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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: Demonstrators march through Kansas City's Country Club Plaza during a "No Kings" protest, March 28, 2026.
Image Source: Getty Images

Downed Airman Recovered

High-risk operation unfolds amid widening Iran conflict

Alexandar Sullivan

A dramatic U.S. rescue mission has brought a downed American airman to safety after he spent more than 24 hours evading capture in the mountains of southern Iran, according to U.S. officials and

public statements from President Donald Trump. The airman was one of two crew members aboard an F-15E Strike Eagle that was shot down on Friday. The second crew member had already been recovered in an earlier

operation. Trump announced the latest rescue on Sunday, calling it "one of the most daring Search and Rescue Operations" in U.S. military history and saying the officer was now "SAFE and SOUND." Officials said the

rescued service member, described as a colonel, hid alone in rugged terrain with a handgun, communication gear, and a tracking beacon. Reports indicated that the CIA helped locate him and that a broader deception effort may

have been used during the operation. U.S. accounts say dozens of aircraft were involved and that the mission ended without additional American deaths, though the airman was reportedly injured. Iranian state media confirmed that the jet had been shot down by air defenses and claimed multiple U.S. aircraft were also hit during the rescue effort. Some of those claims remain unverified, and details of the operation are still emerging. The rescue unfolded against the backdrop of a widening regional conflict. Iran continued striking infrastructure targets in Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, while Trump renewed warnings that the U.S. could escalate further if Tehran does not reopen the Strait of Hormuz or agree to terms for de-escalation. For the U.S. military, the rescue marked a tactical success. But it also underscored the volatility of a conflict that is increasingly stretching beyond the battlefield and into the region's energy corridors, cities, and civilian infrastructure.

Pope Leo's Easter Appeal

Pontiff urges leaders to lay down arms and choose dialogue

John Paul

In his first Easter Sunday message as head of the Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV urged world leaders to reject violence and pursue peace through dialogue rather than force.



Photo: Pope Leo XIV presides over Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, on Sunday.
Image Source: Alessandra Tarantino/AP

Speaking from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica before thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square, Leo called on those with the power to wage war to instead choose reconciliation. "Let those who have weapons lay them down. Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace," he said, adding that peace must come "through dialogue" and not domination. The pontiff's message came against a backdrop of ongoing war and global instability. He echoed the late Pope Francis' warning about the "globalization of indifference," saying many people are becoming accustomed to violence and helpless in the face of evil. Leo also announced a special prayer vigil for peace on Saturday, April 11, at St. Peter's Basilica. Earlier in the day, he used his Easter homily to stress hope amid war, injustice, and suffering, saying that even in darkness, "something new always springs to life."

ICE Facility Faces Local Resistance in Geor

Infrastructure limits and safety concerns stall federal plan

Lily Anderson

Residents of Social Circle, Georgia, a small town of about 5,000 people, have successfully stalled plans for a massive immigration detention center, marking an unusual bipartisan pushback against federal policy. The proposal, part of a \$38.3 billion Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiative, involved converting a one-million-square-foot warehouse into a facility capable of holding up to 10,000 detainees. However, local leaders and residents raised concerns about

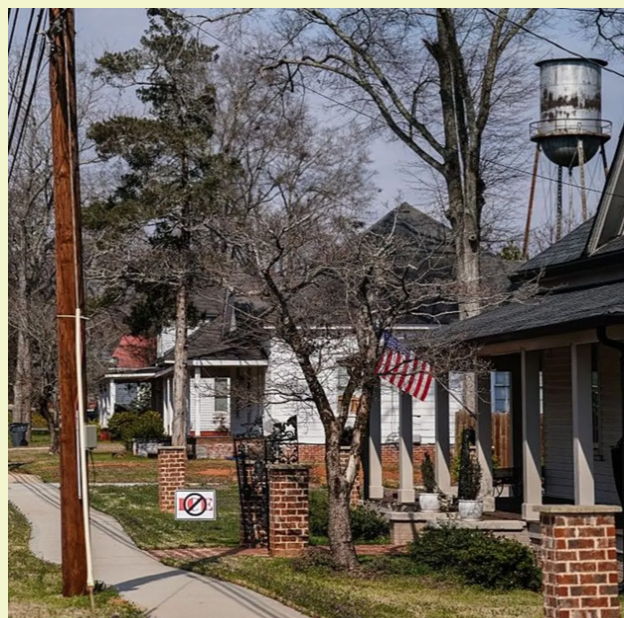


Photo: A proposed detention centre would triple the population of Social Circle, Georgia
Image Source: Getty Images / BBC

the town's limited infrastructure and quality of life. City Manager Eric Taylor took a decisive step in March by shutting off water access to the site, citing the town's restricted supply. "I can't let that happen without knowing what the ultimate impact is going to be," Taylor said, noting the facility would require as much water daily as the entire town currently uses. Opposition has united unlikely allies, including Democrat Gareth Fenley and conservative farmer John Miller, who both argued that the project would overwhelm local resources. "Detention center, not welcome

here," Fenley said, reflecting a shared sentiment across the community. Residents also expressed concerns about sewage capacity, traffic congestion, and proximity to schools. Others raised humanitarian issues, questioning whether the warehouse could safely house detainees. While DHS has not confirmed the project's future, officials indicated a broader review is underway. For now, construction remains paused, offering residents what one local described as "a little time to breathe" as the town awaits a final decision.

