



New College Prep High School for Students Dreaming of Attending an HBCU

page-02



A Night of Faith and Reflection at Mawlid Nabi 2025

page-06



Eid Milad-un-Nabi Observed with Procession and Mahfil in Bronx

page-08



Backpacks and Brighter Futures at Elhaam Academy

page-12

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 07, 2025

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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Russia Hits Kyiv Government Building

Largest drone assault of war leaves civilian deaths

Lily Anderson

Russia unleashed its largest aerial assault of the war overnight into Sunday, striking a Ukrainian government building in Kyiv for the first time and killing at least four people across the country, including an infant.

HIGHLIGHT

●Russia launched 810 drones, 4 ballistic missiles, and 9 cruise missiles overnight into Sunday.

●A Kyiv government building housing the prime minister's office was struck for the first time.

●At least four people were killed, including an infant, and 44 wounded across Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Air Force reported that 810 drones, along with four ballistic missiles and nine cruise missiles, were launched. Air defenses intercepted the majority, but 54 drones and nine missiles hit targets in Kyiv, Kryvyi Rih, Dnipro, Kremenchuk, Odesa and other cities. In the capital, the building housing the prime minister's office and ministries sustained roof

and upper floor damage. "This was a massive attack," said Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, who praised rescuers working to contain fires at the government quarter. "We will rebuild the buildings. But the lives lost cannot be brought back." In Kyiv's Sviatoshynskiy district, a nine-floor apartment block was partially destroyed, and fires erupted in multiple high-rises. Rescuers recovered the body of an infant, while a young woman was also killed. Mayor Vitali Klitschko described the destruction as severe, with at least 18 people wounded in the capital alone. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the strikes as "a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war," urging the international community to show "political will" to stop Moscow's attacks. French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also denounced the assault, pledging continued support for Ukraine. Residents described the attack as the most terrifying since the war began in February 2022. "We live from attack to attack, from strike to strike," said one woman near the blast site.



Photo: Trump Restores 'Department of War' Image Source: ABC News

Trump Renames Pentagon

Executive order rebrands the nation's military headquarters

Alexandar Sullivan

In a move steeped in history and symbolism, President Donald Trump on Friday signed an executive order renaming the Department of Defense as the Department of War, marking a sharp rhetorical departure from decades of U.S. military framing. The new title, which mirrors the department's original name from 1789 to 1947, will now appear in official White House statements and federal correspondence. Trump presented the change during a signing ceremony in the Oval Office, describing it as part of a broader rejection of what he called "woke" ideology within the military. "We

HIGHLIGHT

●Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday renaming the Department of Defense as the Department of War.

●The change echoes the department's original name, used from 1789 to 1947.

won the First World War. We won the Second World War. We won everything before that and in between. And then we decided to go woke, and we changed the name to Department of Defense," he said. "We should have won everywhere. We could have won every war." Administration officials clarified that while

the executive order allows the use of "Department of War" as a secondary title, formal adoption would still require Congressional legislation. Several Republican lawmakers, including Rep. Greg Steube of Florida and Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, have already introduced bills to codify the change. At the ceremony, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, now referred to as Secretary of War, praised the move as a restoration of America's fighting spirit. "The War Department is going to fight decisively, not endless conflicts. It's going to fight to win, not not to lose," Hegseth said. "Maximum lethality, not tepid legality. Violent effect, not politically correct." The

rebranding comes amid intensified U.S. military activity, including recent airstrikes in Yemen, Iran, and the southern Caribbean Sea, one of which killed 11 people aboard a small boat the administration described as linked to narcotics trafficking. Critics argue such actions highlight the dangers of abandoning a defense-oriented posture. The original switch from War to Defense in 1947 was meant to emphasize prevention over combat during the nuclear age. Trump's reversal, however, underscores his administration's intent to project strength and redefine America's military identity for a new era.

The Short

Double Stabbing at Brooklyn IHOP Restaurant

page-02

Building Inclusive Growth Through Decent Work

page-03

Historic Recognition for Masjid Al Abidin

page-04

A Morning of Food, Fun, and Fellowship

page-10

Carlo Acutis Named First Millennial Saint

Pope Leo XIV canonizes 15-year-old "God's influencer"

John Paul

Pope Leo XIV on Sunday declared Carlo Acutis, a London-born Italian teen who died in 2006, the Catholic Church's first millennial saint. Canonized during an open-air Mass in St. Peter's Square before an estimated 80,000 people, Acutis was celebrated as "God's influencer" for harnessing technology to share his faith.



Photo: Pope Leo XIV declares teen computer whiz Carlo Acutis the first millennial saint Image Source: abc7chicago.com

Acutis, born in 1991, developed websites documenting Eucharistic

miracles while limiting his own screen time, embodying a balance

between digital life and spiritual devotion. His death from leukemia at age 15 left a lasting legacy that drew millions of pilgrims to his tomb in Assisi. "The greatest risk in life is to waste it outside of God's plan," Pope Leo said in his homily, urging young Catholics to emulate Acutis' example of turning ordinary life into a "masterpiece." The canonization also honored Pier Giorgio

Frassati, a 20th-century Italian known for his service to the poor. For the Vatican, Acutis' sainthood marks a bid to inspire a new generation of believers in the digital age.

