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nyn.press

Safar -1447

+1646 444 6644

info@nyn.press

NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Melania Trump's Plea to Putin

First Lady urges protection for children amid Ukraine war

John Paul

First Lady Melania Trump made an emotional appeal to Russian President Vladimir Putin, urging him to protect children affected by war in a personal letter hand-delivered by President Donald Trump during their August 15 summit in Alaska.

"It is time to protect children and future generations," she wrote, emphasizing that every child is born with innocence that transcends "geography, government, and ideology." While the letter did not explicitly reference Ukraine,

HIGHLIGHT

Ukraine and EU welcome gesture as humanitarian

White House officials confirmed it addressed the abductions of children amid the ongoing war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked Melania, with his foreign minister calling it "a true act of humanism." The letter arrives as the UN accuses Russia of violating children's rights, with Ukraine labeling mass child transfers to Russia a war crime. Putin has defended the relocations as protective evacuations. Though no ceasefire deal was reached, Melania's message added a poignant humanitarian voice to an otherwise fraught summit.



Photo: President Trump greets President Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, on August 15, 2025. Image Source: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images/Politico.com

Trump Shifts Toward Putin

Ukraine, Europe brace after Alaska summit

Alexandar Sullivan

The aftermath of President Donald Trump's summit with Vladimir Putin in Alaska has left Ukraine and its European allies urgently recalibrating their strategy, as the U.S. appears to pivot away from an immediate ceasefire and toward a long-term peace agreement aligning with Moscow's goals. Despite hosting Russia's president amid war crimes allegations, Trump hailed the summit as a success, claiming "a lot of progress"

had been made. He appeared to embrace Putin's preference for drawn-out negotiations, stepping back from his earlier threats of expanded sanctions. "Because of what happened today, I think I don't have to think about that now," Trump told Fox News, implying Putin had offered enough to avoid penalties. The U.S. concession to focus on a final settlement — rather than halting the current Russian offensive — alarmed Kyiv. According to European officials, Putin floated a proposal

HIGHLIGHT

Trump signals shift from ceasefire to permanent peace deal with Putin.

Ukraine and EU leaders convene in Washington to seek clarity.

Zelensky urges ceasefire, resists pressure to concede Donbas region.

U.S. may offer NATO-like security guarantees, but no membership.

requiring Ukraine to cede much of Donbas, in exchange for freezing front lines elsewhere. While not endorsed, the idea raised fears of creeping legitimization of Russia's invasion. In response, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will meet with Trump in Washington on Monday, joined by leaders from France, Germany, the UK, NATO, and others. They aim to prevent Ukraine from facing undue pressure and to reinforce security guarantees that may resemble NATO's Article 5, though membership

remains off the table. For many in Ukraine, the summit was unsettling. "How can you welcome a tyrant like this?" said one Kyiv resident, pointing to the red-carpet treatment Putin received. Meanwhile, Zelenskyy continued to press for a ceasefire, warning that peace talks without it would only embolden Russia's offensive. As Ukraine braces for the next phase of diplomacy, the world watches whether Trump's confidence in dealmaking will translate to peace — or further instability.

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Gaza Tensions Surge Again

IDF offensive triggers mass displacement and global concern

Lily Anderson

Thousands of Palestinians fled Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood over the weekend amid six straight days of Israeli bombardment described by officials as "catastrophic." The Hamas-run civil defense



Photo: Israeli forces are preparing to occupy Gaza City. Image Source: Reuters/BBC

agency reported at least 40 deaths on Saturday, including 13 people shot while waiting near food sites. The Israeli military said it will allow aid agencies to resume bringing tents into Gaza, as it proceeds with a plan to displace up to one million people from the city. The offensive

drew protests in Israel and condemnation from the UN Security Council. Gaza's health ministry said 251 people, including 108 children, have died of malnutrition. The UN estimates 1.9 million Gazans are now displaced. The war, sparked by Hamas's

Oct. 7, 2023 attack, has killed over 61,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza officials.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Fourth Death Linked to Harlem Legionnaires' Outbreak

Staff Reporter

New York City officials announced another death on Thursday in connection to the Legionnaires' outbreak in Harlem, just hours after identifying 12 cooling towers in 10 Harlem buildings that tested positive for the disease. The update comes weeks after the start of the outbreak that has now resulted in 99 cases and four deaths.. Officials say 17 people remain hospitalized. City health officials have linked the outbreak to cooling towers, structures containing water and a fan that are used to cool buildings. Health officials say you can get the disease by breathing in water vapor that has Legionella bacteria, which grows in warm water. For the first time since the outbreak started, city officials identified which



buildings are connected to the outbreak -- and Mayor Eric Adams revealed that one of the buildings is Harlem Hospital. Several buildings, like the one on Morningside Avenue, contain medical offices. Others are massive retail locations. Three of eight towers in one building

on 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, which houses a Whole Foods and other stores, tested positive. Some locations are city-owned, and on Thursday, the Health Department defended its cooling tower inspection schedule, pointing out that some locations have

previously tested negative. "The testing is important, and the maintenance is important, but even that rigorous schedule, there are still possibilities that bacteria can grow because of the conditions in warm weather," said Acting New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Michelle Morse. Health officials say 11 of the 12 cooling towers have completed remediation. The final remediation is required to be completed on Friday. Adams drank water, and breathed in the air at Harlem Hospital while delivering the update. "Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by this cluster of Legionnaires, in particulate the friends and loved ones of the three New Yorkers we lost to this disease," Adams said. "As of today, 11 of the 12 cooling towers in Central Harlem that

tested positive for Legionella bacteria have completed remediation, and by tomorrow, all towers will have completed remediations. New Yorkers should know the air is safe to breathe, and we are seeing declining numbers of new cases each day. I want to thank the health workers who worked tirelessly to treat this community and make sure its residents are healthy. We will continue to share updates, and we encourage anyone with flu-like symptoms to seek medical help immediately." A town hall discussion was held at Mt. Zion AME Church on Madison Avenue Thursday night, to provide the Harlem community with more information on Legionnaires'. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, local elected officials and medical experts were all in attendance for the discussion.

