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nyn.press
Muharram -1447
+1646 444 6644
info@nyn.press

NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Senate Advances Trump's Plan

Tight vote clears way for sweeping tax cuts and spending overhaul

Alexandar Sullivan

Alexandar Sullivan: In a tense late-night session on June 28, the U.S. Senate narrowly voted 51-49 to advance President Donald Trump's sweeping fiscal legislation, nicknamed the "One Big Beautiful Bill." The nearly 1,000-page measure overcame its first procedural hurdle and now moves to full debate on the Senate floor, as Republicans push for final passage before July 4. The bill proposes \$3.8 trillion in permanent tax cuts, including deductions for tips, overtime, and auto loans, and allocates \$350 billion in new spending—primarily for immigration enforcement, border security, and national defense. However, the plan also enacts major reductions to Medicaid, SNAP food assistance, and green energy tax credits, sparking sharp



Photo: The Capitol is seen in Washington, March 25, 2025.
Image Source: AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File

criticism from Democrats and some Republicans. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the cuts could lead to 11.8 million more Americans uninsured by 2034 and add \$2.4 to \$3 trillion to the national deficit over ten years. In response to mounting

HIGHLIGHT

- **Procedural vote 51-49 on June 28 advances the bill**
- **\$3.8 trillion in tax cuts and \$350 billion in new spending**

pressure, GOP leaders made late revisions, including a \$25 billion rural hospital fund and a softening of Medicaid rollback timelines to appease moderates. Republican Senators Thom Tillis and Rand Paul broke ranks and voted against the

motion, citing concerns over health coverage erosion and long-term fiscal impact. Democrats have vowed to use the upcoming debate to introduce amendments that highlight the bill's effects on social programs. Outside the Capitol, reactions were swift. Tech billionaire Elon Musk called the bill "destructive" to innovation and sustainability efforts, while President Trump declared the vote a "GREAT WIN for the American people." The House will need to re-approve the final version if the Senate passes the amended bill. With public protests brewing and political stakes high, the outcome of the One Big Beautiful Bill could reshape the fiscal and social landscape of the United States for years to come.

BIS Warns of Global Shift

Debt, trade tensions shake confidence

John Paul

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) warned on June 29 that the global economy stands at a "pivotal moment." Rising trade tensions, geopolitical conflict, and a 10% decline in the U.S. dollar this year have weakened financial stability and central bank credibility. The BIS cited additional risks including aging populations, climate shocks, and record-high public debt, which together reduce governments' ability to respond to future crises. BIS leaders urged policymakers to enact structural reforms, rebuild fiscal buffers, and avoid short-term populist spending. They emphasized that delay could lead to sharper inflation, financial instability, and lasting economic damage. The message: act now, or risk deeper shocks ahead.

Mamdani Clinches NYC Nominations

Progressive upset shakes city's Democratic landscape



Photo: Donald Trump slammed Zohran Mamdani (R) after the latter won the Democratic mayoral primary.
Image Source: Collected Online

Lily Anderson

In a landmark primary on June 24, Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old New York State assemblyman and democratic socialist, captured the Democratic nomination for mayor of New York City, defeating former Governor Andrew Cuomo with approximately 43.5% of first-choice votes compared to Cuomo's 36.4%. Mamdani's win sent shockwaves through political circles.

He is poised to become the city's first Muslim and Indian-American mayor if he prevails in November. His campaign rise in Islamophobic content, while figures like Rep. Andy Ogles and others urged the Trump administration to strip Mamdani's U.S. citizenship and deport him under the Communist Control Act. President Donald Trump, now in his second term, weighed in via social media, denouncing Mamdani as a "100% Communist Lunatic," and warning about the direction of Democratic leadership. Mamdani, in response, firmly rejected the accusations, identifying as a democratic socialist with a focus on economic justice. The general election campaign is unfolding amid extraordinary political tension, as Mamdani prepares to confront the field—including independent incumbent Eric Adams and Republican Curtis Sliwa—while championing his vision for a more equitable New York City.

HIGHLIGHT

- **June 24: Zohran Mamdani, 33, wins Democratic primary**
 - **Defeats former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, capturing ~43.5%**
 - **President Donald Trump labels him "100% Communist Lunatic"**
- focused on affordable housing, rent control, and transit equity, resonating strongly among progressive voters. However, the victory triggered a wave of backlash. Civil rights advocates documented a sharp

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COMMUNITY NEWS



NYC Free Public Pools Open For The Season

Staff Reporter

Luckily, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's free outdoor pools open for the season on Friday, June 27, 2025 including the new Gottesman Pool at the Davis Center, located next to the Harlem Meer in Central Park. According to the Central Park Conservatory, the new heated pool provides a larger-than-Olympic-size pool, an outdoor spray pad, public restrooms, and other amenities. The Gottesman, which cost nearly \$160,000, is just one of 65 public pools across the five boroughs. 'During a heat wave, one of the greatest responsibilities we have as a city is to provide access to resources that keep our most vulnerable New Yorkers cool and safe - and



that means opening our public pools and giving our children access to free swim lessons and trained lifeguards, so they are protected in and around the water this summer,' Adams said. The Adams administration says the city has 680 lifeguards as of today, a

number that is expected to continue to grow as lifeguard certification continues through mid-July. NYC Parks Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa said her team is aggressively recruiting students who are off for the summer. 'We are always, every single day, we

are continuing to recertify lifeguards to be able to continue to certify lifeguards, so we expect to have the full complement we need by July 4th,' Rodriguez-Rosa said. The pools will remain open until Sept. 7 with free adult swim lanes and the expansion of free swimming lessons. Unsure when to visit your local NYC Parks pool? Here's what to know. Outdoor pool hours are from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Outdoor public pools are open citywide from Friday, June 27 until Sunday, September 7. Indoor pools are open all year. There can often be a line outside pools. NYC Parks says on busy days they may add swim sessions and limit the amount of time that visitors can swim in the pool, and may also give out

