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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

U.S. Streets Fill with Protesters

"No Kings" Day sparks turnout

Alexandar Sullivan

Protesters flooded streets, parks, and public spaces across the United States in one of the largest coordinated demonstrations against former President Donald Trump since his return to office. Branded the "No Kings" Day of Defiance, the nationwide movement opposed what organizers described as authoritarian governance, billionaire-first politics, and the militarization of democracy. More than 2,000 protests took place in all 50 states, with organizers estimating millions of participants. In New York City, approximately 50,000 people joined demonstrations across



Photo: A person waves a US flag as demonstrators gather at Metro Hall in Louisville, Kentucky

Image Source: Jon Cherry/AP Photo/ AlJazeera

the city. Marchers in Philadelphia rallied to the steps of the Museum of Art despite light rain, chanting "Whose streets? Our streets!" and hearing speeches from leaders like Rep. Jamie Raskin, who

asked, "Do you want a gangster state or do you want free speech in America?" Timed to coincide with Trump's military parade in Washington, D.C., which marked the Army's 250th

anniversary, the protests were backed by the 50501 Movement. Though the vast majority of events were peaceful, isolated violence was reported. A shooting in Salt Lake City left one person hospitalized

in critical condition. In Minneapolis, all protests were canceled after two Democratic lawmakers were shot; "No Kings" flyers were found in the suspect's vehicle. Elsewhere, police deployed tear gas and made arrests in Austin, Portland, and Dekalb County, Georgia. Several states, including Texas, Virginia, and Nebraska, activated the National Guard in anticipation of unrest. Protest organizers emphasized nonviolence. In Philadelphia, Dani Negrete told CBS News, "We're going to have a clear message that rings out across the world... about the importance of standing up while our right to do that is under threat."

Middle East on Edge After Airstrikes

John Paul

Tensions in the Middle East surged as Israel launched Operation Rising Lion on June 13, targeting Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure with widespread airstrikes. The attacks killed at least 100 people and injured hundreds more, according to multiple reports. In response, Iran fired a series of missiles into Israeli territory on June 15, striking civilian areas and prompting mass evacuations. Footage from Tehran and other affected regions shows widespread damage and emergency responses, fueling fears of a broader regional war. The escalation follows weeks of heightened rhetoric and military posturing, with both governments blaming each other for provocations. As international leaders call for restraint, the humanitarian toll is rising rapidly, and global markets are reacting nervously. Analysts warn that without immediate de-escalation, the conflict could engulf the wider Middle East.

Early Voting Opens in NYC



Image Source: amny.com

Lily Anderson

New Yorkers began casting their ballots Saturday, June 15, as early voting officially opened for the city's

closely watched mayoral primary and other local races. With ranked-choice voting in effect, voters will be able to select their top five candidates in order of preference, a system that could be decisive in a field featuring both established and progressive contenders. Among the most prominent names on the ballot is former Governor Andrew Cuomo, marking a dramatic political reentry after his 2021 resignation. Challenging him from the left is Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, a Democratic Socialist representing Queens who has gained traction among younger and more progressive voters. Polls are open daily at early voting sites across the five boroughs through Sunday, June

23, ahead of Primary Day on Tuesday, June 25. Local races for City Council and district attorney are also on the ballot.

The primary is expected to be one of the most consequential in recent years, as issues like housing affordability, public safety, and economic

HIGHLIGHT

•Early voting began on Saturday, June 15, across New York City

•Ranked-choice voting will determine the outcome in the crowded race

•Voters can cast early ballots through June 23, with Primary Day on June 25

recovery dominate voter concerns. The Board of Elections encourages all eligible residents to participate and reminds voters to check polling

hours and locations. With an uncertain outcome and diverse candidate field, voter

turnout over the next week could shape New York City's political future.



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Journalists, Leaders Celebrate at NY Press Club's Summer Outing

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From Heritage to Hope:
Final Chapter of Interfaith
Youth Program

COMMUNITY NEWS

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20 Arrested After Anti-ICE Protests In Manhattan

Staff Reporter

An anti-ICE protest in Lower Manhattan quickly devolved into protesters against the NYPD. One by one, they were led away by police in zip-tie handcuffs. As the scuffle spilled into the streets, more than 20 protesters were taken into custody, according to a police source.

Dozens of protesters were out for hours at Federal Plaza in lower Manhattan, voicing their concerns about ICE detainments. Some of the protesters said they will not stand by as their neighbors are scooped up as part of the Trump Administration's aggressive immigration enforcement. The anger towards law enforcement was palpable.

Some protesters say they were out there partly due to the presence of what appeared to be federal immigration authorities near Federal Plaza on Saturday. However, there is no confirmation on exactly what agency the law enforcement officers were part of at this point.

The protest comes after Friday's arrest inside a Manhattan Federal courthouse. ICE agents took down a man after his immigration proceedings were dismissed. The Department of Homeland Security says Joaquin Rosario Espinal was in the United States illegally from the Dominican Republic. DHS says he resisted



arrest and claims he punched an officer. John Mark Rozendaal says he is volunteering to help Espinal with his immigration case.

'Their due process rights are being trampled in this building and they are being held here so we are here to oppose this,' said Rozendaal.

Also on Saturday, protesters and federal agents clashed on streets in Paramount in Southern California after a raid was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Federal agents have reportedly been rounding up migrants around courthouses in lower Manhattan all week -- prompting activists to fight back.

'This whole criminalization thing leads us down a dark path that I'm not here to see -- I'm an American,' said Lavender.

A statement from Homeland Security reads in part: "Our officers are doing their jobs by removing public safety threats and enforcing our nation's immigration laws. Assaulting, resisting, impeding, or harassing ICE officers is against the law. Unfortunately, our ICE officers are facing a 413% increase in assaults while carrying out arrests. The violence against ICE must end."

