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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: White House Correspondents' Dinner Shooting Suspect Was 'Lone Wolf,' Trump Says

Image Source: Yuri Gripas/Abaca/Bloomberg/Getty;realDonaldTrump/truthsocial

Security Breach Investigated

Armed suspect arrested at Washington Hilton

Alexandar Sullivan

Law enforcement officials have identified Cole Tomas Allen, a 31-year-old California man, as the suspect arrested after shots were fired inside the Washington Hilton during the White House Correspondents' Dinner on Saturday night, where President Donald Trump was among those attending.

Authorities said Allen, from Torrance, California, was armed with a shotgun, handgun, and multiple knives when he was detained by security officials. Investigators are examining whether he intended to target officials in the Trump administration, with preliminary findings suggesting a possible political motive. Acting U.S. Attorney General Todd

Blanche said the motive remains under investigation but noted that early evidence points toward administration officials as likely targets, possibly including Trump. Police said Allen appeared to be a lone actor and was taken to a hospital for evaluation after the incident. Officials said Allen now faces charges including using a firearm during a crime of violence and assault on a federal officer with a dangerous weapon. He is expected to be formally charged in federal court on Monday. The incident has renewed scrutiny of security around high-profile political gatherings in Washington, D.C.

Chernobyl Risks Return

Ukraine marks anniversary amid fresh attacks

Lily Anderson

At least 16 people were killed in strikes across Ukraine, Russian-occupied territory and Russia, as the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster brought renewed warnings about nuclear risks during the war. Ukrainian officials said the death toll from Russian drone and missile attacks on Dnipro rose to nine.

Moscow-installed authorities also reported deaths in Sevastopol and Luhansk, while Russian officials said a Ukrainian drone strike killed a woman in Belgorod. Ukraine's military said it struck an oil refinery in Yaroslavl, a deep Russian target that produces fuel used by Moscow's military. Russia did not immediately comment. Marking the Chernobyl anniversary, President



Photo: A man visits a Chernobyl disaster memorial in Slavutych, Ukraine, ahead of its 40th anniversary.

Image Source: AP Photo/Dan Bashakov

Volodymyr Zelensky

warned that Russia's

HIGHLIGHT

- At least 16 people killed
- Dnipro death toll rose to nine
- Chernobyl anniversary renewed nuclear warnings

attacks were pushing the world toward another man-made disaster. He said drones had flown over the plant and one struck its protective structure last year. Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said repairs to the damaged outer shell must begin immediately, warning that delays could increase risks around the old reactor site.

Lebanon Truce Strained

Israel orders fresh attacks on Hezbollah targets

Henry Bob

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the military to "vigorously attack Hezbollah targets" in Lebanon, intensifying violence just days after a fragile ceasefire was extended by three weeks. The directive followed deadly strikes in southern Lebanon on Saturday, where Lebanese officials said at least six people were killed and 17 others injured. Israel said its forces targeted Hezbollah members, including fighters traveling in a vehicle loaded with weapons and others operating near the Litani area. Hezbollah said it retaliated by targeting an Israeli army



Photo: Israel continues to occupy a much of southern Lebanon

Image Source: Reuters/BBC

vehicle in southern Lebanon, further testing a truce that has reduced but not fully halted cross-border fire. Lebanon's state-run news agency reported additional Israeli strikes across several towns in Bint Jbeil, Tyre, and Nabatieh districts after Netanyahu's order. The IDF said it struck Hezbollah infrastructure used for military purposes and would continue acting against threats to Israeli civilians and soldiers. The renewed fighting has deepened concerns over the ceasefire's durability and raised fresh alarms about civilian safety, including journalists, after media groups condemned recent attacks on reporters in Lebanon.

London Record Falls

Sabastian Sawe delivers historic marathon win

John Paul

Sabastian Sawe made marathon history at the London Marathon, becoming the first athlete to complete a competitive race in under two hours. The 30-year-old Kenyan crossed the finish line in 1:59:30, smashing the previous world record of 2:00:35 set by Kelvin Kiptum in 2023. Sawe had already been on record pace at halfway, but surged even faster in the second half to deliver a performance once considered impossible. "I am so happy. It is a day to remember for me," Sawe said after the race, crediting

HIGHLIGHT

- Sabastian Sawe won in 1:59:30
- First sub-two-hour marathon in race conditions
- Yomif Kejelcha also broke two hours
- Tigst Assefa set women-only record

the London crowd for helping push him to the finish. In a remarkable race, Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha also finished under two hours in his marathon debut, clocking 1:59:41, while

Jacob Kiplimo placed third in 2:00:28. The women's race also produced history, as Tigst Assefa of Ethiopia retained her title and improved her women-only world record to 2:15:41. The day also saw Swiss wheelchair stars Marcel Hug and Catherine Debrunner claim victories, making the event one of the most memorable editions in London Marathon history.

