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Sunday, AUGUST 03, 2025
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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Standing Together for a Fallen Hero

Community leaders, officials, and neighbors unite in solidarity

Max Joseph

In the aftermath of a mass shooting that shook Midtown Manhattan on July 28, four lives were tragically lost — including that of NYPD Detective Didarul Islam, who died

in the line of duty while protecting others. The shooting occurred at 345 Park Avenue, prompting an immediate response from law enforcement and emergency services. The suspected shooter was neutralized at the scene, and

multiple individuals were injured. Detective Islam, an immigrant from Bangladesh and a devoted public servant with the 47th Precinct, was remembered by city and state leaders as the embodiment of courage and sacrifice. He leaves

behind a wife, two sons, and a third child on the way. “This is an extremely emotional moment for all in our city,” said Mayor Eric Adams, who visited the scene and later attended a citywide vigil. Governor Kathy

Hochul ordered flags across New York to be flown at half-staff and emphasized the need for stronger national gun laws. As vigils were held and prayers offered, New Yorkers across all boroughs came together

in mourning — not just for the victims, but in shared resilience. The city now turns its focus to honoring Detective Islam’s legacy and the continued commitment of those who protect its streets. **Full Details: Pages 6–9**

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Trump Expands Global Tariffs

Dozens of countries hit; Canada, Brazil face stiff penalties

Alexandar Sullivan

In a dramatic escalation of trade tensions, U.S. President Donald Trump on August 2 raised tariffs on certain Canadian goods from 25% to 35%, citing Canada’s alleged failure to curb fentanyl trafficking. The move triggered swift reaction from Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who called the decision “disappointing” and vowed to protect Canadian jobs and pursue diversification of

trade partners. The tariff hike was part of a broader wave of economic measures unveiled in an executive order targeting 69 countries, with new import duties ranging from 10% to 50%. Among the hardest hit were Brazil (50%), Switzerland (39%), India (25%), and Taiwan (20%). Only a few nations, such as Mexico and South Korea, managed to secure lower tariffs through last-minute negotiations.

Despite the 35% headline rate, nearly 90% of Canadian exports to the U.S.—including fresh produce, energy, and industrial goods—remain exempt under the USMCA trade agreement. However, affected sectors like dairy, wood, and leather could still face significant costs. The White House defended the decision, with Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stating Trump is “rebuilding the greatest economy in the history of the

world.” Analysts warned the move may drive up consumer prices and hurt American businesses. Carney stressed Canada’s efforts in fighting drug trafficking and reaffirmed a commitment to strengthening the national economy. “Canada is making historic investments to stop illicit drugs,” he said. Meanwhile, Canada’s former trade minister Mary Ng emphasized the urgency of reducing reliance on

the U.S., saying, “There are markets beyond the United States.” As the tariffs take effect, the fallout may reshape global supply chains and intensify pressure on already strained international relationships.

NEW YORK NEWS
Sunday, August 03, 2025
ISSUE-39
Please send news to
info@nyn.press
Published by NYNN
New York News Networks



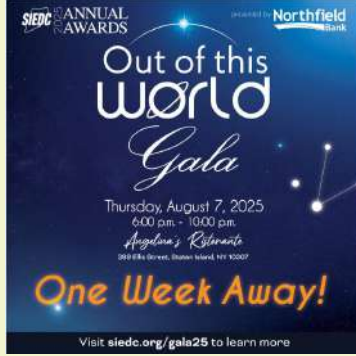
COMMUNITY NEWS

Staten Island Leaders to be Honored at 'Out of This World' Gala

Staff Reporter

The Staten Island Economic Development Corporation will host its Annual Awards Gala to celebrate local leaders in business, culture, health, and public services. On Thursday, Aug. 7, at 6 p.m., the borough's business and civic leaders will gather at Angelina's Ristorante in Tottenville, where this year's theme, "Out of This World," promises a night of cosmic celebration and community pride. Presented by Northfield Bank, the event will feature a cocktail hour, formal dinner, awards presentation, and plenty of entertainment, including surprise giveaways

and a raffle where everyone wins. The celebration will be led by Northfield Bank Executive Vice President and Gala Event Chair Robin Lefkowitz. Fashion will take center stage with the return of the Best Dressed Contest, sponsored by David & Co. Menswear, recognizing the most eye-catching outfits in the categories of "Starlet of the Galaxy," "Galactic Gentleman," and "Orbiting Duo." Attendees are encouraged to wear galaxy-inspired colors: blue, black, purple, pink, and orange — and incorporate glitter, sequins, or metallics into their looks. Guests can enjoy the

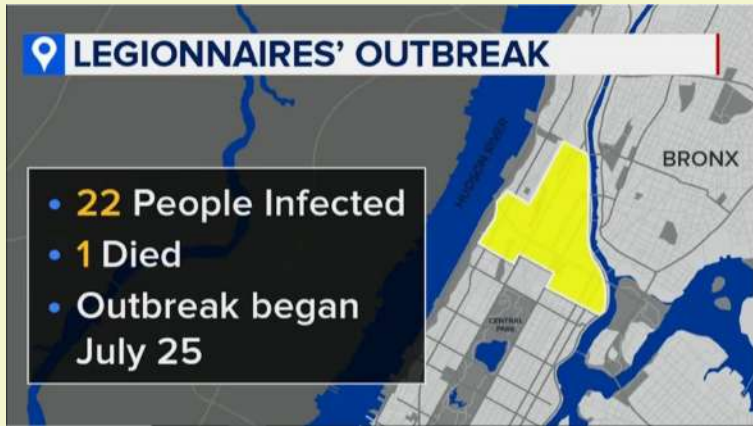


evening's signature cocktail, "The Empire Strikes Back," courtesy of Empire State Bank. Richmond University Medical Center will serve as the night's Supernova Stage Sponsor. SIEDC members receive one complimentary ticket, and

tickets for non-members are available for \$275 per person. To learn more information, visit the SIEDC website. Seating is limited. 2025 gala honorees The event will honor exceptional individuals and institutions whose work has helped elevate economic development across the borough. This year's honorees include: Dr. Daniel Messina, president and CEO of Richmond University Medical Center, for his leadership in expanding health-care services and strengthening community health networks. Cathy Del Priore, executive director of the GRACE Foundation of New York,

for autism advocacy and inclusive workforce development. Massimo DiDonna, partner at Merge Event Solutions, for his leadership in the entertainment and production industry, and his ongoing commitment to community service. New York State Assemblymember Charles Fall, for his ongoing commitment to improving housing, education, and infrastructure across Staten Island and beyond. Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, recognized as Nonprofit of the Year, for serving as a cultural, ecological, and historical landmark for the borough.

