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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: – US President Trump and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro
Image Source: Patrick Chappatte/ Chappatte in The New York Times

U.S. Doubles Bounty on Maduro

Reward for Venezuelan president rises to \$50M amid drug trafficking claims

Alexandar Sullivan

The United States has doubled its reward for information leading to the arrest or capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to \$50 million, intensifying an already bitter diplomatic standoff. The announcement came on Thursday, with U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi calling Maduro “one of the largest narco-traffickers in the world” and “a threat to our national security.” Bondi alleged Maduro

has collaborated with criminal organizations, including Venezuela’s Tren de Aragua gang, the Cartel of the Suns, and Mexico’s Sinaloa Cartel, to smuggle massive quantities of cocaine—some laced with fentanyl—into the United States. According to the DEA, authorities have seized more than 30 tons of cocaine linked to Maduro’s network, with nearly seven tons directly tied to him. The Justice Department has also seized over \$700 million in assets

HIGHLIGHT

•Maduro re-elected in 2024 in disputed vote.

•Accused of ties to Tren de Aragua, Cartel of the Suns, Sinaloa Cartel.

•DEA: 30 tons of cocaine linked to Maduro network.

connected to Maduro, including two private jets. The Venezuelan government swiftly rejected the accusations.

Foreign Minister Yván Gil dismissed the reward as “the most ridiculous smokescreen ever seen” and accused Washington of using the announcement to distract from domestic controversies, including the Jeffrey Epstein scandal. Maduro, in power since 2013 and re-elected in January 2024 in a vote widely condemned as fraudulent, has long denied any involvement in drug trafficking. U.S. officials, however, have linked him to Colombian

rebel group FARC in a plan to “flood” America with cocaine. The move marks a sharp escalation in U.S. pressure on Caracas, underscoring Washington’s determination to hold the Venezuelan leader accountable. Whether the increased bounty will yield actionable intelligence remains uncertain, but it sends a clear signal: for the United States, Maduro’s arrest is a priority with a price tag now set at \$50 million.

Israel to Seize Gaza City Despite Warnings

Critics say operation risks worsening humanitarian catastrophe

John Paul

Israel’s security cabinet has approved a plan to seize Gaza City, triggering fierce criticism from the UN and multiple governments. Championed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the plan’s goals include disarming Hamas, freeing hostages, and installing a civil administration “neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority.” Reports say the first phase would force about one million residents south, followed by expanded military operations and limited humanitarian aid. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the move “wrong,” and Germany suspended arms exports. Hamas

HIGHLIGHT

•Plan could displace up to 1 million Palestinians.

denounced it as a “new war crime” that would “cost Israel dearly.” The IDF already controls most of Gaza, where famine and mass displacement are worsening. The war, launched after Hamas’s October 7, 2023 attack that killed around 1,200 Israelis, has claimed over 61,000 Palestinian lives, according to Gaza’s health ministry.

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Zelensky Could Join Alaska Summit

White House keeps door open ahead of key meeting

Lily Anderson

A fast-moving diplomatic effort is underway as the White House considers inviting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to Alaska, where President Donald Trump is set to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 15. The high-stakes summit, aimed at securing a ceasefire in Ukraine, has drawn urgent appeals from European leaders to ensure Kyiv has a

voice in any peace negotiations. While Trump has signaled openness to a trilateral meeting, officials stress that Friday’s talks will primarily be a bilateral session requested by Putin. “Everyone is very hopeful” Zelensky could be included, one senior U.S. official said, though any involvement would likely follow the Trump-Putin meeting. The uncertainty has fueled a flurry of behind-the-scenes diplomacy. On Saturday, Vice

HIGHLIGHT

•Trump meets Putin in Alaska on August 15.

•White House may invite Zelensky.

•Europe insists on Ukraine’s inclusion and ceasefire first.

President JD Vance met with European officials at the UK foreign secretary’s manor to discuss conditions for peace. Leaders from France, Italy, Germany,

Poland, the United Kingdom, Finland, and the EU jointly stated that “the path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine” and insisted a ceasefire must precede substantive talks. Putin’s outline, presented to Trump’s envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow, would allow Russia to keep the eastern Donbas region—an idea rejected by Zelensky, who vowed Ukraine “will not give their land to occupiers.”

With the Alaska summit days away and key details unresolved, the outcome may hinge on whether Zelensky secures a seat at the table in a process that could shape Ukraine’s future and the balance of power in Europe.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



New York City set to close Last Migrant Hotel



for the Row NYC Hotel on Eighth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. The lease expires in April. The Row was the first hotel used by the city to take in the migrants, who started arriving in the city in droves three years ago, after shelters reached capacity and the city looked for housing alternatives. Mayor Eric Adams released a statement about the shelter closing saying that the city has "successfully helped more than 200,000 migrants leave the shelter system and take the next step toward self-sufficiency." "We are proud to share that we will be closing another site — the Row Hotel, the last

hotel in the city's emergency shelter system — marking yet another major milestone in our administration's recovery from this international humanitarian crisis," Adams told The Post Friday. The Row, which boasts on its website that it is "more New York than New York," was the first hotel to be enlisted by the city to take in migrants after Adams declared the city's existing homeless shelter system had reached a "breaking point." The migrant crisis has cost city taxpayers more than \$8 billion since spring 2022 to provide food, shelter and other services to over 238,000 migrants who flooded into the country because of former

President Joe Biden's lax border policies. Local residents and workers in the Times Square business district hailed the news Saturday that the migrants would soon be leaving Row NYC. "Hallelujah. I'm happy that it's happening," said a resident of The Camelot rental apartment complex across the street. "We pay a lot of money to live here, and it doesn't seem fair." "There are people sitting here all day, littering, leaving food waste, water bottles..." the resident said. "A lot of them have children, and there are women sitting around here smoking weed all day, the children are just playing on the street, on the bike lanes.

Staff Reporter

New York City is set to close the last hotel used to house

migrants who crossed the southern U.S. border and were bused north. The city will not renew the contract

Times Square shooting leaves 3 hurt, 17-year-old Arrested



witness Agnes Rodriguez said. The witnesses said they heard three gunshots after the brawl spilled outside. "We literally thought it was fake. We thought it was like firecrackers or ... fireworks. We didn't believe it," one witness said. Officers at a nearby post also heard the gunshots and responded. There was a short pursuit and the suspect was caught a block away at 44th and Eighth. A 19-year-old man was shot in the foot, an 18-year-old woman from Maryland suffered a graze wound to the neck and a 65-year-old man from New Jersey was shot in the leg, according to police. They were all hospitalized in stable condition. Police said the 19-year-old was the gunman's target, but the other two victims were innocent bystanders. Investigators said the shooting occurred after the suspect got into an argument with the older teen and that a gun was recovered from the scene.