The NYPD continues to have a presence as it monitors the protest.

Juneteenth Freedom Parade Celebrated In Staten Island



Staff Reporter

Despite the rain, the fourth annual Juneteenth Parade & Festival stepped off early Saturday afternoon with a procession from Fort Wadsworth and down Bay Street, which ended with a community event in Tappen Park in Stapleton.

"I am extremely blessed that God sought fit for us to continue in the rain, it's ok, we still showed up," said Dorcas Meyers, founder of Roc-A-Natural Cultural Foundation, who organizes the event each year. "I thank family and friends that came out and didn't let the rain stop

them. This is all about unity and celebration. We are here to commemorate." Beneath umbrellas it was all smiles as the event celebrated Black history and culture. Among the parade's floats were those that honored Black leaders from history who continue to inspire, such as entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker and abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Black cowboys were celebrated, with a contingent of riders on horseback. Port Richmond High School's Raider Battalion marched and the Amalgamated Transit Union's Black Caucus was

represented. "[The rain] didn't stop us, that's perseverance and I'm just so grateful and thank you to the Staten Island Advance...because the people in the community need to see their culture, especially at this time," Meyers added.

The event also included a powerful historical reenactment and a traditional African dance performance. Dancers from the Lavelle Charter School and Richmond Preparatory Charter School also wowed the crowd.

Juneteenth, which will be officially celebrated on Thursday with school and bank closures, honors the date of June 19, 1865, which marked the effective end of slavery in the United States — even though the Emancipation Proclamation was issued more than two years prior in 1863. Originating in Galveston, Texas, the holiday has been celebrated annually on June 19 by African Americans since the late 1800s. It was declared a national holiday in 2021. Additional Juneteenth events will be hosted in the coming week, including a festival next Saturday in Snug Harbor.

Man Found Shot dead Inside Car On Bronx Street



NYN DESK

A man was found shot to death inside a car in the Bronx early on Saturday morning, police reported. Law enforcement sources said the grim discovery occurred at the corner of Givan and Palmer Avenues in Eastchester at about 2:03 a.m. on June 14. Officers from the 47th Precinct, in responding to a 911 call about a man shot at the location, found the victim, a 27-year-old man, inside a 2012 gray Infiniti sedan unconscious and unresponsive. He had suffered three gunshot wounds to his chest.

EMS rushed the victim to Jacobi Hospital, where he was pronounced dead by hospital staff. Police have not yet released the victim's identity, pending family notification.

So far, no arrests have been made in the ongoing investigation, police said. Anyone with information regarding the shooting can call Crime Stoppers at 800-577-TIPS (for Spanish, dial 888-57-PISTA). You can also submit tips online at crimestoppers.nypdonline.org, or on X (formerly Twitter) @NYPDtips. All calls and messages are kept confidential.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
03:44	12:57	04:57	08:29	10:09
03:44	12:57	04:57	08:30	10:10
03:44	12:57	04:57	08:30	10:10
03:44	12:57	04:58	08:30	10:10
03:45	12:58	04:58	08:31	10:11
03:45	12:58	04:58	08:31	10:11
03:45	12:58	04:58	08:31	10:11

Body Found In abandoned Ambulance In Brooklyn

NYN DESK

A body was found in a non-functioning ambulance without wheels in Brooklyn. The vehicle was on the side of Snediker Road in East New York.

Police say the body was a man in his sixties who had trauma to his neck. Members of the crime scene unit are investigating, and the medical examiner will determine the cause of death. It is not clear how long the ambulance has been there.

Life in and Around Jackson Heights

Akbar Haider Kiron



Three decades have passed on this patch of land,
A life has grown beneath the rumble of the 7 train,
Walking slowly by Roosevelt Avenue,
I still search for that young stranger—
Who once stepped into New York alone,
With warm letters in his pocket, and dreams veiled in dust.

Back then, Jackson Heights was just a pin on a map,
Now—it's my address, my world.
At the corner of 73rd Street, I see myself again,
The steam from a teacup carries the sound of rickshaws,
In the gentle afternoon light echoes
A winter afternoon melody from Dhaka, played like a tanpura.

Faces return here, again and again—
Rana Bhai's cab, Shireen Apa's telephone booth,
Fragments of life scattered through time,
Sometimes left behind on Roosevelt's pavement,
Sometimes folded quietly inside the cover of a book fair catalog.

So many tongues, so many faces, familiar and strange,
Have blended into the air of this city.
Yet stepping into a Bangladeshi grocery store
Brings a moment of calm, a cup of tea,
And the gentle question—"Are you from Bangladesh?"
And I startle a little,
For my identity lies hidden in that language.

Here in Jackson Heights, I've seen love and parting,
Tears opened by letters from home,
Faces waiting in welfare lines after class,
Breaths held in hospital corridors.
And sometimes—the heat of Bangladesh's elections
Boiling over a table at Café Diplomà.

This city taught me:
Though the roots may remain, branches grow new names.
It gave me inspiration,
And took from me my silence.
I offered nothing—just lived, walked, wrote,
Leaving traces of myself in every alley of this city.

Even now, when I hear the subway's morning thunder,
It feels like a familiar rhythm—
My life tethered here,
Just beside a packet of samosas hanging in a shop window,
Where a tender sunlight rests quietly.

Even after three decades, when I look up
At the sky over Jackson Heights, I feel—
This city has shaped me in its own strange way,
Binding together language, country, love, history, memory—
All draped in a new urban skin.

Today I walk with slow steps,
Leaving behind each of these thirty years,
And ahead—a silent New York evening,
Where the word "dream" still walks,
Back and forth between 73rd and 75th,
Like me—silent, yet alive.

