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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

New ICE Site Stirs Old Wounds

Fort Bliss' past resurfaces amid immigration crackdown

John Paul

The Trump administration's decision to expand immigrant detention at Fort Bliss, Texas, has sparked significant backlash from Japanese American advocates. The site, once used for Japanese American internment during World War II, is now home to the largest ICE detention center in U.S. history. Known as Camp East Montana, it can house up to 5,000 detainees at a cost of \$1.2 billion. Critics, including Brian Niiya of Densho and Mike Ishii, whose family was interned, argue that the current detention practices echo the WWII internment tactics. They highlight the disproportionate detention of non-criminal immigrants, which they believe reflects painful historical parallels. Despite the ongoing construction, advocates stress the importance of learning from the past to avoid repeating these injustices.



Photo: Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, President Donald Trump and Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson
Image Source: WTTW News

Pritzker Slams Trump Troop Plan

Illinois governor calls potential deployment to Chicago an abuse of power

Alexandar Sullivan

President Donald Trump's proposal to send National Guard troops into Chicago has provoked fierce criticism from Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, who labeled the move an "abuse of power" and claimed the president is "attempting to manufacture a crisis." The governor emphasized that no

emergency exists to justify military intervention in Illinois. Trump has already deployed 2,000 National Guard personnel to Washington, DC, where troops—now ordered to carry weapons—are patrolling the streets amid claims of rising crime. Despite Pentagon assurances last week that the troops would remain unarmed,

HIGHLIGHT

•President Trump plans troop deployments in Chicago and New York

•Governor JB Pritzker calls it an "abuse of power"

•Mayor Brandon Johnson warns of "unlawful deployment"

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth reversed the policy, citing security concerns. In Chicago, Mayor Brandon Johnson said his administration had received no notification about possible troop deployment. He warned that such action, which he described as "uncalled for, uncoordinated, and unsound," could erode

community trust and reverse recent gains in public safety. "An unlawful deployment," he said, "could inflame tensions between residents and law enforcement." Trump has floated the idea of declaring a national emergency if opposition grows or if the current 30-day window for troop deployments expires. "If I have a national emergency, I can keep the troops here as long as I want," he told reporters Friday. Polls show the deployment is deeply unpopular in cities like Washington, where nearly 80% of residents oppose the military presence. Despite this, Trump is reportedly planning to expand deployments to 19 states, with a focus on bolstering Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations and sending a message to "Democrat-run cities." Local leaders warn the strategy could escalate unrest and politicize public safety. "We don't need militarized policing," one Chicago official said, "we need investment and trust." Trump has also requested \$2 billion from Congress to "beautify" Washington, following earlier budget cuts.

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Ukraine's Independence Day Marked by Drone Strikes

Russia blames Kyiv for nuclear plant fire in Kursk region



Photo: Canada's PM Mark Carney joins Ukraine's President Zelensky and First Lady Olena in Kyiv for wreath-laying.
Image Source: The Canadian Press via AP/BBC

Lily Anderson

On August 24, as Ukraine commemorated its 34th Independence Day, Russia accused Kyiv of launching drone attacks on multiple energy sites, including

a nuclear power plant in the Kursk region. The strike reportedly ignited a transformer fire, which was swiftly extinguished without injuries or radiation leaks, according to Russian authorities. The

UN's nuclear watchdog confirmed awareness of the incident but had no independent verification. The alleged attack coincided with a symbolic day for Ukraine, marked by heightened tensions

and international support. In Kyiv's Independence Square, President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a resolute address: "We are building a Ukraine that will have enough strength and power to live in security and peace." He emphasized that Ukraine's future rests solely in Ukrainian hands, not foreign negotiations. Celebrations saw diplomatic reinforcement. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney pledged \$1.5 billion in military aid, while Norway announced \$695 million for air defense, co-funded with Germany. Zelensky hinted at potential Canadian troop involvement in Ukraine. The Pope Leo XIV also voiced support, praying for peace and urging dialogue. Amid the conflict,

Ukraine reported it had recaptured Novomykhailivka in the Donetsk region, while Russia claimed it seized two villages. A prisoner swap saw 146 personnel returned on each side, with Zelensky celebrating the return of those captured as early as 2022. As drone warfare escalates, including attacks in Leningrad's Ust-Luga port and over 95 Ukrainian drones intercepted, both nations remain entrenched in a grinding war. Yet, Independence Day offered a reminder of Ukraine's resolve and its growing global backing.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