NYN DESK

Three people were hurt in a shooting in Times Square overnight, New York City police say. According to the NYPD, two teenagers and a 65-year-old man were shot on 44th Street near Seventh Avenue when a gunman opened fire early Saturday morning in the heart of Manhattan. A 17-year-old suspect was taken into custody and is facing a number of charges, including attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon and reckless endangerment. The suspect's identity has not been released

because of his age. Witnesses told CBS News New York a fight broke out inside the Raising Cane's restaurant in Times Square on the corner of 44th and Seventh. It happened at around 1:20 a.m. and appeared to involve a group of about 15 teenagers who rolled up on Citi Bikes and entered the restaurant, they said. One witness said some of the teenagers asked her friend for \$2, but she told them she didn't have any money. "And then as we were waiting to get our food, they all run out and stuff, and they're just, like, fighting,"

Teen Girl Vanishes after Leaving Queens Home

Staff Reporter

She stepped out of her home Friday afternoon and never came back. Fifteen-year-old Valentina Torres was last seen leaving her residence at 47-22 Smart Street in Queens at around 3 p.m. on Friday. According to the report, Torres is described as being approximately 5 feet 2 inches tall, weighing about 120 pounds, with brown eyes and



black hair. She was last seen wearing a blue jacket, black pants and black sneakers.

Family members reported her missing after she did not return home later that evening. Law enforcement sources confirmed she has not been in contact with relatives or friends since she left. An active search is underway, and investigators are reviewing local security camera footage in the area of Smart Street to trace her last known movements.

Brooklyn Security Guard Killed in Midtown laid to rest as a Hometown Hero



NYN DESK

More than 150 family, friends, and public figures gathered to remember, honor and lay to rest on Saturday a Brooklyn security guard killed in last month's Midtown mass shooting. Aland Etienne, 46, was working as a security officer, employed by McLane Security, at 345 Park Ave. on July 28 when he was one of four people murdered in the rampage. He was stationed at the front desk of the high-profile building, the first face so many visitors see in this home to high-profile companies such as Blackstone and the NFL. Etienne's friends and family packed a room at the Guarino Funeral Home in Canarsie on Saturday

for his funeral. A large Haitian contingent, many Canarsie residents, friends, and family from Florida and elsewhere attended. A flat screen hanging from the ceiling showed pictures of him and his family during the solemn, sorrowful service. Mayor Eric Adams and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries paid their respects to the family, and Queens Assembly Member and mayoral candidate Zohran Mandami paid his respects and attended the funeral service. The slain guard's son, Ralandy Lucien Etienne, was among the pallbearers who helped carry Aland Etienne's casket to the black hearse for the final journey in a life that brought him from Haiti to the United States.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:37	01:01	04:52	07:59	09:24
04:39	01:01	04:52	07:58	09:22
04:40	01:01	04:51	07:56	09:21
04:41	01:00	04:50	07:55	09:19
04:43	01:00	04:50	07:54	09:17
04:44	01:00	04:49	07:52	09:15
04:45	01:00	04:48	07:51	09:14

OPINION

Zohran and the Mission of Prophet Moses (AS)

Imam Shamsi Ali

In early November 2024, Zohran Mamdani made his debut in Jamaica Queens as a candidate for Primary election in New York City. At the time, Zohran was relatively unknown, and his campaign was supported by only 1% of Democratic voters in New York City. Even within the Muslim community, there were doubts about openly supporting him. Two incidents illustrate these doubts. During Ramadan 2025, I spoke at a New York Police Department iftar event. Afterward, a prominent Muslim figure approached me and asked me to join a coalition supporting Andrew Cuomo. When I mentioned my support for Zohran, he said, "Don't waste your time and energy on a losing candidate. Better support the winning one (Cuomo)." In another instance, I requested that Zohran be invited to speak at an event attended by imams and Muslim community leaders. The organizers were hesitant, questioning whether it was appropriate to accommodate a candidate at a religious event. I argued that he should at least be considered for a councilman position in New York State. The response was, "We'll discuss it with our Board of Trustees and let you know." These incidents demonstrate the difficulties and the doubt in supporting a fellow Muslim due to pragmatic considerations. Zohran lacked recognition and solid political and financial backing, while his opponents,

Cuomo and Eric, seemed destined to win. Some community members feared losing the prestige of close connections with those in power. Zohran and the Mission of Prophet Moses At that meeting with community leaders and activists organized by MusVote on November 9, 2024 in Hillside Jamaica, I was asked to give an opening remarks before Zohran presenting his vision and mission. In my short speech I quoted a verse from the Quran, Ch. 20 verse 42: "Go, you and your brother, with My signs and do not slacken in My remembrance." This verse is dense with meaning in the context of struggling against oppressive situations. During Prophet Moses' time, the Pharaoh's tyranny was akin to a system that manipulates power, tramples the poor and weak, and widens the gap between the rich and the poor. If we draw parallels to the present day, we'd find ourselves in a similar situation to some extent. The powerful and wealthy often exploit the weak and poor, exacerbating the gap between the two. This perpetuates a



— Imam Shamsi Ali :
Director of Jamaica
Muslim Center

cycle where the strong become stronger and richer, while the weak become weaker and poorer. I'd term this era "fir'aunistic" or "Pharaonic", with the key difference being that power is no longer solely held by individuals or monarchs but is embedded within the system itself. Five Messages from Allah to Moses In facing such corrupt and manipulative power (pharaonic), Allah provided Moses with five key directives, which Zohran has implemented well in his political mission: One, "Izhab" which means go and move to challenge the Status Quo. Zohran has successfully not only established a solid campaign team, but a solid movement to challenge the old establishment. A solid movement that inspires thousands or millions of young New Yorkers. Two, "anta wa akhuka" means do struggle through collaborations, partnerships and wide networkings. Zohran has successfully collaborated and partnered with various segments of New Yorkers, including working families, labor organizations,

community groups, and even with some segment of the Jewish communities. Three, "bi ayaati" here means struggle must be with smart strategy. Zohran is not only himself a smart politician, but had employed smart strategies to overcome obstacles and challenges and won. Fourth, "laa taniya" here means do not weak, be strong and keep going. Zohran has shown unwavering determination and consistency in the face of challenges. He has been labeled with unfounded accusations such as radical, terrorist, anti semitic, and even a call to revoke his citizenship and be deported. He kept going and won. Five, "zikri" means focus and Vigilance. Zohran remains focused on his vision and mission, undeterred by distractions, attacks and accusations. He faced all those distractions with strength, determination and with his special smile. A Prophet sunnah that his grand parents taught him. In conclusion, Zohran's commitment to peace, justice and equality align with the prophetic mission of bringing peace and justice to all. May Allah make it easy and facilitate his journey towards the end with victory, InshaAllah! The question we need to ask to each one of us is what I can and must do to be a part of the history making in NYC? Answer it!

“

"Go, you and your brother, with My signs and do not slacken in My remembrance."
(Quran 20:42)



“

"Zohran's commitment to peace, justice and equality align with the prophetic mission of bringing peace and justice to all."

Education: The Cornerstone of a Just and Prosperous World

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Education is more than the transfer of knowledge—it is the key to human dignity,

opportunity, and justice. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) calls for inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, as well as lifelong learning opportunities. This is not simply a policy goal; it is a moral duty. Around the world, millions are deprived of education due to poverty, conflict, discrimination, and lack of resources. Without quality education, other goals—ending poverty, achieving gender equality, and promoting peace—



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

cannot fully succeed. Education empowers people to think critically, engage in civic life, and contribute meaningfully to society. It opens doors for children, equips youth with essential skills, and provides adults with the opportunity to transform their futures. Yet disparities remain stark. Rural communities often lack schools and trained teachers. Girls face barriers such as early marriage and cultural restrictions. Refugees and displaced persons

endure interruptions to their learning. Technology could help bridge these gaps, but access to internet, devices, and digital literacy remains uneven. Governments must prioritize education in budgets and policy. Civil society must advocate for inclusion and quality. Communities and faith leaders must work to ensure no one is left behind. Our collective future depends on it. To deny someone education is to deny them the tools to shape their destiny. To provide it is to affirm their worth and unlock the potential of our world. SDG 4 is not merely an aspiration—it is a promise we must fulfill.

