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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Trump Eyes Mamdani

Comments spark debate on immigration enforcement

Alexandar Sullivan

President Donald Trump escalated his ongoing feud with Zohran Mamdani, the presumptive Democratic nominee for New York City mayor, by threatening to have him arrested if he interferes with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. During a press conference at the controversial "Alligator Alcatraz" migrant detention center in Florida, Trump condemned Mamdani for his vow to "stop masked ICE agents from deporting our neighbors," a commitment he made after his victory in the Democratic mayoral primary. Trump's comments were a direct response to Mamdani's strong stance against deportation and his promise to protect immigrants from federal ICE raids. In his press



Photo: Donald Trump threatens to arrest Zohran Mamdani
Image Source: tyla.com

remarks, Trump labeled Mamdani a "communist" and falsely questioned his citizenship status, despite Mamdani's naturalization as a U.S. citizen in 2018. "Well then, we'll have to arrest him," Trump stated, further fueling the political tension surrounding immigration enforcement in sanctuary cities. The president also



"We will not accept this intimidation." Mamdani emphasized that his campaign would continue to advocate for immigrant rights and oppose any actions that would harm immigrant communities. He also vowed to stand firm against Trump's efforts to push deportations in New York City. The president's remarks have sparked widespread controversy, with legal experts questioning the feasibility of denaturalizing Mamdani. Critics argue that Trump's threats are politically motivated and lack sufficient legal grounds for enforcement. As Mamdani's mayoral campaign gains momentum, this feud underscores the deepening divide over immigration policies and the role of local governments in resisting federal immigration actions.

HIGHLIGHT

• Trump falsely claims Mamdani may be in the U.S. illegally despite his 2018 naturalization.

• Mamdani condemns Trump's remarks as intimidation and vows to protect immigrant rights.

suggested that Mamdani's naturalization could be challenged, claiming, "A lot of people are saying he's here illegally." Mamdani, born in Uganda and raised in New York, quickly responded, calling Trump's statements an attack on democracy. He denounced the president's threats as intimidation, stating,

Trump to Raise Tariffs to 70%

New trade tariffs target a dozen countries as the U.S. ramps up pressure

John Paul

As the July 9 deadline for trade negotiations approaches, President Donald Trump announced that starting August 1, the U.S. will impose tariffs of up to 70% on goods from countries that failed to reach new trade terms. The tariffs, detailed on July 4, 2025, will affect 10 to 12 nations, with rates ranging from 10% to 70%. This is a significant increase from the 50% reciprocal tariffs imposed in April. Trump expressed frustration over stalled negotiations with Japan and the European Union, emphasizing that the new tariffs aim to ensure fairer trade. The announcement has caused global market uncertainty, and Trump remains firm on the deadline, signaling the end of diplomatic efforts.

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Russia Launches Record Drone Strike

Kyiv hit with one of the worst air assaults since the war began



Photo: Residents inspect the damage following a Russian air strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday.
Image Source: Andrew Kravchenko/Bloomberg/Getty Images

Lily Anderson

The air in Kyiv was thick with smoke on the morning of July 4, 2025, following one of the worst Russian drone attacks of the ongoing conflict. The assault, which lasted 13 hours, struck multiple residential buildings, killing at least one and injuring 23 others. Ukrainian authorities intercepted 476 of the 539 drones launched by Russia, alongside 11 cruise and ballistic missiles. The attack coincided with a phone call between President Donald Trump and

HIGHLIGHT

• Russia launched 539 drones and missiles, killing 1 and injuring 23 in Kyiv.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, where Trump voiced frustration over stalled ceasefire talks. Residents, accustomed to near-nightly air assaults, spent the night in shelters as drones and explosions echoed through the city. Ukrainian officials described the attack as a clear sign that Russia had no intention

of ending the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the timing, stating that Russia's actions followed directly after Trump's call with Putin, which he believed showed a lack of progress toward peace. The strikes caused widespread damage, including the destruction of part of Kyiv's railway and several ambulances. Ukrainian officials and residents expressed outrage, linking Trump's lack of action in the negotiations to Russia's continued aggression. As the attack prompted air quality concerns in Kyiv, calls for more robust international support for Ukraine intensified.

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Elhaam Academy
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Columbia University student data stolen by hacker

Staff Reporter

A politically motivated hacker breached Columbia University's data systems last week, stealing troves of student documents while briefly shutting down the school's computer systems, a university official said Wednesday. The June 24 cyberattack prompted widespread network outages on campus, locking students and staff out of their email accounts, coursework and video conference software for several hours. On the same day, images of President Donald Trump's smiling face appeared on several public monitors across the Manhattan campus. A spokesperson for Columbia declined to elaborate on the political motivations behind the attack. But



officials described a highly sophisticated "hactivist" who had gained access to private student records in an attempt to further a political agenda. The spokesperson said it was unclear if the Trump photo display was connected

to the data breach. "We are investigating the scope of the apparent theft and will share our findings with the University community as well as anyone whose personal information was compromised," the school

said. The cyberattack comes as Columbia remains in the crosshairs of the Trump administration, which has threatened to pull \$400 million in federal funds over what it claims is the school's failure to protect Jewish students.

Negotiations over a possible settlement are ongoing. The university has already agreed to a host of changes demanded by Trump, including placing its Middle East studies department under new supervision and overhauling its rules for protests and student discipline. In March, a cyberattack against New York University resulted in student admission records briefly appearing on the school's website. An online hacker who took credit for that action on social media said the intent was to prove the university was not in compliance with the Supreme Court decision banning affirmative action in college admissions. An NYU spokesperson said at the time that the data displayed on its webpage was "inaccurate and misleading,

Queens Council celebrate funding for AAPI curriculum



A number of elected officials celebrated the inclusion of the Education Equity Action Plan in the budget, including Krishnan, who described the measure as an "important step" in ensuring all history is "taught in our classrooms." "I understand firsthand the importance of this curriculum," Krishnan stated, adding that the budget also delivered "big wins" for families, schools and immigrant communities by providing funding for expanded services in city libraries alongside funding for a "historic" universal child care pilot program. Won, meanwhile, said the AAPI curriculum represents a "meaningful step" toward enriching public school education in New York City. "This initiative will supplement the existing Black and Latino studies curricula, offering students a more inclusive and accurate understanding of our city's rich and diverse history. Every child deserves to learn about the communities that have shaped New York City,

curriculum in NYC schools. The elected officials were joined by representatives from a number of AAPI and immigrant groups on the steps of City Hall, including the Chinese American Planning Council, Korean Community Services, South Asian Youth Action (SAYA), Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI), Asian American Education Project (AAEP).

