

and BAAG reflected both urgent needs and long-standing inequities. "CAIR-NY is glad to partner with BAAG to advocate for Muslim New Yorkers in our State Capitol," said Afaf Nasher, Esq., Executive Director of CAIR-NY. "There are over one million Muslims serving and uplifting New York State. It is imperative that their voices are heard within the chambers of those who promise to serve them." One of the day's key demands centered around Senate Bill S7805 and Assembly

Bill A2598A, which seek to officially establish Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as statewide public school holidays. Advocates emphasized that unlike other major religious observances such as Christmas and Rosh Hashanah, Muslim holidays are not uniformly recognized, forcing families and students to choose between education and faith. The proposed amendments to the bills aim to ensure coverage extends to SUNY and CUNY campuses, as well as smaller municipalities

Campus Bill (S7536/A3942), designed to protect students' constitutional rights across higher education institutions. In light of increasing censorship and disciplinary actions against student-led protests, the bill proposes a legal mechanism to challenge such infringements. Citing past campus activism for civil rights and global justice, organizers underscored the importance of preserving college spaces as forums for civic dialogue. Advocates also pushed for the passage of the Muslim American Advisory Council Bill (S4219/A4435), which would establish a formal state advisory council to ensure Muslim representation in legislative processes. This initiative, they argued, would align New York with other states that have similar bodies for Jewish and Christian communities, thereby promoting equity and responsiveness in public policymaking. Issues of economic fairness also took center stage. The Banking Bill of Rights (S1161/A1022) was spotlighted

for its potential to protect Muslim and immigrant consumers from unjust account closures and financial discrimination—an issue disproportionately impacting minority-run businesses and nonprofits. Other legislative priorities included the Dignity Not Detention Act, protections against religious discrimination in schools, and diversity-focused educational policies such as the Public Education Racial Equity and Diversity Act and the School DEI Bill. Each proposal was carefully selected to reflect the lived realities of Muslim New Yorkers and their intersecting identities. The event served as both a strategic political intervention and a community-building moment, with CAIR-NY and BAAG reinforcing the role of organized civic advocacy in driving systemic change. With lawmakers listening and allies mobilizing, this day, marked a significant milestone in the ongoing effort to ensure that New York lives up to its promise of inclusivity, dignity, and democratic representation for all.



that currently fall outside the threshold. Another major priority was the Free Speech on



EDUCATION

Building Bonds Beyond Classrooms

Elhaam Academy Hosts Inclusive Park Event Despite Rain

Jessica Morgan

Despite the steady rainfall, students from Elhaam Academy turned a cloudy day at Cunningham Park into a vibrant celebration of community, connection, and joy. The public field trip brought together children, educators, and families in a spirited outdoor event that defied the weather and embraced unity. Children raced across the damp grass with laughter, shared snacks under umbrellas, and played with determination as if the sun had never left. What made the event even more impactful was its inclusive spirit and the collective effort behind its success. The trip was made possible through the collaboration of



multiple supporters. The Council of Peoples Organization (COP) generously sponsored transportation, ensuring students could travel safely and comfortably. The Zakat Foundation provided delightful

goodie bags for the children, bringing smiles to young faces with thoughtful treats and gifts. Most notably, the event was held in partnership with the New York City Office for the Prevention of

Hate Crimes, Save The People USA, and other community advocates whose continued commitment to fostering cross-community understanding added a powerful dimension to the day's purpose.

Though originally planned as a field day for enjoyment, the event served as a platform for something deeper: a reminder that inclusion, resilience, and shared public space are essential for healthy communities. Children from diverse backgrounds played and learned together, unburdened by the divisions that often shape the adult world. Educators from Elhaam Academy emphasized how events like this help

reinforce classroom teachings on empathy, kindness, and civic responsibility. "When students see people coming together like this, even in the rain, it teaches them more than any textbook ever could," one staff member noted. Parents and volunteers also helped foster a sense of warmth and collaboration. The event became more than a school trip—it became a celebration of what's possible when communities come together for the good of their children. By day's end, soggy shoes and muddy clothes told the story of a day well spent. Beneath the clouds, Elhaam Academy and its partners proved that joy, inclusion, and unity can thrive—even in the rain.



