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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Alexandar Sullivan

In a meeting loaded with diplomatic symbolism and economic urgency, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin on Sunday, calling for a reset in bilateral ties as both leaders reel from aggressive U.S. tariffs under President Donald Trump.

The meeting marks the first in-person conversation between Xi and Modi in seven years, reflecting a pragmatic shift as both nations face mounting economic pressure from Washington. Trump's latest tariffs—doubling duties on Indian exports like diamonds and seafood to 50%—are seen as punishment for India's continued purchase of Russian oil. China, meanwhile, is contending with its own wave of U.S. economic penalties, aimed at curbing Beijing's trade influence.

"The world today is chaotic," Xi said. "It is the right choice for both sides to be friends." Modi echoed that sentiment, emphasizing cooperation based on "mutual trust and respect," while



Photo: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping
Image Source: NDTV

Tariff Heat Brings Rivals Together

India and China explore common ground

referencing progress on de-escalating the Himalayan border dispute. While concrete agreements remain unclear, observers say the timing is critical. The tariffs have fueled Indian anxiety over ties with the U.S., prompting New Delhi to rediscover strategic value in closer

economic dialogue with Beijing. Analysts argue the warming ties reflect a broader multipolar push, with China and India signaling independence from Western-dominated trade systems. For Washington, the Xi-Modi summit may complicate years of diplomatic investment in

HIGHLIGHT

- **Modi and Xi meet in China after 7 years, urging friendlier ties.**
- **Trump hits India with 50% tariffs, citing Russian oil imports.**
- **Leaders seek economic reboot as U.S. pressure mounts on both.**

India as a counterweight to China. Meanwhile, Beijing welcomes the optics of solidarity with a fellow Global South powerhouse amid tariff tensions. Though many hurdles remain, the meeting suggests a cautious shift—one where shared economic pain may forge unlikely cooperation.

Barcelona Flotilla Heads to Gaza

Activists, aid aboard 70-ship mission

John Paul

In a major humanitarian push, the Global Sumud Flotilla departed Barcelona on Sunday, aiming to breach the 18-year Israeli blockade of Gaza. The fleet of around 70 boats carries essential aid—food, water, and medicine—and is expected to reach Gaza by mid-September. Delegates from 44 countries, including Greta Thunberg and former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau, joined the mission. Thousands gathered at the port waving Palestinian flags and chanting in support. The voyage comes amid worsening famine conditions in Gaza. Thunberg, previously deported by Israel, criticized the interception of aid vessels in international waters as illegal. Additional ships from Italy and Tunisia are expected to join the convoy, part of a call to establish a humanitarian sea corridor to Gaza.

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Judge Halts Trump Deportations

Court blocks fast-track expansion citing due process



Photo: US judge halts Trump effort to expand fast-track deportations
Image Source: AsiaOne / Reuters file

Lily Anderson

A federal judge has blocked the Trump administration's expansion of a fast-track deportation policy, ruling it violates the constitutional rights

of undocumented immigrants. The decision, issued on Friday by Judge Jia Cobb in Washington, D.C., halts a January directive that widened the use of expedited removal, a process

HIGHLIGHT

- **Federal judge halts Trump-era deportation policy.**
- **Expedited removal expanded to cover migrants anywhere in the U.S.**

that allows immigration officials to deport non-citizens without a hearing. Previously limited to border zones and recent arrivals, the policy was extended nationwide to target undocumented individuals present in the U.S. for up to two years. Judge Cobb found that migrants already residing within the country "have a weighty liberty interest in remaining" and must be granted due process under the Fifth Amendment. The judge emphasized that the government failed to update procedures to protect the rights of this newly affected group, calling the fast-track system "skimpy" and constitutionally inadequate. She

stopped short of questioning the legality of expedited removal itself but ruled the expansion without procedural safeguards to be unlawful. The Department of Homeland Security criticized the ruling, asserting that the president has full authority under federal law to enforce deportation policies and insisting it targets "the worst of the worst." While the ruling is likely to face appeal, it represents a major setback to Trump's broader immigration crackdown.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



NYPD beefs up security ahead New York Carnival Parade

Staff Reporter

Around one million people will converge on the streets of Brooklyn for the New York Carnival Parade on Monday, and with it, an army of police officers. Given the violence sparked along the parade route in recent years, the police presence on the ground and in the air is aimed at keeping the crowd safe for this year's celebration. "This will be the largest police deployment of the year, even bigger than our deployments for New Year's Eve," said NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch. "In Times Square, even bigger than our deployments for July 4th." Approximately 2,500 police officers are set to surge the streets of Brooklyn for Labor Day weekend in advance of the elaborate costumes, spirited dancers



and much-awaited live music for the overnight J'Ouvert celebration and New York Carnival Parade, a treasured street festival the city works tirelessly to secure. "Last year's event was a success," Mayor Eric Adams said. "We did have a shooting, but when you look at the over

700,000 people who were here, they did the right thing." Last September, a man was killed, and four others were injured during the parade, when a gunman jumped over a police barricade, stood on a cement divider and opened fire, targeting a group of

people. The shooting has prompted changes. "The other thing that you are going to see this year is specifically along the parade route is a moat, which is an extra layer of barricades that hopefully will keep that route more intact," Tisch said. "It's

two layers of two rows of barricades, as opposed to just one row of barricades." The mayor and police commissioner have been under intense scrutiny after gun violence over the last two weekends, which has included a mass shooting at a Brooklyn nightclub, separate shooting incidents in the Bronx where four people were killed and a half dozen others were injured, and the death of an East Harlem grandmother who was shot in the face and killed by a stray bullet. "The key is we have to stay focused on what we need to do, and that is safety," said Pastor Gil Monrose of the New York City Office of Faith-based and Community Partnerships. "Everyone coming out, having a good time and everyone go back to their home safe."