I Dead Among 22 New Yorkers Diagnosed with Legionnaire Disease



NYN DESK

More than two dozen people in Harlem have been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease, with one having died, according to the New York City Health Department. The cluster of 22 people diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease since Friday, July 25, is from the Central Harlem neighborhood (ZIP codes 10027, 10030, 10035, 10037, and 10039) and bordering communities, according to an investigation. All of the area's cooling towers, including one of the locations with plumbing systems where conditions

for Legionella growth are favorable, have all been sampled. The Health Department instructed building owners with initial positive screening results to begin fixing the issue within 24 hours. Flu-like systems including cough, fever, chills, muscle aches, or difficulty breathing could indicate Legionnaires' disease. Officials urge anyone from or working in the area with such systems contact a health care provider. "Anyone with flu-like symptoms should contact a health care provider as soon as possible," said Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Toni

Eyssallenne. "Legionnaires' disease can be effectively treated if diagnosed early, but New Yorkers at higher risk, like adults aged 50 and older, those who smoke or have chronic lung conditions should be especially mindful of their symptoms and seek care as soon as symptoms begin." Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caused by Legionella, a bacteria that grows in warm water. Individuals can get Legionnaires' disease by breathing in water vapor that contains the bacteria. The disease, treated with antibiotics, is not transmitted from one person to another. People at higher risk include those 50 and older, cigarette smokers, and those with chronic lung disease or compromised immune systems. In addition to cooling towers, whirlpool spas, hot tubs, humidifiers, hot water tanks, and evaporative condensers of large air-conditioning systems are also locations with plumbing systems favorable for growth of Legionella.

Queens Man Shot Dead Near Jay St-MetroTech Subway Station

Staff Reporter

Police are investigating after a man was shot near the crowded Jay St-MetroTech station in the heart of Downtown Brooklyn during Friday's evening rush hour. Clyde Ricks, 32, a resident of Jamaica, Queens, was critically wounded after he was shot in the torso near 391 Jay Street. Ricks was transported by EMS



in critical condition to New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, where he was later pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

There are no arrests at this time. This is an ongoing investigation. Check back for further updates.

Brooklyn Manhole Blows up in Fiery Blast, Nearly Hits Passing Car



NYN DESK

A massive fireball erupted from a Brooklyn manhole, sending flames skyward and bystanders running for cover. The dramatic moment was caught on video. The explosion took place on Central Avenue in Bushwick, where surveillance-style footage captured flames shooting out from beneath the street in a sudden blast. The video, originally uploaded to the Citizen App, quickly went viral across social media platforms. Cars can be seen driving by just seconds before the explosion, including one vehicle that narrowly avoids the fireball. Moments later, the street erupts in flames, prompting nearby pedestrians to scream and scatter. According to the New York Post, the New York City

Fire Department (FDNY) confirmed that Con Edison crews were dispatched to the scene. Miraculously, no one was injured. But the chaos didn't end there. Roughly two hours later, another manhole fire broke out less than a mile away at Lewis Avenue and Pulaski Street, sending emergency services racing to the scene. That second fire came dangerously close to nearby businesses and parked vehicles, heightening concerns in the neighborhood. Social media was quick to react. One user said, "Only in New York do you go out for a sandwich and dodge a manhole fireball like it's an action movie side quest." Another commented, "Sounds like a scene straight out of an action movie! Wild things happening in Bushwick!" A third user wrote, "How can NY get any worse."

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:28	01:02	04:56	08:08	09:35
04:29	01:02	04:55	08:07	09:34
04:31	01:02	04:55	08:05	09:32
04:32	01:02	04:54	08:04	09:30
04:33	01:01	04:54	08:03	09:29
04:35	01:01	04:53	08:02	09:27
04:36	01:01	04:53	08:00	09:26

OPINION

Reflections on Gaza and Officer Didarul Islam

Imam Shamsi Ali

As we navigate the complexities of life, we're reminded that everything happens with wisdom, known or unknown. The Quranic verse "But perhaps you hate a thing and it is good for you; and perhaps you love a thing and it is bad for you. And Allah Knows, while you know not" (2:216) serves as a poignant reminder of this truth. Reality often belies appearances, for everything that occurs is part of Allah's all-encompassing plan. Today, I'd like to share two reflections to serve as a reminder this Friday: the weight of responsibility on our shoulders is immense. None of us will be absolved of accountability for the suffering of those around us, whether near or far. **The Plight of Gaza** The Muslim Ummah is currently facing a dark moment, with the ongoing crisis in Gaza having lasted for over 58 years, since 1967. The recent

escalation has resulted in an estimated 70,000 deaths, over 200,000 injuries, and the demolition of all infrastructures. The images of bombings, starvation, and human suffering are heart-wrenching, and any healthy human being would feel the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters in Gaza. What's even more saddening is the inability of the world to help. From nation-states to international organizations, the United Nations, and human rights groups, all seem powerless to stop the human massacre and genocide in Gaza. The Muslim world, with its vast resources, is also seemingly ineffective,



— Imam Shamsi Ali :
 Director of Jamaica Muslim Center

limited to conferences, seminars, and condemnations on media. Some Muslim leaders are even embracing the perpetrators behind closed doors. In this deeply sad moment, while acknowledging the pains and sufferings, we must continue to raise our heads in hope. Islam teaches us to maintain optimism, even in the face of adversity. We must believe in the promise of Allah that with difficulty comes ease (94:5-6). As American Muslims, we must take action, leveraging our values and constitutional rights to raise awareness and advocate for change. We must not remain silent.