7 Years Old NYC Student Detained by ICE along with mom



NYN DESK

Another New York City family is being impacted by the Federal government's crackdown on illegal immigration. A 7-year-old girl along with her mother Martha, and 19-year-old brother, Manuel, are being detained by ICE after what was supposed to be a routine immigration check-in at Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan.

Local leaders are now coming to their aid. 'What has this country come to that we are separating children from their families?' said NYC Councilmember Shekar Krishnan. The mother and the young child were then transferred to Texas. The 19-year-old brother is in detention in New Jersey. The Jackson Heights family is originally from Ecuador and the child is a student at

PS 89Q in Elmhurst. She is believed to be at least the fourth public school student ICE has taken away in recent weeks. There has been growing concern over the issue. Dozens gathered Friday night in support of Mamadou Diallo, a 20-year-old student at Brooklyn Frontiers High School. Originally from Guinea, Diallo was swept up by ICE agents when he showed up for his routine immigration hearing. "No, I think it's very interesting that the president ran on a platform of going after criminals. But what we're seeing is the arrest of seven-year-olds and 19-year-olds and a mom simply was looking to give these children an opportunity for a better life. And so the things that they're saying and the things that they're doing are not matching," said Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz.

30 People Displaced by Fire in Bushwick

Staff Reporter

The Red Cross says there are 21 adults and nine children that they are helping find temporary housing. The Red Cross says it is assisting 30 people from 10 families who were displaced by a fire late Friday night in Bushwick. It started at 276 Bleecker St., and Saturday morning, both that building and 278 next to it had vacate orders on it. The FDNY tells News 12



that it received the call a little before 8:45 p.m. on Friday, and that they had to keep calling more crews to help. It eventually rose to a four-alarm fire with 140 first

responders on the scene. Firefighters were able to extinguish it a little over two hours after they had arrived. The damage was especially bad in the back of the building Saturday morning, which is where News 12 is told investigators believe it started. However, the cause is still being investigated. The Red Cross says there are 21 adults and nine children that they are helping find temporary housing.

Off Duty NYPD Officer Fatally Shoots Man on Staten Island



NYN DESK

An off-duty New York Police Department officer fatally shot a man pointing a fake gun at the officer on Friday night on Staten Island, according to law enforcement. At about 8 p.m., a 911 call came in about a man with a gun at the back of a diner, Assistant Chief Melissa Eger, of the NYPD Patrol Borough of Staten Island, said during a news conference. An off-duty officer then spotted the same man with what appeared to be a firearm and told another off-duty officer, said Eger. They told the man to put the firearm down but instead he pointed it at the

officers, said Eger, who added that surveillance video captured the events. One officer then fired at the man. The officers "performed life-saving measures" and then the man was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, she said. "Our officers were confronted with a dangerous and unpredictable situation, and they attempted to de-escalate the situation multiple times," she said. An imitation firearm was found at the scene, she said. The shooting is being investigated. She said the man has a criminal history, but the details were not immediately clear.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:47	01:00	04:48	07:49	09:12
04:48	12:59	04:47	07:48	09:10
04:49	12:59	04:46	07:46	09:08
04:51	12:59	04:46	07:45	09:07
04:52	12:59	04:45	07:43	09:05
04:53	12:58	04:44	07:42	09:03
04:54	12:58	04:43	07:40	09:01

OPINION

Zohran Mamdani: A Mayor for All New Yorkers

Imam Shamsi Ali

Zohran Mamdani's victory in the Democratic primary election, as repeatedly mentioned before, is historic, and it's not just about winning. It's about the landslide victory that shocked and shook the political establishment in US. He defeated a strong candidate who started his campaign with almost 50% support, while Zohran began with only 1% popularity. Despite being backed by prominent party figures, including former President Bill Clinton and oligarchs like former New York Mayor Michel Bloomberg, Zohran's grassroots campaign mobilized over 50,000 volunteers, knocked on over a million doors across New York City, and won. His campaign is unique and has amazed many, supporters and otherwise. The majority of volunteers were young people who were previously apathetic to politics. As an immigrant himself, Zohran was able to mobilize immigrant communities, including Muslims, to participate in the election. It is also noticeable worthy of mention that this primary election saw the

largest number of voters in New York City's history, marking a shift in civic engagement. Religious sentiment plays a role in every election, including presidential elections in the United States. While Christians are the largest religious group in America, Jews have significant influence in New York City. The Muslim community, numbering around 200,000 to 300,000 registered voters, also holds considerable sway. If 50-70% of Muslim voters cast their ballots, it could have significantly impacted the election outcome. Fortunately, in this past New York City Democratic primary, the Muslim community showed increased awareness and participation. It is also important to be reminded that although Muslims support was a