NEW YORK NEWS

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 07, 2025

ISSUE-44

Please send news to

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Published by NYNN

New York News Networks



Remembering the Life and Legacy of Late Alhaj Maqbool Ahamed Chowdhury

Page-03

COMMUNITY NEWS



New College Prep High School for Students Dreaming of Attending an HBCU



Staff Reporter

HBCU Early College Prep High School (HBCUECP) is one of seven new schools to open this academic year, and the first school of its kind in New York City. This new school allows students

to earn college credits and leave high school with an associate's degree. Notably, the school is specifically geared towards students who aspire to one day attend an HBCU -- that is, a Historically Black College or University. HBCU schools were crucial

providers of higher education to Black Americans when they were still excluded from enrolling in other colleges and universities. Even now, after the Civil Rights Movement greatly expanded access to education, HBCU schools remain a source of connection, community and pride in overcoming adversity. "Rooted in the legacy of HBCUs, we prepare scholars with the academic excellence, cultural pride, and real-world skills to lead and thrive in college, career, and life," HBCUECP's mission statement reads. "Right here in southeast Queens you will experience some of that HBCU magic, right now in real time, while walking a path where high school collides with higher

education," said Dr. Shawn Rux, senior executive director of the NYC Dept. of Education. On Thursday, the school opened its doors for the first time to welcome an inaugural class of eager young scholars with big dreams. "I want to study law, major in political science," student Chance Thomas shared. "I knew this was the community I wanted to be part of," said student Riley Douglas, who hopes to attend Spelman College. "As soon as I heard of HBCU Early College Prep, I knew this is where I belonged." Students' parents were also excited about the opportunity. "College is hard... so many kids attempt to go to college and do not have the

opportunity to go to college, so to have a school get a kickstart and get an early education towards that is a plus," said dad Nigel Douglas. Education and city leaders spoke at an event honoring the opening of the school. "We need an HBCU to allow you to become who you want to become," Mayor Eric Adams told the student body. "You are the inaugural class of this historic school that represents years of hard work and transformation of your ancestors, who made sure the paved way was available and accessible to you. You are our future, we are turning it over to you to make it better," Melissa Aviles-Ramos, the Chancellor of New York City Public Schools, addressed the first class.

People Injured after Traffic Pole Collapses Outside NYC Central Park



NYN DESK

Multiple people were injured Saturday morning on the Upper West Side after a light pole and traffic light came crashing to the ground, a police spokesperson confirmed and photos from the incident show. A police spokesperson told West Side Rag that a light pole fell to

the ground at the corner of West 81st Street and Central Park West around 10:45 a.m., while "maintenance work" was taking place. Four people were injured in the incident, all transported to Mount Sinai Morningside in stable condition, NYPD added. Police would not provide more details about how the light pole was knocked to the

ground, but Rick Smolan, who arrived at the scene moments after it happened, told the Rag that it appeared like the top of a truck struck elevated electrical wires at the nearby intersection, which then pulled down the light poles and traffic lights. "Bystanders immediately started helping people who were hurt," Smolan told the Rag on a phone call. "It was great to see everybody step in and help." "It's a miracle the weight of the traffic light that fell on them didn't kill them," Smolan added, while also mentioning that the driver of the truck proceeded to climb to the top of his vehicle to untangle it from the wires, so that the intersection would not be blocked off to traffic. "Passersby yelled at him to be careful because everyone was worried the wires were hot and that he was going to electrocute himself," Smolan said. There have been no arrests and the investigation remains ongoing, police said.

Frankie Focus visits NYC Middle School

Staff Reporter

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul had a special friend join her for the first day of school for New York City students on Thursday. Mascot Frankie Focus joined the governor at M.S. 582 in East Williamsburg as the new bell-to-bell cellphone ban goes into effect across the state. He was on a special assignment: to get students excited about not having their cellphones in school. "I've got a friend here, one of my best friends who I want you to get to



know, Frankie Focus, he's introduced here today for the very first time," Hochul said. "He doesn't say a lot, he's kind of quiet ... But he is very focused on learning in school, focused on the teachers, focused on making friends." Hochul previously spoke to Eyewitness News about the phone ban and

said she believes it will be transformational and a "profound change" for students. She told the students at M.S. 582 that the ban will help them keep learning in a distraction-free environment. "You don't realize it right now, but at the end of this school year, you're going to be happier, have more friends, be smarter, and that's what we're here in school for," she told the Bulldogs on Thursday morning. The middle school will use Yondr pouches for students to keep their phones locked up for the day.

Double Stabbing at Brooklyn IHOP Restaurant



NYN DESK

Police in Brooklyn continue to investigate a double stabbing on Friday night at an IHOP restaurant that left one man dead and another seriously wounded. A person of interest is being questioned in connection with the violence that occurred at the chain eatery located at 11000 Flatlands Ave. in East New York just after 10:30 p.m. on Sept. 5. Officers from the 75th Precinct responded to the location and found two victims: a 41-year-old man stabbed in the left arm, and 67-year-old Hector Reinoso-Perez, of Pennsylvania Avenue in Brooklyn, who suffered a knife wound to his stomach. EMS rushed Reinoso-Perez to Brookdale University Hospital, where he later died of his injuries.

The other man was not hospitalized for his injuries, police reported. As day broke on Saturday morning, NYPD Crime Scene Unit members were still scouring the area outside the IHOP looking for evidence. A blood-covered apron was found on the ground with an evidence marker near the entrance. Later, one of the victims' family members arrived at the scene looking for answers as well. Charges against the person of interest being questioned by police are still pending the results of the ongoing investigation, police sources said. It was the second emergency incident involving an IHOP restaurant in Brooklyn in as many days. On Friday morning, nine people were injured when a ceiling collapsed at an IHOP location in Georgetown.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:13	12:53	04:29	07:18	08:33
05:14	12:53	04:28	07:16	08:32
05:15	12:53	04:27	07:14	08:30
05:16	12:52	04:26	07:13	08:28
05:17	12:52	04:25	07:11	08:26
05:18	12:52	04:24	07:09	08:24
05:19	12:51	04:23	07:08	08:22