Health Department spray for West Nile Virus on Sept 2



NYN DESK

The Health Department will spray pesticides in parts of western and southern Queens to reduce the risk of the mosquito-carried West Nile Virus. Weather permitting, the spraying will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 2, between 8:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. the following morning. In case of bad weather, spraying will occur on Wednesday, Sept. 3,

between 8:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. The Health Department will use low concentrations of Anvil, Duet or MERUS 3. The agency says the pesticides' risk to people and pets is low. Some residents with sensitivities to the spray's ingredients may experience short-term eye or throat irritation or a rash. Residents with respiratory conditions may also be affected during the spraying period.

Residents are urged to stay indoors during the spraying period. After the spraying, residents are advised to wash any clothing or skin exposed to pesticides and are reminded to always wash fruits and vegetables with water. Residents can reduce their exposure to mosquitoes by eliminating any standing water in their homes and using approved insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus [not for children under 3] or products that contain the active ingredient IR3535. Additional mosquito-proofing includes screen windows, gutter upkeep and maintaining the cleanliness of chlorinated swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. These outdoor facilities should be kept covered if not in use, and any water collected on pool covers should be drained.

Bronx apartment shooting, 1 dead 2 wounded

NYN DESK

The man accused of gunning down three people at a Bronx apartment building was a disgruntled tenant who lost his temper during an ongoing dispute with neighbors over their shared backyard, according to law enforcement sources. Jimmy Avila, 44, was arrested Wednesday after blasting away at three men around 8:30 a.m. on College Avenue near East 170th Street in Mount Eden — striking a 37-year-old in the chest, hitting a 59-year-old in the buttocks and shooting a 62-year-old in the arm. The 37-year-old later died

of his injuries, but the other two were hospitalized in stable condition. Avila barricaded himself inside an apartment — and called a local news station and confessed — before he was eventually arrested after a stand-off with police. The violence broke out during an argument over access to the building's backyard, which Avila reportedly believed was his alone because he lived nearby on the first floor, the Daily News reported. "I didn't mean to do this, but I had to do it because these people were threatening my life," he told News 12 in the frantic phone call while

he was hiding. His victim — identified by the Daily News as Ryan Hines — was the building's superintendent who was gunned down as he walked by Avila's apartment that morning. The tenant struck in the arm — Orlando Nieves — was walking with the Hines when the gunfire erupted. "My husband got hit twice," his wife, Ebony, told the outlet. "He was ducking down, and I was pulling him through the door." "We've had problems with him for over a year," she added. "He has the issue where anybody going in the backyard, he feels like it's his and nobody else in the building can go back there."

Truck driver charged after off-duty NYPD officer killed in Brooklyn



Staff Reporter

A 30-year-old box truck driver has been charged in the death of an off-duty NYPD officer who was killed in a hit-and-run crash in Brooklyn on Wednesday. Police said a motorcyclist collided with a box truck that did not stay at the scene on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway at Atlantic Avenue, police said. Police said Carlos Almanzar Toribio was later

arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death, operating an unregistered vehicle with no license plate. The 30-year-old officer, who joined the department in February 2021, was headed home from the 84th Precinct in Downtown Brooklyn at the time of the crash. He was taken to NYU Langone in Brooklyn and was pronounced dead. He was wearing a helmet.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:04	12:56	04:36	07:28	08:46
05:05	12:55	04:35	07:26	08:45
05:07	12:55	04:34	07:24	08:43
05:08	12:55	04:33	07:23	08:41
05:09	12:54	04:32	07:21	08:39
05:10	12:54	04:31	07:19	08:37
05:11	12:54	04:30	07:18	08:37

OPINION

62 Years of ISNA's Contribution to American Society

– Prof. Dr. Ali Hasan

For more than six decades, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) has stood as one of the most influential Muslim organizations in the United States. Founded in 1963, ISNA has grown from a small student-led movement into a nationwide institution serving hundreds of thousands of Muslims. As ISNA marks 62 years of service, it is worth reflecting on its remarkable contributions to American society—not only to Muslim communities, but also to the broader national fabric of faith, diversity, and civic engagement.

Origins and Growth

ISNA traces its roots to the Muslim Students Association of the United States and Canada (MSA), which was established in 1963 by international students studying at American universities. These early pioneers sought to create a support network that would help Muslims maintain their religious identity while navigating life in North America. As the Muslim population in the United States expanded—through immigration, conversion, and natural growth—MSA evolved to meet the growing needs of families and communities. By 1982, MSA formally reorganized into ISNA, reflecting its broader mission to serve Muslims across all age groups and backgrounds.

