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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Diplomatic Rift Deepens

Trump halts aid, calls Petro "drug leader" over trafficking disputes

Alexandar Sullivan

President Donald Trump announced Sunday that the United States will halt all financial aid and subsidies to Colombia, after publicly accusing Colombian President Gustavo Petro of enabling large-scale drug production.

HIGHLIGHT

●U.S. aid to Colombia halted

●Petro claims fisherman killed in U.S. strike

●Six U.S. strikes since early September

●Relations between Washington and Bogotá strained

In a Truth Social post, Trump called Petro an "illegal drug leader" and claimed Colombia had turned into a "rip-off" for American taxpayers. "AS OF TODAY, THESE PAYMENTS... WILL NO LONGER BE MADE," he wrote, accusing Petro of allowing widespread cocaine production for export to the U.S. The announcement



Photo: Colombian President Gustavo Petro, left, and US President Donald Trump, right.
Image Source: Luis Acosta and Jim Watson/AFP/Aljazeera

followed Petro's accusations that a U.S. strike in the Caribbean on September 16 killed Alejandro Carranza, a Colombian fisherman. Petro denounced the attack as a violation of sovereignty and demanded international legal action. U.S. officials maintain the strikes are part of

a broader campaign targeting drug traffickers. The most recent strike was the sixth since early September, reportedly killing at least 29 people. Last month, the Trump administration placed Colombia on a list of countries failing to meet anti-narcotics obligations, citing record highs in coca cultivation.

A waiver had initially preserved U.S. aid, but Sunday's statement appears to override it. Petro, Colombia's first leftist president, has sharply criticized U.S. foreign policy and recently urged American soldiers to defy unlawful orders. His remarks, along with a pro-Palestinian protest

appearance, led the State Department to revoke his visa. Tensions between Washington and Bogotá are now at their highest in years, with Trump warning that if Petro does not shut down drug operations, "the United States will close them up for him — and it won't be done nicely."

Kyiv Presses for Resolve

Zelenskyy calls new coalition after failing to win U.S. missiles

John Paul

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged Western allies not to appease Russia after returning from the United States empty-handed, failing to secure long-range Tomahawk missiles from President Donald Trump. Zelenskyy said Ukraine "will never grant terrorists any bounty for their crimes," calling for a renewed meeting of the Europe-led coalition of the willing to coordinate further support. His appeal followed a Trump-Putin call last week, where the leaders agreed to meet in Budapest to discuss potential peace terms. Trump said his talks with Zelenskyy were "cordial" but stressed it was "time to make a deal." Meanwhile, Russia has intensified attacks on Ukrainian cities, launching over 3,000 drones and 50 missiles in the past week, killing civilians and crippling infrastructure as winter looms — a reminder, Zelenskyy warned, that "appeasement only fuels aggression."

The Short Prince Andrew Under Scrutiny

Police examining reports he sought details on accuser

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Photo: Prince Andrew

Image Source: Getty Images / BBC

Lily Anderson

The Metropolitan Police confirmed on Sunday that it is "actively" reviewing reports

alleging Prince Andrew tried to obtain personal information about his accuser Virginia Giuffre through his police protection officers.

The development follows claims by The Mail on Sunday and The Sunday Telegraph that the prince sought Giuffre's private details

— including her date of birth and social security number — shortly before a 2011 newspaper photo revealed their first meeting. Ms. Giuffre, who accused Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell of sex trafficking, died earlier this year. She had alleged that she was forced to have sex with Prince Andrew three times, including in London in 2001, which he has categorically denied. Energy Secretary Ed Miliband called the reports "deeply concerning," saying on BBC One that such use of police protection would be "absolutely inappropriate." The allegations come just days after Prince

Andrew announced he would relinquish his titles, including Duke of York and membership in the Order of the Garter, further reducing his royal standing. Former BBC journalist Emily Maitlis, who conducted the prince's 2019 Newsnight interview, said recent revelations about his correspondence with Epstein had left her "feeling quite sick," renewing public scrutiny of the disgraced royal.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Millions Rally Nationwide in 'No Kings' Protests

NYN Desk

Millions of Americans took to the streets on Saturday in one of the largest coordinated protest movements in recent history, as the "No Kings" demonstrations drew nearly seven million participants in cities across the United States.

Protesters rallied against what they view as President Donald Trump's authoritarian shift, including increased executive authority and crackdowns on civil liberties.

Massive crowds filled Times



Photo: The Donald Trump "baby blimp", which has become a common sight at protests over the years, made an appearance in Los Angeles
Image Source: FREDERIC J. BROWN/AFP via Getty Images/ BBC

Square, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Los Angeles, carrying signs that read "Democracy not Monarchy" and "The Constitution is not optional."