OPINION

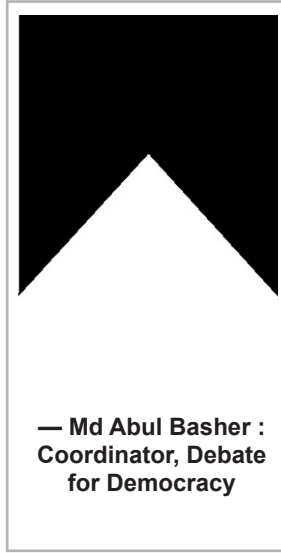
Remembering the Life and Legacy of Late Alhaj Maqbool Ahamed Chowdhury

— Md Abul Basher

In the passing of Alhaj Maqbool Ahamed Chowdhury, the nation bids farewell to a man whose life was defined by hard work, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to both faith and community. A distinguished figure in the chemical business sector, he was more than a successful entrepreneur; he was a benefactor, a community builder, and a guiding presence for his family and admirers alike. Born into a generation that knew struggle and sacrifice, Chowdhury's life was marked by resilience and achievement. Through decades of effort, he established himself as a prominent businessman while never losing sight of his responsibility to society. His contributions extended far beyond the marketplace. He invested in education, religious institutions, and community welfare—leaving behind

a legacy of service that will continue to benefit generations. The depth of his commitment can be seen in the institutions he helped establish, such as the Fatema (R.A.) Women's Dakhil Madrasa in Panpara, Ramganj, Lakshmipur. His vision ensured that women in his native region had access to faith-based education, a cause still too often neglected. In this way, he embodied the belief that true success lies not in accumulation but in giving back.

Chowdhury's character was equally reflected in his humility and devotion to family. He endured life's trials



— Md Abul Basher :
Coordinator, Debate
for Democracy

with patience, raised his children with values of service and integrity, and supported countless relatives and well-wishers who looked to him for guidance. His faith was not only personal but also practical—visible in the way he lived, led, and gave.

His death on September 1, 2025, at the age of 85, following a heart attack at United Hospital in Dhaka, marks the end of an era. Yet his burial at the Mohammadpur Eidgah graveyard, attended by loved ones

after two separate Namaz-e-Janaza, is a reminder that his influence does not end with his passing. It lives

on through his children, including ATN Bangla Director and Debate for Democracy Chairman Hassan Ahamed Chowdhury Kiron, his grandchildren, and the institutions he founded. National leaders joined the chorus of grief, with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir expressing deep sorrow and offering prayers for his departed soul. Such condolences underscore the breadth of respect he commanded, spanning beyond business circles to political and civic life. As we remember him, we also reflect on the values he stood for: integrity in work, generosity in service, and steadfastness in faith. His story is not just one of individual achievement but of communal enrichment. In honoring his life, we are reminded of our own duty to carry forward the spirit of service that he embodied so completely.

“

“True success lies not in accumulation but in giving back — a principle that defined Alhaj Maqbool Ahamed Chowdhury's life and legacy.”



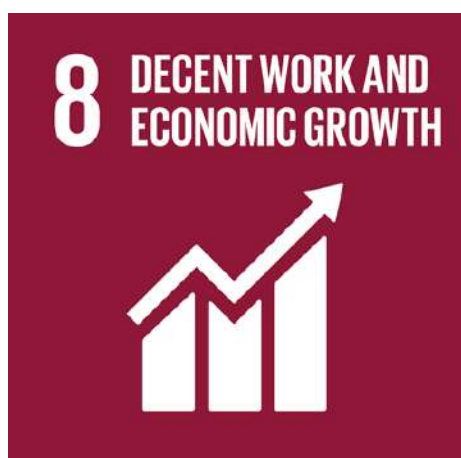
Photo: Late Alhaj Maqbool Ahamed Chowdhury

“

“His contributions to education, faith, and community welfare stand as enduring symbols of his devotion to society and to Allah.”

Building Inclusive Growth Through Decent Work

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8) calls for promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. In a world where

economic disparities continue to widen, this goal stands as both a challenge and an opportunity. Economic growth should not be measured merely by numbers on a chart, but by the impact it has on the dignity and well-being of people. Work is more than a livelihood—it is a source of identity, stability, and empowerment. Ensuring that every person has access to fair wages, safe working conditions, and opportunities for advancement is not just an economic imperative, but a moral one. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted



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

the fragility of global labor markets, leaving millions unemployed and vulnerable. Informal workers, women, and young people have been disproportionately affected, often trapped in cycles of poverty with little protection. SDG 8 reminds us that recovery cannot be about returning to old systems of inequality—it must focus on building resilient economies that prioritize inclusion and justice. That means fostering entrepreneurship, investing in small businesses, empowering women and youth, and ensuring labor rights are

upheld for all. Sustainable economic growth must also be green and future-oriented. Decent work cannot exist in a world plagued by climate crises. Transitioning to renewable energy, sustainable industries, and environmentally friendly technologies offers not only the chance to protect our planet but also to create millions of new jobs. By rethinking how we work and produce, humanity has the opportunity to reshape economies into engines of fairness, equity, and sustainability. The vision of SDG 8 is clear: economic growth must leave no one behind. It must value people over profit, justice over exploitation, and sustainability over short-term gain. As global citizens, we must strive for a future where every worker has dignity, every community has opportunity, and every nation has the tools to thrive.