NYN DESK

Queens Council Members Shekar Krishnan, Linda Lee, Sandra Ung and Julie Won gathered on the steps of City Hall Wednesday afternoon alongside Manhattan Council Member Carlina Rivera to celebrate the "historic" \$2.5 million budget investment to support the implementation of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history

Mamdani rallies with new labor supporters



Staff Reporter

Democratic mayoral nominee Zohran Mamdani made a show of force in a Wednesday rally with powerful labor unions that now support his campaign after some of them backed former Gov. Andrew Cuomo's failed primary bid. Leaders and members of the unions — The Hotel and Gaming Trades Council (HTC), 32BJ SEIU, the New York State Nurses Association, and the Central Labor Council — gathered at HTC's Midtown headquarters on July 2 to celebrate Mamdani's decisive win in ranked-choice voting the previous day. Two of those unions, 32BJ and HTC, endorsed Cuomo in the primary and held an event at the same location with him just a couple of weeks ago, but have since switched to

endorse Mamdani in the November general election. Mamdani, a Queens Assembly member, said he believes his win with 543,344 votes — the most that any Democratic mayoral primary candidate has received since 1989 — is "a mandate to make this city affordable." He beat Cuomo by 12 percentage points — nabbing 56% in the third round of ranked-choice to Cuomo's 44%. Mamdani won the primary by turning out young voters, first-time voters, and those who casted their ballots for President Trump in last year's presidential election. He brought them together with a clear and concise message centered on lowering ballooning costs spread by a massive volunteer operation fanned out across the five boroughs.

Staten Island Man Arrested on Child Sexual Assault Charges

NYN DESK

A man who was wanted in the alleged rape of a 5-year-old girl on Staten Island is now in custody, police said. 30 year old is Dominique Giles, 30, was arrested and charged with 3 counts of rape in the first degree, rape in the second degree, two counts of rape in the third degree, 3 counts of sex abuse, forcible



touching, and six counts of endangering the welfare of a child, according to police. Police sources said Giles is a friend of someone in the

child's family. The alleged crime happened around 5:40 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22, inside a residence located near Richmond Terrace and Sharpe Avenue. The NYPD says Giles raped the 5-year-old victim and then fled on foot. The victim was taken to Richmond University Medical Center for evaluation.

Prayer Time IN New York

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|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
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| 03:55 | 01:01 | 05:00 | 08:29 | 10:07 |
| 03:56 | 01:01 | 05:01 | 08:29 | 10:06 |
| 03:57 | 01:01 | 05:01 | 08:28 | 10:05 |
| 03:58 | 01:01 | 05:01 | 08:28 | 10:04 |
| 03:59 | 01:02 | 05:01 | 08:27 | 10:04 |
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The Impact of Zohran Mamdani's Victory in the Democratic Primary

Imam Shamsi Ali

The victory of Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York City, against Andrew Cuomo, an experienced politician from a prominent New York political dynasty and backed by party leaders and oligarchs, is surprising and historic in many aspects. I won't repeat everything that's been said before, but I'll highlight the positive impacts of Zohran's election on New York politics, America, and the world. His win became a trending global topic, almost overshadowing the ongoing news about the Gaza massacre. This shows that the world is paying attention to the political phenomenon in New York City, a city that has always been a global focus. There are many positive impacts of Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York City. Here are a few unique aspects that have directly impacted politics in New York, America, and the world:

1. Change and Resistance. Zohran's victory exposes the urgent need for change

and resistance to the status quo globally. Despite being considered "inexperienced," Zohran became a symbol of change that toppled the old, outdated political status quo. His largest supporters were young people and new immigrants seeking something new.

2. Reviving Public Trust. Zohran's win rebuilds public spirit and trust in politics, particularly among young people and millennials. Politics in many countries, including America, has become dull and outdated, with elections feeling meaningless. Those with large funds always seem to benefit, while the public becomes the object and victim of often immoral and unethical politics. Zohran's victory in the primary election changed that and has become a motivation for many young people to run for office at various levels of politics in America, including city council, state assembly, Congress, Senate, and other positions. It's reported that over 6,000 individuals have



"The real power in politics lies with the people."

registered to run for these political positions.

3. The Power of People. Zohran's victory proves that money is important in politics but not everything. As a relatively new member of the New York State Assembly without backing from oligarchs or wealthy individuals, Zohran built a grassroots movement that garnered both funds and votes. The real power in politics lies with the people.
4. Experience Redefined. Zohran's win shows that experience isn't defined by the length of time spent in politics or bureaucracy but by one's ability and skills. Zohran

built a movement in a short time, going from 1% support to winning the primary in just seven months. Experience isn't measured by time but by results.

5. Embracing Identity. Zohran's victory demonstrates that it's no longer time to hesitate or fear being open about one's identity, particularly religious identity. Amidst rising Islamophobia in America, Zohran proudly declared himself the first Muslim candidate for Mayor of New York City, in a city with a large Jewish population of about 1.2 million. Zohran wasn't worried about losing support due to his commitment to his Muslim identity.
6. Commitment to Justice and Humanity. Zohran's win teaches us that commitment to humanity and justice doesn't have to be sacrificed for political interests. His advocacy for Palestine and opposition to Israeli occupation didn't hinder his victory; instead, his commitment to peace and justice might have been a

factor in his success.

7. Divine Intervention. Zohran's victory also teaches us that no matter the efforts to stop someone, if God wills it, nothing can prevent success. Almost every tactic was used to halt Zohran's movement and victory, from accusations of radicalism to claims of being antisemitic or communist, etc. Yet, all these attempts failed, and his victory couldn't be stopped, even by the Cuomo political dynasty.
8. Integrity in Politics. Zohran's victory showcases the honest and integrity-driven nature of politics and elections in New York City and America. Despite his opponents having power, they didn't manipulate the voting results. This contrasts with some countries where often voting outcomes are determined by those in power, a sad reality.

—Imam Shamsi Ali:

Director of Jamaica Muslim Center |

Imam Hussain (RA) and the Spirit of Karbala in Sufi Thought

Abdullah Zubair

The Battle of Karbala was not a mere military conflict, and Imam Hussain (RA) was no ordinary commander. His martyrdom was not a conventional sacrifice—it was a timeless symbol of the eternal struggle between truth and falsehood, monotheism and polytheism. As the spiritual successor of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Imam Hussain's sacrifice exemplified complete submission to Allah. Though he was martyred on the battlefield, he emerged victorious in spirit. Through his martyrdom, Islam triumphed eternally over falsehood, while Yazid and all he symbolized faced ultimate defeat. This is echoed in the famous words of Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar: "Qatl-e-Hussain asl mein marg-e-Yazid hai, Islam zinda hota hai har Karbala ke baad." "The martyrdom of Hussain is the death of Yazid; Islam revives after every Karbala." In Sufi consciousness, the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA) deeply influenced their ideals, practices, and spiritual journey. Sufis have seen in Hussain a perfect model of submission, divine love, truth, and resistance against tyranny. As Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti of Ajmer beautifully said: "Shah ast Hussain, Badshah ast Hussain, Deen ast Hussain, Deen panah ast Hussain Sar daad na daad

dast dar dast-e-Yazid, Haqqa ke bina-e-la ilah ast Hussain." "Hussain is king, Hussain is emperor, Hussain is the essence and protector of faith. He gave his head, but not his hand to Yazid. Truly, Hussain is the foundation of La ilaha (Tawheed)." This sacrifice—along with his refusal to submit to falsehood—epitomized the very essence of Tawheed (monotheism), the core message of Islam. Imam Hussain showed that true faith means never bowing before tyranny or un-Islamic authority. If he had compromised, it would have been a fatal blow to the spirit of Islam. Sufis drew inspiration from his unwavering stand for truth. They took up spiritual swords in defense of righteousness, just as Imam Hussain did in Karbala. From Shah Jalal in Bengal to Baba Adam Shahid, and from Emir Abdul Qadir al-Jazairi in Algeria to Imam Shamil in the Caucasus, many Sufis followed this legacy. Imam Ali Hujwiri, in his *Kashf al-Mahjub*, affirmed: "He (Hussain RA) is the martyr of Karbala, and Sufis unanimously agree that he was on the path of truth. As long as truth prevailed, he followed it. When it disappeared, he drew his sword and sacrificed his life in the path of Allah." Sindhi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai echoed this in