Akbar Haider Kiron
- Senior Journalist, Author, Poet



Islam, Public Engagement and New York City Election

Imam Shamsi Ali



America stands at a crossroads, offering unparalleled opportunities and daunting challenges.

On one hand, it boasts a thriving economy, esteemed educational institutions, and a vibrant religious life. On the other, domestic moral decay and questionable ugly foreign policies threaten its very fabric.

The Role of Muslims in American Society

As a minority group, Muslims have a unique perspective on America's dichotomy. To effect change, Muslims must shift their mindset from viewing their faith (Islam) as merely a personal with bunch of rituals to embracing it as a comprehensive way of life that informs and guide its followers on public engagement also.

For that to happen Muslims must do two important things:

One, Mindset Change. Recognizing the importance of Islam in the public sphere and civic engagement, including talking part in the political process of the country (and the City).
Two, Da'wah and Education.

Effectively representing Islam through wise and informed discourse, guided by the Quranic principle of "invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom" (16:125). Better Representation and Presentation of Islam To positively impact American society, Muslims must anchor their engagement on five strong foundations:
Strong Spiritual Ground. Cultivating taqwa (piety) and faith as the bedrock of all actions.
Unity. Embracing the Quranic directive to "hold fast to the rope of Allah" (3:103), minimizing ego and narrow interests.

Social Awareness. Promoting good and preventing evil, as enjoined in the Quran (3:104), to ensure a voice in public policy.
Life Vision. While engaging this material world (dunia) physically, their hearts must focus on the hereafter (Aakhirah) where "faces will be radiant and others will be gloomy" (3:106), Muslims vision of life is rejecting materialism and capitalism's corrosive influence.
Excellence. Striving for the Quranic ideal of being "the best nation brought forth

for humanity" (3:110), demonstrated through meticulous effort (itqaan). Civic Engagement and Political Participation Research indicates that mosque attendance and Islamic institutions in American still insignificantly push and enhance civic engagement and political participation among Muslims.

We must know, masjid should serve not only places for rituals, but also must serve as centers for community empowerment, such as:

- Civic Education. Developing skills and consciousness among community members.
- Mobilization. Encouraging voter registration, voting, and community outreach.

- Community Building. Fostering social capital and human capital through volunteerism and recruitment.
- The Upcoming Mayoral Election
As the NYC mayoral election has started, Muslims are urged to participate actively. With a candidate from our own community, we have a unique opportunity to shape the city's future. By voting and engaging in the political process, we can contribute to creating a more just and equitable society.

In conclusion, Muslims in America and New York City have a vital role to play in shaping the country's and the City's future. By embracing our faith as a comprehensive way of life, engaging in civic activities, and participating in the political process, we can make a positive impact and contribute to the betterment of society.
And that's the most important and effective way to contribute and being positive change to America and New York, the country and the City we all proud of. And the best to do this by electing our own, Zohran Mamdani, to be next Mayor of the City.

Imam Shamsi Ali
Director of Jamaica Muslim Center |
President of Nusantara Foundation

"Hate to Hope": A Living Lesson in Peace, Led by the Youngest Among Us

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

Hate to Hope: A Journey of Faith, Friendship & Understanding is more than a book—it is a living testament to the power of empathy, especially when nurtured in childhood. Created through the partnership of Save the People USA, Elhaam Academy, and Kinneret Day School, it documents five interfaith events in 2025 that united fifty Muslim and Jewish students in shared experiences and dialogue. Through



museum visits, faith-based storytelling, and collaborative art, students explored each other's traditions and discovered shared values of family, faith, and kindness. Their reflections—honest, hopeful, and often profound—form the emotional heart of the book. As one child remarked, "We came to eat. We left with friends."
What sets Hate to Hope apart is its replicable

vision. This is not a symbolic gesture, but a scalable model for interfaith education grounded in real relationships. The students became more than learners—they became bridges. With the guidance of Imam Muhammad Shahidullah and strong support from educators, museum partners, and city leaders, the initiative has both vision and credibility. In an era of division, Hate to Hope shows that difference can be a starting point—not a barrier. This book is both a record and a roadmap for anyone who believes peace can begin in a classroom and grow far beyond.

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah
| Founder & President of
Elhaam Academy

UNITY

Community Mourns Air India Tragedy

Floral Park Vigil Offers Prayers and Solidarity

James Anderson

In an emotional evening marked by reflection, resilience, and shared humanity, the Floral Park community stood shoulder to shoulder with residents from across Long Island and Queens to honor the victims of the tragic Air India flight crash. The interfaith vigil, held on the night of June 12, 2025, transformed Santoor Restaurant into a sanctuary of remembrance and healing. As flickering candlelight danced across solemn faces, the event served not just as a moment of mourning—but as a powerful declaration of unity in the face of heartbreak. From 7 PM to 8 PM,



religious leaders representing a wide spectrum of faith traditions—including Imams, Priests, Rabbis, Pundits, and Granthis—gathered in solidarity to offer prayers, readings, and spiritual reflections. Each voice brought a

unique perspective, yet all echoed a common message: compassion, strength, and hope for those left behind. Their presence underscored a rare and profound unity that transcended religious lines, emphasizing that grief

knows no boundaries. “This gathering is not just about mourning loss—it is about standing together in shared humanity, united in grief and compassion,” remarked one of the organizing Imams, his voice steady

but full of emotion. His words seemed to carry the very spirit of the event, resonating deeply with attendees who had come not only to remember, but to support one another. The vigil reached a poignant crescendo as attendees lit candles in silent remembrance. Each small flame became a symbol of a life lost—and a prayer for peace. The stillness of the moment was heavy with sorrow, yet within it, there was a quiet strength. Conversations that followed reflected not only on the loss itself, but on broader themes: the fragility of life, the shared bonds of grief, and the universal desire for safer skies. As the evening drew

to a close, community leaders encouraged ongoing support for the families of the victims, urging those present to carry the spirit of unity beyond the event. “We come from different backgrounds, but grief is a language we all understand,” said one local organizer, capturing the event’s essence in a single line. Organizers extended heartfelt thanks to Santoor Restaurant for graciously opening its doors for such a meaningful occasion and to all who came together in solidarity. In a world often divided by difference, the vigil stood as a reminder that, in times of profound loss, it is our shared humanity that brings us together.



BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Celebrating Local Heroes in Queens

Queens Community House Honors Donovan Richards at Forest Hills Stadium



Christopher Scott

In a celebration that blended history, community spirit, and heartfelt recognition, Queens Community House (QCH) hosted its much-anticipated 2025 Spring Event: Celebrating Local Heroes on the evening of June 12, 2025, at the iconic Forest Hills Stadium. Marking a major milestone—50 years of community

service—the event honored distinguished individuals who have made a meaningful impact across Queens, drawing neighbors, supporters, and civic leaders for a night of connection and tribute. Set against the backdrop of a venue where music legends like Frank Sinatra, The Rolling Stones, Barbra Streisand, and Bob Dylan once performed, attendees

gathered at 6:00 PM for an evening filled with warmth, recognition, and community pride. As attendees mingled on the historic stage, the energy of past performances seemed to echo through the space, now transformed into a platform celebrating a different kind of legacy—one of public service and local leadership. The evening's highest honors went to Queens

to the borough. With a leadership style rooted in accessibility, advocacy, and equity, Richards has played a pivotal role in uplifting Queens communities. His acknowledgment by QCH was met with resounding applause, a reflection of the deep respect and admiration shared by those in attendance. Adding to the evening's highlights was the presentation of the Irma Rodriguez Community Builder Award to Andrew Diaz, whose tireless dedication to community betterment earned him this prestigious recognition. The award, named after a beloved local advocate, celebrates individuals who embody the spirit of grassroots impact. Diaz's recognition served as a powerful reminder that local change is often

driven by the quiet perseverance of those working behind the scenes. Guests were treated to a festive cocktail reception and had opportunities to participate in a silent auction and raffles, with proceeds supporting QCH's vital programming across the borough. Conversations flowed easily as civic leaders, residents, and mission-driven individuals gathered in a setting that combined grandeur with a deep sense of neighborhood connection. "Our 50th anniversary is not only a moment to look back at all we've accomplished, but to recognize those who are shaping our future," said one QCH representative. "Donovan Richards and Andrew Diaz exemplify the kind of leadership that strengthens communities and brings

people together." The event's success was made possible with support from generous sponsors, including Capell Barnett Matalon & Schoenfeld, JP Morgan Chase, Aigner Chocolates, SAX LLP, and QNSY Sparkling Cocktails. Their contributions helped transform the evening into more than just a celebration—it became a meaningful investment in the borough's future. As the night came to a close, the glow of camaraderie lingered under the lights of Forest Hills Stadium. For many, it wasn't just about honoring heroes—it was a reaffirmation of what makes Queens so unique: a tapestry of people, purpose, and place, woven together by shared values and a commitment to collective progress.



Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr., who was formally recognized for his enduring commitment



SOCIAL SERVICES

Queens Reception Recognizes Lion Club Leader

Shah Nawaz Honored for Community Contributions



Patt Cummins

In a spirited gathering that reflected both admiration and unity, the Bangladeshi-American and broader immigrant community came together in Queens, New York, to celebrate Shah Nawaz, the newly elected Second Vice-Governor of Lion Club

International District 20-R2. The event, held on the evening of June 10, 2025, at Queen's Palace, served as a warm and festive meet and greet and community reception in recognition of his growing leadership and decades of dedicated community service.

The occasion drew participation from nearly 50 community organizations, each presenting their own token of appreciation to Nawaz in a series of heartfelt acknowledgments. From local nonprofits to cultural groups and civic leaders, the room was filled with voices

united in appreciation of Nawaz's impactful work across New York's diverse communities. Nawaz, whose rise through the ranks of the Lions Club is seen by many as both inspiring and well-deserved, has long been known for his commitment to humanitarian service, immigrant advocacy, and neighborhood development. His work within District 20-R2, which covers a significant portion of the state, has been particularly noted for bringing diverse communities together under the shared mission of service. He addressed the gathering with deep gratitude, acknowledging the wide show of support and expressing his appreciation for the community's continued encouragement. Nawaz reflected on the importance of

collaborative service, inclusivity, and his dedication to advancing the mission of the Lions Club across the district. His remarks resonated with the audience, many of whom viewed the event as a powerful symbol of rising representation and leadership within immigrant communities. The event also highlighted the growing influence of South Asian and particularly Bangladeshi-American leadership in civic and service organizations throughout the Tri-State area. With Nawaz taking on a key leadership role in one of the most recognized service organizations globally, attendees saw the celebration not only as personal recognition, but as a moment of collective pride for immigrant communities striving for greater representation. Speakers throughout

the evening emphasized themes of unity, public service, and the importance of mentorship for the next generation of community leaders. The celebratory atmosphere was accompanied by warm exchanges, photographs, and cultural appreciation, reinforcing the strong bonds among community stakeholders present. As the evening concluded, the message was clear: leadership grounded in service and inclusivity can resonate across backgrounds and cultures. Shah Nawaz's journey and his recognition by such a wide swath of the community served as a reminder of the deep impact local leaders can have—not just within organizations, but in the hearts of those they serve.



