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Sunday, MARCH 01, 2026
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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Alexandar Sullivan

A months-long intelligence effort by the United States and Israel culminated in a rare daytime strike that killed Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in central Tehran on Saturday morning. Rather than striking under cover of darkness, officials seized what they described as a narrow window of opportunity after intelligence revealed that Khamenei and other senior Iranian

HIGHLIGHT

●Ayatollah Ali Khamenei killed in coordinated U.S.-Israeli strike.

●Attack occurred around 09:40 local time Saturday in Tehran.

●Months of intelligence tracking by the CIA and Israeli agencies preceded the strike.

●Several senior Iranian defense officials also confirmed dead.

leaders would be meeting at separate sites within a heavily guarded compound. According to reports,



Photo: Satellite imagery from an alleged Israeli strike on the bunker where Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was being guarded. Image Source: JERUSALEM POST/ REUTERS/Online

Strike on Tehran Compound

Joint intelligence effort leads to dramatic escalation

the CIA provided critical intelligence, which was shared with Israel to execute the attack. At approximately 09:40 local time, Israeli jets launched what was described as the opening salvo of "Operation Roaring Lion," firing long-range, precision munitions

at the compound. Multiple bombs were reportedly used to penetrate underground protections. Other locations in the capital were also hit, and Iran later confirmed the deaths of several senior defense officials, including Ali Shamkhani, Brig. Gen. Aziz

Nasirzadeh, and Gen. Mohammad Pakpour. President Donald Trump, monitoring events from Mar-a-Lago, Florida, later said Khamenei "was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly Sophisticated Tracking Systems." The strike followed weeks of escalating

tensions, military buildup in the region, and stalled diplomatic talks over Iran's nuclear program. While succession plans were reportedly in place in Tehran, the long-term consequences remain uncertain, marking a dramatic turning point in an already volatile conflict.

Violence in Downtown Austin

Swift police response ends deadly rampage

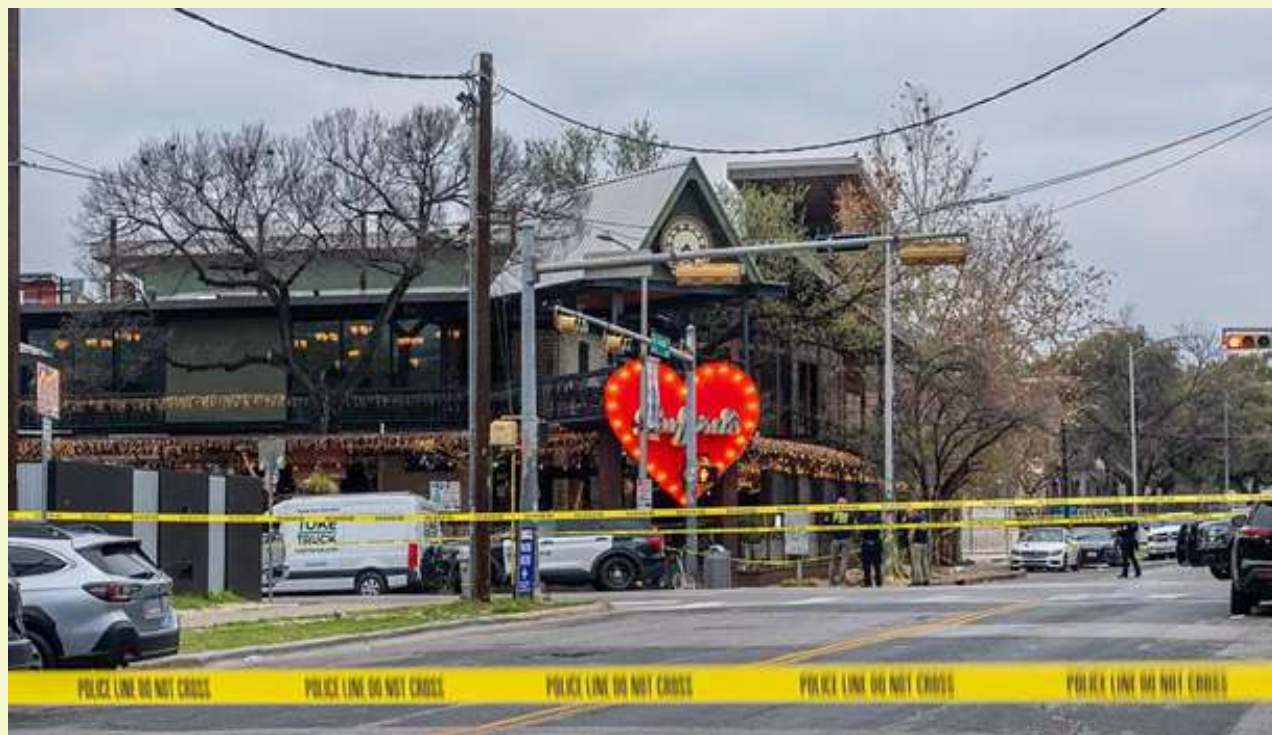


Photo: Deadly Shooting in Austin

Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

Lily Anderson

A burst of gunfire shattered the early morning calm in Austin, Texas, on Sunday at approximately 2 a.m.,

when a man opened fire outside Buford's bar on West Sixth Street, killing two people and injuring 17 others in what the FBI says may be "potentially an act of

terrorism." According to Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis, the suspect arrived in a large SUV, activated his hazard lights, and fired a pistol from his

vehicle, striking patrons gathered on the patio and sidewalk. He then parked nearby, retrieved a rifle, and began walking back toward the bar before three

responding officers shot and killed him at a nearby intersection. Authorities said the SUV did not contain explosives, but Acting Special Agent in Charge Alex Doran of the FBI's San Antonio office noted there were indications suggesting a possible terrorism connection, though he declined to provide details as the investigation remains in its early stages. Of the 14 victims transported to hospitals, three are in critical condition, according to emergency officials. Austin Mayor Kirk Watson praised the rapid police response — officials said officers engaged the suspect within 57 seconds — adding, "They definitely saved lives." The motive has not yet been disclosed as authorities continue their investigation.

A Historic Papal Choice

First American pope elected after tense vote

John Paul

The election of Pope Leo XIV in May 2025 was as dramatic as any fictional portrayal, according to a new book detailing the secretive conclave that chose the first US-born pontiff in the Catholic Church's 2,000-year history. In "The Election of Pope Leo XIV: The Last Surprise of Pope Francis," published March 25, 2026, journalists Gerard O'Connell and Elisabetta Piqué recount how Cardinal Robert Prevost, a Chicago-born Augustinian with missionary experience in Peru, quietly built support while remaining under the radar.



Photo: Pope Leo XIV arrives in the Popemobile ahead of his inauguration Mass in St. Peter's Square on May 18. Image Source: David Ramos/Getty Images

The first ballot favored Hungarian Cardinal Péter Erdő, but momentum quickly shifted. By the fourth ballot, Prevost secured 108 votes, defeating Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin. The book describes human moments inside the Sistine Chapel, including a delayed vote over a forgotten cellphone and a ballot mishap requiring a revote. Long considered unlikely due to America's global power, an American pope once seemed improbable. Yet Prevost was viewed by many as "the least American of the Americans," bridging continents and continuing the reformist trajectory of Pope Francis, who had elevated him to key Vatican roles. As white smoke rose, the conclave once again proved its enduring capacity to surprise.

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Smile of Life Iftar brings faith and community to the forefront

NYN Desk

In the spirit of Ramadan, Smile of Life Iftar brought members of the community together for an evening rooted in compassion, service, and shared faith. The gathering, held during the holy month, reflected the organization's guiding message: serving food while spreading hope. More than simply providing an iftar meal, the event embodied a broader purpose.



Photo: Mentor Power Village Celebrates First Anniversary

Organizers described it as “more than a meal — it’s a mission of love,” underscoring their commitment to

strengthening bonds within the community. Through acts of generosity and unity, attendees were reminded that

Ramadan is not only a time of fasting, but also a time of collective responsibility and care.

