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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: Rayner issues 'last chance' warning to Starmer and backs Burnham's return
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

Rayner Warns Starmer

Labour pressure grows after losses

John Paul

Angela Rayner has warned Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer that Labour may be facing its "last chance" after heavy election losses increased pressure on his leadership. In a statement after Thursday's elections, Rayner said Labour must do more to address inequality, low wages and squeezed living standards. She warned that the party was in danger of becoming one for the well-off rather than working people, adding, "What we are doing isn't working, and it needs to change." Rayner also backed Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham's return to Westminster, saying Labour made a mistake by blocking him from standing in the Gorton and Denton by-election. The comments came after Labour lost nearly 1,500 councillors in England and power in the Welsh Parliament. Starmer is expected to defend his leadership in a speech on Monday.

Hondius Passengers Repatriated

Countries begin quarantine flights from Canary Islands

Alexandar Sullivan

Evacuations began Sunday from the MV Hondius, a cruise ship anchored off Tenerife after a hantavirus outbreak prompted an international health response. Spanish passengers were the first to leave the vessel, followed by evacuation flights for passengers from France, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Greece, and other countries. Officials said more flights were expected through Monday, including for travelers from the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey, Australia, and nearby nations. Health authorities said none of the more than 140 passengers and crew remaining on board had shown symptoms. However, protective



Photo: Passenger waves while leaving the hantavirus-stricken MV Hondius in Tenerife.
Image Source: AP Photo

gear was used during disembarkation, and passengers were allowed to carry only essential items. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the general public should

not panic, stressing, "This is not another COVID." Still, countries are arranging quarantine and daily health monitoring for returning passengers. Three people have died since the outbreak, and

five former passengers have tested positive. The ship is expected to continue to Rotterdam, Netherlands, for disinfection after evacuations are complete.

Hormuz Deal Unclear

Nuclear dispute complicates diplomacy

Lily Anderson

Iran has sent its response to a U.S. proposal aimed at ending the war, a diplomatic move that came as drone incidents across the Gulf tested a fragile ceasefire and raised new concerns over regional security. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country, which has served as mediator, received Tehran's reply but could not share details. Iranian state media said the response focused on "ending the war and maritime security" in the Gulf and

the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil and natural gas shipments. The United States has not publicly released its proposal, but reports say it includes a 14-point memorandum involving



Photo: Traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for oil and gas, has largely stopped
Image Source: AFP via Getty Images

Iran's nuclear program, sanctions relief and the reopening of the strait. President Donald Trump has warned that bombing could resume at greater intensity if Iran rejects a deal.

The diplomatic effort was overshadowed by new security incidents. A vessel near Doha, Qatar, was hit by an unknown projectile, while Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates reported drones entering their airspace. No casualties were reported. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the war could not end until Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and remaining enrichment sites are addressed, underscoring the difficult path ahead for diplomacy



Photo: Russian military servicemen gather during the Victory Day parade
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

Moscow Parade Scaled Back

Security fears changed Victory Day

Henry Bob

Moscow's Victory Day parade on Red Square was unusually subdued this year, with fewer journalists, fewer guests and no heavy military hardware on display. The 2026 event, marking 81 years since the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany in 1945, was scaled back because of security concerns over possible Ukrainian drone attacks. Unlike past parades, tanks, missile launchers and intercontinental ballistic missiles were absent. Instead, military equipment appeared on giant screens around the square. The parade passed

without incident after a last-minute ceasefire between Moscow and Kyiv, brokered by Donald Trump, reduced the risk of attack. In his speech, President Vladimir Putin said, "We always were and always will be victorious!" But the quieter parade reflected how the ongoing war in Ukraine continues to cast a shadow over Russia's most symbolic national celebration.

Frontier Plane Hits Trespasser

Denver runway incident under review

Rodrigo Diaz

A Frontier Airlines flight bound for Los Angeles aborted takeoff after striking and killing a person on a runway at Denver International Airport late Friday night, prompting an emergency evacuation and federal review. Officials said Flight 4345 hit the unidentified person at about 11:19

p.m. after the individual reportedly climbed a perimeter fence and crossed onto the runway. Authorities said the person was not believed to be an airport employee. Air traffic control audio captured the pilot saying, "We just hit somebody. We have an engine fire." Smoke was reported in the cabin, and all 224 passengers

and seven crew members were evacuated by emergency slides. Airport officials said 12 passengers suffered minor injuries, and five were taken to hospitals. The National Transportation Safety Board said it is gathering information about the evacuation to determine whether a safety investigation is needed.