NYPD Detective Wounded By Friendly Fire



Staff Reporter

An attempt to apprehend a career criminal following a carjacking ended with an NYPD detective being struck by friendly fire in Queens on Friday morning, officials said. The shooting happened just before 9 a.m. near the Whitestone Expressway and 22nd Road in the Whitestone section. According to investigators, the suspect

approached a vehicle parked just off a service road, announced a robbery and displayed what appeared to be a firearm to the driver. The driver got out of the car, and the suspect assaulted him. The victim managed to call 911 as the suspect took off. The suspect then realized the victim still had the keys, so he returned to the scene, colliding with another vehicle in the process. The suspect

assaulted the victim a second time, got the keys and took off again, but police officers arrived as he turned on 22nd Road and attempted to block him. A team of undercover narcotics detectives who happened to be driving by also assisted. "Detectives assigned to Queens South Narcotics see the patrol officers attempting to make the apprehension and try to assist by blocking the car in," NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said. During the confrontation, three patrol officers assigned to the 109th precinct opened fire, striking the narcotics detective twice in the hand and leg. "We'll get the trajectory of who fired what round, but what it appears it here was a friendly fire incident," said NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny. "The narcotics

detectives were in the front of the car, the 109 patrol was in the rear." The injured detective was rushed to the Jamaica Hospital and has emerged from a successful surgery on his leg. He will have surgery on his arm Friday afternoon, police said. His name has not been released. The 28-year-old suspect, identified as Kevin Dubuisson, has 10 unsealed prior arrests and was out on parole, Tisch said. He was arrested again on Thursday for fare evasion on the subway but released on a desk appearance ticket. Police said he is also believed to have stolen a yellow taxi idling at First Avenue and East 33rd Street Thursday night, drove one block and hit a cyclist before ditching the vehicle and fleeing. Police said the suspect allegedly stole another vehicle shortly after from a nearby

parking garage, drove it for a short distance before crashing the vehicle and fleeing on foot. Dubuisson's other previous charges include an attempted robbery in Brooklyn, criminal possession of a weapon in Midtown, a 2016 assault on a police officer and a domestic violence assault. On Friday night he was charged with robbery, assault, menacing, attempted robbery, and two counts of attempted assault, according to police. Prior to Friday's incident, Commissioner Tisch said Dubuisson attempted to steal a car from a gas station on Parsons Boulevard and 20th Avenue, but was scared off by employees there. He also attempted to carjack a woman just steps away from the gas station, but the victim's husband ran outside and scared him off, she said.

Sixth Person Dies In Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak In Harlem

NYN DESK

A sixth death has been announced in the Legionnaires' disease community cluster in Central Harlem, officials said. There are now six deaths, 111 confirmed cases, and seven are currently hospitalized. The NYC Health Department is currently investigating an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Central Harlem with ZIP codes including 10027, 10030, 10035, 10037, and 10039. In the wake of the deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Harlem, the State Health Department says it will 'undertake a thorough review' of the city's response. The outbreak, which claimed 6 lives and made more than 100 people sick, has been linked to 12 cooling towers a number of them at city-owned buildings, including Harlem Hospital.



Scientists are using DNA to determine which cooling tower or towers made people sick. Water collected from the cooling towers is being tested in a week-long process at the Department Of Health lab for Legionella. "We're very thorough, so it takes time to utilize all of those methods and put all of that information together," Dr. Enoma Omoregie with the Department of Health said. Another method involves placing droplets directly on a plate to see how the culture grows which takes 10 days. Those are just two steps in the effort underway to identify the source of the recent

deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak and bring it under control. Another lab analyzes cultures taken from patients who have tested positive for the disease. Further testing identifies the specific strain. From there, the isolated specimens from the towers and the patients are taken to another floor for extraction. "We remove the DNA from the bacteria," Dr. Aaron Olsen with the Department of Health said. The DNA is then loaded into a genome sequencer that runs for up to 40 hours. "The things that are actually doing the chemical reaction determine what that genetic code is," Olsen said. The sequencers generate hundreds of gigabytes of data, which is then analyzed to see if there's a match. The goal is to pinpoint the exact cooling tower that sickened a particular patient.

1 Killed, 4 Injured In Shooting During Basketball In Bronx Park



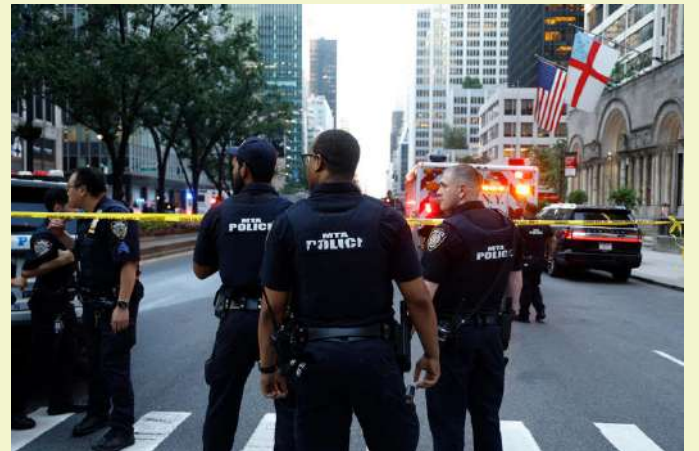
NYN DESK

One person was killed and four others were injured in a shooting during a basketball tournament in the Bronx. It happened around 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Haffen Park off Gunther Ave in Baychester.