The atmosphere emphasized togetherness, reinforcing the theme “Stronger together this Ramadan.” Participants shared in the breaking of the fast while embracing a renewed sense of faith and community commitment. By centering its efforts on both nourishment and hope, Smile of Life Iftar demonstrated how meaningful service can inspire connection, uplift spirits, and leave a lasting impact beyond the dinner table.

Queens Film Festival Co-Founder Returns to Her Theatrical Roots

Community Desk

Award-winning improvisational artist Katha Cato, co-founder of the Queens World Film Festival, brought her latest creative endeavor to Long Island City this March with Reassembled, a month-long exhibit paired with a live performance. The exhibition ran from March 4–31 at Local LIC, 13-02 44th Ave., showcasing Cato's fabric art and assemblages installed throughout the

venue. On March 14 at 6:30 p.m., she delivered a “fully improvised one-woman performance,” inviting audience participation in what she described as an exploration of identity and lived experience. “We are all made up of many pieces,” Cato said. “Every lived moment is a unique act of assembly, unrepeatable, responsive and alive.” The performance marked a return to her improvisational roots, which began in New

York City in the 1980s, when she earned the first BackStage Bistro Award for Direction in 1986. Beyond theater, Cato and her husband, Donald Preston Cato, launched the Queens World Film Festival in 2011, screening nearly 2,000 films from 98 nations. With Reassembled, Cato once again fused storytelling and community, reinforcing LIC's reputation as a vibrant arts hub.



Photo: Dominican Heritage Month honors the contributions of Dominicans through parades, music and food. Image Source: Keke Grant-Floyd/Bronx Times



Photo: Mamdani's Housing Hearings Begin with Testimony and Tension
Image Source : Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

First 'Rental Ripoff Hearing' Draws Hope and Doubt in Brooklyn

Staff Reporter

The first of Mayor Zohran Mamdani's “rental ripoff hearings” unfolded on Thursday evening at George Westinghouse High School in Downtown Brooklyn, drawing hundreds of tenants eager to share stories of neglect, hidden fees, and landlord retaliation. Launched under an executive order signed on the mayor's first day in office, the hearings aim to shape new housing policy within 90 days. Cea Weaver, head of the Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants, described the effort as a “direct platform” for renters to inform enforcement strategies. More than 450 people registered for the initial Brooklyn sessions, which

operated as structured, three-minute meetings between tenants and senior officials. Outside, dozens rallied for stronger enforcement and a rent freeze. Testimony ranged from prolonged repair battles to alleged illegal rent hikes. “I'm skeptical, but hopeful,” said tenant Joshua Rodrigues after meeting directly with Weaver. Others echoed cautious optimism, questioning whether their accounts would translate into change. Additional hearings are scheduled in Long Island City (March 5), Fordham in the Bronx (March 11), East Harlem (March 28), and Staten Island's North Shore (April 7), as the administration continues its borough-wide outreach.

Manhattan Names Renowned Lincoln Scholar as Borough Historian

Senior Reporter

Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal has appointed acclaimed Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer as the borough's new historian, signaling a renewed emphasis on Manhattan's role in shaping American history. Holzer, director of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, is widely recognized for his scholarship on President Abraham Lincoln, including the pivotal 1860 Cooper Union address delivered in Manhattan. His work has explored how the borough's press, politics, and civic institutions influenced national debates during the Civil War era. “Harold Holzer brings an unparalleled depth of knowledge... and deep understanding of Manhattan's place in American history,” Hoylman-Sigal said, adding that he looks forward to collaborating on projects marking the 400th anniversary of the Dutch settlement in Manhattan, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Holzer, who previously co-chaired the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, said he was “honored and delighted” to serve, emphasizing that history's lessons can help guide the borough's future.

Saint Barnabas Hospital Celebrates Dominican Leaders in Belmont

News Correspondent

Saint Barnabas Hospital (SBH) in Belmont, Bronx, hosted a vibrant celebration honoring Dominican changemakers during Dominican Heritage Month, bringing together community leaders, staff, and residents in a tribute to culture and service. The event featured live Latin music by El Trio Ideal, as guests swayed to Bachata rhythms while recognizing individuals who have made meaningful contributions. Among those honored were SBH Telecommunications Technician Joshua Brito, Lt. Joreyni Martinez of the 48th Precinct, and Miguelina Camilo, chief of staff to NYC Council Speaker Julie Menin.

“There's a lot of pride in Quisqueya,” Brito said, encouraging guests to embrace their roots and community. Camilo reflected on her leadership journey, saying, “When we talk about being first, ‘siendo la primera,’ we cannot be the last,” emphasizing her commitment to representation. Dominican Heritage Month, observed from January 21 to February 27, commemorates the Dominican Republic's 1844 independence. With more than 300,000 Dominicans residing in the Bronx, the celebration underscored the borough's deep cultural ties and the ongoing impact of Dominican leadership across New York City.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:13	12:08	03:17	05:48	07:03
05:12	12:08	03:18	05:49	07:04
05:10	12:08	03:19	05:51	07:06
05:09	12:07	03:20	05:52	07:07
05:07	12:07	03:20	05:53	07:08
05:06	12:07	03:21	05:54	07:09
05:04	12:07	03:22	05:55	07:10

OPINION

First 'Rental Ripoff Hearing' Draws Hope and Doubt in Brooklyn

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RAMADAN AS A 'MADRASAH' FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

— Imam Shamsi Ali

As has been repeatedly stated before, Ramadan isn't just a month of ritual worship; it's a month of "tarbiyah" (Islamic education). In the perspective of tarbiyah, Ramadan is the most systematic "spiritual madrasah" in Islam. If in the beginning of the month we would solidify the foundation of taqwa (God-consciousness), then in the next phase we enter the core of education, known as "tazkiyat al-nafs" — purification and nurturing of the soul. Allah says: "Indeed, he succeeds who purifies his soul, and he fails who corrupts it." (As-Shams: 9-10). This verse isn't just spiritual motivation, but an educational principle. True success isn't in outward achievements, but in cleansing the inner self. This is where fasting finds its relevance as a divine curriculum.

Tazkiyah as an Educational Process In the tradition of Islamic educational institutions (madaaris), education (tarbiyah) doesn't stop at transferring knowledge. It touches personality development and growth, character building, and disciplining habits. Tazkiyat al-nafs has two meanings: cleansing from despicable traits and cultivating noble qualities. Students in any Islamic traditional school such as mine where I graduated from are trained to rise before dawn, organize intentions, guard their speech, respect teachers, and manage time. All these aren't just rules, but a part of the tazkiyah and tarbiyah" process. Ramadan expands this educational space. If in schools discipline is formed by rules,

in Ramadan it's formed by awareness that Allah SWT is near (qariib) and watching (Basiir). Here, education ascends a level from a mere human supervision to divine oversight. Discipline as a Pillar of Tazkiyah Fasting is the most concrete discipline training. It has clear timings, strict boundaries, and consistent rules. There's no compromise at dawn, no negotiation at sunset. In a trained soul, discipline isn't a burden, but a path to freedom. The spirit of "mujahadah" (strive) finds its meaning during fasting month. Whoever seriously restrains themselves will find maturity. Whoever diligently guards their heart will find tranquility. Tazkiyah isn't born from discourse, but from consistent practice. Just as madrasah student is shaped through a strict schedule, the soul is shaped through the regular rhythm of fasting throughout of the month. Mujahadah and Jiddiyah (Struggle and Diligence) Tazkiyat al-nafs requires mujahadah — earnest struggle against oneself. In educational terms, this is possibly known as self-mastery. An untrained soul tends toward laziness, complaints, and seeking instant comfort. Fasting teaches that comfort isn't the main goal; nobility is. This is where sincerity is tested. Fasting is a hidden worship. In a Hadith Qudsi,



— Imam Shamsi Ali :
Director, Jamaica Muslim Center & President, Nusantara Foundation

Allah says, "Fasting is for Me, and I will reward it." (Bukhari and Muslim) This privilege shows that fasting trains the soul to work without applause. Like a madrasah student learning in the simplicity of a dormitory, without spotlight, but with great determination. This silent diligence births strength. Ukhuwah and Collective Soul

Tazkiyah isn't an individualistic project. In madrasah tradition, soul-building is always framed in ukhuwah (brotherhood). Students live together; worship together, eat together, learn together. Ramadan brings forth this collective dimension. Muslims fast together, break fast together, pray tarawih together, share food and prayers. This togetherness softens hearts. It erodes the ego that thinks it's superior.