Today, ISNA's headquarters in Plainfield, Indiana, serves as a hub for a variety of religious, educational, social, and civic programs. The annual ISNA Convention, one of the largest gatherings of Muslims in North America, attracts tens of thousands of participants each year, offering lectures, workshops, interfaith panels, and cultural programs that strengthen community identity and engagement. Religious and Educational Services At the heart of ISNA's work is the

promotion of Islamic faith and education. The organization has played a leading role in supporting mosques, Islamic schools, and community centers across the country. Through its Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances, ISNA provides resources for imams and educators, publishes religious guidance, and supports curriculum development for Islamic education.

ISNA has also been instrumental in training and certifying chaplains who serve in hospitals, universities, prisons, and the U.S. military. By preparing Muslim chaplains to work in diverse environments, ISNA has helped ensure that the spiritual needs of Muslims are respected in institutional settings, while also fostering greater understanding of Islam among non-Muslims.

Interfaith Engagement One of ISNA's most enduring contributions is its commitment to interfaith dialogue. From the 1980s onward, ISNA has engaged with leaders of Christian, Jewish, Catholic, and other faith traditions to promote mutual respect and cooperation. ISNA representatives have participated in dialogues with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and numerous Jewish organizations. These efforts have helped build bridges of trust during times of tension and misunderstanding. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, when Muslims in America faced heightened suspicion and hostility, ISNA stepped forward as a national



— Prof. Dr. Ali Hasan :
Freelance Writer

voice of moderation and peace. By collaborating with churches, synagogues, and civic groups, ISNA emphasized that American Muslims are committed citizens who reject extremism and seek to contribute positively to the nation.

Advocacy and Civic Engagement

ISNA has consistently encouraged Muslims to become active, responsible participants in American civic life. Through leadership training programs, youth camps, and workshops on civic responsibility, ISNA has prepared generations of Muslim Americans to engage in the democratic process—whether by voting, serving in public office, or volunteering in their communities.

The organization has also been an advocate for civil rights and social justice, often partnering with other minority and faith-based organizations to address issues such as racial discrimination, immigration reform, healthcare access, and poverty alleviation. By highlighting the Islamic values of justice and compassion, ISNA connects Muslim concerns to the broader struggles for equity and dignity in American society. **Humanitarian and Social Services** Beyond advocacy, ISNA has supported humanitarian efforts both domestically and abroad. Partnering with relief agencies, ISNA has raised funds for disaster relief in the U.S. and internationally, assisting victims of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and refugee crises. Within the U.S., ISNA has promoted initiatives to combat hunger, support refugees, and

provide mental health resources to communities in need. ISNA's emphasis on family development has also made a lasting impact. Through marriage counseling, youth mentorship, and women's leadership programs, ISNA has worked to strengthen Muslim families, empowering individuals to thrive in a society that often presents challenges to religious and cultural identity. **Challenges and Resilience** Like any major organization, ISNA has faced challenges, from internal debates over leadership and representation to external pressures stemming from political controversies and Islamophobia. Yet, despite these difficulties, ISNA has remained a unifying voice for Muslims in North America. Its longevity—62 years of continuous service—speaks to its resilience and adaptability in a rapidly changing social and political landscape.

A Lasting Legacy

Today, ISNA represents far more than an umbrella organization for mosques and Islamic centers. It symbolizes the integration of Muslim identity into the American experience. Through its commitment to faith, education, interfaith dialogue, civic engagement, and humanitarian service, ISNA has demonstrated that American Muslims are not outsiders but integral contributors to the nation's diversity and progress. As America continues to grapple with questions of pluralism and unity, ISNA's 62-year journey offers a living example of how religious communities can maintain their unique identities while enriching the larger society. Its work affirms the belief that Islam and American values—faith, family, service, and justice—are not in conflict but rather complementary forces that can build a stronger, more compassionate nation.



ISNA symbolizes the integration of Muslim identity into the American experience.”



“Its longevity—62 years of continuous service—speaks to its resilience and adaptability in a rapidly changing social and political landscape.”

Empowering the Future Through Sustainable Energy

– Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy is not a luxury—it is a necessity. Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) emphasizes universal access to

energy, recognizing it as a foundation for human progress, economic growth, and environmental preservation. Without energy, schools cannot function effectively, hospitals cannot save lives, and businesses cannot thrive. It is the invisible force that powers development, yet more than 700 million people worldwide remain without electricity, and billions lack access to clean cooking solutions. This inequality highlights the urgent need for global cooperation and collective responsibility. The future of our planet depends on how we produce and consume



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

energy. The reliance on fossil fuels has accelerated climate change, polluted our environment, and endangered ecosystems. Transitioning to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal is not simply an environmental necessity—it is a moral obligation. Clean energy ensures healthier communities, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and creates millions of green jobs. By investing in renewable energy, countries can empower communities, reduce poverty, and lay the groundwork for

sustainable development. However, achieving SDG 7 requires more than technology and investment—it requires political will and global solidarity. Governments must implement policies that incentivize clean energy transitions, private sectors must invest responsibly, and civil society must advocate for just and inclusive energy systems. Education also plays a key role: communities must be empowered with knowledge on energy conservation and efficiency to ensure long-term impact. As we look to the future, let us remember that energy justice is human justice. Every person deserves light in their homes, warmth in the winter, and the ability to live with dignity. By advancing SDG 7, we are not just lighting homes—we are lighting pathways to opportunity, equity, and hope.