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The Gateways to a chest spaciousness (inshiraah as-Sadri)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Borough-wide race series builds community impact

NYN Desk

Queens Distance Runners is expanding its borough-wide race series after a successful Queens Marathon Weekend in December 2025, when more than 2,000 runners, families, and supporters gathered at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The growing calendar includes races in neighborhoods across the borough, including Ridgewood, Elmhurst, Bayside, Jackson



Photo: A crowd of runners at the start line of Queens Marathon Weekend in December 2025. Image Source: guillermohromani /QNS.com

Heights, and additional events leading into the Queens Marathon and QDR Half Marathon in December. Organizers say the goal is to make Queens a stronger destination for runners of all levels while highlighting the borough's neighborhoods. QDR is also continuing its partnership with NYC Kids RISE through the first-ever Queens-wide Community Scholarship, supporting public school third graders and their future college and career goals.

Organizers said 100% of contributions go directly to eligible students' NYC Scholarship Accounts. "Our goal has always been to build something that reflects Queens — diverse, ambitious, and community-driven," said QDR founder Kevin Montalvo. A permit is also pending to move the Queens Marathon back onto borough streets for the first time since 2016, bringing the vision of a true Queens-wide marathon closer to reality.



Staten Island remembers beloved pediatrician

Photo: Dr. Melvin Koplow's family unveils his street sign in Huguenot, April 25. Image Source: Jenna Wingo

News Correspondent

A steady rain did not stop former patients, neighbors, and local officials from gathering Saturday to honor Dr. Melvin Koplow, a longtime pediatrician remembered for caring for generations of Staten Island children. The late doctor, who died in 2024 at age 79, was honored with a street co-naming at Huguenot and Sinclair avenues, near the office where he practiced for decades. Council Member Frank Morano, who helped sponsor the sign, said Koplow's life showed the importance of showing up "no matter the conditions." Former staffer Florence Petruzzelli, who worked with him for 30 years, said the turnout reflected how deeply he mattered to the community. Patients recalled Koplow as more than a doctor. Katie Marie Montello, 23, said he was part of her childhood and offered support after her mother died. Known for his compassion, hospital visits, and constant availability, Koplow left a lasting mark on families across Staten Island and Brooklyn.

Brooklyn legal community gathers for dialogue

Community Desk

The Brooklyn Bar Association hosted its annual Judiciary Night on April 21, bringing attorneys and newly appointed and elected judges together for an evening focused on dialogue, trust, and professional connection. The event welcomed new judges serving across Brooklyn Supreme Civil Court, Supreme Criminal Court, Housing Court, Family Court, Criminal Court, and Civil Court. Court leaders said the gathering helps strengthen relationships outside the courtroom and supports the smoother practice of law. Brooklyn Supreme Civil Court Administrative Judge Genine Edwards said the event allows judges and attorneys to "get to know each other outside of the courthouse," adding that such interaction helps reduce stress and build mutual understanding. Incoming Brooklyn Bar Association president Daniel Antonelli said strong professional relationships can help cases move more effectively, especially when attorneys need to address urgent matters for clients. The gathering underscored the association's broader goal of connecting the bench and the bar while reinforcing civility, communication, and cooperation across Brooklyn's legal community.

Islamic Work: New Book of Zakir Ahmed

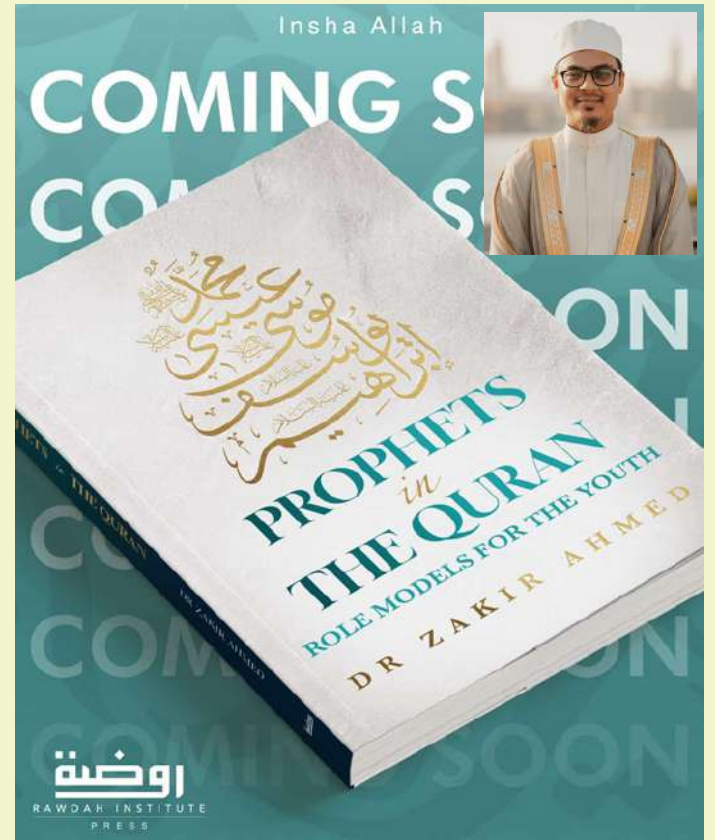


Photo: New book of Dr. Zakir Ahmed

Senior Reporter

Dr. Zakir Ahmed has announced the upcoming release of his new book, Prophets in the Quran: Role Models for the Youth, a faith-centered work aimed at connecting Quranic lessons with the real-life challenges faced by young people today. In his announcement, Dr. Ahmed said the project is close to his heart and seeks to present the lives of the Prophets (peace be upon them) as sources of guidance, strength, and inspiration for youth, families, and the wider community. The book is expected to address questions and struggles many young people navigate in modern life while grounding its message in Islamic values and prophetic examples. Dr. Ahmed asked the community to keep the effort in their prayers, adding that launch details will be shared soon. The upcoming release is expected to draw interest from families, educators, and community members seeking meaningful Islamic resources for young readers.