FAITH

A Borough of Many Beliefs

Harlem Gathering Unites Diverse Faith Voices and City Agencies



William Harris

In a vibrant display of civic unity and interfaith engagement, Harlem welcomed the Faith in Your Borough Multifaith Tour on Thursday, May 29, 2025, bringing together a diverse assembly



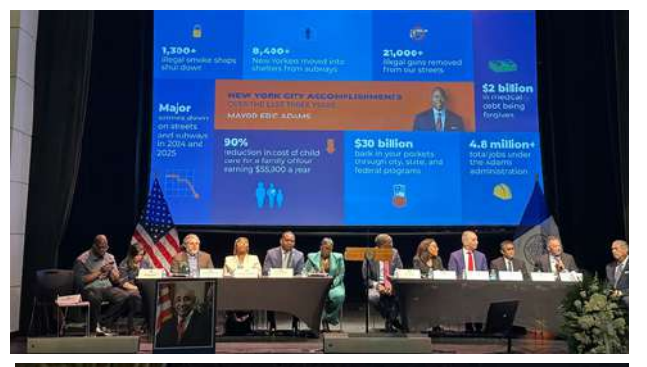
of religious leaders, community advocates, and city officials. The event, held at the Schomburg Center

for Research in Black Culture, underscored Harlem's historical significance and ongoing contributions to New

York City's spiritual and cultural life. The initiative, led by the NYC Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, is part of a borough-wide effort to build stronger ties between religious communities and city government. With participation from various congregations—Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and interfaith—attendees gathered to discuss pressing neighborhood challenges and collaborate on solutions with agency representatives. Discussions ranged from housing affordability and youth development to public health and religious inclusion. Community members shared insights from the ground level, while city officials responded with updates on programs, services, and ways to improve access and equity. The format

provided a unique space for honest dialogue and constructive problem-solving. The event, moderated by Pastor Gilford T. Monroe, Faith Advisor and Executive Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, facilitated conversations designed to ensure that each voice was heard. There was a collective emphasis on listening and working collaboratively, with faith leaders expressing their continued commitment to serving as liaisons between their communities and public institutions. Mayor Eric Adams, alongside senior leadership from his administration, was present to show support for this initiative and engage directly with attendees. His presence further affirmed the city's intention to recognize

houses of worship not only as spiritual centers but also as civic partners. The Harlem gathering stood out for its sense of solidarity and mutual respect. Rather than focusing solely on differences, participants highlighted shared values and common goals, creating a hopeful tone for future collaboration. As the program concluded, attendees left with new contacts, follow-up plans, and a reinforced belief in the power of interfaith cooperation. Many noted that such events go beyond dialogue—they build momentum for tangible change. In Harlem, where faith and resilience have long walked hand in hand, the message of the day was clear: community engagement rooted in shared humanity remains one of the city's most powerful tools.



EMPOWERMENT

Pride and Progress at NYPD

Bangladeshi-American officers honored in promotion ceremony

James Anderson

In a momentous celebration of professional achievement and cultural pride, five Bangladeshi-American members of the New York Police Department (NYPD) were promoted during a formal ceremony held at the department's headquarters on Friday morning, May 30, 2025. The event, attended by department officials, community leaders, and proud family members, marked a significant milestone for both the officers and the larger Bangladeshi-American community in New York City. Presided over by NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch, the ceremony honored the accomplishments of officers who have served with distinction and dedication. Among those recognized were Murad Ahmed, the Event Coordinator of the



Bangladeshi American Police Association (BAPA), and Mohammad Ahmed, both of whom were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Also receiving honors were MD Ali, a trustee of BAPA, and Mohammad Soheb, who were elevated to the rank of Sergeant. Mainul Hasan was promoted to Detective Specialist, further strengthening the representation of

Bangladeshi-Americans within the ranks of the NYPD.