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Graduation Marks Growth in Anti-Hate Leadership

We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate Honors Second Cohort

Mitchell John

In a spirited evening filled with hope, pride, and community, the We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate marked the graduation of its second cohort at Dumbo Loft in Brooklyn on June 11, 2025. Friends, family, and supporters gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of this year's fellows—leaders from across Brooklyn who have spent the past six months confronting hate and building bridges through education, advocacy, and collaboration. The fellowship, launched by the Center for Community Leadership at JCRC-NY in partnership with the Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, is part of the PATH-Forward initiative. Designed as a proactive response to the growing threat of hate-based incidents in New York City, the program provides participants with the tools, networks, and resources needed to foster more



inclusive and equitable communities. Over the course of the program, fellows engaged in a wide range of activities that went far beyond classroom discussions. They attended workshops led by experts, visited key institutions like the Kings County District Attorney's Office and the Brooklyn LGBT Center, and explored

interfaith and interethnic relationships through direct engagement. Fellows also traveled to Washington, D.C. for an immersive educational experience that deepened their understanding of American civil rights history. Each session was intentionally held in a different Brooklyn neighborhood, a

decision that helped participants better appreciate the borough's vast cultural diversity. This on-the-ground exposure not only enriched their learning but also encouraged a strong sense of local connectedness—a core value of the program. The 2025 graduating class included a dynamic mix of nonprofit leaders, educators,



clergy, artists, healthcare workers, and

entrepreneurs. Their commitment to creating change was evident throughout the evening, as speakers reflected on their journeys and the collective responsibility of continuing the fight against bigotry and division. As part of the program, fellows were also given seed grant funding to develop community-based initiatives aimed at promoting understanding and unity. Many plan to implement these projects in the coming months, bringing what they learned directly into the communities they serve. The graduation was more than just a celebration—it was a reaffirmation of Brooklyn's strength in diversity and the power of local leadership in the face of hate. With the 2025 cohort now stepping forward as alumni, the We Are All Brooklyn Fellowship Against Hate continues to grow its network of changemakers ready to shape a more compassionate and inclusive city.



Bangladeshi Writer Mustafiz Shafi Receives New York Tribute

Expatriates Celebrate Hometown Hero's Contribution to Journalism

Tamzid Sakib

Prominent journalist and author Mustafiz Shafi was honored by the Bangladeshi expatriate community from Biannibazar during a heartfelt reception on Monday, June 9, in Ozone Park, New York. The event was organized by a local committee led by Moinul Islam, drawing notable figures from across the Bangladeshi diaspora to celebrate Shafi's enduring contributions to journalism and literature in Bangladesh. The evening began with a recitation from the Qur'an by Maulana Rashid Ahmed, followed by the Bangladeshi national anthem. The program featured reflections from community leaders including Mohiyuddin



Dewan, acting president of the Bangladesh Society, Azmal Hossain Kunu, and Badrul

Hossain Khan, president of the Jalalabad Association of America. Guests praised Shafi

as a journalist who has remained committed to truth and ethics in an era often overshadowed

by corruption and misinformation. Shafi, a native of Biannibazar in Sylhet,

expressed deep gratitude, saying, "Biannibazar is in my veins. I've found it in New York, in London—yet rarely in Dhaka." He spoke passionately about his love for writing, calling it both his profession and calling, and emphasized his commitment to the ideals of Bangladesh's liberation movement: "There can be no compromise on the values of our independence." Shafi received a crest of appreciation, floral greetings, and literary gifts from the New York Bangladesh Press Club and SSC '87 batch. Attendees described him as not just a son of Biannibazar, but a treasured voice for all of Bangladesh.

NYC ELECTION

“Jamaica for Zohran” Energizes Local Voters

Local Communities Unite to Support Working-Class Vision for NYC



Ashley Reed

In a vibrant show of grassroots energy, residents of Jamaica, alongside Muslim and Bangladeshi community members, came together in front of the Jamaica Muslim

Center on the evening of June 13, 2025, to rally behind Zohran Mamdani. Mamdani is the Democratic mayoral candidate known for his pledge to lower the cost of living for working-class New Yorkers. Against the backdrop

of the iconic center, supporters gathered to amplify his message of economic relief, community investment, and structural change. The event, branded “Jamaica For ZOHRAN”, was organized by Chief Coordinator Aftab

Mannan and Coordinator Fakrul Islam Delwar, with Amir Khan serving as Grand Marshal. It drew a robust turnout from various grassroots organizations, civic leaders, and everyday residents mobilizing around Mamdani’s progressive platform. Refreshments were served, fostering warmth and fellowship among attendees. A diverse lineup of speakers took the stage, including several respected local figures: Dr. Wahidur Rahman, Dr. Nazmul Khan, Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, Dr. Siddiqur Rahman, Khwaza Mizan Hassan, Imam Delwar Hossain, Tariqur Rahman, Arman Chowdhury, Dr. Wadud Bhuiyan, Sabul Uddin, Luhaib Chowdhury, Imam Azeem Khan, Mohammed Yarr, and Mohammed Zaidi. Each voice contributed to the sense of unity and shared purpose permeating the crowd.

During his address, Mamdani reiterated his campaign’s focus on easing the cost burdens weighing down many New Yorkers: from housing affordability to everyday essentials. He underscored his pledge to champion policies that directly impact working-class households, positioning himself as a authentic voice for the borough. Attendees held signs emblazoned with #JamaicaForZohran, #ZohranForMayor, and #WorkingClassPower, emphasizing the rally’s theme of grassroots involvement. The palpable energy reflected a deep desire for civic engagement; many participants voiced excitement at being part of a movement centered on economic justice and community representation. The rally also highlighted Mamdani’s distinctive identity as a candidate—a

progressive Muslim of East African and Indian heritage, naturalized in 2018, and one of the youngest contenders in the race. For many in the audience, his candidacy represented the intersection of lived experience and policy ambition, offering tangible hope for a mayoralty focused on fairness and affordability. As the evening wound down, chants and cheers echoed through the neighborhood, signaling a moment of collective optimism. The “Jamaica For ZOHRAN” rally was more than just a campaign stop—it was a reaffirmation of political engagement at the local level. With early voting underway and primary day approaching on June 24, this gathering echoed across Queens as a testament to the power of community-driven politics in shaping the future of New York City.