EDUCATION

A Sweet Start to the School Year

Hundreds of kids enjoy supplies, goodie bags, and treats at BHALO event



Emily Parker

Excitement and laughter filled the air in Jamaica as BHALO (Bangladeshi Humanitarian Aid and Leadership Outreach) hosted its annual Back-to-School Giveaway, turning the anticipation of a new school year

into a joyful community celebration. This year's event made a powerful impact: over 420 children walked away with everything they need for a successful start to school — from notebooks, folders, pens, pencils, and

erasers to much more. Each child also received a backpack, ensuring that they entered the classroom fully prepared. But the generosity didn't stop there. Organizers made sure the day was as festive as it was practical. Every

child received a special goodie bag filled with toys, along with cotton candy and ice cream to sweeten the experience. The delighted reactions of children as they received their gifts — their smiles, cheers, and bursts of excitement — were a true highlight, capturing the spirit of the day better than any words could. The celebration was more than a distribution.

chocolates, and children gathered around stands offering popcorn, cotton candy, and face painting by a clown, turning the event into a carnival-like atmosphere. The mix of practical support and entertainment gave families both relief and joy. Parents expressed deep appreciation, noting that the program eased the financial burden of preparing for the school year. Volunteers and community leaders echoed that sentiment, emphasizing the importance of creating opportunities for children to thrive. "Seeing the joy on children's faces makes every effort worthwhile," one organizer reflected. The event was made possible thanks to the efforts of BHALO and an extensive list of community partners, including DHCare, Jamaica Bangladesh

Friends Society, Bangladesh American Business Society, Jamaica Senior Center, MUSCare, MUSVote, GetWell MedCare, Family Care Pharmacy, Best Score, Brooklyn Immigrant Community Support, RQM Tutorial, Elhaam Academy, Khan's Tutorial, Life of Hope, Crescent Community Patrol, Trust Aid, and BONY (Bengalis of New York). Their support ensured that no child left empty-handed. As the sun set over Jamaica, families carried home more than just supplies — they carried the reassurance that their community stands beside them. For BHALO, success was not only measured in the 420 backpacks distributed but in the laughter, gratitude, and unity that marked the day.



Families enjoyed snacks like chips and



EDUCATION

A Sweet Start to the School Year



FOBANA

FOBANA 2025 Unites Bangladeshi Diaspora in Atlanta

Three days of culture, business, and community at the 39th convention



James Anderson

The 39th Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA) Convention transformed Atlanta, Georgia into a cultural and community hub from August 29 to 31, 2025, drawing thousands of Bangladeshi-Americans and well-wishers for a weekend of celebration, dialogue, and unity.

Hosted at the Gas South Convention Centre, the convention brought together generations of expatriates under the theme of cultural pride and community progress. The event opened with a grand reception and black-tie dinner, followed by the official opening ceremony where the national anthems of Bangladesh, the United States, and Canada

were performed. Chowdhury Ashik Bin Harun, Chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), joined as chief guest, alongside other dignitaries and community leaders. The ceremony set the tone for a weekend that seamlessly blended tradition with forward-looking initiatives. Cultural performances by Bangladeshi-

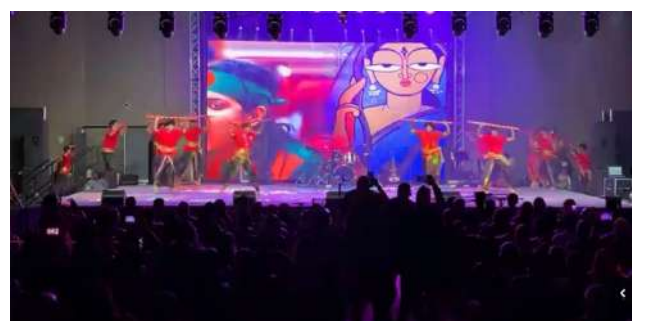
American youth and local artists lit up the stage, showcasing music, dance, and drama that reflected both heritage and contemporary identity. The evenings featured live performances by renowned Bangladeshi celebrities, including Muza, Kona, Pritom, Pratik, and Samina Chowdhury, turning the convention into a festival of song and celebration. Beyond the performances, the convention offered

women's empowerment, health awareness, real estate, and diaspora networking. A dedicated Youth Forum created space for young voices, with panels on storytelling, technology, and innovation, alongside creative workshops like rickshaw art painting and cultural design projects. Stand-up comedy added a fresh dimension, featuring Bangladeshi comedians connecting with diaspora youth in new ways. The convention also hosted a book fair, science fair, and film screenings, ensuring that literature, science, and cinema remained central to the event's cultural footprint. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Embassy Consular Services provided practical support, including digital passport services, making the convention not only festive but

also functional for the diaspora community. Food was another highlight, with a bustling Bangladeshi food court serving traditional flavors that brought attendees closer to home. From street snacks to festive dishes, the culinary experience became a cultural anchor of the three-day gathering. For many attendees, FOBANA 2025 was more than a convention—it was a reunion, a platform for networking, and a reminder of shared identity across borders. As the curtain closed with electrifying performances and heartfelt farewells, the event reaffirmed its role as the largest gathering of the Bangladeshi diaspora in North America, carrying forward a legacy of unity, heritage, and global connection.