The promotions sparked widespread excitement and pride throughout the community. Leadership from the Bangladeshi American Police Association, including President Sergeant Detective Squad Ershadur Siddique, Vice President Captain AKM Alam, and Secretary Detective Rasekur Malik, offered their congratulations and praised the

achievements as a collective milestone. "This recognition uplifts not just the individuals being honored but all of us who are striving for excellence in public service," said BAPA leadership in a joint message. "Their success will serve as an inspiring example for the next generation." The event also drew participation from professionals and

community members across various sectors, further underscoring the unity and shared pride within the Bangladeshi diaspora. The ceremony at NYPD Headquarters stood not only as a recognition of individual service but also as a symbol of progress in diversity and inclusion within the city's law enforcement. For a community that has long contributed to New York's cultural and civic fabric, the promotions represented more than personal milestones—they were a celebration of identity, commitment, and upward mobility. As the newly promoted officers stepped forward to receive their certificates, the joy in the room was palpable—a powerful reminder that representation matters and that dedication to service is a value shared across cultures and generations.



Support Builds for Justin Brannan

Queens fundraiser unites Bangladeshi leaders behind Democratic hopeful

Carlos Jones

In a strong show of civic engagement and political support, members of the Bangladeshi community in Queens gathered on Friday, for a fundraiser in support of Democrat Justin Brannan, who is campaigning for the role of New York City Comptroller. The event, highlighted the growing influence of immigrant communities in shaping the city's political future. Organized by a coalition of Bangladeshi-

American leaders and supporters, the evening served as both a fundraiser and a platform to elevate voices from the community. Attendees contributed at various levels, ranging from \$50 to \$2,100, with the first \$250 donated by New York City residents eligible to be matched 8-to-1, as advertised by the campaign. The organizing team included respected figures such as Shah Nawaz, ABM Osman Ghani, Nayeem

Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Aftab Mannan, Ahsan Habib, Rezaul Karim Choudhury, Bilal Chowdhury, Rabby Syed, Nurul Azim, Akhter Rahman Tipu, AFM Zaman, Muhammad Shahidullah, Aminul Islam Chunnu, Zulker Hayder, Mohammad Kamrul Islam Sony, J Mollah Sanni, Rezu Mohammad, Anayet Monshi, Nowshad Haider, Rimi Bhuiyan, and Mohammed Fakrul Islam Delwar. With a diverse turnout of

local residents and community advocates, the event marked a pivotal moment for the Bangladeshi-American community's political involvement. Participants expressed their enthusiasm about supporting a candidate they believe aligns with their values and priorities, particularly around issues of financial transparency, equity, and citywide resource management. Brannan's campaign for Comptroller—the city's chief financial

officer—has emphasized accountability and reform. As an established figure in New York politics, Brannan has positioned himself as a candidate focused on fiscal responsibility while promoting social equity. The fundraiser served as more than a financial effort—it was a demonstration of solidarity and a reflection of the community's rising civic voice. The organizers underscored their

belief that increased political participation is essential to ensuring representation and responsiveness from city government. As the election season advances, events like these not only support candidates financially but also help cultivate lasting relationships between public servants and immigrant communities who are increasingly shaping the future of New York politics.



HEALTH

Fighting Diabetes Together

Community workshop empowers Bronx residents with knowledge and resources



Ashley Reed

Bronx families gathered for an afternoon of wellness, education, and empowerment at the "Knowledge is Power: Diabetes Education Workshop" hosted by Healthfirst on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Held at the Saint Barnabas Hospital Health & Wellness Center, the



event attracted a diverse group of residents seeking information and resources to help manage or prevent diabetes. Attendees began arriving around 11:30 a.m. for check-in,

greeted by community health leaders and staff from both Healthfirst and Saint Barnabas. The program officially kicked off at noon, beginning with opening remarks that welcomed guests to a shared learning space

focused on health equity and culturally responsive care. One of the most anticipated segments of the workshop was the Healthy Eating Demonstration, where local health professionals showcased affordable, diabetes-friendly meals using ingredients familiar to many in the community. Recipes emphasized flavor without compromising blood sugar control, and participants received tips on meal planning and shopping strategies. The event also featured a "Move for Health" session, offering light physical activity designed for all fitness levels. Participants were encouraged to stay active in simple ways, reinforcing the importance of daily movement in diabetes management and prevention. A key educational highlight was the At-Home A1C Demo, where

