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# NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

## EU Rift Deepens Over Ukraine Funding

Hungary refuses to approve €90bn loan package

John Paul

A tense standoff unfolded at a European Union summit in Brussels on Thursday as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán refused to approve a crucial €90bn (£78bn) loan package intended to support Ukraine's military and government operations. EU leaders openly expressed frustration, accusing Orbán of backtracking on a previously agreed plan and undermining unity at a critical moment in the war. Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, said Hungary was "not acting in good faith," while Finland's Prime Minister Petteri Orpo described the move as a "betrayal." Orbán defended his position, citing a dispute over the Druzhba oil pipeline, which transports Russian oil to Hungary and Slovakia through Ukraine. He insisted he would not support funding for Kyiv until Hungary regains access to its oil supply. The impasse has delayed urgently needed financial assistance, with EU officials hoping to release funds by early April. Meanwhile, leaders including Belgium's Bart De Wever and European Council President António Costa criticized Hungary's stance as "unacceptable." The disagreement highlights growing divisions within the EU as it seeks to maintain support for Ukraine while navigating internal political tensions and energy concerns.



Photo: Viktor Orbán's last-minute blockade of a €90bn loan for Ukraine has infuriated other EU leaders. Image Source: Attila Kisbenedek/AFP/Getty Images



Photo: Ras Laffan is the largest LNG export facility in the world

Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

# Oil Prices Spike

Middle East strikes send markets into turmoil

Alexandar Sullivan

Alexandar Sullivan: Global energy markets were jolted after fresh strikes on key infrastructure in the Middle East sent gas and oil prices sharply higher, raising concerns about prolonged supply

disruptions. Wholesale gas prices in Europe and the UK surged by about 25% in early trading following attacks on Qatar's Ras Laffan facility and Iran's South Pars gas field—two critical hubs in global energy production.

Although prices later eased slightly, UK gas still climbed to 165p per therm, with earlier highs nearing 183p, while European prices hit a three-year peak. Oil markets also reacted swiftly. Brent crude jumped 10% to \$119 per barrel on Thursday

morning, before settling near \$112 later in the day. The surge reflects growing fears that the conflict—linked to the ongoing U.S.-Israel war with Iran—could significantly disrupt supply chains. Experts warn the impact could be long-lasting.

"This is huge," said Matthieu Favas of The Economist, noting that Qatar's facilities supply roughly one-fifth of the world's liquefied natural gas. Damage from missile strikes could keep production offline

## HIGHLIGHT

● Gas prices jumped 25% after strikes on key facilities.

● Brent crude rose to \$119 per barrel before easing.

● Qatar and Iran energy sites were targeted.

● Markets fear prolonged global supply disruption.

for months. Financial markets also felt the strain, with Japan's Nikkei index falling 3.4% and London's FTSE 100 dropping 2.5%. Analysts say investor anxiety is growing as geopolitical tensions threaten economic stability. With global energy flows under pressure, officials and markets alike are bracing for continued volatility in the weeks ahead.

# Epstein Records Battle Intensifies

Congress pushes DOJ for more disclosures



Photo Illustration by Ian Berry/CNN/Getty Images

Lily Anderson

A growing bipartisan push in Washington is intensifying pressure on the U.S. Justice Department to release additional records tied to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as lawmakers and victims argue that key information remains hidden from public view.

Despite the passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act in 2025, which led to the release of more than half of the investigative documents, approximately 2.5 million files remain undisclosed, and many of the 3.5 million pages made public are heavily redacted. Critics say the limitations of the law—

particularly the absence of an enforcement mechanism—have hindered full transparency. On Capitol Hill, lawmakers are pursuing new strategies, including potential legislation and legal action, to compel further disclosures. Representatives Thomas Massie and

Ro Khanna, who spearheaded the original law, acknowledged its shortcomings but emphasized that "public pressure is working right now." Both are considering joining survivors in a lawsuit to access additional records. The controversy deepened this week after a closed-door meeting with Attorney General Pam Bondi ended in frustration, with some lawmakers accusing her of refusing to commit to complying with a subpoena. Bondi, however, maintained, "I will follow the law." Justice Department officials insist they are not withholding information improperly, citing legal protections such as classified material and victim privacy. Still, critics argue that redactions may be shielding the identities of

## HIGHLIGHT

● Millions of Epstein-related documents remain unreleased.

● Lawmakers seek testimony from Attorney General Pam Bondi.