It is not clear how many shooters there may have been or how many shots were fired, but police shut down the entire nine-acre park on Saturday night and have marked dozens of pieces of evidence that may include shell casings that landed both inside and outside the park. Bullets struck five people including a 30-year-old man who was pronounced dead at Jacobi Hospital. The other victims range in age from 17 to 42 -- two are male and

two are female. Neighbors are very shaken up and are disappointed that the usually safe park is now crawling with detectives investigating the violent crime. "I've lived here for 50 years -- I've never seen. The area is getting gentrified. There's a lot of people coming back and forth. I'm kind of shocked at what's going on because it's been peaceful lately. The last I'd say 10-12 years. It's been very good," said Nicholas Thompson.

Mass Shooting In Midtown, Killed 4 People



Staff Reporter

The NFL is increasing security at its headquarters after last month's mass shooting in Midtown Manhattan. A league executive says the NFL is working with the other tenants at 345 Park Avenue to make it happen. The building reopened August 4. Earlier this month, the NFL recommended enhanced security measures at team and league facilities. Proposed changes will be reviewed at a special league meeting next week.

Investigators believe the gunman was targeting league offices when he shot and killed four people, before turning the gun on himself. Mayor Eric Adams honored the family of one of the victims, Aland Etienne, Thursday night. Etienne worked as a security guard at the building. The mayor invited his family to Gracie Mansion for a Haitian heritage reception. Etienne was an immigrant from Haiti. His wife Rachel, and their two sons stood by Mayor Adams, as he remembered Etienne.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:56	12:58	04:42	07:39	08:59
04:57	12:58	04:42	07:37	08:57
04:58	12:57	04:41	07:36	08:56
04:59	12:57	04:40	07:34	08:54
05:01	12:57	04:39	07:32	08:52
05:02	12:56	04:38	07:31	08:50
05:03	12:56	04:37	07:29	08:48

OPINION

Message from Convention Convenor

— Arman Chowdhury

All thanks and praises are due to Allah (SWT). I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, alone without any partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) is His servant and His Messenger. This year's theme of our convention is "Torchbearers of Islam: Spreading the Faith Globally." In a world full of challenges and confusion, we are witnessing a renewed global yearning for guidance, truth, and purpose. As Muslims, 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. Today, Muslims around the world are taking bold steps to share the truth of Islam, sometimes under great adversity. We see communities rising to counter ignorance with knowledge, injustice with mercy, and despair with hope. Islam offers a complete way of life that brings meaning, harmony, and justice to both individuals and society. Our goal through this convention is to inspire, educate, and empower every attendee



— Arman Chowdhury : Convenor, MUNA Convention 2025

to be a torchbearer — someone who carries the light of Islam into their communities and beyond. This convention, through engaging lectures, interactive sessions, and spiritual gatherings, seeks to reinforce our commitment to spreading the message of Islam with sincerity and wisdom. We envision a world where the message of Islam reaches every soul — not through coercion, but through love, character, and conviction. Let us be ambassadors of peace, truth, and mercy, reflecting

the noble teachings of our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in our actions. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, vendors, donors, and volunteers, whose tireless work made this convention possible. A special thanks to our guest speakers and facilitators, and a warm welcome to all our attendees. If there are any shortcomings, I ask for your forgiveness, and I welcome your suggestions for improvement. May Allah (SWT) accept our efforts and make us true torchbearers of His deen.

[Collected from the MUNA Convention Magazine]

“

Our goal through this convention is to inspire, educate, and empower every attendee to be a torchbearer — someone who carries the light of Islam into their communities and beyond.”



Image Source: munaconvention.com

“

We envision a world where the message of Islam reaches every soul — not through coercion, but through love, character, and conviction.”

Breaking the Silence on Water Inequality

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Water is life, yet millions around the world are still deprived of this most basic human right. Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, is central to human dignity and survival. This goal is not only about clean drinking water but also about proper sanitation, hygiene, and the protection of water ecosystems that sustain our planet. Without clean water and safe sanitation, no society can truly thrive, and no progress in health, education,

or economic growth can be sustained. The urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. Today, nearly two billion people still lack access to safe drinking water, and almost half of the world's population lives without safely managed sanitation services. These staggering figures reveal a global failure to meet one of the most fundamental needs of humanity. The consequences are devastating: preventable diseases such as cholera and diarrhea spread, children miss school because of waterborne illnesses, and women face disproportionate burdens by walking long distances daily to collect water for their families. In many communities, the lack of proper sanitation perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality. Water scarcity is also becoming one of the most pressing challenges of