— Imam Shamsi Ali :
Director of Jamaica
Muslim Center

crucial factor for Zohran's winning the primary, his campaign resonated with all various segments of New York society. Hence he was supported by wide segments of New Yorkers. It's essential to recognize that Zohran is not just a candidate for the Muslim community, but for all New Yorkers. His identification as a Muslim candidate should not overshadow his qualifications or platform. Among Mamdani's Platform and Values are Affordability such Freezing rent, providing free and faster buses, and universal childcare. As a proud Muslim, Zohran embodies Islamic values such as faith, courage, honesty, humility, kindness, and justice for all. And his campaign embodies his faith and values as

a Muslim to empowering the weak and marginalized, upholding truth, humanity, peace, and justice for all. In conclusion, Zohran Mamdani's election is a testament to his dedication to public service and social justice. As a Muslim candidate, he faced and continues to face Islamophobic attacks, although his message resonates with many. The Muslim Community must wholeheartedly support him, not just because he is a member of the Community, but because his vision aligns with the true Islamic teachings of peace, fairness and justice. The Muslim Community must remember, the struggle doesn't end with the primary election. It's just the beginning. We must continue supporting him with all hearts and minds in his struggle to be the first Muslim leading New York City as mayor. In fact, we commit to support him even after his election to be mayor, to ensure and prove that as a Muslim he will excel in his leadership and service to the people of New York City. InshaAllah!

“Zohran's grassroots campaign mobilized over 50,000 volunteers, knocked on over a million doors across New York City, and won.”



Photo: New York mayoral candidate, Zohran Mamdani
Image Source: Michael M. Santiago | Getty Images News | Getty Images | CNBC

“The Muslim Community must remember, the struggle doesn't end with the primary election. It's just the beginning.”

Equality for All: The Heart of a Sustainable Future

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) — Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls — is not just an agenda item; it is a moral, social, and human responsibility. No society can progress if half of its population remains marginalized, excluded, or deprived of equal opportunity. Gender equality is not a women's issue alone; it is a human issue that defines the strength

and future of any nation. Despite decades of progress, women around the world continue to face systemic discrimination, wage gaps, violence, and limited representation in leadership roles. Cultural barriers, structural inequalities, and lack of political will often delay true reform. Addressing these challenges requires more than symbolic gestures — it demands bold policy changes, grassroots empowerment, and social transformation that ensures inclusivity for every woman and girl, regardless of background. As a Muslim faith leader



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

and community advocate, I believe the values of fairness, dignity, and justice embedded in faith traditions align deeply with SDG 5. Islam, like many world religions, emphasizes respect and equity for women. Empowering women is not simply about providing equal rights, but about recognizing their potential as leaders, innovators, and change-makers. Faith communities, when engaged positively, can play a vital role in dismantling harmful stereotypes and uplifting women across all sectors of society.

Achieving SDG 5 is essential for realizing every other Sustainable Development Goal. From reducing poverty to improving education, from fostering peace to advancing climate action, gender equality is the foundation. We must act decisively — not tomorrow, but today. Governments, civil society, religious leaders, and communities must unite to ensure that gender equality becomes a lived reality, not just a global aspiration. The fight for gender equality is not over. It is an ongoing struggle that requires persistence, advocacy, and collective responsibility. Let us reaffirm our commitment to SDG 5 by empowering women and girls everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind in our pursuit of a just and equitable world.

YOUTH

Building Future Leaders Through Internship Program

STP USA honors interns for strengthening community impact



James Anderson

In a celebration that blended gratitude with inspiration, Save the People USA (STP USA) hosted its Summer Intern Appreciation Day on August 12, 2025, in New York City, honoring the dedication and achievements of its summer interns. The event highlighted the organization's

commitment to empowering youth through hands-on experience in community service, advocacy, and nonprofit leadership. The program was led by Kelly A. Watts, Executive Director of STP USA, who expressed heartfelt appreciation for the contributions the interns made throughout the summer. He praised their creativity, initiative,

and compassion, noting how their presence strengthened the organization's mission. "Our interns have not only gained valuable experience but have also strengthened the mission of Save the People. Their energy, fresh ideas, and compassion for others have inspired our entire team," Watts said, underscoring the

vital role youth play in shaping a stronger and more compassionate society. Serving as the Master of Ceremonies, Fatima Niass, Office Manager of STP USA, guided the program with warmth and enthusiasm. She introduced the speakers, acknowledged the unique contributions of each intern, and kept the afternoon engaging and celebratory. Throughout the summer, interns worked across a range of initiatives including community



outreach, event coordination, research, and advocacy projects. Their involvement not only enhanced the reach and effectiveness of STP USA's programs but also provided them with practical

skills in leadership, teamwork, and nonprofit management. The appreciation event featured certificates of recognition presented to each intern, honoring their service and commitment. A light reception followed, giving interns, staff, and community members the opportunity to connect in an informal setting. The program also included an open forum where interns reflected on their experiences, sharing the lessons they learned, the challenges they overcame, and the connections they built during their time with the organization. For many, the internship was more than just a summer role — it was a formative step in their personal and professional journeys. Interns spoke of discovering new strengths, learning how

to collaborate effectively, and finding motivation to continue contributing to social causes. The Summer Internship Program at STP USA is designed as part of the organization's broader investment in youth leadership development. By giving young people the chance to engage directly with community needs, the program fosters responsibility, empathy, and advocacy skills that will benefit both the interns and the communities they serve. As the event came to a close, the sense of pride and accomplishment was palpable. For Save the People USA, the day was not only about recognizing past contributions but also about inspiring the next generation to carry forward the mission of building safer, stronger, and more inclusive communities.