A Tribute to Officer Didarul Islam In a tragic turn of events, just a few days ago, New York City witnessed a shooting that claimed four lives, including that of a police officer, Didarul Islam. A Muslim brother who came to America from Bangladesh with a dream for a better life, joined the NYPD, and served his community with love, dedication and sacrifice. His legacy is a testament to the values of love, family, and community. We thank him for being a good ambassador for our faith and community. As we reflect on these events, we're reminded that we're all ambassadors for our faith in this country. We must strive to be good representatives, promoting understanding, and advocating for justice. Let's continue to raise our voices, leveraging our constitutional rights, and turning to Allah for help. May Allah guide us, grant us wisdom, and bring ease to those suffering in Gaza and beyond. Ameen.

“

"None of us will be absolved of accountability for the suffering of those around us, whether near or far."



Image Source: Online

“

"Islam teaches us to maintain optimism, even in the face of adversity. We must believe in the promise of Allah that with difficulty comes ease (94:5-6)."

Health Is a Human Right: Advancing SDG 3 for a Healthier Tomorrow

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



In a world where science has made immense strides and medical knowledge is abundant, the persistence of preventable diseases, inadequate healthcare systems, and mental health crises is unacceptable. Sustainable Development Goal 3 — Good Health and Well-Being — challenges us to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. As a global faith and civic leader, I, Imam

Muhammad Shahidullah, believe health is not a privilege but a fundamental human right. Health is not just about hospitals or medicines; it is about clean water, nutritious food, education, mental peace, economic justice, and equitable access. From vaccine inequality to maternal mortality, and from rising mental health struggles to climate-linked health threats, the challenges we face are deeply interconnected and demand collective action. In underserved communities — both in



— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah
 Vice President, United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), Queens Chapter

developing nations and wealthier countries like the United States — people of color, immigrants, and low-income families continue to experience barriers to adequate care. This health gap is a justice gap. Addressing it means empowering communities, investing in primary healthcare, and dismantling systems that marginalize. Faith leaders, governments, educators, and citizens all have a role to play. We must advocate for universal healthcare, promote mental health support without stigma,

and ensure that no child dies of a disease we already know how to prevent. We must also respond to the environmental determinants of health — pollution, unsafe housing, food insecurity — with policy, urgency, and compassion. The COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that global health is shared health. One country's vulnerability endangers all. Our response must be global in vision but local in execution. Let us unite — across sectors and across faiths — to build a future where every person, regardless of background or borders, has the opportunity to thrive in body, mind, and spirit.

PRAAYER

In Remembrance and Resolve

Bangladesh Society leads prayer for MileStone School and NYPD victims



James Anderson
In a heartfelt expression of solidarity and compassion, the Bangladesh Society of New York organized a special dua mahfil

(prayer gathering) to remember and honor the lives lost in two tragic incidents—one in Bangladesh and the other in New York. The solemn event was held in memory of the

students and teachers of Milestone School and College who perished in a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft accident, as well as to pray for the soul of NYPD Officer Didarul

Islam, a Bangladeshi-American officer who tragically passed away while on duty in the city he served. Community members, leaders, and residents gathered with heavy hearts, offering prayers not only for the deceased but also for strength and solace for the grieving families. The gathering was a poignant moment of reflection for the Bangladeshi diaspora, reminding attendees



of the fragility of life and the importance of collective mourning and healing. "From overseas, we still feel the pain of the homeland. And when tragedy strikes our own here, we feel it doubly. The Bangladesh Society's efforts are a testament to shared grief, shared humanity," said a community member who praised the initiative on social media, calling it "a true expression of responsibility and compassion." The program resonated deeply with attendees, who noted how the Society continues to stand beside the community in times of sorrow—whether in mourning for national tragedies or in honoring

the lives of local heroes. Such initiatives reflect a broader commitment to not only cultural connection but also human solidarity. Prayers were made for the souls of all the deceased, with hopes that Allah grants them peace and paradise and gives their families the strength to endure their loss. The gathering concluded with a collective moment of silence and heartfelt supplications, leaving many visibly moved. The Bangladesh Society's event was a meaningful reminder that distance does not dilute grief, and that a community united by shared values and roots can stand resilient—whether in the face of loss at home or abroad.



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee

FAITH AND UNITY

Voices of Faith, Acts of Unity

Interfaith leaders lead Queens vigil after devastating school incident



Emily Parker

As the sun dipped below the skyline of Queens on Friday, July 25, 2025, a quiet crowd began to gather at the corner of Hillside Avenue and 169 Street—a modest triangle of pavement transformed into sacred ground for an evening. What followed was not

a political rally or public outcry, but something perhaps more powerful: an Interfaith Prayer Vigil uniting hearts across beliefs to mourn the victims of a tragedy that shook lives thousands of miles away. The vigil was held to honor the lives lost in the tragic incident at Milestone School and

College, offering a



moment of collective reflection for the victims, their grieving families, and the larger

community still reeling from the impact. The event, steeped in dignity and reverence, was organized by the Jamaica Integrated Bangladeshi Officers Network, Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, and the Bangladesh American Police Association—three local organizations recognized for their commitment to civic engagement and community welfare. Attendees from across New York's vibrant boroughs stood in unity, many holding symbols

of their faith—crosses, crescents, prayer beads, or simply each other's hands. The diverse

assembly reflected the spiritual richness of Queens, home to one of the most ethnically and religiously varied populations in the United States. Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and people of other religions stood shoulder to shoulder, offering prayers not only for the departed but for strength and healing in the face of shared sorrow. The gathering delivered a message deeper than words—a testament to solidarity in grief and resilience in the face of loss. It became a moment not just of remembrance, but of collective resolve. Faith leaders, families, and neighbors came together not out of formality, but out of an unwavering sense of responsibility to support one another and honor the lives tragically lost.

The names behind the event, including Rased Malik and Mohammed Delwar, were made available for those seeking more information. Their efforts, and those of their respective organizations, were applauded for fostering a space that welcomed people of all backgrounds with compassion and care. In a world often fractured by ideology, the inclusivity of this vigil stood out as a quiet act of defiance against division. As twilight settled over the triangle at 169 Street, the Interfaith Prayer Vigil left behind more than memories—it left a message. In mourning together, the community affirmed a simple but powerful truth: in our darkest moments, we do not stand alone.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Standing Together for a Fallen Hero

Community leaders, officials, and neighbors unite in solidarity

Max Joseph

The sirens have long faded from 345 Park Avenue, but the shock of the violence that erupted there on July 28 continues to reverberate through New York City. In a devastating act of gun violence, four innocent lives were stolen — among them, Detective Didarul Islam, an NYPD officer who died protecting the very city he had sworn to serve.