RELIGION

Gardens of the Righteous Flourish in NYC

Miftaah Circle Reflects on Sahaba Legacy at NYU Kimmel Center

Jessica Morgan

In a deeply reflective and spiritually enriching evening, the Miftaah Institute welcomed attendees to Gardens of the Righteous, a Miftaah Circle held at the NYU Kimmel Center on Friday, June 13, 2025. The program illuminated the lives and enduring legacies of the Sahaba, the companions of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, underscoring their unparalleled contributions to preserving and transmitting Islamic teachings. A prayerful start to the evening began just before 5 PM with Asr Salah, setting a reverent tone for the evening. Following the opening remarks and a recitation from the Quran, distinguished scholars took the stage to unpack the wisdom of specific Sahaba. Shaykh Mohammad Badawy began with insights into the companions' relationship with scripture, while Imam Khalid Latif highlighted the bravery of 'Umar ibn al-Khattāb (RA).



These thoughtful analyses fostered a bridge between the spiritual devotion of the past and contemporary communal needs. Each speaker brought a unique lens: Mufti Mohammad Farhan delved into the impact of Mu'adh ibn Jabal (RA), Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans reflected on how

the Quran describes the Sahaba, and Shaykh Abdelrahman Badawy drew lessons from the supporting role of the Anṣār. Themes of sacrifice, sincerity, generational tragedy, and grace were woven throughout, anchoring the audience in a narrative of moral excellence and enduring

relevance. Later discussions explored the roles

of lesser-highlighted figures—the women around the Prophet ﷺ, the generosity of 'Uthmān ibn 'Affān (RA), and the scholarly brilliance of Mu'adh ibn Jabal (RA)—while Mufti Aasim Rashid examined spiritual resilience in "Diseases of the Heart." Shaykh Suleiman Hani closed the theological portion of the evening by drawing lessons from the Prophet's prioritization in daily life. Attendees gathered in quiet reverence after deep morning prayers and presentations; their shared reflections were punctuated with warmth and intent. Community engagement was evident not only in thoughtful listening but in the shared resolve to translate lessons into modern communal practice. The event also featured a charitable dimension: Human Appeal was named as the charity partner, emphasizing Miftaah Institute's dedication to humanitarian service and the prophetic emphasis on caring

for those in need. Esteemed community organizations—such as CAIR, Muslim American Society of New York, Brooklyn College MSA, ITV USA, Muscare, Elhaam Academy, and others—supported and participated in building a robust network of spiritual and civic unity. As evening turned to night, the Maghrib Salah session marked a moving moment of collective prayer and reflection. Attendees left inspired by the timeless virtues of the Sahaba and ready to apply lessons of courage, humility, sincerity, and leadership to their daily lives. Gardens of the Righteous was not just a gathering of minds—it was a planting of spiritual seeds, reflecting on early Muslim exemplars whose firm roots nourished the growth of Islam. In honoring the companions of the Prophet ﷺ, the evening reaffirmed the enduring power of historical insight to guide contemporary community life.



HATE TO HOPE

From Heritage to Hope: Final Chapter of Interfaith Youth Program

Elhaam Academy and Kinneret Day School Students Conclude Historic Journey



"I learned that no matter how different two faiths or people are, there can always be peace between the two. Jews and Muslims also both use a prayer book to study, pray, and learn."

-Eden Jaffe
Kinneret Day School, 5th Grade



"Through our conversations and shared activities, we discovered that despite our differences, we hold many values and traditions in common. By the end of the semester, we had not only learned more about each other's faiths but had also built real friendships."

-Muhammad Sudais
Elhaam Academy, 4th Grade



"We live in a diverse society, so it will be up to our generation to set an example for tolerance, empathy, and kindness. This year, I have learned from the program not just about Muslims and everything I wrote down that I wanted to learn. I also learned about my own religion."

-Isaac Rose
Kinneret Day School, 5th Grade

Nicolas Jackson
In a moving celebration of shared heritage and newfound friendship, the final event of the Elhaam-Kinneret Interfaith Program took place on June 11, 2025, bringing together Muslim and Jewish students, families, and educators for a day of reflection, discovery, and unity. Held as both a concluding ceremony and cultural exhibition, the event marked the end of a six-month journey that had reshaped hearts and minds across two schools—Elhaam Academy and Kinneret Day School. The day began with students arriving at the venue, where they were invited to complete feedback forms offering thoughtful reflections on how future interfaith initiatives might be improved. With the lessons of the past semester fresh in their

minds, the students provided suggestions informed by months of immersive engagement through site visits, collaborative projects, and open dialogue. Soon after, the exhibition opened. Students took their seats beside personal artifacts they had brought—items rich with spiritual and cultural meaning. Visitors—including classmates, parents, and community members—moved from table to table, listening as the children explained the significance of each artifact with a confidence that belied their young age. Among the featured items were Zam Zam water, Qur'ans, Islamic studies textbooks, prayer books, niqabs, miswaks, tasbeeh (dhikr beads), salah mats, jaynamaj (prayer mats), tupis (religious caps), Eid caps, hijabs, prayer robes, and various family heirlooms from the Muslim tradition.