bracelets that allow visitors to come back later and skip the line. NYC Parks recommends bringing a sturdy combination lock, a swimsuit, a towel, and sunscreen. Plain white shirts and white hats are allowed on pool decks, but no shirts with colors on them are allowed. Food, glass bottles, electronic devices, and newspapers are not permitted. Floaties are also generally not permitted. NYC Parks also recommends leaving valuables such as jewelry at home. NYC Parks offers free aquatics programming, including swim classes, and has recently expanded programming from six to ten outdoor pools, including the new Gottesman Pool. New Yorkers can sign up for the registration lottery on the NYC Parks website.

South Bronx Student Going From Highbridge To Harvard



Staff Reporter

Christina Adja, a South Bronx native who just graduated from Central Park East High School in East Harlem, is heading to Harvard this fall — after also being accepted to Yale, UPenn, Georgetown University and Smith College. She was the first student

in her school to ever be accepted to multiple Ivy League schools. "As much as I'm kinda sad that I'll be leaving New York City soon, it's really something that's great for me, you know," Adja told the Bronx Times in a June 26 interview. Harvard has many legacy students, meaning one or both of their

parents attended the school, but Adja did not have that advantage. Her parents are Togolese immigrants and her mom, who got an associate's degree back home, works as a clerk at Montefiore and her dad, who did not attend college, drives horse-drawn carriages, mainly in Central Park. Fortunately, Adja said she had a great college counselor at school who kept all students aware of various opportunities that would help them. Even so, she said she worried about her chances of getting into a prestigious school. She hadn't been accepted into the city's specialized high schools and wasn't awarded some of the biggest-name scholarships, so she thought perhaps the Ivys were a stretch. But Adja leaned on her strong academic record, including four Advanced Placement courses this year, and a broad range of extracurricular experience,

1000 illegal fireworks seized from Brooklyn warehouse



NYN DESK

The FDNY and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office teamed up to seize more than 1,000 illegal fireworks worth \$250,000 from a Brooklyn warehouse, authorities said. Investigators received a tip that led them to the warehouse, the Everbright Trading Company, at 1177B Flushing Ave. where undercover fire marshals found the illegal fireworks. The fireworks included Roman Candle-style fireworks, rockets and large sparkling devices. Based on a tip from the Riverhead Long Island Fire Marshal's Office,

FDNY Fire Protection Inspectors and Fire Marshals launched the investigation. According to a news release, fire marshals in plainclothes visiting the warehouse twice and noticed shelves were stocked with a range of illegal fireworks. That when the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office was called in, and on June 24 undercover members of the BFI Special Investigations Unit and the DA investigator team attempted to purchase fireworks. They froze the location, obtained a search warrant and hauled away the merchandise. Lisen Pan,

Body found On Staten Island Shoreline

NYN DESK

A body was found on the shoreline of Staten Island on Friday afternoon, according to police. Officers were called to Fort Wadsworth at about 12:22 p.m., where they located the body of a male that authorities believe washed ashore from the waters off of Staten Island, according to preliminary



information provided to a spokesman for the NYPD's Deputy Commissioner of Public Information. The person was pronounced dead by EMS at the scene and the medical examiner

will determine the cause of death, said police. The body was heavily decomposed and authorities are trying to determine how the person ended up in the water, according to a source with knowledge of the investigation. At least two NYPD vehicles, two U.S. Park Police vehicles, and 1 unmarked police vehicle were at the scene.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
03:49	01:00	05:00	08:31	10:10
03:49	01:00	05:00	08:31	10:10
03:50	01:00	05:00	08:31	10:10
03:51	01:00	05:00	08:31	10:09
03:52	01:00	05:00	08:30	10:09
03:52	01:01	05:00	08:30	10:08
03:53	01:01	05:00	08:30	10:08

OPINION

South Bronx student going from Highbridge to Harvard
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The New Hijri Year and Communal Awakening

Imam Shamsi Ali

The global Muslim community is once again commemorating the transition from the year 1446 to 1447 Hijriyah, marking a significant event in Islamic history. The Hijri calendar, which begins with the Prophet Muhammad's migration (Hijrah) from Mecca to Medina, holds profound meaning for Muslims worldwide. The Hijri calendar serves as a reminder of the importance of collective identity and independence for the Muslim community. It symbolizes a collective awakening and a commitment to upholding Islamic values in all aspects of life, spiritually, politically, economically and socially.

The Significance of Hijrah
Hijrah, the migration of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina, is a pivotal event in Islamic history that symbolizes the collective awakening of the Muslim

community. It marked the beginning of a new era for Muslims, where they could practice their faith freely and build a strong community. The Hijri calendar and Islamic identity are closely linked. Muslims are encouraged to maintain their unique identity and not be influenced by other cultures or ideologies that contradict Islamic principles. Islamic identity, as mentioned earlier, encompasses all aspects of life, including spirituality, politics, economics, and social interactions.

Principles for Communal Awakening

To achieve communal awakening, Imam Shamsi Ali emphasizes seven crucial principles:
●Spiritual Foundation. Strengthening one's connection with Allah through righteous deeds and sincere devotion.



“The essence of Hijrah lies not merely in physical migration but in the spirit of change and transformation.”

- Self-Introspection. Critically evaluating one's actions and intentions to ensure alignment with Islamic values.
- Unity in Diversity. Fostering a sense of community and cooperation among Muslims, despite differences.
- Social Awareness. Promoting justice, morality, and compassion within society.