LAW AND JUSTICE

Breaking Barriers in New York Judiciary

Judge Soma Mounie Syed secures Democratic nomination for State Supreme Court



Ashley Reed

In a groundbreaking development for New York's judiciary, Judge Soma Mounie Syed has been officially nominated by the Queens County Democratic Party to serve on the New York State Supreme Court. The announcement marks a historic moment for representation in the state's judicial system,

as Syed is poised to become the first Muslim Supreme Court Justice from Queens and the first Bangladeshi American Supreme Court Justice if elected on November 4, 2025. The nomination reflects both Judge Syed's distinguished legal career and her longstanding commitment to serving the diverse communities

of Queens. Known for her professionalism, legal expertise, and community engagement, she has earned recognition from colleagues, community leaders, and civic organizations across the borough. Queens Democratic leaders underscored the significance of her candidacy, highlighting how it represents not

only an individual achievement but also a step forward for broader inclusivity within New York's judicial system. Her nomination resonates deeply within immigrant and Muslim communities, many of whom see her success as a reflection of their own struggles, aspirations, and contributions to the city. Judge Syed's career has been marked by her work both in and outside the courtroom. While her judicial role has given her the authority to interpret and apply the law, she has also been a visible figure in community outreach and legal education, often engaging with civic groups, bar associations, and advocacy organizations. Her ability to bridge legal expertise with grassroots understanding has strengthened her rapport with constituents across backgrounds. The November election will serve as the formal test of her candidacy, but the Queens Democratic

Party's nomination has already positioned her as a leading contender. For many, the significance lies not only in the potential outcome but also in the pathway her career has carved for others from underrepresented communities to follow. Supporters point to her nomination as an example of how diversity in leadership benefits the entire judicial system, fostering perspectives that reflect the lived experiences of the people it serves. If elected, Judge Syed will take her place among the state's most senior trial court judges, tasked with presiding over major civil and criminal cases. The position carries immense responsibility, requiring impartiality, legal rigor, and the ability to navigate complex legal issues that often have wide-ranging implications. For the Bangladeshi-American community in particular, her nomination is being celebrated as a proud

milestone. Many see her as a trailblazer whose journey reflects the growing influence and civic engagement of immigrant communities in New York. For Queens residents at large, her candidacy offers the promise of a justice whose professional track record and lived experience align closely with the borough's diverse population. As the November 4, 2025 election approaches, Judge Soma Mounie Syed's nomination stands as a reminder that representation in leadership—especially in the judiciary—is not only about breaking barriers but also about ensuring that the courts reflect the full spectrum of the communities they serve. Her potential election would mark a new chapter for Queens, for New York State, and for the many who believe that justice is best served when it speaks with a voice as diverse as the people it protects.



SUMMER STREET

A Day for People, Not Cars in New York City

Save the People USA supports NYC DOT's push for greener streets



William Henry

Instead of exhaust fumes, the air in Manhattan on August 9, 2025 carried the scent of street food, the strum of live music, and the cheerful shouts of cyclists and pedestrians reclaiming the asphalt. For one summer day, the city's concrete arteries pulsed not with traffic, but with community spirit, as the New York City Department of

Transportation's (NYC DOT) Summer Streets transformed miles of roadway into a festival of movement, art, and shared purpose. Among the many organizations participating, Save the People USA stood out for its dynamic engagement with thousands of visitors. Volunteers and community members set up along the route to share resources on public safety, climate



awareness, and health, ensuring that the day's festivities were not only fun but also educational. By offering accessible information

and interactive activities, the group helped turn the streets into a hub of both recreation and civic responsibility. The atmosphere was electric. Children pedaled small bikes under fluttering banners, street performers drew clusters of spectators, and fitness instructors led outdoor yoga and dance sessions. Food vendors lined the sidewalks, while community groups like Save the People USA used the opportunity to connect with residents and visitors from across the city. Their outreach emphasized the importance of sustainable living, disaster preparedness, and neighborhood solidarity. This year's Summer Streets reflected a growing commitment by city agencies and grassroots organizations to reimagine urban spaces in ways that prioritize people over cars. For Save

the People USA, participation in the event aligned seamlessly with its mission to create safer, greener, and more inclusive communities. The group's presence reinforced the idea that public health, climate action, and community safety are deeply interconnected goals that require both local engagement and citywide cooperation. The car-free transformation of Manhattan's thoroughfares offered a glimpse into what a more sustainable urban future could look like. Free from traffic congestion, the streets became social spaces where strangers struck up conversations, cyclists shared lanes with skaters, and parents pushed strollers without worrying about crosswalk signals. The simple act of reclaiming the streets, even for a day, demonstrated the possibilities for healthier, more connected

neighborhoods. For Save the People USA, the day was not just about distributing flyers or giving safety tips—it was about inspiring action. By meeting people face-to-face in such an open, inclusive setting, they were able to strengthen community bonds and encourage small but impactful lifestyle changes that contribute to a safer and more sustainable city. As the sun began to set and the streets slowly reopened to traffic, the impact of the day lingered. Many left with new ideas, new connections, and a renewed appreciation for what public spaces can offer when they are designed for people rather than vehicles. For both the city and its communities, August 9 was more than a summer event—it was a reminder that the path to a greener, healthier future can start with a single car-free street.



PRAYER

In Memory and Mourning

Bronx prayer service held for Bangladeshi-American NYPD officer killed in gun attack



James Anderson

Under the soft afternoon light of August 8, 2025, the sound of heartfelt prayers filled the Parkchester Jame Mosque in the Bronx as New Yorkers from all corners of the community gathered to honor the memory of Detective Didarul Islam. The event, organized

by the Bangladeshi American Police Association, became a powerful demonstration of unity, drawing people of various backgrounds, as well as prominent city leaders and law enforcement officials. Among those present was Mayor Eric Adams, joined by representatives from the NYPD and numerous

community leaders, all standing side by side with residents to pay tribute to the fallen officer. The gathering reflected the unity of the community, as people from different walks of life came together at the mosque to honor a man remembered not only for his dedicated service, but also for his kindness and integrity.