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Hajj: A Timely Reminder That All Humans Are Equal

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Farewell to Bristy, Janaza Held in Florida

NYN Desk

The namaz-e-janaza of Nahida Sultana Bristy, a Bangladeshi PhD student at the University of South Florida, was held in Florida before her remains were sent home to Bangladesh for burial. Bristy, who was studying chemical engineering, was killed in Florida, United States, in a case that has deeply shaken the Bangladeshi student community and diaspora. Her remains reached Dhaka on Saturday morning and were later taken to Madaripur Sadar, where another janaza and burial were held. Bristy had been reported missing along with fellow



Bangladeshi doctoral student Zamil Limon, whose body was also recovered in Florida. Authorities previously arrested Hisham Saleh Abugharbieh, Limon's roommate, in connection with the investigation. Community members said the tragedy has brought grief and concern among Bangladeshis at home and abroad, especially students pursuing higher education overseas. The funeral prayers in Florida reflected both sorrow and solidarity, as friends, community members, and well-wishers gathered to honor Bristy's life and pray for justice.



Photo: Canvas breach disrupts students' access to study materials
Image Source: abc7ny.com

Canvas Breach Disrupts

Senior Reporter

A cybersecurity incident affecting the Canvas learning platform has disrupted access to course materials at Columbia University, adding pressure for students preparing for final exams. Canvas, used by colleges to share lectures, assignments, messages, and study resources, was affected after its parent company reported on May 2 that it had been targeted by a "criminal threat actor." Columbia said Thursday night that it was aware of widespread Canvas issues and was investigating. Students said the timing made the disruption especially difficult. "I really need the materials on it because all my lecture materials are on it," sophomore Jerry Yan said. Senior Zion James said upcoming science and psychology exams could be affected because class slides were uploaded to Canvas. Cybersecurity expert Rachel Tobac, CEO of SocialProof Security, warned that exposed information may include names, emails, phone numbers, student IDs, and internal messages. She said such data could be used to create convincing phishing emails or texts pretending to come from professors. The incident highlights how dependent students and universities have become on digital learning tools, especially during high-stakes exam periods.

Staten Island shop marks six decades of tradition



Photo: Buono Bakery's pastry showcase reflects a legacy dating to 1964 on Hylan Boulevard.
Image Source: Advance/SILive.com | Pamela Silvestri

News Correspondent

More than 60 years after opening on Hylan Boulevard, Buono Bakery continues to serve Staten Island with the same Italian recipes that first made it a neighborhood institution. The bakery began in 1964, when Joseph Buono took over a shop in Grasmere, just before the opening of the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge transformed the borough. Since then, Buono's has grown with Staten Island while preserving its traditional pastries, cakes and breads. Current owner Dianne Buono, who took over with her husband in 1990, said the bakery's strength remains its commitment to consistency. "The recipes are all the same," she said, recalling the work ethic and passion passed down by her father-in-law. Inside the bakery, Dianne and her brother Frankie DiPilli continue the daily rhythm of baking, filling, frosting and preparing pastries for loyal customers. While the shop has added newer items such as cupcakes, brownies and black-and-white cookies, classics like sfogliatelle, éclairs and rum baba remain central. For many Staten Islanders, Buono Bakery is more than a business. It is a family tradition, a neighborhood memory and a reminder of the borough's Italian-American roots.

Queens Day in Albany



Photo: Queens Chamber and business leaders meet elected officials in Albany for Queens Day.
Image Source : Joseph Connor

Staff Reporter

The Queens Chamber of Commerce joined hundreds of business leaders at the New York State Capitol on Tuesday, May 5, for Queens Day, an annual advocacy event focused on the borough's economic future. Local entrepreneurs, industry representatives, and community leaders met with state senators and assemblymembers to discuss priorities from the Chamber's 2026 legislative agenda. Key issues included expanding economic opportunities, strengthening the local workforce, and making it easier for small businesses to grow. "Showing up in Albany and having real conversations with our elected officials

is how we move the needle for Queens businesses," said Tom Grech, president and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. He praised the strong turnout and thanked lawmakers for listening to the concerns of the borough's business community. The day ended with a Taste of Queens reception, featuring more than 40 Queens restaurants and 10 cultural organizations. Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Met, Carlos Beltran, NYFCF mascot Sky Scraper, and Queens hip-hop pioneer Ralph McDaniels as guest DJ. The event showcased Queens as both an economic engine and one of New York's most diverse cultural centers.