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

our time, made worse by climate change. Droughts, floods, and contamination of natural water sources are threatening livelihoods across continents. Farmers cannot irrigate their fields, cities struggle to supply clean water to growing populations, and conflicts increasingly emerge around water rights and access. What should be a shared resource is turning into a source of tension and division. Addressing SDG 6 is therefore not just an environmental issue but a matter of global peace, security, and justice. To meet this challenge, collective action is required at every level. Governments must invest in sustainable infrastructure, such as modern water treatment plants, efficient irrigation systems, and improved sanitation facilities. Equally important is education

at the community level on water conservation, hygiene, and responsible usage. Partnerships between nations, organizations, and local communities can help share technologies and strategies that ensure access to safe water even in the most vulnerable regions. Protecting rivers, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater sources must also be a priority, as these natural ecosystems are the lifelines of humanity and biodiversity alike. Achieving universal access to clean water and sanitation is not only possible but absolutely necessary for the dignity, health, and future of humanity. As global citizens, we must recognize that water is not a commodity for the privileged but a right for every human being, regardless of geography or economic standing. A future where every child has access to clean water, every woman is freed from the burden of unsafe collection practices, and every community thrives through sustainable water management is within our reach if we act now with vision and determination.

EDUCATION

Backpacks of Hope, Activities of Joy

STP USA and ICNA Relief support kids in Jamaica



Emily Parker

Excitement filled Captain Tilly Park in Jamaica as families gathered for Assemblymember David Weprin's Back to School Giveaway, a much-anticipated community

event that combined school readiness with fun-filled activities. While the focus was on preparing students for the classroom, the atmosphere was one of celebration, connection, and collective support.

Two organizations played a central role in the day's success: Save the People USA (STPUSA) and ICNA Relief. Together, they ensured that families walked away with more than just supplies—they

left with encouragement, joy, and the reassurance that their community is behind them. Save the People USA turned the park into a lively playground, offering children opportunities to create bracelets, enjoy face painting, and take part in interactive games such as Connect Four. The highlight for many was the distribution of free basketballs, a gesture that blended fun with encouragement for healthy play



and teamwork. The organization's

volunteers brought energy and warmth to the day, making every child feel celebrated. Meanwhile, ICNA Relief addressed the practical needs of families by providing backpacks filled with school supplies. For parents managing the expenses of a new school year, this support was invaluable. The backpacks ensured that children would return to class with the tools they need, helping to ease financial pressures while also reinforcing the message that education is a shared community priority. The event reflected the power of collaboration—elected officials, nonprofits, and neighbors working together to strengthen families

and inspire children. Parents appreciated not only the supplies but also the sense of belonging created by the gathering. For students, the day was both a celebration and a confidence boost as they prepared for the year ahead. By combining essential resources with interactive activities, Assemblymember Weprin's Back to School Giveaway demonstrated how community events can uplift, empower, and inspire. As backpacks were handed out and games played, the park became a symbol of what can be achieved when organizations and leaders come together in service of the next generation.



EDUCATION

Backpacks of Hope, Activities of Joy



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Honoring Duty, Inspiring the Future

NYPD Muslim Officers Society hosts awards and scholarship night



James Anderson

The NYPD Muslim Officers Society recently held its 17th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, an evening that reflected both the sacrifice of officers who protect New York City and the promise of their children's future.

The gathering brought together officers, their families, and community leaders in a ceremony that honored dedication to duty while celebrating the importance of education. Since its founding 19 years ago, the Muslim Officers Society has played a vital role in

strengthening ties between Muslim officers and the communities they serve, while also ensuring their contributions are recognized within the broader fabric of the NYPD. This year's dinner underscored that mission, combining recognition for service

with investment in the next generation. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of scholarships to college-bound students, awarded to those who achieved the highest SAT scores. These awards symbolized not only the students' hard work, but also the values of discipline and perseverance instilled



in families who balance academic ambition with the daily realities of public service. Proud parents looked on as their children were celebrated, knowing the recognition represented both an achievement

and an inspiration for others. Equally central to the evening was the acknowledgment of the officers themselves. Members of the society were praised for their courage and dedication, often serving on the front lines in one of the world's most challenging cities for law enforcement. Their sacrifices—made not only by the officers but also by their families—were recognized with gratitude and applause. Leadership from the department was also commended for supporting the society's efforts to uplift and highlight the contributions of Muslim officers. The awards dinner was not only a time for reflection but also a chance to look forward. By celebrating both the officers who serve today and the students who will lead tomorrow, the

program reinforced the society's commitment to building stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities. For the Muslim Officers Society, the night marked more than another year of service—it reaffirmed a legacy of resilience, faith, and progress. Through nearly two decades of advocacy and community engagement, the society continues to show that honoring duty and investing in education go hand in hand. The 17th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner stood as a reminder that New York's strength lies not just in its law enforcement, but in the families and communities who support them, and in the young people whose achievements will carry that legacy forward.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Honoring Duty, Inspiring the Future



All Photo Credit: Neher Siddiquee & NYPD Muslim Officers Society Facebook Page

LAW ENFORCEMENT

A New Generation of Guardians

Nearly 1,100 recruits sworn in, largest class under Mayor Adams



William Henry

New York City marked a significant milestone in public safety as Mayor Eric Adams and NYPD Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch announced the hiring of 1,093 police recruits, the largest class sworn in by the department since January 2016. The swearing-in ceremony underscored the administration's commitment to modernizing the NYPD, restoring public confidence, and building on the city's recent gains in reducing crime.