experts demonstrated how individuals can monitor their blood sugar levels with confidence and accuracy using accessible at-home tools. Informational pamphlets, product samples, and guidance on next steps were made available for anyone seeking further assistance. Throughout the event, guests had the chance to speak with medical professionals and wellness advocates to ask questions and connect with additional resources. From insurance inquiries to dietary concerns, every attendee left with a clearer understanding of how to manage their health or support a loved one with diabetes. The event was especially impactful for caregivers and older adults, many of whom noted how the interactive approach made complex health information

more digestible. For others, the hands-on demonstrations and inclusive activities served as a motivational boost. By the end of the workshop, participants expressed appreciation for the tools, tips, and community support they received. For Healthfirst, the day served as another step forward in its mission to make preventive care accessible and culturally relevant to every New Yorker. As chronic illnesses like diabetes continue to affect thousands across the city, events like these underscore the importance of education, outreach, and community-driven solutions. Through workshops like "Knowledge is Power," Healthfirst continues to invest in the health literacy and long-term wellness of neighborhoods like the Bronx.



TECHNOLOGY

Digital Solutions, Global Vision

WUST leads virtual hackathon for sustainable tech

Christopher Scott

More than 200 tech innovators from around the world came together on May 25, not in a physical room, but across digital borders, to spark meaningful change. Hosted by the Washington University of Science and Technology (WUST), the Washington Hackathon 2025 brought to life a two-day, fully virtual competition under the theme “Innovate, Code, Transform.”

The event, conducted entirely online, transcended geographies, uniting students, professionals, and entrepreneurs to build transformative digital solutions to some of the world’s most urgent challenges. From AI-powered disaster response to mental health platforms and smart healthcare wearables, participants coded with purpose—turning laptops into launchpads for progress. WUST’s leadership emphasized that this hackathon was not just a competition but a catalyst for global impact. Engr. Abubokor



Hanip, Chairman and Chancellor of WUST, opened the event by reaffirming the university’s commitment to technological leadership and inclusive innovation. “This hackathon embodies everything we stand for—creativity, collaboration, and a commitment to making the world a better place through technology,” he noted. Dr. Hasan Karaburk, President of WUST, echoed that message. “Here we see a glimpse of a better tomorrow, built by the hands of those who dare to dream differently,” he said, underscoring the role of hackathons in driving vision and action. The opening session, moderated by Professor Mahmood Menon Khan,



Washington University of Science and Technology

included an overview of the program presented by Dr. Sandeep Kumar of Christ University in India, setting the tone for two days of innovation. Despite the digital format, the energy was palpable. Teams formed virtually across time zones, supported by a panel of over 60 judges and mentors. Among them were notable figures such as Prof. Mohammad Shorif Uddin and Dr. Amalisha Sabie-Aridi, who guided teams on both technical execution and real-world application. “Hackathons like this are incubators of imagination,” said



Professor Dr. Touhid Bhuiyan, the event’s lead organizer. “We witnessed technology’s potential not just as a tool, but as a force for good.” Participants explored domains such as healthcare, urban intelligence, education, and environmental sustainability. “Every submission reflected a serious commitment to innovation. It wasn’t just about building something cool—it was about building something that matters,” one judge remarked. Winning projects captured the spirit of the event. Med Bot,

which integrates AI and robotics for disaster management, was recognized as a top innovation for its life-saving potential in emergency scenarios. CareBridge, a smart healthcare platform, and MindHaven, a digital mental wellness hub, were also among the top winners. NextGen Neural impressed judges with its AI-integrated wearable for real-time health monitoring. First runners-up included MediNova AI, DiagnoSmart AI, and PrioritiZen, each offering breakthroughs in diagnostics, health analytics, and productivity enhancement. Second runners-up—EduNova, FactWise, and FioriNext—delivered

impactful tools for immersive learning, AI-driven governance, and enterprise UX. More than a showcase of talent, the Washington Hackathon 2025 was a testament to collaboration, resilience, and the will to create change. In just 48 hours, participants ideated, designed, coded, and pitched working prototypes that tackled real-world issues. What lingered after the closing session was not just applause, but momentum. “This was more than a moment—it’s a movement,” said one mentor. “What we witnessed here was a snapshot of the future.” For WUST, the hackathon cemented its role as a hub for global innovation and tech-driven problem-solving. From Alexandria, Virginia, to across the world, the message was clear: ideas know no borders—and neither does impact. As the final screens went dark, the seeds planted during the Washington Hackathon 2025 began their journey toward becoming tomorrow’s solutions.