Despite claims from Trump allies linking the movement to far-left groups, protests remained largely peaceful. Police in New York City reported no arrests, even as over 100,000 gathered across all five boroughs.

President Trump, in a preview clip of a Fox News interview, said, "I'm not a king," responding to growing public

concern over his leadership style. Prominent Democrats, including Senators Bernie Sanders, Chuck Schumer, and Cory Booker, participated in or voiced support for the protests. Demonstrations also took place internationally, with crowds assembling in London, Berlin, and Toronto. While Trump's approval rating hovers around 40%, critics say the protests reflect a broader resistance to the erosion of democratic norms.

21-Year-Old Fatally Stabbed Inside Queens Building



Photo: NYPD vehicle
Image Source: www.fox5ny.com

Senior Reporter

A 21-year-old man was fatally stabbed inside a building in Jamaica, Queens, early Sunday morning, prompting an ongoing police investigation into the borough's latest act of

violence. Officers from the 103rd Precinct responded to a 911 call around 1:51 a.m. reporting a stabbing at 9402 Sutphin Boulevard. When police arrived, they found the victim suffering from a stab wound to the abdomen.

Emergency medical personnel transported him to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, where he was listed in critical condition before being pronounced dead shortly afterward.

Authorities have not released the man's name, pending notification of his family. Investigators remained at the scene through the early morning hours, combing for evidence and reviewing surveillance footage from the surrounding area. Police confirmed that no arrests have been made as of Sunday afternoon. The motive for the stabbing remains unclear.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the NYPD Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) as the investigation continues.

Brooklyn Mirage Owners File to Dismantle Stage

Community Desk

The owners of the embattled Brooklyn Mirage have filed for permits to partially demolish the venue's outdoor stage, according to Spectrum News NY1, marking the latest chapter in the troubled concert space's ongoing legal and operational woes.

The demolition request, filed by Avant Gardner LLC, targets 32,000 square feet of the venue's sprawling 80,000-square-foot temporary structure on Stewart Avenue in East Williamsburg. The move comes after the New York City Department of Buildings deemed the site unsafe in May 2025, leading to the abrupt cancellation of scheduled performances.



Photo: Glass Animals perform at the Brooklyn Mirage in August 2022.

Image Source: Supplied/Legoktm via Wikimedia Commons Avant Gardner, which operates the Mirage, voluntarily filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in Delaware in August, seeking relief from mounting financial pressures and regulatory scrutiny. The venue has also drawn attention for tragic incidents in 2023, when the bodies of two attendees were found in Newtown Creek after separate events held at the Mirage, further clouding its public image. While no timeline for the demolition has been confirmed, the filing raises questions about the venue's future in Brooklyn's nightlife scene. The investigation into safety and permitting concerns remains ongoing.

Dr. Golam Moinuddin, Eminent Scholar and Former Director of Bangla Academy, Passes Away



Photo: Dr. Golam Moinuddin

Staff Reporter

Dr. Golam Moinuddin, former Director of Bangla Academy and Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and a distinguished scholar, writer, and researcher, passed away in New York at the age of 81. Family members confirmed that he had been under treatment at a hospital in Brooklyn for an extended period. Born in 1944 in Nalta, Satkhira, Dr. Moinuddin was a lifelong advocate of literature, education, and cultural preservation. A prolific author and editor, he published more than 30 books, spanning essays, poetry, translations, and children's literature. Among his most significant works was the compilation and

editing of "Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Rachanabali," regarded as a cornerstone of Bangladeshi literary scholarship. Throughout his career, Dr. Moinuddin played a vital role in advancing literary policy, research, and cultural exchange. His leadership at Bangla Academy and the Ahsania Mission reflected his commitment to nurturing intellectual and moral development. He leaves behind his wife, three sons, and a legacy of scholarship and integrity that continues to inspire generations of writers and readers. His passing marks the end of an era in Bangladesh's literary and cultural landscape.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:57	12:41	03:41	06:08	07:23
05:58	12:40	03:40	06:06	07:22
05:59	12:40	03:38	06:05	07:21
06:00	12:40	03:37	06:03	07:19
06:01	12:40	03:36	06:02	07:18
06:03	12:40	03:35	06:01	07:17
06:04	12:40	03:34	05:59	07:15