Manhattan begins corridor improvement study



Photo: U.S. Route 52 through Manhattan is undergoing a study to improve safety. Image Source : Provided by the Village of Manhattan

Staff Reporter

The Village of Manhattan has begun planning a new safety study for the U.S. Route 52 corridor, aiming to reduce crashes and improve travel for drivers, pedestrians, students, businesses, and visitors.

The project, titled "The Manhattan Corridor Safety Plan: An Action Plan for U.S. Route 52," is supported by \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. The study

will examine crash history, roadway conditions, high-risk locations, and possible safety investments along the village's central corridor. "The safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors is our top priority," Mayor Mike Adreiansen said, calling Route 52 a vital roadway for the community. A 12-member steering committee made up of local officials, emergency services, schools, business leaders, and residents will help guide the process. Public workshops are expected to begin this summer, giving residents and business owners a chance to share concerns and priorities. Once completed, the plan will serve as a roadmap for future Route 52 improvements.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:36	12:54	04:43	07:48	09:12
04:34	12:53	04:44	07:49	09:13
04:33	12:53	04:44	07:50	09:15
04:31	12:53	04:44	07:51	09:16
04:29	12:53	04:44	07:52	09:18
04:28	12:53	04:45	07:53	09:19
04:26	12:53	04:45	07:54	09:20

OPINION

Reflections on Conflict, Crisis, and Human Endurance

— Akbar Haider Kiron

In an age defined by technological brilliance and global connectivity, it is deeply unsettling that humanity remains overshadowed by conflict and uncertainty. From the rising tensions between the United States and Iran, to the enduring volatility involving Israel and the Middle East, the world appears trapped in a persistent cycle of confrontation. Living in New York City—often described as a global capital—I witness daily how interconnected humanity has become. People from nearly every corner of the world live, work, and dream side by side. Yet

even here, far removed from the immediate frontlines, the anxiety of global instability is ever-present. It surfaces in conversations, in headlines, and in the quiet concerns of ordinary lives. Each passing day brings new reminders of fragility—disrupted communities, growing fear, and an uncertain future. War continues not only to redraw borders, but also to reshape human emotions



— Akbar Haider Kiron
Senior Journalist, New York

and the collective conscience. Beyond the realm of global politics, another reality quietly unfolds. In Bangladesh, people often wait for hours for something as basic as fuel. These moments rarely capture international attention, yet they reveal a deeper truth: instability anywhere inevitably affects lives everywhere. This is the paradox of our

time. We are more connected than ever, yet more vulnerable than we acknowledge. A conflict in one region can disrupt lives thousands of miles away, binding humanity in a shared and uneasy fate. Still, amid all this, there is resilience. People endure. They hope. They move forward—whether in the bustling streets of New York or in the long lines of a distant city. Perhaps the real question is not when peace will arrive, but whether humanity is truly ready to choose it.

“

“We are more connected than ever, yet more vulnerable than we acknowledge.”



Image Source: Online

“

“Perhaps the real question is not when peace will arrive, but whether humanity is truly ready to choose it.”

The Gateways to a chest spaciousness (inshiraah as-Sadri)

— Imam Shamsi Ali

In life, the heart often feels tight under the weight of sin, anxiety, and uncertainty. Yet Islam teaches that inner ease is not merely a feeling, but a gift from Allah granted to whomever He wills. Islam calls us to understand that the path to this spaciousness of heart remains open, so long as the heart is willing to humble itself, surrender, and return to Him with complete sincerity. There are moments when the heart feels so constricted that the world seems to close in, leaving no room to breathe in peace. Anxiety arrives uninvited, fear presses in from every side, and the heart feels shackled by something we cannot always describe. But Islam does not leave us to drown into that darkness without direction. Allah has given clear guidance: spaciousness of the heart is a real gift, not an impossible illusion. Allah reminds us: “Whoever Allah wills to guide, He opens his chest to Islam. And whoever He wills to leave astray, He makes his chest tight and constricted, as if he were climbing into the sky.” (Al-An’am: 125) Whether the heart feels open or confined is not just a psychological

phenomenon. It is directly tied to a servant’s relationship with his Lord. When the heart is close to Allah, there is a vastness that human mind cannot explain. And when the heart is distant, even if life looks easy, an unease still presses down. Ibn al-Qayyim captured this profoundly: “A servant’s condition in the grave will be like the condition of his heart in his chest, whether it experiences bliss or torment, constraint or freedom.” This is not mere advice, but a warning: the state of our hearts today mirrors our state tomorrow. If our hearts are spacious in this world through faith, then there will be spaciousness in the grave as well. The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) taught that tranquility and spaciousness of heart are fruits of faith: “He has tasted the sweetness of faith who is pleased with Allah as his Lord, Islam as his religion, and Muhammad as his