A pure soul isn't just one that's diligent in worship, but one that can live harmoniously with others. True tazkiyat al-nafs births strong ukhuwah. Erasing Ego, Cultivating Humility. One of the soul's subtlest diseases is 'ujub; feeling superior. Ironically, this disease often appears after someone feels successful in worship. The Quran warns: "So do not claim purity for yourselves." (An-Najm: 32) In character education, humility is the peak of maturity. A truly educated person becomes more humble. Fasting softens the ego. When

everyone feels the same hunger, there's no room for social arrogance. Rich and poor stand equal before thirst. This is where the soul learns humility.

Tazkiyah as a Lifelong Project Ramadan is just a momentum, like a mid-semester exam in the long journey of soul education. After this month ends, the training shouldn't stop. Values of discipline, diligence, ukhuwah, and sincerity must be carried into the next eleven months. In the grand scheme of civilization, tazkiyat al-nafs births humans with integrity, morally strong and spiritually mature.

From such individuals, a civilized society is built. Without soul purification, knowledge might become a tool of arrogance, power becomes oppression, wealth becomes a source of inequality. But with a pure soul, knowledge becomes light, power becomes trust, and wealth becomes a means of sharing.

Conclusion: The Refined Soul Tazkiyat al-nafs isn't just a classical Sufism term; it's the core of life tarbiyah. Ramadan teaches that great change starts from inner purification. With discipline, we cleanse. With diligence, we strengthen. With ukhuwah, we soften. With sincerity, we purify.

And inshaAllah one day we're called: "O tranquil soul, return to your Lord, pleased and pleasing." (Al-Fajr: 27-28), we hope that soul will be the one that's been forged by Ramadan's madrasah — educated, refined, and mature. Amin!



“True success isn't in outward achievements, but in cleansing the inner self.”



“Ramadan teaches that great change starts from inner purification.”

The Politics of a “Golden Age”: Trump’s Address and America’s Deepening Divide

— By Akbar Haider Kiron

On February 24, President Donald Trump stood before Congress to deliver the first State of the Union address of his second term. Stretching nearly one hour and forty-eight minutes, the speech was notable not only for its length but for its ambition. Trump cast his administration's record as the dawn of a new American “Golden Age,” projecting strength, recovery, and renewed national pride. But beyond the confident tone lay a more complex political landscape— one defined by polarization, economic unease, and competing narratives about the country's direction. Economic Confidence vs. Economic Experience The president highlighted moderating inflation, falling energy prices, and buoyant financial markets as evidence of robust growth. In macroeconomic terms, several indicators have indeed shown resilience. For Trump and his allies, these data points reinforce the claim that the United States has regained economic momentum. Yet economic confidence is not evenly distributed. Democratic leaders argue that aggregate statistics often obscure lived realities. For many households, housing costs, healthcare expenses, and everyday goods remain pressing

concerns. Polling data continue to show a divided public, with skepticism lingering about whether economic gains have translated into tangible relief. This divergence—between top-line performance and ground-level perception— captures a broader debate shaping American politics: What constitutes economic success, and who ultimately benefits from it? Immigration and the Language of Order Immigration featured prominently in the address. Trump framed border enforcement as a matter of sovereignty and national security, asserting that government's first duty is to protect its citizens. The rhetoric resonated with supporters who view immigration control as central to restoring institutional order. However, critics contend that such framing risks narrowing a multidimensional issue into a singular narrative of threat. Representatives Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib were among those who voiced objections during the speech, reflecting deep ideological divides within Congress.



— Akbar Haider Kiron
Senior Journalist, New York

Texas Representative Al Green was removed after a protest gesture—an episode that symbolized how debates over immigration now unfold as moral and cultural confrontations, not merely policy disagreements. The moment underscored a reality of contemporary American governance: unity is often invoked rhetorically, but rarely experienced institutionally. Political Theater and Strategic Messaging

More than seventy Democratic lawmakers reportedly boycotted the address, choosing instead to engage constituents through town halls and community events. This approach highlights a shift in modern political strategy: opposition is increasingly performed outside formal chambers, directly in conversation with voters. The speech itself functioned as both governance and campaign messaging. As midterm elections approach, each party is positioning its narrative—one centered on strength and resurgence, the other on accountability and inclusion. The Meaning of Omission

In major national addresses, what is omitted can be as consequential as what is proclaimed. While the president emphasized enforcement and economic revival, critics noted limited engagement with certain controversial policy outcomes and administrative disputes. Such omissions feed an ongoing debate over transparency and executive responsibility. In polarized environments, silence can quickly become part of the story. A Nation at an Inflection Point To supporters, the address reaffirmed decisive leadership. To detractors, it reflected a continuation of combative political style in an already fractured civic culture. Whether the “Golden Age” framing endures will depend less on rhetorical flourish and more on public trust. Economic resilience, institutional stability, and civic cohesion remain fragile in a climate where partisan identity often supersedes shared national purpose. The ultimate verdict will not be rendered in the chamber of Congress, but in the judgment of voters—who must decide whether America stands at the threshold of renewal, or at a crossroads demanding recalibration.

UNITY

Spirit of Ramadan on Display in Michigan

United Bangladeshi Welfare Hosts Grand Community Iftar in Warren

James Anderson

Nearly 800 members of Michigan's Bangladeshi community gathered in an atmosphere of faith, reflection, and fellowship for the "Remarkable Bangladeshi Iftar Dinner" on February 22, 2026, at the Miiftaah Institute in Warren, Michigan. Organized under the banner of United Bangladeshi Welfare of Michigan, the large-scale event brought together families, community leaders, and public officials in a powerful display of unity during the holy month of Ramadan.

The evening began at 4:30 PM, as attendees from diverse backgrounds—men and women, young and old—filled the venue, creating what organizers described as an unprecedented community gathering. Several regional organizations collaborated in hosting the iftar, reinforcing a shared commitment to strengthening bonds within the Bangladeshi-American community. The program was hosted by Mamdud Hussain, who guided the



evening's proceedings. In his welcome remarks, Shabbir Khan emphasized the importance of collective engagement and mutual support, noting that such gatherings deepen community ties and foster a spirit of cooperation. A highlight of the evening was the keynote address delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Shahidullah—Keynote Speaker, Founder and President of Elhaam Academy, and Director



of Darul Uloom in New York. Reflecting on the spiritual significance of Ramadan, he encouraged attendees to embrace the month as a time for self-discipline, compassion, and renewed devotion.

Complementing his message, Michigan-based Islamic speaker Sayed Khan—Special Guest Speaker—spoke about the transformative power of faith and the responsibility of Muslims to contribute positively to society. The event drew a broad slate of public and civic leadership. Attendees included Honorable Senator Stephanie Chang, Honorable State Representative Mike McFall, and Honorable State Representative

Natalie Price. From the City of Warren, officials present included Honorable Mayor Lori Stone and Honorable Councilman Hall Newman, along with Board of Review Vice President Faisal Ahmed, Board of Review Member Aziz Chowdhury, Crime Commissioner Tracy Alam, Planning Commissioner Syed Shahed Haque, and Planning Commissioner Delwar Ansar. Community participation

also included representatives from the Bangladesh Multicultural Foundation (BMCF)—President Iqbal Hussain, Vice President Hemal Hussain, Treasurer Amdad Hussain, Member at Large Mustufa Ahmed, Member at Large Rajon Uddin, Member at Large Tufael Hussain—and community sports leadership such as Tayeful Rahman, Chairman of the Michigan Cricket Association.