"We learned the secrets of the Qur'an from Hussain; From his fire, we have kindled flames."

his poetic work *Sur Kedaro*, urging the people of Sindh to resist tyranny inspired by the spirit of Karbala. He described the pain of martyrdom as an expression of divine love—a passion only the truly God-intoxicated can comprehend. In Sufi teachings, love for Allah is intertwined with pain and sacrifice. They see martyrdom not as death, but as union with the Beloved. Imam Hussain's martyrdom is viewed as annihilation in divine love (*fana fillah*) and elevation to eternal life (*baqa billah*). An iconic line from Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki that led to his own death in spiritual ecstasy was: "Killed by the dagger of submission, every moment he receives a new life from the unseen." Orientalist Annemarie Schimmel also noted that Sufis found in Hussain (RA)

the embodiment of self-sacrifice, divine love, and spiritual longing. He became their ideal. Alongside him, Sufi martyr Mansur al-Hallaj is also remembered. As Fariduddin Attar said: "Be either Hussain or Mansur." Poet Ghalib remarked that lovers like Hussain and Mansur are placed by Allah at the gallows or on the battlefield—through death they attain eternal bliss and divine nearness. In Sufi poetry, Hussain (RA) often represents the Perfect Spiritual Guide (*Murshid*). Hakim Sanai in his *Diwan* portrayed Imam Hussain as the ultimate seeker and martyr. He emphasized that only those who conquer their egos reach divine proximity—true martyrs like Hussain conquered not only enemies but their own selves. Sanai wrote: "If you are Hussain, do not seek the beauty of the bride, but be ready to face the sword and arrows." And elsewhere: "Sanai, you haven't even detached from your own ego; how can you narrate Hussain's story?" Hussain (RA) renounced all worldly comforts, sacrificing everything for Allah. Meanwhile, Yazid's army killed for greed. As Sanai scolded: "Your religion is Hussain, yet you kill the thirsty and feed the pigs and dogs. Then how dare you curse Yazid and

Shimr when you yourself behave like them?" Annemarie Schimmel explained: such lines point to the hypocrisy of modern humans—who claim faith but are enslaved by worldly desire, much like those who stood by while Imam Hussain was martyred. The path of religion is steep and difficult. Karbala proved this. Sanai said: "Until you abandon pleasure, you won't sit on the mat of the Prophet. How can there be joy on the path where Hussain's neck was bathed in blood for the sake of faith?" Imam Hussain (RA) is the embodiment of every Sufi quality—contentment (*rida*), submission (*taslim*), divine love (*mahabbah*), patience (*sabr*), generosity (*jud wa sakha*), self-respect (*ghayrah*), asceticism (*zuhd*), piety (*wara*), reliance on Allah (*tawakkul*), sincerity (*ikhlas*), steadfastness (*istiqamah*), freedom (*hurriyyah*), servanthood (*ubudiyah*), and divine friendship (*wilayah*). In Sufi thought, he remains the eternal guide. His example will continue to inspire seekers of truth and divine love forever. As Allama Iqbal famously said: "We learned the secrets of the Qur'an from Hussain; From his fire, we have kindled flames."

— Abdullah Zubair:

Dhaka University Teacher

EDUCATION

Grateful Hearts, Creative Minds

A Fun-Filled Day Highlights the Importance of Being Thankful

Emily Parker

In a world moving faster by the minute, a brief pause to reflect on gratitude brought joy, creativity, and connection to the heart of Jamaica, Queens. At Elhaam Academy, young voices filled the air with laughter on Sunday, June 29, 2025, as children gathered for a thoughtful event themed “The Importance of Being Grateful.” The event, held from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM at 87-41, 165th Street, welcomed kids ages 6 and up for an



afternoon of interactive learning blended with festive fun. Aimed at nurturing mindfulness and appreciation, the gathering featured a vibrant lineup of arts,

crafts, games, food, and community-centered activities. Every detail—from the cheerful decor to the carefully curated stations—was designed to spark imagination and

reinforce positive values. Children participated in gratitude-themed projects and hands-on crafts that encouraged them to express what thankfulness means in their lives. As they

gathered, lessons of empathy and reflection naturally unfolded. Parents and community members applauded the initiative for seamlessly combining entertainment with meaningful takeaways. “Events like these help children grow into more empathetic and self-aware individuals,” shared one attendee. “It’s refreshing to see an educational institution prioritize emotional intelligence alongside fun.” This afternoon of celebration was more than just a seasonal

gathering—it was a living lesson in appreciation. Elhaam Academy continues to emphasize character development through experiential learning, creating a space where children not only learn but live the values being taught. As families departed with colorful creations and wide smiles, the true success of the event was written not just in crafts, but in the conversations and connections that carried the message forward: in gratitude, we grow stronger together.

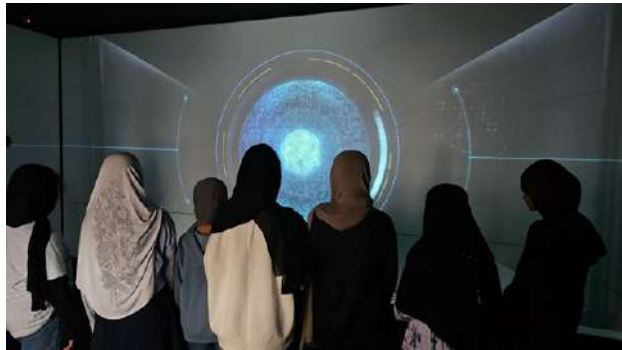
Elhaam Academy Goes Undercover

Students Take a Journey Into the World of Espionage at Spyscape Museum

William Henry

Amid the hum of the New York City subway, students from Elhaam Academy’s 5th and 6th grades embarked on an unforgettable field trip, trading their classroom seats for spy missions and laser mazes at Spyscape Museum. The visit offered a hands-on journey into the world of espionage, filled with critical thinking challenges, strategic puzzles, and plenty of curiosity. Located in Manhattan, Spyscape Museum is known for its immersive exhibits that delve into the secret lives of spies—from historical

intelligence operations to modern surveillance techniques. For Elhaam’s students, it became a playground for problem-solving and teamwork, offering lessons that stretched well beyond textbooks. Upon arrival, students were invited to step into the shoes of real-life spies. Through interactive experiences, they navigated scenarios designed to test mental agility, observation skills, and decision-making under pressure. Whether analyzing encrypted messages or avoiding virtual security systems, the young visitors were fully immersed in the



fast-paced world of intelligence gathering. The field trip was not only an exciting break from the usual school routine, but also a meaningful extension of Elhaam Academy’s commitment to experiential learning. “This wasn’t just about having fun—it was about