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

Messenger.” (Muslim) That “sweetness” is not symbolic. It is felt as real inner peace, an expansive chest, and the fading of excessive worry. The one who is content with Allah is not easily shaken by circumstances, because he knows all things rest in His hand. Among the gateways to a spacious heart is the frequent remembrance of Allah: “Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest.” (Ar-Ra’d: 28) Dhikr is not just words on the tongue, but the presence of the heart in recalling Allah’s greatness. When the heart is occupied with Allah, the space for anxiety shrinks, and the space for tranquility grows. Istighfar is another gateway to ease: “Whoever constantly seeks forgiveness, Allah will make for him a way out of every distress and a relief from every hardship.” (Abu Dawud) Clearly Rasulullah (pbuh) ties

istighfar directly to spaciousness in life. Accumulated sins often weigh the heart down and make it feel tight. When those sins are cleansed through seeking forgiveness, the heart becomes light and open. Tawakkul (full reliance on Allah after striving) is also a gateway to a life of ease. With tawakkul, a person is not trapped in excessive worry, because he entrusts the outcome to the All-Wise. He understands that not everything he desires must happen, and not everything that happens must match his understanding and desire. In the end, feeling tightness in life is not the end of everything. It is a sign that the heart needs to return. It is an alarm reminding us that something in our relationship with Allah needs repair. So do not merely seek escape. Seek the way back to the source of tranquility. May every constriction we feel become a path that returns us to Him, and may every anxiety become a door to deeper ease. For surely, when Allah opens a servant’s heart, nothing can confine it again.

PHILANTHROPY

Halal Food Distribution Brings Relief to Queens Families

STPUSA partners with DYCD and Met Council for recent Jamaica event

James Anderson

In a meaningful show of community care, Save The People USA (STPUSA) recently hosted a Halal Food Distribution in Jamaica, Queens, providing essential food support to families in need with the help of local partners and volunteers. The distribution was held recently at 87-41 165th Street, Jamaica, NY 11432. Supported by DYCD and Met Council, the event focused on ensuring that families had access to halal food in a respectful and organized setting. According to STPUSA, the effort was a “meaningful success,” made possible through



cooperation among volunteers, partners, and community members. The organization said the distribution served families “with dignity and care,” emphasizing that every box was intended to reach those who needed it most.



importance of food assistance programs in neighborhoods where rising living costs continue to affect working families, seniors, and vulnerable residents. By offering halal food options, the program also addressed the

cultural and religious needs of many families in the area. Volunteers played a central role throughout the distribution, helping organize supplies, assist attendees, and ensure the process moved smoothly. Fatima Niass, Office Manager of STPUSA, was also present at the event and worked alongside other volunteers to help distribute food to community members. Her participation reflected the hands-on approach of the organization’s leadership and reinforced the collaborative spirit behind the initiative. For residents, the distribution offered more than groceries. It represented

a visible reminder that local organizations and public partners can work together to respond to everyday needs. Through support from DYCD and Met Council, Save The People USA was able to extend its reach and provide practical assistance to families across Jamaica, Queens. As the event concluded, the message from organizers was clear: compassion must be matched with action. Through this recent halal food distribution, STPUSA and its partners continued their work of supporting neighbors, strengthening community bonds, and helping families move forward with dignity.



PHILANTHROPY

Volunteers help deliver halal food to residents in need



HERITAGE

Historic Arab Heritage

Arab American Association of New York Celebrated at Albany Capitol



Ashley Reed

In a historic celebration of culture, identity, and civic representation, the Arab American Association of New York (AAANY) helped co-organize the first Arab American Heritage

Day at the New York State Capitol in Albany, bringing community members, elected officials, and advocates together for a milestone event. Held in collaboration with Senator Jabari Brisport and



Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, the celebration highlighted the contributions and growing civic presence of Arab Americans and Arab immigrants across New York State. Organizers described the event as the first of its kind at the Capitol, marking an important step in recognizing Arab American heritage within state government spaces. The program brought together community, culture, and leadership in a setting designed to honor heritage while strengthening connections across the state. For AAANY, the event reflected the power of representation and the importance of ensuring Arab American communities are visible in public life and policymaking spaces.