NYC board advances preliminary rent ranges



Photo: NYC Rent Guidelines Board advances rent proposals, including a possible freeze for stabilized tenants.
Image Source: Lloyd Mitchell

Community Desk

The New York City Rent Guidelines Board advanced preliminary rent ranges on May 7 that could allow a rent freeze for more than 2 million rent-stabilized tenants, while

still leaving the door open to increases. The board voted to consider 0% to 2% increases on one-year leases and 0% to 4% on two-year leases for rent-stabilized apartments and lofts. A final decision is scheduled for June 25, following four public hearings. The vote marks a major early test for Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who campaigned on a rent-freeze pledge and appointed a majority of the board's members. After the vote, Mamdani said New Yorkers are being "crushed by the cost of living" and urged tenants and owners to testify. Tenant advocates welcomed the possibility of a freeze but criticized the board for keeping hikes on the table. Landlord groups argued the ranges ignore rising operating costs, including higher fuel and insurance expenses. The final decision will shape housing costs for rent-stabilized households across the city and could become one of the most closely watched affordability decisions of Mamdani's administration.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:14	12:52	04:47	08:02	09:32
04:12	12:52	04:47	08:03	09:33
04:11	12:52	04:48	08:04	09:34
04:09	12:52	04:48	08:05	09:36
04:08	12:52	04:48	08:06	09:37
04:07	12:52	04:49	08:07	09:38
04:06	12:52	04:49	08:08	09:40

OPINION

Staten Island shop marks
six decades
of tradition
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Hajj: A Timely Reminder That All Humans Are Equal

— Imam Shamsi Ali

This week, millions of Muslims worldwide begin the final preparations for Hajj, the sacred pilgrimage to Mecca. Flights are departing. Visas are being stamped. In many countries, families are holding celebrations for loved ones who waited decades for this moment. Hajj is one of the most logistically complex religious events on earth. But its real power isn't in the crowds or the rituals. It's in the message: Human beings are one family. That message is baked into the Qur'an's call to Hajj. When God commanded the pilgrimage, He didn't address "Muslims" or "believers." He addressed mankind. "Proclaim to mankind the Hajj. They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass." — Qur'an 22:27 "To Allah from mankind is a pilgrimage to the House — for whoever is able." — Qur'an 3:97 The word choice is deliberate. Hajj was designed as a global, multiracial, multicultural assembly from day one. Today, over 2 million pilgrims stand shoulder to shoulder — Black, white, Arab, Asian, Latino, rich, poor —

wearing the same simple white cloths. No titles. No flags. No VIP lines. A 1,400-Year-Old Answer to White Supremacy This matters right now. As white supremacy and ethno-nationalism surge across America and Europe, Hajj offers a radical counter-vision. In his only Hajj, the Prophet Muhammad stood on the Plain of Arafat and delivered what many call the first human rights charter. His words are worth quoting in full: "Your Lord is One, and your father is one. All of you are from Adam, and Adam was created from dust. No Arab has superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab; no white has superiority over a black, nor a black over a white — except by piety." That was 632 CE. The Geneva Human Rights Commission wouldn't echo it for another 1,300 years. Hajj forces us to live that sermon.



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

You can't be a white supremacist on the Hajj. You can't be a tribalist. You're literally forced to circle the Kaaba with people you've been taught to fear or despise back home. You eat with them. Sleep near them. Ask forgiveness with them. Only One Supremacy Is Allowed Islam rejects every form of racial dominance — white supremacy, black supremacy, Arab supremacy, all of it. There is only one supremacy in Islam: God's. Muslims affirm it 17 times a day in prayer: Allahu Akbar — God is Greater. And that belief has consequences. If only God is supreme, then no human can claim inherent superiority. If we all came from Adam, then the borders we kill over are imaginary. If nobility is based on taqwa — God-consciousness, character, and deeds — then your passport, skin color, and bank account

are irrelevant before God. "The most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." — Qur'an 49:13 America loves to talk about "equal opportunity." Islam established it as theology. On the Hajj, a street sweeper from Senegal and a prince from Saudi Arabia have the exact same chance to earn God's favor. The only currency is character. The Real Test of Hajj Of course, rituals mean nothing without results. The Prophet said the sign of an accepted Hajj — a Hajj mabrur — isn't the photos or the title "Haji." It's whether you come home transformed. More honest. More humble. Less racist. More merciful. In a world fracturing along racial and national lines, that transformation isn't just personal. It's political. Hajj reminds 1.9 billion Muslims annually that the human family is real, and that we will be judged not by our ancestors, but by our actions. In an age of walls, bans, and "us vs. them" rhetoric, that's not just a religious message. It's a necessary one.