FAITH AND UNITY

Historic Recognition for Masjid Al Abidin

Street Naming Ceremony Unites Queens Community



Emily Parker

A proud chapter of Queens' immigrant history was written into the city's streetscape as the intersection of 127th Street and Liberty Avenue was

officially co-named "Masjid Al Abidin Way." The ceremony, held in Richmond Hill, brought together residents, civic leaders, and interfaith representatives to honor the enduring legacy of one of the borough's

most prominent mosques. Founded as Queens' first predominantly Guyanese-established mosque, Masjid Al Abidin has long stood as a beacon of faith and community

service. The street naming represents not just recognition of the institution's role, but also a collective acknowledgment of the resilience and contributions of the Muslim and immigrant populations who call Queens home. The event drew notable figures including New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., and Imam Shaykh Safraz Bacchus of Masjid Al Abidin. Also in attendance was Ty Hankerson, Chief of Staff for the City Council Speaker's Office, along with local faith leaders, business owners, and families from across the neighborhood. "Today, the community came together as one from all walks of life to share in this special moment," one attendee reflected, capturing the atmosphere of unity and

pride that permeated the gathering. The street naming was the culmination of years of grassroots organizing, with many individuals remembered for their pivotal roles. Among them was Mohammed Salim, whose tireless work to gather signatures and rally support for the initiative was fondly acknowledged. His passing was felt deeply at the ceremony, but his vision and commitment were honored as integral to the day's success. Speakers emphasized that the co-naming was not about individual recognition but rather a shared milestone. Imam Bacchus highlighted the broader meaning: "This renaming is not about personal recognition—it's a celebration of our shared vision and what we can achieve when we come together with purpose, sincerity, and love for our neighbors." Support for the

initiative extended well beyond the Muslim community, with letters of endorsement and visible presence from Hindu, Christian, and Jewish leaders as well as the Consulate of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. The 106th Precinct also stood in solidarity, reinforcing the deep ties between the mosque and local institutions. As the new street sign was unveiled, smiles and heartfelt prayers filled the air. The designation of "Masjid Al Abidin Way" now stands as a permanent reminder of faith, service, and unity, marking the contributions of generations past while inspiring those yet to come. For the community, it was more than a symbolic gesture—it was a historic day that etched their story into the fabric of New York City.



FAITH AND UNITY

Historic Recognition for Masjid Al Abidin



FAITH

A Night of Faith and Reflection at Mawlid Nabi 2025

Community gathers to honor the life and message of the Prophet (PBUH)



James Anderson

The night of Mawlid Nabi 2025 was one of devotion, remembrance, and unity as the community gathered at Ansarudeen Masjid NY to honor the birth and life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Held from the evening into the early hours of the morning, the program was marked

by Quran recitations, moving praises, speeches from scholars, and heartfelt prayers that left a lasting impact on all who attended. The event opened with a Quran recitation by Mustafa Dia, setting a reverent tone for the evening. This was followed by a Mawlid led by Shaykh Ibrahim Ahmed, with praises of the Prophet

echoing throughout the gathering. In his welcoming words, Shaykh Ibrahim reminded participants of the importance of reflection and unity during this blessed occasion. Throughout the night, the audience was immersed in sessions of Hamziya and Lamiya—traditional poems praising Rasulallah (PBUH). The Seerah

session, focusing on the Prophet's life and timeless teachings, was delivered by Imam Mohammed Ndiaye, who drew thoughtful lessons on faith, compassion, and responsibility. Additional reflections were shared by community leaders including Aliou Gadji, who joined others in emphasizing the importance of carrying forward the Prophet's



message in today's world. Speeches from Zahra Niass and Zahra Thiam added further reflections before the official ceremony conducted by Bamba Sall. Later, Baba Lamine Ahmed Niass, Sheikh Omar Karaw Niass,

and President Mansour Jasseh addressed the gathering, each highlighting the enduring relevance of the Prophet's example in navigating modern challenges. At the blessed gathering, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah reminded the community of the importance of education, stating: "Our children are our future, and their education is our greatest investment." The program was also uplifted with zikr, the remembrance of Allah through recitation and reflection, filling hearts with love for the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Zahra Niass shared a heartfelt reminder on solidarity and compassion: "The believers are like one body; if one part hurts, the whole body feels the pain." Meanwhile, Khalifa Ibrahim Ahmed Dame Niass highlighted the Prophet's mission with a timeless teaching: "I was only sent to perfect good character."

The call for unity was echoed throughout the night, with participants reminded that "Unity is what allows us to face our challenges—whether urgent or not urgent—with strength, wisdom, and dignity." The program built to a spiritual crescendo with multiple rounds of praises of Rasulallah (PBUH), culminating in the Bourdah recitation, followed by Khatmul Quran and closing prayers led by Shaykh Ibrahim. The evening concluded with food generously provided by Senewagn, bringing the community together in fellowship and gratitude. By the early hours, the atmosphere at Ansarudeen Masjid NY was filled with a profound sense of faith and solidarity. For many, Mawlid Nabi 2025 was not only an occasion to honor the Prophet but also a reminder of the enduring values of humility, service, education, and unity that he embodied.



EDUCATION

Elhaam Academy Welcomes Families for Orientation Event

Parents meet staff and explore resources ahead of new school year



William Henry

With the excitement of a new academic year in the air, Elhaam Academy welcomed families for its annual Parent Orientation, an event designed to strengthen ties between home and school while preparing students for a successful year ahead. Parents and guardians

gathered in a warm, collaborative setting where information, expectations, and resources were shared to ensure a smooth transition into the new school term. The orientation served as a meet-and-greet for families and educators, offering parents the chance to connect with teachers, explore the

school environment, and gain a clearer understanding of the programs and initiatives that will guide students throughout the year. Administrators highlighted the academy's commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, and strong communication between the school and

its families. During the session, parents received essential information about school policies, classroom expectations, and available support services. Teachers introduced themselves and discussed their approaches to fostering not only academic achievement but also character development and community spirit. The event emphasized transparency and teamwork—ensuring that parents understand their role as active



partners in their children's education. Attendees were also encouraged to ask questions and share

their thoughts, creating a space for dialogue and collaboration. Parents noted that the orientation helped them feel more engaged and prepared, easing anxieties about the year ahead and building confidence in the school's ability to provide a nurturing and effective learning environment. One organizer explained the importance of the gathering by noting that orientation is an opportunity to "introduce the school, share important details, and strengthen the relationship between parents and educators." The goal, they added, is to align families and staff around a shared vision of growth and success. The sense of community was palpable throughout the event, as families connected not only with teachers but also with one another. This aspect of the orientation underscored Elhaam