YOUTH

Building Future Leaders Through Internship Program



EDUCATION

Youth Shine at Summer School Closing Ceremony

Elhaam Academy honors young learners and their families

Emily Parker

The hall was filled with pride and joy as Elhaam Academy hosted its Summer School Graduation Ceremony, a celebration that brought together students, parents, educators, and community members to honor the achievements of young learners. The event served not only as a milestone for the students, but also as a reflection of the Academy's mission to blend academic excellence with spiritual and cultural enrichment. The program opened with recitations from the Qur'an, setting a reverent and reflective tone for the day. Students then took the stage for a series of performances that showcased their talents and confidence, including cultural presentations and readings.



Each performance demonstrated the progress made over the summer and the dedication of both students and teachers in fostering a balanced education. The highlight of the ceremony came when students were called forward to receive their certificates of completion. Smiles lit

up the room as parents and family members applauded proudly, capturing the moment on their phones and cameras. For many families, it was a meaningful reminder of the importance of learning, discipline, and perseverance instilled by the Academy. Among the distinguished attendees was

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, founder of Elhaam Academy. He commended the students for their hard work and praised the role of parents in nurturing the next generation. He also emphasized the Academy's continued commitment to providing an education that develops both

intellectual ability and moral character. Guest speakers echoed these sentiments, delivering encouraging remarks to the graduates and their families. They spoke about the value of education in shaping future leaders and the role of community support in ensuring student success. Their words underscored the importance of institutions like Elhaam Academy in strengthening cultural identity while preparing students to thrive in a

for the Academy's efforts, noting how the program not only improved their children's learning but also deepened their connection to faith and values. The event concluded with warm exchanges between families, teachers, and guests, reinforcing the sense of community that is central to Elhaam Academy's vision. The Elhaam Academy Summer School Graduation was more than a ceremony; it was a celebration of growth, learning, and shared commitment. As students left with certificates in hand and pride in their accomplishments, the message of the day was clear: education is not only about knowledge gained, but also about the character built along the way.



diverse society. Parents in attendance expressed appreciation



EDUCATION

Youth Shine at Summer School Closing Ceremony



SUMMER STREET

A Day of Engagement and Awareness at Summer Streets

STP USA highlights youth development, health, and peace-building



and hands-on interaction. Volunteers, staff, and community leaders welcomed families and individuals to a stall designed not only to inform but also to inspire. Visitors encountered a variety of opportunities — from awareness campaigns on social issues to interactive sessions tailored for children and resources for families on health and community development. The approachable and engaging atmosphere quickly made the stall one of the most visited stops along the Summer

Streets route. Throughout the day, Save the People USA highlighted its focus on community health, youth development, and peace-building. Children participated in activities that encouraged teamwork and creativity, while parents and caregivers accessed practical resources and information about ongoing programs. Volunteers guided conversations, shared materials, and encouraged participants to explore ways to stay connected with the organization's work beyond the festival. The strong turnout reflected the community's growing recognition of Save the People USA's presence and impact in New York City. One organizer summed up the day's energy by saying, "We are truly humbled by the overwhelming response from the community. Every smile, every conversation, and every handshake we shared today strengthens our determination to continue serving the people with dedication." For many attendees, the

stall offered more than just a stop on the festival route — it became a space for reflection, conversation, and connection. The lively mix of education, fun, and cultural exchange captured the essence of NYC DOT's Summer Streets, showing how civic celebrations can also be platforms for social good. The August 16 event added to the growing list of successful community initiatives Save the People USA has carried out this year. By embedding itself in one of New York's most visible and accessible celebrations, the organization reinforced its role as a beacon of unity, service, and hope for the city. As the day wound down and streets gradually reopened, the impact of Save the People USA's presence lingered with those who had stopped by — a reminder that meaningful community work often begins with simple acts of connection and shared commitment.

William Henry

Amid the buzz of families, cyclists, and festival-goers enjoying car-free streets in Manhattan, Save the People USA (STP USA) stood out with a lively and impactful presence at the NYC Department of Transportation's (NYC DOT) Summer

Streets event on August 16, 2025. From early morning until evening, the organization's stall became a vibrant hub of activity, drawing hundreds of visitors eager to learn, participate, and connect. The Summer Streets initiative, organized annually by NYC DOT, transforms major

thoroughfares into pedestrian-friendly zones filled with fitness activities, performances, and community outreach. For Save the People USA, it was a chance to showcase its mission of building healthier and more inclusive neighborhoods through a mix of education, engagement,