"Hajj is one of the most logistically complex religious events on earth. But its real power isn't in the crowds or the rituals. It's in the message: Human beings are one family."



Photo: A picture of the Holy Hajj
Image Source: Online



"On the Hajj, a street sweeper from Senegal and a prince from Saudi Arabia have the exact same chance to earn God's favor. The only currency is character."

Mother's Day in the Light of Islam

— Dr. Umama Siddique

Mother's Day is a special occasion celebrated around the world to honor mothers for their love, sacrifice, and endless care. In Islam, respect and kindness toward mothers are not limited to one day in a year. Rather, honoring one's mother is a lifelong duty and one of the greatest acts of worship after obedience to Allah (God Almighty). Islam gives a very high status to mothers. The Qur'an repeatedly reminds believers about the sacrifices mothers make for their children. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: "And We have enjoined upon man goodness to his parents. His mother carried him in hardship upon hardship, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the final destination." (Surah Luqman 31:14) This verse highlights the physical and emotional struggles a mother endures during pregnancy, childbirth, and raising her child. A mother sacrifices her comfort, sleep, health, and personal desires for the wellbeing of her children. Islam teaches that children can never fully repay the kindness of their mothers. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized the importance of mothers in many sayings. One famous hadith states that a man came to the Prophet and asked: "Who among people is most deserving of my good companionship?" The Prophet replied, "Your mother."

The man asked, "Then who?" He replied, "Your mother." The man asked again, "Then who?" He replied, "Your mother." The man asked once more, "Then who?" He replied, "Then your father." (Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim) This hadith beautifully demonstrates the elevated status of mothers in Islam. Scholars explain that mothers are mentioned three times because of the immense sacrifices they make in pregnancy, childbirth, and nurturing children. Another powerful hadith teaches: "Paradise lies beneath the feet of mothers." This statement reflects the great reward and blessings connected with serving and respecting one's mother. Pleasing one's mother can be a means of entering Paradise, while hurting or disrespecting her is considered a serious sin. In today's busy world, many people become occupied with careers, social media, and personal ambitions, often forgetting the emotional needs of their parents. Mother's Day can serve as an important reminder for Muslims to reconnect with their mothers and show appreciation. However, Islam



— Dr. Umama Siddique
Writer, Educator

encourages believers to honor mothers every day, not only during annual celebrations. There are many ways Muslims can show kindness and gratitude to their mothers. Simple actions such as speaking gently, helping with household responsibilities, spending quality time, calling regularly, and making prayers (du'a) for them are highly rewarding acts. Even a smile or kind word can bring happiness to a mother's heart. For those whose mothers have passed away, Islam still encourages maintaining kindness toward them through prayer, charity, and good deeds. The Prophet Muhammad taught that children can continue benefiting their deceased parents by making prayers and giving charity on their behalf. Visiting relatives and friends connected to one's mother is also considered an act of loyalty and respect. Islam also teaches balance and mercy in family relationships. Mothers carry enormous emotional and physical responsibilities, especially in modern society. Muslim communities should support mothers by creating environments where they are respected, protected, and appreciated. Mothers are not

only caregivers; they are teachers, nurturers, and the foundation of strong families and communities. At the same time, mothers themselves hold an important responsibility in Islam. They are the first teachers of faith, manners, compassion, and character. Many great scholars and leaders in Islamic history were shaped by the guidance and prayers of righteous mothers. The role of a mother in building future generations is invaluable. Mother's Day should therefore inspire reflection, gratitude, and action. It is an opportunity to thank Allah for the blessing of mothers and to renew our commitment to serving them with love and patience. A society that respects mothers is a society built on mercy, compassion, and strong moral values. As Muslims, we should remember that honoring our mothers is not merely a cultural tradition; it is a command from Allah and a practice of the Prophet Muhammad. Whether through words, actions, or prayers, every effort to make our mothers happy is beloved to Allah. May Allah bless all mothers, grant them health, happiness, and peace, and reward them abundantly for their sacrifices. May He also guide children to fulfill their responsibilities toward their parents with sincerity, respect, and love. Ameen.