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Eid, Passover, and Easter:
A Unique Opportunity for
Dialogue

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Washington University of Science and Technology unveils expanded campus

NYN Desk

A major milestone for the Bangladeshi diaspora in the United States was marked in Virginia with the opening of the second and permanent campus of Washington University of Science and Technology (WUST), the only Bangladeshi-owned university in the country, according to the information provided. The expansion brings WUST's total campus footprint to nearly 200,000 square feet, creating what university leaders described as a lasting foundation for student growth,



Photo: Second permanent campus of a Bangladeshi-owned university inaugurated in the United States.

Image Source: Online

innovation, and opportunity. In a message shared on social media, founder, chairman, and chancellor Abubokor

Hanip called the day "historic," saying the campus belongs to the dreams and future of its students. "Buildings do not



create success. People do," he said. University officials said the new campus includes advanced AI, cybersecurity, hardware and network, healthcare, and SOC labs, with a robotics lab planned next. WUST also announced a 31,000-square-foot startup and entrepreneurship incubator, designed to help students turn

ideas into businesses. In addition, the university pledged \$6.5 million in scholarships for new students this year, aimed at reducing financial barriers to higher education. Supporters say the expansion represents more than physical growth. For many in the Bangladeshi-American community, it stands as a visible example of educational leadership, self-reliance, and the growing ability of immigrants to build lasting institutions in the United States.

Julie Won and advocates protest proposed shelter change



Photo: Council Member Julie Won speaks at a rally at Dutch Kills Playground after DSS proposed relocating nearby shelter families.

Image Source : Shane O'Brien / QNS.com

Staff Reporter

A rally in Long Island City on Friday morning brought together Council Member Julie Won, Community Education Council 30, and education advocates to oppose a proposed plan to convert the Royal Stay Hotel at 38-30 Crescent St. from a family shelter into a site for single men.

Gathering at Dutch Kills Playground, speakers said

the relocation could displace around 80 families, many of whose children attend nearby P.S. 112Q. Advocates warned that moving the families would disrupt schooling, separate children from classmates and teachers, and add new barriers for students already facing instability. "These children have been in our school for over a year ... and we want them to stay," Won said.

Won also criticized what she

described as an unequal concentration of shelters in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color, arguing that more affluent parts of the city have seen shelters closed while areas like Queens Community District 1 remain heavily burdened.

City officials strongly pushed back, saying families are being moved from commercial hotels to Tier II shelters that offer kitchens and more appropriate accommodations. A Department of Social Services spokesperson said the city is working with each household to find placements that best meet family needs and minimize disruption, including moving families during spring break when possible.

Still, advocates said the issue is not just where families are sent, but how often children experiencing homelessness are uprooted. For those gathered Friday, the message was simple: stable housing and stable schooling should go hand in hand.

Brooklyn development combines housing, services, and retail

Senior Reporter

A new chapter in affordable housing in East New York, Brooklyn, began with the launch of the housing lottery for Phase 1A of Innovative Urban Village at 30 Inspiration Lane.

Part of a broader \$270 million master plan on the campus of the Christian Cultural Center, the first phase will deliver 385 affordable rental apartments across 437,000 square feet. Of those, 291 units are being offered through the public lottery for households earning between 30 and 80 percent of area median income, with rents ranging from \$561 for studios to \$2,691 for three-bedroom apartments.



Photo : Rendering of Innovative Urban Village. Designed by PAU and SLCE Architects
Image Source: Online

The remaining 94 units will be reserved for households in need of supportive services and for survivors of domestic violence.

Those services will be provided by the Urban Resource Institute and include case management,

legal support, and nutritional counseling.

Beyond housing, the development will include nearly 17,000 square feet of commercial space for a full-service grocery store, along with amenities such as a fitness center, children's playroom, computer room, lounge, landscaped walking paths, and a performing arts center.

The full Innovative Urban Village plan is expected to bring about 2,000 affordable apartments across ten buildings by 2031, with Phase 1B scheduled for completion in July 2027. Applications for the current lottery must be submitted by May 25, 2026.



Photo: Assemblymember Jordan Wright speaking at New York City Hall.

Image Source: Jordan Wright 4 Harlem Campaign / Online

Harlem Assembly Race Intensifies

Community Desk

A new super PAC has entered a closely watched Harlem Assembly race, signaling that the Democratic primary for New York's 70th Assembly District is becoming a larger contest over ideology, influence, and political succession. The outside spending group, Moving Harlem Forward, was registered with the state Board of Elections on Wednesday and is expected to support Assemblymember Jordan J.G. Wright, who has held the seat since his 2024 election. Wright is facing a June 23 primary challenge from Conrad Blackburn, a public defender backed by the Democratic Socialists of America. The formation of the PAC comes as DSA and other left-wing organizers increasingly view Upper Manhattan as fertile political ground. Wright, a

Democrat from a prominent Harlem political family, has already drawn criticism from challengers who portray him as part of an entrenched local establishment. According to people familiar with the effort, longtime Andrew Cuomo ally Charlie King has been involved in organizing support for the pro-Wright PAC. Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited sums, making them especially powerful in lower-turnout legislative contests where outside money can have an outsized impact. Both Wright and Blackburn are participating in the state's public matching funds program. But the arrival of an independent expenditure committee suggests this race may now be shaped as much by broader factional battles within the Democratic Party as by neighborhood campaigning itself.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:13	12:58	04:36	07:26	08:44
05:11	12:58	04:37	07:27	08:45
05:10	12:58	04:37	07:28	08:47
05:08	12:57	04:38	07:29	08:48
05:06	12:57	04:38	07:30	08:49
05:04	12:57	04:38	07:31	08:50
05:02	12:57	04:39	07:32	08:52

OPINION

Julie Won and advocates
 protest proposed shelter
 change
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Eid, Passover, and Easter: A Unique Opportunity for Dialogue

— Imam Shamsi Ali

Passover, or Pesach, is a pivotal event in Jewish history, commemorating the Israelites' (Bani Israil) liberation from Egyptian (Pharaohs) slavery around 3,000 years ago. This foundational story revolves around Musa (Moses), who, guided by Allah, led his people out of bondage. The narrative is etched with vivid imagery: the parting of the Red Sea, and the sparing of the Israelites' twelve tribes. The Quran references this significant event, highlighting God's intervention on behalf of Musa and his followers. In Ch. 2:49-50, Allah says: "And when We delivered you from Pharaoh's people, who afflicted you with dreadful torment, slaying your sons and sparing your women. And in that was a great trial from your Lord." Similarly, Ch. 7:141 mentions, "And when We delivered you from Pharaoh's people, who afflicted you with dreadful torment, slaying your sons and sparing your women."

In the Islamic references, we can find two Arabic terms used to describe the story. The first is "An-Najaat" (انجالت) as mentioned in both verses of the Quran above, which means "salvation" referring to the Israelites' deliverance from Pharaoh's persecution and their miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. The second term, "Al-Fash" (حصفال), is akin to the Hebrew "Pesach",

signifying liberation or release, specifically the Israelites' emancipation from Pharaoh's tyranny. Key Lessons from the Story

- 1). Rule built on injustice will fall. No matter how powerful, rule built on injustice will crumble. Eternal power belongs only to the Lord of heaven and earth."
- 2). God's Liberation: God's active role in human affairs, liberating the oppressed and demonstrating His power. Its theme resonates across faiths, emphasizing trust in Divine intervention.
- 3). Faith and Obedience: Moses' unwavering trust and obedience to Allah led to the Israelites' freedom. His example inspires believers to follow Allah's guidance, even in adversity.
- 4). Social Justice: It emphasizes caring for the vulnerable and marginalized, a theme echoed in Islamic teachings on social justice. Believers are urged to support the oppressed and strive for justice.
- 5). Perseverance and Trust: The Israelites' journey exemplifies perseverance and trust in God's plan. Their story inspires believers to remain steadfast, trusting in Divine wisdom and timing (Qadar).



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

These lessons transcend time, offering guidance and inspiration for people of faith worldwide. Its message of liberation, faith, and perseverance resonates globally, urging believers to trust in Allah's plan and strive for justice and compassion. In today's world, the message is particularly poignant, given ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises. It's a reminder that freedom and liberation are ongoing struggles, and that we must continue to strive for a world where all people can live with freedom and dignity.

A Unique Opportunity for Dialogue
 In remembering Musa his people's story offers a unique opportunity for dialogue among those claim to follow Abrahamic faiths: Jews, Muslims and Christians highlighting shared values and historical connections.

- 1). Shared Heritage: all recognize Moses/Musa as a prophet, and the Exodus (an-najaat) story is referenced both in the Quran and Bible. This shared heritage can foster mutual respect and understanding.
- 2). Liberation and Justice: Its theme of liberation resonates with all religious values of justice and compassion. Discussing these shared values can

promote solidarity and cooperation.

- 3). Common Challenges: As religious communities all face challenges and misconceptions. Open dialogue can help address these issues and build trust between members of their communities.
- 4). Cultural Exchange: Sharing traditions and learning about respective religious practices and traditions can enrich understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures and perspectives.
- 5). Shared Values: Emphasizing common values such as hospitality, charity, and social justice can strengthen bonds between all communities.

And so, as the Muslim community has just concluded the month of Ramadan with Eid al-Fitr, our Jewish friends celebrating Passover, and our Christian friends celebrating the ascension of Jesus Christ, we may differ in perspective and belief, but let's seize this moment to unite, respect, and collaborate for common good and global peace.

In conclusion, I'd like also to remind all that honesty is a fundamental aspect of all faiths. Being truthful to our beliefs and values is crucial, that Eid, Passover, and Easter, remind us that freedom and human dignity are inherent rights for all. Let's be honest about it!"

The Middle East Tinderbox

— Akbar Haider Kiron

The escalating military tensions between Iran and Israel, coupled with the strategic involvement of the United States, have plunged the world into a new era of uncertainty. The mere prospect of conflict in one of the world's most oil-rich regions is sending shockwaves across the global economy, energy markets, and geopolitical stability. For oil-dependent nations like Bangladesh, this volatility translates into immediate energy security concerns, foreign exchange pressures, and a direct impact on the daily lives of its citizens. Meanwhile, social media platforms have become a battleground of opinions, misinformation, and polarized debates, further complicating public perception. This analysis examines the global dimensions of the crisis, its specific implications for Bangladesh, and the socio-digital responses it has triggered.

The long-standing rivalry between Iran and Israel has recently escalated from a covert "shadow war" to the brink of direct military engagement. Targeted assassinations of commanders, attacks on diplomatic missions, and threats against nuclear facilities have raised the stakes significantly. Israel's primary objective remains curtailing Iran's nuclear program and its regional expansion through proxy networks. Iran, in turn, continues to leverage the "Axis of Resistance"—including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis—to project power and maintain strategic depth. The United States finds itself in a delicate position: bound by its commitment to Israel's security yet unwilling to be drawn into another full-scale Middle Eastern war. While the U.S. naval presence in the region serves as a deterrent, any miscalculation could ignite a broader regional conflict.

Analysts suggest three possible scenarios: (a) a diplomatic de-escalation brokered by international actors, (b) a limited, controlled military exchange, or (c) a full-scale regional war. The last scenario would have catastrophic consequences for the global economy and energy supply chains. The most immediate impact of the

heightened tensions has been felt in global energy markets. The Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately one-fifth of the world's oil passes, has become a flashpoint. Crude oil prices have already surged to concerning levels, reflecting the market's anxiety over potential supply disruptions. This volatility extends far beyond fuel costs. It drives up transportation expenses, electricity generation costs, industrial inputs, and ultimately food prices. For developing economies, this translates into inflationary pressures, reduced investment, and severe hardships for ordinary citizens.

Moreover, the Middle East crisis is unfolding against a backdrop of existing global instability—the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, the civil war in Sudan, and geopolitical tensions in Southeast Asia. Multilateral forums have proven largely ineffective in mediating these conflicts, as major powers pursue their own strategic interests in an increasingly fragmented world order.

Bangladesh imports nearly 100% of its crude oil and refined petroleum products, with the Middle East serving as the primary source. Consequently, any disruption or price hike in the international market has immediate and severe consequences for the country's economy and energy security. Bangladesh is already grappling with a dollar shortage, which has made opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for oil imports increasingly difficult. Global instability threatens to exacerbate this crisis, potentially leading to supply bottlenecks. The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) faces mounting losses when international oil prices rise, as it is often forced to absorb costs to shield consumers. Alternatively, the burden is passed on to the public through higher fuel prices, triggering inflationary effects across all sectors.

Power Sector: Higher fuel costs increase



— Akbar Haider Kiron
 Senior Journalist, New
 York

electricity generation expenses, raising the risk of load shedding and power shortages.

- Agriculture: Diesel-dependent irrigation systems become more expensive, driving up food production costs and ultimately retail prices.
- Industry and Transport: Manufacturing costs rise, transportation fares increase, and overall economic activity faces headwinds. Approximately three million Bangladeshi expatriates work in the Middle East.

Any escalation in conflict could jeopardize their safety, employment stability, and the flow of remittances—a critical pillar of Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves. The ongoing crisis has ignited intense discussions across Bangladeshi social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter (X), YouTube, and WhatsApp. These reactions can be categorized into several distinct threads:

Users frequently express concerns over rising fuel prices, the dollar crunch, and the increasing cost of living. Posts about the safety of Bangladeshi expatriates in the Middle East have become particularly prominent, reflecting widespread unease. The Israel-Palestine dimension of the conflict has deepened ideological divisions. One segment of social media users vocally supports anti-Israel sentiments, while others express alignment with U.S.-Israeli strategic interests. These debates often intersect with Bangladesh's domestic political landscape, with critics questioning the government's official stance while others advocate for neutrality.

Crisis situations often breed misinformation. Old videos are recirculated as "breaking news," false claims about the outbreak of war or a complete halt in Bangladesh's fuel supply go viral, and unverified rumors spread rapidly, further stoking public panic.

Amid the noise, a number of academics, journalists, and analysts have emerged

as credible voices. They regularly post in-depth analyses, infographics, short videos, and live discussions to explain the geopolitical context and economic implications. However, these efforts often struggle to compete with the virality of sensationalized content.

Diplomatic Resolution: A limited agreement mediated by the U.S. or European powers, though unlikely to resolve long-term tensions.

2. Limited Military Engagement: Targeted strikes on nuclear or military infrastructure, followed by de-escalation.
- Full-Scale Regional War: The worst-case scenario, involving multiple state and non-state actors, with catastrophic consequences for oil supplies and global stability.

Energy Security: Accelerate diversification efforts, including renewable energy, coal, and LNG. Implement stricter fuel conservation measures.

Dollar Crisis Management: Strengthen diplomatic efforts to stabilize remittance flows. Diversify export markets to reduce dependency.

- Expatriate Safety: Enhance coordination with Middle Eastern host countries to ensure the safety and well-being of Bangladeshi workers.
- Combating Misinformation: Launch coordinated public awareness campaigns involving government, media, and civil society to counter false narratives.
- Economic Preparedness: Build strategic fuel reserves and review subsidy frameworks to withstand external price shocks.

History has shown that no crisis lasts forever. Economic pressures, human suffering, and international diplomacy eventually pave the way toward de-escalation and dialogue. For countries like Bangladesh, the path forward lies in informed decision-making, emotional restraint, and coordinated action. Amid the chaos of social media and the uncertainty of global geopolitics, maintaining a calm, informed, and resilient outlook is essential. The future may be uncertain, but the capacity for adaptation, solidarity, and hope remains a powerful force.

PHILANTHROPY

Food Distribution Effort Brings Support to Jamaica Residents

Save The People USA, DYCD, and Met Council collaborate to address local needs



James Anderson

In a direct response to food insecurity in Jamaica, Queens, Save The People USA organized a community food distribution on Monday, March 30, providing local residents with a range of essential groceries at its location

on 87-41 165th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432. The program was held in association with DYCD and Met Council, underscoring a collaborative effort to support families facing economic strain. The distribution ran from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM and offered a variety of



The Department of Youth & Community Development necessities, including pantry staples, grains, fresh produce, and

protein options. The goal, organizers said, was to help ensure that families in the neighborhood had access to basic food items at a time when many households continue to feel pressure from rising costs and persistent need. In a statement shared after the event, organizers noted, "This week at Save the People, we provided a variety of essential food items including pantry staples, grains, produce, and protein options to support families in our community. We are committed to fighting food insecurity and making sure no one is left behind." That message reflected the broader

mission behind the distribution: not simply handing out food, but addressing a deeper need for dignity, stability, and community care. The setting itself reinforced that message. Held at the Save The People USA site in Jamaica, the event brought neighbors directly into contact with volunteers and organizers working at the grassroots level. The involvement of DYCD and Met Council added institutional support to a locally focused initiative, highlighting how community organizations and partner agencies can work together to reach residents where help is most needed. Food distribution programs like this one

often serve as more than a temporary relief effort. They also function as an important touchpoint between local organizations and the communities they serve, helping to build trust while responding to immediate hardship. By organizing the event in partnership with DYCD and Met Council, Save The People USA reinforced its role as an active community-based organization committed to practical service. In a neighborhood where many families continue to navigate financial uncertainty, the program offered both material support and a clear message that community care remains essential—and ongoing.



PHILANTHROPY

Save The People USA hosts food distribution with support from DYCD and Met Council



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UNITY

District 23 Marks Eid with Community Gathering in Queens Village

Elected officials, partner organizations, and residents join Council Member Linda Lee for celebration

Ashley Reed

In a recent celebration marking the end of Ramadan, Council Member Linda Lee hosted an Eid Al-Fitr Celebration in District 23, Queens, bringing together community members, partner organizations, and elected officials for an evening centered on faith, unity, and public service.

The event took place on March 30, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at P.S. 33 Edward M. Funk's Auditorium, 91-37 222nd Street, Queens Village, NY 11428. Organized in collaboration with Progressive American Community Empowerment (PACE), the gathering reflected the borough's multicultural character and the role that civic partnerships continue to play in community life. After the event, Linda Lee thanked those who helped make the evening possible, writing that her office was proud to host the celebration and



Together, those partnerships helped frame the event not just as a holiday observance, but as a broader expression of cooperation across civic and charitable networks. Held at a neighborhood public school auditorium, the event offered a welcoming setting for residents to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr while also affirming the place of Muslim communities within the public life of Queens. With speeches, refreshments, and community gathering at its core, the evening reflected the values often associated with Eid: gratitude, togetherness, and renewal. By bringing together elected officials, grassroots organizations, and local residents, the recent Eid Al-Fitr Celebration in Queens Village served as a reminder that public events rooted in faith can also strengthen civic ties, deepen collaboration, and reinforce a shared sense of belonging across the borough.

expressing appreciation to community members, PACE, Save The People USA, and P.S. 33 for their support. The event also drew recognition from Save The People USA (STPUSA), which said it was proud to join the Eid gathering in Queens and described stronger communities as being built "through unity and public service." Among the public



officials recognized in

connection with the event were Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and Deputy Speaker Nantasha Williams, all of whom were thanked for their leadership and commitment to serving diverse communities. Their names were also listed as co-sponsors on

event materials. The celebration also highlighted the participation and support of community-based organizations. In addition to PACE and Save The People USA, Zakat Foundation of America was acknowledged by STPUSA for its continued support and partnership in serving local communities.



UNITY

Council Member Linda Lee's recent event draws public officials and community partners



UNITY



Linda Lee, PACE, Save The People USA, and community leaders host successful celebration



REMEMBRANCE

Queens Community Mourns the Loss of Nishath Jannath

The death of a 19-year-old Bangladeshi-American woman leaves family and community in grief

William Henry

A deep sense of grief has settled over parts of Queens and the broader Bangladeshi-American community following the death of Nishath Jannath, a 19-year-old whose life was cut short in a tragic late-night traffic accident in Woodside.

According to the details provided by family and community sources, the fatal incident occurred around 12:00 a.m. near the intersection of Roosevelt Avenue and 62nd Street in Queens, New York. Nishath Jannath was reportedly crossing the street when she was struck by a garbage truck, also described in community statements as a private sanitation truck. She died at the scene. The loss has resonated deeply not only because of her young age, but also because of



the circumstances surrounding the tragedy. Family members said she had just finished work and was heading home carrying a birthday cake for her younger sister when the accident occurred. That detail has added to the sorrow felt

by those who knew her and by many others who learned of her story. In statements shared after her death, community members described Nishath as a kind, hopeful, and compassionate young woman whose faith

and warmth touched many lives. One tribute said she would be remembered for her "strength, generosity, and the light she brought into the lives of others." Another described her as someone who encouraged others to

remain positive and trust in God. Her father, Helal Ahmed, is reported to be an imam at a mosque in Woodside, and the family's roots trace back to Sylhet, Bangladesh. In the aftermath of the tragedy, community

members gathered in solidarity with the family, and a janaza was held, marking a solemn moment of prayer and remembrance. The passing of Nishath Jannath has left relatives, friends, and neighbors mourning a life remembered for compassion and promise. In a city where immigrant communities often rally closely around one another in times of hardship, her death has become a shared sorrow—one that has brought prayer, condolences, and reflection across the community. As loved ones continue to grieve, Nishath Jannath is being remembered not only for the tragedy of her death, but for the character of her life: a young woman of faith, kindness, and hope whose absence will be deeply felt.



DEVELOPMENT



Major Investment Secured for City Line–Ozone Park Community

Liberty Plaza and BACDYS receive new funding through support from Nydia Velázquez and Sandy Nurse

Jessica Morgan

In a significant development for City Line–Ozone Park, community leaders and advocates are celebrating the announcement of \$1.1 million in public funding aimed at improving neighborhood space and supporting local community services, a move they say could bring lasting change to one of the area’s most active immigrant communities.

According to information shared by local leaders, U.S. Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez secured \$850,000 for Liberty Plaza and an additional \$250,000 for The Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Services (BACDYS). The funds are intended to help upgrade and maintain the plaza while also supporting broader community development efforts.

The announcement highlighted the roles of Khairul Islam Kukon, Secretary of the City Line Ozone Park Business Association



(COBA), and Regnier Herbert, Executive Director of BACDYS, along with other neighborhood advocates. In a public statement, Khairul Islam described the funding as a major step forward for the community. “Today was a powerful and proud moment for our community in Bangladesh! Cityline-Ozone Park,” he said.



He added that the investment is “not just about improvements — it’s about creating a space where our children can play, our elders can gather, and our community can thrive.” Community leaders also expressed gratitude to Council Member Sandy Nurse and the New York City Department of Transportation for

their continued support and partnership. Khairul Islam said he believes the neighborhood “will see a great transformation” as the funding is put to use. Special thanks were also extended to Herb, Misba, Mr. Campbell, and community activist Anwar Khan for their dedication and leadership in support of local improvement

efforts. The funding announcement carries particular significance for residents of Little Bangladesh and the surrounding Ozone Park area, where public spaces often serve as important gathering points for families, business owners, and community organizations. Leaders say investments like this can improve not only physical infrastructure but also the social fabric of the neighborhood.

By directing resources to both Liberty Plaza and BACDYS, elected officials and community groups are signaling support for a vision of neighborhood development rooted in public space, youth services, and local collaboration. For many residents, the investment represents more than a budget figure — it reflects a broader belief that City Line–Ozone Park deserves sustained attention, resources, and the opportunity to thrive.



EMPOWERMENT

A Decade of Sisterhood and Empowerment

Malikah marks its 10th Annual Muslim Women's Summit with reflection and celebration

Emily Parker

In a gathering defined by solidarity, reflection, and community care, Malikah recently hosted its 10th Annual Muslim Women's Summit, bringing together Muslim women for an event centered on empowerment, meaningful dialogue, and mutual support. Held at The IC NYC, the summit marked a milestone for the organization, which described the energy in the room as powerful and deeply affirming. Participants came together not only to attend sessions and performances, but to share stories, exchange ideas, and create space for one another

in ways that organizers said reflected the core purpose of the annual event. According to Malikah, the summit was "full of Muslim women showing up for each other," with conversations that were "deep," connections that were "meaningful," and an atmosphere of care that stood out throughout the gathering. The organization said the event was designed to ensure that Muslim women could be "seen, heard, and empowered," a goal that has remained central to the summit over the years. Organizers extended thanks to a wide network of contributors who helped bring the event to life, including The



Islamic Center of New York City (ICNYC) for hosting, as well as the summit's sponsors, volunteers, speakers, performers, vendors,

and Malikah's team. Each group played a role in shaping the experience, from logistical support to program content and community engagement. The summit's impact appears to have extended beyond the event itself. By bringing Muslim women together in a dedicated space for dialogue and support, the program reinforced the importance of community-led platforms where identity, lived experience, and leadership can be centered without compromise. Organizers emphasized that the gathering was not simply celebratory, but also intentional in building lasting networks of

encouragement and belonging. As the event concluded, Malikah shared some of its favorite moments from the day, captured by Muneeba Blogs, underscoring the emotional and communal resonance of the summit's 10th edition. A decade into its annual tradition, the Muslim Women's Summit continues to serve as more than a single-day event. It stands as a reflection of the growing strength, visibility, and collective voice of Muslim women who are building community not only through conversation, but through care, presence, and shared purpose.



ALL Photo Credits : Facebook Page of Malikah

MILESTONE

Bangla Newspaper Thikana Marks 37 Years in New York

Community leaders gather at World's Fair Marina to honor a long-running voice of the diaspora

Noah Presley

In a celebration of legacy, language, and community voice, Thikana, one of the most recognized Bangla-language newspapers in New York, recently marked its 37th anniversary with a colorful gathering at World's Fair Marina. The event brought together a broad cross-section of the Bangladeshi-American community, including prominent community figures, journalists, business leaders, and representatives from various social and cultural organizations. The strong turnout reflected the newspaper's longstanding place in the civic and cultural life of Bangladeshi immigrants in New York. Throughout the program, speakers paid tribute to Thikana's role in sustaining Bangla journalism



in the diaspora over nearly four decades. They described the publication as more than a newspaper, emphasizing its importance as a platform that has documented community concerns, immigrant experiences, and cultural identity for generations of readers living far from

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Bangladesh. Participants noted that maintaining a Bangla-language press in an immigrant setting requires both commitment and trust, and they credited Thikana with helping

preserve linguistic and cultural ties while also serving as a source of information and public dialogue. In reflecting on the paper's history, speakers expressed respect for its contribution to community awareness and civic engagement among expatriate Bangladeshis.

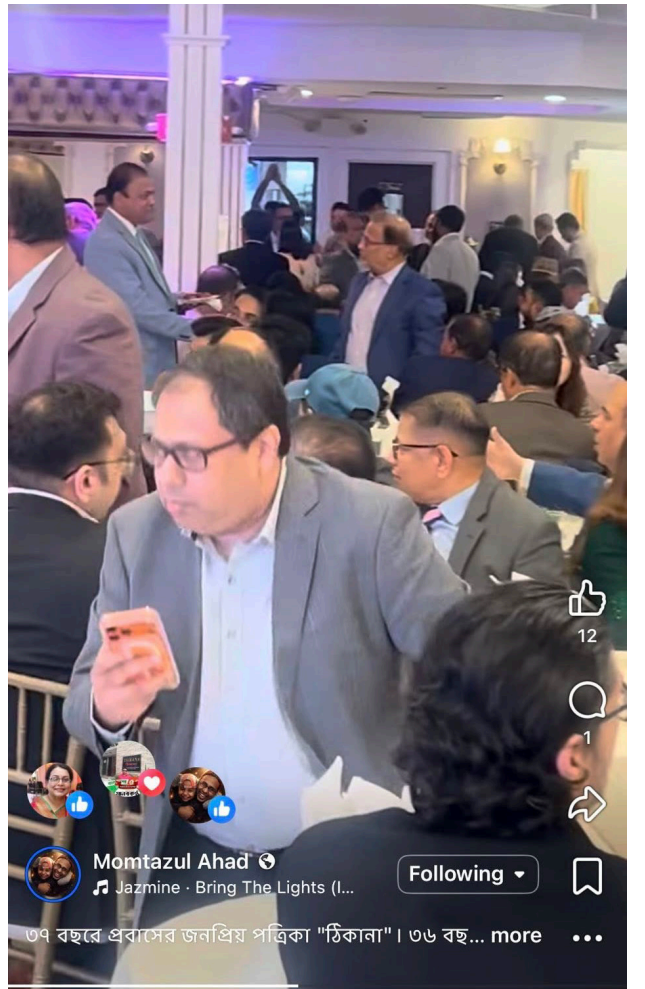
The anniversary event also served as a reminder of the wider role ethnic media plays in immigrant communities. For many in attendance, Thikana has functioned not only as a news outlet, but also as a community institution—one that has helped inform, connect, and represent

Bangladeshis in the United States. Speakers voiced optimism that the newspaper would continue its work in the years ahead, expressing hope that Thikana will remain a strong and credible voice for Bangladeshi immigrants in New York and beyond. That sentiment appeared to resonate with attendees, many of whom view the paper as part of the community's collective history. By marking 37 years of publication, the event honored not just the longevity of a newspaper, but the enduring need for media that speaks directly to the experiences, aspirations, and identity of a diasporic community. At World's Fair Marina, the celebration became both a commemoration of the past and a statement of confidence in the future of Bangla journalism in New York.



MILESTONE

Thikana celebrates 37 years of serving the Bangladeshi immigrant community

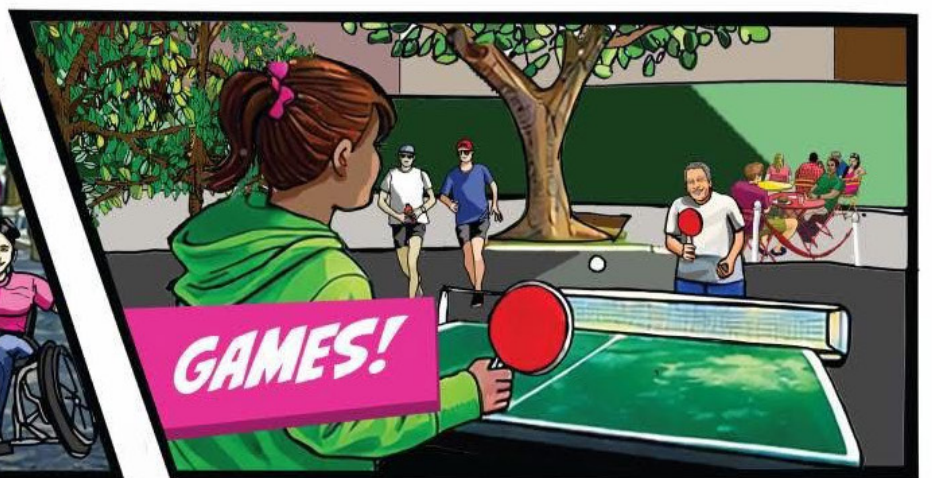
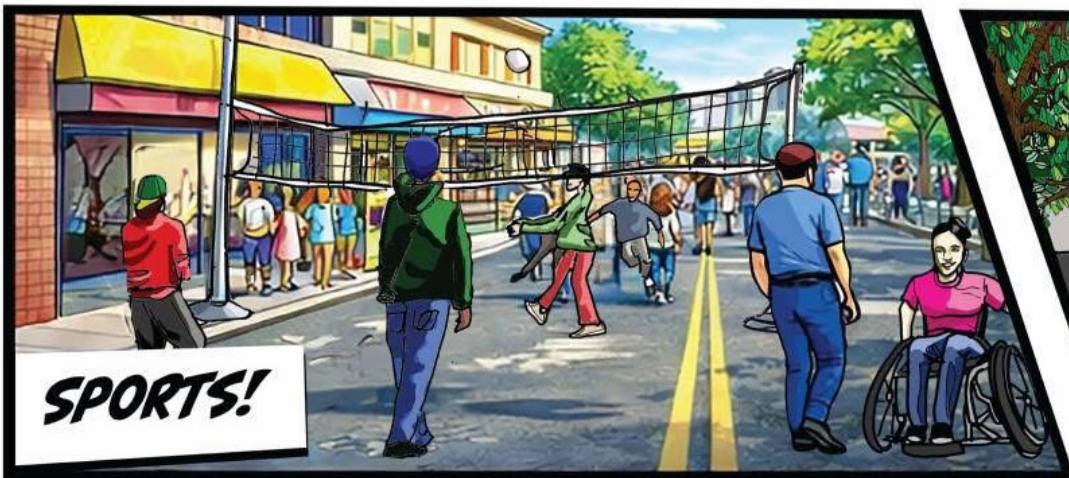