The new class is the largest under the Adams administration, surpassing the 1,045 recruits sworn in earlier this year. Including this group, the NYPD has hired nearly 2,911 recruits in 2025 alone, with another class still scheduled before year's end. Since Adams took office, the department has brought in nearly 10,000 officers, significantly boosting the city's police force at a time when recruitment challenges have strained departments nationwide. "Public safety is

the prerequisite to prosperity, and today's announcement shows we are investing in the future of both," said Mayor Adams. He highlighted that the class represents the most recruits in nearly a decade, made possible through expanded eligibility requirements and modernized educational standards. He added that nearly 10,000 officers have joined the NYPD under his administration, helping drive historic reductions in crime and reinforcing New York's standing as the safest



big city in America. Commissioner Jessica Tisch called the milestone "a defining moment for the NYPD and for New York City." She stressed that the most strategic step the department can take is hiring more qualified officers, and credited focused recruitment efforts — supported by the mayor — with attracting the highest level of candidates to protect the city. The recruits reflect the city's global identity, hailing from 51 countries, speaking 34 languages, and including 80 individuals with prior military service. They will begin training immediately at the Police Academy before taking their places on the streets and subways. The recruitment surge follows reforms

announced earlier this year to make the NYPD more accessible while maintaining high standards. The department reduced its college credit requirement from 60 to 24 credits, reinstated the 1.5-mile run as part of physical testing, and secured recognition for 45 college credits upon graduation from the academy. Applications surged by 579% after the changes, signaling renewed enthusiasm among New Yorkers to serve.

In a social media post after the ceremony, Mayor Adams reflected on his own years as an NYPD officer, writing: "Every time someone swears an oath to the NYPD, New York City gains a new guardian. Today, we swear in over 1,100 new guardians — the largest class during our administration and one of the largest in the last decade. I remember the day I swore that same oath, and joined my newest brothers and sisters in blue. I am confident that today's recruits will continue the long legacy of protecting and serving New Yorkers, doing whatever it takes to keep us all

safe." The announcement also reflects broader trends in the city's public safety strategy. From January through July 2025, New York recorded the lowest number of shootings and victims in its history, contributing to an overall 5 percent decline in major crimes year-to-date. The Adams administration has also prioritized removing illegal guns—more than 23,200 since 2022—and expanding initiatives such as the Quality of Life Division and Saturday Night Lights youth program. As the recruits begin their training, city leaders underscored the broader message: public safety is central to New York's prosperity. With record-high recruitment, declining crime rates, and renewed investments in both policing and community programs, the city is signaling that it is serious about safeguarding its future. The 1,093 new recruits will soon join thousands of officers already on the frontlines, serving as the next generation of guardians for the nation's largest city.



JUSTICE



Defining Representation: Judge Soma Syed's Judicial Legacy in the Making



Judge Soma S. Syed, the first Bangladeshi-American elected judge in New York State and the United States, has marked another milestone in her trailblazing legal career. Nominated by the Queens Democratic Party, Judge Syed is now running for New York State Supreme Court Justice, with the election scheduled for November 4, 2025. Judge Syed's journey reflects her lifelong dedication to justice, representation, and service. She began her judicial career in 2021, when she was elected to the New York City Civil Court from Queens County. She later served in the New York County Criminal Court in Manhattan, presiding over arraignment, felony, and misdemeanor cases. Since January 2024, she has been assigned

to the Queens County Civil Court. Alongside her judicial career, she has been active in bar associations, community service, and advocacy for greater diversity in the judiciary. As she steps closer to the Supreme Court, Judge Syed spoke in an exclusive interview about her motivations, challenges, and vision for the future.

Interview

Question: What inspired you to pursue a career in law, and eventually aim for the Supreme Court?
Soma Syed: As a young child, I understood law was an integral and vital aspect of our society. I wanted to be part of it and serve people. The Supreme Court is a continuation of my career, taking on greater responsibility and more complex cases.

Question: How does your personal journey as a Bangladeshi-American and Muslim shape your perspective on justice?
Soma Syed: I am an immigrant, a woman, and a Muslim. I have multiple identities, and I embrace them all. Life experiences help you grow and broaden your horizon. I recall the Islamic Hadith about judges—those who rule with knowledge and fairness, those who do not, and those who rule unjustly despite knowing better. My aim is always to learn first, listen first, and apply the law fairly and justly.
Question: Can you share any key moments or cases in your career that prepared you for this role?
Soma Syed: My entire legal career, my temperament, my passion, and especially the last four years as a

competent criminal and civil court judge.
Interviewer: What was your first reaction when you learned about your Supreme Court nomination?
Soma Syed: I was humbled, honored, and realized what this means—not just for me, but for our entire community.
Interviewer: How do you view the historical significance of being the first Muslim and Bangladeshi-American Supreme Court Justice in the U.S.?
Soma Syed: It's tremendous. It's one for the community. It's beautiful for inclusion, representation, and diversity.
Question: What message do you think your nomination sends to young people, especially from immigrant and minority communities?