● Bipartisan efforts aim to force further disclosures.

● Survivors may pursue legal action for access.

key figures connected to Epstein's network. With bipartisan scrutiny growing and survivors demanding answers, the debate underscores broader concerns about accountability, transparency, and whether powerful individuals have been fully exposed.

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RAMADAN: FORGING SPIRITUAL RESOLVE

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Liu Backs Meng Reelection

### NYN Desk

State Sen. John Liu has endorsed U.S. Rep. Grace Meng in her bid for re-election in New York's 6th Congressional District, strengthening the incumbent's campaign ahead of the June 2026 Democratic primary. Meng, who has served in Congress since 2013, faces

challengers including former diplomat Chuck Park and Army veteran Yan Xiong. Liu's endorsement highlights her long-standing commitment to Queens communities, particularly within the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population. "John is an inspiration to me... I am incredibly grateful for his support," Meng



Photo: U.S. Rep. Grace Meng was endorsed by State Sen. John Liu, a longtime partner in Queens politics, in the 2026 election. Image Source: Office of Congresswoman Grace Meng

said, praising their years of collaboration. Liu echoed that sentiment, stating that Meng's leadership "centers on people and does not get diluted by political games." Over the years, the two leaders have worked together to direct resources and funding to neighborhoods such as Flushing and Bayside, focusing on local priorities and community

needs. Liu, the first Asian American to serve in both the New York City Council and State Senate, said Meng's role as the first Asian American member of Congress from New York has been critical during a time of increased challenges for AAPI communities.

## NYC mayor shares prayer and iftar with incarcerated Muslims



### Staff Reporter

In an unprecedented moment for the city, Mayor Zohran Mamdani joined incarcerated Muslim men at Rikers Island for iftar and evening prayers during Ramadan, marking what many describe as a historic first for a sitting

mayor. On Monday night, under tight security, Mamdani entered the facility and gathered with inmates in a large room where they discussed the Qur'an, prayed side by side, and broke their fast together. Removing his shoes, the mayor stood in prayer

alongside the men, sharing in a deeply personal religious experience. Many inmates, including those awaiting trial, described the visit as meaningful and uplifting, saying the presence of a city leader offered a sense of dignity and hope during difficult circumstances. Mamdani called the moment one of the most significant of his tenure, noting it reflected his identity as a "Muslim New Yorker." The visit comes amid rising concerns over Islamophobia nationwide, giving the gesture added significance. The following day, Mamdani participated in St. Patrick's Day celebrations, underscoring his commitment to representing the city's diverse communities.

## Attorney General hosts Iftar at Islamic Center NYC



Image Source: Online

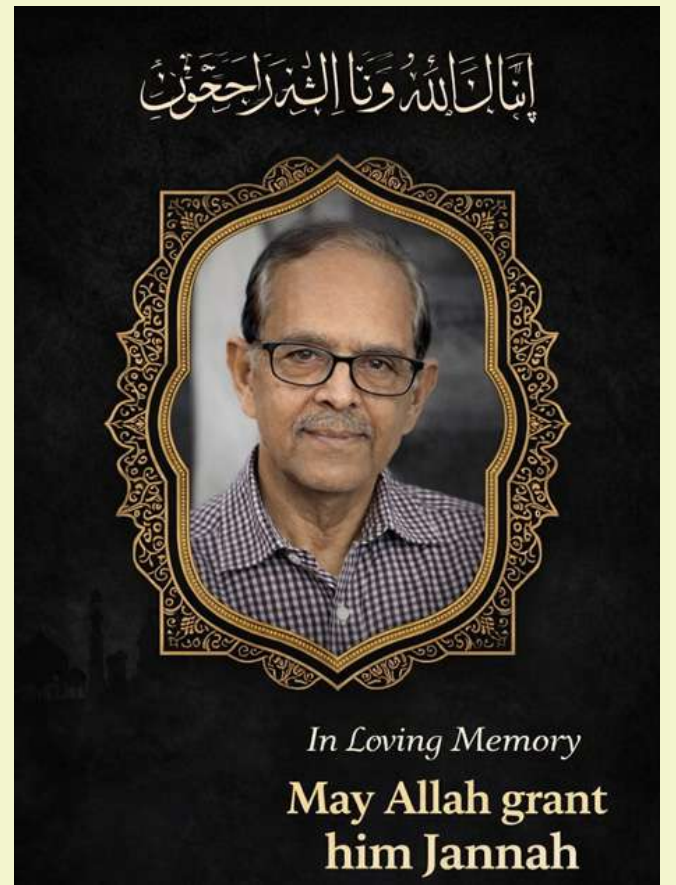
### Senior Reporter

The New York State Attorney General's Office hosted a community iftar gathering at the Islamic Center of New