Streets route. Throughout the day, Save the People USA highlighted its focus



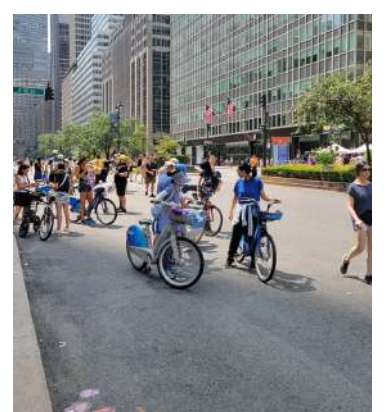
SUMMER STREET

A Day of Engagement and Awareness at Summer Streets



SUMMER STREET

A Day of Engagement and Awareness at Summer Streets



SCIENCE

Exploring Science with Smiles

Young scientists at Elhaam Academy explore chemistry through hands-on experiments



Jessica Morgan

At Elhaam Academy, classrooms turned into lively laboratories as students set aside textbooks and engaged

directly with science through hands-on experiments. With test tubes, colorful liquids, and even candy on the table, lessons in chemistry and biology became experiences

filled with discovery, laughter, and teamwork. The sessions began with an introduction to catalysts and chemical reactions. Students partnered up to discuss their ideas, record


hypotheses, and complete worksheets that combined lab rules, comic strips, and reflective journaling. The highlight of the day was the Elephant Toothpaste experiment, where a foamy eruption demonstrated how catalysts accelerate reactions. The students' excitement was palpable as they witnessed the dramatic outcome and eagerly discussed the science behind it. On the following day, the focus shifted to pH levels and the difference between acidic and basic substances. Before experimenting, students made predictions about common household liquids. Using cabbage juice as a natural pH indicator, they tested each sample one by one, marveling as the colors shifted in front of them. Afterward, they sorted the substances from acidic to basic, charted their findings, and journaled about where they encounter

these properties in everyday life. Later, students explored biology in a creative way by constructing DNA models with candy. By assembling double-helix structures, they were able to visualize complex scientific concepts in an accessible, engaging format. Teachers emphasized that while DNA forms the foundation of life, it can be understood step by step — and even enjoyed through playful activities. What stood out throughout the lessons was the high level of participation. Every student had a chance to hypothesize, test, share observations, and reflect on what they had learned. "The excitement in their eyes when the colors changed or the foam bubbled over said it all," noted one teacher, highlighting the power of experiential learning. For Elhaam Academy, these experiments



represented more than just science activities. They were opportunities to build curiosity, critical thinking, and confidence in young learners. By working together, students not only grasped the concepts but also learned the value of discussion, teamwork, and reflection. As the sessions wrapped up, students left with more than just answers to lab questions. They carried with them the thrill of discovery, the satisfaction of testing their own ideas, and the realization that science is not only something to read about — it is something to do, observe, and enjoy.





ELHAAM ACADEMY'S NEW INITIATIVE HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Dear Guardian,
Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah,

We are pleased to inform you that Elhaam Institute New York will be launching A School Homework Assistance Program Alongside The Regular After-School Program Starting **September 2025**.

CLASS DURATION

Monday to Thursday
4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Qur'an Class **4:00-5:30 PM**
Homework Assistance **5:30-7:00 PM**

PURPOSE

- ♦ To Help Students Achieve Better Results In School.
- ♦ To Engage Children More In Islamic Environment.
- ♦ To Keep Children Away From Device Addiction.

Monthly Fee: **\$199**
Seats are Limited

May your children grow with strong Islamic values and reach the heights of your dreams, both in this world and the hereafter.

Elhaam Academy, 87-41 165th St, Jamaica, NY 11432

Contact: +1 (646) 444-0505

GRADUATION

Celebrating Sacred Achievement

Eight students graduate from Jamaica Muslim Center's Hifz program

Patt Cummins

The halls of the Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC) were filled with pride, gratitude, and joy on Monday, August 11, 2025, as the community came together to celebrate a milestone achievement: the graduation of eight students from the center's Hifz School. The ceremony, held after Maghrib prayers, honored the dedication and perseverance of the young graduates who completed the memorization of the Holy Qur'an. The evening featured a heartfelt keynote address from Dr. Mufti Mohammad Farhan, who praised the graduates for their remarkable discipline and commitment. He emphasized that memorizing the Qur'an is not only an academic



accomplishment but also a spiritual trust, carrying with it a lifelong responsibility to live by its teachings and share its message with others. His words served as both inspiration and guidance for the new Huffaz and for the

community at large. Family members, educators, and community leaders filled the prayer hall, their faces glowing with pride as each graduate was recognized. For many parents, the ceremony marked the

culmination of years of dedication, countless hours of revision, and unwavering encouragement at home. Teachers and mentors, too, were acknowledged for their tireless efforts in guiding the students through a

rigorous curriculum that requires not just memory but deep devotion. The atmosphere was both celebratory and reverent. Attendees reflected on the importance of Qur'anic preservation in the modern world, noting that such achievements strengthen the spiritual foundation of future generations. For the graduates themselves, the event was a moment of joy and gratitude, marking the beginning of a lifelong journey with the Qur'an as their constant companion.

for dinner, a warm and joyful occasion that allowed families and guests to share in the blessings of the evening. Conversations around the tables echoed the same sentiment: the success of these students was not theirs alone, but a triumph for the entire community, reflecting shared values of faith, discipline, and unity. This year's ceremony reaffirmed the central role of the Jamaica Muslim Center in nurturing both education and spirituality among its members. With eight new Huffaz stepping forward, the event stood as a testament to the power of perseverance, the support of families and teachers, and the enduring mission of the center to cultivate a generation grounded in knowledge, character, and faith.