The evening concluded with a special prayer seeking peace and prosperity for the Bangladeshi community and the broader Muslim ummah.

Organizers noted that the gathering not only marked a significant Ramadan observance but also strengthened relationships among diaspora families. By bringing together nearly 800 individuals under one roof, United Bangladeshi Welfare of Michigan demonstrated the enduring power of faith-centered community events to foster unity, cultural pride, and civic connection in the heart of Michigan.



INTERFAITH

An Evening of Besa and Brotherhood in New York

Albanian Islamic Cultural Center Hosts Annual Interfaith Iftar



Ashley Reed

In a powerful demonstration of hospitality and unity, the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center in New York welcomed a wide cross-section of the city's leadership for its

Annual Interfaith Iftar, bringing faith leaders, public servants, and law enforcement officials to the same table to break bread and reaffirm shared commitments to community trust. Host Tahir Kukaj framed the evening through



Besa, the Albanian tradition often described

as a sacred promise of hospitality and protection. "It was a sincere honor to host you at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center's Annual Interfaith Iftar," Kukaj said online, emphasizing that the meaning of the gathering extended beyond ceremony. "Having you at our table to break bread was a meaningful reminder that this promise extends beyond our own walls and into the very fabric of our city." The interfaith setting, Kukaj noted, offered a rare and meaningful moment of convergence—one in which spiritual leaders and civic partners were present not as separate groups, but as neighbors with shared responsibilities. "Seeing

our community's faith leaders, public servants, and law enforcement officials gathered in one space was a powerful statement of unity," he said. While the iftar meal marked the traditional breaking of the fast during Ramadan, the gathering also carried a broader civic purpose: strengthening relationships that help communities work together in moments of challenge and in the routines of daily public life. Kukaj highlighted the value of collaboration "where we listen to one another, share perspectives, and build trust," describing that spirit as central to what makes New York "resilient" and "vibrant." Kukaj also thanked

attendees for making time amid demanding schedules and expressed appreciation for their ongoing service. "We appreciate the tireless work you do every day on behalf of all New Yorkers," he said, adding that the center hoped guests felt welcomed and at home. By the end of the evening, the message was clear: traditions like Besa can serve as a bridge—linking cultural identity with public-minded action. Kukaj said the center looks forward to continuing to work alongside civic and community partners to build a city defined by peace, respect, and mutual support, reinforced through shared meals and sustained dialogue.



[Photos collected from the Facebook post of Mr. Tahir Kukaj]

SOLIDARITY

Albany Marks Ramadan with Community Iftar at the State Level

Mayor Dorcey Applrys and Assemblyman Charles D. Fall Join Residents in Reflection

William Henry

In the heart of Albany, New York, faith and public service came together as state and city leaders joined residents for the 2026 Community Iftar, marking the holy month of Ramadan with reflection, prayer, and shared fellowship. The gathering underscored the growing presence and recognition of Muslim communities within the civic life of the state capital. The event brought together elected officials, community leaders, and residents in a setting defined by unity and mutual respect. Among those present was Assemblyman Charles D. Fall of Assembly District 61, along with

Albany Mayor Dorcey Applrys and other elected officials. Their participation signaled a public acknowledgment of Ramadan's significance and the contributions of Muslim New Yorkers to the broader community. A central moment of the evening came when Imam Muhammad Shahidullah delivered the Azan, the call to prayer, filling the space with a solemn reminder of the spiritual essence of the month. He then led the congregation in prayer before attendees broke their fast together. The observance blended religious tradition with civic engagement, creating a meaningful atmosphere of inclusion. Both the Assemblyman



and the Mayor addressed attendees, speaking about the importance of Ramadan as a time of reflection, compassion, and service. Their remarks

highlighted themes of unity and community responsibility, reinforcing the shared values that connect public leadership with faith-based observances.

The gathering also drew participation from The Council of Peoples Organization (CPO), which noted it was honored to join the City of Albany's Community Iftar, celebrating reflection, fellowship, and unity during the blessed month. The



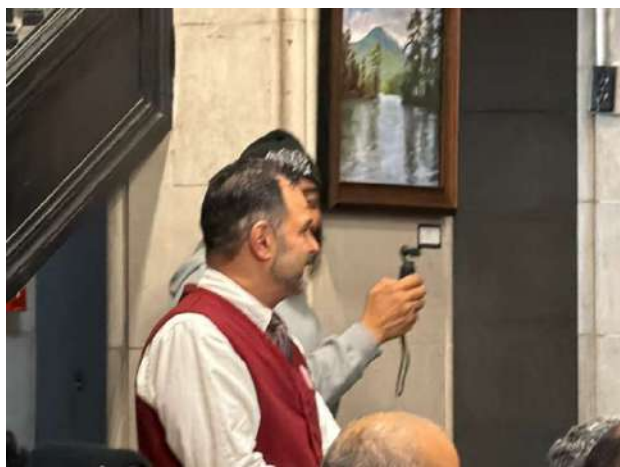
organization's presence reflected its ongoing engagement in initiatives that promote cross-cultural understanding and civic partnership.

As guests shared the evening meal, the event stood as more than a ceremonial observance. It reflected Albany's evolving civic landscape—one in which government institutions and community organizations collaborate to recognize diverse traditions while strengthening common bonds. By bringing together public officials, faith leaders, and residents around a shared table, the 2026 Community Iftar in Albany offered a clear message: in the state's capital, the spirit of Ramadan resonates not only in houses of worship, but also within the broader framework of public life and community solidarity.



SOLIDARITY

Albany's 2026 Community Iftar Highlights Unity and Fellowship



A CALL TO SUPPORT

HELP ESTABLISH OUR FIRST EVER **MULTI-PURPOSE ISLAMIC CENTER** PROJECT:

YONKERS MUSLIM CENTER (YMC)

- ◆ A **House of Allah**, where prayer and worship illuminate hearts and strengthen faith.
- ◆ A **Center of Learning**, where men, women, and young people grow in knowledge, confidence, and connection to Islam.
- ◆ A **Community Hub**, where families gather, friendships flourish, and faith is nurtured.
- ◆ A **Safe Space** for dialogue, service, and activism — benefiting the people of Yonkers and the wider community for generations to come.

OUR PROJECT

Rawdah Institute is embarking on a historic journey to establish its first permanent home in Yonkers, New York. Alhamdulillah, we have identified a property for the future home of Rawdah Institute and Yonkers Muslim Center — a center dedicated to faith, knowledge, and community.

Our goal is to raise \$2 million to bring this vision to life and create a lasting space that serves the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our growing community.

Join us in turning this vision into reality. Support Rawdah Institute and Yonkers Muslim Center in building a lasting home for our community and future generations.

YOUR IMPACT

The Muslim community in Yonkers is growing rapidly, especially among **young families and youth**.

There is an urgent need for a dedicated center to nurture the **spiritual, educational, and social development** of the next generation.

This project will provide a permanent home for **faith, learning, and community life** — a place where hearts are connected, and futures are shaped.

With your support, it will become one of the **most active and vibrant Islamic centers** in Westchester County and beyond, insha Allah.