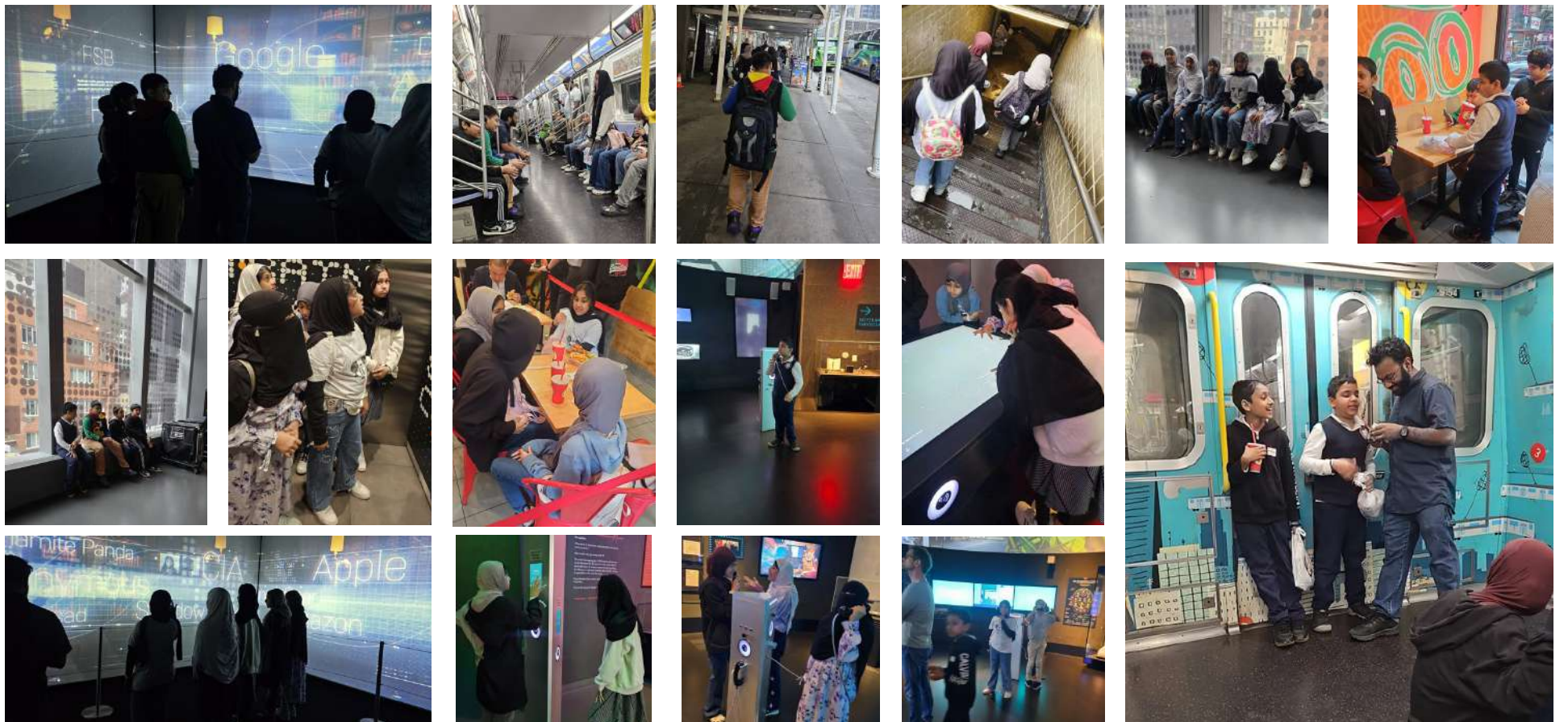
showing students how strategy and critical thinking apply to real-world situations,” said a school representative. “They learned how collaboration, observation, and quick thinking can make all the difference, whether you’re solving a mystery or tackling a group

project.” For many students, the subway ride itself was part of the adventure—navigating the city like true New Yorkers and gaining firsthand experience with public transportation. The journey fostered independence and awareness, adding

As the students returned to school with stories of spy gadgets and high-tech missions, it was clear the experience had left an impression. In addition to sparking curiosity about the world of intelligence, the visit reinforced key academic and interpersonal skills in a memorable and engaging way. The Spyscape trip marked another successful chapter in Elhaam Academy’s growing portfolio of educational outings, proving once again that the most powerful learning often happens when students step beyond the classroom walls.



another layer of life skills to the day’s lessons.



FINANCE

“Best Budget Ever” Delivers Record Arts Funding

Mayor Adams and DCLA Announce Largest Funding Surge in a Decade

James Anderson

In a spirited press event at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Mayor Eric Adams, DCLA Commissioner Laurie Cumbo, and leading figures from New York’s cultural sector celebrated the FY 2026 Adopted Budget, hailed as a landmark for city-wide arts and education. This budget follows an agreement on a \$116 billion fiscal plan and marks the most significant cultural investment in decades. At the event, Mayor Adams underscored that making New York “the best place to raise a family” begins with supporting arts and education. He highlighted the historic \$300 million investment in the Department of Cultural Affairs, which includes a \$45 million permanent increase—the first such baseline boost in over ten years. He also announced an additional \$30 million, bringing the total new investment to \$75 million in a single year. “This investment is about more than dollars ... it’s about the dance

organization that helps a young immigrant connect with their culture ... the science exhibit that inspires a third grader to study rockets and, someday, make it to Mars,” Adams explained, emphasizing how culture enriches both personal and communal growth. The budget also delivers a record \$523 million for the city’s public libraries, including an extra \$17 million spread across NYPL, QPL, BPL, and NY Research Library. Such funding will support expanded services, including seven-day operations that many librarians say are essential to community engagement. Library leaders—including Linda Johnson (Brooklyn), Tony Marx (NYPL), and Dennis Walcott (Queens)—expressed gratitude, noting the boost would help tackle rising costs and meet growing demand. DCLA Commissioner Cumbo praised the budget for affirming the city’s belief in arts as public infrastructure. “With \$75 million in new investments this fiscal year alone, the



city is standing up as a strong, dependable partner,” she said. “This investment will help cultural nonprofits weather the storm and continue delivering world-class programming—and signal that arts and culture matter.” Cultural leaders also responded enthusiastically. Coco Killingsworth, chair of the Cultural Institutions Group, called the investment a stabilizing force: “This funding will significantly stabilize our organizations ... fortify ourselves against shifting federal



NYC Office of the Mayor

priorities.” Patrick Charpenel of El Museo del Barrio echoed this, stressing how the increased support enables greater access and representation for historically underrepresented communities. Additional voices—from Queens Theatre’s Taryn Sacramone to the American Museum of