As the formal program concluded, the community gathered



HERITAGE

Cultural Pride on Display in New York

Netrakona District Association strengthens bonds with BBQ gathering



Ashley Reed

The spirit of community was on full display at Cunningham Park in Fresh Meadows, Queens, where the Netrakona District Association USA, Inc. hosted its much-anticipated BBQ and community gathering recently. Families from across New York came together to celebrate their shared heritage with food, cultural activities, and camaraderie. The event, led by President Azizul Hakim and General Secretary Roni Sarkar, served as both a festive outing and a reminder of the strong bonds that tie the Bangladeshi diaspora together. Children played

in the park while families enjoyed freshly grilled barbecue, snacks, and refreshments, turning the summer afternoon into a lively cultural fair. Attendees praised the organizers for providing a space where both older and younger generations could connect. Cultural pride blended seamlessly with a sense of belonging as participants exchanged stories, laughter, and memories of Netrakona, Bangladesh. "This gathering is about more than food," said one community member. "It's about keeping our culture alive and strengthening the ties that hold us together in a city as diverse as New York." The BBQ and fair reflected the association's commitment to fostering unity and preserving cultural heritage, making it not just a celebration of Netrakona roots, but also of community resilience and togetherness in the heart of Queens.



We Both Live in the Same Village – That Is Our Only Joy...

There is no exact count of how many people from Netrokona now live in New York or Toronto. But one thing is certain – the number is not small. At least ten thousand, perhaps more. On this day, a few of us gathered in Jackson Heights, New York, as representatives of the thousands of Netrokona people living abroad.

It felt as though America and Canada—New York and Toronto—merged into one! The president of Netrokona Samiti Canada, Ataur Rahman Kohinoor, came to New York with his family—his wife, son, daughter, and son-in-law. To honor his visit, Abu Khan Bitu called for a get-together on short notice. On Sunday, we gathered in Jackson Heights for a joyful evening. Among those present were Bidyut Sarker, Bijon Talukdar, Mausumi Talukdar, Amirul Islam Kamal, Zahirul Alam Rana, Hasanuzzaman Saki, and Azizul Hakim, the current president of Netrokona Samiti USA. Though not originally from Netrokona, Sadia Khondoker was present by marital ties. General Secretary Rony Sarker and Organizational Secretary Zakir Hossain Riad could not attend due to personal commitments, but they were actively involved in organizing. Maulana Muhammad Shahidullah, traveling in Japan, also reached out with his regards. Ashraful Talukdar Liton visited Kohinoor Bhai and his family in Long Island. This gathering tied together two regional associations from two countries with a common thread. Netrokona Samiti USA officially invited Netrokona Samiti Canada to their annual picnic and barbecue on August 10 at Cunningham Park in Queens, New York. Likewise, Netrokona Samiti Canada invited the US group to their picnic on September 21 at Morningside Park, Toronto.

Though the US and Canada are two different countries, we are close neighbors—just a step across the border. "If I take a step, I reach Canada; if you take a step, you're in America." In this way, my school friend Regina Rahman Mili came to New York. She is the wife of Kohinoor Bhai, president of Netrokona Samiti Canada. Through Mili, I was reconnected with another school friend, Bijoy Talukdar, after almost 20 years—this time virtually. Bijoy is serving as the convener of the upcoming Netrokona picnic in Canada.

How far we are from Netrokona—across rivers and oceans! Yet, somehow, we still feel close. Perhaps it was from such a feeling that Rabindranath Tagore once wrote: "We both live in the same village, That is our only joy..."

Just as Rabindranath wrote of his Anjana River, we too have our Kangsha, Magra, Someshwari, and Dhanu Rivers. We have our great haor wetlands, vast waters, hills of china clay, and an immense treasure of folk culture and songs.

Before I end, let me share a thought: Would it not be wonderful if the Netrokona people of North America organized an annual convention for the development and unity of our homeland? We could call it North America Netrokona Convention International (NANCI). It would include not only the US and Canada, but also Netrokona people from all over the world—whether by birth, marriage, work, family ties, or education. The convention could alternate every year between the US and Canada.

The purpose of NANCI: Unity, Development, and Peace for Netrokona. If you like this idea, please share your thoughts and suggestions. Thank you.

From the social media post of : **Hasanuzzaman Saki, New York, USA**



UNITY

Cultural Pride and Public Service

Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society celebrates independence in New York



Benjamin Lee

The green and white flag of Pakistan was raised high in New York City this week as the Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society hosted a special ceremony

