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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Zohran Mamdani Makes History

First Muslim, South Asian Mayor of New York City



Photo: Newly Elected NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani

Image Source: Online

Alexandar Sullivan

Zohran Kwame Mamdani, a 34-year-old state assemblyman and self-described democratic socialist, has been elected mayor of New York City, making history as the first Muslim, South

Asian, and African-born individual to lead the city. His victory marks a defining moment in U.S. urban politics, reflecting growing support for progressive movements within the Democratic Party. Defeating former Governor Andrew

HIGHLIGHT

●Swearing-in set for January 1, 2026

●Defeated Andrew Cuomo and Curtis Sliwa in a historic election

Cuomo and Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa, Mamdani secured a decisive 9-point lead with over a million votes. His campaign focused on housing affordability, public services, and working-class empowerment, resonating deeply with

voters across boroughs. "Tonight, against all odds, we have grasped it. The future is in our hands," Mamdani told cheering supporters in Queens. While celebrated for his groundbreaking win, Mamdani faces immense challenges—

balancing his bold agenda with limited mayoral power and opposition from political and business elites. Yet his supporters remain hopeful, viewing his victory as a mandate for fairness, inclusion, and systemic change in America's largest city.

BBC Chief Resigns

Trump Speech Edit Sparks Leadership Shake-Up

Lily Anderson

In a major shake-up at Britain's public broadcaster, BBC Director-General Tim Davie and CEO of News Deborah Turness announced their resignations on Sunday, following mounting criticism over the editing of a Donald Trump speech. The controversy stems from a BBC documentary aired last year that featured



Photo: BBC Director-General Tim Davie and US President Trump
Image Source: Online

a portion of Trump's January 6, 2021, speech but omitted his call for supporters

to demonstrate "peacefully." Critics labeled the edit as misleading, intensifying

scrutiny of the broadcaster's editorial practices. In a letter to staff, Davie stated his

departure was "entirely my decision," while acknowledging mistakes made during his tenure. Turness, in her resignation note, cited growing damage to the BBC and asserted, "the buck stops with me." She also rejected claims of institutional bias. The resignations come amid broader concerns raised by a Daily Telegraph report alleging bias in the BBC Arabic service and its coverage of

transgender issues. Funded by an annual license fee and held to a charter of impartiality, the BBC faces heightened public and political expectations—now compounded by a leadership vacuum.

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THE ROOTS OF CHANGE:
A REFLECTION ON
ZOHRAN MAMDANI'S
JOURNEY

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rockefeller Center welcomes its iconic Christmas tree

NYN Desk

The arrival of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree in Manhattan on Saturday officially marked the beginning of the holiday season in New York City. The 75-foot Norway spruce, weighing 11 tons, traveled from East Greenbush, near Albany, before being hoisted into place at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Crowds gathered to watch cranes lift the massive tree, which will soon sparkle with 50,000 energy-efficient LED lights and a 900-pound Swarovski star. The lighting

ceremony is set for December 3, to be broadcast live and hosted by Reba McEntire. The tree was donated by Judy Russ, whose family planted it nearly a century ago. "For this to now become the center of New York City Christmas is incredible," Russ said. The Rockefeller tree tradition began in 1931, when workers first raised a modest fir to lift spirits during the Great Depression. Nearly a century later, it remains one of the city's most beloved holiday symbols.



Photo: Workers hold the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree with ropes at Rockefeller Plaza, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025, in New York. Image Source: AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez

Veteran firefighter dies after rooftop cardiac arrest in Brooklyn



Photo: FDNY Firefighter Patrick Brady, 42, dies after a rooftop cardiac arrest battling a Brownsville blaze. Image Source: FDNY

Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Brady, an 11-year department veteran, came from a proud firefighting family. "There is no sacrifice more selfless," said Mayor Eric Adams, offering condolences to Brady's wife, Kara, and their family. A bunting ceremony was held Sunday at Ladder Company 120, where firefighters embraced and shared memories. Lieutenant Scott Coyne and firefighter Jake Touhey remembered Brady as dependable and beloved. Answer the Call, a nonprofit for first responders, pledged \$115,000 to support Kara Brady, reflecting the community's support in tragedy. Brady's passing marks the second FDNY line-of-duty death in two weeks. Funeral arrangements are pending as the department mourns a man described as "one of the greatest."

Staff Reporter

Firefighter Patrick Brady, a veteran of the FDNY, died Saturday night, November 8, after suffering a cardiac

arrest while battling a rooftop blaze at 9407 Kings Highway in Brooklyn. The 42-year-old was pulled from the roof by fellow firefighters and rushed to Brookdale University

Community begins recovery after devastating 5-alarm blaze

Community Desk

A devastating five-alarm fire tore through the Van Nest neighborhood of the Bronx on Saturday, November 9, destroying multiple homes and businesses and leaving 16 people homeless, according to the Red Cross. The fire broke out around 11:30 a.m. at a commercial property near 9407 Kings Highway and quickly escalated. It took several hours for FDNY crews to bring the blaze under control. During the response, four firefighters sustained minor injuries. By Sunday morning, the aftermath was stark. Gates cordoned off the area, and piles of debris — bricks, charred car parts, and twisted



Photo: 5-alarm fire erupted in Van Nest on Saturday, Nov. 9. Image Source: Online

metal — lined the sidewalk in front of a destroyed auto body shop. The smell of smoke lingered in the air as recovery began. A neighboring business owner told News 12 they witnessed the flames spreading rapidly. The Red Cross has since

stepped in to assist displaced families. The fire's impact on the tight-knit Van Nest community has been deeply felt, but residents and local authorities are beginning to assess damage and begin the long road to rebuilding.

Thousands gathered in Long Island City to cheer 2025 NYC Marathon runners



Photo: Eliud Kipchoge leading the professional men's field at his final professional marathon in Long Island City. Image Source: Kent Ng / QNS.com

Senior Reporter

In a spirited display of borough pride, Long Island City transformed into a celebration zone on Sunday, November 2, as thousands gathered to support runners of the 2025 TCS New York City Marathon. From miles 13.1 to 15.5, Queens residents and running clubs turned the streets into a corridor of energy, offering cheers, snacks, and heartfelt encouragement. Groups like Queens Distance Runners, AWSTARS, and Hellgate Road Runners were out in full force, providing fuel and community spirit. Local runner Ronnie Colborn described the moment as "really special," noting the

strength of the community built through shared passion. Andrew Chin, a Flushing resident who completed the NYRR 9+1 program, was inspired by the scene. "The marathon feels like a national holiday," he said. This year's race broke records with 59,226 finishers, including 18,660 international runners. Queens participants like Karen Bdera and Ceil Witherspoon proudly crossed the finish line, their efforts cheered by a borough that never stops supporting its own. The moment was more than a race—it was a tribute to unity, endurance, and the enduring heart of The World's Borough.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:19	11:40	02:20	04:42	06:00
05:20	11:40	02:20	04:41	05:59
05:21	11:40	02:19	04:40	05:58
05:22	11:40	02:18	04:39	05:58
05:23	11:40	02:17	04:38	05:57
05:24	11:41	02:17	04:37	05:56
05:25	11:41	02:16	04:37	05:56

OPINION

THE ROOTS OF CHANGE: A REFLECTION ON ZOHRAN MAMDANI'S JOURNEY

— Attorney Ali Najmi

I ran for City Council ten years ago in Eastern Queens, and a young man named Zohran Mamdani volunteered for my campaign. We were both part of a huge immigrant community of South Asian Muslims. Our community is such an important part of this city, but at the time we were not considered to be reliable voters. And that perception came with consequences. After 9/11 there were legal abuses against Muslims that would not have happened to any other community—because we lacked political power. Our campaign set out to transform the electorate. We tried to turn nonvoters into voters. Both of us were young: I was thirty-one, Zohran was twenty-three. And while most of our friends

were out partying, we knocked on thousands of doors. But we learned that it's the hardest sale in the world to make people care as much as you do. In the end I lost badly to a candidate endorsed by the Democratic political machine. The experience left me feeling jaded. There were times I wondered if the only way for a candidate to win was to work within a political machine. But here's the problem with machines—they don't have clear values. Our campaign had clear



— Attorney Ali Najmi
Lead Counsel, New Elect Mayor Zohran Mamdani Campaign

values: we wanted to bring power to people who didn't have power. But the machine is already powerful, and it only cares about maintaining power. It's not about new thinking. It's not about change. If you become their candidate, you must give them loyalty regardless of their positions, and too many times those positions come from special interests. The whole process can make you cynical, which is why these last few months have been so

emotional for me. This time around I was the one supporting Zohran, as campaign counsel. I'm filled with pride for what he's achieved, using many of the lessons we learned ten years ago. I have no problem saying he's a tremendously better candidate than I ever was. He speaks to people in ways I never could. But his success has given new meaning to all our hard work, so many years ago—knocking on doors, meeting with community elders. My campaign might not have been the swing of the axe that knocked down the tree—the first swing rarely is. But it turns out we were breaking ground for something bigger.
Source: *Online Post*

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“Our campaign had clear values: we wanted to bring power to people who didn't have power.”



Photo: Zohran Mamdani, newly Elected NYC Mayor

Image Source: Online

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“My campaign might not have been the swing of the axe that knocked down the tree—the first swing rarely is. But it turns out we were breaking ground for something bigger.”

Strength in Unity — Revitalizing Global Partnerships for Sustainable

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah



The journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not one that any nation can walk alone. SDG 17—Partnerships for the Goals—reminds us that the challenges facing our world today are deeply interconnected, and so must be our solutions. From poverty and inequality to climate change and technological divides, the global community can only progress through genuine cooperation, shared responsibility, and mutual trust.

In our increasingly interdependent world, partnerships are not optional—they are essential. Governments, civil society, businesses, and international organizations must come together with a shared sense of purpose and accountability. True partnership goes beyond symbolic declarations; it requires action rooted in respect, fairness, and a collective vision for human progress. No single country, no matter how powerful, can eradicate global hunger, ensure clean energy, or achieve peace without collaboration across borders. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed



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

both our vulnerability and our interdependence. It showed us how crises transcend borders and how global solidarity—or the lack of it—can determine humanity's fate. SDG 17 calls for revitalized partnerships that focus on resource-sharing, technology transfer, capacity-building, and fair trade. It emphasizes the moral responsibility of wealthier nations to support developing countries in achieving sustainable growth. This is not charity—it is justice, as progress for one nation contributes to the prosperity of all. Faith and morality also have a role

to play in global cooperation. Islam teaches the principle of ta'awun alal birri wat-taqwa—“cooperate in righteousness and piety.” This timeless value aligns perfectly with the essence of SDG 17, which seeks unity in purpose and partnership for good. When guided by ethical principles, partnerships become not only strategic alliances but also moral commitments to serve humanity. As we move forward, it is crucial that partnerships remain inclusive and people-centered. Communities, youth, and faith-based organizations must have a voice in shaping development strategies. Building bridges between sectors and societies can help foster understanding and inspire innovative solutions to complex global challenges. The success of the SDGs ultimately depends on our willingness to work hand in hand, transcending divisions for the greater good.

ORGANIZATION

Pir of Sarsina: "No Conspiracy Against Bangladesh Will Succeed"

Sarsina Student Organization's council emphasizes faith, morality, and youth leadership

James Anderson

The Sarsina Student Organization held its central council session on November 8, 2025, at the Bangladesh-China Friendship International Conference Center in Agargaon, Dhaka, drawing participants from educational institutions across the country in a vibrant and spiritual atmosphere. The conference began with Qur'anic recitations and devotional performances by the organization's cultural ensemble, Zulfikar Hamd-Na'at and Gojol Group, followed by formal proceedings led by outgoing leaders. Muha. Bahauddin Mostafa, the former General Secretary, conducted the session, while Muha. Shamsul Alam Mohebbi, the outgoing President, gave the welcome address. The council elected Muhammad Abu Wakkas as the new President and Muhammad Muhibbullah Salehi as General Secretary, alongside a newly appointed 151-member central committee tasked with leading the organization



urging them to "reject false ideologies and uphold truth and justice" to build a disciplined Islamic nation. Other distinguished speakers included A.M.M. Bahauddin, President of Jamiatul Modariseen and Editor of Daily Inqilab; Mufti Shah Abu Bakr Muhammad Saleh Nesarullah; Mirza Md. Nurur Rahman Beg; A.K.M. Abu Bakr Siddique, Principal of Darunnajat Siddiqia Kamil Madrasa; Dr. Syed Md. Sharafat Ali; Dr. Muhammad Ruhul Amin, Professor at the University of Dhaka; Judge Muha. Ismail; Mufti Abu Wakkas (Central President); and Mufti Muhibbullah Salehi (Central General Secretary). The event concluded with a collective prayer for Bangladesh's unity, peace, and adherence to Islamic principles. With renewed pledges to promote education, moral integrity, and national harmony, the Sarsina Student Organization reaffirmed its non-political yet spiritually driven mission to serve the nation and its youth.

for the next three years. In his keynote address as chief guest, Hazrat Mawlana Shah Abu Nasar Nesaruddin Ahmad Husain, the Amir of Jamiat-e-Hizbullah Bangladesh and Pir of Sarsina Darbar Sharif, delivered a powerful speech on national integrity, moral revival, and faith-based unity. Declaring that "deep conspiracies are being hatched against Bangladesh, but none

will succeed," he reminded the audience that the nation's spiritual foundation is rooted in the prayers and sacrifices of its saints and scholars. "We do not engage in politics," the Pir said, "but when necessary, we guide leaders who uphold Islam. Bangladesh will continue to move toward goodness by the blessings of our Awliya (saints)." He recounted



historical moments where spiritual guidance influenced national decisions — including Ayub Khan's military reforms, Ziaur Rahman's

addition of "Bismillah" to the Constitution, and Hussain Muhammad Ershad's declaration of Islam as the state religion. The Pir also highlighted Sarsina's major role in Islamic education, noting the establishment of more than 4,500 Aliya madrasas nationwide and the moral influence of its students. Addressing the youth, he warned against moral decay,



ORGANIZATION

Sarsina, a global hub of spirituality and education



ENVIRONMENT

Community Unites for Captain Tilly Park Clean-Up

Local volunteers show how teamwork and care can revive public spaces

Ashley Reed

Residents of Jamaica, New York, came together on Saturday, November 8, 2025, for a community-wide Clean-Up and Litter Removal Drive at Captain Tilly Park, turning the weekend morning into a vibrant display of teamwork, civic pride, and environmental stewardship. Organized by a coalition of local organizations — including NYC Parks, Save The People (STPUSA), Jamaica Hill Community Association (JHCA), Bangladesh Friends Society NY, JMC Youth, and the Partnership for Captain Tilly Park — the event drew more than 40 volunteers, from students and families to faith and community leaders. The initiative was designed not only to beautify one of



Jamaica's cherished green spaces but also to inspire residents to take collective responsibility for maintaining clean, safe, and welcoming community areas. Participants armed with gloves, rakes, and

garbage bags spent hours clearing litter, gathering leaves, and revitalizing sections of the park that had fallen into neglect. The clean-up saw the active participation of several community

figures who have long championed environmental and civic engagement efforts in Queens. Among them were Fakhru Islam Delwer, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Saif Alam,

Dr. Patt, Community Board Member Bithihara Martha, Arif Rahman, Jasir Kabir, Kamrul Islam Sunny, Enayet Munshi, Anika, and Shara, whose guidance and leadership encouraged younger volunteers to take pride in community service. Representatives from Save The People USA and JHCA emphasized the importance of nurturing civic values through action. One volunteer described the event as "a reminder that when we come together, even small acts like cleaning a park can build a sense of unity and purpose." The success of the clean-up effort underscored the growing role of grassroots collaboration in promoting sustainability and social engagement across Queens neighborhoods. It also served as an example

of how partnerships between community groups and city agencies can translate into tangible results that improve public life. As the morning concluded, volunteers shared light refreshments and reflected on their shared mission. The renewed Captain Tilly Park, now cleaner and greener, stood as a symbol of what collective effort can achieve. Community organizers announced plans to hold similar environmental initiatives in coming months, continuing their message: "It's our park, our community, our responsibility." The event demonstrated that meaningful change begins at the local level — and at Captain Tilly Park, that change was written in teamwork, compassion, and care for the environment.



ENVIRONMENT

Families, youth, and leaders come together for a greener Jamaica



RESOURCE

A Decade of Service, A Night of Learning

ASHO celebrates ten years with impactful seminar on social care access

William Henry

The Autism Society Habilitation Organization (ASHO) hosted a well-attended seminar on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Jewish Center in Jackson Heights, New York, titled "Social Care Network and How to Access New York State Benefits." The evening event drew a diverse audience of parents, advocates, and professionals, transforming a typical Friday gathering into a meaningful experience of learning, connection, and community care. Founded a decade ago with the mission to support children with autism and other special needs, ASHO has grown into a trusted nonprofit organization serving families across New York. This latest seminar reflected the group's ongoing commitment to bridging the gap between families and essential public services. The program featured in-depth discussions on WholeYouNYC and the NYC Civic Engagement



Commission (CEC), alongside sessions addressing autism care, state benefits, housing, food assistance, information accessibility, and data privacy. The event emphasized practical strategies for navigating social care systems while maintaining confidentiality and dignity for individuals with special needs.

Among the key speakers were Rubaiya Rahman, Executive Director of ASHO; Benjamin, Senior Advisor at the Civic Engagement Commission (CEC); Pran Govinda Kundu, member of the Swadhin Bangla Football Team; veteran actor Ahmed Sharif; poet and benefits expert Monzur Kader; housing specialist Syed Mizanur Rahman; CPA



Sarwar Chowdhury; Abdullah Tareq; community activist Anwar Haque and

Shamim Al Amin. Each contributed valuable insights drawn from their fields, focusing on empowerment through knowledge and collaboration. Adding a touch of creativity and warmth, the CEC's two large puppets greeted attendees at the entrance, bringing smiles and setting a welcoming tone for the

evening. A documentary film, directed by one of ASHO's members who also served as the event's moderator, showcased the organization's decade-long journey of dedication and community service. Reflecting on the success of the event, ASHO members expressed deep gratitude for the overwhelming community response. The seminar not only provided crucial information but also underscored how collective awareness can strengthen inclusion and compassion within society. As ASHO continues its mission into the next decade, the organization remains steadfast in its goal to uplift families affected by autism and connect them to the resources they deserve. The event concluded with renewed energy and a shared commitment — to keep supporting, learning, and building a more caring New York together.



MEDIA

New Chapter Begins for New York-Bangladesh Press Club

Newly elected leaders pledge collaboration and renewed dedication



Jessica Morgan

The New York-Bangladesh Press Club ushered in a new chapter of leadership and collaboration with the successful completion of its General Meeting and Election for the 2025–27 term, held on Saturday, November 2, 2025, at its Jackson Heights office

located at 37–22 73rd Street, New York. The meeting began with the club's official proceedings, including the presentation of the General Secretary's annual report and other administrative updates. Members gathered in large numbers to participate in the event, reflecting their continued enthusiasm

and commitment to strengthening the voice of Bangladeshi journalism in New York and beyond. Following the general session, the much-anticipated election took place in a vibrant yet disciplined atmosphere. The democratic process highlighted the club's dedication to transparency,



participation, and professional unity

among Bangladeshi media professionals based in the United States. After the votes were counted, the results were announced, marking the formation of a new executive committee for the 2025–27 term. The newly elected President and General Secretary, along with the victorious members, expressed deep gratitude to all those who cast their votes and showed support throughout the election process. "Whether you voted for us or not, we are all part of the same family," one of the new leaders shared after the announcement. "This is our Press Club — and with a spirit of moving forward, we seek everyone's continued support." The event concluded with warm exchanges of congratulations and pledges of collective effort. Attendees emphasized that the Press Club

serves as more than an association of journalists; it is also a platform to uphold truth, promote professional ethics, and connect the Bangladeshi community with the broader American media landscape. Outgoing committee members were thanked for their service and dedication, while the new leadership promised to continue initiatives that foster professional growth, media cooperation, and community dialogue. The New York-Bangladesh Press Club, one of the most active Bangladeshi media associations in the U.S., has long been a vital link between journalists, media organizations, and the diaspora community. As the newly elected leaders take office, the focus remains on unity, responsible journalism, and the shared mission of representing Bangladeshi voices on the global stage.



EDUCATION



Students Discover the Power of Magnetism at Elhaam Academy

STEAM Club experiment sparks curiosity and scientific thinking

Noah Presley

At Elhaam Academy, curiosity and creativity collided in the STEAM Club for Grades 4 to 7, where students embarked on a lively scientific adventure to explore the invisible forces of magnetism. The young scientists turned a typical school afternoon into a mini physics lab, using everyday objects like binder clips and paper clips to test how magnetization works in real life.

The experiment began with a simple challenge: could students turn an ordinary binder clip into a temporary magnet strong enough to hold a paper clip? Using steady hands and determined minds, they rubbed the metal binder clips against magnets, transferring magnetic charge and observing how long their paper clips would remain suspended.

The results were a mix of trial, error, and triumph. Out of sixteen attempts, three were successful—an impressive feat for first-time experimenters. The standout moment



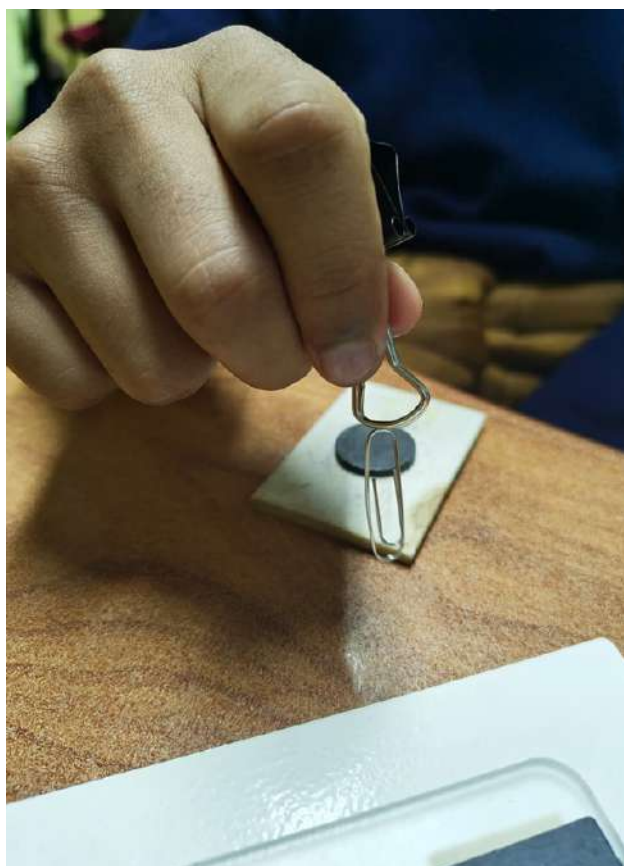
came when one paper clip held firmly for about six seconds, earning a round of applause and cheerful laughter from the group. The students described the experience as both “fun and tricky,” learning that even small results can lead to big scientific insights.

Teachers guiding the session emphasized that experiments like these build more than just knowledge—they nurture patience, collaboration, and analytical thinking. “Each attempt, whether it succeeds or not, teaches students to observe carefully, ask questions, and refine their methods,” one instructor shared. The hands-on activity demonstrated the power

of experiential learning central to Elhaam Academy’s STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach. By integrating scientific principles with creative exploration, the program encourages students to see the connections between classroom lessons and the world around them.

For many students, this small but meaningful success was more than just about magnets—it was about the joy of discovery. As one participant put it, “It felt like we made something come alive!”

By the end of the session, smiles, excitement, and a newfound appreciation for science filled the classroom. What began as a simple magnet test ended as a celebration of curiosity—a reminder that at Elhaam Academy, even six seconds of success can spark a lifelong love for learning.



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SOMOS SPOTLIGHT

Leaders Gather for Zohran Mamdani's Reception in Puerto Rico Hosted by Attorney General Letitia James during SOMOS 2025



Emily Parker

A special reception honoring New York City Mayor-Elect Zohran Mamdani was hosted by New York State Attorney General Letitia James on Thursday, November 6, 2025, as part of the SOMOS 2025 Puerto Rico Conference at

the Hilton Caribe in San Juan. Originally planned for the Los Rosales ballroom, the event was moved to the hotel's garden area to accommodate an unexpectedly large crowd of attendees. The open-air setting provided an ideal backdrop for an evening that celebrated leadership, partnership,

and shared vision. Organized in collaboration with DC 37 AFSCME AFL-CIO, the reception drew a wide array of public officials, policy leaders, and community advocates who came together under the SOMOS banner to honor Mamdani's recent election victory



and reflect on the responsibilities ahead. Among the distinguished

guests were Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, and Mayor-Elect Zohran Mamdani, all of whom delivered speeches centered on unity, progress, and service. Each speaker emphasized the importance of working collectively for the advancement and well-being of New Yorkers, reaffirming their shared commitment to addressing challenges such as affordability, equity, and public safety. The event's atmosphere was one of enthusiasm and optimism, as attendees engaged in discussions about policy, collaboration, and the future of civic engagement. The speeches resonated with the broader themes of the SOMOS 2025 Puerto Rico Conference, which

continues to serve as a platform for dialogue and action among leaders dedicated to the empowerment of Hispanic and Latino communities across New York State. Held under the Puerto Rican night sky, the reception blended the spirit of celebration with a clear message of responsibility and purpose. It underscored the ongoing collaboration between state and city leadership, reflecting a unified vision for a stronger, more inclusive New York. As part of the multi-day SOMOS 2025 program, the event stood out as both a moment of recognition and a call to continue building on shared goals — ensuring that progress reaches every corner of the city and beyond.



SOMOS SPOTLIGHT

Faith and Fellowship: Mamdani Attends Jummah Prayer in San Juan

Event underscores unity between New York and Puerto Rican Muslim communities

Alex Mason

In a show of faith & unity, on Friday, November 7, 2025, New York City Mayor-Elect Zohran Kwame Mamdani joined worshippers for Jummah Prayer at the Islamic Center of Montehiedra in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This was during his participation in the SOMOS 2025 Puerto Rico Conference. The visit reflected both spiritual solidarity and community engagement, bringing together Muslim leaders from across New York and Puerto Rico. The prayer, held at 12:45 p.m., drew a large congregation of participants attending the SOMOS conference, including faith leaders, civic advocates, and local community members. Following the Khutbah, Mamdani delivered a brief but heartfelt address, speaking on the importance of unity, compassion, and shared responsibility between communities across



borders. His remarks resonated strongly with those in attendance, emphasizing the interconnectedness of faith and public service. The Muslim Democratic Club of New York (MDCNY) and Najmi Law sponsored the Jummah event, which served as a meaningful spiritual moment amid

the busy conference schedule. The prayer also became an occasion for dialogue and friendship between Muslim leaders representing diverse backgrounds. After the prayer, Mamdani participated in a community food distribution initiative, where volunteers handed out meals



to local families and residents. The program was made possible

through the efforts of MCN Muslim Community Network NY, along with support from Dr. Debbie Almontaser, President - Board of Director, and Husein Yatabarry, Executive Director. Their collaboration underscored a shared commitment to service and community upliftment. In addition to his participation in the

religious and charitable activities, Mamdani also engaged with the press, discussing the significance of community partnerships and how shared values of faith and compassion can strengthen civic life both in New York and abroad. The event served as a symbolic bridge between two communities united by common purpose and mutual respect. As part of the larger SOMOS 2025 initiative, the Jummah Prayer and outreach efforts highlighted the growing role of interfaith collaboration and civic engagement within New York's diverse leadership. For attendees, the day represented more than a moment of worship — it was a reaffirmation of solidarity and a celebration of the collective spirit that binds Muslim and Latino communities together through faith, service, and social responsibility.



SOMOS SPOTLIGHT

Mamdani's participation in Puerto Rico's Jummah Prayer underscores unity and outreach



SOMOS SPOTLIGHT

SOMOS 2025 Puerto Rico Conference Unites Leaders for Change

Four-day event highlights justice, culture, and Latino empowerment



Daniel Matthew

The SOMOS 2025 Puerto Rico Conference, one of the most influential gatherings of Latino and Hispanic leaders in New York State, concluded on Saturday, November 8, 2025, after four days of

powerful discussions, cultural celebrations, and community service initiatives at the El Caribe Hilton in San Juan. Hosted by SOMOS Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1987, the annual Puerto Rico conference brought

together elected officials, policy makers, business leaders, and activists to strengthen networks, share ideas, and shape legislative priorities that advance equity and opportunity across New York. This year's theme, "El Momento es Nuestro: Rise, Build,

Reimagine," captured the conference's spirit of resilience and collective progress. The event featured a dynamic lineup of plenary sessions, workshops, and networking receptions, each focused on addressing the pressing

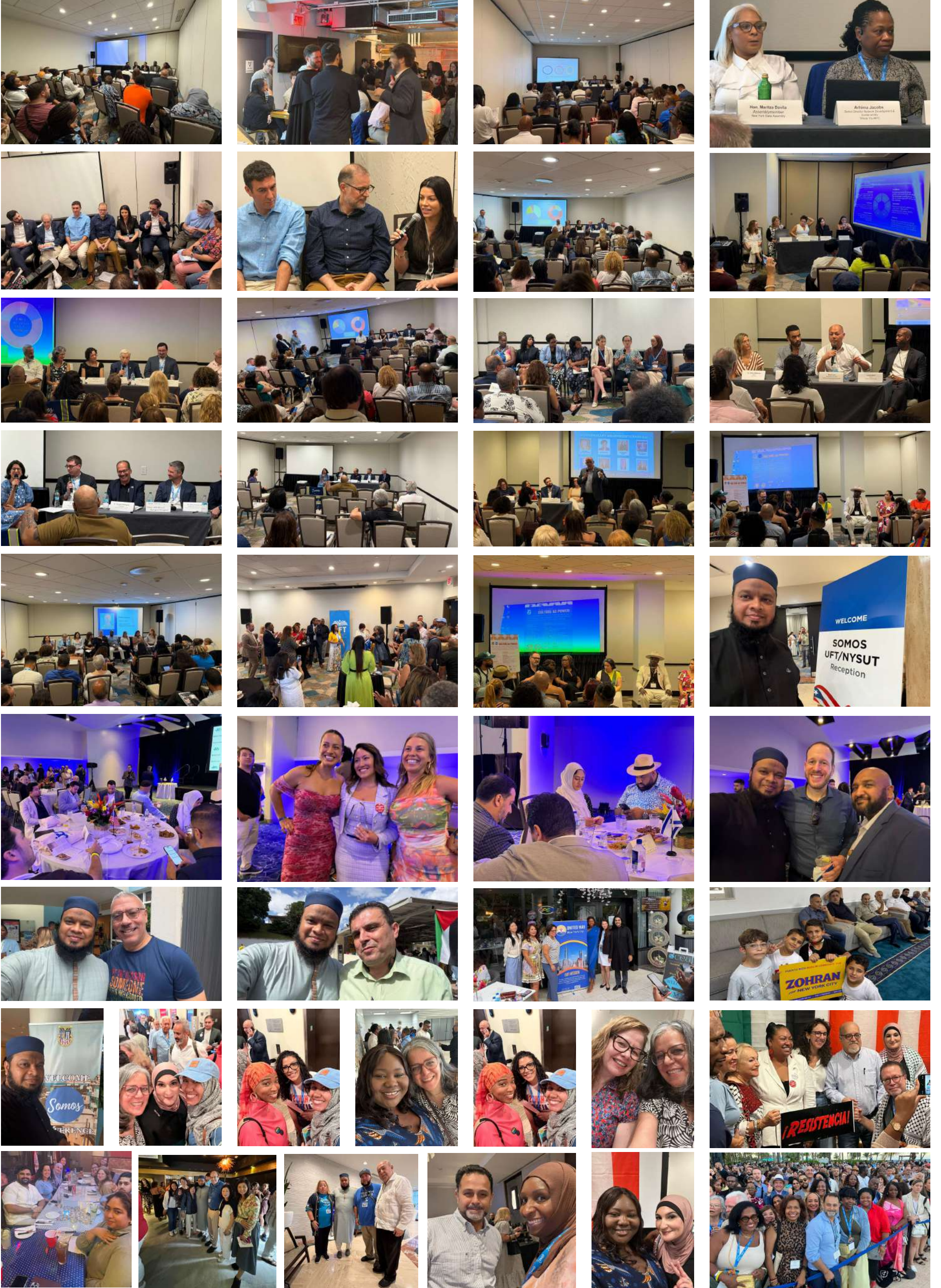
challenges facing Hispanic communities. Legislative sessions explored topics such as education access, public health disparities, labor empowerment, and housing equity, while cultural programs highlighted the richness of Latino heritage through music, art, and storytelling. Among the many highlights was the recognition of three distinguished honorees, whose commitment and leadership have had a lasting impact on their communities. Their contributions—spanning education, social justice, and civic advocacy—embodied the very ideals SOMOS seeks to advance. Day three of the conference included a Day of Service, with participants volunteering at local community sites across Puerto Rico, reaffirming SOMOS's mission to connect public leadership with grassroots engagement.

The evenings featured celebratory receptions such as the Leadership Reception hosted by Speaker Carl Heastie and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, as well as the Cultural Celebration, which showcased the diversity and creativity of the Latino diaspora. In a statement released by the organization, SOMOS reaffirmed its dedication to uniting voices and empowering future generations of Hispanic leaders. The event once again served as a vital bridge between New York's Latino community and the broader movement for justice and representation. As the SOMOS 2025 Puerto Rico Conference came to a close, attendees departed with renewed energy and shared purpose—committed to rising, building, and reimagining a future rooted in equity, unity, and progress for all.




SOMOS SPOTLIGHT

Event underscores the shared vision for justice and opportunity



HEALTH

VNS Health Hosts Seminar on Medicare and Lead Safety in Queens

Event draws strong attendance from civic and community leaders

Issac Andrew

On November 9, 2025, a community health awareness seminar organized by VNS Health took place at The Mary Louis Academy, Jamaica, Queens, in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society Inc. The event focused on educating residents about Medicare Advantage plans and lead poisoning prevention, two critical issues affecting communities across New York. The seminar, held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., was well attended by community members, civic leaders, and representatives from various organizations working to improve public health access. The initiative was part of an ongoing effort to promote better understanding of healthcare resources and preventative safety within immigrant and multicultural neighborhoods. Distinguished



guests included Congresswoman Grace Meng, Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, VNS Health Vice President Abu Saleh, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save The People USA, and key leaders of the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society — President Fakhru Islam Delwar, Secretary



General Enayat Munshi, Vice President Molla J. Sunny, and Advisor A.B.M. Osman Goni. Their presence underscored the importance of cooperation between government, healthcare

institutions, and local community organizations in raising awareness about vital health services. Speakers from VNS Health and the Department of Health provided guidance on

how to choose the right Medicare Advantage plan, helping attendees understand available options and eligibility requirements. In addition, the seminar addressed the dangers of lead poisoning, offering practical advice on prevention, testing, and treatment — particularly relevant for families living in older

housing units across New York City. Community members expressed appreciation for the collaborative effort, noting that such educational initiatives play a crucial role in connecting people to valuable information and support networks. The session also allowed participants to engage directly with experts and advocates, ensuring that residents could ask questions and receive personalized guidance. The event exemplified how partnerships between organizations like VNS Health and local community groups such as the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society can make a meaningful difference in public health awareness. By combining outreach, education, and engagement, the seminar strengthened the bridge between healthcare providers and the communities they serve — reinforcing a shared commitment to well-being and empowerment.





‘One-and-Done’ Cholesterol Cure Nears Reality

Cleveland Clinic-led team pioneers permanent solution to heart risk

Charles Lewis

In a groundbreaking advance, scientists have successfully used CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing to permanently reduce LDL cholesterol levels, potentially eliminating the need for lifelong medication. The pilot study, published Saturday in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and presented at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions in New Orleans, involved 15



Photo: Scientists have edited a gene that may reduce high cholesterol permanently
Image Source: Online

patients with severe hypercholesterolemia. Participants who received the highest doses experienced nearly a 50% drop in LDL and a 55% reduction in triglycerides, according to Dr. Steven Nissen of the Cleveland Clinic, the study's senior author. The therapy targets the ANGPTL3 gene, which regulates cholesterol and fat metabolism. "This could be a 'one and done' solution," said Nissen. "It's something we never thought

HIGHLIGHT

• Study uses CRISPR-Cas9 to modify ANGPTL3 gene.

• 15 patients saw nearly 50% LDL reduction and 55% drop in triglycerides.

possible 15 years ago." While experts like Dr. Pradeep Natarajan of Harvard Medical School urge caution, calling the study "promising but preliminary," the findings mark a potential revolution in cardiovascular care. Phase 2 and 3 trials are expected to begin soon, raising hopes that gene editing may soon offer a permanent safeguard against the world's leading killer—heart disease.

Mamdani Names Transition Chief

Lina Khan Brings Antitrust Focus to New York's Future



Photo: Pakistani-American legal scholar Lina Khan and Newly Elected NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani
Image Source: Online

Amkel Nourush

In a historic step toward progressive leadership, New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani

has appointed Lina Khan, a prominent Pakistani-American legal scholar, to co-lead his transition team. The announcement marks

a defining moment for both representation and reform, as Mamdani, set to take office on January 1, 2026, becomes the city's first Muslim and

HIGHLIGHT

• Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani appoints Lina Khan as transition team co-lead

• Khan, 36, is a Pakistani-American legal scholar and former FTC Chair

• Mamdani becomes NYC's first Muslim and South Asian mayor in January 2026

South Asian mayor. Khan, 36, is internationally recognized for her work as former Chair of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, where she championed consumer rights and cracked down on corporate monopolies.

Her leadership in the transition team underscores Mamdani's commitment to building a fair, affordable, and inclusive New York City. Together, Mamdani and Khan aim to integrate global collaboration—such as with the United Nations—into local governance to address pressing social and economic issues. Their appointments not only reflect shifting demographics but also a renewed emphasis on public accountability and equity. This milestone showcases the growing influence of Pakistani-Americans and underscores a broader transformation in the landscape of American politics.

States Warn of Chaos Over SNAP Reversal

Trump directive sparks bipartisan backlash over benefit clawbacks

Nassr Al Shams

The Trump administration has ordered states to "undo" full SNAP benefits distributed last week under court rulings now stayed by the U.S. Supreme Court, igniting a new political and legal firestorm over food assistance during the ongoing government shutdown. The Department of Agriculture on Saturday declared the payouts "unauthorized" and warned states of potential penalties, even as more than two dozen states pushed back, citing risks of "catastrophic operational disruptions." In Wisconsin, officials said 700,000 residents had already received benefits before the stay. Gov. Tony Evers rejected

the administration's demand, stating, "No." Similarly, Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey emphasized residents should continue using distributed funds, warning the federal government against "clawing back" aid. Sen. Lisa Murkowski called the move "shocking," especially for states using their own funds. Gov. Wes Moore of Maryland decried the "intentional chaos" from Washington, noting four conflicting directives in six days. The SNAP dispute comes as lawmakers scramble to finalize a bipartisan package to restore funding and reimburse states. For millions reliant on food assistance, the uncertainty adds another layer of hardship in an already volatile political standoff.

Norris Dominates Brazil

McLaren driver extends lead in thrilling Sao Paulo Grand Prix

Julian Alvez

Lando Norris delivered a commanding performance at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, claiming his second consecutive victory and tightening his grip on the Formula 1 championship with a 24-point lead over teammate Oscar Piastri. The McLaren driver led from start to finish, completing what he called a "perfect weekend" after also taking pole and winning

Saturday's sprint race. Behind the scenes of Norris' triumph, Max Verstappen produced a spectacular recovery drive, finishing third after starting from the pit lane and overcoming an early puncture. "To be on the podium from the pit lane, I didn't expect that at all," said Verstappen, whose charge included a bold overtake on George Russell. Piastri, meanwhile, was handed a 10-second penalty for a first-lap

collision involving Kimi Antonelli and Charles Leclerc, further denting his fading title hopes as he finished fifth. Norris dedicated his win to Gil de Ferran, the late former McLaren advisor. With just three races left in Las Vegas, Qatar, and Abu Dhabi, McLaren's rising star edges closer to his first world title, while Piastri and Verstappen scramble to keep pace.



Photo: Lando Norris has now outscored McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri in six successive grands prix
Image Source: Online

Guardiola's 1,000th Game Ends in Glory

Man City dismantle Liverpool to close gap on Arsenal

Adrian Smith

Pep Guardiola marked his 1,000th game in management with a commanding Manchester City performance, crushing Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium to keep pace with Premier League

leaders Arsenal. City's 3-0 win was spearheaded by Erling Haaland, who opened the scoring with a powerful header after earlier missing a penalty. It was his 28th goal this season and his first against Liverpool with Virgil van Dijk in

the starting XI. The hosts doubled their lead just before halftime when Nico Gonzalez's shot deflected off Van Dijk and past Giorgi Mamardashvili, wrong-footing the Liverpool keeper. Moments earlier, Van Dijk's goal was disallowed for offside.

But it was Jeremy Doku who lit up the match, tormenting Liverpool's defense with blistering pace. His curling effort in the second half sealed the result and showcased the winger's transformation under Guardiola. For Arne Slot's side, the defeat

ends a mini-resurgence. Florian Wirtz endured a frustrating night, subbed off amid jeers from City fans. With Liverpool now eight points behind Arsenal, their title defense looks increasingly fragile as City gather ominous momentum.