- "I wanted to be part of the law and serve people."
- "I am an immigrant, a woman, and a Muslim. I embrace them all."
- "You must know your value and not let others define you."
- "For now, I look forward to continuing to serve the people with distinction and honor."

Soma Syed: I hope they realize that they can do anything they put their minds, skills, and hearts into. Hope and optimism are important. Hard work is key. Serving people and humanity is truly the best way to live and spend our time in this world.
Question: How would you describe your judicial philosophy, and what principles guide your decisions?
Soma Syed: Judges interpret laws and apply them to facts. Every person deserves respect and dignity when they enter the courtroom. You listen to them and render decisions based on facts and law.
Question: What challenges have you faced as a woman of color in law, and how have you overcome them?
Soma Syed: Growing up in a patriarchal society, many thought a woman should not become an attorney. With my parents' support, I broke out of

that stereotype. Later, as an attorney, I was often mistaken for a litigant or interpreter. I just kept showing up, joining bar associations, doing pro bono work, and proving my worth. You must know your value and not let others define you.
Question: How do you plan to handle public scrutiny and political pressure in such a high-profile role?
Soma Syed: By doing my job every day. Every person deserves respect and dignity when they enter your courtroom. You listen, you apply the law, and you render decisions based on the facts.
Question: What role do you think diversity plays in strengthening the judiciary?
Soma Syed: It's important that judges look like the community they serve. It strengthens fair and impartial justice.
Question: If elected, what would be your top priorities as a Supreme Court Justice?
Soma Syed: To be a fair and impartial jurist, serving the people with distinction and honor.
Question: And how do you hope your legacy will be remembered?
Soma Syed: That remains to be seen. For now, I look forward to continuing to serve the people with distinction and honor.
[Interviewed by Nabila Haque]

UNITY

Community Spirit Shines in Jamaica

Supplies, snacks, and games mark back-to-school event

Jessica Morgan

Captain Tilly Park came alive with laughter, excitement, and community spirit as more than 500 children and their families gathered for the much-anticipated Back-to-School Giveaway, hosted by the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society Inc. NY. The annual initiative provided backpacks, essential school supplies, and an afternoon filled with joy and activities, ensuring students head into the new academic year prepared and confident. The event began with families arriving at the park in the late afternoon, where children were warmly welcomed with snacks such as chips and chocolates. Soon after, they lined up to receive brand-new school bags filled with supplies. For many families,



this support eased the financial burden of back-to-school shopping while reminding students that their community stands firmly behind them. In addition to the distribution, the park transformed into a festival-like atmosphere. Popcorn and cotton candy stands were set up, and children flocked to watch a clown

perform face art and entertain the crowd. Games, fun activities, and refreshments kept families engaged well into the evening, making it not just a giveaway, but a true community celebration. This vibrant event was made possible by the dedication of community leaders and proud partners, including

Gauhar S. Jamil, CIP, Save the People USA, and BHALO, along with numerous sponsors and volunteers. Their contributions reflected a shared commitment to uplifting children and fostering unity across neighborhoods. "This was more than just giving out supplies," one organizer remarked. "It was about creating