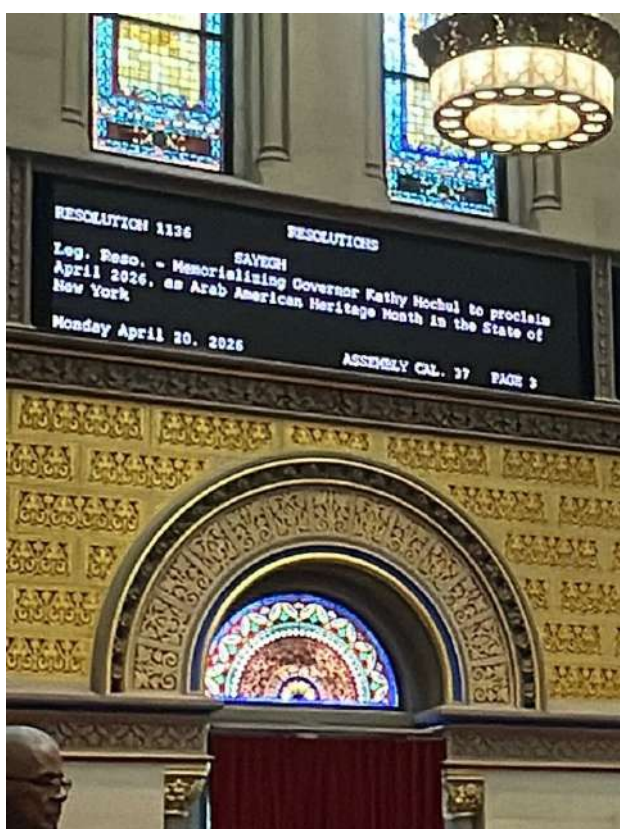
A key moment came as Senator Brisport and Assemblymember Sayegh introduced a resolution memorializing Arab American Heritage Month. During the introduction, AAANY was recognized on both the Senate and Assembly floors, a significant acknowledgment of the organization's work and the broader community it serves. The organization also received proclamations from the offices of Senator Jabari Brisport and Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, recognizing the important role AAANY continues to play in supporting Arab American and immigrant communities in New York. The celebration drew participation from partners, elected

officials, and community supporters who joined in marking the occasion. Organizers expressed gratitude to all those who helped make the day meaningful, emphasizing that the event was not only a cultural celebration but also a statement of belonging and civic strength. By bringing Arab American Heritage Day to the heart of state government, AAANY and its partners underscored the importance of honoring identity while building bridges across communities. The event demonstrated that Arab American voices are not only part of New York's cultural fabric, but also an essential presence in its civic future.



HERITAGE

Heritage Day celebration highlights identity, representation, and civic engagement



ENVIRONMENT



A Greener Queens Takes Shape at Car-Free Earth Day

Save The People USA joins NYC Open Streets for culture, service, and climate action

William Henry

In a lively celebration of environmental awareness and community service, Save The People USA (STPUSA) played a prominent role as a Queens Partner during Car-Free Earth Day 2026, joining NYC DOT, NYC Open Streets, and citywide partners for a day dedicated to cleaner streets, public space, and climate action. Held on Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the annual event opened streets to pedestrians and cyclists across all five boroughs, inviting New Yorkers to walk, bike, dance, play, and take part in cultural and educational programming. Activities throughout the city included art, bike programs, dance, fitness, games, helmet giveaways, music



activities, sports, and environmental engagement. At the Save The People USA booth in Queens, the focus was on youth participation, volunteerism, and community connection. Young participants shared information about their activities,



engaged with visitors,



and helped represent the organization's ongoing commitment to public service and neighborhood empowerment. Among the officials who stopped by was Assemblyman Steven

Raga, who spoke with STPUSA youth, learned about their work, and encouraged their continued community involvement. His visit underscored the importance of giving young people visible roles in civic and environmental initiatives. The booth also welcomed DOT Commissioner Mike Flynn, who helped recognize the efforts of volunteers by distributing Volunteer Appreciation Certificates to more than 30 dedicated volunteers who supported the day's activities. The recognition added a meaningful note to the event, highlighting the behind-the-scenes work that makes community programming possible. Also present were UN Envoy Safety & Security Advisor, STPUSA CEO Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, United

Nations Association Queens President Dr. Seabelo Jhon, JamaHills Association President Saaif Alam, and other community leaders. Their attendance reflected the broad coalition of civic, nonprofit, and community partners involved in the day's success. For STPUSA, the event was more than an Earth Day celebration. It was an opportunity to connect environmental responsibility with youth leadership, public service, and neighborhood unity. By participating in Car-Free Earth Day 2026, the organization helped promote a simple but powerful message: healthier communities begin when residents reclaim public spaces, support one another, and work together for a cleaner future.