Detective Islam, a respected member of the NYPD and a long-time Bronx resident, lost his life on July 28 in a tragic gun attack on Park Avenue in Manhattan that claimed four lives. His death sent shockwaves through the law enforcement community and among New York's Bangladeshi-American population, where he was seen as a bridge between cultures and a dedicated public servant. Following his death, Detective Islam

attended by family, fellow officers, and community members. Born in Kulaura, Moulvibazar District in Bangladesh's Sylhet Division, he had built a life in the United States centered around service, connection, and commitment to justice. At the memorial, speakers expressed deep appreciation to the Bangladeshi American Police Association for organizing the event, and to all who attended—emphasizing that the presence of people from so many communities was a testament to Detective Islam's impact. Mayor Adams and NYPD officials praised his dedication to public safety and his ability to foster trust within the neighborhoods he served. The atmosphere inside the mosque was one of solemn respect,

yet also a quiet resolve. Attendees spoke of carrying forward the values Detective Islam represented—courage, compassion, and unity. For the Bangladeshi-American community, his legacy is a source of pride; for the city at large, it is a reminder of the human cost of violence and the duty to work for a safer, more just society. As the final prayers were recited, there was a shared sense among those present that Detective Islam's name and service will be remembered not only in the history of the NYPD, but also in the hearts of those he touched. His life, they agreed, was one of dedication—and his passing has brought New Yorkers together in the very spirit he embodied.



was laid to rest on July 31 in Totowa, New Jersey, in a funeral



PRAYER

In Memory and Mourning



GLOBAL PEACE

Faiths Unite on Mount Hiei

Global prayer calls for peace and compassion



Emily Parker

On the sacred summit of Mount Hiei, overlooking the city of Kyoto, the 38th Interreligious Prayer Gathering for World Peace convened on August 6, 2025,

bringing together religious and spiritual leaders from across the globe. The annual gathering took place at Enryakuji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the headquarters of

the Tendai Buddhist tradition. This year's event carried the theme "Compassion Across Borders, Peace Beyond Boundaries" and reflected a heightened urgency for peace amid rising global tensions,

climate challenges, and humanitarian crises. Leaders and representatives from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Indigenous traditions, and other spiritual paths stood together in prayer, dialogue, and reflection. Among the international participants were Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA; Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of New York; Rabbi Alan Greenbaum, representing the Jewish Council for Justice and Peace; and Venerable Napan Santibhaddo from Thailand's monastic peace delegation. Each offered prayers in their own tradition for the healing of war-torn regions, for victims of

natural disasters, and for the advancement of harmony among peoples. Messages of unity from Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, and the United Nations Secretary-General were read aloud, underscoring the event's global resonance. Special attention was given to youth involvement and environmental issues. Young representatives from Japan, Palestine, Ukraine, and Sudan lit candles of peace, drawing attention to the role of younger generations in addressing both conflict and climate change. A peace bell was rung 108 times, a number symbolizing purification and renewal in Buddhist tradition. The sound carried across the temple grounds, marking a moment of collective

intention for a more peaceful future. The day concluded with a "Circle of Unity" ceremony. Participants joined hands in silence, facing the city of Hiroshima to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing. The act served as both a memorial and a renewed commitment to the goal of a nuclear-free world. As prayers and chants echoed in multiple languages, the Mount Hiei gathering reaffirmed its place as a long-standing symbol of global interfaith solidarity. For participants and observers alike, it was a reminder that the pursuit of peace requires not only words, but shared purpose and unwavering dedication.



GLOBAL PEACE

Hiroshima Welcomes Peace Delegation Heiwa group tours memorials and joins anniversary ceremony



Patt Cummins

The streets of Hiroshima carried a quiet weight as the Heiwa Peace Pilgrims Group, representing the World Peace Ambassadors, walked toward the city's most hallowed ground. Their steps, deliberate and reflective, were part

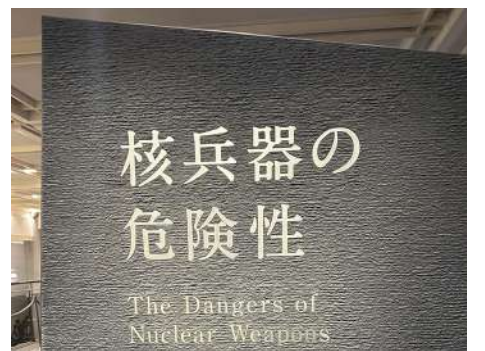
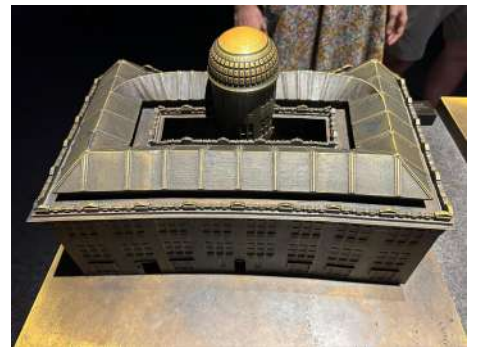
of a journey to honor the victims of the atomic bombing and to renew a global commitment to peace. Arriving in the first week of August, the delegation's visit coincided with the 80th anniversary of the August 6, 1945 tragedy. Over two days, they

moved through sites that have become both memorials and moral beacons for the world. The pilgrimage began at the A-Bomb Dome, the skeletal remains of the former Industrial Promotion Hall and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As the most recognizable

monument to the bombing, it stands as a stark reminder of destruction and a testament to the resilience of a rebuilt city. From there, the group proceeded to Peace Memorial Park, pausing at the Memorial Cenotaph to reflect on its enduring message: that the mistakes of the past must never be repeated. At the Peace Memorial Museum, the delegation encountered personal artifacts, photographs, and first-hand accounts that revealed the human cost of nuclear warfare. Their journey continued to the Children's Peace Monument, dedicated to Sadako Sasaki and the countless young victims, where thousands of colorful origami cranes from around the globe spoke of shared hope. They also visited the

Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound, final resting place for more than 70,000 unidentified victims, and the Cenotaph for Korean Victims, honoring those who perished far from their homeland. Stops at the Honkawa Elementary School Peace Museum and the Orizuru Tower connected history and education with panoramic views of a city that has risen from devastation. On August 6, the group joined approximately 7,000 attendees at the official Peace Memorial Ceremony in Peace Memorial Park. The program included dedications of victims' names, floral tributes, moments of silence, the tolling of peace bells, and a symbolic dove release, ending with the Hiroshima Peace Song.

Throughout their visit, the Heiwa Peace Pilgrims engaged in acts of remembrance—offering candles, folding origami cranes, and observing silent reflection. These gestures underscored the link between personal commitment and the broader mission of nuclear disarmament and reconciliation. For Hiroshima, their presence was part of an enduring message that peace is not merely an aspiration but a responsibility shared by all nations. For the pilgrims, it was a reminder that the story of Hiroshima belongs not only to Japan, but to humanity—and that remembering is essential to ensuring such a tragedy never happens again.



GLOBAL PEACE

Peace Bell Tolls for Hiroshima's 80th Anniversary Ceremony unites nations and faith communities



Benjamin Lee

The morning sun rose over Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, casting long shadows across the cenotaph as the sound of a single bell carried through the air. At 8:15 a.m., the city stood still, marking the precise moment 80 years earlier when an atomic bomb reduced Hiroshima to ruins and claimed tens of thousands of lives.