OPINION

A Decade of Qur'anic Light in New York

— Muhammad Shahidullah

For fifty years, Bangladesh Society has been more than an organization for Bangladeshi Americans—it has been a home for culture, faith, and unity. Over the last decade, one program has quietly become its moral compass: the Qur'an Recitation Competition, co-organized with ITV USA (Global Da'wah Television). Launched in 2016 and sustained every year—including fully online during the pandemic—this initiative now feels less like an “event” and more like a community institution. What makes it work is intention. The goal was never trophies; it was to shape a faith-anchored generation. Children and teens—often 50 or more at a time, sometimes 80–90 in the finals—stand before qualified judges and a packed audience, reciting with tajwīd and composure. The panel has featured respected scholars, including Shaykh Dr. Hasan Abu Nar (a Dubai International Qur'an Competition judge and a Taraweeh imam at Masjid

al-Aqsa), while the Islamic nasheed segment has welcomed renowned artist Iqbal H. J. Prizes go to winners, but—tellingly—every finalist is recognized, reinforcing effort over ego. The competition's reach stretches across all five boroughs of New York. Mosques and centers such as Jamaica Muslim Center, Darul Uloom New York, IQNA Al-Markaz Masjid, Belal Masjid, Brooklyn Islamic Center, Ozone Park Jame Masjid, and Jackson Heights Islamic Center consistently send students and volunteers. This is the secret sauce: parents, teachers, imams, and sponsors pulling together so that Qur'anic learning becomes normal, joyful, and public.



— Muhammad Shahidullah
Founder, ITV USA

The program also carries memory. The late leaders Kamal Ahmed (then Society president), Abdul Khaleque Khair (vice-president), and Azad Baki were early pillars of the effort. Their contributions live on as sadaqah jāriyah—a reminder that community building is measured in generations, not news cycles. ITV USA's role matters, too. As a media outlet devoted to sharing Islam's beauty and peace, it has amplified the competition's message and honored emerging talent—awarding three qārīs and three nasheed artists—while helping cultivate a positive, dignified image of Islam within the broader American context. Why does this all matter? Because

identity is not inherited; it is practiced. In a fast, plural society, the Qur'an competition gives our youth a durable routine: recite, revise, reflect, return. It teaches discipline and humility, marries devotion with excellence, and turns community pride into character. The results are visible—growing participation, stronger family engagement, and a positive ripple across the Bangladeshi community. The organizers say they will keep going; they should, and they should keep widening the circle—more mentorship between senior and junior qārīs, workshops leading up to the event, accessible tracks for beginners, and continued inclusion across age and gender. If the last decade was about establishing a tradition, the next should be about deepening it. This is how a diaspora keeps its roots alive: through steady, credible work that invites children to love the Book and live by it.

“

“The goal was never trophies; it was to raise a faith-anchored generation.”



“

“Identity isn't inherited—it is practiced in families, mosques, and shared work.”

Safeguarding Our Blue Planet — The Call to Protect Life Below Water

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



Oceans are the lifeblood of our planet. They regulate the Earth's climate, provide food and livelihoods for billions, and sustain a delicate ecological balance that supports all living beings. Yet, our oceans are under unprecedented threat from pollution, overfishing, acidification, and rising

sea levels. Sustainable Development Goal 14—Life Below Water—calls on us to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. It is not merely an environmental goal; it is a moral and existential imperative for humanity's survival. Every year, millions of tons of plastic waste enter our oceans, endangering marine life and contaminating the food chain. Coral reefs, often described as the “rainforests of the sea,” are bleaching and dying due to warming waters. Overfishing and unregulated exploitation have pushed



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

countless species to the brink of extinction, threatening the balance of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities. What happens beneath the waves inevitably affects life on land—our oxygen, our food, our climate, and ultimately, our future. Global cooperation is essential to reversing this damage. Governments must enforce stricter environmental protections, regulate fishing practices, and reduce carbon emissions that contribute to ocean warming. Industries must innovate toward sustainable production and packaging, while

individuals can contribute through responsible consumption and waste reduction. Education and awareness are equally vital—when people understand the value of the ocean, they are more likely to protect it. Faith-based communities, too, have a role to play in restoring harmony with nature. In Islam, the sea is a sign of God's creation and power—its protection, therefore, is an act of stewardship. Caring for the ocean is not just an environmental duty but a spiritual one, reminding us of our shared responsibility as caretakers of the Earth. The time for action is now. To protect life below water is to preserve life above it. Our survival, prosperity, and peace depend on the health of our oceans. By working together, across borders and generations, we can heal the blue heart of our planet before it is too late.