●Winning the Battle of Perception. Effectively communicating Islamic values and principles to others.

●Building an Otherworldly Perspective. Prioritizing spiritual growth and development in one's life.

●Participating in Struggle. Actively contributing to the betterment of society and the Muslim community.

The Essence of Hijrah

The essence of Hijrah lies not merely in physical migration but in the spirit of change and transformation. Muslims must strive to adapt and evolve, embracing new challenges and opportunities while remaining true to their faith. To move forward, Muslims need to undergo three fundamental changes:
●First, Mindset Shift. Adopting a mindset that prioritizes spiritual growth, self-improvement, and community

development.

●Second, Character Development. Cultivating strong moral character, resilience, and optimism.

●Third, Environmental Change. Creating a supportive environment that fosters Islamic values and promotes collective well-being.

As we enter the new year 1447 Hijriyah, I extend my warmest wishes to all, hoping this year brings greater blessings and goodness than the previous year. And may this occasion inspire us all to reflect on our faith, community, and role in shaping a better and brighter future.

Imam Shamsi Ali
Director of Jamaica Muslim Center | President of Nusantara Foundation | a Father of six Children

Climate Change: A Test of Our Collective Responsibility

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

Climate change is no longer a distant warning—it is a lived reality. From scorching heatwaves in major cities to catastrophic floods in coastal regions, the climate crisis is amplifying environmental extremes across the globe. It is testing not only our infrastructures and economies but also our moral and spiritual responsibilities as stewards of the Earth. Islam teaches us that the Earth is a trust (Amanah) from Allah, and we are its caretakers (Khalifah). The Quran warns, “Corruption has appeared on land and sea because of what people's hands have earned” (30:41).

The environmental disasters we face today are a direct consequence of years of exploitation, neglect, and imbalance. The impacts of climate change are disproportionately affecting the world's most vulnerable—those who have contributed the least to the problem but suffer the most. As people of faith, we must see this not just as a scientific issue but as a profound moral crisis. Rising sea levels, disappearing biodiversity, and extreme weather events are signs that our planet is crying out for urgent attention. We need to reframe our understanding of success and consumption. Overconsumption,



“The Earth is not ours to abuse—it is Allah's gift to preserve.”

wastefulness, and disregard for natural limits are not only unsustainable—they are spiritually corrosive.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught moderation in all things, even in the use of water during ablution. Addressing climate change requires action at every level—from policy reform to individual behavior. Planting trees, conserving resources, reducing emissions, and supporting climate justice are all acts of worship when done with sincere intention. It is time to align our lifestyles with the values of balance (mīzān), sustainability, and compassion. As believers, we cannot be bystanders. Climate change is not just an environmental issue—it is a human issue, a justice issue, and a test of our

faith in action.

— **Imam Muhammad Shahidullah**
Founder, Save the People USA



Standing for Leadership, Unity, and Respect

Adeel Rana

I support Eric! Adeel Rana, New York Before I begin, let me be clear. I fully and without hesitation support our current mayor, Eric Adams. At the same time, I want to send a strong message to those spreading hate, division, and bigotry toward Democratic primary winner Zohran Mamdani, STOP IT!!! This is not about race, religion, or identity. I am a proud Muslim, and so is Mamdani. We may have differences when it comes

to policies, and that's part of democracy. But what we cannot and will not tolerate is hate or discrimination of any kind. I respect and commend Zohran Mamdani for his hard work, dedication, and for making history. He has made many of us proud, and his achievement is a win for all immigrant communities striving for representation. If this were a different time, I would support him wholeheartedly. But right now, we have a mayor who



“We may have differences when it comes to policies, and that's part of democracy. But what we cannot and will not tolerate is hate or discrimination of any kind.”

has stood by our officers, our communities, and our city. Mayor Eric Adams has brought down crime rates, improved quality of life across the boroughs, and championed the promotion of hardworking members of the NYPD which is reflecting the rich diversity of our city. He has earned another four years, and I believe he will continue leading New York with strength, fairness, and integrity. And after that? I would be proud to see someone like

Zohran Mamdani take the torch. That's the American dream. That's what makes this country great. The opportunity for all, no matter where you come from. God bless America. ☐☐ Mayor Eric Adams

Adeel Rana
A Personal Statement from his social media post



BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Bridges of Trust: A Community Call to Action

Faith Leaders and DA Katz Discuss Pathways to Youth Empowerment and Peace

James Anderson

When faith and civic duty meet, real change becomes possible. That belief was at the heart of a recent gathering in South Richmond Hill, where faith leaders from across Queens convened to explore how their roles in spiritual guidance could also drive safety, opportunity, and justice for the borough's youth. The meeting, hosted by Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz on a recent Wednesday, brought together members of the Clergy Advisory Council at Faith Assembly, a central community hub in the neighborhood. Attendees began arriving early for refreshments at 10:30 AM, with the formal session beginning at 11:00 AM. The room quickly filled with clergy and community representatives, reflecting a strong interest in working together to address



the needs of youth and improve public safety across Queens. The focus of the meeting centered on how the District Attorney's Office is working to empower youth, reduce crime, and address gun violence in neighborhoods across Queens. The DA's team shared information about city resources and community programs that are currently available

to support young people and promote public safety. These initiatives, designed to offer guidance and alternatives to at-risk youth, are central to the office's broader crime prevention efforts. The District Attorney's Office encouraged faith leaders to help spread awareness of these programs, noting that clergy are often among the most trusted figures

in their communities. By sharing information through places of worship and personal outreach, religious leaders can serve as vital messengers in helping connect families and youth to the services available to them. Also discussed was the importance of ongoing collaboration between government offices and local faith institutions.