Representing the Jewish faith were Shabbat candles, mezuzahs, Magen David (Star of David) necklaces, Kiddush cups, Hanukkah menorahs, challah covers, hamsas, shofars, and more—each item a tangible testament to identity, tradition, and faith. Three student speakers powerfully captured the essence of the program. Muhammad Sudais, a fourth-grade student from Elhaam Academy, spoke about learning the concept of Ahl al-Kitab (People of the Book) and the common values shared across Islam and Judaism. He reflected on how new friendships blossomed through shared experiences and

mutual respect. Eden Jaffe, a fifth-grade student at Kinneret Day School, candidly shared her initial nervousness about meeting Muslim peers, later replaced with understanding and kinship. She highlighted powerful moments of discovery, such as learning about Ramadan, the Qur'an, and the shared practices of head coverings and prayer books. Her speech concluded with the Hebrew peace prayer Oseh Shalom, affirming her belief that peace is not only possible but essential. Isaac Rose, also a fifth grader from Kinneret, emphasized the lessons of tolerance and empathy. Drawing

on his personal experiences with Muslim family friends, he explained how the program helped him not only understand Islam more deeply but also gain new insights into his own Jewish faith. "This program provides us with a step in the right direction," he said. Following the speeches, attendees shared a meal, continuing conversations started during the exhibition. Participating students were awarded certificates of recognition, celebrating their role as young ambassadors of peace. Two landmark publications were also unveiled at the event. The Museum of Jewish Heritage released a visual anthology documenting the students' earlier exhibitions and creative works. Meanwhile, Save the People

USA published the acclaimed book "Hate to Hope: A Journey of Faith, Friendship & Understanding," a deeply personal chronicle of the interfaith program that captured the voices of the students and the vision of their educators. The book was praised for its emotional resonance, its structure as an educational blueprint, and its message that interfaith understanding must begin early—and intentionally. As the program concluded, there was no mistaking the sense of purpose in the room. The young participants had done more than complete a curriculum—they had set an example for their schools, their communities, and perhaps even the world: that peace is not born of sameness, but of respect.



HATE TO HOPE



PRESS

Journalists, Leaders Celebrate at NY Press Club's Summer Outing

Picnic at Glen Island Park Features Art, Raffle Draws, and Community Bonding



Emily Parker

Laughter echoed under the canopies, the aroma of traditional food filled the air, and vibrant conversations unfolded by the riverside—this

was the lively scene at the New York Bangladesh Press Club's annual picnic, held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle, New York. Despite a gentle drizzle earlier

in the day, the event drew more than 100 participants including journalists, writers, cultural enthusiasts, and community leaders. The day-long event at Pavilion 2 blended classic

summer festivities with Bangladeshi flair: a celebration of camaraderie and shared identity, accented by music, poetry, games, and an array of beloved Bengali dishes. The park's scenic waterfront provided a serene backdrop as families and friends enjoyed one of the Press Club's most cherished traditions. Organized under the leadership of President Monowarul Islam,

the event brought together a dedicated team of contributors including General Secretary Mominul Islam Majumder, along with Sheikh Sirajul Islam, Alamgir Hossain Sarkar, Syed Elias Khasru, Rashid Ahmad, Mahathir Faruqi, Rowshan Haque, Jahid Rahman, Abidur Rahim, and Mustafizur Rahman. From spontaneous musical performances to a well-received raffle draw, the picnic offered a little something for everyone. Attendees noted the warmth and energy of the gathering, crediting the organizers for curating an atmosphere that balanced professional camaraderie with the intimacy of a family

reunion. "The joy was in the details—great food, beautiful surroundings, and the company of people who share a passion for storytelling and community," one participant remarked. The Press Club's annual picnic remains a staple for many in the Bangladeshi media landscape in New York, offering not just a break from the newsroom but a celebration of shared roots and professional solidarity. As the event wound down under a clearing sky, it was evident that the true highlight wasn't the entertainment or the food—it was the enduring bond that continues to unite this dynamic community.



PRESS

Journalists, Leaders Celebrate at NY Press Club's Summer Outing



NYC ELECTION

Civic Empowerment on Display in Bronx

Workshop Educates Bangladeshi-American Voters on Rights and RCV

Fredrick John

In a powerful blend of civic education and cultural connection, the Bangladeshi-American community in the Bronx came together for a vital workshop on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and voting rights, held at the Parkchester Islamic Center. The event provided much-needed guidance in Bengali, empowering voters with practical knowledge to participate more effectively in New York City elections. The workshop, held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, was organized by Save the People USA in partnership with the New York City Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) and the Voter Language Assistance Program (VLA). It was part of the broader "Vote in Your Language" initiative aimed at reaching linguistically diverse populations and expanding access to the democratic process. The evening opened with a Qur'an recitation by Fahim Miah, followed by a welcome prayer from Cheikh Ibrahim



Niass, grounding the event in both spirituality and civic intent. The keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Chair and Executive Director of the NYC Civic Engagement Commission, addressed the audience with a message focused on inclusion, accessibility, and civic empowerment. In her leadership role, Dr. Sayeed



works to ensure that all New Yorkers, especially those in historically marginalized communities, have the tools and information

needed to engage fully in civic life. The workshop also featured a comprehensive presentation by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA, who introduced attendees to the mechanics of Ranked Choice Voting. He broke down the system in simple terms, explaining how voters

can rank candidates and how that system benefits democratic representation. His presentation included real-life examples and encouraged audience interaction. The program was smoothly hosted by Fatima Niass, Office Manager of Save the People USA, who kept the session engaging and

accessible. Attendees participated in a hands-on RCV activity and were provided with multilingual voter resources designed to ensure confidence and clarity in navigating the election process. Many attendees expressed appreciation for the culturally sensitive and language-specific format of the event, noting that it helped bridge the gap between unfamiliar civic systems and community understanding. As the program closed, Fatima Niass offered a clear reminder to all attendees: "You deserve to be heard. Take a moment to check your status and find your polling place at nycvotersearch.com or voterlookup.elections.ny.gov. Your voice matters more than you know." With the primary elections fast approaching, her message reinforced the workshop's core goal: empowering every voter to take meaningful, informed action at the ballot box.