CONTACT US

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 347.903.7141

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EMPOWERMENT

Queens Qiyam Night 2026 Energizes Jamaica Community

Faith, Fellowship, and Fun Unite Youth at Jamaica Muslim Center

Carlos Stewart

In the late hours of February 27, 2026, the Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC) in Jamaica, Queens transformed into a vibrant hub of energy and faith as dozens of young people gathered for Queens Youth Night 2026, an overnight program designed to inspire leadership, strengthen brotherhood, and deepen spiritual growth. Running from 10:15 PM to 5:30 AM, the event brought together youth ages 10 and up for an immersive experience that blended recreation with reflection. Organized through a collaborative effort by Save The People USA (STPUSA), JMC, Elhaam Academy, MusCare, Young Muslims (YM), Queens Islamic Community Center (QICC), and Jamaica Islamic Community Center (JICC), the program reflected a unified commitment to investing in the next generation. The evening unfolded



with a dynamic mix of activities. Youth participated in spirited games of soccer, fostering teamwork and healthy competition, before transitioning indoors for interactive challenges including Kahoot quizzes that tested both knowledge and quick thinking. The combination of physical



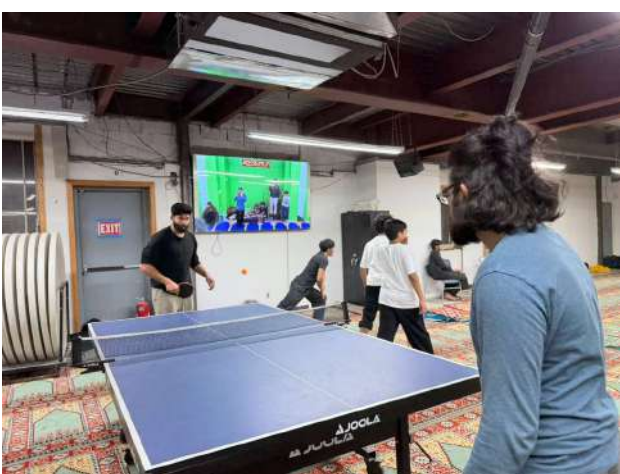
activity and educational engagement kept the atmosphere lively and focused. As the night progressed, the tone shifted toward reflection. A lecture delivered during the program

emphasized faith, character-building, and leadership, encouraging participants to channel their energy into positive contributions within their communities. The gathering also



incorporated elements of Qiyam, reinforcing the spiritual foundation of the evening and connecting recreation with remembrance. Food was served throughout the night,

offering moments for participants to relax, share conversations, and strengthen bonds. Organizers described the program as a way to create a safe and uplifting space where youth could thrive socially and spiritually at the same time. The collaboration among multiple community organizations stood out as a defining feature of the event. By pooling resources and support, sponsors demonstrated a shared vision: cultivating confident, grounded, and united young Muslims in Queens. As dawn approached and the program concluded, the impact of Queens Youth Night 2026 was evident in the camaraderie among attendees. More than just an overnight gathering, the event served as a reminder that when communities come together with purpose, they can create spaces where faith, leadership, and youthful energy flourish side by side.



EMPOWERMENT

Youth Gather at JMC for Spiritual Growth and Leadership



EMPOWERMENT

Sponsors Collaborate for Impactful Queens Youth Night 2026



COMMUNITY IFTAR

An Evening of Faith and Fellowship in Jamaica, NY

JBFS Brings Bangladeshi Community Together for Ramadan Iftar

Jessica Morgan

In a heartfelt celebration of faith and community, the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society (JBFS) Inc. hosted a Community Iftar & Dua Mahfil on February 27, 2026, in Fresh Meadow, New York, drawing a large gathering of Bangladeshi expatriates and community leaders for an evening centered on reflection, unity, and prayer. Organized in observance of the holy month of Ramadan, the event transformed into what attendees described as a vibrant community reunion. Families, respected elders, representatives of social and cultural organizations, and other distinguished members of the diaspora came together, reinforcing a sense of shared identity and belonging far from their homeland. The program commenced with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an, setting a



solemn and spiritual tone for the evening. A brief discussion session followed, during which leaders of JBFS highlighted the significance of Ramadan as a month of self-discipline, compassion, and moral renewal. They called upon attendees to strengthen unity, harmony, and



humanitarian values within the broader community, emphasizing

the importance of mutual respect and cooperation. Before the breaking of the fast, a special dua and munajat was offered for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the country, the nation, and the global Muslim ummah. The prayer was led by a respected Islamic scholar, and the

collective supplication created a moment of quiet reflection shared by all in attendance. In remarks during the program, the organization's president and general secretary expressed gratitude to guests and community members for their participation and support. They reaffirmed

their commitment to continuing similar religious and social initiatives in the future, recognizing the essential role such gatherings play in strengthening community ties. The strong turnout underscored the growing civic and cultural presence of the Bangladeshi diaspora in New York, particularly in neighborhoods like Fresh Meadow and Jamaica. By blending spiritual observance with community engagement, the Community Iftar & Dua Mahfil served not only as a Ramadan tradition but also as a platform for fostering solidarity and reinforcing shared values. As the evening concluded with the breaking of the fast, the gathering stood as a reminder that even thousands of miles from Bangladesh, faith and fellowship remain powerful forces in uniting a community around common purpose and hope.



COMMUNITY IFTAR

JBFS Organizes Iftar & Dua Mahfil for Bangladeshi Diaspora



COMMUNITY IFTAR

Unity and Prayer at the Heart of Ramadan



REMEMBRANCE

Honoring Language and Faith in New York

Bangladesh Consulate General Marks Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day 2026 with Iftar & Doa Mahfil

Emily Parker

In a solemn yet spiritually uplifting gathering, the Bangladesh Consulate General, New York commemorated Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day 2026 on February 27, 2026, combining remembrance with an Iftar & Doa Mahfil that brought together members of the Bangladeshi community in observance of both history and faith. The event paid tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the recognition of the Bengali language, a defining chapter in Bangladesh's national identity. International Mother Language Day, observed globally, serves as a reminder of the importance of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. At the consulate, the occasion carried added resonance, connecting



blended national pride with spiritual devotion. By hosting the event in New York, the consulate reaffirmed its role not only as a diplomatic mission but also as a cultural and community anchor for Bangladeshis living in the United States. The gathering demonstrated how historical remembrance can transcend borders, fostering a sense of shared identity among generations of expatriates. As the evening concluded, the commemoration stood as a reminder that language is more than a means of communication—it is a symbol of resilience and collective memory. Through prayer, reflection, and fellowship, the Bangladesh Consulate General, New York ensured that the legacy of the language martyrs remained alive in the hearts of the diaspora on this significant day.

expatriates to their roots while honoring the legacy of those who fought to preserve their mother tongue. The program reflected a balance of commemoration and spiritual reflection. As

part of the observance, attendees gathered for a special Doa Mahfil, offering prayers for the martyrs, for peace and prosperity, and for the continued well-being of Bangladesh and its global diaspora. The

solemn atmosphere underscored the enduring emotional significance of the day for Bangladeshis at home and abroad. The inclusion of an Iftar aligned the remembrance with the

holy month of Ramadan, reinforcing themes of sacrifice, reflection, and unity. Sharing the evening meal provided an opportunity for community members to connect with one another in a setting that