Attendees were urged to identify the unique needs within their communities and to provide feedback that could help shape future outreach efforts. The meeting highlighted the role faith-based leadership can play—not only in prevention but also in building a stronger network of care and support for those most vulnerable. While the session focused primarily on youth, it also touched on broader public safety concerns, especially the impact of gun violence in local

efforts, offer guidance to families, and serve as conduits between residents and city resources. Throughout the event, there was a clear emphasis on unity and shared responsibility. The message was not only about addressing problems but about working together to expand the reach and effectiveness of programs that already exist—ensuring that support reaches those who need it most. By the end of the meeting, attendees left with practical information, renewed purpose, and a strengthened partnership with the District Attorney's Office. The event served as a reminder that real progress requires collective action—and that when civic leaders and faith communities work together, the impact can reach every corner of Queens.



neighborhoods. Faith leaders were asked to consider how they might support peacebuilding



ADVOCACY

Voices for Global Change Rise in D.C.

UNA-USA Advocacy Summit Unites Citizens and Diplomats for UN Support



Emily Parker

Amid the charged backdrop of global crises and national policy shifts, more than a hundred citizen advocates from across the country converged in Washington, D.C. for the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) Advocacy Summit, held on June 23–24, 2025. The event brought together students, professionals, grassroots leaders, and diplomats for two days of policy training, global dialogue, and face-to-face meetings with congressional offices—anchoring the summit's core goal: advancing U.S. support for the United Nations. The summit opened at

YOTEL on New Jersey Avenue NW, where attendees gathered for morning plenaries featuring voices central to U.S.-UN engagement. Rachel Bowen Pittman, Executive Director of UNA-USA, led opening remarks, joined by Peter Yeo, Senior Vice President of the UN Foundation, and other notable leaders including Karen Mulhauser, Lady Tee Thompson, and Scarlett Lanzas. Throughout the day, panels explored how the United Nations contributes to American security, prosperity, and resilience—linking global programs to domestic impact. Session topics ranged from climate policy and public health to

economic development and refugee protection.



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Notable speakers included Hilary French of the UN Environment Programme, Jonathan Bourguignon of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and multiple UNA-USA Youth Observers to the UN, whose first-hand insights offered younger attendees models of advocacy in action. A highlight of Day 1 was the Storytelling + Congressional Skit workshop, where participants honed their messaging skills with

help from Faith Leslie, Rebecca Maxie, and Kelsey Piva. With a clear focus on impact, the event emphasized effective storytelling as the bridge between personal passion and policy influence. On June 24, the tone shifted from preparation to action. After an early breakfast and a final strategy session, attendees departed for the U.S. Capitol, where they took part in pre-arranged congressional meetings. With talking points centered on U.S. contributions to the UN, advocates

met with legislative staffers to discuss global cooperation on health, food security, peacekeeping, and sustainable development. The day's activities were guided by Maria Amalla, Grassroots Advocacy Manager at UNA-USA, who played a key role throughout the summit in organizing mobilization efforts. Among the 170+ meetings held, several involved key members of New York's congressional

delegation. Advocates met with Shyla Alam, Legislative Correspondent for Sen. Chuck Schumer [D-NY], at the Hart Senate Office Building; Sachin Mathur and Benjamin Lebowitz, Legislative Assistant and Legislative Aide for Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY], respectively, at the Russell Senate Office Building; and with Rep. Grace Meng's [D-NY06] Legislative Assistant Max Harris at the Rayburn House Office Building. These conversations emphasized the importance of continued U.S. funding for the UN and highlighted how international collaboration directly supports American interests. Representing one of New York's most active UNA-USA communities, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Vice President of the Queens Chapter of UNA-USA, played a visible and engaged role throughout the summit. As a faith leader and grassroots advocate, he participated in strategy sessions, attended key panels, and contributed to Hill meetings—helping amplify the voices of Queens residents in the national conversation on global engagement.

In the evening, participants reconvened at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center for a formal congressional reception, with remarks by Will Davis, Director of the UN Information Center in Washington, D.C. The reception offered advocates the opportunity to reflect, network, and celebrate a day of direct engagement with U.S. decision-makers. The UNA-USA Advocacy Summit underscored the essential role of American citizens in shaping foreign policy. Through expert-led sessions and meaningful conversations on the Hill, attendees left with sharpened skills, renewed urgency, and a shared message: that global challenges require global cooperation—and that the United States must remain a committed partner in the international system. For many, the summit was more than a learning experience—it was a launchpad for lifelong civic involvement. As they returned to their home states, participants carried a powerful reminder that advocacy doesn't end in Washington; it begins there.



ADVOCACY

Voices for Global Change Rise in D.C.



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EDUCATION

A Proud Farewell to the Future

YWLS of Queens Celebrates the Class of 2025 with Inspiration and Purpose



Ashley Reed

There was more than applause echoing through the Jamaica Performing Arts Center on June 25, 2025 — there was purpose, pride, and the unmistakable energy of transformation. As the Young Women's Leadership School of Queens celebrated its Class of 2025, the air was filled with the weight of achievement and the promise of what lies

ahead. The auditorium buzzed with excitement as families, faculty, and honored guests gathered for the 1:00 PM commencement ceremony, a culminating moment for students who had spent years building not just academic résumés, but identities rooted in confidence, leadership, and perseverance. The event began with a warm welcome from High School Assistant Principal Jennifer



Young Women's Leadership School of Queens

Pineda, followed by the processional of graduates, many of whom will go on to attend respected colleges and universities across New York State and beyond.