KIDS

“Hamza Learns Wudhu” Inspires Students

Elhaam Academy hosts a lively reading and activity session

James Anderson

The sound of laughter and storytelling filled the air at Elhaam Academy as students gathered for a special evening of reading and creativity centered around the children’s book “Hamza Learns Wudhu.” Guided by Mrs. Anum, the young readers stepped into Hamza’s world, where lessons of faith blended seamlessly with fun, imagination, and community spirit. The event was designed to help students understand the beauty and importance of Wudhu, the Islamic act of purification before prayer, in a way that was both engaging and meaningful. Through expressive storytelling, discussion, and hands-on participation, the children connected deeply with the story’s



themes of cleanliness, mindfulness, and devotion. As part of the session, students took part in colorful crafts and interactive activities,

bringing the story to life beyond the pages of the book. The room was filled with the hum of excitement as children used art supplies to design their own

creative interpretations of what they had learned. Each craft reflected not only artistic skill but also a growing understanding of faith in everyday life.

“Guided by Mrs. Anum, our readers stepped into ‘Hamza Learns Wudhu’ and brought it to life with fun-filled crafts and activities, ending the night with snacks and big smiles,” said organizers, highlighting the joy and energy that defined the event. Teachers noted that the activity was more than just a reading—it

with snacks, laughter, and shared reflections, leaving everyone with a sense of accomplishment and connection. Parents and educators expressed appreciation for how events like this help strengthen children’s understanding of Islamic teachings in an engaging, age-appropriate way. Through programs like these, Elhaam Academy continues to create a nurturing environment where students can learn, imagine, and grow—not just academically, but spiritually and emotionally. The “Hamza Learns Wudhu” reading night proved that when learning is wrapped in joy, creativity, and faith, it becomes an experience that stays with young hearts long after the story ends.



was an opportunity to nurture both literacy and spirituality among students in a setting filled with warmth and creativity. The evening concluded



KIDS

“Hamza Learns Wudhu” Inspires Students



SDG GOALS

Art, Imagination, and Global Goals Unite

Elhaam Academy's young artists take part in creative fun with Save the People USA



Ashley Reed

The classroom burst into color and laughter as young students at Elhaam Academy turned everyday materials into works of art—coffee filters became wings, pipe cleaners

became antennas, and imagination took flight. The Arts & Crafts Club session for Grades K–3 was no ordinary afternoon of glue and glitter; it was an engaging celebration of creativity, care, and global connection.

Armed with markers and a big dose of excitement, students carefully layered and colored their coffee filters to create vibrant butterflies. Despite the potentially messy task, the children showed surprising discipline,

placing folders under their projects to keep their workspace neat—proof that fun and responsibility can go hand in hand. The fluttering creations soon filled the room, a vivid display of youthful energy and imagination. As United Nations Day approaches on October



24, the session also tied into a theme of global unity. The young artists joined a UN-themed photoshoot, proudly posing with UN posters and expressing their playful side with joyful poses and bright smiles. These lighthearted moments carried a deeper message—teaching children that creativity can be a bridge to understanding, empathy, and world citizenship. To end the day on a personal note, each student wrote a heartfelt letter to their family, sealed it in an envelope, and prepared to surprise their loved ones at home. This touching gesture encouraged emotional expression, helping students put their thoughts and gratitude into words while reinforcing the importance of kindness and connection. The activity was part of

an ongoing collaboration between Elhaam Academy and Save the People USA's "SDG Academy New York", a project dedicated to promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through creative and educational engagement. By blending hands-on art with global awareness, the initiative inspires students to think not only as learners but as young changemakers. What began as a simple arts-and-crafts day ended as a celebration of color, compassion, and creativity. Through butterflies, laughter, and letters, Elhaam Academy's students learned that even the smallest acts—of imagination, care, or understanding—can make the world a more beautiful place.





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EDUCATION

Learning to Lead with Respect

Elhaam Academy students celebrate values of kindness and self-awareness through art

William Henry

Respect was the theme of the day at Elhaam Academy, where 3rd and 4th graders came together for an inspiring lesson on kindness, empathy, and self-worth. The classroom was alive with thoughtful discussion and creativity as students explored what it truly means to show respect—to others, their community, and themselves. The engaging session encouraged students to share real-life examples of how respect plays a role in their daily lives. From listening carefully to teachers and helping classmates, to speaking kindly at home and caring for their surroundings, each idea reflected a growing sense of understanding and maturity among the



young learners. As part of the activity, students also reflected on the concept of self-respect—a vital part of emotional and social

growth. They identified people they admire and discussed how they, too, can demonstrate respect for themselves through positive words,

healthy habits, and responsible choices. The conversations sparked a sense of pride and purpose as students began recognizing

respect not just as a rule, but as a value that builds stronger character and relationships. To bring their ideas to life, the students collaborated on a vibrant “Respect Banner.” The banner, filled with colorful drawings and powerful words, depicted actions that symbolize respect—helping others, listening with empathy, sharing, and speaking

school community. Teachers noted that this lesson was part of Elhaam Academy’s ongoing Character Education and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives, which aim to help students grow into thoughtful, respectful, and confident individuals. Through activities like these, children learn that respect is more than good manners—it’s a foundation for kindness, self-esteem, and meaningful human connection. By the end of the lesson, the Respect Banner stood proudly in the classroom, a symbol of unity, understanding, and shared values. For the students of Elhaam Academy, it was not just a project—it was a promise to live out the principles of respect in their words, actions, and hearts every day.