REMEMBRANCE

Remembering Sacrifice, Embracing Unity



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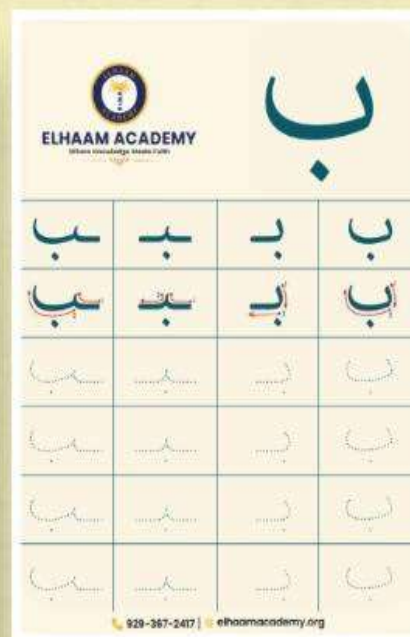
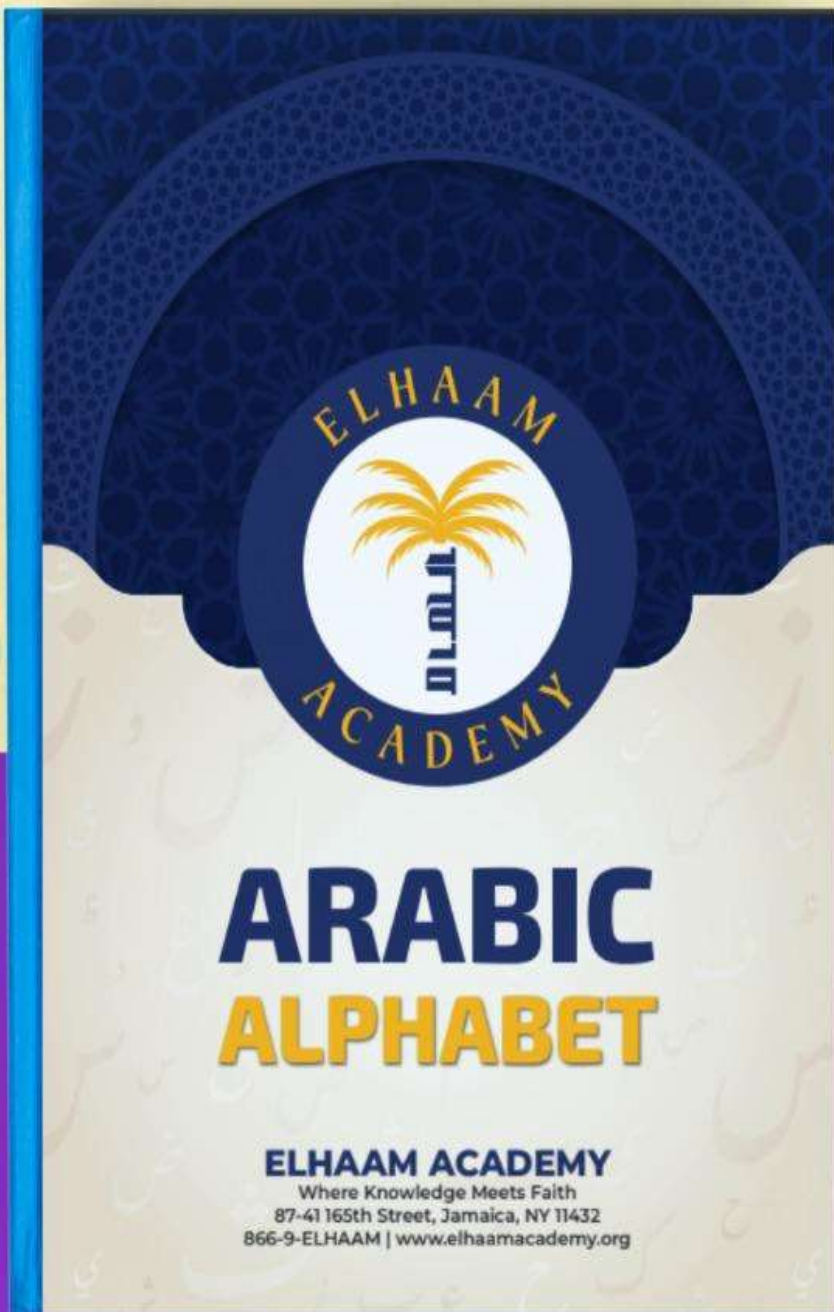


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HUMAN CONCERN USA

When Giving Meets Care: Human Concern USA's Ramadan Call to Action

A partnership-centered campaign aims to strengthen maternal and newborn survival

Alex Mason

As Ramadan approached, Human Concern USA amplified its seasonal call to give—but with a clear reminder that the work it's highlighting in this holy month is the same work it pursues all year: delivering urgent relief while helping communities build stability beyond the next crisis. Founded in 1979 and shaped by roots it also traces to 1983 as one of the earliest North American Muslim relief efforts, the organization has spent decades positioning faith-inspired generosity as a bridge between immediate survival and long-term self-sufficiency. This year's Ramadan messaging drew attention to several initiatives at once, reflecting an approach that treats hardship as interconnected. In recent campaign outreach, the organization emphasized that hunger, unsafe water, interrupted healthcare, and the loss of family support systems don't arrive in isolation—and neither should the response. "Water brings life where hardship once remained," one message read, as the group urged supporters to help sustain communities

through clean water. Another underscored child welfare: "Orphan care is a mercy that carries a child forward," paired with appeals to sponsor orphans as a form of Sadaqah Jariyah—a lasting charity that continues to benefit a child long after Ramadan ends. A prominent pillar of the season was a maternal health initiative tied to Ramadan 2026. Human Concern USA announced it was partnering with Every Pregnancy for the For Mama Challenge: Rise Together, running Feb. 18–Mar. 20, aimed at supporting mothers in Gaza. In Al-Nuseirat, the organization said its maternity health services provide 24/7 skilled obstetric care, emergency services, and antenatal support—critical coverage in a context where conflict and displacement can turn pregnancy and childbirth into life-threatening events. The group reported an objective of reducing maternal mortality by 20%, and cited outcomes of 55,000+ women served and 6,100+ safe deliveries. It also highlighted the case of Dalia, describing how an emergency C-section saved her life after a displacement-

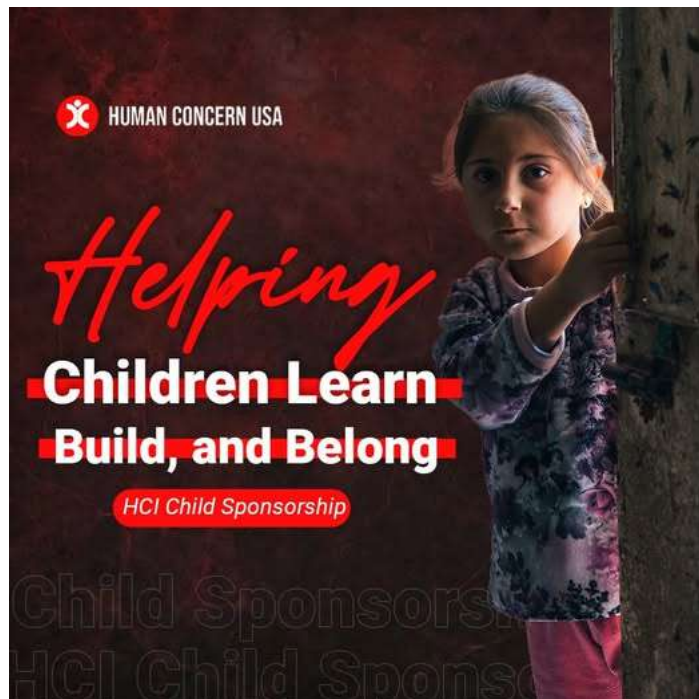
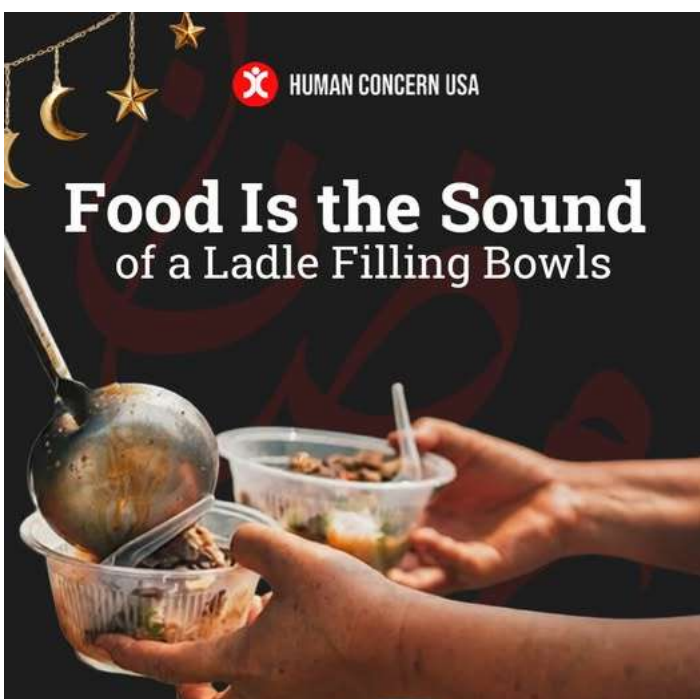