Following a powerful rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner by Adelina DaSilva, a moving slideshow honored the graduates' journey — a visual reflection of their resilience, friendships, and personal growth. Principal Mala Panday then addressed the crowd with remarks that underscored the core values of the school: academic strength, integrity, and the power of women's leadership. A memorable portion of the event came with the Final Morning Minute Address, delivered collectively by students Alexandria Davis, Naeema Mohammed, Shiloh Newland, and Mansura Taiyebah. Their words captured the emotional weight of their shared high school experience — one filled with growth, challenge, and unity. Academic excellence was further highlighted through speeches by Salutatorian Zhone Jack and Valedictorian

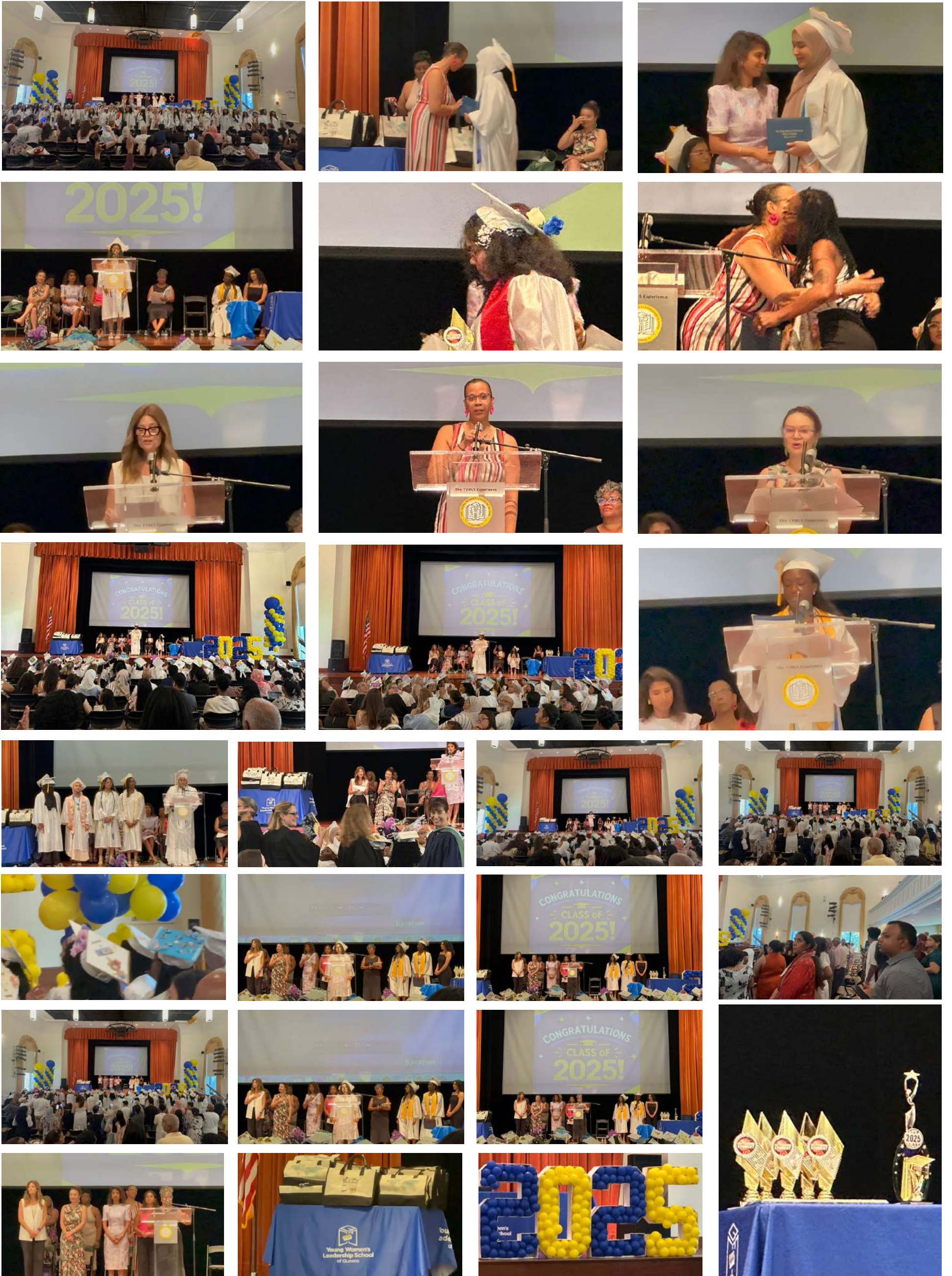
Bhavini Susankar, who inspired their classmates with reflections on hard work, identity, and the journey ahead. Their voices, shaped by both rigor and reflection, reminded the audience that leadership is not just taught — it's lived. The ceremony's keynote speaker, Maria Cristina Gonzalez Noguera, brought a powerful real-world perspective. As Executive Vice President and Chief Communications and Public Affairs Officer at Popular, Inc., she drew from her own leadership journey to offer graduates encouragement rooted in experience. Her presence on stage served as a strong reminder of the diverse paths success can take and the influence women can have in any field they pursue. One of the most anticipated moments of the day was the presentation of diplomas, led again by Jennifer Pineda,

as each graduate took the stage with cheers from family and classmates. Graduates were honored not only for completing their high school journey but for doing so with excellence. Many earned Advanced Regents Diplomas, college credits during high school, and admissions to top institutions such as Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, SUNY Stony Brook, Boston University, CUNY Macaulay Honors College, and more. The ceremony closed with a celebratory recessional, sending graduates off to new beginnings — empowered, equipped, and ready to lead. The Class of 2025 didn't just walk away with diplomas; they walked away with momentum. The kind that comes from a school that believes in the power of young women to not only succeed, but to shape the world.