Academy's broader mission: to create a supportive network where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally with the backing of both their educators and their families. By the end of the orientation, it was clear that the event was more than just an exchange of information—it was the beginning of a partnership. With parents equipped with knowledge and a strong sense of connection, and teachers energized by the support of families, Elhaam Academy is poised to embark on a school year full of opportunity, growth, and achievement. The Parent Orientation stands as a reminder that education flourishes when schools and families work together, hand in hand, to shape not only brighter students but stronger communities.



RELIGION

Eid Milad-un-Nabi Observed with Procession and Mahfil in Bronx Bronx United International Brings Community Together



Daniel Matthew

The Bronx came alive with faith and unity on Friday, September 5, 2025, as the Bronx United International Miladun-Nabi Celebration Committee

hosted a grand Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) Rally and Mahfil. Held at the parking lot of Bangla Bazar Jamme Masjid on Odel Street, the event drew a large crowd of worshippers, families, and community leaders

who came together to honor the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The evening began with a vibrant rally that set out from Bangla Bazar Jamme Masjid, with participants

marching in celebration of the Prophet's life and teachings. The procession concluded at the mosque parking lot, where the formal mahfil took place. The program ran from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., featuring Qur'an recitations, religious lectures, and heartfelt reminders of the Prophet's enduring message of compassion, justice, and mercy. Distinguished guest speakers enriched the gathering with their insights. Sheikh Imam Abdur Rahim Asmarani, a noted English speaker from Philadelphia, Quari Sheikh Ahmad Bin Yusuf, a world-renowned Qur'an reciter and judge from Bangladesh, moved attendees with his powerful recitations. Scholars including Moulana Sheikh Ainul Huda, Moulana Hussain Muhammad Aroz Ali, and Moulana Abdullah

Zubair also delivered lectures, emphasizing the importance of unity, moral character, and service to the community. The event was presided over by Moulana Abdur Kashem Eahea, President of the Bronx United International Miladun-Nabi Celebration Committee, and hosted by Hafiz Wahi Ahmed Chowdhury, the Committee's Secretary. Together, they highlighted the importance of such gatherings in strengthening community ties and fostering a sense of shared spiritual identity. Organizers ensured the program was welcoming and inclusive, with separate seating for sisters and dinner served to all participants. The celebration underscored the Bronx Muslim community's

commitment to preserving its religious traditions while fostering solidarity among diverse groups. For many, the evening was more than just a commemoration of the Prophet's birth—it was a living reminder of the values he embodied and the importance of carrying those teachings into daily life. The rally and mahfil brought together Muslims of all ages, serving as both a spiritual renewal and a community celebration. As the night concluded, participants left with a renewed sense of purpose, inspired by the unity, devotion, and messages of hope shared throughout the event. The Bronx United International gathering reaffirmed that Eid Milad-un-Nabi is not only a celebration of the past but a guiding light for the future.



INSTITUTION

Community Unites for JMC Expansion Fundraiser

Support Grows as Leaders, Guests, and Families Gather

Daniel Matthew

The Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC) in Queens took a major step toward realizing its ambitious expansion project with a highly anticipated fundraising dinner held on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at the LaGuardia Airport Marriott. The event drew community members, religious leaders, and civic representatives for an evening that blended inspiration, unity, and a shared vision for the future.

The dinner featured an impressive lineup of keynote speakers, including Sheikh Hasan Abu Naar, Dr. Zakir Ahmed, Dr. Imam Shamsi Ali, and Imam Abu Jafar Beg, whose messages emphasized the importance of



community service, faith, and building institutions that can serve generations to come. Their remarks reinforced the mission of JMC's expansion: to provide greater educational, religious, and social resources for the growing Muslim

community in Queens. Leadership from JMC, including Dr. Nazmul H. Khan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, President of JMC; and Shahriar Rahman, Chairman of the Fundraising Committee, welcomed attendees



and expressed gratitude for their continued

support. Their words highlighted the project's goal of strengthening JMC as a hub not just for worship but also for education, youth programs, and community development. Adding to the evening's significance was the presence of Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani, whose attendance underscored the wider community and civic importance of JMC's role in Queens. His participation was warmly received and reflected the event's theme of bridging faith, service, and civic engagement. Community members gathered in large numbers, contributing both financially and through their encouragement for

the expansion project. The event provided not only an opportunity to raise vital funds but also a chance to celebrate the collective strength and resilience of a community deeply invested in its future. As the evening came to a close, a spirit of unity and optimism filled the room. The JMC expansion project, supported by leaders, families, and civic representatives alike, now stands as a beacon of faith, service, and community empowerment. With continued commitment, the project is poised to transform JMC into an even more vibrant institution, ready to meet the needs of the present while laying a strong foundation for the future.