a rich program of seminars and forums. Topics ranged from business and investment opportunities to



FOBANA

FOBANA 2025 Unites Bangladeshi Diaspora in Atlanta



FOBANA



Music, Heritage, and Community at Niagara FOBANA

Three-day convention energizes Bangladeshi-American diaspora



William Henry

The roar of Niagara Falls provided a fitting backdrop for the 39th Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA) Convention, which brought together thousands of members of the Bangladeshi diaspora for three

days of culture, unity, and celebration from August 29 to 31, 2025, at the Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls, New York. The convention, one of the largest annual gatherings of Bangladeshi-Americans, opened with a warm reception for the distinguished Chief Guest Dr. Salimullah Khan, who was

welcomed at Buffalo Niagara Falls Airport by conveners and committee leaders, including Kazi Sakawat Hossain Azam, Ali Imam Sikder, Nishan Rahim, Shab Uddin Sagour, and Sadek Bhai. Their presence underscored the significance of the convention as both a cultural celebration and a platform for community

connection. The opening ceremony at 8 p.m. on August 29 set the stage for a weekend filled with music, performances, and thought-provoking discussions. Attendees enjoyed a lineup of star performers from Bangladesh, including celebrated singer Asif Akbar, whose performance added a powerful emotional layer to the festivities. The inclusion of well-known artists alongside local talents highlighted the convention's dual mission of showcasing Bangladeshi heritage while supporting

community voices abroad. Organized by the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA), the convention was more than entertainment—it was a space for dialogue, networking, and cultural affirmation. Leaders and community members engaged in conversations about preserving heritage, empowering youth, and strengthening ties between Bangladesh and its diaspora. With participants traveling from across the United States and Canada, the event truly reflected the global spirit of Bangladeshi identity. Beyond performances and ceremonies, the convention also provided halal Bangladeshi food, ensuring that families could enjoy traditional cuisine while immersing themselves in the cultural atmosphere. For many attendees, the weekend was not just a festival but a reunion—an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, celebrate achievements, and envision a stronger,

united future for Bangladeshi communities in North America. As the second day unfolded with more cultural showcases and community forums, the convention reaffirmed its role as the largest and most anticipated gathering of Bangladeshis in North America. With Niagara Falls as its dramatic backdrop, the event highlighted how the diaspora continues to honor its roots while building bridges of friendship and cooperation abroad. The 39th FOBANA Convention in Niagara Falls will be remembered not only for its vibrant performances and distinguished guests, but also for the powerful sense of unity it fostered among the Bangladeshi-American community—demonstrating once again that even far from home, cultural heritage continues to thrive.



community voices abroad. Organized by the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (FOBANA), the



FOBANA

Music, Heritage, and Community at Niagara FOBANA



All Photo Credit: Neher Siddiquee

FOBANA

Bangladeshi Heritage Celebrated in Montreal

39th FOBANA Convention lights up Montreal



Jessica Morgan

The heart of Montreal came alive as the 39th FOBANA Convention 2025 brought together thousands of Bangladeshi expatriates from across North America for a three-day celebration of culture, community, and heritage. Held from August 29 to 31 at the Plaza Downtown Hotel, the convention

reaffirmed its reputation as the largest annual gathering of Bangladeshis abroad. The festivities opened with a gala dinner on August 29, an invitation-only evening that set the tone for the weekend. Leaders of the Bangladeshi community in Canada and the United States, along with special guests, joined hands to mark the beginning of a program

that blended tradition with modernity. Across the weekend, attendees were treated to a wide range of events — from literature and poetry sessions to business and leadership summits, showcasing the intellectual and professional contributions of the diaspora. The Youth Forum provided an interactive platform for the younger generation

to share ideas on identity, innovation, and leadership, while seminars touched on pressing issues such as immigration, entrepreneurship, and community development. The cultural performances, however, remained the highlight of the convention. Acclaimed Bangladeshi artists lit up the stage, with film star Nusraat Faria, singer Shikrity, Munni, and actor Zayed Khan captivating audiences with music, dance, and drama. The performances

traditions, even while living thousands of miles away. Hosted by Canada-Bangladesh Solidarity (CBS), the event brought together a dedicated organizing team led by Atiqur Rahman (Chairperson), Niehal Rahim (Executive Secretary), Ziaul Haque Zia (Convenor), Iqbal Kabir (Member Secretary), and Abul Hossain Dulal (Chief Coordinator). The tireless efforts of volunteers and community leaders ensured the success of the large-scale convention, which also featured handicraft exhibitions, a fashion show, and a talent showcase. For many, the convention was more than just an annual meeting — it was a reaffirmation of shared identity. Members of the Bangladesh Society of Montreal, including President Muhim Ahmed and Cultural Secretary Jenifer Gomes, proudly attended the opening

ceremony, emphasizing the importance of community solidarity. While some founding members, such as Ezaz Akhtar Toufiq, could not be present, their absence was deeply felt and acknowledged. By the time the convention concluded on August 31, participants carried with them a renewed sense of pride in their heritage and optimism for the future. Whether through networking sessions, cultural displays, or shared meals, FOBANA once again proved its role as a bridge connecting Bangladeshis across borders. As the Federation looks ahead, the 39th Convention in Montreal will be remembered as a milestone — not only for its dazzling performances and high-profile guests, but also for its ability to bring together a global community in the spirit of unity and cultural celebration.