Hackathons: Where Innovation Meets Impact

Why coding competitions are shaping the next generation of changemakers

Sarah Williams

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement and mounting global challenges, hackathons have emerged as powerful catalysts for innovation, learning, and social impact. Far from being mere coding competitions, these time-bound events are creative sprints where young minds converge to build solutions that can change lives. Events like the recent Washington Hackathon 2025, hosted virtually by the Washington University of Science and Technology (WUST), exemplify the growing significance

of these gatherings. With more than 200 participants from around the world, the event showed how geography no longer limits collaboration. Teams tackled pressing issues—from disaster response and mental health to AI-driven healthcare—proving that a laptop and an internet connection are now enough to launch impactful innovations. At their core, hackathons are immersive learning environments. Participants—whether students, early-career professionals, or entrepreneurs—develop real-world skills in coding, design thinking, project management,

HIGHLIGHT

Hackathons are not just contests—they are platforms for practical learning, creativity, and global collaboration.

Events like the Washington Hackathon 2025 bring together diverse participants to solve real-world problems.

and public speaking. Under pressure and tight deadlines, they not only build functional prototypes but also learn the value of teamwork, leadership, and

resilience. As Engr. Abubokor Hanip, Chancellor of WUST, noted during the hackathon’s opening, such events represent “a commitment to making the world a better place through technology.” These are not empty words. Projects like Med Bot, which uses AI and robotics for disaster relief, and MindHaven, a digital mental wellness platform, are tangible examples of what is possible when technology meets empathy. Hackathons also democratize innovation. They provide an equal platform where talent, not background,

determines success. Participants from diverse cultures, disciplines, and economic backgrounds bring their unique perspectives to the table. In doing so, they not only enrich each other’s thinking but also generate more holistic and inclusive solutions. Perhaps most importantly, hackathons cultivate a sense of purpose among youth. In addressing global challenges, participants learn that technology is not just about apps and algorithms—it’s a tool for change. They come away inspired, empowered, and often committed to continuing their work beyond the

event. As society increasingly looks to technology for solutions, the importance of hackathons will only grow. They are training grounds for tomorrow’s innovators, incubators for ideas with world-changing potential, and, above all, reminders that collaboration and creativity can transcend borders. In the words of one mentor from the Washington Hackathon: “This wasn’t just about coding—it was about believing you can make a difference.” And that belief is exactly what the future needs.

YOUTH

Future Leaders Gather at Retreat

Youth explore leadership, identity, and community impact at Darul Uloom NY

Patt Cummins

Under open skies and surrounded by nature, the STPUSA-DUNY Future Leadership Retreat 2025 unfolded as a powerful three-day experience where Muslim youth stepped away from their daily routines to reflect, learn, and build. Organized by Save the People USA (STPUSA) in collaboration with Darul Uloom NY and the New York City Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, the retreat invited dozens of participants to an outdoor setting designed to foster leadership, personal growth, and civic awareness. The retreat combined the structure of workshops with the freedom of the outdoors. Youth camped together, participated in team-building challenges, and joined group discussions that explored pressing



topics affecting their communities. The informal, unplugged setting allowed attendees to engage with one another authentically—without digital distractions—and helped build strong bonds among emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds. Central to the retreat's programming were conversations around youth identity, leadership

development, and the role of young Muslims in fostering change. In guided sessions, participants tackled issues ranging from hate crimes and discrimination to mental health, civic responsibility, and community service. These discussions were not only informative but empowering, offering students a platform to express concerns