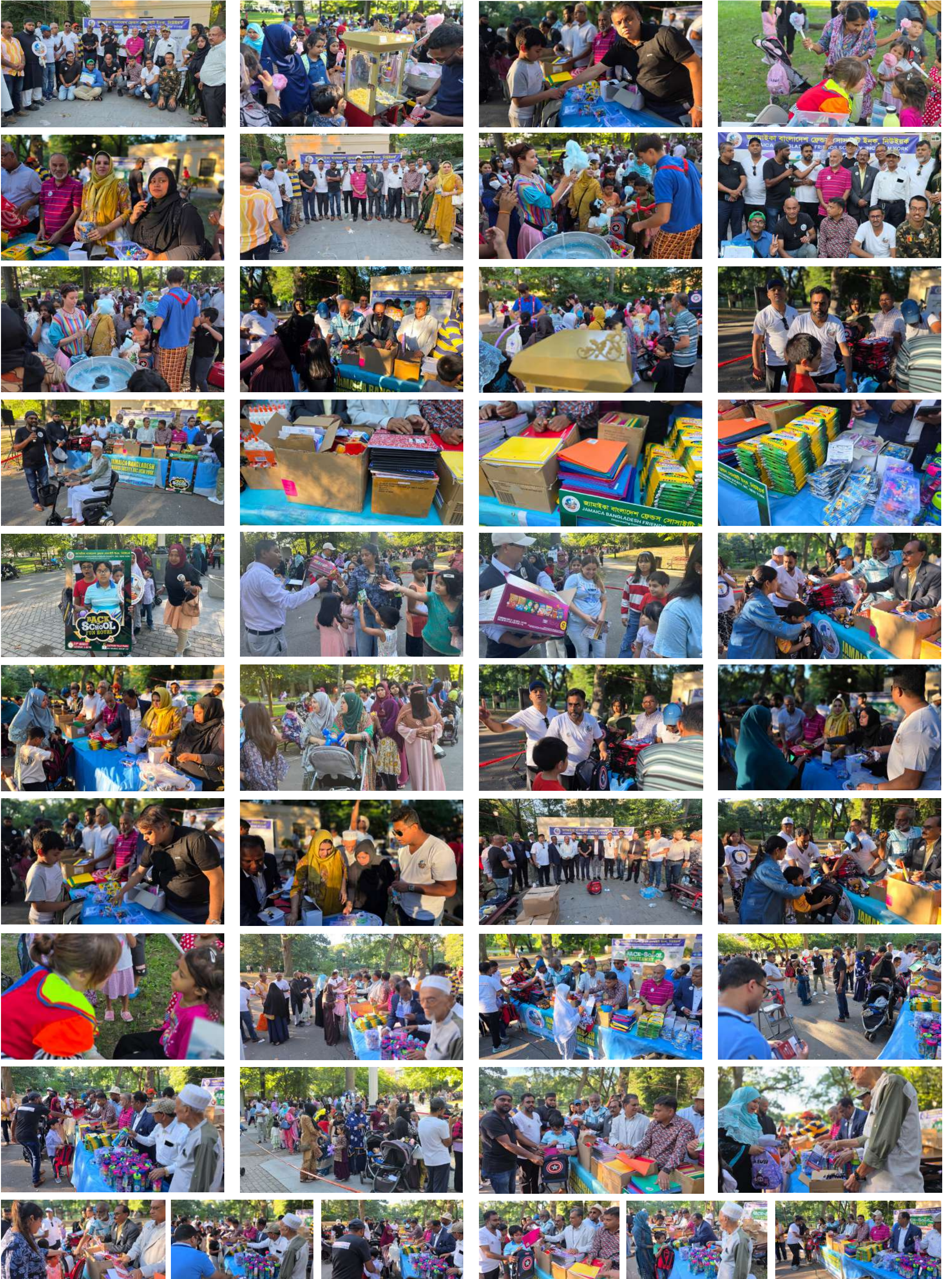
memories, easing burdens, and showing our children that they matter." The event also highlighted the strength of collaboration. Volunteers worked tirelessly to organize, distribute, and ensure everything ran smoothly,

from managing the lines for supplies to assisting at the food and activity stations. Their efforts, along with the overwhelming turnout, demonstrated the deep bond within the community. For the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, which has long worked to empower and connect Bangladeshi-American families and the wider Queens community, the Back-to-School Giveaway was yet another reminder of the power of unity. As the evening concluded, children left not only with new backpacks, but also with smiles, painted faces, and an infectious excitement for the school year ahead. The success of this year's program reaffirmed a simple truth: when a community comes together, its children thrive.



UNITY

Community Spirit Shines in Jamaica





Jordan-Bryant Card Sells for \$12.9M

Record-Breaking Auction Sale

Adrian Smith

A basketball card featuring Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant set a new world record, selling for \$12.932 million at a Heritage Auctions event in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday. This sale marks the highest price ever paid for a sports card.

The card, part of the 2007-08 Upper Deck Exquisite Collection Dual Logoman series, includes images of both NBA legends, along with their signatures and NBA logo patches from their jerseys. It is the only card in the series to feature both Jordan and Bryant, making it a unique collector's item. The buyer's identity remains unknown. Chris Ivy, Director of Sports Auctions at Heritage Auctions, commented on the card's value, stating, "It has everything: photos, jersey patches, and signatures from two of the greatest players who ever stepped on the court." With Kobe Bryant's tragic passing in 2020, the card is now the only one in existence featuring both icons. The Dual NBA Logo Autographs series, created by Upper Deck between 2004 and 2009, includes limited edition cards with basketball stars like LeBron James, Scottie Pippen, and Kobe Bryant. However, the Jordan/Bryant card is the sole one featuring both legends.



Photo: Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant's rare card sells for a world-record \$12.9 million. Image Source: Heritage Auctions/HA.com/ CNN

Previously, the record for the most expensive sports card was held by a 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle baseball card, which sold for \$12.6 million in 2022. The Jordan/Bryant card surpasses this price, underlining the growing demand for rare sports memorabilia. Prior to this, Steph Curry's Logoman card held the basketball card record at \$5.9 million in 2021. This sale highlights the increasing value of iconic sports collectibles.