drew loud applause and demonstrated how the diaspora maintains strong ties to Bangladeshi cultural



FOBANA

Bangladeshi Heritage Celebrated in Montreal



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ISNA CONVENTION

Faith and Unity at ISNA 62

Celebrating six decades of service and community

Ashley Reed

The 62nd Annual Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Convention opened with powerful messages of faith, unity, and justice at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois, drawing tens of thousands of Muslims and allies from across the country. The four-day event, held from August 29 to September 1, 2025, marked six decades of ISNA's service to the community and highlighted the organization's continued commitment to empowering American Muslims. The convention began with an All Hands Meeting on August 28, where over 150 volunteers gathered with ISNA leadership to finalize preparations. Dr. Syed Imtiaz Ahmad, ISNA President, and Mir Khan, Chairman of the ISNA Steering Committee, praised the dedication of the volunteers, emphasizing that their work makes



the large-scale event possible.

The official opening featured a Qur'an recitation followed by the national anthem, setting the tone for a weekend of reflection and celebration. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson addressed the crowd, commending ISNA's role in fostering community cohesion and positive change. His presence alongside civic leaders underscored

the significance of ISNA as a bridge between Muslim Americans and the broader society. Friday's Jummah Khutba, delivered by Azhar Azeez, was a highlight of Day 1, calling on attendees to embody justice, mercy, and perseverance in times of global challenge. Throughout the weekend, sessions tackled pressing issues, including racism, faith in turbulent times,

faith while addressing contemporary struggles. Beyond lectures and panels, ISNA 62 provided a vibrant cultural and social experience. The bazaar featured over 600 booths offering books, Islamic clothing, art, and global cuisine. A health fair offered screenings, workshops, and wellness resources, while the youth programs showcased innovation through robotics challenges and a spirited basketball tournament. Creative sessions such as poetry, literature readings, and cultural performances

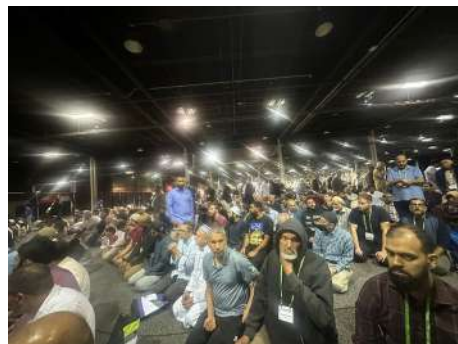
concern for justice and human dignity worldwide. Other discussions addressed healthcare access, women's empowerment, and interfaith collaboration, reinforcing ISNA's mission to bring faith into dialogue with societal challenges. As the convention drew to a close, the atmosphere remained charged with inspiration. Organizers credited the success to the collective effort of volunteers, sponsors, and community partners. "ISNA's annual gathering brings together people from all walks of life to learn, connect, and strengthen our bonds of community," noted Azhar Azeez, a former ISNA president. For attendees, ISNA 62 was more than a conference—it was a reminder of the enduring strength of faith, the richness of diversity, and the power of community working together for a better future.

and advocacy for



Palestine. Scholars such as Mohammad Qatanani, Nihad Awad, Jamillah Karim, Wael Alzayat, and Azhar Azeez led discussions that blended spirituality with social justice, urging participants to stand firm in their

celebrated Muslim identity and diversity in America. The convention also emphasized solidarity with global issues. A session titled "Stand with Gaza" drew large crowds, reflecting the community's shared



ISNA CONVENTION

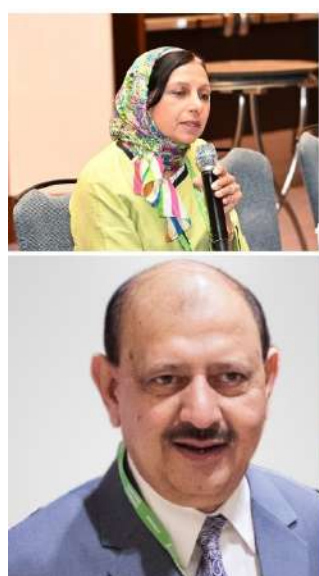
Faith and Unity at ISNA 62

ISNA leaders and 150+ volunteers unite at the All Hands Meeting in Rosemont, IL, gearing up to welcome 20,000 attendees to the 62nd Annual ISNA Convention with teamwork, professionalism, and hospitality.



ISNA CONVENTION

Faith and Unity at ISNA 62



FAITH

Building Faith, Building Futures

JMC Community Tours Expansion Project in Queens

Daniel Matthew

The growing vision of the Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC) took another important step forward on August 31, 2025, when the organization hosted a Community Open House and Construction Tour at its expansion site in Queens, New York. The event, held at 12 PM, invited community members to see firsthand the progress of the mosque's development and to share in the collective pride of building a lasting institution. The construction tour highlighted key milestones in the project, giving attendees an opportunity to observe the transformation of architectural designs into a facility that will serve as a hub for worship, education, and community life. For



many, the tour was not simply about observing walls and domes taking shape, but about recognizing the shared vision of strengthening faith and unity through infrastructure. Organized with the leadership of Aftab Mannan from the Executive Council