The incident unfolded in the heart of Midtown Manhattan, where an armed assailant opened fire inside an office building. The shooter, who was later neutralized by police, left behind trails of blood and trauma that city officials say are among the most haunting they've ever seen. Mayor Eric Adams, arriving at the scene soon after, described the aftermath as "a level of violence that I have not seen before."

Detective Islam, a member of the 47th Precinct, was among the first to respond. An immigrant from Bangladesh, he was a father of two with a third child on the way — and his death has sent ripples of grief through the city's immigrant, law enforcement, and civic communities. Mayor Adams, visibly emotional, later reflected, "Speaking to Officer Islam's father reminded me — though I'm the mayor, I'm also a father. I thought about my son and the unbearable pain I would feel if the roles were reversed."

In the wake of the tragedy, Governor Kathy Hochul directed all state flags to be lowered to half-staff. "Tonight we mourn four New Yorkers, including one of New York's Finest," she wrote. "Officer Islam represented the very best of our state. He chose to protect his city — and gave his life doing so."

Throughout the five boroughs, New Yorkers responded not only with sorrow, but with solidarity. A multi-faith

vigil at Bryant Park drew residents, police officers, faith leaders, interfaith organizers, and political figures from across the city. Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Sikh, and Hindu community leaders stood side by side in prayer.

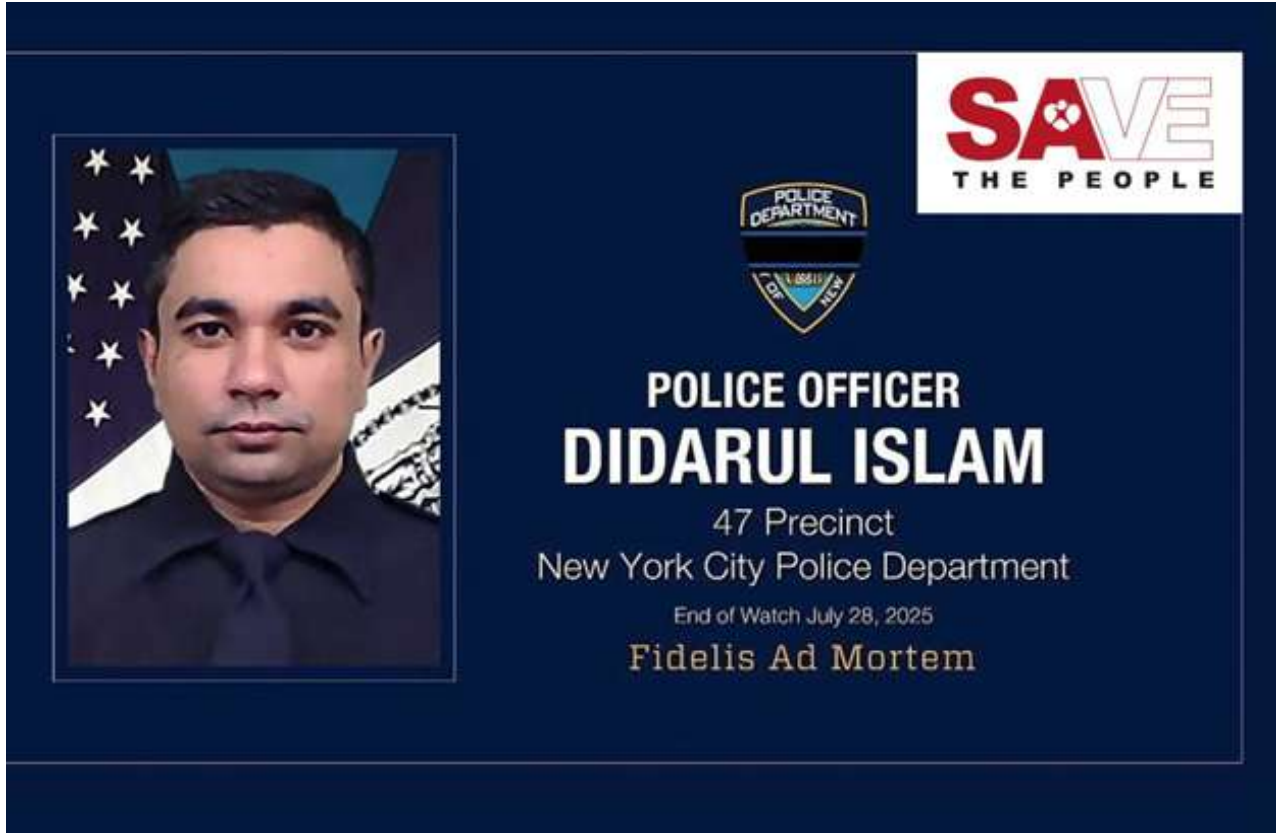
Grassroots organizers, elected officials, and neighborhood advocates gathered alongside grieving families, lighting candles and releasing white balloons in tribute. "Tonight is what our city represents," said Mayor Adams. "In difficult times, we show the country, and each other, our resiliency."

Inside the halls of the 47th Precinct, the mourning has been especially profound. Colleagues described Islam not just as a dedicated officer, but as a brother. "He gave everything to protect this city," said Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, who announced that Islam had been posthumously promoted to Detective First Grade. The department also gathered for a solemn dignified transfer, escorting his body to the Parkchester Jame Masjid for religious services.

From the mayor's visit to Islam's grieving family to the moments of silence across city blocks, this tragedy has revealed not only the deep pain that lingers after such loss — but also the determination of a city to stand tall in its mourning. "You can feel their pain and heartbreak inside these halls," Governor Hochul said during a visit to the NYPD command. "All of New York stands with them today as we honor his service."

As one NYPD statement read, "We will forever honor his legacy."

For many, Detective Islam's story reflects the essence of New York itself — diverse, resilient, and deeply human. His sacrifice is now part of the city's collective memory, and his name, as echoed in precincts, prayer halls, and vigils alike, will not be forgotten.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Standing Together for a Fallen Hero



Governor Kathy Hochul 15h · 🌐

I ❤️ New York. Today our hearts are broken. But in times of tragedy, New Yorkers always come together to lift each other up.



