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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: Rubio and Hegseth applaud Trump at a Cabinet meeting.
Image Source: Anna MoneyMaker/Getty Images/ CNN

Trump Denied Nobel

Despite Gaza ceasefire deal, U.S. president overlooked by Norwegian committee

Alexandar Sullivan

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to María Corina Machado, Venezuela's opposition leader, recognizing her fight for democracy under President Nicolás Maduro's authoritarian rule. The decision comes amid mounting speculation that U.S. President Donald Trump might receive the honor for brokering a Gaza ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. The Norwegian Nobel Committee praised Machado as "one of the most extraordinary examples of civilian courage in Latin America

in recent times," citing her efforts to unite Venezuela's fractured opposition despite threats, persecution, and exile. "Despite serious risks to her life, she has remained in the country — inspiring millions," said Nobel chairman Jørgen Watne Frydnes. Machado told BBC Mundo that she was "grateful" for Trump's global peace efforts, adding that his actions to "cut criminal flows sustaining Maduro's regime" were helping Venezuela's struggle for freedom. Trump, whose administration helped negotiate the first phase of the Gaza truce

HIGHLIGHT

•**María Corina Machado, Venezuelan opposition leader, wins 2025 Nobel Peace Prize**

announced earlier this week, had been widely rumored as a contender for the prize. His allies, including Sen. John Fetterman and foreign policy figures, publicly backed his nomination. However, the committee confirmed its decision was finalized on Monday, before Trump's announcement. While Trump's supporters hailed his

diplomacy as "historic," critics pointed to his domestic crackdowns and Caribbean military strikes, which some international observers have described as potential violations of international law. Still, analysts suggest Trump may remain a contender for next year's prize if the Gaza peace plan endures. For now, the 2025 award belongs to Machado — a symbol of defiance in a nation long mired in repression. "It's like an injection of hope," she said. "It reminds Venezuelans that we are not alone — that democracy is still worth fighting for."

Hope Amid Ruins

Humanitarian aid begins flowing into Gaza after two-year war ceasefire



Photo: Palestinians return to Gaza City and northern Gaza after the cease-fire.
Image Source: State Emergency Service/EPA/ theguardian.com

Lily Anderson

A fragile sense of relief swept across the Gaza Strip on Sunday as dozens of aid trucks began entering the devastated enclave under a newly agreed ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, raising hopes for an end to the region's two-year war. Egyptian authorities confirmed the entry of 400 trucks through the Rafah crossing, carrying food, medicine, tents, and fuel. The Israeli body overseeing humanitarian access, COGAT, said the daily number will rise to 600 trucks under the deal. All vehicles are subject to Israeli inspections at the Kerem Shalom checkpoint. The UN, which had been sidelined for months, is now resuming a central role in aid distribution. Its agencies are preparing to push in over 170,000

metric tons of supplies after widespread famine triggered by Israeli blockades and bombings. Palestinians are returning to ruined homes, with satellite images revealing mass movement north to Gaza City. Aid groups continue clearing roads to speed up delivery. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the release of 20 Israeli hostages and nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, expected to begin Monday morning. U.S. President Donald Trump, who brokered the deal, will arrive in Israel before heading to Sharm el-Sheikh for a peace summit co-chaired by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Over 20 global leaders are set to attend what officials are calling a pivotal moment for the region.

The Short

Jonathan Rinaldi faces backlash for alleged fake endorsements

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China Slams U.S. Tariff Move

Beijing warns of retaliation over 100% duties on exports



Photo: China criticizes US for 'double standards' over new tariffs
Image Source: Daniel Berehulak/Getty Images

John Paul

China has sharply criticized the United States after President Donald Trump threatened to impose an additional

100% tariff on Chinese imports, calling the move a "typical example of double standards."

The response from China's Commerce Ministry came as Beijing vowed to implement its own "corresponding measures" if the U.S. follows through. The ministry warned that China is "not afraid" of a trade war and accused Washington of abusing national security claims to justify punitive trade policies. Trump's threat, made

HIGHLIGHT

•**Donald Trump threatens 100% tariffs on Chinese goods**

•**China accuses U.S. of "double standards" and vows retaliation**

•**Tensions rise over rare earth export restrictions**

•**S&P 500 drops 2.7%, steepest decline since April**

Friday, followed China's announcement of tighter export controls on rare earth minerals, which are crucial for global tech manufacturing. In a Truth Social post, Trump accused Beijing of taking an "extraordinarily aggressive position" and hinted at canceling a planned meeting with President Xi Jinping later this month. Markets reacted sharply, with the S&P 500 tumbling 2.7%, its largest one-day loss since April. Beijing defended its rare

earth curbs as necessary for national and global security and emphasized that export controls would have only "limited impact" on supply chains. Talks between the two leaders remain uncertain.

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Acting Now for Climate Justice and a Sustainable Future

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COMMUNITY NEWS

NYC and Staten Island under coastal flood watch beginning Sunday

NYN Desk

As a coastal storm approaches, New York City and Staten Island are now under heightened alerts ahead of Sunday's expected deluge. City and state agencies warn that strong winds, heavy rainfall, and coastal flooding may strike from Sunday afternoon through Monday evening. According to a City of New

York press release, rainfall could reach 1.5 to 3 inches, with locally higher amounts possible. The Mayor, in a public statement, said: "we're tracking a coastal storm this weekend ... some areas could see greater impacts." The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services advised residents to charge devices, stock essential supplies, and prepare for power outages.



Photo: National Weather Service graphic forecasting maximum wind gusts in New York City, Sunday, Oct. 12-Monday, Oct. 13, 2025. Image Source: National Weather Service/silive.com

Forecasters expect minor to moderate coastal flooding, especially in low-lying and shoreline zones including southern Brooklyn, Queens, the eastern shore of Staten Island, and the Bronx waterfront. Wind gusts may top 60 mph in vulnerable areas, heightening the risk to trees and power infrastructure. While the full impact remains uncertain, officials emphasize

that preparation now is critical. With high tide cycles and the direction of onshore winds set to align, low-lying neighborhoods may see water encroach beyond typical limits. City agencies are urging all residents — especially those in flood zones — to stay alert, monitor updates via Notify NYC, and take steps to protect life and property.

Independent candidate says Manhattan deserves "real accountability"



Photo: Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg Image Source: Barry Williams/ New York Daily News

Community Desk

Veteran prosecutor Diana Florence has launched a sharp challenge against District Attorney Alvin Bragg,

declaring that Manhattan "needs a new DA" who will "prosecute criminals" and restore safety across the borough. In an op-ed published

Saturday, Florence accused Bragg of "failing to stand up to violent felons" and prioritizing offenders over victims. She pointed to declining felony conviction rates — from 42% before Bragg took office to 35% last year — and a rise in major crimes since 2021. "The only thing he's managed to lock up in Manhattan is the deodorant aisle," she wrote. Florence, a 25-year veteran of the Manhattan DA's office, criticized Bragg's early policy memo reducing certain prosecutions, calling it "a promise he's actually kept." She cited several violent cases as examples of systemic failure, arguing that residents "live these consequences every day." Running as an independent, Florence said her campaign is about "real results, not cheap headlines." She pledged to return the office "to its core mission — prosecuting crime and keeping Manhattan safe."

Bronx 18-year-old speaks out after wrongful weapons charges dismissed

News Correspondent

An 18-year-old Bronx teenager wrongly accused in a deadly drive-by shooting has spoken out after all charges against him were officially dropped. The teen, from East Tremont, was arrested from his hospital bed in September after being injured in a crash involving the suspects' vehicle. "It was crazy to me... I was in shock, but I was happy," he told Eyewitness News after learning the case had been dismissed. Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark announced Monday that, after reviewing evidence, prosecutors concluded the teen was not involved. "After careful consideration, those charges have been dismissed," Clark said. Surveillance footage later



Photo: The 18-year-old East Tremont teen falsely accused in a deadly Allerton drive-by speaks out after charges are dismissed in The Bronx. Image Source: abc7NY confirmed that the car he was driving was struck by a separate vehicle carrying five alleged gang members fleeing the scene of the Allerton shooting. The teen, who spent five nights in custody, said

he now hopes to resume his training in plumbing. "I wanted to go deeper with plumbing so I could help my family out," he said. His father called the dismissal "a blessing" after weeks of uncertainty and fear.

Mohammed Fakhru Islam Delwar Receives Torch-Bearer Award



Staff Reporter

The Torch-Bearer Award 2025 has honored Mohammed Fakhru Islam Delwar, recognizing his tireless dedication and inspirational leadership in serving his community. The award, part of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, celebrates individuals who embody selfless service and promote peace, unity, and compassion in their societies. Established to recognize those who inspire through action rather than acclaim, the award continues the legacy of Sri Chinmoy, whose vision of global harmony and goodwill remains at the heart of the Peace Run. Over the years, the award has

been presented to world figures and local heroes alike — from Olympic champion Carl Lewis and Archbishop Desmond Tutu to community advocates working quietly for change.

Delwar's recognition places him among a distinguished circle of honorees whose work reflects the Peace Run's enduring message: that true leadership begins with service. His efforts exemplify how individual commitment can spark collective progress and strengthen communities. By honoring figures such as Delwar, the Torch-Bearer Award reaffirms that peace is built not only on global initiatives but also on the everyday dedication of those who light the way for others.

Prayer Time IN New York

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05:52	12:42	03:46	06:15	07:30
05:53	12:41	03:45	06:14	07:29
05:54	12:41	03:44	06:12	07:27
05:55	12:41	03:43	06:11	07:26
05:56	12:41	03:42	06:09	07:25

OPINION

World Mental Health Day 2025 — Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies

— World Health Organization (WHO)

World Mental Health Day serves as a powerful reminder that there is no health without mental health. This year's campaign focuses on the urgent need to support the mental health and psychosocial needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies. Crises such as natural disasters, conflicts, and public health emergencies cause emotional distress, with one in five individuals experiencing a mental health condition. Supporting the mental well-being of individuals during such crises is not just important — it saves lives, gives people the strength to cope, the space to heal and to recover and rebuild not only as individuals but as communities. That's why it is essential for everyone, including government officials, health and social care providers, school staff and community groups to come together. By working hand in hand, we can ensure the most vulnerable have access to the support they need while protecting the well-being of everyone. By investing in evidence and community-based interventions, we can address immediate mental health needs, foster long-term recovery, and empower people and communities to rebuild their lives and thrive. On this World Mental Health Day, let us intensify our efforts to create a world where mental health is valued,

protected, and accessible for all, especially in the face of adversity. Did you know? Mental health and psychosocial support are essential. During crises, nearly everyone experiences distress and social disruption. Homes are lost, families are separated, and communities are fractured. While one in five people may have a mental health condition, nearly everyone affected experiences emotional distress and disrupted community ties. These impacts often remain long after physical safety is restored, undermining recovery and resilience. People with significant mental health conditions must not be left without care and support. Continuity of care is a priority during and following any emergency. Migrants and refugees face mental health risks across their journey. Migrants and refugees face multiple stressors throughout their journey — from conflict and displacement to dangerous journeys and integration challenges in host countries. By the end of 2024, over 123 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide. A staggering 71% of them are hosted



— World Health Organization (WHO)

in low- and middle-income countries, where health-care systems are already under strain. In these settings, access to mental health services is extremely limited. Mental health in emergencies is crucial. Conflicts, disasters, and health emergencies take a heavy toll on mental health. Around 1 in 5 people in conflict-affected areas are estimated to have a mental health condition. Experiencing fear, anxiety or sadness in such circumstances is a normal reaction to very stressful events. Beyond food, water, and medicine, survivors also need mental health and psychosocial support to cope, recover, and rebuild. Integrating mental health and psychosocial support as a core part of emergency response not only saves lives but also strengthens communities and health systems for the future. Investing in mental health is investing in recovery. It helps families, communities, and economies recover from crises, build long-term resilience, and shape stronger health systems. The Mental Health

and Psychosocial Support Minimum Service Package offers proven solutions in emergencies, ensuring timely, coordinated care that reduces suffering, strengthens well-being, and builds more inclusive responses. Inclusive support must reach children, older people, persons with disabilities, refugees, and people with pre-existing mental health conditions, including those in institutions. Addressing barriers such as stigma, discrimination, costs, and language is essential. Protect your mental health. Prioritize your mental health by staying connected, being physically active, and following routines. Minimize alcohol use, engage in meaningful and enjoyable activities, and seek support from trusted friends, family, or health professionals. Promoting mental well-being through various approaches — from self-help tools and Psychological First Aid to specialized mental health services — ensures accessible, efficient, and responsive support for all. Humanitarian workers also face extreme stress and are often directly affected by the crises they respond to. Organizations should provide rest, supervision, peer support, and workplace mental health programmes to sustain an effective humanitarian response.

“There is no health without mental health — investing in emotional well-being is not only a moral duty but a cornerstone of human resilience.”



Image Source: Online

“Supporting mental health in emergencies saves lives, strengthens communities, and rebuilds hope.”

Acting Now for Climate Justice and a Sustainable Future

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Climate change is no longer a distant threat—it is a present crisis demanding immediate and unified global action. Sustainable Development Goal 13, which calls for urgent action to combat

climate change and its impacts, is one of the most defining challenges of our time. Rising temperatures, melting glaciers, extreme weather patterns, and worsening natural disasters are reshaping our planet and threatening lives and livelihoods across continents. From the drought-stricken fields of Africa to the flood-ravaged coasts of Asia and the hurricane-prone regions of the Americas, no nation is immune. This is a collective fight that transcends borders, politics, and generations. The science is clear: human activity has accelerated the warming of



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

the planet, and our window for reversing its catastrophic effects is rapidly closing. The transition to renewable energy, reduction of carbon emissions, and preservation of natural ecosystems are not optional—they are essential. Developed nations must take the lead in reducing emissions while supporting developing countries with technology transfer, funding, and capacity building. Climate action must be rooted in justice, recognizing that those who contribute least to the problem often suffer its consequences the most.

At the community level, awareness and adaptation are key. Local actions—such as planting trees, conserving energy, and supporting green innovation—can collectively bring about significant change. Faith leaders, educators, and civic organizations also play a vital role in inspiring ethical responsibility toward creation. Our relationship with the environment is not purely scientific; it is deeply spiritual. To protect the Earth is to uphold a sacred trust entrusted to humanity. The call to action is clear: we must integrate climate resilience into every policy, project, and personal choice. Global cooperation, sustainable innovation, and moral leadership must converge to ensure a livable planet for future generations. It is time to move from awareness to action, from commitment to accountability.

ADVENTURE

A Day of Discovery at the Queens Zoo

Elhaam Academy's young students embark on a nature-filled adventure



animals from diverse habitats around the world. From the playful movements of sea lions to the vibrant colors of exotic birds and the calm presence of gentle deer, every exhibit sparked awe and wonder. Teachers guided discussions on how each animal adapts to its environment, helping children understand the intricate balance of ecosystems and the importance of conservation. The trip also encouraged observational learning, as students eagerly

noted animal behaviors, compared features, and asked thoughtful questions. Teachers and chaperones described the children's excitement as "pure and infectious," with many students expressing amazement at seeing creatures they had previously only read about in books. Set against the lush surroundings of the Queens Zoo, the outing provided not only an educational experience but also a chance for teamwork and friendship outside the classroom. Laughter echoed as students shared discoveries and enjoyed moments of play between exhibits, blending fun with a deeper appreciation for nature. Experiential learning is a cornerstone of Elhaam Academy's

approach to early education. By bringing lessons to life through real-world engagement, the school fosters curiosity, empathy, and a lifelong love for learning. The zoo trip, teachers noted, was a perfect example of how environmental education can shape young minds to become responsible global citizens. As the buses headed back to campus, the smiles and animated conversations among the children told the story of a day well spent — one filled with laughter, learning, and lasting memories. For the young students of Elhaam Academy, their adventure at the Queens Zoo was more than just a field trip; it was a reminder that the world around them is a classroom waiting to be explored.

Ashley Reed

In a delightful blend of education and exploration, Elhaam Academy students from Grades K-2 spent a memorable

day at the Queens Zoo, where curiosity met nature in its most exciting form. The visit, part of the school's ongoing effort to make learning interactive and engaging, offered the

young explorers an opportunity to connect classroom lessons with real-life experiences. Throughout the day, students wandered through the zoo's scenic pathways, encountering



ADVENTURE

A Day of Discovery at the Queens Zoo





INTERFAITH

Forum on Faith Inspires Interfaith Collaboration

New York City hosts a landmark event focused on service, understanding, and shared humanity



William Henry

Leaders from across the world gathered at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square for the Forum on Faith 2025, a landmark interfaith summit dedicated to exploring how belief and moral conviction can help build a more compassionate and



united world. The day-long event brought together religious figures, scholars, media representatives, and policymakers under the theme of collaboration, community service, and spiritual understanding. Sponsored in part by The NYC Mayor's

Office of Faith-Based and Community Relationships, the event opened with welcoming remarks from Elder David R. Marriott of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and an invocation by Venerable Chang-Kuan of the Western

Buddhist Association. Rabbi Joseph Potasnik of The New York Board of Rabbis then delivered the opening remarks, setting the tone for a day centered on faith as a shared foundation for positive change. Key sessions addressed critical topics shaping the intersection of faith and society. Among them, Michael W. McConnell, Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School, presented a compelling constitutional overview during the session on Religious Liberty. Later, Ryan Burge, author of *Graphs about Religion*, shared data-driven insights into evolving faith trends across America. Panels throughout the morning and afternoon focused on pressing issues such as Building Better Communities, Navigating the Media, Elevating Higher Education, Solving

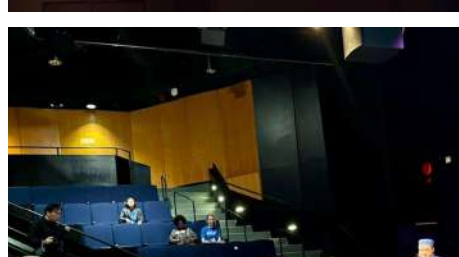
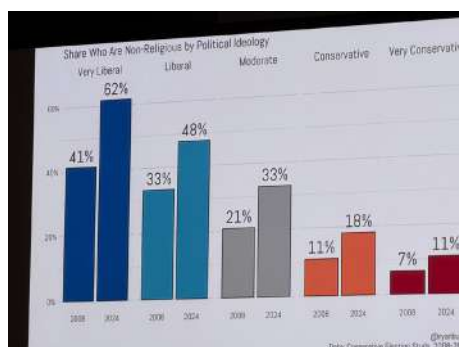
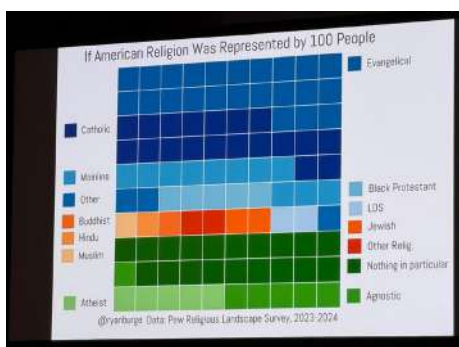
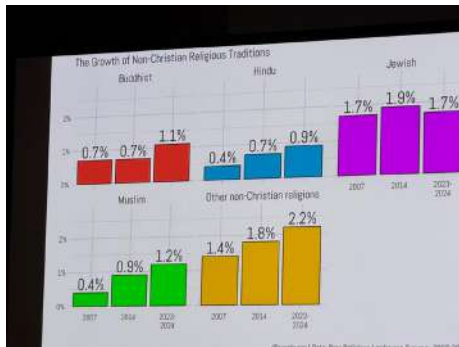
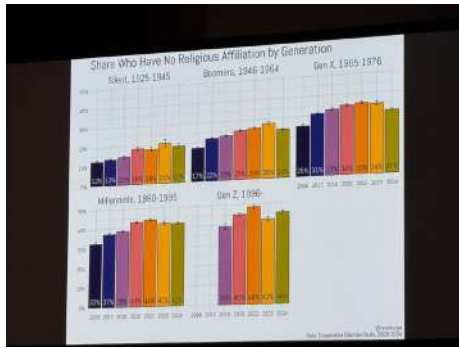
Social Problems, and Strengthening the Rising Generation. Faith leaders including Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman, Rabbi Diana Gerson, and Reverend Adriene Thorne discussed the transformative role of collaboration in fostering empathy and community resilience. A highlight of the afternoon was the breakout session titled *Inspiring a Culture of Service*, moderated by Rev. Jacques Andre DeGraff (*Choose Healthy Life*). The panel featured Mohamed Amen, Muslim Senior Advisor to the NYC Mayor, alongside Jennifer Walker-Thomas, Pastor Gilford Monroe, and Yogi Trivedi. Together, they explored how faith-based service initiatives can strengthen civic life and promote unity across diverse communities. Throughout the event,

distinguished speakers such as His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Justice Stephen Breyer (ret.), and John Sexton, President Emeritus of New York University, offered reflections on faith's enduring influence on law, education, and public life. Closing remarks by Rev. A. R. Bernard of the Christian Cultural Center and a benediction from Guruji His Holiness Dileepkumar Thankappan of the World Yoga Community concluded the summit, emphasizing that cooperation among faiths remains vital in addressing global challenges. As participants departed, the message of the day resonated deeply: through shared understanding, service, and compassion, faith continues to be one of humanity's most powerful forces for good.



INTERFAITH

Forum on Faith Inspires Interfaith Collaboration



A Journey Beyond Earth at Elhaam Academy

Students mark World Space Week 2025 through hands-on exploration and space-themed fun



James Anderson

The students of Elhaam Academy experienced a week filled with imagination, exploration, and learning as they celebrated World Space Week 2025, transforming

their classrooms into a mini-universe of discovery. Supported by Save the People, the week-long celebration offered students hands-on opportunities to explore the mysteries of space, blending science education with creative

expression. Throughout the week, students participated in engaging activities that brought the cosmos closer to home. During Science Club sessions, they built rockets, designed models of space environments,

and imagined how humans might live beyond Earth. Each project reflected a unique perspective—whether through paper-plate rocket scenes, colorful jet drawings, or creative living space concepts—demonstrating the



students' growing curiosity about science, technology, and the universe around them.

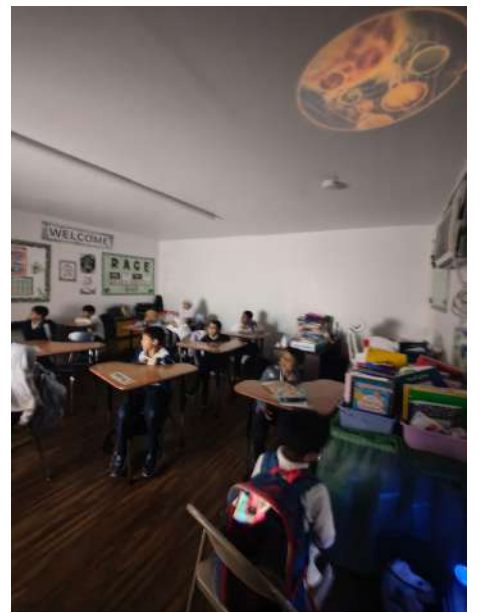
One of the highlights of the celebration was the "Our Space Adventure" activity, where young learners designed their own rockets on paper plates under the glow of a moon projector. The classroom atmosphere was electric with excitement as students proudly held up their creations, imagining them soaring through the night sky. The addition of playful space props for photos added a layer of fun and engagement, making the event both educational and memorable. Teachers and coordinators emphasized how experiences like World Space Week nurture not only a love for learning but also essential life skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and teamwork. Through

the blend of science and imagination, children learned to ask questions about the world beyond our planet while strengthening their problem-solving abilities. The event concluded with a renewed sense of wonder among the students, who left inspired to dream big and "reach for the stars." For Elhaam Academy, World Space Week 2025 was more than a celebration—it was an invitation for young minds to envision the limitless possibilities of discovery, innovation, and the future. In the words reflected through their joyful expressions and imaginative creations, the message was clear: at Elhaam Academy, the sky is not the limit—it's just the beginning.



SCIENCE

A Journey Beyond Earth at Elhaam Academy





After School

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FRIDAY

OCTOBER

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3PM - 4PM

Registration Fee

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SPORTS

Youth Cricket Takes Center Stage in Jamaica, New York

Excitement builds as BHALO Youth Cricket Tournament 2025 gears up for action



Noah Presley

The anticipation for the BHALO Youth Cricket Tournament 2025 reached new

heights with the recent trophy and team dress unveiling ceremony held at the BHALO Center in Jamaica, New York. Organized by the Bangladeshi

Cricketers' Alliance of North America Inc. (BCANA), the event brought together players, captains, and community leaders in a shared celebration of

youth, teamwork, and the enduring love of cricket. The launch event symbolized much more than the beginning of a tournament—it



represented a powerful community effort to engage young people in healthy, constructive activities that foster leadership, discipline, and unity. Team captains proudly showcased their new uniforms, while the gleaming championship trophies stood as a reminder of the hard work,

determination, and sportsmanship that define the spirit of the game. Community members in attendance expressed pride in the initiative's role in encouraging youth to stay active, connected, and goal-oriented. Organizers emphasized that the tournament aims not only to highlight cricketing talent but also to strengthen community ties among Bangladeshi-American families and other immigrant communities in New York. The event also highlighted BHALO and BCANA's long-standing commitment to supporting programs that nurture youth development through education, mentorship, and sports. By providing young athletes with opportunities to compete and collaborate, the BHALO Youth Cricket Tournament continues to stand as a platform for emerging talent. The tournament's growing

popularity reflects the vibrant passion for cricket among local youth, as well as the dedication of volunteers and mentors working tirelessly behind the scenes. As the 2025 season approaches, excitement runs high across the community. The collaboration between BHALO and the Bangladeshi Cricketers' Alliance of North America (BCANA) serves as a shining example of how collective effort can turn a sporting event into a broader celebration of identity, culture, and unity. With the unveiling complete and teams ready to take the field, this year's tournament promises not just thrilling matches, but also an enduring reminder of how sports can bring people together—strengthening community spirit, one game at a time.



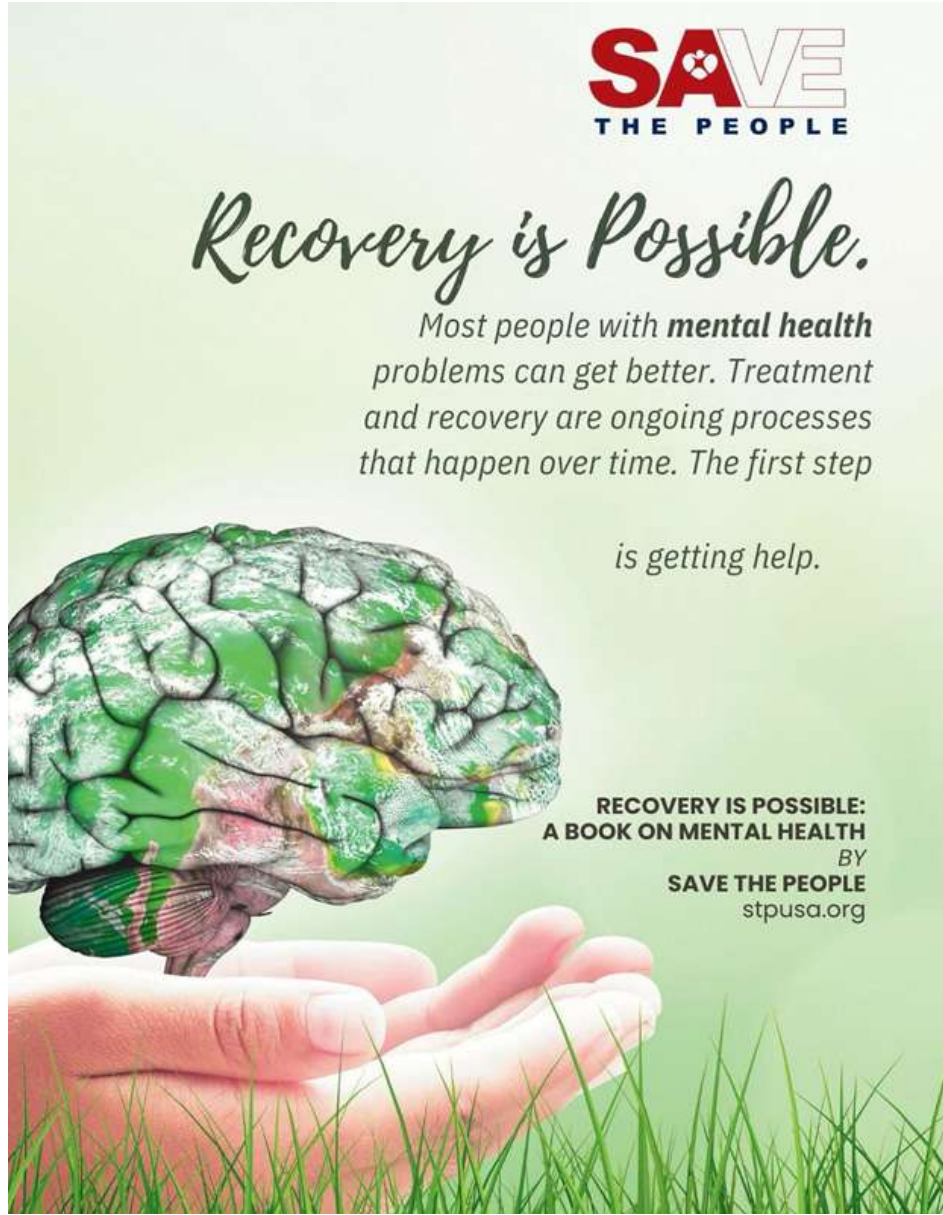
MENTAL HEALTH

Building Empathy Through Faith and Care

Elhaam Academy and Save the People USA unite for mental health awareness

Jessica Morgan

In honor of World Mental Health Day 2025, Elhaam Academy, in collaboration with Save the People USA, held a series of meaningful advisory sessions dedicated to mental health awareness and emotional well-being. The initiative highlighted the global call to ensure that mental health support reaches everyone, especially in times of crisis and uncertainty. Saudia Rahim, Mental Health Counselor at Elhaam Academy, led an insightful lesson on empathy, connecting it to the school's mission of nurturing compassionate and mindful individuals grounded in Islamic values. Students reflected on the principles of Rahmah (compassion) and Ihsaan (excellence in kindness), learning how empathy forms a vital part of both faith and personal wellness. The discussions encouraged them to think deeply about caring for others—particularly those affected by conflict, displacement,



or trauma—and to recognize that emotional support can be a powerful act of service. Organizers emphasized that empathy and understanding are essential in building resilient, supportive communities. They noted that when young people are taught to care for others and express compassion, they develop stronger emotional awareness and a sense of responsibility toward the world around them. The observance also featured contributions from Save the People USA, which continues

to promote accessible mental health education. The organization spotlighted its resource booklet, *Recover is Possible*, designed to help children and families understand that treatment and recovery are continuous processes. The publication underscores that seeking help is the first step toward healing and recovery, and free copies are available through info@stpusa.org. The event concluded with collective duas (prayers) for people across the globe struggling with mental health challenges. It served as a reminder that compassion, awareness, and access to care are shared responsibilities that transcend boundaries of faith and geography. Through their partnership, Elhaam Academy and Save the People USA reaffirmed their commitment to fostering empathy, promoting mental wellness, and building a future where every individual has the opportunity to heal—with kindness at the heart of it all.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Strengthening Bonds Through Service and Unity

BAPA's 9th Annual Awards Dinner highlights dedication to community and public safety



Emily Parker

The Bangladeshi American Police Association (BAPA) held its 9th Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Da Mikele Illagio in Queens, New York, bringing together NYPD officers, public officials, and community leaders for an evening celebrating service, leadership, and unity. The event

embodied BAPA's core mission — fostering connection between the Bangladeshi-American community and law enforcement while recognizing those who exemplify dedication and integrity. Among the distinguished guests in attendance was NYC Mayoral Candidate Zohran Mamdani, whose presence highlighted the importance of

collaboration between civic leadership and community organizations in building a more inclusive city. The gala honored outstanding officers and leaders for their exemplary service across various categories. Detective Didarul Islam received the Heroism Award, while Hon. Police Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch was named



Woman of the Year. Deputy Chief Sylvester Ge earned the Man of the Year recognition, and Betty Carradero, 2nd Vice President of the Police Benevolent Association, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Other honorees included Inspector Adeel Rana for Commanding Officer of the Year, Assistant Chief Christopher McIntosh and Detective Annand H. Narayan for Appreciation Awards, Alexander Sadik, President of Local 1182, for the Leadership Award, Sergeant Abir Noor as COP of the Year, TEA II Sanat Das as Civilian of the Year, and Mohammad Abdul Jalil for the Community Service Award. The evening was made possible through the generous support of Grand Sponsors Ruhin Hossain and Mushrath Shaheen, Founders of Rivertel, whose contributions underscored the growing role of Bangladeshi-American professionals in empowering their community and supporting initiatives that strengthen bonds between residents and public institutions.

Since its establishment in 2015, BAPA has worked tirelessly to support Bangladeshi-American law enforcement officers, encourage greater representation in public service, and build trust between police and the communities they serve. Its mission remains centered on fostering camaraderie, professional development, and community engagement. As the night concluded, attendees reflected on the organization's progress and shared hope for continued unity and representation within the NYPD and beyond. The 9th Annual Awards Dinner stood as a reminder of the shared commitment to service and solidarity — values that continue to guide BAPA's work in bridging communities and celebrating those who protect and uplift them.



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Early Voting Awareness Rises Ahead of NYC General Election

Save The People USA mobilizes volunteers to inform communities about new voting systems



Daniel Matthew

With the New York City General Election approaching on November 4, 2025, Save The People USA has launched a

dynamic voter education and awareness campaign across the city to encourage civic participation, early voting, and understanding of Ranked Choice Voting


SAVE THE PEOPLE
(RCV). Through a series of weekly table awareness programs in

various neighborhoods, volunteers and organizers from Save The People USA are engaging directly with community members, explaining how the ranked choice voting system works and guiding residents through the registration and early voting process. The campaign emphasizes the importance of every vote and aims to ensure that all eligible voters are informed, registered, and ready to participate. In Ranked Choice Voting, voters can rank up to five candidates in order of preference instead of voting for just one. If no candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their supporters' next-choice

votes are redistributed. The process continues until one candidate earns a majority. This method promotes fairer results and gives voters more voice in their selection. Save The People USA's campaign highlights key voting deadlines and options for city residents. The last day to apply online or by mail for an absentee ballot is October 25, 2025, while in-person applications can be submitted until November 3, 2025. Early voting runs from October 25 through November 2, allowing voters to cast their ballots ahead of election day. Those voting by mail must ensure their ballots are postmarked by November 4, 2025, or dropped off at polling locations or county election offices by 9 p.m.

on election day. Community leaders involved in the campaign noted that increasing voter awareness is crucial, especially for communities still adapting to the ranked choice system, which was approved by voters in 2019. Organizers shared that these weekly outreach events have drawn strong participation, particularly from younger voters and immigrant communities eager to understand their role in local elections. As the countdown to Election Day continues, Save The People USA remains committed to empowering New Yorkers through education, advocacy, and action — ensuring that every voice counts and every vote shapes the city's future.






REGISTER TO VOTE

BECAUSE YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Friday, October 3, 2025


JAMAICA MUSLIM CENTER
85-37 JMC WAY, JAMAICA, NY
11432 12:15PM-2:00PM

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to register to vote.



ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 4

For more information: [718-200-3050](tel:718-200-3050) | info@stpusa.org
www.stpusa.org



You can do the following things:

- Register to Vote
- Update Voter Record
- Check Voter Status
- Request a Vote-by-Mail
- Find Election information

NYC ELECTION

An Interfaith Social Justice Compact for Mayoral Candidates 2025



Photo : NYC Mayoral Candidate Andrew Cuomo



Photo : NYC Mayoral Candidate Zohran Mamdani



Photo : NYC Mayoral Candidate Curtis Sliwa

Faith Leader Sign-ons:
 Dr. Debbie Almontaser – Founding Board Member, Muslim Community Network, Sr. Adama Bah – Founder, Afrikaana, Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer – Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York, Rev. Frederick Davie – Senior Advisor, Union Theological Seminary, Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd – Bishop of New York, The Episcopal Diocese of New York, Dr. Serene

Jones – President, Union Theological Seminary, Rabbi Bob Kaplan – Board Member, Interfaith Center of New York, Ruth Messinger – Board Co-Chair, Interfaith Center of New York, Rev. Doyeon Park – President, The Buddhist Council of New York, Dr. Simran Jeet Singh – Faculty, Union Theological Seminary, Rev. Adriene Thorne – Senior Minister, The Riverside Church, Dr. Abdoulaye Balde –

Founder, Futa Islamic Center, Rev. Anne Marie Witchger – Priest in Charge, St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, M. R. Ravi Vaidyanath – Vice President, The Hindu Temple Society of North America, Imam Omar Niass – Imam, Jamhiyatuh Ansaru-Deen, Sunita Viswanath – Co-Founder, Hindu for Human Rights, Marc L. Greenberg – Founder & Director, Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness

and Housing, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah – President, Dawah USA Mosque, Apostle Dr. Staci Ramos – Apostle, Garden of Gethsemane Ministries Inc., Gurvir Singh Sidhu – State Policy Manager, The Sikh Coalition, Bishop Raymond Rivera – Founder, Latino Pastoral Action Center, Rev. Dr. K. Karpen – Senior Minister, St. Paul & St. Andrew UMC, Rev. Adriene Thorne – Senior

Minister, The Riverside Church in the City of New York, Min. Shirley Annan – Director of Strategic Partnerships, Bethel Gospel Assembly Inc., Imam Cheick Ndao – Imam, Darou Salaam Islamic CommunityAs autumn arrives, New York City's neighborhoods are coming alive with a full lineup of community-driven events designed to inspire, engage, and connect residents. From local

initiatives promoting environmental awareness and small business growth to family celebrations and educational fairs, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're looking to give back, learn something new, or simply join your neighbors for a day of fun, these upcoming gatherings highlight the vibrant energy and civic spirit that define our city.

Introduction/Preamble

We write to you as leaders of faith communities in one of the most religiously diverse cities on earth. With 5,000 churches, over 1000 synagogues, 400+ mosques along with Temples, multiple Sikh Gurdwaras, sacred sites and countless worshipping communities that gather in homes and storefronts across the five boroughs, New York is a city of many faiths—strengthened not by its diversity alone, but by the sacred ties of trust between our faith communities and across lines of difference between us. We strongly believe that our next Mayor must cultivate strong connections with this large sector of NYC's population, hearing our concerns and actively responding to them.

The last two years have been a challenging time to do the daily work of care and justice in our houses of worship while also maintaining good relations with our neighbors of other traditions. For many of our congregants, their faith-home is their primary community-of-belonging and consequently, the local impact of international conflict, political polarization, mis- and disinformation, and anti-immigrant sentiment has left them feeling isolated and fearful.

Though the faith leaders who signed this document represent a wide range of perspectives - just like other New Yorkers - there are some things we all agree on.

This interfaith compact recommends six policy areas in which commitments are clearly manifest across all our traditions and undergirded by the shared value of honoring the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable.

We want to thank you for your leadership and for putting yourself forward as a Mayoral candidate to serve the city. Please know we are always available for further conversation and would treasure the opportunity to introduce you to the many constituents we serve. If your leadership and your policy work reflect these values, we pledge our clergy support and the support of our communities in building a city where all people can flourish. May your vision be strong.

Immigration

The commitment to welcome our new neighbors is a shared tenet of our respective faith traditions and a deeply held value of many New Yorkers. Our traditions command us to treat all with dignity and compassion, while the Statue of Liberty calls us

to embrace the tired, poor, and huddled masses yearning to breathe free. We therefore call on our elected officials to do everything possible to ensure that immigrant New Yorkers are welcomed and given the opportunity to give back to the city—a city whose dynamism they have fueled for centuries. Policy Proposals:

- Pledge to uphold New York City's status as a "Sanctuary City" in the deepest ethical sense of this term. Provide safety and security for all New Yorkers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status by strengthening local prohibitions against immigration enforcement actions at or outside schools, hospitals, courts and houses of worship.
- Work to expand NYC's sanctuary laws, including support for the City Council in passing the "ICE OUT" package (Intros 214, 395, & 396), which allow individuals to sue the city over sanctuary law violations, limit the Department of Correction's communication with federal immigration authorities, and limit the situations where individuals can be detained.
- Increase support for immigrant New Yorkers with greater funding for legal resources (such as the Rapid Response Legal Collaborative, the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project, and the Immigrant Opportunity Initiatives), language access, and direct services provided by trusted grassroots and faith-based organizations who have done this work for decades.

Housing

Access to housing and shelter, like food and healthcare are the basic building blocks for human dignity. So many faith traditions teach that these are key ingredients of human flourishing in a spiritual and material sense. NYC has 110,000 in our homeless shelters, streets and subways, many experiencing mental health challenges; a vacancy rate of 1.3%; over 50% of NYC renters paying over 30% of their income towards rent; a shortage of between 500,000 and 800,000 units; and neighborhood resistance to building affordable housing and emergency shelters. The next mayor must inspire and engage the best instincts of New York's citizens and its elected and public servants to meet these challenges:

- Policy Proposals:
- Produce at least 400,000 housing units over the next four years, with at least 40 percent affordable to New Yorkers earning between 40 and 60 percent

of AMI.

- Increase funding for the CityFHEPS housing voucher program to \$1.5 billion annually and sign stalled bills to ensure greater access, including through expanded language access.
- Incentivize every neighborhood to construct needed housing, and support ballot initiatives to facilitate this process.
- Extend the right to counsel in housing court to tenants earning above minimum wage. Build on the "Unlocking Doors" initiative to bring more apartments online, and support ethical landlords who maintain affordable, low-income, and regulated units.

Education

As faith leaders and community advocates, we are guided by our diverse spiritual traditions to seek justice, equity, and compassion in how our communities are cared for and governed. Our belief in a shared humanity calls us to support a public education system that is inclusive, accessible, and rooted in dignity for every New York City student. Schools must be spaces where children feel safe, seen, respected, and prepared to engage across lines of difference and contribute to the common good.

Policy Proposals:

- Implement Resolution 0095, strengthening religious literacy education in schools, combating hate-based bullying, and supporting educators tasked with this critical work. Issue a public directive to the DOE with clear implementation timelines, allocate dedicated FY26 funding, create a community-led implementation task force, and commit to transparent public reporting.
- Reallocate resources from punitive systems toward restorative justice, expand school meal programs (breakfast, lunch, and after-school), and increase funding for guidance counselors, social workers, paraprofessionals, and staff supporting students with IEPs and 504s.
- Continue and expand investment in civic and arts education as a way to cultivate informed citizenship, good character, and the development of the whole human being.

Public Safety

Safety is essential to the flourishing of communities and the free exercise of religious life. Yet too many

NYC ELECTION

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faith communities feel unsafe: houses of worship are vulnerable to attacks, congregations bear the cost of private security, and members worship under the weight of trauma and fear. The city must do more to ensure that people of faith can gather in safety and that communities have the tools to prevent and respond to hate.

Policy Proposals:

- Implement the Independent Rikers Commission timeline (passed by City Council) to close Rikers Island, construct Borough-based prisons, and open more inpatient mental health facilities.
- In recognition of the pressing need to combat hate and foster unity within our increasingly polarized society, faith-based and community organizations dedicated to these efforts must receive adequate funding. These organizations play a critical role in implementing preventative initiatives and anti-hate campaigns on the ground, engaging directly with individuals and communities to promote understanding. We propose also a significant increase in funding for the Mayor's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes—allowing it to foster best-practice sharing among diverse communities resisting hate and avenues of communication between interested communities and the NYPD.
- True safety requires holistic investment in young people and their communities. Increase funding for youth programs, Cure Violence initiatives, alternatives to incarceration, and reentry programming. Community trust is a prerequisite for effective law enforcement.
- Resist legislative efforts to roll back public access to police disciplinary records. Trust in the police and public safety overall has been aided by transparency and accountability for police misconduct. By building trust, investing in youth, and centering accountability, New York can move toward a vision of safety that is both just and lasting.

Health and Mental Health

Every New Yorker deserves access to the care and support needed to live with dignity. Our faith traditions compel us to prioritize the most vulnerable—especially communities facing cycles of trauma, poverty, and neglect. Investments in health and mental health are not only compassionate but preventative. They also help save resources and strengthen families. Ensuring quality access to food, healthcare, mental health services, and support for survivors of domestic violence—as well as programs that work with those who cause harm—are essential to creating a healthier, more resilient city.

- Scale up mental health crisis response, including non-police response teams. Invest in trauma-informed practitioners and faith-based mental health clinics in communities most impacted by violence and poverty. Expand access to and funding for mental health courts.

- Build more Crisis Stabilization Units where people with mental health needs can receive high quality in-person treatment on a short term basis. Implement the Independent Rikers Commission's 2025 recommendation for opening 500 new, secure forensic psychiatric treatment beds located outside of jails thereby improving mental health access and reducing the overall jail population.
- Support communities lacking access to healthy affordable food by increasing investment in food access programs, community gardens, and urban agriculture; strengthen nutrition and healthy food distribution initiatives like Community Food Connection and Emergency Food Assistance Program; and increase access to full-service grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods facing food insecurity.

The Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and

Community Partnerships
 In early 2022, the Mayor's Office of Faith and Community Partnerships (OFCP) mission was to "work to build bridges between city government, diverse religious communities, and nonprofit organizations to better serve all New Yorkers. . . . OFCP shall reflect the diversity of religion, race, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation of the New Yorkers it will serve." The new Mayor should implement the unfinished work of the last administration's Office of Faith and Community Partnerships in addition to charting its own course.

- Policy Priorities:**
- Work with the Office of Hate Crime Prevention (OHCP) on mediation and prevention strategies for addressing conflict in and among faith communities. Expand the work of the OHCP to include preventative education addressing the roots of hate. The Mayor's Office of Faith-based and Community Partnerships and OPHC should support community-based organizations that are proven leaders in anti-hate and violence prevention efforts. Finally, OFCP and OHCP can explore working with willing congregations and the District Attorneys Offices to provide a restorative justice approach to sentencing for juvenile perpetrators of hate crimes.
 - Ensure consistency across the clergy liaison program so that there are working clergy councils and liaisons at every precinct.
 - Expand the use of mental health rapid response teams that include trained chaplains and work with faith leaders across the city to create a public education campaign including a mental health awareness sabbath.
 - Advocate for clergy and congregations dealing with the DOB, FDNY or other city agencies.

NYC 2025 General Election – Key Information Summary

Election Dates & Deadlines

- **General Election Date:** Tuesday, November 4, 2025 (polls open 6 AM–9 PM).
- **Last day to apply online or by mail for early-mail/absentee ballot:** October 25, 2025.
- **Last day to apply in person at county board of elections:** November 3, 2025.
- **Ballots must be postmarked by:** November 4, 2025 (Election Day).
- **Early Voting Period:** October 25 – November 2, 2025.
- **Ballot drop-off deadline:** November 4, 2025, by 9 PM — drop off at county BOE offices, any early voting site during the early voting window, or at your Election Day poll site. (BOE uses “drop off,” not “drop box.”)

Voting System

- **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is used for NYC Primary and Special Elections for:**
 - Mayor • Public Advocate • Comptroller • Borough Presidents • City Council.
- **Voters can rank up to 5 candidates. If no candidate wins >50% of first-choice votes, counting continues in rounds and votes transfer to the next ranked candidate as choices are eliminated. (RCV is not used in the General Election.)**



RECOGNITION

Service and Spirit Recognized at Zakat Foundation's Volunteer Awards 2025

Event highlights the selfless dedication of volunteers who made an impact in 2024



Alex Mason

The Zakat Foundation of America hosted its Annual Volunteer Award Ceremony on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at the Merrick Golf Course Upstairs Meeting Room in Merrick, New York, to recognize the unwavering dedication of volunteers who served communities throughout 2024. The heartfelt ceremony celebrated compassion, teamwork, and the enduring impact of service that defines the Foundation's mission. The event opened with

a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, setting a tone of gratitude and reflection. The ceremony was attended by volunteers, staff members, and community leaders, all gathered to honor those whose efforts helped advance humanitarian and community-building projects across New York and beyond. Nayma Kose, Outreach & Community Engagement Director at the Foundation's central office, served as the chief guest and presented



ZAKAT FOUNDATION of AMERICA

the certificates of appreciation. She praised the dedication of each volunteer, emphasizing that their collective effort continues to uplift communities and strengthen bonds of unity and compassion. Sister Mursheda assisted in coordinating the awards segment,

ensuring a smooth and meaningful presentation. Nearly 30 volunteers were recognized with certificates for their outstanding contributions in 2024, each honored "in recognition of their community service through Zakat Foundation of America." The awards reflected

the Foundation's deep appreciation for those whose time, effort, and dedication make its programs possible—from food distribution and refugee assistance to educational outreach and social service initiatives that strengthen and uplift communities across New York and beyond. The audience also heard from Murat Kose, who delivered an inspiring speech about the importance of serving humanity and the ripple effect of kindness in building stronger communities.