MILESTONE

Thikana anniversary event honors the legacy of Bangla journalism in New York



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee





Artemis II Sees Moon's Far Side

Astronauts describe historic views during lunar flyby



Photo: NASA astronauts prepare for Artemis, the first crewed moon mission in more than 50 years. Image Source : AP



Amkel Nourush
The Artemis II astronauts have reached a defining moment in humanity's return to deep space, describing their first view of the far side of the Moon as both unfamiliar and extraordinary. Aboard the Orion

spacecraft, NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen, shared their reactions as the mission entered its third day. "Something about you senses that is not the Moon that I'm used

to seeing," Koch said. The crew also captured an image of the Orientale basin, which NASA said marked the first time the entire basin had been seen with human eyes. By late Saturday, Orion was more than 180,000 miles from Earth and closing in on another

milestone: surpassing the maximum distance reached by Apollo 13 in 1970. The mission's lunar flyby, expected on Monday, is designed to test systems and gather observations rather than enter orbit or land. Even so, it carries symbolic and scientific significance. Artemis II is not only reviving crewed lunar travel for the first time since 1972, but also extending it into a new era—one defined by broader international participation, new technology, and fresh ambitions for a long-term human return to the moon.



Photo: Belgium is one of a number of European countries revising their nuclear strategy. Image Source: AFP / Getty Images / BBC

Europe Reconsiders Nuclear

Energy shock revives debate over atomic power's future

Adrian Smith
Europe's latest energy shock is reviving a familiar debate over whether nuclear power should play a larger role in securing the continent's future. As oil and gas prices climb again amid instability in the Middle East, governments are once more confronting how vulnerable Europe remains to imported fuel and global supply disruptions.

energy sovereignty and decarbonization, while countries such as Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Greece, and the United Kingdom are reconsidering or accelerating nuclear plans. The argument is not only about keeping the lights on, but also about meeting future electricity demand from industries such as artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing. Still, nuclear power is no quick answer to Europe's immediate energy pain. Large reactors take years to build, projects often face delays and ballooning costs, and concerns about safety, waste, and financing remain unresolved. Even the much-discussed small modular reactors remain largely unproven at commercial scale in Europe. For now, Europe's renewed embrace of nuclear looks less like an instant solution and more like a long-term insurance policy against the next energy crisis.

Royal Family Celebrates Easter

Traditional chapel appearance draws cheers from the crowd

Nassr Al Shams
The Royal Family gathered at St. George's Chapel in Windsor on Easter Sunday, as King Charles and Queen Camilla were joined by senior royals for the traditional church service. Among those attending were Prince William and Catherine, Princess of Wales, appearing at the annual service with their children after missing the event in recent years. Onlookers cheered as the family arrived, with Princess Charlotte waving to the crowd gathered behind barriers.



Photos: Princess Anne arrived with her brother Prince Edward, joining up with Prince William and Princess Catherine and their children. Image Source: PA Media/BBC

Also present were Princess Anne and her husband Sir Tim Laurence, along with Prince Edward and members of his family. The King and Queen

arrived last and were greeted warmly by members of the public, with one voice in the crowd calling out, "God bless the King." After the service, the couple

stopped to shake hands and wish people a happy Easter. The Windsor service is regarded as a longstanding family tradition rather than a formal state occasion. This year, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, Sarah Ferguson, and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie were absent after attending last year. Elsewhere on Sunday, Dame Sarah Mullally, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, delivered her first Easter sermon in that role, calling for an end to violence in the Middle East and urging renewed prayers for peace.

Kanye Booking Draws Fire

UK leaders question Wireless Festival decision



Photo: Keir Starmer 'concerned' over Kanye West UK festival dates. Image Source: Getty Images/ BBC

Julian Alvez
A major controversy has erupted around Wireless Festival after Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the decision to book Kanye West, now known as Ye, as the headline act for all three nights of the London event this summer. Starmer

said it was "deeply concerning" that the rapper had been chosen despite his past antisemitic remarks and praise for Nazism, adding that antisemitism "in any form is abhorrent" and that Britain must remain a country where Jewish people feel safe. The criticism quickly

grew beyond Westminster, with Jewish organizations and political leaders questioning why one of the country's biggest music festivals would give such a platform to such a controversial figure. The backlash has already had practical consequences. Pepsi, the event's headline sponsor, confirmed it has withdrawn its support. The festival remains scheduled for July 10-12 in Finsbury Park, north London, and Ye is still listed as the featured performer. The dispute comes

despite the artist's public apology earlier this year for antisemitic behavior. Critics argue that his previous comments and actions remain too serious to dismiss, particularly at a time of wider concern over hate speech and antisemitism in public life. What began as a headline booking has now become a broader argument about accountability in entertainment — and about where promoters, sponsors, and governments draw the line when controversy turns into something far more serious.

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