Governor Kathy Hochul 15h · 🌐

I ❤️ New York. Today our hearts are broken. But in times of tragedy, New Yorkers always c... See more



Mayor Eric Ad... 15h · 🌐

Following

Last night, we came together as New... more



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Standing Together for a Fallen Hero

Mayor Eric Adams visits the home of fallen Detective Didarul Islam, embracing his grieving father in a moment of shared sorrow.



Mayor Adams and Governor Kathy Hochul visit the 47th Precinct to pay tribute to Detective Islam alongside fellow officers.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Standing Together for a Fallen Hero

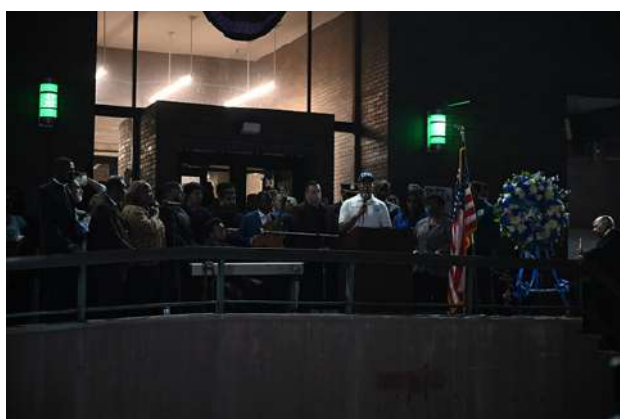


Detective First Grade Didarul Islam was laid to rest with full honors following his death in the July 28 Midtown mass shooting. The funeral, held at Parkchester Jame Masjid, brought together family, NYPD officers, community members, and faith leaders from across the city.

As prayers were recited and tributes paid, a grieving city stood united — honoring a father, a son, a protector. From folded flags to silent salutes, every gesture reflected the depth of loss and the pride in a life devoted to service. Detective Islam's legacy now lives on in the hearts of his family, his precinct, and a city that will never forget his sacrifice.



In a solemn candlelight vigil held by the NYPD 47th Precinct, family members, fellow officers, and community residents gathered to honor Detective First Grade Didarul Islam. Surrounded by prayers, tears, and white balloons released into the night sky, the vigil served as a quiet reflection of his unwavering service and ultimate sacrifice. He was remembered not only as a hero, but as a son of the city he gave his life to protect.



EDUCATION

Inked with Inspiration

Elhaam Academy students celebrate Islamic art through calligraphy



Ashley Reed

In a colorful celebration of faith and creativity, Elhaam Academy held a special Calligraphy Art Competition as part of its summer school program, offering students a

unique opportunity to connect with Islamic culture through visual expression. The event, focused on drawing Arabic words in beautiful scripts, culminated in a joyful certificate ceremony recognizing

the efforts of every participant. Held in the warm spirit of learning and community, the competition saw enthusiastic participation from young students. With markers, pencils, and brushes in hand, the young artists

transformed paper into canvases of meaning—carefully illustrating sacred words and expressions in Arabic calligraphy. From simple designs to intricate patterns, the artworks reflected not only talent but also a growing appreciation for Islamic art. Organizers and educators at Elhaam Academy emphasized that this was more than just an art competition. It was a deliberate effort to integrate meaningful

into the school's educational framework. "Calligraphy is a form of worship and creativity," one teacher explained. "It gives students a way to engage spiritually and artistically, outside of textbooks and exams." This initiative is part of the Academy's broader vision to develop well-rounded students—those who are not only academically capable but also culturally and spiritually connected. The competition encouraged both individual expression and peer inspiration, with students supporting and admiring one another's work throughout the creative process. Parents and community members welcomed the program as a refreshing addition to summer learning. Many expressed appreciation

for how the activity helped strengthen students' bonds with the Arabic language and Islamic tradition in a fun and memorable way. The day ended with a cheerful certificate distribution, where each participant was acknowledged for their creativity and effort. Smiling faces, proud glances, and excited chatter filled the room, marking a successful close to a rewarding event. As Elhaam Academy continues to nurture both minds and hearts, events like the Calligraphy Art Competition show how educational institutions can inspire young people not just to learn, but to create, connect, and celebrate their identity through meaningful experiences.

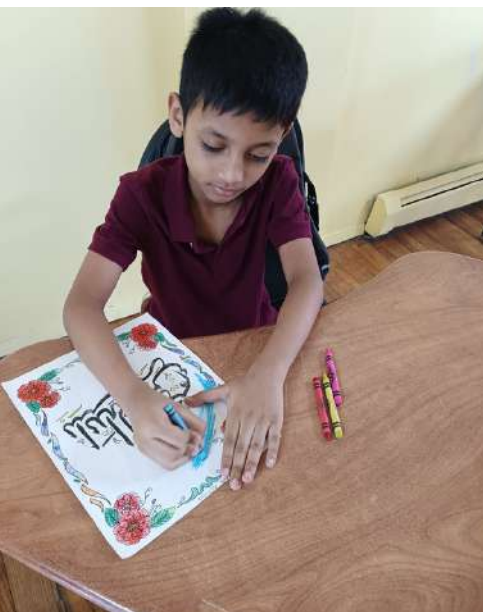
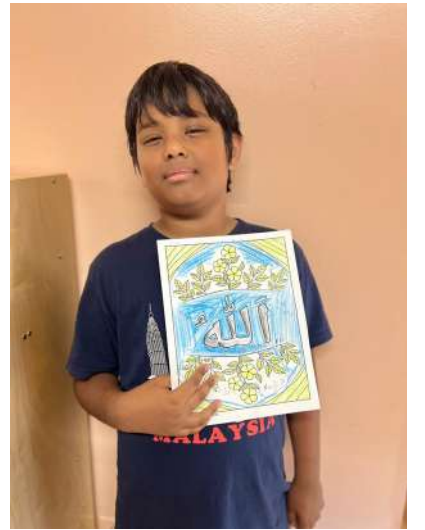


extracurricular activities



EDUCATION

Inked with Inspiration



PROTEST AND JUSTICE

Queens Stands Up for Immigrants

Hundreds gather at Borough Hall to protest federal anti-immigrant actions



William Henry

In a defiant show of solidarity, immigrant communities, advocacy organizations, and local leaders gathered at Queens Borough Hall on a recent evening to protest what they described as escalating federal