MEET AND GREET

A Morning of Food, Fun, and Fellowship

Families gather at Elhaam Academy for a community breakfast



Jessica Morgan

A spirit of warmth and togetherness filled Elhaam Academy on the morning of Saturday, September 6, 2025, as families

gathered for a special community breakfast. The event brought students, parents, and staff under one roof to share a meal, enjoy creative activities, and strengthen connections

within the growing school community. Children led the way in energy and enthusiasm, spending much of the morning engaged in arts and painting projects that filled the

room with color and creativity. While the students worked on their artwork, parents enjoyed the opportunity to connect with one another, exchanging conversations in a relaxed meet-and-greet setting. The informal environment encouraged families to get to know each other, laying the foundation for stronger bonds in the school year ahead. The breakfast table itself was a highlight of the morning, laden with a wide variety of foods that catered to both adults and children. Families enjoyed flaky croissants, soft sliced bread, and cookies, paired with spreads like peanut butter, grape jelly, and Philadelphia

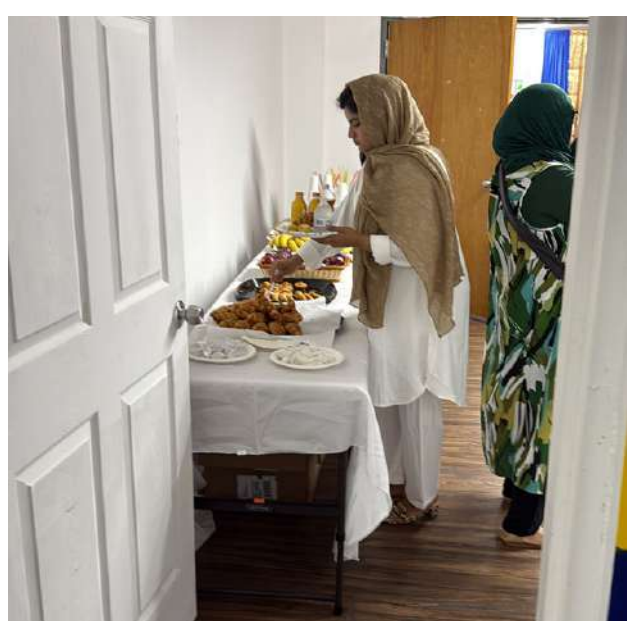
cream cheese. For those who preferred something fresh, there were bananas, plums, strawberries, and grapes, all neatly arranged and eagerly shared among attendees. To round out the offerings, guests had their pick of refreshing beverages, including Tropicana orange juice and organic apple juice. Bottled water ensured everyone stayed hydrated. Parents noted that the gathering was not just about food but about creating an environment where families could feel part of something larger than themselves. By bringing people together in a casual and friendly setting, Elhaam Academy reinforced its

mission of supporting not just the educational needs of children but also the social and cultural needs of families in the community. For many in attendance, the event was a reminder of how important it is to begin the school year with unity and shared purpose. The morning concluded with smiles, laughter, and a sense of optimism for what lies ahead. The community breakfast at Elhaam Academy was more than a meal—it was an affirmation of connection, care, and collective spirit. Families left with full hearts, ready to embark on a new school year rooted in community and mutual support.



MEET AND GREET

A Morning of Food, Fun, and Fellowship



EDUCATION

Making a Difference Together

Zakat Foundation's donation ensures students start the year prepared



A major moment of the day came when Mira Rahman of the Zakat Foundation of America took part in distributing backpacks to students, alongside event organizers and volunteers. Her presence underscored the Foundation's hands-on commitment to

thanks to the Zakat Foundation, noting that without their generosity, such a successful event would not have been possible. The atmosphere throughout the day reflected more than just the excitement of receiving school supplies. It was

the broader mission of fostering education, equity, and opportunity for the families of Queens. Parents expressed gratitude for the chance to access supplies while their children felt the thrill of being celebrated as students embarking on a new academic journey. The event also highlighted the vital role schools like Elhaam Academy play—not only as centers of learning but as hubs of service, care, and connection. By the time the final backpack was handed out, the mood was one of accomplishment and hope. The Back-to-School Bash was more than a giveaway—it was a reminder that when communities come together, they can create brighter futures for their children. Families left not only with supplies but also with a renewed sense of encouragement, knowing they are supported by a network that values education and unity.

Ashley Reed

The Zakat Foundation of America, which generously donated most of the school supplies, played a central role in making the Back-to-School Bash at Elhaam Academy in Jamaica, NY, recently, a resounding success. Hosted by Save the People USA in collaboration with

the Zakat Foundation, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., and Elhaam Academy, the event brought together families, students, and community leaders in celebration of the new academic year. The giveaway of backpacks filled with essential supplies brought visible joy to children and relief to

many parents. Lines formed as families eagerly awaited their turn, underscoring both the need for and appreciation of such community-driven initiatives. Organizers noted that supplies were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, making each gift all the more meaningful for those who received them.



ZAKAT
FOUNDATION
of AMERICA



Donovan Richards Jr.
QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT



investing in education and supporting families directly. Event organizers and Elhaam Academy leadership extended heartfelt

about belonging, encouragement, and shared responsibility. As families mingled, the presence of community partners reinforced



EDUCATION

Making a Difference Together



BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Queens Comes Together for 5th Annual Community Day

Save The People Joins 5th Annual Community Day with Resources and Fun



Alex Mason

The heart of Southeast Queens was alive with energy and unity on Saturday, September 6, as Assemblywoman Alicia L. Hyndman hosted her 5th Annual Community Day at 232-06 Merrick Boulevard.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., families, community leaders, and local organizations gathered for a day filled with resources, activities, and celebration of neighborhood spirit. The event drew a distinguished lineup of leaders, including

Congressman Gregory Meeks, Borough President Donovan Richards, Senator Leroy Comrie, Council Members Selvena Brooks-Powers and Dr. Nantasha Williams, and Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz. Their presence underscored

the importance of collaboration between elected officials and grassroots organizations in supporting the community. Among the participating organizations, Save The People USA stood out with an engaging table that brought smiles to children and families. Interns from the group offered face painting and canvas painting activities, while also distributing bookbags



and toys to help prepare young students for the

school year ahead. The interactive space created by Save The People reflected the organization's commitment to uplifting families through service and creativity. Representing the organization was Executive Director Kelly Watts, who emphasized the mission of Save The People to build stronger, more connected communities. The organization's hands-on involvement highlighted how local nonprofits are working side by side with public officials to bring joy and practical resources to residents. The day also featured a bustling Kids Zone, vendor booths, and informational resources designed to connect families with services across Queens. Residents explored opportunities ranging from health and wellness support to education and civic engagement, all while enjoying a festive neighborhood

atmosphere. Assemblywoman Hyndman's annual Community Day has become a staple in the borough, offering both celebration and essential resources to families. With music, laughter, and community partnerships filling Merrick Boulevard, the event once again proved to be a model of what can be achieved when leaders, organizations, and residents come together with a shared purpose. As the day concluded, gratitude was expressed to Assemblywoman Hyndman for her leadership in creating a platform that continues to uplift Queens year after year. For families, organizations, and leaders alike, the 5th Annual Community Day was more than an event—it was a powerful reminder of the strength and unity that define the Queens community.



BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Queens Comes Together for 5th Annual Community Day



NGO

Shared Struggles, Shared Joy

DRUM Anniversary Picnic Brings Community Together Through Rain



Noah Presley

The skies opened up and rain poured down, but the spirit of community shone brightly as DRUM Beats hosted a celebratory picnic marking DRUM's anniversary. What began as a day of disrupted plans transformed into

a powerful reminder of resilience, solidarity, and the strength of the Bangladeshi American community. Despite forecasts and unexpected showers, attendees came together under shared tents and even makeshift shelters crafted from plastic

rugs, ensuring everyone was protected from the downpour. What could have been a day of disappointment turned into one of togetherness, with participants sharing food, laughter, and stories like an extended family. As one organizer put it, "That's the beauty of how collective

struggles can unite us to fight together." The event drew a notable lineup of leaders who braved the rain to stand alongside the community. Among them were Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Council Member Shahana Hanif, Assemblymember Bobby Carroll, and mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani,

connections between local leadership and grassroots organizations. Special gratitude was expressed to Kazi Fouzia for her kind invitation and hospitality, which ensured the gathering remained joyous even under wet skies. The picnic also saw participation from respected community figures including Shahnewaz Bhai and family, Zahid Mintu Bhai, Sohel Mahmud, Iqbal Haider, Bakhtiar Bhai, Mia Kader, Mofiz Bhai, Fahad Solaiman, Rahim Hawlader, Moinul Mahbub, Ahsan Habib, Nazmul Bhai, Sadi Mintu, Monir Bhai, and many others, alongside families, friends, and DRUM members. Their willingness to show up "rain or shine" reflected the dedication that has long defined the organization's

supporters. Media outlets such as Time TV, TVN 24, and The New York Times also captured the spirit of the event, highlighting the collective joy and resilience on display. Supporters who contributed through sponsorships, raffle prizes, food, and other resources were acknowledged with deep appreciation. While the weather may have disrupted the schedule, it did not dampen the spirit of celebration. Instead, the rain brought participants closer—literally and figuratively—proving once again that unity and perseverance are at the heart of community organizing. For many, the picnic was not just a gathering, but a statement: that joy, resilience, and solidarity can flourish even in the face of storms.



who were warmly welcomed despite the challenges posed by the weather. Their presence underscored the significance of the occasion and the deep





Situation Report: Emergency Humanitarian Relief in Gaza, Palestine



Impact Report | Zakat Foundation of America Reporting Period: August 2025



HIGHLIGHTS



Zakat Foundation of America distributed **380,000** liters of safe drinking water across **30+** camps and locations with local partners.



Food and locally sourced vegetable parcels offered essential food supplies to diversify family diets and provided long-term nutrition.



Zakat Foundation of America served **145,032** people with humanitarian aid in August 2025.

GAZA HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Reporting Period August 1-31, 2025

Total Beneficiaries: **145,032**



HOT MEALS:

100 large pots of food were distributed, reaching **50,000** individuals



VEGETABLE PARCELS:

663 parcels distributed, reaching **3,978** beneficiaries



HEALTH CARE ASSISTANCE:

175 patients received medical treatments



CLEAN WATER DISTRIBUTION:

380,000 liters of safe drinking water delivered to **76,000** individuals



FIREWOOD DISTRIBUTION:

14,500 bundles distributed, benefiting **8,700** individuals



SITUATION UPDATE

Aid Challenges

Across the Gaza Strip, families are experiencing extreme levels of acute food insecurity, forcing many to resort to desperate and harmful coping mechanisms just to survive. With 92% of housing units destroyed, more than 1.4 million people are in urgent need of essential emergency shelter supplies. Water insecurity affects 96% of households, as 89% of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure has been destroyed or severely damaged. We will continue our essential ground effort to provide meals, clean water, and essentials to families in need.