(EC) and Board of Trustees (BOT), the event underscored JMC's commitment to inclusivity and transparency. Attendees noted how meaningful it was to be invited into the process, reinforcing their trust and sense of ownership in the project. "This is not only a

construction project, it's a foundation for our future," one organizer reflected, pointing to the importance of preparing spaces where the next generation can learn, worship, and thrive. The open house also served as a prelude to JMC's highly anticipated Annual

Fundraising Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the LaGuardia Airport Marriott. The evening will feature keynote addresses from respected speakers Dr. Zakir Ahmed, Dr. Imam Shamsi Ali, and Imam Abu Jafar Beg, along with leadership guidance from Dr. Nazmul H. Khan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, President of the Executive Council,

\$250 per person or \$1,000 per family, the fundraiser will bring together community leaders, supporters, and families to ensure that the JMC Expansion Project continues to move forward. The August 31 tour reminded the community that every prayer, every donation, and every moment of volunteer service contributes to a greater purpose. The upcoming fundraising dinner is expected to carry that spirit forward, transforming hope and commitment into tangible support for one of New York's most prominent Muslim institutions. As JMC looks to the future, its expansion stands as a symbol of resilience, unity, and shared faith — proof that when a community builds together, it builds stronger.



and Shahriar Rahman, Chairman of the Fundraising Committee. With a suggested minimum donation of



JMC Fundraising Dinner Reservation
 Location: Marriott LaGuardia Airport, 102-05 Ditmars Blvd, Queens, NY
 Date: Saturday, September 6th, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
 Suggested Donation: Individual \$250.00 and Family \$1000.00

CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS
 Please scan this QR code



QR Code Link: <https://forms.gle/2ZDv4v7tQ28kxv02>
 Your size click will help us total Guest count. No need to pay now.
 once we will invoice you via (for email credit review)

Support JMC Expansion!
 Scan the QR code to join JMC's Fundraising Dinner and support the expansion project.

**RESILIENCE
RESISTANCE
RENEWAL**
CHARTING A JUST FUTURE

**LEADERSHIP & POLICY CONFERENCE
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Photos: Zohran Mamdani meets with Queens Muslim leaders to discuss community needs and his vision for NYC.

Mamdani Addresses Western Queens Faith Leaders

NYC Mayoral Hopeful Engages in Dialogue with Muslim Community

Amkel Nourush

Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic nominee for New York City Mayor, met with over 30 Imams and leaders from Western Queens masjids on Saturday,

August 30, 2025, at Gulshan Terrace in Woodside.

The roundtable offered a platform for Mamdani to share his vision for New York City and explain how he plans to address the needs of the Muslim

community if elected. He spoke about his commitments, answered questions, and engaged in dialogue with religious leaders. The gathering drew a strong turnout from community figures, including

representatives from Al Amin Mosque and other Queens institutions. The event was marked by mutual respect, constructive discussion, and a collective focus on civic engagement ahead of the mayoral election.

Piastrri Triumphs at Zandvoort

Norris retires, Verstappen second in dramatic Dutch GP



Photo: Oscar Piastri wins Dutch GP. Image Source: Sportsnet

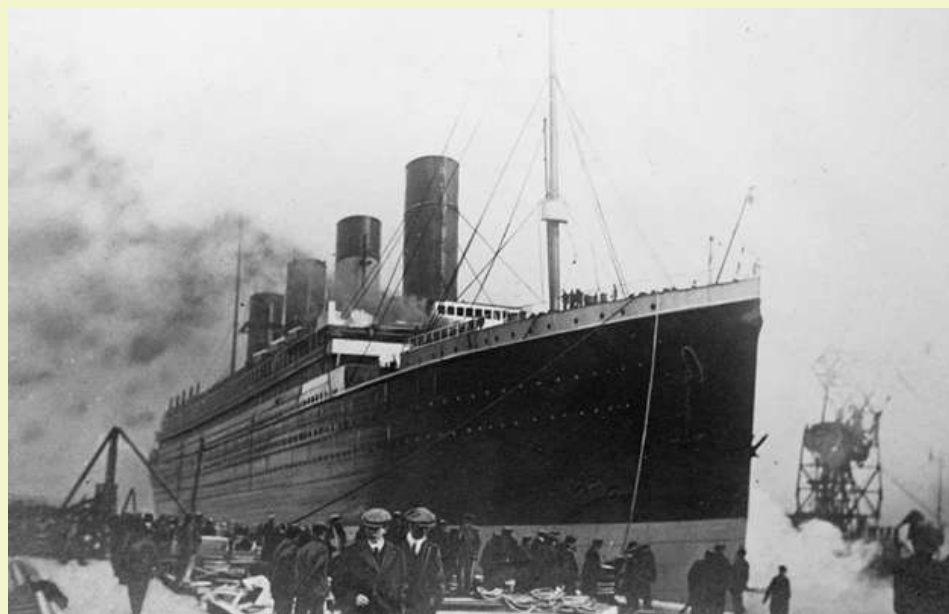
Adrian Smith

Oscar Piastri took a crucial win at the Dutch Grand Prix on September 1, extending his championship lead to 34 points after teammate Lando Norris suffered a late retirement due to an oil leak. Starting from pole, Piastri controlled the race despite three Safety Cars, finishing ahead of Max Verstappen on the Dutchman's home turf. "It feels good... I felt like I was in control," said Piastri after his seventh win in 13 races.