ENVIRONMENT

DOT Commissioner Mike Flynn and Assemblyman Steven Raga visit community booth



ENVIRONMENT



Save The People USA recognizes more than 30 volunteers during citywide event





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SUMMIT

ISORF Conference Spotlights Future of Digital Finance

Policymakers, bankers, and entrepreneurs explore AI, investment, and regional growth

Jessica Morgan

Global policymakers, economists, entrepreneurs, and diaspora leaders gathered in Washington, DC, on April 17–18, 2026, for the International Investment and Digital Finance Conference 2026, a two-day forum that concluded with a strong call for greater trust, policy transparency, and investment cooperation between the United States and South Asia. Organized by the U.S.-based nonprofit In Search of Root Foundation (ISORF), the conference examined the rapid transformation of the digital economy and the growing importance of cross-border collaboration. In the opening session, Raihanul Islam Chowdhury, President of ISORF, described digital finance as a present-day reality rather than a future concept. “Digital finance is no longer the future—it is the present reality. Our goal is to build an inclusive, efficient, and interconnected global financial system,” he said. The session



was moderated by Mark Jaffe, CEO and President of the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, who emphasized trust and coordination between public and private sectors. Distinguished participants included Karima M. Woods, Sara Brooks, Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr., Keith Andrew Perry,



John Danilovich, Tarun Kishnani, Major General

Md. Hakimuzzaman, and Ambassador Osman Siddique, among others. Discussions on the first day highlighted the importance of policy clarity, with policy expert Avik Sanwar Rahman noting that “investment can never be sustainable without policy transparency and trust”. The second day featured sessions on

AI-driven banking, small business financing, enterprise growth, and strengthening investment flows between the U.S. and South Asia. Speakers included Dr. Chris Rodriguez, Abubokor Hanip, Suman Timsina, Tahmeed Shahriad, Sarah Blanford, Nikhil Bhatnagar, Shamarukh Mohiuddin, and Michael S. Edwards. Regional

finance leaders also addressed regulatory readiness, investor confidence, and South Asia’s expanding digital infrastructure. A major highlight was the USA–South Asia Digital Finance & Investment Excellence Award 2026, presented to Mastercard, the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, bKash, Trust Bank PLC, and the Bank of Punjab. A special recognition was awarded to Ambassador Osman Siddique for his contributions to strengthening U.S.–South Asia economic and diplomatic ties. The awards were presented by Hanif Channa, Md. Sarwar Hossain, and Raihanul Islam Chowdhury, followed by a cultural segment celebrating diversity and people-to-people connections. By the conference’s close, the message was clear: South Asia is emerging as a promising investment region, but long-term growth will depend on trust, transparency, innovation, and sustained international cooperation.



YOUTH

Young Leaders Shine in NYC Junior Ambassador Program 2026

Elhaam Academy students explore diplomacy and civic leadership



Emily Parker

In a meaningful step toward shaping the next generation of global leaders, students from Elhaam Academy recently participated in the Junior Ambassador Program 2026, an initiative led by the NYC Mayor's Office and the Office for International Affairs. The program, supported by Save The People USA (STPUSA)



as a partner organizer, provided students with

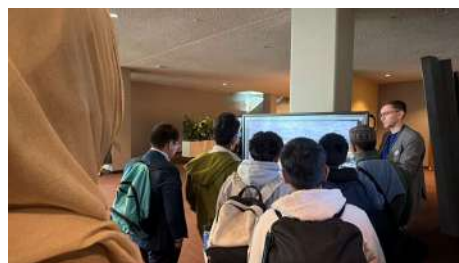


a unique opportunity to engage directly with

concepts of diplomacy, leadership, and civic responsibility. The event brought together young learners eager to expand their understanding of the world beyond the classroom. Through a structured and guided tour, participants were introduced to the foundations of international relations and public service, gaining insight into how cities like New York connect with global communities. The experience emphasized not only knowledge-building but also the importance of representing one's community with confidence and pride. Organizers highlighted the collaborative effort between Elhaam Academy and STPUSA, noting that the program was designed to inspire students to think

critically about their roles in society. By engaging with real-world institutions and ideas, students were encouraged to see themselves as active participants in shaping both local and global futures. Throughout the program, students explored the principles of leadership and civic engagement, learning how individuals can contribute to stronger, more inclusive communities. The initiative underscored the importance of youth involvement in civic spaces, reinforcing the idea that leadership begins with awareness, responsibility, and a willingness to serve. The impact of the Junior Ambassador Program 2026 extended beyond the day's activities. For many participants, the experience served as an

introduction to pathways in public service, international affairs, and community leadership. It also strengthened connections between educational institutions and community organizations, demonstrating how partnerships can create meaningful opportunities for young people. By the program's conclusion, students left with not only new knowledge but also a renewed sense of purpose. Events like this continue to highlight the role of initiatives such as the Junior Ambassador Program in nurturing informed, engaged, and globally minded leaders—individuals who are prepared to contribute thoughtfully to both their communities and the broader world.



YOUTH

Junior Ambassador Program 2026 fosters learning through real-world experiences



BUSINESS

Spotlight on Housing Opportunities at USBCCI Press Event

Real Estate Expo 2026 set to empower first-time home buyers



Noah Presley

In preparation for a major industry gathering, the U.S. Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (USBCCI) recently hosted a “Meet the Press” event to

preview the upcoming 3rd USBCCI Real Estate Expo 2026, bringing together media professionals, business leaders, and real estate stakeholders for an in-depth look at the initiative.