Natural History’s Sean M. Decatur, Lincoln Center’s Leah Johnson, and the Public Theater’s Patrick Willingham—spoke of the boost as essential for education, jobs, community connection, and economic vitality. Leaders from botanical gardens, science museums, and community arts groups also celebrated the budget as recognition of NY’s cultural sector as one of its greatest assets. Leonard Jacobs from Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning called it “a force-multiplying investment in the power

of our local economy—and the future of our kids, our seniors, our families, our diversity, our strength, and our endurance.” The FY 2026 budget also builds upon earlier investments, including a 10-year, \$3.1 billion capital plan, grants to over 1,000 cultural groups, and materials repurposed through the “Materials for the Arts” program. Expansions and renovations are already underway at institutions including the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Weeksville Heritage Center, Nuyorican Poets Café, and The Bronx Museum. As cultural professionals, educators, and civic advocates mingled at the Brooklyn Children’s Museum, the sentiment was clear: this unprecedented investment stakes a claim not only on creativity but on the quality of life, equity, and future opportunity in the city. With the FY 2026 Adopted Budget passed, New York is charting a path where culture, community, and families thrive—together.



RELIGION

Commemorating Ashura: The Fifth Day of Spiritual Assembly

Ahlul Bait Mission's Series Stresses Core Karbala Principles



The significance of this evening lay not only in its religious observance but in its reminder of the teachings that lie at the heart of Karbala. Attendees were encouraged to internalize values such as courage, integrity, and compassion—qualities that Imam Hussain championed in the face of overwhelming adversity. This midpoint event in the ten-day series served as a powerful reminder that each day of reflection is an opportunity to re-commit to personal responsibility and communal harmony. The atmosphere within the mosque spoke of unity and collective reflection. Families, students, and elders alike sat shoulder to shoulder in prayer and contemplation. The gentle recitations and thoughtful discussions provided a space where sorrow at Imam Hussain's martyrdom intertwined with resolve: resolve to uphold justice, truth, and dignity in everyday life. Although part of a longer spiritual journey, the fifth day carried unique weight. It served as a moment

of reaffirmation—encouraging participants to carry the lessons of Karbala forward in their actions outside the mosque. The program reinforced that the core message of Ashura extends beyond ritual: it is a call to live principled lives where resisting oppression and fighting for equity becomes a shared responsibility. As the evening drew to a close, the faithful departed quietly, their footsteps echoing through the still halls of the mosque. What remained was a lingering sense of purpose—a spiritual and ethical charge to translate devotion into impact. The Ahlul Bait Mission's ongoing Shahadat-e-Karbala, through evenings like these, continues to foster a resilient and morally attuned community. Over the remaining days, participants are expected to return with renewed dedication to carrying the spirit of Ashura into their everyday roles—as guardians of justice, agents of compassion, and bearers of an enduring legacy.

Christopher Scott

Under the quiet glow of evening lights at Ahlul Bait Mission Masjid, worshippers gathered on the fifth day of the 10-day spiritual observance called Shahadat-e-Karbala, a solemn program dedicated to commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S.) and the profound legacy of Ashura.

The event, rooted in deep reverence, drew participants from across the community who came together to reflect on Karbala's enduring message of resistance, compassion, and moral clarity. The program opened with heartfelt Qari recitations by Qari Shaykh Ahmad Bin Yusuf Al Azhari and Qari Jahurul Islam, whose eloquent renditions of

Qur'anic verses set a contemplative tone. These recitations carried the weight of centuries-old tradition, drawing the audience into a collective state of prayer and remembrance. A central feature of the evening was an Islamic discussion led by Dr. Mohammad Kafiluddin Sarkar Salehi, whose discourse focused on the timeless relevance of Imam Hussain's

sacrifice. With measured eloquence, Dr. Salehi reinforced the importance of standing against corruption and tyranny, explaining that the tragedy of Karbala continues to inspire ethical behavior and community service in modern contexts. The content of his discussion illuminated how spiritual conviction can lead to active resistance against injustice.



YOUTH

NYC Youth Celebrate Major Milestones

DYCD Honors Learn & Earn Participants for Career-Ready Skills and College Credits



Fredrick Lahm

In a ceremony marked by pride and achievement, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) recently celebrated the success of its Learn & Earn program participants. These young New Yorkers completed a full year of demanding programming that not

only helped them earn college credits but also provided them with valuable career-ready skills. The event was a testament to the hard work and dedication that these individuals demonstrated throughout their journey, showing what's possible when youth are given the right support and opportunities. The Learn & Earn program is designed

to equip NYC youth with the tools they need to succeed both academically and professionally. Over the course of the year, participants engaged in challenging coursework, gained hands-on work experience, and honed skills that will serve them in their future careers. Many participants earned college credits, while all demonstrated significant

growth in key areas such as leadership, communication, and problem-solving. "From showing up to leveling up, these young individuals have proven that focus, hard work, and dedication lead to success," said a representative from DYCD. "We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments, and this ceremony is a celebration of everything they've achieved." The event highlighted the broader mission of DYCD, which is committed to creating pathways for youth to

achieve success both in education and the workforce. The Learn & Earn program is just one example of the agency's ongoing effort to provide NYC youth with career readiness training and educational opportunities, ensuring that they are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Throughout the ceremony, several participants shared their personal stories, reflecting on how the program had impacted their lives. One young graduate shared, "Before Learn & Earn, I wasn't sure what my future would look like. But now, I feel prepared to take on whatever comes next—whether it's college or entering the workforce. This program gave me the skills I needed to believe in myself and my potential." The event not only celebrated the academic and professional achievements of the participants but also emphasized the importance of building a strong support network for youth. Through mentorship and guidance, these

young individuals have navigated challenges, developed resilience, and emerged ready to take on the next chapter in their lives. The success of the Learn & Earn program is a powerful reminder of the impact that focused, well-structured initiatives can have on the lives of young people. It also reflects the ongoing commitment of the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development to providing youth with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed in life. As the ceremony came to a close, it was clear that the future of these young graduates is bright. Armed with both college credits and career-ready skills, they are poised to make their mark on the world. For the DYCD, the event was not just a celebration, but a powerful reminder of the difference that can be made when youth are given the chance to thrive.



achieve success both in education and the workforce. The Learn & Earn program is just one example of the



NYC SUMMER

Summer Streets: A Citywide Transformation

NYC Embraces 22 Miles of Car-Free Streets for Recreation, Community, and Connection

Jessica Morgan

In a bold move to promote healthier living, community connections, and environmental sustainability, Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez unveiled New York City's largest-ever Summer Streets initiative. With over 22 miles of car-free streets stretching across all five boroughs, this year's Summer Streets promises to offer residents more space than ever before to walk, bike, run, and engage in activities that promote well-being.