Photo: Dr. Shara Sayeed, Chair and Executive Director of the New York City Civic Engagement Commission, explaining the voting system.



Photo: STP USA CEO, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, explaining the voting system in Bengali



NYC ELECTION

Civic Empowerment on Display in Bronx





England Crash Out of World Cup of Darts

Shock defeat for Humphries and Littler stuns fans

Amkel Norush

A major upset unfolded at the 2025 World Cup of Darts in Frankfurt as England's top-ranked duo, Luke Humphries and Luke Littler, suffered a stunning 8-6 defeat to Germany in the last 16, shaking the tournament's landscape and sending shockwaves through the darts world. Widely considered favorites, Humphries and Littler—dubbed



Photo: Luke Humphries and Luke Littler were eliminated by Germany at the World Cup of Darts on Saturday

Image Source: Sky Sports

said post-match. Littler, still just 17, added, "We gave it everything, but Germany were solid and deserved it." England's exit now clears the path for other strong contenders. Wales, led by Gerwyn Price, and Scotland remain in the hunt, while host nation Germany rides a wave of momentum on home turf. This defeat marks an early end to what many hoped would be a title-winning run for England. For Littler, a rising star, it is a rare setback in a breakout year. For Germany, it is a statement win that energizes a nation and reshapes expectations for the remainder of the tournament.

HIGHLIGHT

- The upset occurred at the 2025 World Cup of Darts in Frankfurt
- Germany won 8-6 in a tense doubles match

England's "dream team"—were seen as strong contenders to lift the trophy. However, a composed and clinical performance

by Germany's Ricardo Pietreczko and Gabriel Clemens halted their campaign. Despite England averaging higher in individual legs,

key missed doubles and rising pressure ultimately proved costly. "It was a tough loss, and we didn't perform at our best," Humphries

Hajj 2025 Ends, Umrah Resumes

Saudi Arabia reopens visa services for pilgrims

Julian Alvez

Saudi Arabia officially concluded Hajj 2025 and resumed Umrah, e-visas, and visa-on-arrival services for eligible travelers starting June 10, reopening year-round access to the Kingdom's religious and cultural sites. The announcement marked the transition from the peak pilgrimage season to regular spiritual tourism.

HIGHLIGHT

- Umrah, e-visas, and visa-on-arrival resumed from June 10
- Services reopened for both pilgrims and tourists
- Travelers can now apply year-round via online platforms
- Move aligns with Vision 2030 tourism goals

Millions completed the Hajj rites in Mecca, and with the season ending, pilgrims and tourists have since begun returning under the renewed visa system. Applicants are now able to submit for Umrah and tourist visas online or through authorized agencies. The resumption supports Saudi Arabia's broader goals under Vision 2030 to expand its tourism sector and facilitate more streamlined entry



Image Source: northeastlivetv.com

for international visitors. Authorities have also reminded travelers to adhere to updated health and entry protocols. The reopening has been welcomed by tour operators and faith-based travelers, many of whom are now preparing for Umrah visits throughout the remainder of the year.

Fanatics Games Set to Thrill NYC

Tom Brady and A-Rod lead fan-athlete showdown



Photo: Alex Rodríguez and Tom Brady to headline Fanatics Games 2025 Image Source: MARCA

Nassr Al Shams

New York City is preparing for a landmark sports fan experience as Fanatics Games and Fanatics Fest arrive later this month. Scheduled for June 20–22 at the Javits Center, the event brings together top athletes and fans in a celebration of sports, competition, and collectibles. NFL legend Tom Brady and MLB icon Alex Rodriguez will headline the Fanatics Games, where fans will engage in on-site challenges and competitions alongside sports greats. The games promise an immersive, interactive format where spectators become participants. Running concurrently, Fanatics Fest will showcase the "Museum

HIGHLIGHT

- Tom Brady and Alex Rodriguez to appear at Fanatics Games
- Fanatics Fest runs June 20–22 at Javits Center, New York City

of Greatness", featuring rare memorabilia and historic items from across professional sports. Organizers promise a one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment, shopping, and nostalgia. Backed by sports merchandise giant Fanatics, the weekend is expected to draw massive crowds and reshape the way fans interact with their favorite athletes and teams.



Photo: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney Image Source: Dave Chan / AFP/File/RFI

G7 Summit Unfolds Amid Global Tensions

Leaders weigh trade, conflict, and market volatility

Adrian Smith

Global instability took center stage as G7 leaders convened in Kananaskis, Canada, on June 14–15, to confront an array of mounting geopolitical and economic challenges. The summit addressed escalating U.S.–China trade tensions, the ongoing review of the AUKUS security pact, and the deepening crises in the Middle East, particularly following intensified conflict between Israel and Iran. The meeting came at a time of heightened anxiety in global markets. As diplomatic discussions unfolded,

oil prices surged on fears of supply disruption, gold climbed as investors sought safe havens, and central banks signaled caution, weighing interest rate strategies against a backdrop of uncertainty. U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods, recently reasserted by former President Donald Trump, drew particular concern from European leaders, who warned of ripple effects across global supply chains. The summit also featured urgent consultations on security coordination in the Indo-Pacific and responses to the deteriorating situations

in Ukraine and Gaza. While no major breakthrough was announced, leaders issued a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to multilateral cooperation and economic resilience. "Our unity is our strength," said one European official, emphasizing the need for coordinated fiscal and security responses. As the summit concluded, attention turned to the markets, where volatility underscored investor unease. With multiple global flashpoints unresolved, leaders left Canada facing difficult policy choices ahead.