related complication—an example used to illustrate what round-the-clock readiness can mean when minutes matter. The campaign's fundraising structure was designed to multiply that impact. Through #ForMamaChallenge, the organization said each donation is boosted by a \$9M+ match pool supported by Hussain Sajwani, DAMAC Foundation, and KAYALI Cares—a mechanism intended to stretch individual contributions further during a month

when many donors are already oriented toward giving. At the same time, Human Concern USA framed the maternity partnership as one part of a broader humanitarian rhythm—one that continues well beyond Ramadan's calendar window. The organization pointed to prior Ramadan results to show what concentrated giving can unlock, noting that during Ramadan 2025 supporters helped provide food security to 299,998 people across 11 countries. But its

current appeals also stressed need that does not pause between holy seasons. In messages connected to Sudan, the organization urged food aid to help families "endure with dignity," presenting a shared meal not only as relief, but as a stabilizing force during prolonged hardship. To show the breadth of its year-round programming, the organization shared a snapshot of impact across multiple sectors: 111,334 individuals benefited through its WASH programming, 690,447 individuals through its Zero Hunger work, 12,167 children through its Child Sponsorship efforts, and 530,882 individuals through Emergency Relief. Those figures were presented alongside a wider narrative of "empowering lives" through consistent access to essentials—food delivered to households, healthcare support for vulnerable populations including expectant mothers, education as a pathway out of poverty, and clean water as a foundation for public health. In describing how it operates, the organization emphasized an

approach it says is built on community participation and local collaboration—assessing needs, implementing projects with partners, and maintaining transparency through oversight and reporting. It also referenced alignment with United Nations sustainable development goals, reflecting the organization's stated intent to pair emergency response with longer-term solutions that help communities become more resilient. For supporters, Ramadan may be the most visible moment of that work—a time when giving feels especially immediate and spiritually resonant. Yet the thrust of Human Concern USA's message this season was that compassion should not be seasonal. Ramadan, in this framing, becomes a catalyst: a month that accelerates support for mothers, feeds families in crisis, sustains clean water access, and carries orphaned children forward—while reinforcing that the organization's mission, and the needs it addresses, continue through every month of the year.



HARMONY

NYPD Traffic Enforcement District Hosts Iftar in Queens

Community Members and Bangladeshi Officers Gather at Police Academy

Noah Presley

In a meaningful display of community engagement and cultural recognition, the NYPD Traffic Enforcement District hosted an Iftar Dinner at the Police Academy in Flushing, Queens, bringing together law enforcement officials and members of the local community during the holy month of Ramadan. The evening provided an opportunity for attendees to break their fast in a setting that blended civic leadership with faith-based observance. Community members gathered alongside officers of the New York City Police Department, including several high-ranking Deshi officers, reflecting the growing presence and leadership of Bangladeshi Americans within the



department. The gathering underscored the importance of dialogue and relationship-building between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve. By hosting

the iftar at the Police Academy, the NYPD signaled a commitment to inclusion and mutual respect, recognizing Ramadan as a significant time of reflection, discipline, and unity for Muslim New

Yorkers. Attendees described the evening as a valuable opportunity to connect on a personal level outside the context of daily public safety responsibilities. Conversations over the

shared meal fostered a sense of familiarity and understanding, reinforcing trust between officers and residents. The presence of Bangladeshi officers in leadership roles also highlighted the evolving diversity of the NYPD, offering



representation that resonates strongly within immigrant communities in Queens and beyond. The choice of Flushing, Queens—one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods—

further emphasized the importance of cross-cultural engagement. Events such as this iftar serve not only as religious observances but also as platforms for civic partnership, allowing community members to interact directly with those entrusted with public safety. As the evening concluded, the shared sentiment was one of gratitude—for the opportunity to come together in the spirit of unity and respect, and for the continued efforts to strengthen ties between law enforcement and the communities of New York City. The Iftar Dinner at the Police Academy stood as a reminder that meaningful connection often begins with a simple act: gathering at the same table.





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FAITH

Young Voices Honor the Holy Quran

Bangladesh Society, Inc. Organizes Quran Competition with ITVUSA as Partner

Daniel Matthew

In a vibrant celebration of faith, discipline, and youth achievement, Bangladesh Society, Inc. hosted the Quran Recitation Competition 2026 on March 1, 2026, at Joya Hall in Rego Park, New York, drawing families and community members together for an afternoon dedicated to the beauty and memorization of the Holy Quran. Beginning at 4:00 PM at 63-108 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374, the event highlighted the talents of young participants competing across multiple categories, including Non-Hifz Boys (Ages 6–15), Non-Hifz Girls (Ages 6–15), and the Hifz Group (Ages 6–16). The competition underscored the organization's ongoing commitment to nurturing Islamic education among the next generation of Bangladeshi Americans. The program was presented by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, whose



between community institutions to elevate educational and spiritual initiatives. Promotional materials also highlighted leadership within Bangladesh Society, Inc., including Chairman of the Board of Trustees Shah Nawaz, MBA, whose support helped bring the large-scale program to fruition. Beyond the prizes and formal recognition, the afternoon reflected a deeper purpose: strengthening community bonds while instilling confidence and spiritual grounding in young participants. Parents and attendees filled the hall, creating an atmosphere of encouragement and pride. By hosting the Quran Recitation Competition 2026, Bangladesh Society, Inc. reaffirmed its role as a cornerstone institution for the Bangladeshi diaspora in New York, fostering both religious education and community unity through meaningful, youth-centered programming.

presence added spiritual depth and guidance to the proceedings. His role as presenter reinforced the event's emphasis on reverence, proper recitation, and the moral teachings embedded within the Quran. The competition offered significant recognition for excellence, with structured awards

for first, second, and third place winners in each category. The Hifz Group featured



top prizes reaching \$1,000 for first place, while other divisions awarded up to \$750 for first place, alongside additional monetary awards for runners-up. Organizers also

ensured that special gifts and certificates were presented to all participants, encouraging broad participation and reinforcing the value of effort and dedication. The event was supported by ITVUSA, which served as an organizing partner, reflecting collaboration