Visit: www.zakat.org
Call: **1.888.ZAKAT.US (1.888.925.2887)**
Mail: **Zakat Foundation of America**,
PO Box 639 Worth, IL 60482

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END PAGE

Spaceflight Spurs Stem Cell Aging

New Study Reveals Risks for Long-Term Missions

Julian Alvez

A new study published Thursday in Cell Stem Cell has revealed that spaceflight accelerates aging in human stem cells, highlighting potential risks for long-duration missions. Researchers monitored bone marrow stem cells on the International Space Station during four SpaceX resupply missions from late 2021 to early 2023, finding that microgravity and cosmic radiation significantly stressed the cells. “In space, stem cells decline in function,” said Catriona Jamieson, lead author and director of the Sanford Stem Cell Institute at UC San Diego. “They reduce their ability to renew themselves or regenerate, which is critical for long-term space missions.” The stem cells, housed in miniature bioreactors and monitored in real time by artificial intelligence, remained abnormally active, burning through energy reserves and exhibiting signs of accelerated aging. Stress caused the activation of repetitive DNA elements, or the “dark genome,” which can trigger a cellular crisis similar to that seen in preleukemic disorders. Experts say the findings

HIGHLIGHT

- Spaceflight accelerates aging in human stem cells.
- Stem cells activate “dark genome,” normally dormant DNA sequences.
- Research conducted aboard the International Space Station during SpaceX missions from late 2021 to early 2023.

offer insights into aging, immune system health, and cancer research. Preliminary results indicate stem cells can recover after returning to Earth, though recovery may take about a year. Scientists hope this research will guide future countermeasures to protect astronauts during long-term space exploration.

Historic Promotions for Bangladeshi-American Officers

BAPA celebrates milestones within the NYPD



Photo: Sergeant Abu-Nur Mohammad Syed with Traffic Police Sergeant Mohammad Shahjahan, his Father.

Amkel Nourush

The Bangladesh American Police Association (BAPA) marked a historic moment as several Bangladeshi-American officers were promoted within the New York Police Department (NYPD), highlighting the growing presence and influence of the

community in law enforcement. Among the honorees was Khandaker Abdullah, who became the first Bangladeshi-American to achieve the rank of Inspector. His promotion represents a significant milestone, making him the highest-ranking officer of Bangladeshi descent in the NYPD.

Also recognized was Deputy Inspector Karam Chowdhury, a former BAPA President, whose advancement reflects his longstanding commitment to public service and leadership within the department. In another historic first, Abu-Nur Mohammad Syed was promoted to Sergeant, becoming the first second-generation



Bangladeshi-American officer to rise through the NYPD’s ranks. His achievement is especially meaningful as he follows in the footsteps of his father, Traffic Police Sergeant

Mohammad Shahjahan, a respected union leader and prominent figure in the Bangladeshi-American community. Together, their service represents a landmark for Bangladeshi-American families in law enforcement. Adding to the celebration, Joshim Mia was also promoted to Sergeant, further underscoring the growing achievements of Bangladeshi-American officers in New York City. BAPA leaders and community members hailed these promotions as moments of pride and progress, noting that the accomplishments of Abdullah, Chowdhury, Syed, and Mia reflect both individual dedication and the collective advancement of the Bangladeshi-American community in one of the world’s most respected police forces.



Photo: Deputy Inspector Karam Chowdhury



Photo: Sergeant Joshim Mia



Photo: Inspector Khandakar Abdullah

Verstappen Dominates Italian Grand Prix

McLaren’s Norris and Piastri complete the podium at Monza



Photo: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after winning the Italian Grand Prix. Image Source: AP Photo/Luca Bruno

Adrian Smith

Max Verstappen stormed to victory at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, marking his first win since May and his third of the 2025 Formula 1 season. The Red Bull driver converted pole into a commanding triumph at Monza, finishing nearly 20 seconds clear of Lando Norris.

Verstappen briefly lost the lead after a first-lap tussle with Norris but quickly reclaimed it on lap four and never looked back. “It was a great day for us,” Verstappen said. “After lap one we were flying, and that was really enjoyable.” Behind him, McLaren faced late-race drama when a slow pit stop for Norris allowed teammate

Oscar Piastri to move ahead. The team ordered Piastri to yield, a call the Australian initially questioned but ultimately obeyed. Norris’s second-place finish trimmed his championship gap to 31 points with eight races remaining. At Ferrari’s home

HIGHLIGHT

- Max Verstappen wins the Italian Grand Prix, his first victory since May.

race, Charles Leclerc delighted the tifosi with a strong drive to fourth, while Lewis Hamilton recovered from a grid penalty to take sixth. For Verstappen, the win capped a flawless weekend in which he also set the fastest lap in F1 history at Monza.

Hurricane Kiko Shifts North

Hawaii Spared Strong Winds and Heavy Rain

Nassr Al Shams

Hurricane Kiko shifted north of the Hawaiian Islands on Saturday, reducing the threat of damaging winds and widespread heavy rain, according to the National Weather Service (NWS). As of Saturday morning, Kiko was located about 1,000 miles southeast of Hilo on the Big Island, maintaining maximum sustained winds of 120 mph and holding Category 3 strength. Forecasters expect the storm to gradually weaken over the next several days. The northward shift comes as a relief to residents, just a day after Acting Hawaii Governor Sylvia Luke declared a state of emergency to prepare for potential impacts. “The threat for any wind is diminishing,” said Joseph Clark, a meteorologist with the NWS in Honolulu. “With the storm going north, it tends to actually make the winds lighter than normal over the islands. So if the current track holds up, the winds

will be pretty light, and it might end up being hot and muggy without much wind.” While heavy rain now appears unlikely, forecasters warned of 10- to 15-foot surf and dangerous rip currents expected to reach the Big Island and Maui by Sunday, with possible beach erosion. Meteorologists remain confident in the storm’s trajectory but caution that a further southward shift could bring rain and stronger impacts. For now, however, Hawaii appears spared the worst of Kiko’s power.



Photos: This GOES-West GeoColor satellite image taken Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, at 2 p.m. EDT and provided by NOAA, shows Hurricane Kiko churning over open waters in the Pacific Ocean. Image Source: (NOAA via AP)