The initiative, which runs on five Saturdays from July 26 to August 23, 2025, includes the exciting first-ever opportunity for New Yorkers to travel the full length of Manhattan—from the Brooklyn Bridge to Inwood—without the usual traffic congestion. As the longest route in the event's history, this special car-free stretch in Manhattan underscores the city's commitment



to expanding public space for recreation and fostering a vibrant, healthy city life. "We're bringing everyone with us this summer," said Mayor Eric Adams, celebrating the expanded program. "From the Brooklyn Bridge to Inwood—and across all five boroughs—New Yorkers will have more space than ever to walk, bike, run, and connect with their neighbors in their communities at our Summer Streets events." He emphasized that the initiative is part of the administration's

ongoing efforts to improve the city's quality of life and create more accessible public spaces for all. One of the most exciting additions to this year's event is the NYRR Start Line Series, a series of free, beginner-friendly races hosted in partnership with the New York Road Runners (NYRR). These races are designed to encourage new athletes of all levels to take part in physical activities and explore the joy of running in an open, car-free environment. The community events will

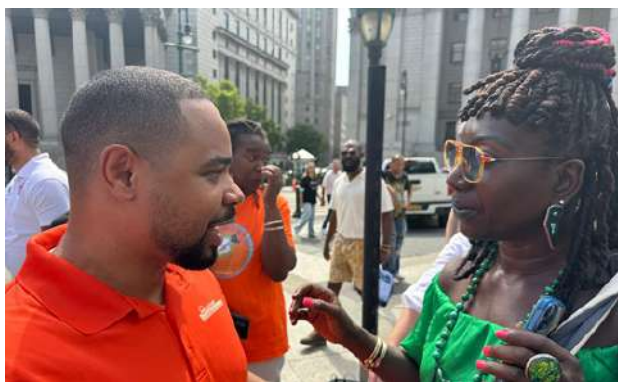
be held in Queens and Brooklyn on July 26 and August 23, respectively. In addition to the races, participants will enjoy various community activations, including public art installations, live performances, and family-friendly activities. Notably, Citi Bike will offer free bike day passes for all riders, further encouraging biking as a sustainable mode of transportation. The event's expansion includes Staten Island, with a new route along Forest Avenue. Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO

of Save the People, commended the expansion of Summer Streets, calling it "a victory for public health, community well-being, and environmental justice." He added, "These open streets will allow families to gather, children to play safely, and neighbors to connect across New York City. On behalf of Save the People, I proudly support this bold step forward." Other public figures also praised the

Washington Heights and Inwood. For residents in the Bronx and Brooklyn, Summer Streets will feature routes along Grand Concourse and Eastern Parkway, respectively, offering these neighborhoods the chance to experience their streets in a new, car-free light. This expansion of Summer Streets is expected to further enhance New Yorkers' quality of life, creating opportunities for outdoor recreation, health, and community-building. As DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez stated, "Summer Streets captures the excitement by transforming our streets into public spaces that reflect the energy and diversity of our communities." With the program now stretching across all five boroughs, Summer Streets in 2025 is poised to be a landmark event, connecting New Yorkers through shared experiences and offering them the chance to reclaim their streets in a safe, fun, and inclusive way.



initiative. U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler highlighted the transformative nature of the event, noting that it allows families to ride bikes without worrying about traffic and fosters connections between neighbors. New York State Senator Robert Jackson celebrated the extension of the event uptown, pointing out the new opportunities it brings to communities in



NYC SUMMER

Summer Streets: A Citywide Transformation



BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Elhaam Academy Recognized for Academic Excellence

Queens Borough President Honors Elhaam Academy's Impact on Education



Patt Cummins

Elhaam Academy was recently honored with a Certificate of Recognition for its outstanding contribution to education in Queens, New York. This prestigious recognition was presented by Shubhra Datta, Fiscal

Associate from the Queens Borough President's Office, who visited the academy to personally award the certificate to Rumana Islam, Fatima Niass, and Abdullah Al Masud on behalf of the academy. During the visit, Shubhra Datta had the opportunity to witness the remarkable work

of Elhaam Academy students throughout the school campus. Datta toured the facilities, observing the students' engagement in both academic and extracurricular activities, which left a lasting impression on the guest from the Borough President's office. The Certificate of Recognition is a reflection of Elhaam Academy's commitment to academic excellence and its positive impact on both the local community and the broader education landscape in Queens. Through its innovative programs and emphasis on holistic student development,

the academy has become a cornerstone of educational achievement in the borough. At Elhaam Academy, students are not only provided with a solid academic foundation but also the tools they need



to become responsible, thoughtful leaders in their communities. The school's mission

focuses on preparing students for future success, whether in higher education or the workforce, by fostering an environment that emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and a strong work ethic. By offering hands-on projects, real-world learning experiences, and character-building activities, Elhaam Academy helps its students thrive academically while nurturing their personal growth. This recognition by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards highlights the school's dedication to providing quality education and making

a positive impact on the lives of its students. The certificate symbolizes more than just academic success; it is a celebration of the meaningful contributions that Elhaam Academy has made to its community. As Elhaam Academy continues to grow and expand its educational offerings, this recognition stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to shaping the leaders of tomorrow. The school's impact reaches far beyond the classroom, influencing the future of its students and the community they will go on to serve.



Celebrating Knowledge and Freedom at Elhaam Academy

Summer School Orientation and 4th of July Festivities Inspire Students and Families

Max Joseph

The summer season at Elhaam Academy began with a vibrant and joyful start as students, parents, and staff gathered for a memorable Summer School Orientation and 4th of July celebration. The event, held on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 87-41, 165th St, Jamaica, NY 11432, marked the beginning of a season full of excitement, learning, and community spirit. The celebration kicked off with lots of energy, as eager students joined in a series of fun games and interactive activities designed to engage them from the very start. The orientation introduced families to the curriculum, highlighting the goals

and educational experiences that await their children throughout the summer. The event was an opportunity for Elhaam Academy to connect with families and ensure that everyone was prepared for a successful and enriching summer ahead. Alongside the educational activities, the 4th of July celebration added a festive atmosphere to the day. Students took part in hands-on projects, exploring American history while celebrating the spirit of independence. The day was filled with laughter, flags, and vibrant decorations that reflected both the joy of learning and the celebration of freedom. "It was a wonderful way



to start the summer," said one parent. "My child had so much fun while learning, and I could see the excitement in their eyes for what's to come." As the event unfolded, the positive energy was evident not only in the students but also in the staff and families who attended.

Elhaam Academy's teachers & staff made sure that each student felt welcomed and supported as they embarked on their summer learning journey. The celebration not only helped students get a glimpse of the educational activities ahead but also brought the community together,

strengthening the bonds between families and the school. The orientation also emphasized the school's commitment to providing a meaningful educational experience that blends learning with joy. The academy's programs are designed to ensure that every child has the tools they need to thrive academically while also having fun and building lasting friendships. This summer's theme of interactive learning was evident in the way students eagerly engaged in discussions, activities, and projects. As the day came to a close, the mood was one of excitement and anticipation for the summer ahead. The students had already started to feel a sense

of belonging, and the sense of community within Elhaam Academy was stronger than ever. "We're so excited to see how much they grow this summer," said another parent. "Elhaam Academy has created such a warm and engaging environment for learning, and it's clear that they genuinely care about our children's success." With the official start of the Summer School 2025 program, Elhaam Academy has set the stage for a season full of educational growth, fun, and meaningful experiences. The orientation and 4th of July celebration were just the beginning of what promises to be an enriching summer for both students and their families.