EDUCATION

A Proud Farewell to the Future



PEACE AND JUSTICE

Justice and Unity in the Face of Hate

Mayor Adams and Community Leaders Respond to Subway Hate Crime

Christopher Scott

A brutal subway attack in Forest Hills has prompted an outpouring of unity and condemnation from across New York City's diverse communities. On June 25, 2025, Mayor Eric Adams stood on the steps of City Hall alongside interfaith and community leaders to denounce the violent assault of a 55-year-old Muslim woman—an act they say strikes at the very soul of the city. The woman, who was commuting peacefully on the E train, was approached by a man who demanded to know if she was Muslim. Upon confirming her faith, she was viciously attacked, her hijab torn from her head, and her body repeatedly struck. According to officials, this was not the perpetrator's first offense. He had two prior violent incidents and was still free to commit another act of hate—a failure that many at the press conference found deeply troubling. "This is a bad action, and he must be held accountable," said



Mayor Eric Adams, who visited the victim's family in Queens earlier that week. "To attack a woman that's wearing a hijab merely because she's a Muslim is something that should be unacceptable. Hate has no place in our city." He also called for an end to plea bargaining in serious hate crime cases, arguing that reducing such offenses to minor infractions sends the wrong message. In a city as diverse as New York, an assault on one faith community

reverberates across all others. Leaders from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, LGBTQ+, Hispanic, and Asian American communities took to the podium to express solidarity and urge continued resistance against hate in all its forms. Marwa Janini, Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York, described a disturbing climate of fear. "Clients are followed on the streets, harassed in stores, mistreated at work," she said. Her organization has received threats,

including a note that read, "Death to Muslims." She emphasized that community healing and safety are central to her organization's mission, offering legal support, counseling, and self-defense classes to those affected. Matt Abrams-Gerber of the Jewish Community Relations Council echoed this commitment. "The Jewish community knows all too well what it means to be targeted, particularly those who are religiously identified

by their appearance," he said, pledging the Jewish community's support for their Muslim neighbors. From the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, Pastor Louis Straker Jr. called the subway assault "an attack on our values, our neighbors, and our shared humanity." He urged New Yorkers of all backgrounds to "speak up, show out, and shut down hate wherever it rears its ugly head." The emotional tone was consistent throughout the event, with speakers recounting past acts of solidarity and present-

Daphne Thammasila of the Asian American Federation added their voices to the growing coalition, highlighting efforts to foster cross-community understanding. From hosting interethnic youth dialogues to distributing thousands of safety resources through the PATH FORWARD program, these organizations are working on the front lines to prevent hate before it happens. Executive Director Vijah Ramjattan of the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes reminded the audience why such collaboration is vital: "Every New Yorker deserves to feel safe in our streets, in our subways, in their communities, in their schools, in their houses of worship." As the press conference concluded, one phrase echoed through the crowd: "Hate will never win." More than a slogan, it was a shared vow from leaders of every background that the city will stand together in defense of dignity, safety, and justice for all.



day threats to public safety. Audacia Ray, representing the New York City Anti-Violence Project, stressed the intersectionality of the moment—especially as the city celebrates Pride Month amid rising attacks on LGBTQ+ individuals. Cindy Treminio of the Hispanic Federation and



EDUCATION

WUST Celebrates Class of 2025

\$2M Startup Fund Announced at Joyous Convocation



Jessica Morgan

Amid thunderous applause, camera flashes, and joyful cheers, Washington University of Science and Technology (WUST) held its 2025 Convocation Ceremony on a recent Saturday, at the Alexandria City High School Auditorium, celebrating the achievements of 263 graduates from the university's School of Business Administration and School of Information Technology. The auditorium came alive as family, friends,



**Washington University
of Science and Technology**

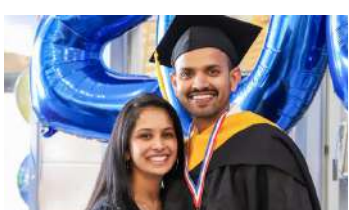
faculty, and dignitaries filled over a thousand seats, watching proudly as graduates, draped in black gowns and caps, crossed the stage to receive their diplomas. The event was rich with cultural diversity and a shared sense of achievement as students of all ages and backgrounds came together to mark this academic milestone. The program began

with the U.S. national anthem, followed by a ceremonial procession of faculty and trustees. Spearheading the event was Dr. Shane Cho, Vice President of Operations & Registrar, while academic leadership, including Dr. Jeffrey Pirim, Vice President of Education, and WUST Chancellor and Board Chairman Engineer Abubokor Hanip, took their places

on stage. Chancellor Hanip, the first Bangladeshi-American to lead a fully accredited U.S. university, delivered a stirring speech congratulating the Class of 2025. In a landmark announcement, he revealed the launch of a \$2 million startup fund to support student innovation and entrepreneurship through a new incubator program. "We will not only offer guidance—but are ready to invest up to two million dollars in ideas that solve real-world problems," he said, prompting a wave of applause throughout the auditorium. The startup initiative aims to transform academic success into entrepreneurial opportunity, encouraging graduates to be creators, not just seekers, of opportunity. "WUST is not just where you study—we prepare you to lead, to invent, and to make a difference," Hanip emphasized. Judge Soma Syed, the keynote speaker and

the first Bangladeshi-American elected to the New York City Civil Court, inspired the audience with her own journey—from immigrant struggles to judicial leadership. Citing examples from her life and global icons like Abraham Lincoln and Rumi, she urged students to remain resilient, ambitious, and community-minded. Additional speakers included Virginia State Senator Saddam Azlan Salim, who encouraged graduates to invest in both self-growth and community impact, and Loudoun County Treasurer Henry C. Eickelberg, who stressed the importance of independent thinking. Dr. Anis Rahman, President of Applied Research & Photonics, reminded students that a diploma is just the beginning—it's the determination and application that truly matter. Words of encouragement were also shared by Mrs. Farhana Hanip, CFO of WUST; Siddique Sheikh,