with kindness. Each contribution added to a powerful visual reminder of the importance of compassion and good character within their



AWARENESS

Building Courage Through Compassion

Elhaam Academy welcomes CAIR-NY for an anti-bullying awareness session

Jessica Morgan

Students at Elhaam Academy took an important step toward building a safer, more compassionate school environment during a special visit from Maryam Shuaib, Community Program Organizer at CAIR-NY (Council on American-Islamic Relations, New York). The interactive session, held this week, centered on the crucial topic of how to stand up against bullying—a message that resonated deeply with the young audience. Shuaib’s visit aimed to help students understand not only how to protect themselves but also how to look out for others. Through engaging discussions and relatable examples, she introduced the concept of being an “upstander”—someone who actively supports victims of bullying instead of remaining a passive bystander. The session emphasized the importance of courage, empathy, and collective responsibility in creating a positive school culture. Students were also



taught practical ways to safely report bullying incidents, whether they occur in person or online. By learning about trusted adults, reporting systems, and communication strategies, students left the discussion better prepared to respond thoughtfully

and responsibly when they or their peers face difficult situations. Educators at Elhaam Academy highlighted how such sessions reinforce the school’s broader commitment to character education and social-emotional learning (SEL). Encouraging

students to build mutual respect and self-confidence aligns closely with the school’s mission of nurturing both academic and personal growth. Organizers shared that the workshop’s goal went beyond simply raising awareness—it sought to empower

young people to act with kindness and moral courage. By recognizing that every voice matters, students were encouraged to take ownership of their role in making their classrooms and playgrounds inclusive, respectful spaces. The session concluded

on an inspiring note, as students reflected on how they could embody the values of empathy and respect in their daily interactions. The lessons shared by Maryam Shuaib and CAIR-NY served as a powerful reminder that standing up for what is right—no matter how small the action—can have a lasting impact. As one of many ongoing initiatives at Elhaam Academy, this event reaffirmed the school’s dedication to shaping responsible, confident, and compassionate leaders of tomorrow—students who not only learn about kindness but live it every day.



INSPIRATION

The Pride of Bangladeshi Diaspora

New York's expatriate community pays tribute to Mosharraf Hossain Khan Chowdhury for his dedication to education in Comilla

Issac Andrew

In a heartwarming event that celebrated humility, sacrifice, and vision, the Bangladeshi expatriate community in New York gathered at the Jewish Center in Jackson Heights to honor Mosharraf Hossain Khan Chowdhury, a taxi driver whose extraordinary commitment to education has changed thousands of lives in Bangladesh. For over three decades, Chowdhury has lived modestly in a shared apartment in Jackson Heights, working long hours behind the wheel of a New York taxi. Despite not owning a home or car of his own, he has devoted his



earnings to building six educational institutions in his hometown of Brahmanpara, Comilla—including the Mosharraf Hossain Khan Chowdhury University College, Abdul Matin Khasru Women's College, and Abdur Razzak High School. Today, these institutions serve more than 6,000 students,

offering opportunities for education and empowerment in one of Bangladesh's rural regions. The Bangladeshi Forum USA organized the reception to recognize Chowdhury's lifelong contributions to education and community development. Presided over by Fakrul Alam,

former Secretary of the Bangladesh Society, and conducted by community board members Ahsan Habib and Shamim Hossain, the event drew a large turnout of expatriate leaders and well-wishers who lauded Chowdhury's unwavering dedication. Speakers praised him as a living example of

determination and compassion can create a legacy of learning and opportunity. Many emphasized that his selflessness makes him deserving of national recognition, including Bangladesh's prestigious Ekushey Padak. The evening's atmosphere was one of deep respect and inspiration. Attendees

reflected on how Chowdhury's life embodies the spirit of giving back—transforming modest means into monumental impact. His story continues to inspire the Bangladeshi diaspora, proving that even in the bustling streets of New York, one man's quiet sacrifices can echo across oceans and generations. As applause filled the hall, Mosharraf Hossain Khan Chowdhury stood humbly before the crowd—an unsung hero whose simple life carries an extraordinary message: true success is measured not by wealth, but by how much one gives to uplift others.