CAMPUS

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

Dhaka University's 104th Alumni Gathering Celebrated in New York

Ashley Reed

In a heartfelt celebration of heritage, achievement, and lasting academic bonds, alumni of Dhaka University gathered in New York on July 1, 2025, to mark the institution's 104th anniversary. The event brought together a vibrant group of former students—each carrying the spirit of their alma mater into diverse walks of life across the diaspora.

The evening served as both a reunion and a tribute to the university's enduring impact. The participants included: Muhammad Shahidullah, Aysha Akter, Sajal Roshan, Bilkis Begum, Jasir Kabir, Tutul, Md. Istiak Uddin, Mohammad Sikder, Nasir Khan, Akhteruzzaman Khan, Zakir Patwary, Shamim Al Amin, Dilruba Ayesha, M. Badiuz Zaman, Imam



Choul, Faujia Karim, Ferdousi Karim, Habib Khan, Shantu Biswas, Saeed Tarek, Adan Islam, Habibur Rahman, A B Mirza Islam, M A Hoque, M R Chowdhury, and M Amir Hossain. A key highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Certificate of Achievement to Shamim Al Amin, in recognition of his extraordinary service, commitment,

dedication, hard work, and outstanding community leadership. The certificate, issued by the Dhaka University Centennial Celebration Committee, USA 2025, served as a formal acknowledgment of Al Amin's decades of contribution to journalism, literature, and the Bangladeshi community abroad. Professionally known

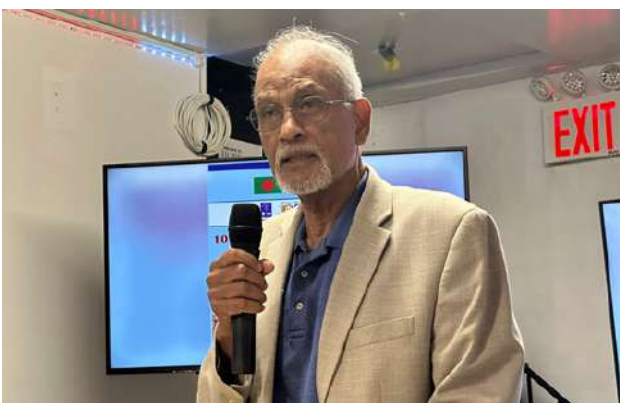
as Shamim Al Amin, he is widely respected as a journalist, author, and documentary filmmaker with an extensive career in print, broadcast, and online journalism. From covering U.S. presidential elections and international summits to producing acclaimed documentaries, Al Amin has carved a distinguished path marked by purpose-

driven storytelling and a commitment to truth. His role in shaping the Bangladeshi media landscape abroad, particularly through initiatives like TBN24, has made him a recognizable and respected figure in the diaspora. The alumni gathering was not only about honoring achievements but also about reflecting on the shared roots that connect all graduates of Dhaka University.

shaping leaders, thinkers, and cultural contributors across generations. Organizers noted that such reunions foster deeper bonds within the diaspora, promote cultural preservation, and encourage the next generation to remain connected to their heritage. The celebration emphasized that even a century later, Dhaka University continues to be a living force in the lives of its alumni—across borders and beyond time. As the evening came to a close, it was evident that the 104th anniversary was more than just a milestone. It was a reaffirmation of values, friendships, and the far-reaching influence of a university that has shaped Bangladesh's past and continues to inspire its future.



From discussions on current affairs to memories of campus life, the atmosphere was rich with nostalgia and collective pride. For many attendees, the event served as a reminder of the institution's role in





Shamim Al Amin: Celebrated Journalist and Documentary Filmmaker Honored by DU Alumni New York

Shamim Al Amin, a distinguished Bangladeshi journalist, author, and documentary filmmaker, is known for his powerful storytelling, passion for truth, and dedication to meaningful journalism. With decades of experience in print, online, and broadcast journalism, he has reported on major global events such as U.S. presidential elections, United Nations General Assembly sessions, and international summits like the SAARC Conference in Bhutan, and the climate summit in Denmark. He has also covered major sporting events, including the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the ICC Cricket World Cup.

Al Amin's career in television journalism includes his role as Assignment Editor at Ekattor TV, where he also hosted the popular current affairs program, Ekattor Journal. He helped launch TBN24 in the United States, strengthening the Bengali-language media presence abroad.

Throughout his career, he has earned numerous awards, including the Monajat Uddin Memorial Award, the UNFPA Award, and the UNESCO Club Award. He graduated top of his class in Mass Communication and Journalism from the University of Dhaka in 2000, receiving the Masud Khan Gold Medal.

As a writer, Al Amin has authored several books on media and journalism, which are widely used in academic and professional circles. In addition, his creative works include the short story collection *The Deep Night Sky* and the children's book *Sulky Arisha and Her Squirrel*.

As a documentary filmmaker, his works like *Songs for a Country* (exploring the 1971 Concert for Bangladesh) and *How We Came to Own the Word "Freedom"* (about Bangladesh's Liberation War) have received critical acclaim. His recent film, *Hope Never Dies*, which explores real stories from the COVID-19 pandemic, premiered in June 2025 and was praised for its emotional depth.

Living in New York, Al Amin remains a respected figure in the Bangladeshi diaspora, recognized for his significant contributions to journalism, media education, and documentary filmmaking.

Award: Shamim Al Amin was recently awarded for his exceptional contributions to journalism, creative storytelling, and documentary filmmaking.

ঢাকা ইউনিভার্সিটি অ্যালুমিনাইট অ্যাসোসিয়েশন
Dhaka University Alumni Association

A T M Abdul Bari Danny
Member Secretary
Dhaka University Alumni Association
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Dear Members of the Dhaka University Family in New York,
Assalamu Alaikum and warm greetings,
Today, with immense pride, we celebrate the 104th founding anniversary of our beloved institution, the University of Dhaka. The seed of education that was sown on July 1st, 1921 has now grown into a magnificent tree—recognized as a beacon of knowledge, free thought, and democracy. This university stands not only as a symbol of Bangladesh but also as a mark of progress for the entire Bengali nation.
Though we reside in New York, our hearts remain deeply connected to the familiar sights of Curzon Hall, TSC, Madhur Cantonee, the Central Library, and every corner of this campus. We take pride in being a part of this rich legacy. On this special day, let us collectively remember and renew our commitment to the values that unite education, humanity, justice, and patriotism.
As alumni in New York, you are devoted to the university. Even while living abroad, you uphold the dignity and traditions of your alma mater. You will continue to engage in the welfare of its students and share this glorious history with the next generation.
Let us come together today in prayer, asking that Dhaka University continues to serve as a guiding light for the nation for centuries to come.
Happy Founding Anniversary – University of Dhaka
Sincerely,
A T M Abdul Bari Danny
Member Secretary
Dhaka University Alumni Association
"Alumni Floor" Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Chamber, Dhaka University, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Mobile: 01300411630, Office: 88-02-55167807, 55167723, E-mail: info@duaa-bd.org, web: www.duaa-bd.org
www.duaa-news.com, www.facebook.com/duaabd.org



CAMPUS



RELIGION

A New Beginning for Muna Center of Amherst

Grand Opening of New Masjid Brings Community Together



Mitchell John

The Muna Center of Amherst celebrated a monumental milestone on Friday, July 4, 2025, with the grand opening of its new masjid at 1964 Kensington Ave, Amherst, NY 14215. The event not only marked the completion of the masjid's construction but also served as an opportunity for the local Muslim community to come together in faith

and unity. The highlight of the day was the first Jummah prayer, which was led by Imam Dalouer Hossain, the National President of MUNA. Imam Hossain delivered a powerful khutbah (sermon), reflecting on the importance of community, faith, and perseverance in the Muslim faith. Additionally, Khatib Abdul Hakim Azadi played a pivotal role in

the spiritual aspect of



MUNA CENTER of AMHERST

the day's proceedings. The inaugural prayer gathered local families and individuals who had long awaited the opening of the masjid, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the Muna Center of Amherst.