board member and Chairman of USPIC; and Mahdi-uz-Zaman, Director of the School of Professional Studies, each highlighting confidence, compassion, and continuous learning. The diploma ceremony followed, with Prof. Apostolos Eliopoulos and Dr. Mark Robinson presenting degrees to the graduates of the IT and Business schools, respectively. The formal graduation announcement was delivered by WUST President Dr. Hasan Karaburk, after which graduates turned their tassels, tossed their caps in the air, and celebrated with cheers and laughter. WUST's 2025 convocation was not merely an end-of-year celebration—it was a profound reflection of dreams fulfilled and a promise of what lies ahead. With new ventures, bold ideas, and empowered graduates, the university continues to position itself as a hub of academic excellence and innovation.



INTERFAITH

Stronger Together: Interfaith Voices in Harmony

Governor Hochul's Reception Highlights Shared Commitment to a Safer, Inclusive State

**Fredrick Lahm**

Against the panoramic backdrop of the New York City skyline, religious leaders, community organizers, and civic advocates gathered at the Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse at Lincoln Center for Governor Kathy

Hochul's Interfaith Reception on Thursday, June 26, 2025. The event, held from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, served as a heartfelt affirmation of New York's enduring spirit of inclusion, dialogue, and collective action across all faiths. The invitation-only reception brought



together an array of spiritual and community leaders representing a rich mosaic of religious traditions. From synagogues and mosques to churches and temples, each attendee represented more than just a faith — they represented a shared commitment to building a more resilient, compassionate, and just New York. The event was held under tight security with clearly outlined arrival instructions, reflecting the importance and exclusivity of the gathering. Attendees were required to present valid photo ID matching their name on the invitation, and registration closed promptly at 4:00 PM, underscoring the formality and structure of the event. Governor Kathy Hochul, who has made community inclusion and interfaith

engagement a hallmark of her administration, used the occasion to emphasize the role of spiritual leadership in shaping a safer, stronger state. In a statement shared on social media following the reception, she remarked, "Today's Interfaith Reception was a powerful reminder: across all faiths and backgrounds, we share a commitment to building a safer, stronger New York." Throughout the evening, conversations echoed the governor's sentiment. Attendees connected not just across religious lines, but also across community roles—fostering new networks between advocates, activists, and institutions dedicated to public service. The atmosphere was one of mutual respect and common purpose, framed by New York's ongoing commitment to diversity

and equity. The event, while celebratory, also carried the weight of responsibility. In the face of rising hate crimes, cultural polarization, and social inequality, the Interfaith Reception functioned as more than a symbolic gathering—it was a call to action. Faith communities were urged to remain vigilant, vocal, and collaborative in supporting peace, social justice, and neighborhood resilience. As the sun set over the city and guests began to depart, the message was clear: New York's strength lies not in its uniformity, but in its unity. Through events like this, Governor Hochul's administration continues to affirm that faith, when combined with civic resolve, can help bridge divides and chart a path toward a more inclusive future.



INTERFAITH

Stronger Together: Interfaith Voices in Harmony



RELIGION

Islamic Convention Kicks Off in Albany

Faith, family, and unity mark the first day

Mitchell John

The first day of the 1st Islamic Convention 2025, hosted by the North American Muslim Alliance, concluded on Saturday at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, drawing hundreds of attendees from across the region. The two-day gathering focuses on the theme “The Modern Muslim Family: Challenges and Solutions” and aims to address both spiritual and societal issues facing Muslim families in North America. The event opened at 9:00 AM, with participants checking in early to join the day’s full schedule of lectures, Quranic recitations, and exhibitions. A prominent moment of the day was the Quran tilawat (recitation) delivered by Ahmad Bin Yusuf, which was followed by a series



of sessions exploring the foundational role of family in Islamic life. Attendees spent the day engaging with educational booths, community stalls, and representatives from various Islamic organizations and institutions. These stalls provided resources on Islamic education, family counseling, youth

programs, and more. Organizers said the event was designed not only to offer religious enrichment but also to foster stronger community ties through learning and dialogue. Visitors from multiple cultural backgrounds were seen exploring the venue, attending sessions, and participating in nasheed

performances and group salawat (praise and blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him). The atmosphere remained spiritually focused, yet welcoming and interactive throughout the day. The program also included activities tailored for children and youth, as well as

separate sessions for women—ensuring a family-friendly environment for attendees of all ages. Lunch and dinner were included with registration, helping families stay engaged throughout the full-day schedule. Many attendees noted the value of having so many respected scholars and programs in one place, along with the opportunity to connect with fellow Muslims from diverse

communities. As the first day concluded, attention turned to Sunday, June 29, when the convention will resume with two major sessions beginning at 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Scheduled speakers include Shaykh Yahya Ninowy, Shaykh Nour Mohammad Kabbani, and Allama Saiful Azam Al Azhari. Topics will cover spiritual healing, the importance of mosque-based education, and role models like Hazrat Fatima (RD). Special sessions for youth and children, along with nasheed, dhikr, and communal prayers, will close out the event. With its mix of tradition, reflection, and community outreach, the Islamic Convention’s first day set a strong tone for what organizers hope will become an annual gathering of lasting significance.