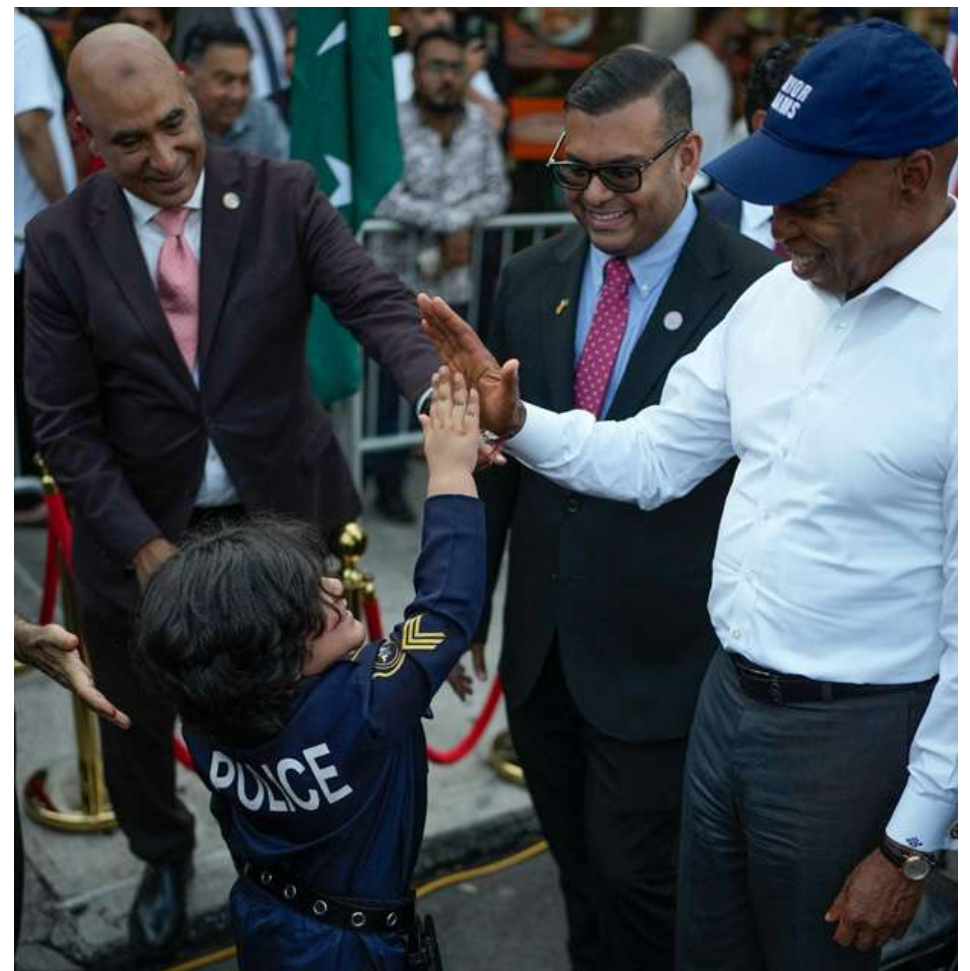
marking Pakistan's Independence Day. The event brought together community members, officers, and city leaders in a celebration of culture, service, and unity. Among the distinguished guests was Mayor Eric

Adams, who joined the society's members to honor their heritage and recognize their vital role in protecting and serving the city. In his remarks, Adams emphasized the importance of acknowledging the cultural contributions

of New Yorkers from all backgrounds, while also thanking the officers for their daily commitment to public safety. "So honored to be with my friends at the Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society as they marked Pakistani independence at their flag raising," the mayor later shared in a public statement. "One of the ways we thank them for protecting and serving our city is by being part of their cultural celebrations. Thank you for welcoming us this evening!" The ceremony highlighted the dual identity carried by many of the officers present: proud Pakistanis by heritage and proud New Yorkers by service. For attendees, the event served as a reminder that diversity within law enforcement strengthens community trust and reflects the city's global character.

Families stood alongside uniformed officers, celebrating not only Pakistan's independence but also the shared values of resilience, service, and unity. The evening was filled with symbolic pride. The raising of Pakistan's flag next to the American flag symbolized the deep connection between cultural heritage and civic duty, a point that resonated with both speakers and attendees. Community leaders expressed gratitude for the recognition, noting that events like this affirm the contributions of immigrant communities and encourage younger generations to embrace both their heritage and their responsibilities as citizens. For many participants, the ceremony was about more than a flag; it was about visibility

and appreciation. It underscored the recognition that cultural pride and professional service are not separate but complementary, each enriching the other. The event also reinforced the message that the Pakistani American community continues to play a meaningful role in New York City's ongoing story of diversity, unity, and shared progress. As the evening came to a close, the sense of pride was palpable. For the officers of the Pakistani American Law Enforcement Society, the ceremony was both a celebration of their roots and an acknowledgment of their sacrifices and contributions to the city they serve. For the wider community, it was another step in building bridges of understanding and unity across cultures.



TOURISM

Exploring Summer in America

From coasts to mountains, the best destinations to embrace the season

Daniel Matthew

With long days, warm weather, and a calendar filled with festivals and events, summer in the United States is a traveler's dream. From the beaches of Florida to the mountain ranges of Montana, the season transforms the country into a playground of exploration and discovery. Families, adventurers, and solo wanderers alike flock to destinations that showcase the rich diversity of America's landscapes and cultures.

For many, the islands of Hawaii remain an unmatched summer destination. The Big Island offers breathtaking volcanic landscapes, lush valleys, and beaches unlike anywhere else. Travelers can dive with manta rays, stargaze atop Mauna Kea, or hike through Volcanoes National Park for an