and propose ideas for tangible action. Organizers from STPUSA and Darul Uloom NY emphasized the importance of nurturing young voices

and preparing them to become advocates, organizers, and bridge-builders in today's social climate. With guidance from mentors and facilitators, the youth were encouraged to think critically about the role they can play in countering division and uplifting their communities. Representatives from the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes joined the retreat to offer institutional perspective, encouraging dialogue about how policy and grassroots efforts can align. Their presence underscored the city's ongoing efforts to involve youth in long-term solutions to social inequity. But the retreat wasn't only about serious conversations. The weekend also featured fun activities like swimming, storytelling circles, campfire reflections,

and recreational time—giving participants a chance to unwind, share laughs, and strengthen the sense of community so vital to the retreat's mission. By the end of the weekend, participants left energized and equipped with new perspectives, skills, and a deepened commitment to leadership and service. Many remarked on the unique impact of stepping outside the classroom or lecture hall to explore complex issues in an open, natural space. The STPUSA-DUNY Future Leadership Retreat 2025 reinforced the power of youth engagement and the need to invest in future leaders now. As communities navigate an increasingly complex world, events like these offer a hopeful reminder: the next generation is ready—not just to participate, but to lead.





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ELECTION

Voices United in Action

Muslim voters energize NYC election season

Fredrick John

A powerful wave of political unity swept through Jackson Heights, Queens, on May 29, 2025, as Muslim-American leaders and community members gathered at Diversity Plaza for a rally titled “Empowering Muslims: Our Choice for New York City Election.” With elections looming on June 24, organizers stressed the importance of Muslim voter engagement, especially in a city where Muslims make up roughly 12% of the electorate. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, more than twenty Muslim-American organizers and speakers took the stage, collectively endorsing key candidates running in the upcoming Democratic primaries. At the center of attention were Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani, running for Mayor of New York City, and Jumaane Williams, seeking re-election as Public Advocate—both of whom addressed the enthusiastic crowd and received loud applause. Mamdani, a familiar figure in immigrant and working-class communities, has seen rising support across boroughs. Several recent polls have shown his candidacy gaining momentum, with South Asian and Muslim-American voters viewed as potentially decisive in a crowded race. The event was coordinated by a coalition of organizations including Rise Up



NYC, Muslim Vote Project, Muslim Action Coalition (MAC), Muslim Community Forum (MCF), MUNA APJ Action, Bangladeshi American Advocacy Group (BAAG), and Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society. One of the event’s prominent organizers, Juhaib Choudhury, President and Founder of the Muslim Community Forum, played a key role in uniting major Muslim organizations toward a unified political endorsement. The program was smoothly emceed by Khalid Alamari. Collectively, these groups called on Muslim voters to mobilize around candidates who reflect their values and advocate for community rights, safety, and representation. Among the featured speakers were Abu Samihah Sirajul Islam,

representative of MUNA APJ Action; Ammar Elahi, Executive Director of Muslim Action Coalition; Shabbir Ahmed of the Muslims Vote Project; and Joynal Abedin, President of the Bangladesh American Advocacy

intersections of race, faith, and education. Tariqur Rahman, activist and community leader, and Fakrul Islam Delwar, Founder and President of the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, both urged the community to seize this electoral moment. Gias Ahmed, President of the Jackson Heights Bangladeshi Business Association, and Shah Nawaz, Chairperson of the Bangladesh Society’s Board of

Trustees, emphasized that this election marks a pivotal moment for Muslim New Yorkers. Additional speakers included Kazi Azam, President of the Bangladesh American Friends Society; Abdul Salaam Mubarez, President of the Yemeni American Advocacy Group; Sheikh Yassine Toufik, Vice President of Media Outreach for the Muslim Community Forum; Badrun Khan Mita of the Jalalabad Association; Mahmudul Hassan of MUNA APJ; Shamsul Haque, Founding President of both Rise Up NY and the Bangladeshi American Police Association; and Dr. Abdul Zandani, former retired executive at the Board of Education. Many speakers also urged immediate action on voter registration. “If you’re a citizen but haven’t registered,