FAITH

Quran Competition 2026 Draws Families to Joya Hall



FAITH

Youth Competitors Shine at Joya Hall in Rego Park



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DAY	RAMADAN	DATE	STOP EATING	FAJR	SUNRISE	ZUHR	ASR	IFTAAR	ISHA	
Rahmat : "Mercy of Allah"	Thu	1	Feb 18	5:26	5:29	6:45	12:10	3:08	5:35	6:51
	Fri	2	Feb 19	5:25	5:28	6:44	12:10	3:09	5:36	6:52
	Sat	3	Feb 20	5:24	5:27	6:42	12:10	3:10	5:37	6:53
	Sun	4	Feb 21	5:22	5:25	6:41	12:10	3:11	5:38	6:54
	Mon	5	Feb 22	5:21	5:24	6:40	12:10	3:12	5:39	6:55
	Tue	6	Feb 23	5:20	5:23	6:38	12:10	3:13	5:41	6:56
	Wed	7	Feb 24	5:19	5:21	6:37	12:09	3:13	5:42	6:57
	Thu	8	Feb 25	5:17	5:20	6:35	12:09	3:14	5:43	6:59
	Fri	9	Feb 26	5:15	5:18	6:34	12:09	3:15	5:44	7:00
	Sat	10	Feb 27	5:14	5:17	6:32	12:09	3:16	5:45	7:01
Maghfirat : "Forgiveness of Allah"	Sun	11	Feb 28	5:13	5:16	6:31	12:09	3:17	5:46	7:02
	Mon	12	Mar 01	5:11	5:14	6:29	12:08	3:17	5:48	7:03
	Tue	13	Mar 02	5:10	5:13	6:28	12:08	3:18	5:49	7:04
	Wed	14	Mar 03	5:08	5:11	6:26	12:08	3:19	5:50	7:05
	Thu	15	Mar 04	5:06	5:09	6:24	12:08	3:20	5:51	7:06
	Fri	16	Mar 05	5:05	5:08	6:23	12:08	3:20	5:52	7:07
	Sat	17	Mar 06	5:03	5:06	6:21	12:07	3:21	5:53	7:09
	Sun	18	Mar 07	5:02	5:05	6:20	12:07	3:22	5:54	7:10
	Mon	19	Mar 08	6:02	6:05	7:20	1:07	4:22	6:54	8:10
	Tue	20	Mar 09	5:00	6:03	7:18	1:07	4:22	6:55	8:11
Nijaat : "Salvation"	Wed	21	Mar 10	5:59	6:02	7:17	1:07	4:23	6:57	8:12
	Thu	22	Mar 11	5:57	6:00	7:15	1:06	4:24	6:58	8:13
	Fri	23	Mar 12	5:55	5:58	7:13	1:06	4:24	6:59	8:14
	Sat	24	Mar 13	5:54	5:57	7:12	1:06	4:25	7:00	8:15
	Sun	25	Mar 14	5:52	5:55	7:10	1:06	4:25	7:01	8:16
	Mon	26	Mar 15	5:50	5:53	7:08	1:05	4:26	7:02	8:17
	Tue	27	Mar 16	5:49	5:52	7:07	1:05	4:27	7:03	8:19
	Wed	28	Mar 17	5:47	5:50	7:05	1:05	4:27	7:04	8:20
	Thu	29	Mar 18	5:45	5:48	7:03	1:04	4:28	7:05	8:21
	Fri	30	Mar 19	5:43	5:46	7:02	1:04	4:28	7:06	8:22

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Tensions Grip Hormuz

Projectiles strike ships as oil fears surge



Photo: File photo of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, which has now ground to a halt
Image Source : Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

Amkel Nourush

At least two ships were hit by unknown projectiles near the Strait of Hormuz, heightening fears of major disruption along one of the world's most critical energy corridors. The UK Maritime Trade

Operations Centre (UKMTO) said one vessel was struck east of the strait, while another was hit off the coast of the United Arab Emirates but planned to continue its journey. Iran has warned ships against transiting the narrow waterway, which

carries roughly 20% of global oil and gas supplies. Shipping traffic has slowed dramatically, with around 150 tankers anchoring in Gulf waters, according to the tracking platform Kpler. "Because of Iran's threats, the strait

is effectively closed," said analyst Homayoun Falakshahi, citing soaring insurance costs and security risks. Markets reacted swiftly. Over-the-counter trading

HIGHLIGHT

•Two vessels struck near the Strait of Hormuz.

•About 20% of global oil and gas flows through the route.

suggested oil prices jumped nearly 10% to \$80 a barrel, with some analysts warning prices could surpass \$100 if the disruption persists. Meanwhile, Opec+ agreed to boost production by 206,000 barrels per day, though experts caution it may offer limited relief as regional tensions continue to escalate.

NASA Reshapes Artemis Plan

Agency adopts Apollo-style approach to speed moon return

Nassr Al Shams

NASA announced Friday it is overhauling its Artemis moon program, modeling it after the rapid-fire approach of the Apollo era in an effort to accelerate and safeguard humanity's return to the lunar surface. The shake-up follows technical issues with the Space Launch System rocket and a warning from the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel urging the agency to scale back overly ambitious goals. Artemis II, a crewed lunar flyaround, is now delayed until at least



Photos: NASA's Artemis II SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft roll back to the VAB at Kennedy Space Center, Feb. 25, 2026.
Image Source: AP Photo/John Raoux

April. Under the revised plan, Artemis III will no longer attempt a landing as

first envisioned. Instead, astronauts will practice docking with a lunar lander in Earth orbit in

2027, paving the way for a potential moon landing — possibly two — in 2028. NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman, who took office in December, said the previous three-year gaps between missions were unacceptable. "We should be getting back to basics and doing what we know works," he said, citing Apollo's swift succession of missions as a proven model. The agency says the new timeline reduces risk while preserving its goal of safely returning astronauts to the moon for the first time since 1972.

Cornyn's Fierce Primary Fight

Texas senator escalates attacks to fend off Paxton

Adrian Smith

After nearly 24 years in the Senate, Sen. John Cornyn is waging the fiercest campaign of his career, unleashing sharp attacks against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a bid to survive Tuesday's Republican primary. Standing before cameras in Houston last week, Cornyn vowed that if the race heads to a May runoff, Paxton would

be "unelectable." His campaign and allied groups have already spent tens of millions of dollars criticizing Paxton's record and character, while Paxton has framed himself as a political outsider targeted by "vindictive prosecutions," drawing parallels to President Donald Trump. Polls show Paxton leading a three-way contest that includes Rep. Wesley Hunt,

making a runoff all but certain. Republicans estimate the total cost could surpass \$200

HIGHLIGHT

•Sen. John Cornyn faces tough primary challenge from Ken Paxton.

•Race likely headed to a May runoff after Tuesday's vote.

million, on top of nearly \$100 million already spent. Cornyn has also faced backlash for backing a bipartisan 2022 gun-safety bill, a move critics say alienated conservative voters. Trump has declined to endorse anyone, despite appeals from all sides. The outcome could reshape the Texas GOP and test whether long-serving incumbents can withstand an energized conservative base.



Photo: Kendall Coyne and Hilary Knight celebrate after the U.S. wins women's hockey at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, Feb. 19, 2026.
Image Source: AP Photo/Hassan Ammar

Knight Scores on SNL

Hockey star delivers punchline after medal controversy

Julian Alvez

Fresh off Olympic gold, Hilary Knight traded her hockey stick for a surprise appearance on "Saturday Night Live" on Saturday night, drawing laughter in the wake of a recent controversy involving both U.S. hockey teams. Knight and teammate Megan Keller joined brothers Jack and Quinn Hughes during actor Connor Storie's monologue. Wearing USA jerseys and gold medals from the Milan Cortina Games, Knight opened with: "It was going to be just us, but we thought we'd invite the guys, too." The quip referenced fallout from President

Donald Trump's congratulatory call to the men's team after their 2-1 overtime win over Canada. Trump's remarks about inviting the women's team sparked criticism, with Knight previously calling the comment "distasteful and unfortunate." Onstage, the camaraderie was lighthearted. After Quinn Hughes noted the men's last gold came 46 years ago, Knight reminded viewers the women last won in 2018. When asked if the medals could be tried on, all four players responded in unison: "No." The cameo offered a unifying moment, shifting focus back to athletic achievement and shared celebration.



Photo: Manchester United's Benjamin Sesko, centre, celebrates after scoring his team's second goal against Crystal Palace.
Image Source: AP/Online

Charles Lewis

Manchester United climbed to third in the Premier League 2025-26 table with a 2-1 comeback victory over Crystal Palace on Sunday, as Bruno Fernandes inspired a spirited turnaround at Old Trafford. Palace struck early through Maxence Lacroix, but United responded after halftime. Fernandes converted a penalty in the 57th minute before delivering a pinpoint free kick that Benjamin Sesko headed home eight minutes later. Palace were reduced to 10 men after Lacroix's dismissal, and United held firm to reach 51 points from 28 matches,

extending interim boss Michael Carrick's unbeaten run to seven games. Meanwhile, Arsenal secured a 2-1 win over Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium, with Jurrien Timber heading in the decisive goal from a corner. After William Saliba opened the scoring and an own goal leveled matters, Arsenal's dominance from set pieces proved decisive. Chelsea captain Reece James admitted, "They are difficult to stop... 90 per cent of goals are probably set pieces." The results tighten the race for Champions League places as momentum builds at the season's crucial stage.