attacks on immigrants and communities of color. Organized by The New York Immigration Coalition, Make the Road New York, Adhikaar, and DSI International, the rally served as both a call to action and a message of unwavering resistance. The protest was a

direct response to what participants condemned as unjust and aggressive immigration enforcement tactics, including incidents of federal agents allegedly detaining individuals without proper identification. Protesters expressed anger over what they called

unconstitutional actions and voiced concern for vulnerable populations who may fear for their safety. "This is The World's Borough," one speaker declared, capturing the spirit of the evening. "And we will not allow fear to dictate who belongs here." Amid chants, banners, and determined faces, participants made it clear that their purpose was rooted not in fear, but in defense—of families, neighbors, and the values they believe make New York strong. The crowd included a broad cross-section of Queens residents, many of whom have been directly impacted by immigration policies. From young activists to seasoned organizers, the event highlighted the diversity and determination of New York's immigrant population.

Queens Borough President Donovan J. Richards Jr. was present at the event and stood in support of those gathered, further emphasizing the borough's stance on immigrant inclusion. His presence served as a reminder that local leadership remains aligned with protecting the rights and dignity of all residents, regardless of status. The organizers underscored their commitment to educating immigrant communities on their legal rights and offering resources to resist unjust detentions. Calls were made for greater accountability and transparency in immigration enforcement, and community members were urged to stand together in the face of what they referred to as "fascist" and

"xenophobic" actions emanating from Washington. While political rhetoric remains charged at the national level, the tone on the steps of Borough Hall was one of clarity and collective resolve. "We will defend our values, our families, and our borough with everything we've got," one organizer affirmed, echoing a sentiment widely shared throughout the evening. As darkness settled over Queens, the rally continued with chants and personal testimonies—each voice contributing to a shared declaration: the community will not be intimidated. In the heart of one of the most diverse places in the world, the message was simple but firm—immigrants are welcome here, and those who seek to divide will not succeed.



UNITY

A Life of Service Remembered

Detective Didarul Islam honored at emotional community gathering



collaboration brought hundreds together in a moving display of respect, sorrow, and community strength. The program included moments of reflection, remembrance, and unified messages of solidarity for the fallen detective's family and the broader community still grappling with the loss. A wide array of leaders, elected officials, and community representatives stood shoulder to shoulder with attendees. Notably present were Zohran Mamdani, a potential New York City mayoral candidate, and New

Also in attendance were Shahriar Rahman, CEO of BHALO; Fakhru Islam Delwar, President of Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society; along with the President and Secretary General of Bangladesh Society Inc.. Members of the Bangladesh-American Police Association (BAPA) were present in full support, emphasizing the connection between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Their collective presence underscored the significance of the moment, as well as the deep respect held for the late officer. The vigil, which drew participation from families, friends, neighbors, and advocates, became a space for healing and shared strength. Attendees held signs, candles, and messages

of remembrance while organizers expressed gratitude to all who made the event possible and all who came to pay their respects. Speakers throughout the event reminded the crowd that while tragedy had struck, the memory of Detective Didarul Islam would live on not only in his service, but in the unity shown by the community in his name. The gathering was solemn yet powerful—anchored in a shared commitment to justice, peace, and human dignity. As the event came to a close, the message resonated clearly: Detective Didarul Islam's sacrifice would not be forgotten, and the values he upheld—service, integrity, and love for his community—will continue to guide those he leaves behind.

Patt Cummins

A powerful show of unity, remembrance, and resilience took shape in Jamaica, Queens, as the community came together to honor the life and sacrifice of

Detective Didarul Islam, a Bangladeshi-American NYPD officer who was tragically killed by gunfire. The memorial vigil served as both a tribute to his life of service and a collective stand against violence.

The event was



SDG GOALS

Young Minds, Global Goals

Children explore SDGs at Jamaica event led by global youth leaders



Jessica Morgan

Bright colors, curious minds, and a strong message of global responsibility filled the halls of Elhaam Academy on Thursday, July 31, 2025, as children gathered for SDG's ABCD with Kids, an engaging event designed to introduce young

learners to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The program began at 12 PM and transformed the school into a learning environment focused on creativity, education, and empowerment. Presented by SAVE THE PEOPLE and organized by SDG Academy New York, the event was held

in collaboration with the UNA-USA Queens Chapter. Together, these organizations worked to bring global concepts such as sustainability, health, equity, and education into a kid-friendly format that encouraged learning through fun and interaction. A key highlight of the event was the

participation of Derin Ege Sezgin, a young global leader recognized for his work in youth advocacy and SDG engagement. As the Founder of SDGKIDSCONNECT and a United Nations Youth Delegate, his



presence underscored the potential of young people to contribute meaningfully to global change. His involvement added an aspirational dimension to the day's message—showing children what youth leadership in action can look like.

Children participated in a variety of interactive activities centered around the 17 SDGs. From discussions on clean energy and responsible consumption to artwork inspired by gender equality and clean water, the event focused on making these global goals relatable and engaging for a young audience. Facilitators used visuals, games, and group exercises to spark ideas and dialogue around how even small actions can lead to big impacts. Organizers emphasized

that early exposure to these ideas helps build a stronger foundation for civic responsibility and global citizenship. The program was designed to show kids that they have a voice in shaping the world around them—and that understanding global issues begins with awareness and empathy. As the program concluded, it was clear that SDG's ABCD with Kids had left a meaningful impression—not only by introducing children to important global goals, but by showing them that their ideas, energy, and creativity can be part of the solution. In a world facing complex challenges, the event offered a simple but powerful lesson: shaping a better future starts with educating the next generation.