EDUCATION

Learning Blooms at Queens Botanical Garden Field Trip

Elhaam Academy students experience nature through exploration and curiosity

James Anderson

Young students from Elhaam Academy recently stepped outside the classroom and into the natural world during an educational field trip to the Queens Botanical Garden, where learning came alive among plants, flowers, and open green spaces. The visit brought together KG, 1st grade, and 2nd grade students for a day centered on exploration, observation, and hands-on discovery. Surrounded by colorful blooms and garden pathways, the children had the opportunity to experience nature directly, turning classroom curiosity into real-world learning. Throughout the trip, students explored different plants



and flowers while spending time outdoors with classmates and teachers. The experience encouraged them to ask questions,

notice details in their surroundings, and develop a deeper appreciation for the environment. For young learners, the

garden provided a living classroom where science, nature, and imagination came together. The field trip also offered

important social benefits. As students walked through the garden and shared discoveries with friends, they practiced cooperation, communication, and teamwork. These moments helped strengthen classroom bonds while giving children a joyful setting to learn together. For Elhaam Academy, the visit reflected



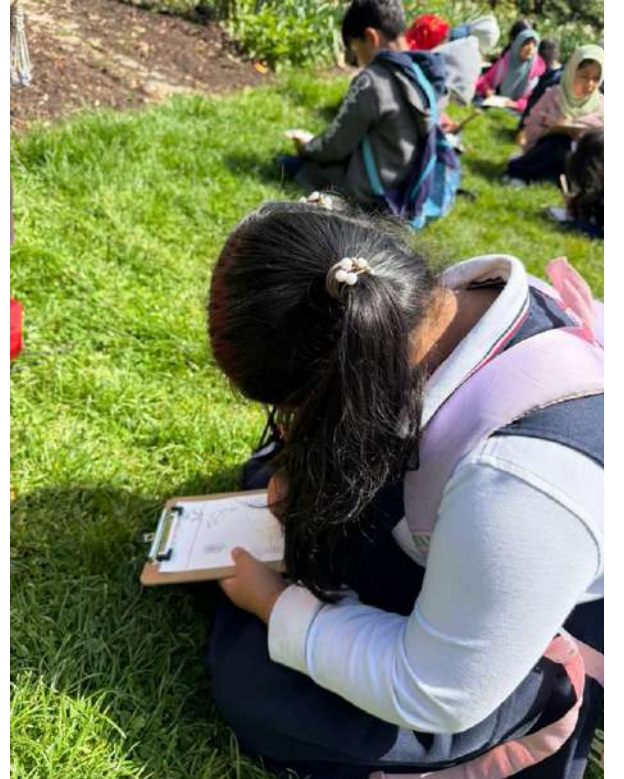
the value of learning beyond textbooks. Educational outings like this help students

connect academic lessons to everyday life, making concepts more memorable and meaningful. By engaging with nature firsthand, children gain not only knowledge but also confidence and a sense of wonder. The trip to Queens Botanical Garden was described as a day filled with fun, curiosity, and discovery. It highlighted how early childhood education can be enriched through community resources and outdoor experiences. As the students returned from the visit, the impact of the day was clear: learning does not only happen inside a classroom. Sometimes, it blooms in a garden, where young minds can explore, connect, and grow.

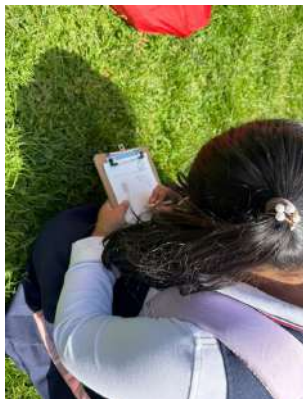


EDUCATION

Young learners enjoy hands-on lessons beyond the classroom



KG, 1st, and 2nd graders connect with plants, flowers, and the natural world



EDUCATION

Children learn through nature, play, and hands-on experiences



RECOGNITION

DU Alumni Celebrate New Bangladesh Open University Vice Chancellor

Professor Dr. Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan recognized for academic leadership



Ashley Reed

In a warm tribute to a respected scholar and educator, former students of the DU Islamic History and Culture Department Alumni Association recently hosted a reception honoring Professor Dr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman Khan following his appointment as

Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University (BOU). The event was held recently at the DU Social Science Faculty Auditorium, bringing together former students, colleagues, well-wishers, and members of the academic community. The gathering reflected deep admiration for Professor Khan's long

career in teaching, research, and educational leadership. Professor Dr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman Khan is a professor in the Department of Islamic History and Culture at the University of Dhaka and is widely known as a historian, administrator, organizer, South Asian political analyst, and media personality. Before taking charge



at Bangladesh Open University, he served in several major academic and administrative roles, including Acting Proctor of Dhaka University, Chairman of the Department of Islamic History and Culture, Provost of Sir P. J. Hartog International Hall, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Speakers at the

reception highlighted his distinguished academic journey. He earned his master's degree from the University of Dhaka, securing first class first position in Islamic History and Culture, and later completed his Ph.D. on "Politics and Aristocracy in Nawabi Bengal." His career began as a lecturer at BAF Shaheen College before he joined the University of Dhaka as a lecturer in 1996. Professor Khan's administrative contributions have also been extensive. He has served as General Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Senate Member of Dhaka University, Syndicate Member of Southeast University, and member of several national academic and cultural bodies, including the Bangladesh National Museum Board of Trustees and

UNESCO's Memory of the World National Committee. Beyond administration, his scholarly work remains significant. He has published more than 35 research articles and authored or edited more than 15 books, including works on Nawabi Bengal, Mughal India, the Ottoman Empire, Dhaka University, and Bangladesh's history from 1972 to 2014. The reception celebrated not only an appointment, but a lifetime of service to education and knowledge. Attendees expressed pride in seeing a former student and longtime teacher of the department assume such an important national academic role, and wished Professor Dr. Md. Siddiqur Rahman Khan continued success as he leads Bangladesh Open University into its next chapter.



REFLECTION

A Message of Respect During Friday Prayer

Khutba at Elhaam Academy, addresses insult, discrimination, and mutual care

William Henry

A meaningful message of empathy and respect was delivered during a recent Friday khutba at Elhaam Academy, where worshippers were reminded of a core Islamic principle: love for your Muslim brother and sister what you love for yourself.

The sermon focused on how faith should shape everyday behavior, especially in the way people speak to and treat one another. The message was direct and practical: no one wants to be insulted, discriminated against, or disrespected, and therefore no one should treat others in that way. The khutba encouraged attendees to reflect on their own actions and relationships. It



emphasized that kindness is not only expressed through words, but also through restraint, fairness, and sensitivity toward others.

If a person would not want to be mocked, excluded, or mistreated, the sermon reminded worshippers, then they should avoid causing

that same pain to someone else. The topic carried particular importance in a community and educational setting



like Elhaam Academy, where young people are learning not only academic lessons but also values that shape character. By connecting religious teaching with real-life conduct, the khutba offered a timely reminder that respect begins with self-awareness and accountability. The sermon also highlighted the broader social impact of Islamic brotherhood and sisterhood. Communities become stronger when members protect one another's dignity, avoid

harmful speech, and reject discrimination. Such teachings help create an environment where people feel safe, valued, and included. For students, families, and community members in attendance, the khutba served as more than a weekly religious address. It was a lesson in emotional responsibility and moral leadership. The message encouraged worshippers to carry the spirit of Friday prayer into classrooms, homes, workplaces, and community spaces. By centering the khutba on compassion and mutual respect, Elhaam Academy reinforced the importance of building a community rooted in dignity, care, and sincere concern for others.



SOLIDARITY

Global Humanitarian Leaders Gather for MIF 2026

Forum highlights trust, institutional excellence, and community impac

Jessica Morgan

In a global gathering centered on collaboration and humanitarian progress, Human Concern USA recently participated in the Muslim Impact Forum 2026 (MIF2026) in Istanbul, Turkey, joining leaders from more than 50 countries for discussions on strengthening impact through shared action. The forum, held under the theme "Prosperity through Collective Action," brought together nonprofit leaders, humanitarian professionals, and changemakers to explore how organizations can work more effectively across borders. For Human Concern USA, the event offered an opportunity to engage with global partners and bring back practical insights for the communities it serves. Representing the organization, Masum Mahbub, CEO of Human