there’s still time,” one speaker reminded. “Early voting is a powerful tool—use it.” Participants were encouraged to spread the word and mobilize their networks to participate in the democratic process. A highlight of the event was the collective acknowledgment of past community victories, such as public school holidays for Eid, the provision of halal meals, and the approval of Friday mosque calls to prayer over loudspeakers. These achievements, several speakers noted, were made possible by sustained advocacy and must be built upon by electing officials who understand and prioritize the needs of Muslim Americans. Zainal Abedin, President of BAAG, emphasized that supporting tested leaders like Mamdani would solidify the Muslim community’s standing in one of the most influential cities in the world. As the event concluded, attendees left with a clear message: unity is power. With ballots set to be cast in a matter of weeks, organizers promised to continue the momentum through outreach, education, and voter mobilization across boroughs. For New York City’s Muslim-American community, the rally was more than a political endorsement—it was a reaffirmation of identity, agency, and shared purpose.



Group (BAAG). Sabriyah Hassan-Ismail, a Black American Muslim educator and social justice advocate from Brooklyn, delivered a passionate address highlighting the



PEACE

Walking for Peace

Save the People USA and HWPL Unite for Global Harmony



Nicolas Jackson

A powerful message of global unity and grassroots compassion echoed through the halls of the UN Church Center Chapel on May 28, 2025, during the 12th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace and Peace Walk. Organized by HWPL and supported by Save the People USA, the

event brought together interfaith leaders, peace advocates, and humanitarian organizations committed to building bridges of understanding across cultures and communities. This year's commemoration held special significance, as it underscored the importance of everyday acts of compassion in a world grappling with

conflict and division. As part of its partnership with HWPL, Save the People USA participated in the event to amplify the message that peace is not just a global goal but a daily practice rooted in kindness and service. Representing Save the People USA, Office Manager Fatima Niass offered reflections on how the organization's ongoing humanitarian

efforts foster hope and dignity. She spoke of the transformative power of small gestures—such as a meal delivered to a struggling family or the presence of a caring volunteer during times of crisis. Stories from the organization's food distribution initiatives were shared as tangible examples of how peace is nurtured through compassion. The organization's presence at this international gathering was a reaffirmation of its broader mission: to uplift vulnerable communities and promote harmony through inclusive outreach. With a focus on marginalized groups and interfaith collaboration, Save the People USA continues to strengthen bonds that transcend religious and cultural divides. Under the visionary leadership of CEO Muhammad Shahidullah, Save the People USA

has grown into a trusted voice in advocacy and community development. The group's participation in the annual HWPL peace walk exemplifies its deep-rooted belief that sustainable peace starts with active listening, empathy, and collaboration at every level—local, national, and global. The event at the UN Church Center drew participants from various backgrounds, each contributing to a shared vision of coexistence. Through speeches, symbolic gestures, and community storytelling, the atmosphere resonated with a spirit of solidarity and renewal. While the occasion honored the legacy of past peace declarations, it also served as a platform for reinforcing the need for continued action and moral courage in today's world.

Involvement in the event is part of a broader series of partnerships Save the People USA has developed to create long-term impact. From education programs to emergency response, the organization has consistently prioritized community well-being with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and justice. By supporting the peace walk and engaging in shared dialogue, Save the People USA not only highlighted its work on the ground but also aligned itself with global networks striving for sustainable, people-centered peace. As the event came to a close, one sentiment was clear: building a peaceful future depends on those willing to serve today. For Save the People USA, that service continues—with compassion as the foundation and unity as the goal.





Eid al-Adha Approaches Nationwide

U.S. Muslims prepare for a sacred celebration

Tawhid Ahmed

Muslim communities across the United States are preparing to observe Eid al-Adha on Friday, June 6, 2025, one of the holiest days in the Islamic calendar. Known as the Festival of Sacrifice, Eid al-Adha honors the devotion of Prophet Ibrahim and marks the culmination of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. From New York City to Los Angeles, mosques, Islamic centers, and local organizations are coordinating congregational prayers, communal meals, and acts of charity. The occasion holds deep spiritual significance, calling Muslims to reflect on faith, renew their commitment to compassion, and extend help to those in need. In New York City, where large crowds are expected, open-air prayer spaces and mosque gatherings are being planned throughout the five