His words resonated with the Foundation's long-standing vision of empowering individuals to create meaningful change through faith-driven action. As the ceremony concluded, guests expressed pride in being part of a mission that not only meets immediate needs but also fosters hope and dignity. The Zakat Foundation's 2025 Volunteer Awards stood as a testament to how compassion, when united with purpose, can transform lives and strengthen the fabric of society.



RECOGNITION

Service and Spirit Recognized at Zakat Foundation's Volunteer Awards 2025





Vance Warns of Job Cuts

Shutdown enters day 12 with threats of deeper layoffs



Photo: Vice President JD Vance
Image Source: AP Photo/Alex Brandon

Amkel Nourush

As the government shutdown entered its 12th day, Vice President J.D. Vance warned of "painful" deep cuts to

the federal workforce if the impasse continues. Speaking on Fox News, Vance said the administration is prioritizing military pay and food assistance for

HIGHLIGHT

●Shutdown reaches day 12, tensions grow

●VP J.D. Vance warns of deeper federal layoffs

●Over 4,000 firings expected, hundreds of thousands furloughed

●Dispute centers on health insurance subsidies

low-income Americans, but acknowledged looming layoffs. Already, hundreds of thousands of federal employees have been furloughed, and a recent OMB court filing indicated over 4,000 workers may soon be fired. Departments including Education, Treasury, and Homeland Security are set to issue layoff notices. The shutdown began on October 1 after Democrats blocked a short-term funding bill that excluded health insurance subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. Republicans insist the government must

reopen before any negotiations. Vance blamed Democrats for forcing difficult choices. "They've given us a choice between feeding low-income women and paying federal bureaucrats," he said. Labor unions have sued to halt the unprecedented layoffs. Democratic lawmakers argue the firings are both unnecessary and unlawful. With both parties dug in, there is little sign of progress, raising fears of long-term damage to public services and workers' livelihoods as the standoff continues.

MIT Rejects Trump Funding Deal

University defends academic freedom and expression

Julian Alvez

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has firmly rejected a federal proposal from the Trump administration that would have tied access to funding to a set of controversial academic policies. The proposal, titled the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education," sought to restrict campus expression, cap international student enrollment, and enforce political neutrality from university leaders. In a letter to Education Secretary Linda McMahon, MIT President Sally Kornbluth said the proposal "includes principles with which we disagree," and emphasized that it would "restrict freedom of expression and our independence as an institution." She noted that MIT already supports free expression and uses standardized testing voluntarily, with international undergraduates making up about 10% of enrollment.

The compact would have required universities to cap international admissions, enforce protest crackdowns, and return federal and private funds if any terms were breached. It also demanded schools screen foreign students for anti-U.S. sentiment and report discipline records to federal authorities.

HIGHLIGHT

●MIT rejected a Trump administration compact tying federal funding to controversial academic policies

●Proposal would restrict speech, cap foreign admissions, and enforce political neutrality

California Governor Gavin Newsom warned state schools against signing, threatening immediate funding cuts. Other schools approached include Brown, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Texas. Kornbluth concluded, "We cannot support the proposed approach... scientific funding should be based on scientific merit alone."

Global Life Expectancy Rebounds

But rising youth deaths signal an urgent new crisis



Photos: In 2023, life expectancy was 76.3 years for women and 71.5 years for men, according to new analyses.
Image Source: Alexander Spatari/Moment RF/Getty Images/CNN

Nassr Al Shams

Global life expectancy has returned to pre-pandemic levels, but rising death rates among adolescents and young adults are triggering concern, according to a major new study published Sunday in The Lancet. The research by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) found that average life expectancy in 2023 was 76.3 years for women and 71.5 for men, reversing the drop caused by Covid-19. However, while global mortality from infectious diseases has declined, noncommunicable

HIGHLIGHT

●Global life expectancy returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2023

●Death rates rising among adolescents and young adults, especially in high-income countries

diseases—including heart disease, stroke, and diabetes—now drive nearly two-thirds of global deaths. Rising death rates among youth in regions such as high-income North America were linked to drug overdoses, suicide,

and alcohol use. "The evidence... is a wake-up call," said IHME Director Dr. Christopher Murray, urging governments to act swiftly on shifting public health needs. The study also identified growing risks from high blood pressure, obesity, pollution, and mental health issues. While some gains have been made globally, disparities remain stark. Life expectancy ranges from 83 years in high-income regions to just 62 in sub-Saharan Africa. Experts warn that reduced international aid could further widen these gaps, especially for vulnerable youth populations.



Photo: Diane Keaton, the Oscar-winning star known for films like "Annie Hall" and "The Godfather," has died at 79. (Oct. 11)
Image Source: AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File

Diane Keaton Dies at 79

Oscar-winning icon remembered for 'Annie Hall' and 'The Godfather'

Adrian Smith

Diane Keaton, the Oscar-winning actor known for her unforgettable roles in "Annie Hall", "The Godfather", and "Father of the Bride," has died at age 79 in California, according to a family member. Her passing, first reported by People on Saturday, came after a sudden decline in health. Keaton's vibrant presence, singular fashion, and emotionally rich performances made her a generational icon. She won an Academy Award in 1978 for her portrayal of the eccentric, endearing Annie Hall and earned three more nominations for "Reds," "Marvin's Room," and "Something's Gotta Give." Tributes quickly flooded in. Director Francis Ford Coppola praised her as "creativity personified." Bette Midler remembered her as "a complete original," while Leonardo DiCaprio called her "brilliant"

HIGHLIGHT

●Diane Keaton, 79, died in California surrounded by family

●Won the Oscar for "Annie Hall" and starred in "The Godfather", "Father of the Bride", and more

and "unapologetically herself." Her influence extended far beyond the screen—her fashion, particularly the "Annie Hall" look, left a permanent mark on pop culture. In later years, she captivated new generations in Nancy Meyers' films and published memoirs reflecting on her life and artistry. Keaton never married but adopted two children, Dexter and Duke, later in life. In 2022, she left her handprints in cement at the TCL Chinese Theatre, saying, "I'm just lucky to have been here at all."

HIGHLIGHT

●MIT rejected a Trump administration compact tying federal funding to controversial academic policies

●Proposal would restrict speech, cap foreign admissions, and enforce political neutrality

California Governor Gavin Newsom warned state schools against signing, threatening immediate funding cuts. Other schools approached include Brown, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Texas. Kornbluth concluded, "We cannot support the proposed approach... scientific funding should be based on scientific merit alone."