On this anniversary, faith leaders, survivors, and dignitaries from around the world gathered not only to remember, but to renew their shared vow that such destruction must never happen again. This year's commemoration brought together more than 1,000 faith leaders, peace ambassadors, and international dignitaries alongside

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui. Nearly 55,000 attendees filled the park, representing around 120 countries, the United Nations, the European Union, and global interfaith organizations. Among them was a delegation from New York, led by Reverend T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, which included faith leaders and community

representatives. The group attended the ceremony and met with members of Nihon Hidankyo, the Confederation of A-Bomb Survivors and recipient of the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize, underscoring the ongoing bonds between international peace advocates and those who have lived through the atomic tragedy. The annual Peace Memorial Ceremony, held before the Memorial Cenotaph, unfolded from 8:00 to 8:50 a.m. The moment of silence at 8:15 was followed by floral offerings, symbolic prayers, the release of white doves, and the lighting of the Flame of Peace. Religious leaders from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Shintoism, and other traditions offered prayers for healing and reconciliation, transforming the event into a powerful act of interfaith solidarity. In his Peace Declaration, Mayor Matsui drew somber parallels between the

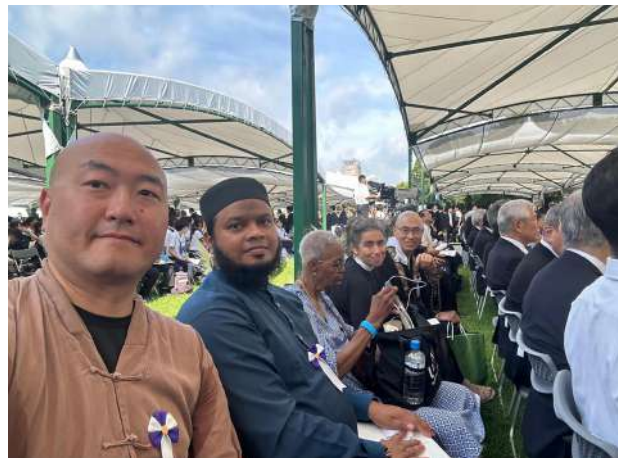
devastation of 1945 and ongoing global conflicts, including those in Ukraine and the Middle East. He warned against the growing acceptance of nuclear deterrence, urging younger generations to carry forward the movement toward abolition. Prime Minister Ishiba extended condolences to victims and their families, reflecting on his recent visit to the renovated Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. He pledged Japan's commitment to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles—not possessing, producing, or allowing nuclear weapons—emphasizing that Japan, as the only nation to have suffered nuclear attack, bears a moral responsibility to lead the world toward disarmament. The presence of hibakusha—atomic bomb survivors, now averaging over 86 years old—added profound weight to the ceremony. This year, the names of 4,940 recently deceased survivors were added to

the cenotaph registry, raising the total number of recorded victims to nearly 350,000. Nihon Hidankyo renewed its call for nuclear powers to take concrete steps toward disarmament, stressing the urgency of preserving survivor testimonies as their voices diminish with age. The ceremony closed with the Hiroshima Peace Song, its melody carrying across the park as attendees stood in quiet reflection. For many, the day was both a solemn remembrance and a renewed call to action—a reminder that peace is not a passive state, but a responsibility that must be actively pursued through dialogue, education, and cooperation across borders. In the stillness after the final note faded, the message of Hiroshima remained clear: the memory of August 6, 1945, is a warning to the world, and the pursuit of peace is a duty shared by all.



GLOBAL PEACE

Peace Bell Tolls for Hiroshima's 80th Anniversary



GLOBAL PEACE

Lanterns of Hope Light Hiroshima

Faith leaders, youth, and survivors call for nuclear abolition



Jessica Morgan

As the sun dipped toward the horizon on August 6, 2025, the streets of Hiroshima glowed with the warm light of hundreds of paper lanterns. In their gentle illumination, a diverse assembly of faith leaders, peace ambassadors, students, and community members from around the world walked in solemn procession,

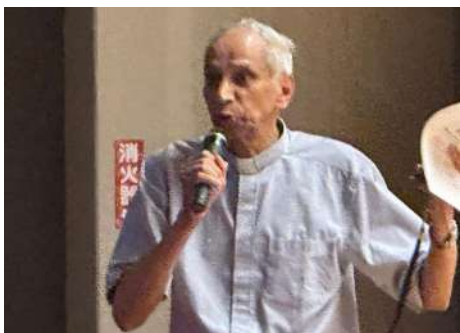
marking the 80th anniversary of the city's atomic bombing. The Hiroshima Peace Walk, a powerful symbol of remembrance and hope, culminated in an Interfaith Peace Event at the Hiroshima University of Music. The walk began at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, where participants stood in reflection before setting out through the city. Local community

leaders and international delegates—including Buddhist monks, Christian pastors, Muslim imams, Shinto priests, Jewish rabbis, Hindu swamis, Bahá'í representatives, and indigenous elders—led the way. Each step was deliberate, a shared act of commitment to reconciliation and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Along the route, onlookers paused to bow, offer flowers,

or quietly join the procession. The presence of the Heiwa Peace Pilgrims and World Peace Ambassadors from over 20 countries underscored the event's global reach. Families of hibakusha—atomic bomb survivors—marched alongside youth representatives, uniting generations in a shared mission to preserve memory and work toward peace. At the Hiroshima University of Music, the program opened with a delicate blend of piano and koto, performed by students as a tribute to the city's resilience. University Chancellor Dr. Kazuko Matsumoto welcomed the gathering, affirming that music in Hiroshima is more than art—it is a prayer for the future. Faith leaders from multiple traditions offered messages rooted in compassion, forgiveness, and unity. One of the most poignant moments came

when Keiko Ogura, a hibakusha, recounted her memories as an eight-year-old on the day of the bombing. Her voice, steady yet filled with emotion, carried the weight of lived history. Youth delegates responded with pledges to promote peace education, environmental stewardship, and cross-cultural understanding in their home countries. The evening's cultural highlights included Song for Peace, performed by the university choir alongside international guests in Japanese, English, Arabic, and Spanish. The multilingual harmonies emphasized the universal yearning for safety, dignity, and coexistence. On stage, representatives of all faith traditions stood together holding a large paper crane before leading a minute of silence, followed by the ringing of the Peace Bell.

The night concluded with a joint declaration signed by over 50 religious and civic leaders, calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the rejection of all violence, and the building of a global community grounded in respect, justice, and love. Lanterns were then set afloat on the nearby river, their flickering reflections a quiet yet determined message: the work of peace is ongoing, and it belongs to everyone. For Hiroshima, this gathering was more than commemoration—it was a living reminder that the lessons of the past demand action in the present. For those who walked, prayed, and sang together, it was a reaffirmation that "Never Again" must be more than words; it must be a global commitment carried forward into the future.