York City this week, bringing together members of the Muslim community to observe the holy month of Ramadan. The evening event marked a moment of reflection,

unity, and shared tradition as attendees gathered to break their fast after sunset. In a statement, the Attorney General said it was "an honor to join our Muslim communities during this holy month of Ramadan," emphasizing the importance of engagement with diverse communities across the state. The gathering highlighted the role of public institutions in recognizing religious and cultural observances, particularly during a time that holds deep spiritual significance for Muslims worldwide. Community members welcomed the gesture, noting that such events foster inclusion and strengthen connections between government leaders and local residents. Ramadan, a month centered on fasting, prayer, and charity, continues to be widely observed across New York City's diverse population. The iftar served not only as a religious observance but also as a reminder of the city's commitment to cultural understanding and community unity.

## Community Mourns Abu Taher Khan



In Loving Memory May Allah grant him Jannah

### Community Desk

The passing of Abu Taher Khan, a longtime employee of Bangla Travel, has left a deep sense of loss within the community he served for more than a decade. Khan, known for his commitment and professionalism, dedicated years of service to the travel agency, where he became a familiar and trusted presence for many clients. His work connected people across borders, helping families stay in touch and travel with ease. Colleagues and community members remember him not only for his dedication to his profession but

also for his kindness and reliability. Over the years, he built strong relationships with customers, many of whom came to rely on his guidance and support. His passing marks the loss of a valued member of the local community, particularly among those connected to Bangla Travel. For many, Khan's contributions went beyond his job, reflecting a life centered on service and connection. He is remembered with respect and prayers, as friends, colleagues, and community members mourn his passing and honor his legacy.

### Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:40	01:02	04:30	07:11	08:27
05:38	01:02	04:31	07:12	08:28
05:37	01:02	04:31	07:13	08:29
05:35	01:01	04:32	07:14	08:31
05:33	01:01	04:32	07:16	08:32
05:31	01:01	04:33	07:17	08:33
05:30	01:00	04:33	07:18	08:34

# OPINION

## RAMADAN: FORGING SPIRITUAL RESOLVE

— Imam Shamsi Ali

**R**amadan isn't a time for indulgence, but a season of spiritual refinement. It calls us to rise above comfort, break free from complacency, and embrace discipline. For a full month, we're trained to restrain our desires, manage our time, and deepen our devotion. This intense training distinguishes those who merely avoid food and drink from those who use it as a catalyst for lasting change. The Essence of Spiritual Resolve Ramadan cultivates resolve through repeated practice: self-restraint, increased worship, and heightened God-consciousness. This process forges a stronger, more patient, and resilient soul. **Worship: The Foundation of Spiritual Strength**

Fasting isn't just physical abstinence; it's spiritual awakening. Ramadan strengthens our devotion through disciplined prayer, Quran recitation, and heartfelt supplication. Worship becomes a meaningful, soul-nourishing experience, not a mechanical routine. The Quran commands sincere devotion (al-Bayyinah: 5). Sincerity demands resolve, not laziness. Profound worship leaves a lasting impact on our character, shaping us into individuals committed to goodness. **The Crucible of Patience and Consistency**



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

Spiritual growth isn't instant. Ramadan trains us to sustain discipline for 29 or 30 days, building our willpower. Each day is a small test, strengthening our resolve: rising for sahur, fasting, and standing in nightly prayers. The Prophet's journey exemplifies patience and perseverance. His transformative mission wasn't built overnight, but through trials and steadfastness. Ramadan reminds us that spiritual transformation requires endurance. **Forging a Warrior's Mindset** Ramadan shapes not just our relationship with Allah, but our

approach to life. Those who cultivate spiritual resolve become resilient, tackling worldly challenges with courage and determination. In spiritual traditions, resolve is a core value. Diligent study, disciplined worship, and responsible service shape character. Ramadan intensifies this training, producing strong, principled individuals. In conclusion, Ramadan isn't just a month to pass; it's an opportunity to forge spiritual resolve. Through self-restraint, worship, and consistency, we become more serious about self-improvement. This resolve is a vital legacy, empowering us to face life's challenges with courage and integrity. Ramadan teaches us that resolve isn't a fleeting feeling, but a character trait to nurture lifelong.

“

“Ramadan isn't a time for indulgence, but a season of spiritual refinement.”



Image Source: Online

“

“Ramadan teaches us that resolve isn't a fleeting feeling, but a character trait to nurture lifelong.”

## A Humanitarian and Geopolitical Analysis of the Iran-US Crisis

— Akbar Haider Kiron

**I**n the last week of February 2026, US-Israeli jets killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and nearly 40 top military commanders. Following this incident, the Strait of Hormuz was closed, global energy markets became volatile, and widespread military conflict erupted in the Gulf region. This report analyzes the origins of the crisis, the current situation, and possible paths to resolution from a neutral perspective. **Current Situation** After Mojtaba Khamenei assumed office as the new Supreme Leader, Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil supply passes. According to UN data, ship traffic through the strait has decreased by 97%, and Brent crude prices have surged 9% to exceed \$100. Iran has launched drone and missile attacks on Gulf states—the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. Fires broke out at Fujairah port, the US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain was hit, and the radar system at Qatar's Al Udeid air base

was damaged. **Historical Context** In 1953, the CIA overthrew Iran's elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh because he had nationalized the oil industry. After the 1979 Iranian Revolution, US-Iran relations were completely severed. The 2015 nuclear deal brought some hope, but in 2018, Donald Trump withdrew the US from the agreement and reimposed maximum sanctions. **Strategic Analysis** Iran's Strategy: They want to exhaust the US economically and politically. Closing the Strait of Hormuz and attacking Gulf states are part of this strategy, which experts call "second-order coercion." US-Israeli Strategy: President Trump has said the war will continue "until Iran is completely and totally defeated." Israel's Netanyahu wants to overthrow Iran's regime. Under "Operation Epic Fury," 6,000 Iranian



— Akbar Haider Kiron  
Senior Journalist, New  
York

targets have been destroyed. **Gulf States:** On one hand, they seek security under the US military umbrella; on the other, facing Iranian attacks, they question—does this alliance bring them security or danger? **Impact of the Crisis** **Economic:** The World Bank warns that rising energy and transportation costs will increase the cost of living globally, especially in developing countries. **Humanitarian:** During Ramadan, Iranian and Arab families are spending nights with the sound of bombs. A Tehran resident says, "The windows rattle day and night. But life goes on." **Geopolitical:** Arms supplies to Ukraine are decreasing, and there are fears of conflict spreading to Iraq and Lebanon. **Path to Resolution** Iran's president has set conditions: recognition of Iran's legitimate rights,

compensation, and guarantees against future aggression. Meanwhile, Trump says, "We have to finish what we started." A possible solution could be a new agreement limiting Iran's missile and nuclear programs. Pakistan, Oman, and Qatar could step in as mediators, but successful mediation requires interest from both sides. **Conclusion** Peace doesn't just mean stopping war—peace means a child won't wake up to the sound of bombs, families can break their fast undisturbed during Ramadan nights, and no poor person in any country will be unable to afford fuel due to oil prices. We may not be able to stop this war, but we can ask questions—why are bombs being dropped in distant countries in our name, with our tax money? We can demand that our governments choose diplomacy and dialogue over weapons. History reminds us—war never brings a final solution. Peace is the only path where everyone wins.

# YOUTH

## Young Voices Lead the Conversation on Public Safety in Queens

### Save the People USA Hosts Community Dialogue in Jamaica

**James Anderson**

In an effort to amplify youth voices and address pressing community concerns, Save the People USA hosted a “Youth Talk for Public Safety & Safer Neighborhoods” event in Jamaica, Queens, bringing together young residents, community leaders, and public partners for an open dialogue on building safer and stronger neighborhoods. The gathering created a platform for participants to share ideas, raise concerns, and discuss practical solutions related to public safety. Youth attendees played a central role in the conversation, reflecting the event’s core mission of empowering the next generation to take part in shaping their communities. Organizers emphasized that meaningful change begins with listening to those directly impacted by neighborhood conditions. “Young people, community



leaders, and partners came together to share ideas, concerns, and solutions on how we can build safer and stronger neighborhoods for everyone,” the organization noted following the event. The program was supported by key institutional partners, including the Queens District Attorney’s Office and the New York City Department of Youth and Community



The Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD), alongside various community organizations. Their involvement highlighted a collaborative approach



to public safety—one that prioritizes engagement, prevention, and trust-building over enforcement alone. Throughout the event,



participants discussed the importance of creating inclusive spaces where young

people feel heard and supported. Conversations focused on identifying local challenges while also exploring ways to strengthen relationships between residents, organizations, and public agencies. Organizers described youth engagement as a critical component of long-term community safety. “Empowering youth voices is essential for a safer future,” the group stated, reinforcing the idea that sustainable solutions require active participation from those who represent the future of the neighborhood. As the event concluded, attendees expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect and collaborate. By fostering dialogue and encouraging shared responsibility, the Youth Talk for Public Safety & Safer Neighborhoods event demonstrated how grassroots initiatives in Queens can play a vital role in shaping safer, more resilient communities.



# YOUTH

## Youth and Leaders Unite at Public Safety Talk in Queens



# CELEBRATION

## Faith and Recognition Unite at Netrokona Society Iftar

### Women Honored with Flowers During Ramadan Gathering

**Ashley Reed**

In a gathering that combined spiritual reflection with heartfelt recognition, Netrokona Society USA Inc. recently hosted an Iftar and Dua Mahfil, bringing together members of the Bangladeshi community for an evening rooted in faith, unity, and appreciation during the holy month of Ramadan. The event stood out not only as a traditional iftar gathering but also as a meaningful celebration of International Women's Day. During the program, organizers invited female attendees to the stage one by one, presenting them with flowers as a gesture of respect and gratitude. The tribute highlighted the vital role women play within families, communities, and social organizations. Attendees described the moment as both



emotional and uplifting, reflecting a broader commitment within the community to recognize and honor women's contributions. The initiative was widely appreciated by participants, who expressed joy at seeing women acknowledged



in such a visible and respectful way. The iftar itself brought

together families, community members, and leaders in a setting that emphasized togetherness and shared values. As guests broke their fast, the atmosphere reflected the essence of Ramadan—a time for compassion, generosity,

and strengthening bonds within the community. Beyond the ceremonial aspects, the event served as a platform for reinforcing unity among members of the Netrokona Society. By integrating cultural recognition with religious observance, organizers

created a space where both tradition and progress could be celebrated side by side. Community members noted that such initiatives play an important role in fostering inclusivity and appreciation within diaspora communities. Honoring women during a Ramadan gathering added an extra layer of meaning, connecting global observances like International Women's Day with local community traditions. As the evening concluded, the Netrokona Society USA Inc.'s iftar was remembered not only for its spiritual significance but also for its thoughtful recognition of women—an effort that left a lasting impression on attendees and reinforced the values of respect, unity, and community pride.



# CELEBRATION

## International Women's Day Celebrated with Special Recognition Ceremony



# INTERFAITH

## A Night of Unity in Brooklyn

### Leaders and Faith Communities Gather for Interfaith Celebration at The Bridge MCP

**William Henry**

In a powerful display of unity and shared purpose, more than 300 attendees gathered in Brooklyn, New York, for a United Interfaith Celebration honoring Ramadan, Passover, and Easter, hosted by The Bridge Multicultural & Advocacy Project (The Bridge MCP) at 1894 Flatbush Avenue on March 15 at 6:00 PM. The event brought together a diverse group of clergy, elected officials, media representatives, and community members, reflecting the rich cultural and religious fabric of Brooklyn. As three major faith observances coincided this season, the gathering created a meaningful space for reflection, prayer, and fellowship across traditions. The evening featured religious readings and prayers led by a range of faith leaders, including Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Rabbi Andre Malek, Pastor Dr. Charles O. Galbreath, Dileepkumar Thankappan, and Rabbi Mendy Mirocznik. The



program also included the sharing of Kosher and Halal cuisine, symbolizing both diversity and unity. A highlight of the evening was the address by New York City Council Member Yusuf Salaam, Chair of the Committee to Combat Hate, who served as the honored guest speaker. His remarks emphasized the importance of



building bridges among communities and standing united against division—messages that resonated strongly with attendees. The event was attended by prominent public officials including

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Jr., Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, and Council Member Farah N. Louis. Also present were

notable community and faith leaders such as Reverend Dr. Charles O. Galbreath of Clarendon Road Baptist Church, Rabbi Danny, Dr. Sima Karetnaya—a G100 USA Country Chair for Diplomacy, WHO Health Expert, and Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awardee—as well as Gil Cygler. The celebration was made possible through the leadership of Mark

Meyer Appel, founder of The Bridge MCP, whose vision focuses on fostering dialogue, cultural understanding, and collaboration across communities. The event was further supported by co-sponsors including Atia Shahnaz, COPO, Making a Change with Kindness, Dr. Sima Karetnaya, Rabbinical Alliance of America / Igud Harabbonim, and Raheela Aslam of New Life Minority Human Rights Council Inc. Media coverage and documentation were provided by Brenda Cox of the Canarsie Courier, Bridge TV, Christopher Leon Johnson, and Manzoor Hussain, helping amplify the significance of the gathering. As the evening concluded, the event stood as a testament to the strength of interfaith collaboration in Brooklyn—demonstrating that when communities come together across cultures and beliefs, they can create powerful moments of unity, respect, and shared hope.



# INTERFAITH

## Interfaith Event Brings Together Diverse Communities in Brooklyn



# Over 300 Attend Event Honoring Ramadan, Passover, and Easter



All Photo Credit : Debbie Killen / COJO



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# EID AL FITR

## A Global Celebration of Faith and Unity

### Eid al-Fitr 2026 Brings Communities Together Across Continents



**Alan Pierce**

The celebration of Eid al-Fitr 2026 unfolded across the globe in a powerful display of

faith and unity, even as it was observed on different days in various regions. Determined by the sighting of the crescent moon marking

the beginning of the new month in the Islamic lunar calendar, the holiday fell on different dates, often with a one- or two-day difference,

reflecting longstanding traditions in Islamic practice. Despite these variations, the essence of Eid remained unchanged. From bustling cities to quiet towns, Muslims gathered in large congregations for Eid Jamaat prayers, filling mosques, open fields, and community centers. The synchronized act of prayer, though conducted on different days, served as a reminder of a shared spiritual rhythm that transcends geographical boundaries. The global observance of Eid this year once again underscored the strength of brotherhood within the Muslim community. Families and neighbors came together to celebrate,

exchange greetings, and extend acts of charity—core elements of the festival that mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. While the exact day of celebration differed, the underlying message of unity, compassion, and gratitude resonated universally. Religious scholars and community leaders have long emphasized that differences in moon sighting are rooted in legitimate interpretations of tradition and do not detract from the collective identity of the global Muslim population. In fact, many view this diversity as a reflection of Islam’s adaptability across cultures and regions, reinforcing inclusivity rather than division.

The widespread observance of Eid Jamaat further highlighted the enduring bonds that connect Muslims worldwide. Whether celebrated on one day or another, the communal prayers and shared festivities fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity that extended far beyond local communities. As Eid al-Fitr 2026 concluded, it left behind a lasting impression of unity in diversity. In a world often marked by divisions, the global celebration served as a reminder that shared faith and values can bridge differences, bringing people together in a collective expression of peace and brotherhood.



# EID AL FITR

## A Global Celebration of Faith and Unity



# EID AL FITR

## A Global Celebration of Faith and Unity





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WORLD BY PROVIDING VITAL  
SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED.**





## U.S. Pushes New Defense Spending

### Iran war drives \$200bn funding request



Photo: Hegseth told reporters: "It takes many to kill bad guys."

Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

#### Amkel Nourush

The Trump administration has moved to secure an additional \$200 billion (£150 billion) in military funding as the ongoing war with Iran continues to strain U.S. resources and raise economic

concerns. Speaking on Thursday, President Donald Trump described the conflict as a "very volatile war," defending the funding request as necessary for replenishing weapons, maintaining readiness, and addressing future military needs. "We want

to have vast amounts of ammunition," he said, noting that U.S. stockpiles had been reduced in part by aid sent to Ukraine. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth underscored the urgency, stating, "It takes money to kill bad guys," while

emphasizing the need to prepare for potential escalation. The request comes on top of the already approved \$838.7 billion defense budget for the year. The proposal is expected to spark a contentious debate in Congress, particularly as public support for the war remains uncertain ahead of the November midterm elections. While military funding often garners bipartisan backing, critics are questioning the scale of spending as economic pressures—including rising oil prices—continue to mount. Officials say the war has already cost the U.S. approximately \$12 billion, with operations potentially lasting several more weeks.



Photo: "One Battle after Another" won big at the Oscars.

Image Source: Mike Blake / Reuters / CNN

## Oscars 2026: Triumph and Tribute

### From record wins to emotional remembrances

#### Julian Alvez

Hollywood's brightest stars gathered on Sunday for the 2026 Academy Awards, delivering a night that balanced celebration with reflection amid global uncertainty. The ceremony featured major milestones, including Michael B. Jordan's first Oscar for Best Actor and Jessie Buckley's Best Actress win. Jordan, honored for his role in Sinners, paid tribute to past Black Oscar winners, calling it an honor to stand "amongst those greats." While One Battle After Another secured top honors, Sinners made history with 16

nominations, marking a significant cultural achievement for a Black-led horror film. Host Conan O'Brien blended humor with sobering commentary, noting the world's "chaotic, frightening times," while emphasizing the importance of art and unity. Musical performances, including Golden from KPop Demon Hunters, highlighted global influence and diversity. The evening also included emotional tributes to industry legends, reinforcing the Oscars' role as both a celebration of cinema and a moment of collective remembrance.

## King Opens Historic Coastal Trail

### England unveils world's longest continuous shoreline path

#### Nassr Al Shams

King Charles III has officially inaugurated the King Charles III England Coast Path, a landmark 2,689-mile trail that now forms the world's longest managed coastal walking route. The newly completed path creates, for the first time, a continuous route around England's entire coastline, allowing walkers to explore landscapes ranging from sandy beaches and salt marshes to dramatic cliffs and historic towns. The King marked the occasion at an event hosted by the South



Photos: 2,689 miles and 18 years in the making, King Charles III opens his namesake coastal path  
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

Downs National Park Authority, highlighting sections such as the iconic Seven Sisters cliffs. The ambitious project, launched under the 2009 Marine and

Coastal Access Act, took 18 years and multiple governments to complete. More than 1,000 miles of new paths were created, while existing routes were upgraded to

improve accessibility. Natural England officials described the project as "transformational," noting that it opens previously restricted areas—including beaches and dunes—to public access. The trail is also designed to adapt to climate change, with sections able to shift inland as coastlines evolve. With most of the route now open and final sections nearing completion, the path offers a lasting legacy for outdoor enthusiasts and coastal communities alike.

## Mexico Invites Spain's King

### World Cup gesture signals diplomatic thaw



Photo: The Spanish monarch (centre) is a keen football fan and is said to be an avid Atlético de Madrid supporter  
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

#### Adrian Smith

A diplomatic thaw appears underway between Spain and Mexico after President Claudia Sheinbaum invited King Felipe VI

to attend the 2026 FIFA World Cup, signaling renewed efforts to mend strained relations. The invitation, sent on February 24, comes months after tensions escalated

over Spain's colonial legacy. Sheinbaum had previously withheld an invitation to her 2024 inauguration following Spain's refusal to formally apologize for historical abuses during the conquest of the Americas.

#### HIGHLIGHT

●King Felipe VI invited to 2026 FIFA World Cup.

●Invitation signals easing tensions with Mexico.

In a recent shift, King Felipe acknowledged that Spain's colonial past included "a lot of abuse," adding that some historical actions cannot

inspire pride by today's standards. Sheinbaum described the remarks as "a gesture of reconciliation," though she noted it fell short of a full apology. The Spanish royal palace confirmed it welcomed the invitation but has not announced whether the King will attend the tournament, scheduled from June 11 to July 19, 2026, across Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The outreach highlights an effort to rebuild ties rooted in shared language and culture, even as both nations continue to navigate the complexities of their historical relationship.



Photo: An image of Artificial Intelligence  
Image Source: Online

## Parents Misjudge Teens' AI Use

### Studies reveal growing disconnect in digital habits

#### Charles Lewis

New studies from the Pew Research Center and Common Sense Media suggest many parents have only a partial picture of how their teenagers use AI. While 64% of teens said they use AI tools, only 51% of parents believed their children do. Researchers also found that many families are not discussing the technology at all, with four in 10 parents saying they have never talked about AI with their children. The surveys show teens use AI not only for schoolwork and entertainment, but

sometimes for advice and emotional support. Experts say that gap in understanding matters, because without regular

#### HIGHLIGHT

●64% of teens use AI, vs 51% of parents who think so.

●Many teens use AI for emotional support.

●Experts warn of a communication gap. conversations, many young people may be navigating powerful tools largely on their own.