SDG GOALS

Young Minds, Global Goals



HERITAGE

A Pilgrimage for Peace

International delegation honors cultural and spiritual legacy across Japan



Benjamin Lee

Under the solemn summer skies of Japan, participants from around the world have embarked on a spiritually rich and culturally profound journey as part of the Heiwa Peace Pilgrimage Tour, which began on August 1 and will continue through August 11, 2025. Traveling across Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, the pilgrimage is offering a

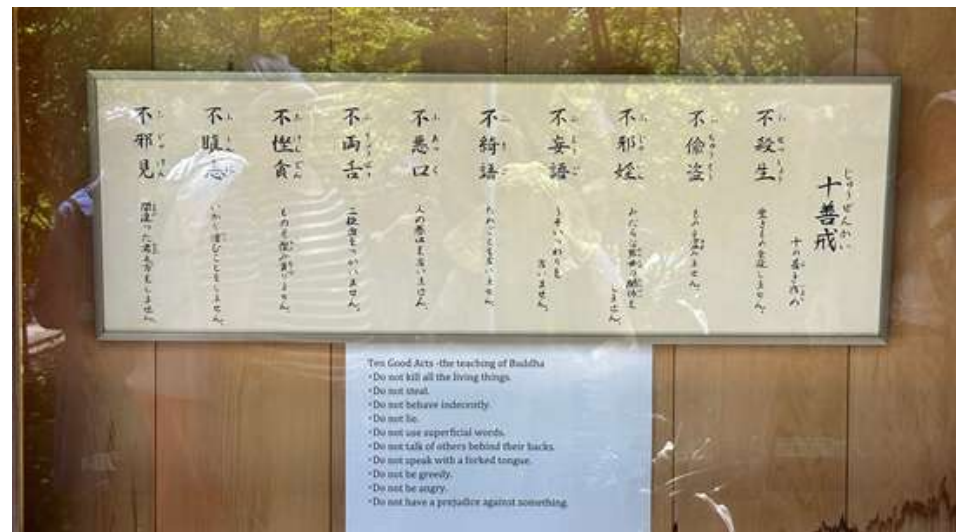
unique blend of interfaith engagement, historical reflection, and cultural education. The tour opened with a full-day program in Osaka, where participants visited prominent religious institutions and engaged in meetings with interfaith leaders. This opening day laid the foundation for a journey rooted in dialogue, spiritual exploration, and global understanding. It was an opportunity not just to observe sacred spaces, but to

exchange perspectives with those dedicated to peace-building across traditions. The following day, the group continued to Kyoto, a city known for its deep spiritual roots and historical richness. The day included visits to several key religious institutes, where participants met with local spiritual leaders from diverse backgrounds. These encounters culminated in a conference and peace walk, uniting international delegates

and Japanese faith leaders in a shared call for compassion and justice. The rest of the day was spent exploring Kyoto's historic and cultural sites, adding a rich layer of context to the spiritual connections made earlier. In Nara, pilgrims stood before the towering Great Buddha of Tōdai-ji and explored the historic grounds of Kōfuku-ji Temple, surrounded by the sacred deer of Nara Park, revered in Shinto tradition as divine messengers. Each stop deepened the group's appreciation for the spiritual continuity and cultural depth of Japan's sacred sites. Now continuing through Kyoto, the delegation has visited one of the city's oldest temples, Kōryū-ji, dating back to 603 CE. Its historic halls hold national treasures, including a wooden statue of Miroku Bosatsu from the Asuka Period. Additional key visits include the visually striking Fushimi Inari Shrine, the iconic Byodo-in Temple in Uji, and the solemn wooden interior of Sanjusangendo, which houses 1,001 statues of

the goddess Kannon. Each day of the pilgrimage begins with silent meditation and prayer, often before sunrise, grounding participants in reflection as they walk the same paths once tread by monks and seekers centuries ago. These experiences offer more than cultural insight—they open doors to personal transformation and global solidarity. Later this week, the group will travel to Hiroshima to take part in events marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing. Ceremonies will be held at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, A-Bomb Dome, and Peace Museum, followed by a moving tōrō nagashi (lantern floating) ceremony. In Nagasaki, participants will continue their journey of remembrance with visits to Peace Park, Urakami Cathedral, and the atomic bomb epicenter, alongside concerts, dialogues, and interfaith services. Throughout the tour, participants are immersing themselves in Japan's spiritual legacy—from UNESCO

World Heritage Sites to quiet shrines and community gatherings—while forging relationships that transcend borders, faiths, and generations. Visits to Miyajima's Itsukushima Shrine, Kokedera (Moss Temple), and Nishi Hongan-ji further reflect the pilgrimage's commitment to mindful travel and collective healing. Though the journey is still in progress, its impact is already being felt. It is fostering mutual understanding, intergenerational dialogue, and a renewed sense of responsibility to peace. As one participant shared during a group reflection, "Walking through places where peace was once shattered is already shaping how we choose to rebuild it in ourselves and in the world." From the contemplative paths of Kyoto to the solemn silence of Hiroshima, the Heiwa Peace Pilgrimage is more than a cultural journey—it is a living testimony to memory, unity, and the enduring pursuit of peace.



HERITAGE

A Pilgrimage for Peace



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Quake Shakes NJ and NYC

3.0 magnitude tremor felt across metro area

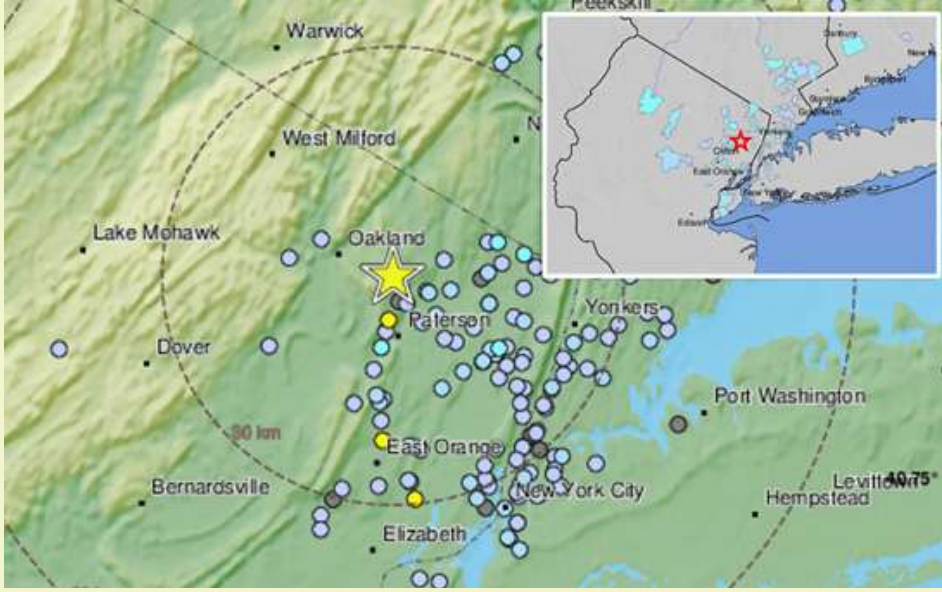


Photo: 3.0 magnitude earthquake strikes New Jersey, tremors felt in parts of NY
Image Source: www.yahoo.com/news