The press meet served as an important platform to outline the goals and vision of the Expo, which is scheduled to take place on May

16, 2026, at the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott. Organizers emphasized that the Expo aims to create meaningful connections across the real estate ecosystem, linking investors, mortgage professionals, real estate agents, and prospective home buyers under one roof. Speakers at the event highlighted the Expo’s role as a dynamic hub for networking, knowledge exchange, and business development. By facilitating direct engagement between industry experts and participants, the event is expected to provide valuable insights into market trends, financing options, and property investment strategies. Particular attention was given to the needs of first-

time home buyers, who will have access to expert guidance and comprehensive information on purchasing and financing homes. According to organizers, the Expo is designed to simplify the home-buying process by bringing essential resources together in a single location. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore real estate opportunities while gaining a clearer understanding of mortgage options and financial planning. This focus reflects a broader effort to make homeownership more accessible and informed for new buyers entering the market. The gathering also underscored the importance of collaboration between

media, industry professionals, and community organizations in promoting economic growth. USBCCI leadership expressed appreciation for the continued support of media representatives in helping amplify initiatives that strengthen both the business and real estate sectors. As anticipation builds for the 3rd USBCCI Real Estate Expo 2026, the press meet set the tone for what organizers hope will be a highly impactful event. By combining industry expertise with community-focused outreach, the Expo is positioned to serve as a valuable resource for individuals and businesses alike, fostering growth and opportunity within the real estate landscape of New York.



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Muslim Advocates Bring Justice Agenda to Capitol Hill

USCMO's 11th annual program draws more than 1,000 activists to Washington

Carlos Stewart

More than 1,000 Muslim activists gathered in Washington, DC, for the 11th Annual National Muslim Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, a two-day mobilization that brought community leaders, students, organizers, and advocates directly into congressional offices to press for civil rights, immigrant protections, and accountability in U.S. policy. Organized by the U.S. Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), the program was held on April 20–21, 2026, under the theme “Dismantling Islamophobia, Demanding Accountability, and Fighting for Justice.” According to the event handbook, the program was designed to help American Muslims engage members of



Congress and advocate for justice, civil rights, and dignity for all communities. The advocacy effort included meetings with 260 members of Congress and congressional offices, according to information shared by participants. Delegates focused on three major priorities: opposing anti-Muslim rhetoric and legislation,



foreign policy. The event began with registration, prayer, opening remarks, and advocacy training before delegates moved into congressional meetings. The handbook outlined a structured program, including a group photo at the U.S. Capitol, meeting spaces in the Rayburn House Office Building, and continued congressional

engagement on the second day. One major focus was opposition to the so-called “Sharia-Free America Caucus” and related bills, which USCMO described as discriminatory measures targeting Islamic religious practices. Delegates also urged lawmakers to support protections for immigrants, due process, and free speech, including oversight of DHS and ICE enforcement practices. Foreign policy was also central to the agenda. Advocates called on Congress to reassert its war powers authority, oppose expanded conflict in the Middle East, and scrutinize the use of U.S. weapons abroad. Participants also raised concerns about Palestinian rights, humanitarian relief, and the broader

consequences of U.S. military policy. The program reflected a growing confidence among Muslim American communities in using grassroots organizing to influence national policy. In one related meeting, CAIR-Georgia Policy Director Megan Gordon led a delegation of Georgia community members in discussions with the office of Rep. Hank Johnson, highlighting the role of local advocacy in shaping federal conversations. By bringing together advocates from across the country, National Muslim Advocacy Day 2026 served as both a policy campaign and a civic statement. Its message was clear: Muslim Americans are organized, engaged, and determined to make their voices heard in the halls of Congress.



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FAITH

Faith Leaders Gather in Queens for ICNA-MAS Luncheon

Annual convention event highlights unity and leadership within the Muslim community

Alex Mason

A gathering of faith leaders and community organizers marked a key moment during the 51st Annual ICNA-MAS Convention (ICNACON 2026), as the Imams and Leadership Luncheon brought together voices of guidance and service on Sunday, April 26, 2026, in Fresh Meadows, New York. Held at Shirazi Kabab House, located at 183-10 Horace Harding Expressway, the luncheon began at 12:00 PM and served as a space for connection, reflection, and shared purpose among attendees. The event formed part of the broader ICNA-MAS convention, a longstanding annual gathering that highlights community engagement, faith, and leadership across the United States.



The luncheon featured Imam Jawad Ahmed, Director of Why Islam, as the guest speaker. His presence underscored the importance of leadership rooted in outreach and education, aligning with the convention's broader mission of strengthening understanding and engagement within and beyond the Muslim community. While specific remarks were not detailed, the



inclusion of a prominent speaker reflected the event's focus on meaningful dialogue and inspiration. Organized with the involvement of several community-based and national organizations, the event showcased a collaborative effort

across multiple initiatives, including outreach, youth engagement, social justice, and humanitarian work. Groups such as Why Islam, ICNA Relief, Helping Hand for Relief and Development, and the ICNA Council

for Social Justice were among those represented, highlighting the diverse network of organizations contributing to community development. Attendees gathered over a shared meal, reinforcing the importance of fellowship in building stronger communal ties. The setting provided an opportunity for imams, leaders, and organizers

to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and reaffirm their commitment to service. As part of ICNACON 2026, which marked 51 years of the convention's legacy, the luncheon reflected the continued emphasis on leadership development and unity. By bringing together individuals at the forefront of community work, the event contributed to ongoing efforts to address challenges, promote understanding, and foster a sense of collective responsibility. The Imams and Leadership Luncheon ultimately stood as a testament to the enduring role of faith-based leadership in shaping community direction, offering a moment of connection and purpose within one of the nation's most prominent Muslim conventions.