DIALOGUE

Scholar of Dialogue and Decolonization Visits New York

Dr. Abbas Panakkal shares insights on global history, education, and intercultural engagement

Emily Parker

Celebrated scholar and cultural leader Dr. Abbas Panakkal brought his message of global understanding and intercultural dialogue to New York City during a dynamic academic and community-focused visit that spanned educational institutions and civic platforms. A renowned voice in global studies and intercultural engagement, Dr. Panakkal's New York tour showcased his commitment to fostering connections between scholarship, community, and youth development. His day began with a visit to Elhaam Academy, where he was warmly welcomed by faculty and students. There, he toured classrooms, observed student-led projects—including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) program—and engaged in meaningful discussions about education and



global citizenship. Deeply impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm of the students, he commended the academy's efforts in integrating global awareness with faith-based learning. Later in the day, Dr. Panakkal visited Darul Uloom New York, where he met with

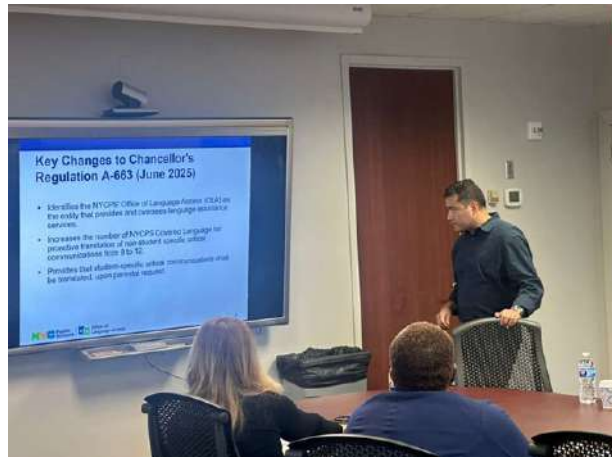
educators and students to exchange views on religious education and its evolving role in contemporary society. He participated in thoughtful conversations on curriculum development and student engagement, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking, inclusivity, and interfaith understanding

within academic spaces. Continuing his city tour, Dr. Panakkal attended a session at the NYC Mayor's Office's Civic Engagement Commission (CEC), where he contributed as an expert in a language-centered program. His participation reflected his dedication to bridging linguistic and cultural divides—an



Anticolonialism." The talk revisited his latest research on how the 1921 Malabar resistance was represented in early 20th-century American media, drawing parallels between the Indian anti-colonial struggle and global movements for independence. His lecture captivated students and faculty alike, sparking deep discussions on transnational solidarity, historical memory, and shared narratives of decolonization. Dr. Panakkal's visit underscored the enduring value of education as a bridge across cultures. His engagements throughout New York highlighted how scholarship and dialogue can foster mutual respect and collective progress—reminding audiences that the pursuit of knowledge, when shared openly, transcends borders and builds lasting understanding.

approach that aligns with his lifelong advocacy for dialogue and social harmony. The following day, Dr. Panakkal delivered a lecture at New York University (NYU) titled "Malabar in the American Press: Musaliar King and Transoceanic



FAITH

The Power of Dhikr in Daily Life

Elhaam Academy's Friday sermon highlights the role of faith in finding inner peace



they can find stability and comfort even in moments of stress or uncertainty. The khutbah highlighted that remembrance (dhikr) serves as a shield against negativity, guiding believers toward patience, kindness, and inner strength. Students were invited to reflect on how small, consistent acts of faith—such as gratitude, dua, and honesty—strengthen their relationship with Allah and bring clarity to their intentions. The atmosphere was filled with quiet reflection as they absorbed the

Academy shared that these Friday gatherings play an essential role in building students' spiritual foundation and character. Each khutbah offers lessons that blend religious understanding with practical guidance, encouraging young learners to carry Islamic values into every aspect of their lives. The message of the day—simple yet profound—was a reminder that faith is not only about rituals but about maintaining an ongoing relationship with Allah. Students left the gathering with a renewed sense of tranquility and purpose, reminded that remembrance is the key to unlocking peace within the heart and harmony in their surroundings. Through sessions like this, Elhaam Academy continues its commitment to nurturing students' spiritual, emotional, and moral development—helping them grow not only as learners but as compassionate, mindful, and faithful individuals guided by the light of remembrance.



message that when one remembers Allah, their heart finds rest, as the Qur'an beautifully reminds: "Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace." (Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:28) Educators at Elhaam

Noah Presley

At Elhaam Academy, students gathered for a serene and reflective Jumu'ah session that centered on a timeless spiritual message — that

true peace of heart lies in the remembrance of Allah. The khutbah, titled "Remembering Allah – The Key to a Peaceful Heart," encouraged students to nurture calmness, gratitude, and

mindfulness in their daily lives through consistent connection with their Creator. The session reminded attendees that the remembrance of Allah is not confined to prayer alone, but

extends to how one speaks, acts, and treats others. By keeping Allah in their thoughts at all times—whether in the classroom, at home, or among friends—students learned that