The drama unfolded with Norris chasing Piastri closely before his McLaren gave out with just seven laps to go, forcing him to stop trackside—head in hands, his title hopes in jeopardy. Isack Hadjar, just 20, seized the moment to take his first F1 podium, delivering Racing Bulls' best finish in years. Meanwhile, Lewis Hamilton crashed out early, and Charles Leclerc was forced to retire after contact with Kimi Antonelli, capping a disastrous day for Ferrari.

Titanic Found: Secret Mission Revealed

Discovery cloaked Cold War submarine operation



Photos: The Titanic before it departed on its fateful voyage. It sank on the night of April 14-15, 1912. Image Source: Albert Harlingue/Roger Viollet/Getty Images

Nassr Al Shams

On September 1, 1985, a grainy image of a boiler changed maritime history. Oceanographer Bob Ballard, aboard the research vessel Knorr, had just uncovered the wreck of the Titanic—a find concealed beneath a top-secret Cold War military operation. While the world believed Ballard was purely searching for the sunken ocean liner, the U.S. Navy had funded his mission to explore two lost nuclear submarines, the USS Thresher and USS Scorpion. Ballard negotiated time after those surveys to pursue the Titanic.

HIGHLIGHT

● **Discovered on September 1, 1985, by Bob Ballard**

● **Search for Titanic was cover for a Navy mission**

● **New strategy: follow the debris field, not the ship**

● **Involved prototype deep-sea tech like Argo and ANGUS**

The breakthrough came when Ballard shifted focus—from the ship to its debris field—mirroring what

he had observed with submarine wrecks. This change in strategy, combined with the deep-sea camera system Argo, led to the discovery. The find captivated global audiences, spawning documentaries, museum exhibitions, and even James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster. It also revolutionized deep-sea exploration, proving the power of remotely operated vehicles. Now 40 years on, Ballard continues exploring, leaving future mysteries to the next generation—though not without a few more on his own list.

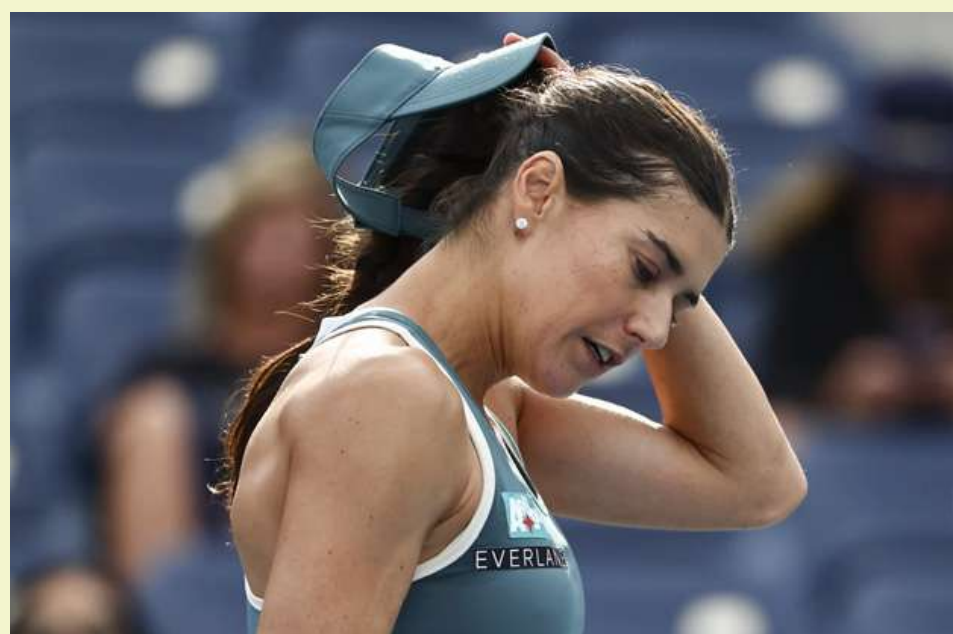


Photo: Romania's Sorana Cirstea. Image Source: AP Photo/Andres Kudacki

Cirstea's Trophy Stolen

Romanian tennis star pleads for return

Julian Alvez

Sorana Cirstea, a 35-year-old tennis player from Romania, reported the theft of her Cleveland championship trophy from her New York City hotel room during the U.S. Open. In an Instagram post on Saturday night, Cirstea pleaded for the trophy's return, writing, "It has NO material value, just sentimental value." The trophy was stolen from room 314 at The Fifty Sonesta, while she was competing in Flushing Meadows.

HIGHLIGHT

● **Sorana Cirstea's Cleveland trophy stolen from NYC hotel**

● **Incident occurred during US Open stay at Fifty Sonesta**

● **Trophy holds sentimental, not material, value**

● **Cirstea lost to Karolina Muchova in second round**

● **Hotel declined to comment on theft**

Cirstea had recently claimed her third career singles title at the Cleveland tournament, a key warmup for the Grand Slam event. She was later eliminated in the second round by No. 11 seed Karolina Muchova. The hotel has not commented on the incident. The theft adds an unfortunate twist to Cirstea's U.S. Open campaign, highlighting the vulnerability of athletes' personal belongings during major events.