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Royal Visit Decision

Final call expected after Washington shooting

Amkel Nourush

A final decision on King Charles and Queen Camilla's planned state visit to the United States is expected on Sunday, after a shooting incident in Washington, D.C. raised fresh security concerns. The visit is still expected to begin on Monday, though officials may adjust some public-facing events. Buckingham Palace said the King was "greatly relieved" that President Donald Trump, Melania



Photo: King Charles III is set to arrive in Washington DC on Monday, where he will be hosted by US President Donald Trump
Image Source : Getty Images / BBC

Trump, and other guests were unharmed. The shooting occurred when a man allegedly

fired several shots while trying to enter the dinner venue. A Secret Service agent was struck but protected by a bulletproof vest. Trump said he expects the visit to proceed, calling Charles "a great guy." Acting U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche said he was "very confident" the King and Queen would be safe. The trip is expected to include events at the White House, Congress, the 9/11 Memorial, and a wreath-laying ceremony in Virginia.



Photo: Fighting between the FLA, Malian army and Russian mercenaries continued on Sunday
Image Source: Azawad Liberation Front via AP/BBC

Mali Conflict Escalates

Separatists claim control of Kidal after attacks

Julian Alvez

Adrian Smith: Russian mercenaries supporting Mali's military have agreed to withdraw from the northern city of Kidal following two days of intense clashes, as separatist forces claimed control of the strategic stronghold. The Azawad Liberation Front (FLA) said an agreement had been reached with Russian fighters from the Africa Corps to ensure their "secure withdrawal" from the city after renewed fighting on Sunday. The group later stated it was escorting the mercenaries out, marking a significant shift in control of a region long contested by government and rebel forces. The development comes amid a wave of coordinated

attacks across Mali on Saturday, targeting multiple locations including Bamako, Kati, Gao, Sevare, and Mopti. Analysts described the assault as one of the largest in recent years, involving both separatist fighters and jihadist groups. Unconfirmed reports indicated that Defence Minister Sadio Camara was killed in a car bomb near Kati, though the government has not officially verified the claim. Mali's military said the violence "will not go unanswered," as curfews and heightened security measures were imposed nationwide. The latest escalation underscores ongoing instability in the country, where insurgent groups continue to challenge government control.

Florida Tragedy Unfolds

Bangladeshi PhD student found dead near bridge

Nassr Al Shams

A missing Bangladeshi PhD student at the University of South Florida has been found dead, while authorities continue searching for another Bangladeshi doctoral student who disappeared the same day. Officials said the body of Zamil Limon, 27, was recovered near the Howard Frankland Bridge after he and Nahida Sultana Bristy, 27, were reported missing. Limon was studying geography, environmental science and policy, while Bristy is a chemical engineering doctoral student.



Photos: Nahida Sultana Bristy and Zamil Limon, the two reported missing.
Image Source: Online

Authorities arrested Limon's roommate, Hisham Saleh Abugharbieh, 26, after responding to a domestic violence call near the USF campus. He faces several

preliminary charges, including battery, false imprisonment, tampering with evidence, failure to report a death, and unlawfully moving a dead body. Investigators said Abugharbieh was linked to Limon's body after questioning. A SWAT team, drones, and crisis negotiators were involved before he surrendered peacefully. Bangladesh's diplomatic officials in the U.S. said they are in contact with American authorities as the search for Bristy continues. The case has shaken the Bangladeshi student community, raising grief, concern, and calls for justice.

Royal Astrolabe Auction

Rare 17th-century instrument heads to Sotheby's

Julian Alvez

A rare 17th-century brass astrolabe, once part of the royal collection of Jaipur, is set to be auctioned at Sotheby's London on April 29, drawing attention from collectors and museums worldwide. The hand-held astronomical instrument, described by Sotheby's as possibly the largest of its kind, was made in Lahore by brothers Qa'im Muhammad and Muhammad Muqim for a Mughal nobleman. Astrolabes were once used to tell time, map stars, calculate direction, and study the motion of the sky.



Photo: The astrolabe, which was in a private collection for years, will be auctioned at Sotheby's in London
Image Source: Sotheby's /BBC

The piece later belonged to Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II and passed to Maharani Gayatri Devi before entering a private collection. Measuring nearly 30 centimeters across, standing about 46 centimeters tall and weighing 8.2 kilograms, it is far larger than typical Indian astrolabes of the period.

Its inscriptions include Persian star names alongside Sanskrit equivalents in Devanagari, reflecting the scientific and cultural exchange of the Mughal era. Sotheby's has estimated the object at £1.5 million to £2.5 million. It will be displayed in London from April 24 to 29 before the auction.

2026

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