Concern USA, joined Global CEO Mahmuda Khan and other international leaders in sessions focused on raising institutional standards, improving accountability, and rebuilding public trust. These conversations reflected a broader need within the humanitarian sector to ensure that service is not only compassionate, but also



organized, transparent, and sustainable. Keynote sessions and panel discussions examined how faith-based and community-driven institutions can strengthen their work by adopting higher

standards of leadership and collaboration. Participants also discussed the importance of public confidence, especially at a time when communities increasingly look to

nonprofit organizations for stability, relief, and long-term support. The presence of leaders from more than 50 countries gave the forum a distinctly international character, allowing participants to exchange lessons from different regions and social contexts. That global exchange was one of the event's most significant

outcomes, showing how local service can be strengthened through worldwide cooperation. Following the forum, Human Concern USA described the experience as powerful and inspiring, noting that its leadership returned with renewed commitment to turning global insights into lasting change. The organization emphasized that meaningful humanitarian work depends on both vision and disciplined execution. By taking part in MIF2026, Human Concern USA reinforced its commitment to excellence, trust, and collective responsibility. The gathering in Istanbul served as a reminder that lasting community impact is strongest when organizations work together, learn from one another, and build systems rooted in integrity and shared purpose.




Bangla Eurovision GLOBAL SUMMIT
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LEADERSHIP

America's Muslim Network Honors New York's Influential 65

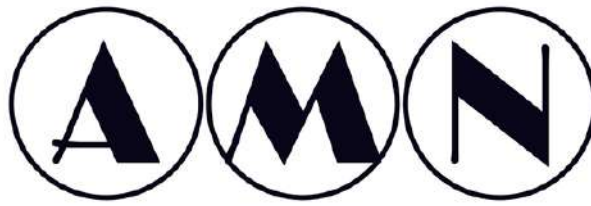
AMN Gala Edition celebrates leadership, legacy, and community excellence

Emily Parker

America's Muslim Network (AMN) celebrated a broad cross-section of Muslim leadership at its 2025 AMN Gala Edition, unveiling "The Influential 65" to honor individuals whose work has strengthened communities across New York State. Presented under the theme "Power. Leadership. Legacy.," the recognition highlighted leaders serving in government, law, education, faith, healthcare, business, media, nonprofit advocacy, public safety, and humanitarian work. According to the AMN list, the honorees were not ranked, but recognized equally for their unique contributions to New York's Muslim community. The 2025 honorees included Zohran Mamdani, Imam Khalid Latif, Ali Najmi, Dr. Debbie Almontaser, Lina Khan, Farrah Mozawalla, Dr. Yusef Abdus Salaam, Shahriar Rahman,



Mohammad Mohsin Awais, Kwani O'Pharrow, Charles D. Falls, Sara M. Pervez, SQ, Shahana Hanif, Afaf Nasher, Isma Chaudhry, Kashif Hussain, Adeel Rana, Dr. Sheikh Faiyaz Jaffer, Husein Yatabarry, Imam Zameer Sattaur, Arshad Jamal, Ather Tirmizi, Hanadi Doleh, Adama Bah, Salman Rizwan, Toufique Harun, Omar Jamal, Saadia Z. Yunus, Mahir S. Nisar, Qari Nazrul Islam, Nadia M. Pervez Bilal, Shahid Khan, Jibreel W. Sarij, Ammad Sheikh, Raza Dastgir, Rafiq Faiz, Ali Rashid, Dr. Hasib Mikael Sarij, Zahid Syed, Sabbir Ahmed, Mamadou Siré



— AMERICA'S MUSLIM NETWORK —

Bah, Imam Wesley, Carell Ali Lasso Paz, Imam Ahmed Ali, Lena Maasarani, Rana AbdelHamid, Ali Mushtaq, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Yamina Kezadri, Sadiqur Rahman, Mohamed Bahi, Wazma Hassan, Sadri Altinok, Shaniyat Turani, Fahd Ahmed, Azra Dhar, Shamsul Haque, Mufti Mohammad Farhan, Dr. Malik Nadeem Abid,