NYC ELECTION

NYC Mayoral Debate Night Reveals Contrasts in Leadership and Vision

Mamdani emphasizes affordability, Cuomo defends record, and Sliwa leans on personality

Alex Mason

The first New York City mayoral debate on Thursday night saw Democratic nominee Zohran Mamdani emerge as the steady frontrunner, deflecting attacks from Andrew Cuomo and Curtis Sliwa while keeping his focus firmly on the issues most important to New Yorkers: affordability, housing, and public safety. Throughout the two-hour exchange, Mamdani projected confidence and composure, staying true to his campaign message. "The debate went well because it gave me the opportunity to speak directly to New Yorkers about our agenda," Mamdani said the following day. "To be on stage with the architect of this affordability crisis shows New Yorkers what real choices they have on Election Day." Cuomo, the former governor running as an independent, spent much of the evening



on the defensive — rebutting questions about his record on housing and public corruption while launching pointed critiques of Mamdani's progressive past. "I think Mamdani got exposed," Cuomo told a radio host the next morning. "He changes his answers, and I think it was

obvious yesterday." But on stage, Cuomo's attacks struggled to stick. His attempts to paint Mamdani as inconsistent were met with practiced counterarguments. Mamdani, while occasionally pressed on his stance toward the Israel-Hamas conflict,

handled the topic with clarity, reaffirming his support for peace and human rights while refusing to let the issue overshadow local concerns. "I wasn't elected to be the Prime Minister of Israel," he said pointedly. "I'm running to be the Mayor of New York City." Curtis Sliwa, the

Republican nominee and longtime Guardian Angels founder, added his trademark flair to the evening, calling for a tough-on-crime agenda while poking at both rivals. "I look very mayoral tonight," he quipped, ditching his trademark red beret for the debate. At one point, Sliwa lightened the

mood by referencing his 1992 shooting incident: "I try to avoid yellow cabs — but if I have to, I Uber." Despite moments of tension and humor, the debate largely reinforced Mamdani's commanding position in the race. A Fox News poll released earlier in the week showed him leading with 52% among likely voters, well ahead of Cuomo at 28% and Sliwa at 14%. While Cuomo needed a breakout moment, it never arrived. Mamdani's polished performance — a mix of calm delivery, focused messaging, and clear policy articulation — left him unscathed and, if anything, stronger heading into the final stretch of the campaign. For many observers, the debate confirmed what polls already suggest: Zohran Mamdani remains the candidate to beat — a young, confident voice for a changing New York City.



All Photo Credit: Online

UNITY

Honoring Leadership and Partnership

Captain Trenée D. Young recognized by FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association at annual event

Daniel Matthew

The FBI New York Citizens Academy Alumni Association held its highly anticipated Rooftop Event at EDI International in Midtown Manhattan, gathering alumni, law enforcement officials, and community partners for an evening dedicated to unity, trust, and public service. The event honored Captain Trenée D. Young of the New York State Police for her exceptional contributions to public safety and her leadership in fostering cooperation between officers and the communities they serve.

The gathering, held on the twelfth-floor rooftop of EDI International, provided a striking backdrop for a night that



celebrated collaboration and civic responsibility. Guests were welcomed from across the state,

representing both law enforcement and civilian sectors, underscoring the shared commitment

to strengthening community partnerships and mutual understanding.

Attendees praised the evening for its meaningful purpose and inclusive spirit. More than a formal occasion, it served as a platform for dialogue and gratitude — recognizing those who work tirelessly to safeguard communities while encouraging citizens to play an active role in supporting law enforcement



partnerships. Founded to extend the values and education imparted through the

FBI Citizens Academy, the Alumni Association serves as a vital bridge between the FBI and the wider community. Through initiatives such as this rooftop event, the organization continues to champion collaboration, leadership, and shared responsibility in public safety.

As the evening concluded with applause for Captain Young's dedication and service, the event stood as a powerful reminder that the strongest communities are built on trust — and that through mutual respect and cooperation, both law enforcement and citizens can move forward together toward a safer, more united future.