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RELIGION

Islamic Convention Kicks Off in Albany



EDUCATION

University Day Unites Graduates

Dhaka University alumni mark tradition with joy



Patt Cummins

The Dhaka University Graduate Club, USA brought a wave of nostalgia, fellowship, and festivity to Astoria

Park on Saturday afternoon as they hosted their University Day Celebration 2025. Beginning at 1:00 PM, the event drew Dhaka University alumni, their

families, and well-wishers from across the tri-state area for an afternoon of shared memories, welcoming new faces, and enjoying summer under the open

sky. Organizers designed the gathering as a community-style celebration blending tradition with fun. The program included a fresher reception, where new graduates and recent arrivals were welcomed into the alumni network, highlighting the ongoing bond that ties Dhaka University graduates together globally. Attendees enjoyed a lively BBQ setup with grilled favorites, accompanied by music, laughter, and cultural programs. Cultural events, featuring songs, poetry, and informal performances, added depth and identity to the gathering. For many, the

performances served as a reminder of campus life back home—familiar melodies echoing across the Hudson. Beyond the formal elements, the day included a range of games and fun activities, particularly for children and younger family members. Alumni across generations mingled freely, sharing stories of student life and exchanging contact details to stay connected through future events. Although the event carried the tone of light-hearted celebration, many participants reflected on the significance of maintaining strong community ties while living abroad. Several

attendees expressed appreciation for the effort to preserve institutional pride and cultural identity in a new country. Organizers noted the event's purpose was not only to celebrate but also to strengthen professional and social networks among the Bangladeshi diaspora. As the sun dipped lower into the summer sky, the laughter, music, and shared spirit of Dhaka University alumni created lasting memories—reminding everyone present that while countries and careers may change, the bonds of university life remain rooted in shared experience.





Marquez Triumphs at Assen

Drama unfolds as brother crashes out



Photo: Marc Marquez of the Ducati Lenovo Team celebrates after winning the MotoGP race at the Grand Prix of the Netherlands
Image Source: Peter Dejong/AP

Amkel Norush

At the prestigious Assen circuit on June 29, Marc Marquez delivered a commanding performance to secure victory at the Dutch

MotoGP, extending his championship lead with his 68th premier-class win, tying the legendary Giacomo Agostini. He took the lead on lap two and held off relentless pressure, ultimately

crossing the finish line 0.635 seconds ahead of Marco Bezzecchi. Francesco Bagnaia completed the podium in third. However, the triumph was bittersweet, as Marc's brother, Alex

Marquez, crashed out in a fierce battle with Pedro Acosta on lap six, suffering a fractured left hand that requires surgery in Madrid. Race officials later ruled the incident "nobody's

fault," describing it as a racing incident. After the race, Marc defended his brother against criticism that Alex had held back during competition, calling such claims unfounded and emphasizing Alex's ambition. The win also consolidated Marc's position atop the standings, now 68 points clear of Alex and a commanding 126 points ahead of Bagnaia. Bezzecchi praised his relentless effort, acknowledging Marc's unyielding pace. As celebrations unfold, the Marquez camp balances jubilation with concern, as Alex's injury ushers in a challenging recovery period. Meanwhile, Marc Marquez continues to pursue MotoGP history—just 21 wins short of surpassing Valentino Rossi's all-time record.

HIGHLIGHT

- Dutch MotoGP at TT Circuit Assen
- Marc Marquez wins by 0.6 seconds, claiming his 68th career premier-class victory

NYC Under Heat Dome

Extreme heat brings near 100°F conditions



Photo: Heat Dome
Image Source: bronx.news12.com

HIGHLIGHT

- Heat index peaks at 110°F, prompting cooling-center activation
- Authorities urge hydration and limit on outdoor activity
- Public transportation delayed and hospital visits spike

Julian Alvez

A dangerous heat dome blanketed the eastern United States, bringing stifling conditions to New York City on June 24–25, 2025, with highs nearing 100°F and a heat index peaking at 110°F. Meteorologists warned the early-summer spike poses heightened risks, especially for vulnerable populations unacclimated to extreme temperatures. In response, New York City officials activated cooling centers across boroughs, opening libraries, community centers, and senior hubs to provide relief. The Department of Health issued alerts advising limited outdoor activity during midday hours and emphasized hydration. The oppressive conditions disrupted daily life. Amtrak services saw delays, and emergency rooms across the city reported increased cases of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Transit workers and outdoor laborers were among the most affected. While a cold front is forecast to arrive later this week, public officials emphasized the broader implications. They pointed to the heat dome as part of a growing pattern of climate volatility, urging investment in public health preparedness and urban climate resilience. The city's rapid mobilization offered immediate relief, but experts stress such extreme heat events are becoming more frequent—and more dangerous—in the era of climate change.

Swedish House Mafia Returns

Cryptic billboard teases NYC comeback

Nassr Al Shams



The celebrated electronic trio Swedish House Mafia sparked fresh enthusiasm when their Times Square billboard, bearing the message "New York See You Soon. Swedish House Mafia," went live during a three-hour set in Stockholm on June 28. The unveiling coincided with the debut of their new single, "Wait So Long," marking the start of what they're calling a 3.0 era. The billboard — spotted at West 50th and Broadway — revived memories of their last New York performance, a surprise Brooklyn Mirage set in April 2024, and triggered a frenzy online. Across platforms like TikTok and Reddit, fans are clamoring, with one raver expressing, "Might be the best SHM



Photo: Collage of Swedish House Mafia, a crowd at their concert, and a screenshot of their new surprise Times Square billboard.

Image Source: yahoo.com/nypost.com

set ever!" This teaser follows a strategic social media reset, including an Instagram wipe and cryptic "3.0" post—moves that suggest a major tour or U.S. return could be on the horizon. While no official U.S. dates have been announced, the Times Square moment unequivocally signals that New York is in Swedish House Mafia's crosshairs once again.

104 YEARS CELEBRATION

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