In addition to the prayer, the event featured the masjid inauguration, which was conducted by Dr. Syedur Rahman Chowdhury, the Former National President of MUNA. Dr. Chowdhury's involvement in the ceremony highlighted the significance of the event, as he has been a respected figure in the Muslim community for years. His presence underscored the historical importance of the opening for both the local community and the broader Muslim

population in the Buffalo area. The grand opening event was more than just a religious gathering; it was a celebration of the dedication and hard work put in by the

individuals who made the masjid a reality. For many attendees, this masjid has been a long-awaited dream—a place where they can come together for prayers, learning, and community activities. The opening of the Muna Center of Amherst masjid strengthens the connection between faith and community, offering a welcoming space for Muslims of all backgrounds. As the khutbah ended and the prayer began, the atmosphere was filled with a deep sense of spirituality and unity. Community members expressed their gratitude and excitement for having a space to worship, learn, and connect with one another. Many shared how significant it was for them to finally have a masjid in the neighborhood, which will serve as a central point for religious and cultural activities.

For the leadership of Muna Center of Amherst, this opening marks just the beginning of their work to serve the local Muslim community. Plans for educational programs, youth activities, and community outreach are already underway, with the goal of making the masjid a hub for spiritual growth, social engagement, and service to the community. The successful opening of the masjid on July 4, 2025, represents a milestone for the local Muslim population in Amherst and Buffalo, NY. It is a testament to the dedication of those who worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life and a bright symbol of hope and unity for future generations. As the Muna Center of Amherst continues to grow, it will undoubtedly play a vital role in fostering both spiritual and community development.





America Celebrates 249th Independence Day

Americans across the country came together to celebrate 249 years of independence. The nation paused to honor the courage of the Founding Fathers, the patriots who secured the freedom we enjoy

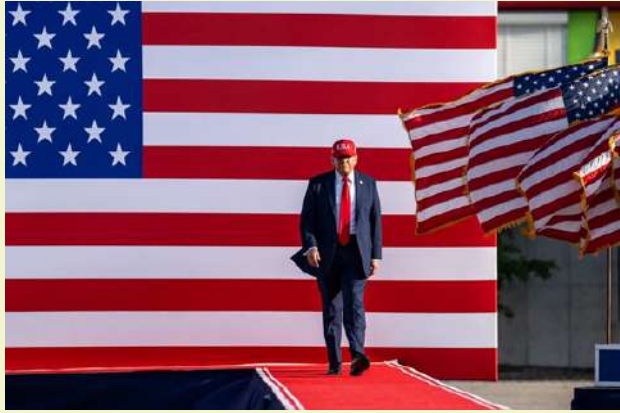
today, and the heroes who have defended that freedom over centuries. President Donald Trump, in a statement from the White House, highlighted the enduring strength of the American spirit. “Under President

Trump, the American spirit is back—bold, proud, and free,” he declared, echoing sentiments of patriotism and resilience that have defined the nation’s history. Throughout the day,

communities across the U.S. participated in traditional celebrations, including fireworks displays, parades, and family gatherings. The 4th of July serves not only as a reminder of the sacrifices made for

freedom but also as a reflection of the unity and pride that continue to drive America forward. As fireworks lit up the night sky, Americans proudly celebrated the nation’s legacy of liberty

and independence, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of freedom that have shaped the country’s remarkable journey.



Jamaica Bangladesh Society Celebrates 25 Years

Exciting events planned for the milestone

Amkel Norush

The Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society is preparing for a memorable 25th anniversary celebration, with several community-focused events lined up throughout the year. The milestone celebrations were discussed and finalized during a meeting held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at Mezzan Restaurant on Hillside Avenue. The meeting was presided over by the society’s president, Fakhru Islam Delwar, and attended by Chief Advisor ABM Osman Gani, along with other executive



Photo: Jamaica Friends Society Gears Up for 25th Anniversary Celebration

members and advisors. Among the exciting events planned is

a Family Barbecue Party, scheduled for Saturday, August 2,

at Cunningham Park, contingent on park permit approval. In

addition, a Back to School Program is slated for the last week of August, aimed at supporting local students as they prepare for the new school year.

HIGHLIGHT

• **Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society plans Family Barbecue Party and Back to School Program for its 25th anniversary.**

• **Events finalized at a meeting on July 1, attended by Fakhru Islam Delwar, ABM Osman Gani, and other key members.**

The society has also planned a grand two-day celebration in October to commemorate its 25-year journey of community service and cultural exchange. General Secretary Enayet Munshi led the meeting and highlighted the importance of these events in celebrating the society’s contributions to the local community. With these exciting events, the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society is set to mark a significant milestone in its history, continuing to serve as a vital hub for cultural and community engagement.

Joey Chestnut Wins 17th Mustard Belt

Chestnut reclaims Nathan's hot dog eating title after a year’s absence

Nassr Al Shams

After a year-long absence, Joey “Jaws” Chestnut made a triumphant return to the Nathan’s Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest, reclaiming his title with 70 1/2 hot dogs consumed in just 10 minutes. This victory marks Chestnut’s 17th win in the competition, adding another notch to his legendary career.

Despite falling short of his 2021 record of 76 hot dogs, Chestnut, 41, expressed satisfaction with his performance, telling the crowd, “I’ll be back next year.” Chestnut’s comeback came after a contract dispute in 2024, which saw him sidelined from the competition. Last year, he participated in an exhibition contest, eating 57 hot dogs in



Photo: Joey 'Jaws' Chestnut reclaims title
Image Source: AP News

five minutes. This year, however, he was back at Coney Island, where he has become a staple of the annual event. On the women’s side, Miki Sudo defended her title for the 11th time, eating 33 hot dogs, though she fell short of her 2024 record of 51. “I feel like I let the fans down a little bit,” Sudo remarked, acknowledging the tough competition.

The event, held in front of a massive crowd at Nathan’s original location in Brooklyn, remains one of the most anticipated July 4th traditions. Fans packed the streets, eagerly watching as Chestnut and Sudo demonstrated their unparalleled eating skills, securing their places in history once again.