Photo: Eid Salat

Image Source: DC News Now

boroughs. Community leaders have urged participants to prepare for weather challenges, as thunderstorms are forecast with a high of 84°F. Despite the weather, the city's Muslim population remains committed to celebrating in unity and peace. On the West Coast, Los Angeles will see clear skies and 76°F temperatures, ideal for outdoor events. Families are organizing park

picnics and charitable drives, continuing a long-standing tradition of open celebration and generosity. In the Midwest, Chicago is expected to enjoy sunny conditions with a high of 66°F, which organizers say will contribute to high turnout at local prayer gatherings and Eid festivals. The city's diverse Muslim population is planning neighborhood-based celebrations to accommodate different

cultural traditions within the faith. Houston faces a humid 89°F day with possible thunderstorms, but community centers are moving forward with prayers and meat distribution programs, a core component of Eid al-Adha's observance. The emphasis on sacrifice and service remains central, with special outreach efforts aimed at supporting low-income families. Meanwhile, in Dearborn,

Michigan, where one of the country's largest Muslim populations resides, preparations are in full swing. With sunny weather and a high of 70°F predicted, local mosques and cultural organizations are anticipating strong attendance at prayer services and family gatherings. Eid al-Adha, celebrated annually by millions of Muslims worldwide, commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice in obedience to God—a story shared across Abrahamic faiths. It is also a time of giving, with families who are financially able distributing meat to the poor, reinforcing Islam's call to social justice and compassion. As communities finalize plans, the anticipation is marked by a sense of renewal, gratitude, and unity. While customs may vary by region and cultural background, the shared essence of Eid al-Adha remains: faith, family, and giving back.

U.S. Backs Indo-Pacific Allies

Julian Alvez

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a stark warning at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday, declaring that Chinese military action against Taiwan could be "imminent" and urging America's Indo-Pacific allies to remain vigilant. In a closely watched address, Hegseth reiterated the United States' firm commitment to supporting its partners in the region amid escalating tensions with Beijing. "We do not seek conflict with Communist China," said Hegseth.



Photo: U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth delivers his speech during the 22nd Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore

Image Source: Anupam Nath/AP/AbcNews.go.com

NYC Launches Gaming Festival

Esports, education, and inclusion shine at debut event



Photo: Video Game Festival Launches in NYC

Image Source: polygon.com

Habiba Sultana

New York City welcomed gamers of all ages to the inaugural NYC Video Game Festival on May 31, held at Convene Brookfield Place in Lower Manhattan. The festival marked the kickoff of the city's Summer of Games and featured an exciting mix of esports, indie games, and educational innovation. Headlining the event were the finals of the Minecraft Education Battle of the Boroughs, where 15 student teams from across the city tackled real-world challenges through creative builds. The day also hosted the 2025 Collegiate Championship in

HIGHLIGHT

•Featured Minecraft Battle of the Boroughs finals.

Fortnite and Valorant, with standout participation from teams like The Quad Gods, the world's first all-quadruplegic esports team. The festival celebrated how video games can empower, educate, and entertain—drawing students, professionals, and families into a shared space of creativity and competition. Organizers say this is only the beginning, with more gaming events planned throughout the summer under NYC's growing digital culture initiative.

"But we will not let our allies and partners be subordinated or intimidated." He stressed the Trump administration's view of the Indo-Pacific as a "priority theater" and outlined efforts to increase the U.S. military presence while strengthening allied capabilities. Hegseth called for a "common sense" approach to deterrence and encouraged allies to follow NATO's lead by increasing military spending to 5% of GDP. He warned that China may not wait until its previously stated 2027 deadline to act on Taiwan, stating, "The threat China poses is real. And it could be imminent." Beijing's aggressive actions around Taiwan and in the South China Sea, especially against the Philippines, were cited as major provocations. Despite the absence of China's defense minister from the forum, Hegseth maintained that U.S. presence would help preserve regional peace. "We are preparing for war, to deter war — to achieve peace through strength," he said, urging collective action.



Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee