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NEWYORKNEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Netanyahu Seeks Pardon

Embattled Israeli leader asks president to halt corruption trial

Lily Anderson

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has formally asked President Isaac Herzog

HIGHLIGHT

●Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu formally requested a pardon from President Isaac Herzog.

●Netanyahu argues the ongoing corruption trial undermines national unity.

●Opposition leaders demand admission of guilt before any pardon.

Netanyahu wrote that the trial has become a “focal point of fierce controversy,” insisting that halting it would help “heal the rifts” within Israeli society as the country confronts security and diplomatic challenges. He did not admit guilt or indicate whether he would leave political life — key conditions demanded by opposition leader Yair Lapid, who urged Herzog to reject the appeal. Others, including former military official Yair Golan, called the request proof of guilt. Netanyahu’s allies, including far-right minister Itamar Ben Gvir, backed the pardon as critical to Israel’s stability. The plea also comes weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump



Photo: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
Image Source: Alex Kolomoisky / AFP / Getty Images / BBC

for a pardon in his years-long corruption trial, a dramatic reversal for the country’s longest-serving leader and the first sitting prime minister to face criminal prosecution. The request, submitted Thursday and released publicly Sunday, argues that ending the proceedings is now in the “public interest,” even as Netanyahu maintains his innocence on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

publicly pressed Herzog to grant Netanyahu full clemency. Herzog’s office confirmed receipt of the request and said it would be reviewed “with great care,” though Israeli law generally reserves pardons for those already convicted. With testimony ongoing and years of legal proceedings still ahead, the decision now rests solely with the president, adding a new layer of uncertainty to Israel’s already volatile political landscape.



Photo: US President Donald Trump

Image Source: Anna Rose Layden / Reuters / BBC

Tensions With Venezuela

U.S. directive draws sharp condemnation

Alexandar Sullivan

The United States intensified its confrontation with Venezuela after President Donald Trump warned on Saturday that airlines, pilots and criminal networks should treat Venezuelan airspace as “closed in its entirety.” The directive, shared on Truth Social, marks the latest escalation in Washington’s broader campaign to pressure President Nicolás Maduro and disrupt illicit drug and migration routes. Venezuela’s foreign minister condemned the declaration as a “colonialist threat”

and an “extravagant, illegal, and unjustified aggression.” The U.S. lacks the authority to shut another nation’s airspace, but recent FAA alerts have urged carriers to use caution, even as some American airlines continue overflights en route to South America. Trump’s warning comes as the administration expands its operational posture in the region. The president recently acknowledged approving CIA activity inside Venezuela and designated Maduro officials as part of a foreign terrorist organization, a step that broadens military options. The Pentagon

HIGHLIGHT

●Donald Trump warned airlines to treat Venezuelan airspace as closed.

●Venezuela denounced the move as an “illegal aggression.”

●U.S. military buildup grows under Operation Southern Spear.

●Trump confirmed authorizing CIA operations inside Venezuela.

has also deployed more than a dozen

warships and 15,000 troops under Operation Southern Spear, which has already resulted in several deadly maritime confrontations. Maduro, seeking to project control, urged troops to remain vigilant, insisting Venezuela is “a republic in arms.” On the ground in Caracas, residents expressed a mix of anxiety and resignation, noting that threats of U.S. action circulate quietly while daily life continues publicly. With diplomatic channels largely frozen, the standoff shows no sign of easing, leaving both nations on edge as tensions continue to rise.

Madrid Demands Change

Crowds call for election amid corruption furor

John Paul

Tens of thousands of demonstrators filled central Madrid on Sunday, demanding a snap election as Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez confronts widening corruption allegations involving his family, party and senior allies. The protest, organized by the conservative People’s Party, followed the detention of former transport minister José Luis Ábalos in a kickbacks investigation. PP leader Alberto Núñez Feijóo told the



Photo: Politicians and protesters attend a demonstration called by the conservative People’s party (PP) in Madrid on Sunday.
Image Source: Javier Soriano/AFP/Getty Images
crowd that “sanchismo is political, economic and moral corruption,” urging Sánchez to step

down. Madrid regional president Isabel Díaz Ayuso delivered an even more incendiary speech, accusing Sánchez of betraying Spain. Sánchez, who denies all wrongdoing and calls the allegations politically driven, has vowed to remain in office as investigations continue.

NEWYORKNEWS
The Voice of People

An exclusive interview with Imam Shamsi Ali.

Imam Shamsi Ali
Director and Imam of Jamaica Muslim Center and President of Nusantara Foundation

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Thanksgiving Day Celebrated Across America



Community Desk

The United States marked Thanksgiving Day on November 27, 2025, with celebrations stretching from the White House to community centers across New York City. President

Donald J. Trump issued his official proclamation from Mar-a-Lago, honoring the nation's history and urging Americans "to offer a prayer of thanks to God for our many blessings." The holiday came amid somber news, as the President confirmed that

Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom, wounded near the White House on Wednesday, had died from her injuries. In Harlem, Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani joined Rev. Al Sharpton, Attorney General Letitia James, and hundreds of

volunteers to serve meals at the National Action Network's annual Thanksgiving dinner, where guests spoke of hardship, hope, and community. Across the city, NYC's Muslim community, Bangladeshi diaspora groups and other

groups organized large-scale food distributions, delivering turkeys, produce, and essential groceries to families in need—continuing a tradition of service that defined the holiday for many New Yorkers.

Alfadila Community Services Delivers Thanksgiving Aid



Staff Reporter

Alfadila Community Services brought holiday relief to families across the community with its Thanksgiving Food Distribution, offering a full

range of groceries, fresh produce, and either chicken or turkey to households preparing for the holiday. From warehouse operations to final delivery, volunteers and partner organizations

joined forces to ensure families received essential items ahead of the celebration. The event drew strong support from city leaders and community partners, including Mahedi Hasan, NYC Muslim Liaison (CAU); Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso; Dr. Kabir and the staff of Muna Social Services; and Mohammad Razvi and his team at COPO. Corporate and faith-based partners—Amazon, Masjid Taqwa, and U-Haul—also played key roles in making the large-scale distribution possible. Organizers said the effort reflected the power of collaboration during a time when many families face rising costs and food insecurity. Volunteers worked throughout the day to prepare and distribute packages, helping ensure that residents could sit down to a complete Thanksgiving meal. The organization thanked all who contributed, emphasizing that community-led generosity remains central to its mission.

Saudi Arabia to Host First 'Made in Bangladesh Expo'



Photo: Md. Liton Ahmed, Founder & Chairman, Made in Bangladesh Expo Ltd.

NYN Desk

Bangladesh is set to make a historic entry into the Gulf market with the launch of the Made in Bangladesh Expo – Saudi Arabia Edition 2025, scheduled for December 11–13, 2025, in Jeddah. Organized to expand Bangladesh's commercial footprint in the GCC region, the three-day event will bring together top Bangladeshi brands spanning ready-made garments, leather goods, agriculture, ICT, home décor, and small enterprises. Held at District Al Nasim, King Abdullah

Road, the expo will feature B2B networking sessions, investment discussions, and product showcases from both established companies and emerging innovators. Entry will be free for all visitors, with registration available through the official website. Event organizers described the expo as "a historic step" for Bangladesh's global trade ambitions. Md. Liton Ahmed, Founder and Chairman of Made in Bangladesh Expo Ltd, said the initiative would "open new doors for sustainable growth, foreign investment, and long-term partnerships." Saudi Arabia remains one of



Bangladesh's largest labor markets and a growing destination for its exports. The expo is expected to attract expatriates, local buyers, wholesalers, and investors, marking

a new chapter in strengthening bilateral economic ties.

NYPD Detective Faisal Khan Retires After 28 Years of Service

Senior Reporter

New Yorkers gathered on Wednesday to honor Detective First Grade Faisal Khan, who retired after 28 years of dedicated service with the New York City Police Department. Khan leaves behind a legacy defined by leadership, representation, and a steadfast commitment to public safety. Throughout his career, Khan played a foundational role in establishing the NYPD

Muslim Officers Society, helping ensure visibility and support for Muslim officers at a time when such efforts were rare. Colleagues credit him with creating crucial spaces for connection and advocacy within the department. Khan also served with distinction in the NYPD Hate Crimes Unit, where his work contributed to the city's broader efforts to confront bias-motivated incidents. His professionalism and empathy earned him deep respect

across the department and among the communities he served. As he enters retirement, those who worked alongside Khan reflect on his steady presence and the guidance he offered to generations of officers. His contributions, they say, will continue to shape the department long after his departure, marking the close of a career defined by integrity, service, and meaningful impact.

Prayer Time IN New York

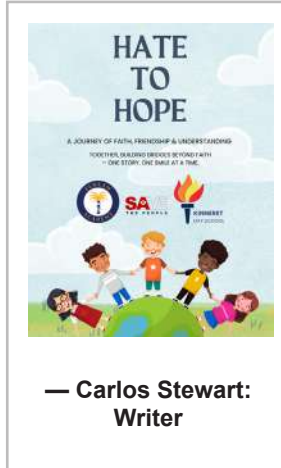
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05:42	11:46	02:10	04:28	05:50
05:43	11:47	02:10	04:28	05:50
05:44	11:47	02:10	04:28	05:50
05:45	11:48	02:10	04:28	05:50

OPINION

From Hate to Hope — How Young Hearts Build the Bridges Adults Struggle To — Carlos Stewart

In a world increasingly shaped by division and misunderstanding, Hate to Hope stands as a rare and uplifting reminder that unity is still possible—especially when led by children. Through a thoughtful interfaith initiative connecting Muslim students from Elhaam Academy and Jewish students from Kinneret Day School, an inspiring transformation unfolded across a series of shared experiences. What began as curiosity grew into connection, and what began as difference grew into friendship. The journey took students through museums, cultural institutions, classrooms, and sacred moments. At the Museum of Jewish Heritage, the children confronted powerful stories of resilience and identity, gaining a deeper understanding of Jewish history. Later at the Metropolitan

Museum of Art, Muslim students guided their peers through Islamic exhibits, explaining prayer rugs, Qur'an manuscripts, religious attire, and objects tied to centuries of spiritual tradition. These exchanges revealed not only the richness of each faith, but the many unexpected parallels between them. One of the most meaningful events was the interfaith iftar hosted at Elhaam Academy. Under warm lantern light, students shared blessings, broke bread, and listened to words reminding them that unity is not accidental—it is intentional. The spirit



— Carlos Stewart:
Writer

of the evening captured the heart of the project: that peace grows when respect is practiced, not just preached. Perhaps the most touching aspects of this initiative were the moments when students brought personal artifacts from home—shofars, Kiddush cups, tasbeeh beads, prayer rugs, family heirlooms, and beloved keepsakes. Sharing the stories behind these objects allowed children to connect on a deeply human level, recognizing that faith traditions may differ, but the emotions tied to family, memory, and meaning are universal. The culmination of the program—a

final exhibition and ceremony—showcased not only the artifacts and artwork created along the way, but also the confidence, compassion, and interfaith literacy the students developed. The speeches by participants reflected maturity beyond their years, grounded in the friendships they had formed and the lessons they would carry forward. Hate to Hope is more than a documentation of events; it is a model for what communities can achieve when dialogue begins early and when young people are trusted to lead with openness. The program proved that children do not inherit bias unless we allow it—and that they can become ambassadors of peace if we nurture their natural capacity for empathy.

“

“Unity is not accidental—it is intentional, built through shared experiences and sincere curiosity.”



Photo: Branches of Faith and Harmony

Image Source: Online

“

“Children do not inherit bias unless we allow it; they can become ambassadors of peace when guided with empathy.”

A Reminder of Gratitude and Responsibility

— Kazi M.R Khan (Salim)

The Pandemic that we all faced just only a few years ago was one of the worst the world had seen in such a very long time. Indeed it is a reminder of the infinite power of Allah (SWT). During that time we all stayed inside with our families away from school, away from work and sometimes even away from our loved ones praying that we would be spared. Alhamdulillah we are all safe now, but because of this it is so easy to take for

granted how precious and valuable our lives are. Our bonds with our loved ones are. In this busy world where time just runs do we ever stop to appreciate how truly fortunate we are to have our health, our family, our jobs, our homes and our community? My brothers and sisters please take a look at all those that are sick and



— Kazi M.R Khan (Salim)
Senior Vice President
Bangladesh American Society

starving, freezing and homeless, miserable and dying and then look at the position you are in. Yes we all have our own pain and struggles that we are going through but we must acknowledge that surely we are in a position to lift ourselves up from this situation and if we are in the position to do so then

we should try and help those that are less fortunate than us because I will remind you that Allah (SWT) could have just as easily switched our positions with theirs and I will also remind you that nobody got to be here on our own. We all had someone there to help us so now let us be the one to be there for someone else in their time of need and always say Alhamdulillah and thank Allah.

SPOTLIGHT

Muhammad Shahidullah

Imam Shamsi Ali, Director and Imam of Jamaica Muslim Center and President of Nusantara Foundation, has spent decades promoting interfaith dialogue and peace in New York City and around the world. In this conversation, he reflects on interfaith harmony, combating hate, and building a safer, more inclusive New York City for all.

Interfaith Vision & Leadership

Q: You have spent decades building bridges between communities. What is your long-term vision for interfaith harmony in New York City?

Imam Shamsi Ali: I see New York City as a melting pot of people with diverse backgrounds and affiliations, whether ethnic, national, cultural, or religious. Therefore, New York City should be a role model for the world in terms of harmony, peace, and cooperation among all its citizens amidst its diversity. That is my long-term vision in seeing the importance of interfaith cooperation in New York City.

Q: What role do you believe faith leaders play in keeping NYC peaceful and united during times of tension?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Faith leaders play a crucial role in maintaining peaceful and harmonious life among New York City's communities. First, they have the trust of their communities, so their guidance and teachings are always referenced by their followers. Moreover, they have direct interaction with their communities and serve as role models in daily life.

Q: How can mosques, churches, synagogues, temples, and other houses of worship work together to create a culture of mutual respect?

Imam Shamsi Ali: In New York City, houses of worship such as synagogues, churches, mosques, and others are not just centers for ritual



Imam Shamsi Ali Director and Imam of Jamaica Muslim Center and President of Nusantara Foundation

Imam Shamsi Ali: A Vision for Interfaith NYC

Dialogue, cooperation, and courage in the fight against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of hate

activities but also hubs for various aspects of peoples life. Therefore, building relationships and cooperation among these houses of worship will have a significant positive impact on harmonious relations and partnerships among New York City's citizens. In the future, houses of worship can become centers for reconciliation, peace, and strengthening interfaith community life in New York City.

Q: What are the biggest challenges you see in promoting interfaith understanding in a city as diverse as New York?

Imam Shamsi Ali: I've been involved in interfaith work even before the 9/11 events in 2001. I've had many experiences,

both sweet and bitter. But with sincerity and commitment to peaceful and harmonious life, I've gone through all the challenges. I see that among many challenges, ignorance about our neighbors is the biggest challenge. Ignorance is our common enemy. And that's the main goal of interfaith work: to build mutual understanding and cooperation amidst differences.

Combating Hate Crime & Antisemitism

Q: Hate crimes—especially antisemitism and Islamophobia—have risen in recent years. What practical steps can faith communities take to reduce these incidents?

Imam Shamsi Ali: As the Mayor-elect has repeatedly stated, hate and antisemitism have no place in New York City or the world. Concrete steps are needed to address this issue. Practical measures include intensifying interfaith dialogue, involving clergy, community leaders, and academics in promoting inclusive and contextual religious interpretations. Additionally, organizing interfaith social activities, such as soup kitchens for the homeless, can help.

Q: How can Muslim and Jewish communities specifically work together to prevent hate, violence, and misinformation?

Imam Shamsi Ali:

I believe these two communities can collaborate due to their shared Abrahamic roots. Initiatives like joint community events, clergy meetings, and social services can foster cooperation. For instance, I've worked with Jewish institutions to provide meals for the homeless and co-authored a book with a Jewish Rabbi titled "Sons of Abraham: Issues that Unite and Divide Jews and Muslims". President Bill Clinton wrote the foreword of this book and has been translated into 7 world languages, including Arabic and Hebrew.

I do believe the two religious communities can build relationships and work together to advance peace and harmony between their communities. There reasons for this. Among the reasons why it is possible because the

two religions are most identical religions in the world. Despite the challenge they face including Middle East issue, both communities can unite and work for harmony and peace.

Q: What role should faith leaders play when a hate crime occurs in any community—Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Sikh, or others?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Faith leaders should stand united against hate crimes, acknowledging that an attack on one community is an attack on all. They should provide support, promote understanding, and advocate for justice.

Q: Do you believe New York City has enough programs addressing hate prevention? What improvements would you suggest?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Current efforts often focus on reaction rather than prevention. More concrete, preventative measures are needed, involving faith leaders and community organizations. Equal attention should be given to hate crimes affecting all communities, not just specific groups.

Peace building and Community Engagement

Q: You often speak about "peaceful coexistence." How can NYC turn that idea into everyday reality?

Imam Shamsi Ali: New York City's diversity is a strength, but requires effort to maintain harmony. Initiatives promoting mutual understanding, cooperation, and social activities can foster peaceful coexistence.

Q: What initiatives would you launch to bring young people from different faith traditions together?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Programs like exchange visits, interfaith social services, and youth-led community projects can help bridge gaps

SPOTLIGHT

between young people from different faith backgrounds.

Q: How can interfaith programs help reduce polarization and social division in our neighborhoods?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Interfaith initiatives can address ignorance and misconceptions, promoting understanding and cooperation. Joint community projects and social activities can help reduce polarization.

Q: How important is it for faith leaders to be visible and active during crises, protests, or community conflicts?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Faith leaders' involvement is crucial in promoting peace and understanding. Their presence can provide comfort, guidance, and solutions during difficult times.

Q: What is your plan to build long-term trust between communities that may have political, cultural, or historical differences?

Imam Shamsi Ali: To establish long-term trust, we'll design activities that foster cooperation and mutual understanding among faith communities, supported by government systems.

Ongoing educational programs will focus on reducing misconceptions and hate among New York City's diverse faith communities.

Q: How do you envision cooperation between NYC government and interfaith leaders to build a safer and more inclusive city?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Faith leaders have

intimate connections with their communities, while government agencies often struggle to build trust. The newly elected mayor's commitment to inclusivity and transparency is a significant step forward. Together, we can create a safer and more inclusive New York City.

Q: What message would you deliver to all New Yorkers—Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Sikh,

Buddhist, and others—about building a city free of hate and full of hope?

Imam Shamsi Ali: Let's work together to create a New York City that's a welcoming home for everyone. We must recognize our shared humanity and responsibility to maintain peace and harmony. Our diversity is a strength, and by embracing it, we can build a brighter future for all.



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SAVE THE PEOPLE

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IFTAR AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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DIALOGUE

Faith Leaders Unite for Honest Dialogue at Unmuted Interfaith Event

A Rabbi, a Priest, and an Imam share reflections on religion, politics, and compassion in a polarized world

Emily Parker

In a refreshing display of interfaith dialogue and intellectual curiosity, Unmuted—an organization dedicated to fostering thoughtful, offline discussions—hosted a standing-room-only event last week titled “A Rabbi, A Priest, and an Imam Walk into a Bar.” Held recently, the gathering brought together Father Jonah Teller, Rabbi Daniel Bortz, and Imam Muhammad Shahidullah for a deeply engaging conversation on immigration, faith, and the moral aftermath of October 7.

With 80 tickets sold and a 10-person waitlist, the event reflected the growing public hunger for nuanced discussions about religion and politics in an age of polarization. Moderated by Ed Manzi, founder of Unmuted and author of *The Political Pulse*, the evening invited the audience to listen, question, and reflect on the delicate intersections



Photo: Ed Manzi stares intently at Father Jonah (left), Rabbi Bortz (middle) and Imam Shahidullah (right) between belief, policy, and moral conscience.

The panelists approached complex issues with honesty and humility. When asked about how faith informs perspectives on immigration, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah emphasized Islam’s dual call for justice (‘adl)



and mercy (rahmah). Quoting from the Qur’an (16:90) — “Indeed, Allah commands justice and excellence and giving to relatives, and forbids immorality, bad conduct, and oppression” — he

explained that justice in Islam must always be tempered by compassion. “Justice is not only about enforcing laws,” Imam Shahidullah said. “It’s about fairness

and humanity in how we apply them. A country has the right to maintain its borders, but justice can never be separated from mercy. Every migrant deserves dignity and respect.” He noted that the Prophet Muhammad, himself a migrant from Mecca to Medina, set the precedent for welcoming and protecting those in need.

The discussion later turned to the impact of the October 7 events and the subsequent violence in Israel and Gaza. Imam Shahidullah spoke candidly about the emotional toll on Muslim communities. “We grieve for every innocent life lost—Israeli and Palestinian alike,” he said. “Our community feels the pain of seeing suffering on all sides, but faith teaches us to respond with patience, compassion, and constructive action.” Citing Qur’an 5:8, he reminded attendees: “Do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just.

Be just; that is nearer to righteousness.” He added that despite moments of tension, interfaith collaboration in Queens and beyond has grown stronger, with Muslims, Jews, and Christians coming together to pray for peace and mutual understanding.

Throughout the evening, all three speakers explored the relationship between religious values and civic life, tackling questions about moral conscience, public policy, and the role of faith in shaping societal norms. The tone was candid yet deeply respectful—a hallmark of Unmuted’s mission to provide “an offline hub for intelligent people to discuss the issues of our time without judgment.” As the night concluded, attendees left with more than just talking points. They left with a renewed sense of connection—and perhaps, as one participant put it, “a little more faith in faith.”



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Building Trust Through Dialogue

Senator Gillibrand listens to community concerns at Jamaica Muslim Center.

Issac Andrew

In a surprise visit that underscored her ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand met with faith leaders, community representatives, and members of the Jamaica Muslim Center in Queens, engaging in a meaningful dialogue about the challenges and hopes of New York's Muslim community. Senator Gillibrand was welcomed by Jamaica Muslim Center President Mohamed Rahman Tuhin, Secretary General Aftab Mannan, BOT Chairman Dr. Nazmul Khan, and Joint Secretary Mohammad Fakhru Islam Delwar, along with other respected community leaders and interfaith representatives. The gathering served as a forum for discussing pressing community needs — including security funding, education access, language inclusion, and



immigration reform. Addressing a full audience, Senator Gillibrand began by reaffirming her dedication to listening and acting on behalf of her constituents. "My job is to listen, to understand, and to work very hard on the things you need done because I love your community. I love your families. I love your faith, and I'm here to serve," she said, drawing appreciation from attendees.



The Senator reflected on the difficult post-9/11 years, recalling her efforts to pass anti-discrimination laws and protect Muslim Americans from hate

crimes and unjust treatment. "It was a terrible time in New York and the whole nation," she said. "We wanted to make sure the Muslim community was protected and that anti-Muslim behavior would stop." Gillibrand went on to announce the availability of \$500 million in federal nonprofit security grants, encouraging local mosques and community organizations to apply

for funds to enhance safety measures such as cameras, lighting, and secure infrastructure. Drawing on her experience in the Armed Services Committee, she highlighted her leadership in guaranteeing religious rights for Muslim service members. "I led the charge to make sure that Muslim men and women in our armed forces could follow their faith — wear hijab, maintain facial hair, access halal food, and pray freely," she said. The Senator also emphasized her long-standing work in the Agriculture Committee, ensuring that halal and kosher foods are available through food banks and federal nutrition programs. "If a person can't eat half of what's in a food pantry because it's not halal-certified, they still go hungry," she noted, stressing the importance of inclusive food aid. Addressing broader

community issues, Gillibrand spoke about improving language accessibility during emergencies and expanding affordable housing opportunities through her new role on the Senate Appropriations Committee. "I can bring more money into New York City and Queens than ever before — for housing, transportation, and programs that help families thrive," she said. She closed her remarks with a heartfelt promise: "I will not be a stranger. I will come often, and I will continue working for you — for your safety, your faith, and your future." The visit marked an important moment of mutual respect and dialogue between federal leadership and New York's Muslim and interfaith communities. Attendees left with renewed hope, inspired by Senator Gillibrand's pledge to stand with them — not just in words, but in action.



Comments will appear here.

All Photo Credit : Shahidul M Islam

REMEMBRANCE

A Promise to Remember: Queens Holocaust Memorial Garden Announced

Officials launch borough's first standalone Holocaust memorial at Borough Hall

Jessica Morgan

In a historic and emotional ceremony on Tuesday, November 25, 2026, Jewish leaders, elected officials, and community members gathered outside Queens Borough Hall to break ground on the borough's first standalone Holocaust Memorial Garden. The project marks a monumental step in preserving the memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust while educating future generations about the dangers of hatred and intolerance. The memorial, to be located at 120-55 Queens Boulevard, is a collaboration between the NYC Mayor's Office, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, the Assembly of the World Diasporas, and the Queens Jewish Community Council (QJCC). Designed by renowned New York-



based firm Rafael Viñoly Architects, the memorial will blend symbolic architecture with natural elements to create a reflective and educational space. "Today we commit, as a borough, to never forgetting what they went through," said Borough President Donovan Richards, who announced additional funding for the project. "We commit to never again allowing that kind of evil and hatred to take hold in our society."

The Queens Holocaust Memorial Garden will feature two symbolic spaces—the "Ring of Immortality" and the "Ring of Peace"—connected by a "Path of Remembrance" lined with twelve Sky Tower Ginkgo trees, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. The memorial will serve as both a place of remembrance and a platform for education about antisemitism, racism, and all crimes against

humanity. First Deputy Mayor Randy Mastro, representing Mayor Eric Adams, described the project as "a beautifully landscaped memorial that honors the memories of so many who lost their lives, tragically and senselessly, and ensures that we will never forget." Michael Nussbaum, chairman of the Queens Holocaust Memorial Garden and one of the project's driving forces,



RAFAEL VIÑOLY ARCHITECTS emphasized that the memorial will stand not only as a remembrance of the past but as a "beacon of peace and reflection for the future."

Among those in attendance were State Senators Toby Ann Stavisky and Leroy Comrie, Assemblymembers Sam Berger, Nily Rozic, Alicia Hyndman, and Ed Braunstein, District Attorney Melinda Katz, and Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, who spoke of interfaith unity and the shared responsibility of Queens' diverse communities to combat hate. The project has received more than \$5 million in funding commitments, including contributions from the Mayor's Office, the Borough President, and members of the State Senate and Assembly. Set to be built on the site of the former Redbird train car plaza, the Queens Holocaust Memorial Garden will serve as a place of reverence, reflection, and education—a promise to the past, and a message of hope for the future.



REMEMBRANCE

“Never Again” Echoes in Queens as Holocaust Memorial Garden Begins Construction



LEADERSHIP

Queens Nonprofit Conference 2025 Brings Together Community Leaders

Borough President Donovan Richards honors organizations driving local change

Noah Presley

Queens' vibrant nonprofit community came together on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, for the second annual Queens Nonprofit Conference, a full-day gathering at Terrace on the Park that celebrated collaboration, resilience, and innovation among the organizations that sustain the borough's diverse communities. Hosted by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr., the event—titled “Rising to the Challenge of Our Time”—brought together hundreds of nonprofit leaders, advocates, and policymakers for a day of networking, knowledge-sharing, and inspiration.

“It was so great hearing from the many voices that serve and uplift our borough,” said Borough President Richards. “Because of your dedication, our families and neighborhoods continue to be resourceful, safe, and thriving.”

The conference featured dynamic sessions on collaboration, space, and funding—three key areas shaping the future



of nonprofit operations. Opening remarks by Richards and co-MCs Fatimat Adekoya, State Director of Community Options NY, and Wendy Phaff Gennaro, Director of Development at Queens Centers for Progress, set the tone for an engaging and purpose-driven day. The Nonprofit Collaborations panel, moderated by Kelsey Brow of King Manor and Mary Archana Fernandez of the South

Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS), explored innovative partnerships that strengthen community impact. Speakers included Sudha Acharya (SACSS), David Tanis (Showing Hearts Foundation), Ben Thomases (Queens Community House), and John MacIntosh (Sea Change Capital Partners). The Nonprofit Space panel, co-moderated by Deputy Borough President Ebony Young

community partnerships. After a networking luncheon, the Nonprofit Funding session featured experts including Michael Sedillo (Mayor's Office of Nonprofit Services) and Wanda Matos (Ponce Bank), who discussed sustainable financial planning and innovative funding models for organizations serving Queens residents. The day concluded with a Closing Ceremony led by Priya Permaul-Thomas (Ascension

Village) and Lisa Trotman (Sisterhood of Destiny), followed by reflections from Susie Tanenbaum, Director of Nonprofit Opportunities in the Borough President's Office, who commended the ongoing dedication of local organizations. Awards were presented to outstanding community champions, including Judy Zangwill, Executive Director of Sunnyside Community Services of NY, and graduates of the QBP Nonprofit Network's Grant Readiness Bootcamp. Supported by generous sponsors including Ponce Bank, MetroPlus Health, BDO USA, TD Bank, Insperty, and Colonial Life, this year's conference reinforced Queens' reputation as a model for civic leadership and collaboration. As the day ended with a celebratory toast, one message echoed throughout the hall: the strength of Queens lies in the dedication of its nonprofits—organizations that rise, every day, to meet the challenges of their time.



LEADERSHIP

“Rising to the Challenge of Our Time”: Queens Nonprofits Gather for Annual Conference



LEADERSHIP

Event highlights collaboration, funding, and innovation in community service



LEADERSHIP

Hundreds attend full-day event focused on strengthening community impact



HARMONY

Community Spirit Shines at South Jamaica Friendsgiving Celebration

Save The People and partners feed 100 families in an evening of unity and joy

James Anderson

South Jamaica came alive with laughter, music, and gratitude on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, as Save The People USA (STPUSA) hosted a lively Friendsgiving Celebration at 107-60 159th Street, Jamaica, NY, in collaboration with several community organizations. The heartwarming event, held from 5 PM to 8 PM, brought together hundreds of neighbors, families, and supporters for an evening that blended charity, entertainment, and community unity. The initiative, part of STPUSA's ongoing community outreach efforts, successfully fed 100 families, ensuring that residents could celebrate Thanksgiving with dignity and joy. Long tables filled with holiday favorites reflected the true spirit



of giving. The event featured a powerful partnership between several community-focused groups, including Positive 40 Project, Together We Serve, Khalsa Community Patrol,

Breaking Silence, and the South Jamaica Houses Residents Association. Their joint efforts highlighted the importance of collective action in supporting underserved families and strengthening

neighborhood ties. Leading the organizing team was Fatima Niass, Office Manager at Save The People USA, whose coordination and dedication helped make the event a resounding success. The festive

atmosphere was amplified by a stellar entertainment lineup featuring Rip Micheals, Justina Valentine, Jacob Williams, Daniel Jean, JMassiah, and Sexy Stage Face—performers who brought both laughter and inspiration to the stage. Music kept the crowd energized throughout the evening, with DJ Don Demarco

layer of excitement to the festivities. Community members expressed heartfelt appreciation for the effort and generosity displayed. For many families, the evening was not only about receiving food but also about connecting with others in a warm, inclusive space. In a statement shared by Save The People USA, organizers described the event as "a true community victory," thanking every volunteer, donor, and attendee for making Friendsgiving 2025 a success. By the end of the night, as laughter echoed and plates emptied, one thing was clear—the South Jamaica Friendsgiving was more than just a meal; it was a celebration of togetherness, compassion, and the enduring power of community.



THANKSGIVING

Zakat Foundation's Thanksgiving Lunch Uplifts New York Community

Darul Uloom NY gathering celebrates unity, compassion, and gratitude

Ashley Reed

In a heartwarming display of compassion and community, the Zakat Foundation of America (ZFA) hosted a Thanksgiving Special Lunch at Darul Uloom New York this week, bringing together more than 450 guests for a day of gratitude, unity, and shared joy. The event served as a reminder that Thanksgiving transcends cultural boundaries — it is a universal celebration of kindness and giving. More than 450 students, alongside orphans, single mothers, reverts, and children from various countries, enjoyed a delicious meal prepared specially for the occasion. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and gratitude as students and families gathered to share food, laughter, and fellowship. The Zakat Foundation of America, known for its long-standing dedication to humanitarian



service, once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to uplifting communities through acts of compassion. Its mission — to empower individuals and foster dignity through charity and development — was reflected in every aspect of the gathering. The Thanksgiving lunch was not merely a meal; it was a gesture of inclusion and empathy that touched the hearts of all present. Many attendees expressed appreciation for ZFA's efforts in supporting



vulnerable populations throughout the year, from disaster relief and food aid to education and social welfare programs. Organizers noted that such initiatives provide more than physical nourishment

— they strengthen the bonds of faith, unity, and hope within the community. The smiles of children and the gratitude expressed by families underscored the profound impact of giving, especially during the holiday season. The event also highlighted the importance of institutions like Darul Uloom NY, which not only foster academic and spiritual growth but also serve as centers of community care and collaboration. As plates were filled and hearts were uplifted, the Thanksgiving lunch at Darul Uloom NY stood as a powerful testament to the transformative role that compassion plays in building stronger, more connected communities. Through initiatives like these, the Zakat Foundation of America continues to embody the true essence of Thanksgiving — gratitude in action, service with sincerity, and love that reaches far beyond the table.



UNITY

Supporters Celebrate Zohran Mamdani's Victory with Heartfelt Thanks Dinner

Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman joins community gathering honoring campaign volunteers



William Henry

In a warm celebration of dedication and community spirit, supporters of Mayor-Elect Zohran Mamdani gathered for a "Thanks Dinner" on Sunday, November 23, 2025, to honor the volunteers

and grassroots organizers who played a pivotal role in his historic victory. The evening brought together members of Mamdani's campaign team, community activists, and friends who have been part of what many describe as a people-

powered movement for change. Held in an atmosphere of joy and gratitude, the event recognized the tireless efforts of what organizers proudly called "104,000 soldiers of this movement" — the volunteers and supporters who worked

relentlessly to secure Mamdani's victory. Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman, serving as Guest of Honor, joined the gathering alongside Susse Lamada, both of whom personally presented flowers to attendees as a gesture

of appreciation and solidarity. The dinner was made possible through the generous contributions and coordination of the Staten Island Progressive Coalition, whose members—representing more than 27 organizations—attended in their personal capacities. Their involvement underscored the broad coalition of progressives and activists who united across boroughs to advance a shared vision of inclusive, people-centered leadership. The evening reflected the values that fueled Mamdani's campaign: community, authenticity, and mutual care. Guests brought potluck dishes, turning the dinner into a celebration that was as personal as it was political. Stories were shared, laughter filled the room, and the sense of collective achievement was palpable. "This was more than just a dinner," organizers said. "It was a reunion of those

who believe in love, justice, and purpose-driven leadership." The gratitude extended beyond campaign milestones, recognizing the compassion and sincerity that guided volunteers from the earliest days of organizing to the final victory. The gathering, hosted by Shahana Masum and Ranti Ogunleye, captured the heart of what made Mamdani's campaign stand out — a community built not on hierarchy, but on shared vision and trust. As attendees reflected on the movement's journey, the message was clear: this was not an ending, but a continuation. The Thanks Dinner served as both a moment of reflection and a reminder of the transformative power of community — the same power that carried Zohran Mamdani and his team to victory, and will continue to inspire action in the years to come.



CULTURE

Faith, Harmony, and Devotion at Qirat Conference

The 24th International Qirat Conference draws global acclaim for its spiritual and cultural significance



Alex Mason

The spiritual essence of Dhaka was elevated recently as the 24th International Qirat Conference Bangladesh – 2025 was held with grandeur and devotion at the National Mosque Baitul Mukarram. Organized by the International Qur'an Recitation Organization (Iqra) and patronized by the PHP Family,



Islamic Culture and Relations Organization of I. R. of Iran
Cultural Centre, Embassy of the I. R. of Iran in Bangladesh

the event once again positioned Bangladesh as a beacon of Qur'anic tradition and unity in the Muslim world. Presided over by the distinguished Qari Sheikh Ahmad bin Yusuf Al-Azhari, the multi-day gathering brought together some of the world's most renowned Qur'an reciters from



Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, Iran, and the Philippines, each delivering soul-stirring recitations that moved audiences to tears and reflection. Among the international guests were Sheikh Ahmad Al Jawhari from Egypt, Sheikh Abdul Wali Arakani from Turkey, Qari Anwarul Hasan Shah Bukhari

from Pakistan, Qari Mahdi Gholamnejad from Iran, and Qari Muhammad Nazir Asgar from the Philippines. Their mesmerizing voices echoed throughout the mosque grounds, drawing thousands of worshippers and admirers from across Bangladesh and beyond. The conference was graced by eminent guests, including Dr. A.F.M. Khalid Hossain, Religious Adviser to the Government of Bangladesh, who attended as Chief Guest. Sufi Muhammad Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of PHP Family, served as the chief patron, while A. Halim Khan, Director General of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh, Dhaka Deputy Commissioner

Tanzil Ahmed, and DIG Ejaz Ahmed attended as special guests. Diplomats from several nations were also present, symbolizing the spirit of global brotherhood and respect for the Holy Qur'an. In his remarks, Sheikh Ahmad bin Yusuf Al-Azhari emphasized that events like this not only strengthen faith but also bridge nations through the shared beauty of Qur'anic recitation. "The Qur'an unites hearts beyond borders," he said. "Its message of mercy and justice is the common light that guides us all." The International Qur'an Recitation Organization (Iqra), founded in 1991 by the late Qari Muhammad Yusuf (R.A.), former chief Qari of Bangladesh Betar and Television, has been organizing

the International Qirat Conference for over three decades. Through this annual event, Iqra continues to nurture new generations of Qaris and elevate Bangladesh's global standing in the field of Qur'anic arts. As the echoes of melodious recitations filled the air, the atmosphere at Baitul Mukarram became one of serenity, unity, and reverence. The successful completion of the 24th International Qirat Conference stands as a proud testament to Bangladesh's enduring commitment to promoting the spiritual and cultural heritage of Islam. In the words of the organizers, "May Allah accept the efforts of all who contributed to this noble gathering and continue to bless Bangladesh with the light of the Qur'an."



FAITH

World-famous Qaris unite to promote the art of Qur'anic recitation in Bangladesh



PUBLICATION

Empowering the Diaspora: Bangladeshi Professionals Debuts in the U.S.

Community leaders and cultural icons mark the organization's official launch

Daniel Matthew

The Bangladeshi-American community came together in vibrant celebration as the Bangladeshi Professionals organization was officially inaugurated at Gulshan Terrace in Woodside, New York, on November 29, 2025. The grand event marked a significant milestone for expatriate Bangladeshis working across diverse professional fields in the United States, showcasing their collective vision to connect, empower, and inspire the diaspora. The evening began with a warm welcome from the leadership team, including President Sheikh Enamul Kabir, Vice President Sayed M. Alam, and Editor Hasan Mahmud, followed by cultural performances that filled the venue with energy and pride. Popular artists Parvez Sajjad, Roni Das, and Gazi Salauddin captivated the audience



with their performances, while renowned singer Nawrin Noreen Mou added elegance and emotion to the night. The Saragam Band later energized the crowd with their musical set, creating an atmosphere of unity and festivity. In his inaugural remarks, Sheikh Enamul Kabir reflected on the mission behind Bangladeshi Professionals, expressing that the organization was founded to

unite and empower Bangladeshis living abroad through shared values, professional collaboration, and community engagement. His message emphasized the importance of building a platform that connects expatriates across industries while promoting pride in their heritage and contributions to society. Kabir, who also serves as Chief Editor of the Bangladeshi

Professionals magazine, underscored the organization's dedication to transparency, teamwork, and the celebration of success stories within the diaspora. He highlighted that when professionals from diverse fields come together with sincerity and purpose, they strengthen not only their network but also the global image of Bangladesh through integrity, talent, and cultural pride.

The event was made possible through the generous support of the Golden Age Home Care as the Grand Sponsor and Bismillah Halal Poultry, Meat, Fish & Grocery as a key sponsor. Channel i and Time Television served as electronic media partners, while Weekly Ajkal and Bhorer Barta provided print coverage, ensuring wide visibility across the Bangladeshi-American press. Guests from

various professional backgrounds, including business, health, technology, and education, attended the ceremony, engaging in networking sessions that reflected the organization's mission of unity and collaboration. The newly launched Bangladeshi Professionals platform, along with its official magazine, aims to serve as a hub for career development, entrepreneurship, and cultural promotion among Bangladeshi expatriates worldwide. As the evening concluded with music, laughter, and shared ambition, one sentiment resonated through the crowd—the determination to move forward together. The successful launch of Bangladeshi Professionals signaled not just the start of an organization but the beginning of a movement celebrating Bangladeshi talent, identity, and excellence across borders.



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee



Deadly California Shooting

Police say attack may have been targeted

Amkel Nourush

A family gathering in Stockton, California, turned into a scene of horror on Saturday evening, when a gunman opened fire at a restaurant, killing four people and wounding ten others, according to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. The victims include both adults and children, though the conditions of the injured have not yet been released. The shooting occurred shortly before 6 p.m., prompting a massive emergency response and an urgent search for the suspect, who

remains at large. Authorities said early indications suggest the attack "may be a targeted incident," though investigators are still working to determine the motive.

HIGHLIGHT

•Four people killed and ten injured in a shooting at a family gathering in Stockton, California.

"This is unfathomable," said sheriff's spokeswoman Heather Brent, emphasizing that the investigation remains active and that information is still

limited. Stockton's deputy mayor, Jason Lee, condemned the violence, noting that a birthday celebration "should never be a place where families fear for their lives." Mayor Christina Fugazi called the shooting "unacceptable," saying families should be home together—not "standing next to their loved one, praying that they survive." Residents are urged to provide any video footage or eyewitness accounts as authorities continue their manhunt for the shooter in a city once again shaken by gun violence.



Photo: Stockton mass shooting: Four killed at California family gathering
Image Source: AP / BBC



Photos: kraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and his chief of staff Andriy Yermak in Madrid on Nov. 18.
Image Source: Oscar Del Pozo / AFP - Getty Images

Zelenskyy Without Yermak

Resignation shakes Ukraine's negotiating core

Nassr Al Shams

Ukraine's already fraught peace negotiations with Russia were jolted on Friday when Andriy Yermak, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's powerful chief of staff and chief negotiator, resigned following an anti-corruption raid at his home. His exit, after years as Zelenskyy's closest adviser, leaves a sudden void at the center of Kyiv's diplomatic strategy just as pressure mounts from President Donald Trump to endorse a plan more favorable to Moscow. The resignation comes after a tense week in which Ukraine resisted U.S. demands to cede territory, prompting negotiators to secure revisions before Trump's

HIGHLIGHT

•Andriy Yermak, Ukraine's top aide and chief negotiator, resigned amid a corruption probe.

•Departure comes as peace talks intensify with U.S., Russia and Ukraine.

•Analysts warn Moscow may exploit the leadership vacuum.

•Rustem Umerov to lead upcoming talks, though he too faces scrutiny.

envoy, Steve Witkoff, travels to Moscow for further talks. Analysts warn that Yermak's departure "could not come at a worse time," as Moscow may probe whether Ukraine's negotiating lines can be softened during the transition. Zelenskyy named Rustem Umerov to lead the next round of discussions, though he has also been mentioned in anti-corruption inquiries. Still, observers argue that enforcing accountability at senior levels may ultimately strengthen Ukraine's institutional legitimacy. "Russia really wants Ukraine to make mistakes," Zelenskyy said in a video address. "There will be no mistakes on our part."

Airbus Back on Track

Grounded jets resume flights after urgent fixes

Adrian Smith


Air travel returned to near-normal levels on Saturday after thousands of Airbus A320-family aircraft were briefly grounded for emergency software updates prompted by a warning that solar radiation could corrupt onboard computer readings. The issue, discovered after a JetBlue aircraft suddenly lost altitude in October, affected more than 6,000 planes, Airbus said. French Transport Minister Philippe Tabarot reported that updates "went very

smoothly" for over 5,000 aircraft, with fewer than 100 still awaiting installation. Roughly 900 older models remain grounded pending full computer replacements, which may take longer due to parts availability. Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury apologized for the disruption, acknowledging "logistical challenges and delays" as airlines scrambled to perform overnight fixes. Major carriers—including American Airlines, Delta, EasyJet, and Wizz Air—said operations had largely stabilized by Saturday, though

pockets of delays persisted at airports such as Paris Charles de Gaulle and London Gatwick. In the Asia-Pacific region, Jetstar canceled 90 flights while Air New Zealand temporarily grounded its A320 fleet but later resumed service. Regulators emphasized that the swift global response prevented broader chaos. The UK Civil Aviation Authority said air traffic was "not seriously affected," underscoring the industry's rapid coordination to resolve the rare, radiation-related software flaw.




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