EDUCATION

A Summer Day to Remember

Students combine fun activities with a museum experience



Alex Mason

Under the warm summer sun, the Elhaam Academy Summer School Program brought its students together for a day that

perfectly blended fun, activity, and hands-on learning. On their recent trip, the young participants enjoyed a lively morning outdoors before heading to one of New York City's cultural

landmarks, the Queens Museum. The day began in the open field, where students engaged in a spirited game of football, their laughter echoing across the grass. Between kicks

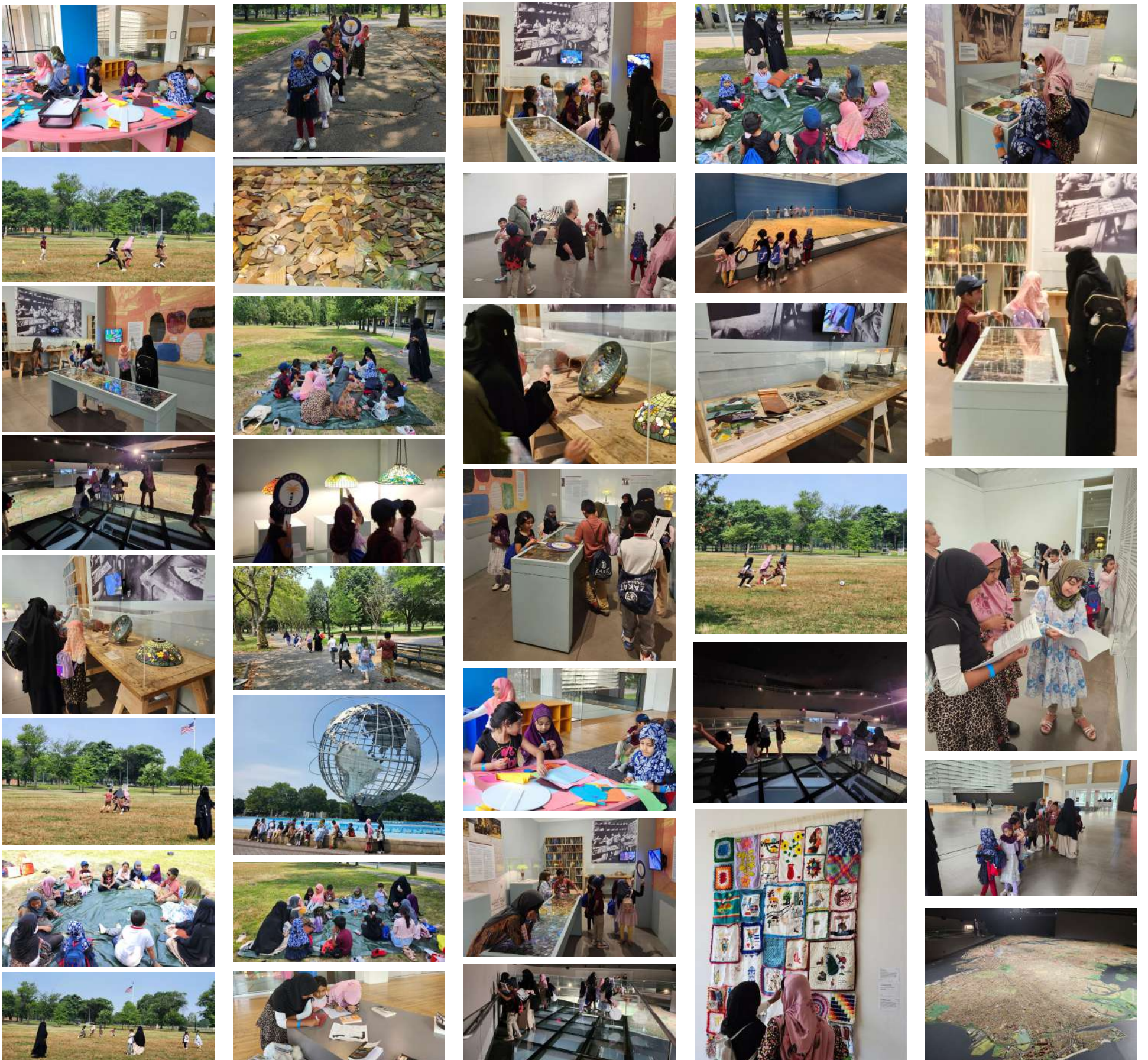
and goals, they took part in a friendly pillow-passing challenge, a lighthearted game that had everyone smiling. Snacks were shared under the shade, giving the group a moment to rest and chat before the next adventure. After the morning's



recreation, the group made their way to the

Queens Museum. Inside, the students eagerly explored the exhibits, moving from one gallery to another with wide-eyed curiosity. They asked questions, shared their thoughts, and engaged with the displays, turning the visit into an interactive learning experience. Teachers encouraged them to think critically, while the museum environment sparked conversations that extended beyond the classroom. For many of the students, it was a rare opportunity to combine physical activity, social interaction, and educational exploration

in a single day. "The goal was to make learning enjoyable and memorable," one teacher noted, highlighting how such trips help students connect their classroom lessons to the world around them. As the day came to an end, the group left with tired feet but bright smiles — a sign of both the fun they had and the lessons they carried home. The Elhaam Academy summer outing demonstrated that education can thrive when balanced with play, and that the best learning often happens beyond the four walls of a classroom.



PHILANTHROPY

Serving with Compassion

Save the People USA brings essential goods to those in need



Daniel Matthew

On a busy and uplifting day for the community, Save the People USA (STP USA) organized a food pantry event that distributed 200 boxes of essential groceries and baby supplies to local families. The

initiative, held as part of the organization's ongoing commitment to fighting food insecurity, brought together dedicated volunteers, community members, and supporters for a coordinated effort to ensure no household went without.

Each box contained a carefully packed assortment of pantry staples, including canned apple sauce, corn, tomatoes, peas, peaches, and mixed vegetables; long-grain rice; pasta such as elbows and spaghetti; tuna; peanut butter;

shelf-stable milk; farina; dry lentils; pinto and kidney beans; blueberry cereal bars; and raisins. Pampers, in sizes ranging from newborn to 7, were also distributed to support families with young children. While the list of items was impressive, the real story of the day was the human effort behind it. Volunteers and interns worked tirelessly in the days leading up to the event—organizing, packing, and preparing the boxes with care. On distribution day, they ensured everything ran smoothly, greeting attendees, answering questions, and helping



carry boxes to cars or carts when needed. Their commitment transformed the event from a simple handout

into a true act of community care. The event also welcomed special guests, including John SeabeAlo from UNA-USA, whose attendance was warmly appreciated. Yet, as organizers pointed out, the spotlight belonged to the many hands that made the day possible—the volunteers and interns whose energy and dedication kept the entire operation moving seamlessly. For the recipients, the pantry provided much more than just food. In a time when economic challenges make it harder for many families to afford basic groceries, the boxes offered relief, stability, and a reminder that their community stands behind them. Parents expressed gratitude for the inclusion of both nutritious items and baby supplies, while others remarked on the variety and quality of the

goods. "This isn't just about handing out food," one volunteer shared while loading a box into a family's car. "It's about showing up for each other and making sure our neighbors know they're not alone." The day closed with a sense of accomplishment and unity, reinforcing Save the People USA's mission to serve with compassion and address urgent needs with practical solutions. The organization's leaders expressed their hope to continue expanding such programs, reaching even more families in future events. In the end, the 200 boxes represented more than just groceries—they stood as symbols of resilience, generosity, and the belief that a stronger community begins with caring for one another.



CELEBRATION

BBQ Celebration Marks 25 Years

Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society hosts summer gathering



Noah Presley

The aroma of freshly grilled barbecue and the sound of lively conversation filled Cunningham Park in Queens on August 4, 2025, as the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society Inc. hosted its

annual Family BBQ — this year with added significance as part of the organization's 25th anniversary celebrations. The gathering drew hundreds of attendees, from longtime residents to new community members, turning the

park into a vibrant hub of culture and camaraderie. Throughout the day, families enjoyed a spread of barbecue favorites alongside traditional snacks, with hot dogs for children and spicy puffed rice and mango mash for

adults. Games, a tug-of-war competition, and a variety of cultural performances kept energy levels high. Children laughed and played on the grass while adults caught up over shared meals, making the event feel like a true community reunion. The program also drew prominent public figures. Congresswoman Grace Meng praised the Bangladeshi-American community's continued support and contributions to Queens, reaffirming her

commitment to stand by them. State Senator John Liu spoke highly of the food and hospitality, while Queens Borough President Donovan Richards commended the Society for creating spaces that foster unity and pride. Leaders from the Bangladesh Society, including President Aatur Rahman Selim and General Secretary Mohammad Ali, were also present, alongside numerous community activists and professionals. Presiding over the event was founder and president Fokhrul Islam Delwar, joined by general secretary Enayet Munshi and BBQ committee convener J. Molla Sani, who coordinated the day's activities. Volunteers and past leaders, including Saiful Islam, Bilal Chowdhury, and Mohammad Akhtar Babul, worked tirelessly

to ensure the event's success. Cultural performances by Shah Mahbub, Maria Mou, and Nipa Zaman provided musical highlights, drawing applause from the crowd. The tug-of-war event, which saw both men and women participating enthusiastically, became one of the day's most memorable moments. As the evening wound down with raffle prize giveaways, the mood was one of pride and satisfaction. For the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, the BBQ was more than just a summer tradition — it was a testament to 25 years of fostering connection, celebrating culture, and strengthening the bonds of the Bangladeshi-American community in Queens.



CONVENTION

MUNA Convention 2025 Inspires Thousands

Torchbearers of Islam Gather in Pennsylvania

Max Joseph

In a year marked by global uncertainty and shifting cultural landscapes, the Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA) brought together thousands of Muslims from across the nation in their MUNA CONVENTION 2025, a three-day gathering filled with faith, fellowship, and a shared commitment to spreading the light of Islam. Held August 8–10, 2025, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, the event carried the theme “Torchbearers of Islam: Spreading the Faith Globally,” and united attendees around a vision of justice, service, and moral leadership. Founded in 1990, MUNA is a grassroots, faith-based nonprofit dedicated to the moral, spiritual, and social development of individuals and communities. Rooted in the Qur’an and the Sunnah, the organization’s mission spans five core fields: da’wah, organization, education, social service, and relationship-building. Among its key program divisions are MUNA Justice & Human Dignity, which advocates for the rights of the marginalized; MUNA Social Services & Family



it is our duty to be the bearers of this divine light — the message of Islam — to every corner of the earth. Whether through da’wah, service, education, or compassion, we strive to represent the values of Islam and be living examples of its beauty and wisdom.” MUNA National President Imam Delouer Hussain, in his published greeting, urged unity and steadfastness: “The torch of Islam must shine not just in our homes and communities, but across nations and continents... Our mission is not limited to words—it must reflect in our character, our justice, and our mercy toward others.” Quoting the Qur’an, he encouraged attendees to stand firmly for justice and kindness, making the convention a turning point toward greater education, spiritual development, and outreach. By the end of the second day, the impact was evident: connections formed, ideas shared, and commitments renewed. As the final sessions approached, MUNA’s message was clear — this was not merely an event, but a call to carry the torch of faith with wisdom, compassion, and unwavering dedication.

Development, which supports families and delivers humanitarian aid; and MUNA Education & Leadership Development, which fosters Islamic learning and leadership skills for all ages. MUNA also operates MUNA Youth, a vibrant division dedicated to empowering young Muslims through leadership training, service projects, and mentorship. On a broader scale, MUNA is a member of the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), an umbrella coalition of major Muslim groups, and maintains



collaborative ties with partners such as ISNA (Islamic Society of North America), MAS (Muslim American Society), ICNA (Islamic Circle of North America), and CAIR (Council on American-

Islamic Relations). The organization’s reach extends through numerous local chapters across North America, each addressing community needs through tailored initiatives. The convention offered a dynamic program of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and cultural performances. Friday’s sessions set a reflective tone with talks on Islamic education, service to humanity, and spiritual renewal. Saturday featured scholarly panels, youth leadership forums, interfaith dialogue, and a lively

bazaar showcasing books, clothing, food, and community organizations. Evening entertainment brought the community together with nasheed performances, cultural presentations, and theatrical pieces exploring Islamic history. In an official message published in the convention magazine, Convention Convenor Arman Chowdhury emphasized the event’s purpose: “In a world full of challenges and confusion, we are witnessing a renewed global yearning for guidance, truth, and purpose. As Muslims,



CONVENTION

The Voices Behind the Vision The Distinguished Speakers

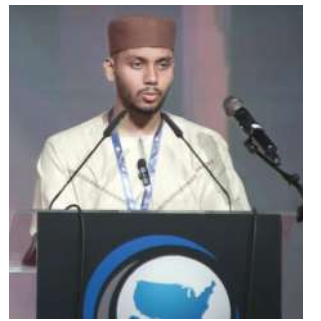
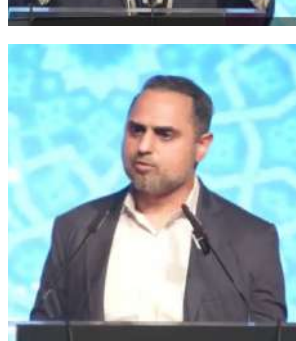
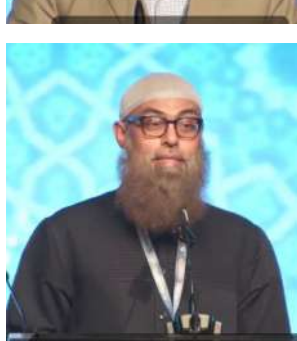
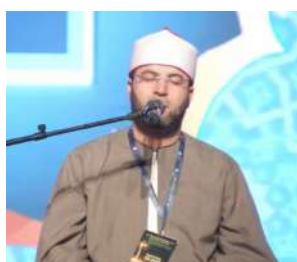
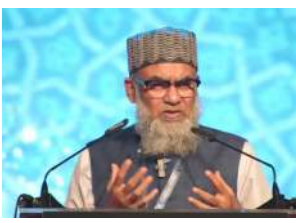
MUNA CONVENTION 2025

hosted an exceptional lineup of speakers, scholars, community leaders, and reciters who inspired the audience with words of faith, wisdom, and encouragement. Across keynote sessions, panel discussions, and Qur'anic recitations, they addressed the theme "Torchbearers of Islam: Spreading the Faith Globally" and reinforced the values of justice, compassion, education, and unity

Speakers and Reciters Included:

- Mizanur Rahman Azhari • Asif Hirani • Siraj Wahhaj • Mohammad Elshinawy • Majed Mahmoud • Altaf Husain • Mohamed Abu Taleb • Hamid H. Azad • Abdus Salam Azadi • Tom Facchine • Abul Kalam Azad Bashir • Abdur Rahman Khan • Mikaeel Ahmed Smith • AbdelRahman Murphy • Oussama Jamal • Salman Mujahid • Ayman Hammous • Shahin Siddiquee • Ghulam Nabi Fai • Dr. Mohsin Ansari • Osama Abu Arshad • Zahid Bukhari • Sumaira Afzal • Nihad Awad • Safaa Zarzour • Ragabkh Abdelmonein • Abu Samiha Sirajul Islam • Monzer Taleb • Dr. Syedur Rahman Chowdhury • Danial Farruk • Council Member Chris Banks • Rokeya Rahman Rina • Dr. Mahera Ruby • Council Member Sahana Hanif • Council Member Rita Joseph • Mahmuda Sharmin • Nakibur Rahman • Elias Hussain • Mirza Galib • Baba Galle Barry (FUTA) • Hamza Abdul Malek (FUTA) • Mamadou Alpha Diallo (FUTA) • Ahmade Barry (FUTA) • Mouztaba, Ustaz Alpha Bah (FUTA) • Mamadou Oury Barry (FUTA) • Abdulai Jalloh Aljanad (FUTA) • Alusine Sow (FUTA) • Mamadou Ali Bah (FUTA) • Ousmane Barry (FUTA) • Abdallah Pathé Bah (FUTA) • Sa'ad Diallo (FUTA) • Mahmoud Philly (FUTA) • Imam Zonaid Hossain • Ishfaq Ahmed • Saeed Dahee • Abdul Majid Sazzadur Rahman

Each contributed in their own way — from delivering thought-provoking lectures and offering spiritual guidance to sharing personal experiences that resonated deeply with attendees. Together, they strengthened the convention's message and inspired the audience to continue the work of carrying the torch of Islam into their communities and beyond.



CONVENTION



Moments That Mattered

A Visual Journey Through MUNA Convention 2025



From the early morning sessions to the evening cultural programs, MUNA CONVENTION 2025 was filled with inspiration, connection, and community spirit. The Pennsylvania Convention Center buzzed with energy as attendees participated in lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and networking. Smiles, handshakes, shared meals, and heartfelt conversations reflected the unity and diversity of the gathering. These images capture some of the most memorable moments from the second day of the convention — moments that defined its success and left a lasting impression on everyone present.



CONVENTION

Celebrating Culture and Spirit

Entertainment Highlights from the Convention

The entertainment segment of MUNA CONVENTION 2025 brought together artistry, culture, and humor in a celebration that delighted attendees of all ages. The stage featured soulful performances from Anisur Rahman Gazi and Ataul Osmani, the wit and energy of comedian Omar Regan, and the uplifting voice of Iqbal HJ. Cultural groups from across North America, including the Ummah Cultural Group, Renesa Cultural Group, Kandari Cultural Group (California), Atlantic Cultural Group (New Jersey), and Niagara Cultural Group (Buffalo), along with the Ummah Children Group, showcased traditional songs, performances, and community spirit. These entertainments sessions, held on Saturday evening at 8:45 PM, were more than just a show — they were a reflection of the diversity and talent within the Muslim community. Captured during the second day of the convention, these moments brought smiles, laughter, and heartfelt pride, blending art with faith and leaving lasting memories for everyone present.





Don't Miss August's Sturgeon Moon

The full moon is still visible after its peak

Adrian Smith

Although August's Sturgeon Moon peaked on Saturday, August 9, at 3:54 a.m. ET, skywatchers still have time to catch the full moon. For those who missed it over the weekend, the moon will remain full to the naked eye for a couple more days before transitioning to a waning gibbous phase, according to NASA.

Named for the sturgeon,

HIGHLIGHT

● August's Sturgeon Moon peaked on Aug. 9 at 3:54 a.m. ET.

● The moon will still appear full for a few days before it starts to wane.

● The next full moon, the Harvest Moon, is set for Sept. 7.

● The Sturgeon Moon is named after the sturgeon fish abundant in the Great Lakes.

● Other names for the moon include the Corn Moon, Harvest Moon, and Mountain Shadows Moon.

a fish once abundant in the Great Lakes in late summer, the Sturgeon Moon has deep cultural significance. Historically, Native Americans fished for sturgeon around this time, and the moon's alternate names include the Corn Moon and Harvest Moon, depending on the tribe. The Sturgeon Moon will be visible without special tools, but for a closer look, stargazing binoculars or telescopes are recommended. As the moon continues its cycle, the next full moon—the Harvest Moon—will occur on September 7, followed by the Hunter's Moon in October.



Photo: A full Sturgeon moon on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024.

Image Source: Tim Shortt, Florida Today / USA TODAY NETWORK

Queens Supports Zohran Mamdani

Fundraiser boosts mayoral campaign

Amkel Norush

A fundraising event in support of Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic nominee for New York City Mayor, took place on Sunday, August 3, in Jamaica, Queens. The gathering, which ran from 5-9 PM, brought together a diverse group of local residents and influential community figures to show their support for Mamdani's candidacy. Mamdani, known for his progressive platform, is looking to build momentum as he heads into the upcoming mayoral race. The event featured speeches from prominent community leaders, and a strong showing from the Host Committee, which



included Dr. Nazmul H. Khan, Dr. Mahamudur Rahman, and Imam Shah M. Nawaz. Supporters of Mamdani emphasized the need for leadership that reflects the diverse needs of New Yorkers. The event not only raised funds but also provided a space for open dialogue on the future of the city. Organizers like Abdul Aziz Buyan, Aftab Mannan, and Tarique Rahman played pivotal roles in making the evening a success. As Mamdani's campaign gains traction, events like this one in Jamaica continue to build a grassroots network of support, helping to propel his vision for a more just and inclusive New York City.

Salah Criticizes UEFA Over Al-Obeid's Death

Football star demands more clarity



Photo: Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has criticized UEFA for not mentioning that a former Palestinian player died after being hit by Israeli gunfire. Image Source: MO Salah's X.com post

Nassr Al Shams

Mohamed Salah took to social media on

Saturday to criticize UEFA after the governing body posted a tribute to Palestinian

footballer Suleiman Al-Obeid, who was killed in Gaza. The tribute, shared on X,

remembered Al-Obeid as the "Palestinian Pelé," but offered no details about the circumstances of his death. Salah, one of football's most prominent voices, responded: "Can you tell us how he died, where, and why?" His post quickly gained widespread attention, garnering over 997,000 likes.

HIGHLIGHT

● Salah questions UEFA's vague tribute to Al-Obeid.

● Al-Obeid, former Palestinian player, killed by an Israeli strike.

● UEFA's post sparked backlash for lacking details.

Al-Obeid, 41, was killed by an Israeli airstrike while waiting for aid in southern Gaza, according to the Palestine Football Association (PFA). The PFA later shared a statement attributed to UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin, which expressed condolences for Al-Obeid's death. Salah, a vocal advocate for humanitarian aid in Gaza, has previously called for an end to the violence and criticized global leaders for failing to address the war's devastating impact on civilians. Since October 7, 2023, 325 members of Gaza's football community have died in the conflict.

Jen Pawol Makes MLB History

First woman to umpire a Major League game



Photo: Pawol waves to the crowd after a game Saturday at Truist Park in Atlanta.

Image Source: Brett Davis/Getty Images

Julian Alvez

Jen Pawol made history on August 9, 2025, becoming the first woman to umpire a Major League Baseball game. Working first base during the Atlanta Braves' doubleheader against the Miami Marlins at Truist Park, Pawol was met with applause from fans and players alike. After the game, she donated the cap she wore during her debut to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. MLB Commissioner Robert D. Manfred Jr. praised Pawol for her hard work and dedication, calling her achievement a milestone for women in sports.

HIGHLIGHT

● Jen Pawol becomes the first woman to umpire an MLB game.

● She worked first base during the Braves vs. Marlins doubleheader on August 9, 2025.