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Louvre Heist Shocks France

Brazen daylight theft targets priceless crown jewels

Amkel Nourush

French authorities are investigating a high-profile heist at the Louvre Museum, where masked thieves made off with priceless royal jewels in a daylight raid Sunday morning. Between 9:30 and 9:40 a.m., the gang gained entry to the Galerie d'Apollon by scaling a mechanical ladder and cutting through a first-floor window. Using power tools, they smashed open display cases and escaped on scooters, all within minutes. Culture Minister Rachida



Photo: The Louvre Museum in Paris Image Source: Getty Images / BBC

Dati called the robbers "experienced" and the heist "very professional," noting that no one was harmed. One stolen item was reportedly dropped

during the escape. Authorities have not yet confirmed the full list of missing pieces, but the gallery houses French crown jewels, including treasures from the era of Napoleon III. The Regent Diamond, the gallery's centerpiece, was not stolen, officials confirmed. The Louvre has closed temporarily as investigators review CCTV footage and track escape routes. The theft follows several other recent museum burglaries across France, raising alarm over the security of national heritage sites.

Bolton Indicted Over Classified Files

Case against ex-Trump adviser seen as most serious yet

Nassr Al Shams

Former National Security Adviser John Bolton has been indicted on 18 federal charges for allegedly mishandling classified information, in what legal experts say is a more serious case than those brought against other Trump critics. According to prosecutors, Bolton improperly stored and shared top-secret documents, some through insecure email accounts, after leaving the White House in 2019. Investigators said a hacker once accessed his files and sent threats referencing "the biggest scandal since Hillary's emails." Bolton, a long-time critic of Donald Trump, pleaded not guilty on Friday. The indictment follows Trump's recent public calls for investigations into political opponents, including James Comey and Letitia James, prompting concerns over potential political influence on the Justice Department.

HIGHLIGHT

- John Bolton charged with 18 counts of mishandling classified information
- Case follows indictments of James Comey and Letitia James
- Experts say Bolton's case appears legally stronger
- DOJ accused of facing political pressure

However, legal experts including Mark Lesko and Carissa Byrne Hessick say the evidence and procedure in Bolton's case suggest a more traditional, fact-based prosecution. "This misconduct is more serious and appears to have occurred over a significant period," Hessick said. If convicted, Bolton could face significant prison time. The case underscores renewed scrutiny of classified information handling within the U.S. government—and deepens the political and legal divisions surrounding Trump's return to power.

Ceasefire Under Strain

Israel suspends aid after Hamas attack in southern Gaza



Photo: Mourners carry bodies of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire, during their funeral in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025 Image Source: AP Photo / Abdel Kareem Hana

Adrian Smith

Israel has suspended all aid deliveries to Gaza "until further notice", citing a Hamas ceasefire violation, as renewed fighting threatens the fragile U.S.-brokered truce barely a week old.

killing two soldiers. Israel responded with aerial strikes across the enclave, which Gaza's Health Ministry said killed at least 29 Palestinians, including children. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed the military to take "strong action" but stopped short of declaring a return to full-scale war. Egyptian mediators said they were in "round-the-clock contact" with both sides to deescalate tensions. The escalation comes amid a delicate second phase of the ceasefire agreement, which aims to disarm Hamas and establish a new governing authority in Gaza. Meanwhile, Israel confirmed the recovery of the bodies of two hostages, Ronen Engel and Sonhaya Oakkharasri, believed killed during Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack. The renewed violence threatens to unravel months of diplomacy and deepen Gaza's humanitarian crisis as winter approaches.

HIGHLIGHT

- Israel halts aid to Gaza after alleged Hamas ceasefire breach
- Dozens killed in new Israeli strikes Sunday
- Two Israeli soldiers dead; ceasefire at risk
- Egypt mediating to prevent escalation

Bodies of two hostages recovered and identified

According to an Israeli security official, the halt followed an incident in which Hamas militants fired at Israeli troops in southern Gaza,

Photo: Controversial post from New York Post Image Source: New York Post on X

Faith Under Attack Again

Muslims speak out after smear post goes viral

Julian Alvez

A recent New York Post tweet targeting Zohran Mamdani for appearing in a photo with Imam Siraj Wahhaj and Yusef Salaam has ignited strong backlash, with critics denouncing it as a recycled attack rooted in Islamophobia. The tweet labeled Wahhaj a "93 WTC bombing co-conspirator and terrorist apologist" — despite the fact that he was never charged or convicted. Wahhaj was among over 170 Muslim Americans named in

a now-discredited list of "unindicted co-conspirators" during the 1990s. Dr. Yasir Qadhi, a prominent scholar, condemned the practice as "one of the most un-American things our government has ever done," noting it violated basic due process and ruined reputations without legal accountability. "They were branded before they were even heard," Qadhi wrote, emphasizing that courts later ruled the list unconstitutional, but not

before careers ended, families suffered, and communities grew silent. The resurfacing of these claims — via a simple photo of three men smiling — has once again reopened wounds for Muslim Americans long targeted by fear-based narratives. "This wasn't justice," Qadhi said. "It was fear-mongering masqueraded as patriotism. And history will remember how America failed some of its most loyal citizens when they needed it most."