First Bangladeshi-American Brigadier General Honored

Shariful Khan's rise in the U.S. Army hailed as a milestone of dedication and leadership

NYN DESK

Bangladeshi-American Colonel Shariful M. Khan has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Army. The promotion was officially announced on June 13 at a ceremony held at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Former U.S. Ambassador M. Osman Siddique attended the promotion ceremony at the Pentagon on August 19. In a post on social media platform X, he wrote: "Shariful Khan, a son of Bangladesh, made history today. For the first time in U.S. military history, a Bangladeshi-American has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General." General Shariful Khan took his oath administered by U.S. Space Force Vice Chief of Space Operations General Shawn Bratton. He is currently serving at the Pentagon as Director of Staff, Golden Dome for America. In this position, he



oversees strategy, policy, planning, and cross-functional coordination, while building partnerships with industry, academia, national laboratories, and government agencies to advance next-generation missile defense capabilities. Brigadier General Khan graduated in 1997 from the United States Air

Force Academy with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He later pursued multiple advanced degrees from both military and civilian institutions including Webster University, National Defense Intelligence College, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, Naval War College, MIT, and Georgetown

University. Throughout his military career, General Khan has worked in space control, satellite operations, space systems, launches, and served as a satellite operator at the National Reconnaissance Office. In 2001, he was deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, and in 2007 he served as Deployment Commander during Operation Silent Sentry. He has commanded at both squadron and wing levels. As Commander of the 310th Space Wing at Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado, he led nearly 1,500 service members across 19 units. He also served in the U.S. Department of Defense's Policy Division. Notable positions in his career include: Operations Officer at the 5th Space Operations Squadron, Executive Officer at the 21st Space Operations Squadron, Commander of the 379th Space Range Squadron, Deputy of the Air Force

Strategy Division at the Department of Defense, Commander of the 310th Space Wing, and Mobilization Assistant at the Space Training and Readiness Command. General Khan has been awarded numerous military honors, including the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Air and Space Achievement Medal. His promotion is a recognition of his patriotism, dedication, and leadership throughout a long and distinguished career. For the Bangladeshi-American community, this milestone is a matter of great pride. Ambassador Osman Siddique remarked: "Brigadier General Shariful Khan is not only a pride of the United States Armed Forces, but also a shining example for the Bangladeshi immigrant community."



Photos: Roger Federer

Image Source: Getty Image

Federer Joins Billionaire Ranks

Swiss star becomes the seventh billionaire athlete.

Nassr Al Shams

Tennis icon Roger Federer has officially joined the ranks of billionaire athletes, according to Forbes, making him the seventh athlete in history to achieve this milestone. The Swiss tennis legend, who retired in 2022, now has an estimated net worth of \$1.1 billion, bolstered by his minority stake in On, a Swiss shoe and apparel company. Despite earning less in prize money compared to his rivals, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, Federer was the highest-paid tennis player for 16 consecutive

years. His off-court ventures earned him approximately \$1 billion during his career. Notably, in 2020, Federer earned a staggering \$106.3 million, the highest of any athlete worldwide that year. Federer becomes tennis' second billionaire after Ion Țiriac, a Romanian player-turned-investor. Other athletes on this elite list include Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, LeBron James, and Tiger Woods. Federer's success has also inspired younger players. Carlos Alcaraz, named the highest-paid active tennis player for the second consecutive year, earned \$48.3

million in the last 12 months. Jannik Sinner, who has emerged as a strong contender against Alcaraz, ranked second with \$47.3 million, while Coco Gauff earned \$37.2 million, becoming the highest-paid female athlete in tennis. Overall, the top 10 highest-earning tennis players collectively made \$285 million, a 16% increase from the previous year, although still below the record \$343 million achieved in 2020. With Federer's billion-dollar milestone, his legacy transcends tennis, cementing his place among the greatest sports icons.

West Nile Virus Hits New Yorkers

Two human cases reported as city steps up mosquito control efforts

Amkel Norush

In a concerning development, the New York City Health Department has confirmed its first two cases of West Nile virus disease for the 2025 season, both involving residents from Queens. One individual has been diagnosed with West Nile fever and was briefly hospitalized, while the second case involves neuroinvasive disease, a severe and potentially life-threatening form of the virus that affects the brain. Both individuals are receiving care, but the presence of the virus is raising concerns among health officials. The Health Department has detected West Nile virus in mosquitoes across all five boroughs of New York City. This year, 988 positive mosquito pools have been found, indicating a growing presence of infected mosquitoes. While the virus is typically active in New York from May to October, its peak activity occurs during August and September, when mosquitoes that

carry the virus are most prevalent. Dr. Michelle Morse, Acting Health Commissioner, emphasized that older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable. She urged New Yorkers to use EPA-approved repellents and wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk, when mosquito activity is highest. Additionally, residents are advised to eliminate standing water around their homes, which serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The city's mosquito control efforts include spraying and larviciding in targeted areas, with over 1,000 operations already completed this season. While the virus can cause mild symptoms in many individuals, it can lead to more serious complications, including encephalitis, in a small percentage of cases. The Health Department is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates as necessary.