Amkel Norush

A 3.0 magnitude earthquake struck Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey at 10:18 p.m. on August 2, shaking homes and rattling nerves across the New York metropolitan area. The quake, felt in Upper

Manhattan, The Bronx, and Staten Island, originated six miles beneath the surface, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. While no damage or injuries were reported, the tremor was strong enough to draw concern. "It sounded like a bang,

HIGHLIGHT

●3.0 magnitude earthquake struck Hasbrouck Heights, NJ at 10:18 p.m. on August 2.

followed by a shake," said Erica Pirchio of Nutley, NJ. In Staten

Island, some likened the sensation to a car hitting the house. NYC Mayor Eric Adams assured residents that no structural damage was found but encouraged anyone with concerns to call 311.

Emergency officials warned of potential aftershocks in the coming days. The quake is the latest in a string of minor seismic events to hit New Jersey, including six small tremors last week in Morris County. Though the region is not typically known for earthquake activity, geologists point to the Ramapo Fault Line as an underlying cause.

Just last year, a 4.8 magnitude quake in Tewksbury startled millions. While Saturday's event was far less severe, it was a reminder that the Earth can still shake the Northeast.

Ancient Volcano Awakens in Russia

First eruption of Krasheninnikov in 600 years may be linked to recent quake

Adrian Smith

A volcano in Russia's Far East erupted for the first time in centuries, with scientists suggesting the rare event may have been triggered by a powerful earthquake earlier in the week. The Krasheninnikov Volcano, located in Kamchatka, spewed ash overnight, marking its first confirmed eruption in 600 years, according to Olga Girina, head of the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team.

Girina said the eruption could be linked to the massive earthquake on Wednesday, which triggered tsunami alerts as far away as Chile and French Polynesia and preceded an eruption at Klyuchevskoy, another

nearby volcano. On the Telegram channel of the Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Girina confirmed the last lava flow at Krasheninnikov occurred around 1463, give or take 40 years. The Russian Ministry for Emergency Services reported a towering ash plume reaching 6,000 meters (3.7 miles), but said the cloud had drifted eastward over the Pacific Ocean and posed no threat to populated areas. Authorities assigned an orange aviation code to the eruption, indicating heightened risks to air traffic in the region. The volcano itself stands 1,856 meters tall, and officials continue to monitor for further activity.



Photo: Gretchen Walsh won the women's 100m butterfly with the second-fastest time in history.
Image Source: Marko Djurica / Reuters / CNN

Team USA Tops Swimming Medal Table

Overcomes illness to finish strong at World Aquatics Championships

Charles Lewis

The United States overcame an early setback and a team-wide illness to finish atop the medal table at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore on Sunday, capping the meet with a world record in the women's 4x100m medley relay. The team collected nine gold and 29 total medals, edging out Australia and reaffirming its dominance in the pool. The American squad struggled in the opening days as several swimmers battled acute gastroenteritis contracted at a training camp in Thailand, sparking public criticism from former champions like Michael Phelps and

Ryan Lochte. But a late surge over the weekend, led by golds from Katie Ledecky, Kate Douglass, and Gretchen Walsh, turned the tide. "We've been dealing with a lot... I don't think people quite understand everything going on behind the scenes," Walsh said. Meanwhile, Canada's Summer McIntosh, 18, added her fourth gold with a dominant performance in the 400m individual medley, joining Ledecky as the only women to win four individual golds at a world championships. After a rough start, Team USA's strong finish and world record sealed a comeback that both silenced critics and set the tone for the upcoming Paris Olympics.

Berkshire Earnings Slip 4% in Q2

Buffett's conglomerate cites tariff concerns, Kraft Heinz loss



Photo: Warren Buffett speaks during the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 3, 2025.
Image Source: CNBC

Nassr Al Shams

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway reported a 4% decline in operating earnings for the second quarter of 2025, posting \$11.16 billion compared to \$11.6 billion during the

same period last year. The results come as the conglomerate faces mounting economic headwinds, including an escalating trade war and continued losses from longtime holdings. The company's total net income dropped sharply

to \$12.37 billion, a 59% fall year-over-year, weighed down in part by a \$3.8 billion write-down on its investment in Kraft Heinz Co. The consumer giant has struggled with performance and strategic uncertainty, prompting two Berkshire

executives to step down from its board in May. This marks the first earnings release since Buffett, 94, announced he would step down as CEO by year's end, with Greg Abel, vice chair of non-insurance operations, set to take over. Berkshire's insurance underwriting profits fell 11%, but other divisions like BNSF Railway and Berkshire Hathaway Energy posted strong gains. The company also warned that President Trump's new tariff policies, set to begin August 7, could negatively impact operations. Despite declining equity markets, Berkshire's cash reserves remained high at \$344.1 billion, though down slightly from earlier in the year. The company has not repurchased shares in 2025.

Lando Norris Wins Hungarian GP

McLaren star rebounds from rough start to edge out teammate Piastri

Julian Alvez

Lando Norris claimed victory at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday, overcoming a poor start and late pressure from teammate Oscar Piastri to secure his third win in four races. After slipping from third to fifth in the

opening seconds, the McLaren driver executed a bold one-stop strategy to regain the lead. "This is the perfect result," Norris told Sky Sports, calling the race "tough but rewarding." Piastri, who finished a close second, said his strategy

was "a gamble" that nearly paid off. His late charge in the final 20 laps brought him within striking distance of Norris, but an attempted overtake two laps from the finish came up short. Charles Leclerc, who started on pole, fell to

fourth after battling a chassis issue. George Russell overtook him to earn his first podium since the Canadian Grand Prix in June. McLaren's 1-2 marked their seventh of the season and 200th Grand Prix win.