Photo: Hiking through Kilauea Iki Crater, the Big Island, Hawaii. Maridav/Shutterstock

experience that feels both otherworldly and deeply rooted in nature. Further north, the Ozarks, spanning Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, offer a blend of outdoor adventure and small-town charm. Visitors trade city streets for canoe rides along

spring-fed rivers, scenic hikes, and evenings in quaint villages that feel suspended in time. This region is a reminder that summer escapes don't always require glittering skylines — sometimes, nature provides the greatest show. City lovers, meanwhile,

flock to destinations like Boston and Chicago. Boston, steeped in history, offers cobblestone streets, revolutionary landmarks, and a lively arts and culture scene. Summertime brings quieter streets as students leave

town, giving visitors more room to enjoy its North Shore beaches and harbor views. In Chicago, summer transforms the city into a festival ground, with concerts in Millennium Park, street fairs in every neighborhood, and evenings spent on the lakefront under a glowing skyline. For pure natural beauty, Glacier National Park in Montana and Yellowstone in Wyoming top many travelers' lists. Towering snowcapped peaks, turquoise lakes, and abundant wildlife make Glacier one of America's most pristine treasures. Yellowstone, meanwhile, dazzles with its geysers, hot springs, and sprawling wilderness, where bison, elk, and even wolves roam free. Both parks are best experienced in summer when roads and facilities are fully open, though crowds often follow. Beach lovers have

endless options too. South Walton, Florida, offers miles of white sand and charming resort towns, each with its own personality. Meanwhile, Lewes, Delaware, enchants visitors with its historic homes, vibrant farmers' market, and the family-friendly beaches of Cape Henlopen State Park. Whether your summer vision is sipping coffee in Portland, Oregon, cycling through Mackinac Island, Michigan, or enjoying ice cream in a small coastal town, the United States delivers. Each destination, in its own way, captures the essence of the season: connection, relaxation, and discovery. The only challenge for travelers is deciding where to go. But wherever the road leads, summer in America promises unforgettable memories under the open sky.



Photo: Michigan's car-free Mackinac Island is a quintessential summer destination. Michael Deemer/Shutterstock



Photo: Hiking in Glacier National Park, Montana — one of the USA's top natural wonders. Evgeny Vasenev/Getty Images



Photo: A summer day at Crown Fountain at Millennium Park, Chicago. Sergii Figurnyi/Shutterstock



Photo: A hiker on Hemmed-in-Hollow waterfall, in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. Buddy Mays/Getty Images



Photo: An aerial view of Grayton Beach, Florida. Rotorhead 30A Productions/Shutterstock



Photo: A summer scene in Lewes, Delaware. Dana Dagle Photography/Shutterstock



Photo: A cobbled street in Beacon Hill, Boston. Albert Pego/Shutterstock



Photo: A buffalo approaches a walkway in Yellowstone National Park. melissamn/Shutterstock



Photo: The International Rose Test Garden in Portland, Oregon. Kevin Reid/Getty Images



Phones Out, Focus In

NY launches K-12 school smartphone restrictions this fall

Amkel Norush

In a landmark move to prioritize student well-being and academic focus, Governor Kathy Hochul announced in May 2025 that New York will become the largest state in the nation to implement bell-to-bell smartphone restrictions across K-12 schools, starting this September. The initiative—part of the FY 2026 State Budget—requires schools to prohibit the use of smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices throughout the entire school day. Exceptions apply for medical needs, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), translation, or emergency communication. Schools will maintain flexibility in how they enforce the policy, including options for phone storage, aided by \$13.5 million in state funding. “Our young people succeed when they’re learning and growing—not clicking and scrolling,” Hochul



Photo: New York Governor Pushes For School Cell Phone Ban

Image Source: Online

said, underscoring the link between digital distractions and declining mental health. The policy follows her broader efforts to combat social media addiction among minors, including laws targeting algorithmic feeds and data privacy. Supported by educators, parents, and mental health advocates, the policy marks a decisive step toward reshaping school environments and fostering in-person engagement across

HIGHLIGHT

●Gov. Kathy Hochul announced full-day smartphone ban in May 2025

●Policy takes effect in September 2025 for K-12 public, charter, and BOCES schools

●\$13.5M budgeted for secure phone storage

New York State’s public education system.
Amkel Norush :
In a landmark move to

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Falcons’ Drake London Taps Alter Ego to Dominate

Wide receiver’s mindset shift fuels breakout season

Adrian Smith

Atlanta Falcons stars Drake London and Jessie Bates III credit their on-field dominance to channeling fierce alter egos. London, who just capped his best NFL season with 100 receptions, 1,271 yards, and 9 touchdowns, says he “goes dark” once the game begins. “You are my enemy,” he reportedly tells teammates mid-practice. Falcons GM Terry Fontenot praised London’s intensity, calling him a “stud.” Bates, ranked among the NFL’s top defenders in 2024, becomes “JB3,” embracing a mindset of total aggression. Defensive coordinator Jeff Ulbrich supports the transformation, saying it fuels elite play. Atlanta hosts the Titans Friday, counting on these second selves to push for their first playoff return since 2017.

Curiosity Meets Chemistry

Interns witness creative learning at Elhaam Academy

Nassr Al Shams

Interns from Save the People USA (STPUSA), along with Office Manager Fatima Niass, visited Elhaam Academy this week to observe the school’s Little Scientists’ Camp in action. Young students excitedly participated in hands-on experiments like pH tests, DNA candy models, and the crowd-favorite elephant toothpaste

demonstration. The visit highlighted the academy’s emphasis on fostering early interest in science through interactive learning. Fatima Niass and the interns addressed the students, applauding their creativity and curiosity. The event showcased a successful blend of fun and education, leaving both students and visitors inspired by the power of curiosity-driven learning.



Photos: Interns visit Elhaam Academy to witness young minds explore science through hands-on experiments.



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