Mohammad Razvi, Muhammad Shahidullah, Muhammad Liajul Hassan, Hamza Khamisa, and Iqra Tanveer. The honorees represented the depth and diversity of Muslim contribution in New York, from elected officials and attorneys to educators, imams, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, public safety leaders, youth

organizers, civil rights advocates, and media figures. Together, their recognition reflected a community that is not only growing in visibility, but also shaping public life through service, representation, advocacy, and institution-building. For many attendees and community members, The Influential 65 also carried symbolic importance. It highlighted leaders whose work often extends beyond titles or offices, reaching families, neighborhoods, schools, mosques, nonprofits, civic spaces, and government institutions. By placing these names

together, AMN presented a broader picture of Muslim leadership in New York—one rooted in faith, public service, professional excellence, and a shared commitment to community progress. In a message shared for the gala, Kevin Shakil, Founder of America's Muslim Network, described the recognition as a celebration of "impact, leadership, and service." He noted that each honoree has contributed meaningfully through faith, advocacy, business, education, public service, and grassroots work. The gala served as more than an awards program. It became a public statement about Muslim visibility, achievement, and civic participation in New York. By bringing together The Influential 65, AMN underscored the importance of recognizing leaders whose work uplifts families, builds bridges, protects rights, expands opportunity, and inspires future generations to serve with purpose.



LEADERSHIP

The Influential 65 honors civic, faith, and community contributions



All Photo Credit :Awaz News

BUSINESS

North America EHVAC Celebrates Grand Opening in Yonkers

Modern supply center brings new business activity to the community

Noah Presley

A new business focused on heating, cooling, and electrical wholesale services has officially opened its doors in Yonkers, New York, adding a modern supply center to the area's growing commercial landscape. Operating under the name North America EHVAC, the newly launched facility aims to provide essential products and services for contractors, technicians, and businesses working in the HVAC and electrical industries. Located prominently along a busy roadway in Yonkers, the newly renovated storefront features large signage reading "North America EHVAC – Heating, Cooling & Electrical Wholesale" alongside notices announcing the business is "Now Open." The facility also identifies itself as an "Electrical &



HVAC Supply House," signaling its focus on providing equipment, supplies, and technical solutions related to climate control and electrical systems. The opening reflects the continued demand for heating and cooling infrastructure across residential and commercial sectors in the New York region. HVAC systems remain a critical component

of homes, offices, and industrial buildings, particularly in areas that experience both harsh winters and warm summer temperatures. Businesses like North America EHVAC play an important role in supporting contractors and service providers with access to tools, replacement parts, and specialized equipment. Community members

and local business observers noted that the new center is expected to contribute positively to the local economy by increasing commercial activity and supporting skilled trades. Supply houses often serve as key operational hubs for electricians, HVAC mechanics, maintenance professionals, and property management teams seeking reliable access to materials and

technical products. The exterior of the facility presents a clean and modern appearance, with a spacious layout and visible product displays through the front windows. The business also appears equipped to handle wholesale operations and logistical support, including loading and distribution activities for contractors

and commercial customers. As infrastructure upgrades and energy-efficiency projects continue across the region, businesses connected to heating, cooling, and electrical services are seeing increased importance. The opening of North America EHVAC comes at a time when many homeowners and commercial property operators are investing in improved ventilation systems, energy-saving technologies, and climate-control solutions. With its official launch now complete, North America EHVAC enters the Yonkers business community as a new resource for HVAC and electrical supply needs, offering products and services designed to support both everyday maintenance and larger construction or renovation projects.



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee

FAITH

Hajj 2026 Approaches as Pilgrims Prepare for Sacred Journey

Faith, unity, and practical travel guidance shape the annual pilgrimage



Carlos Stewart

As Hajj 2026 approaches, millions of Muslims around the world are preparing for one of the most sacred journeys in Islam: the pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, a spiritual obligation that



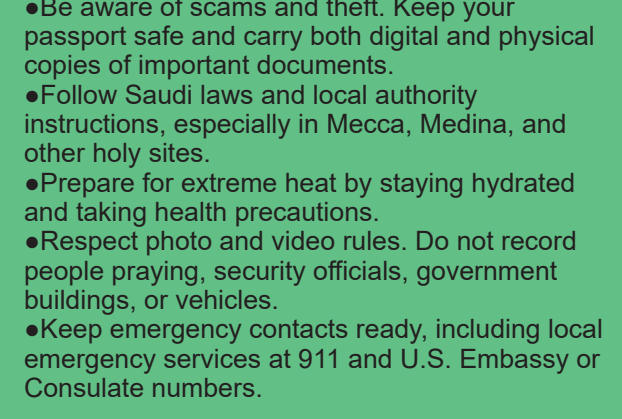
symbolizes devotion, equality, sacrifice, and unity. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and is required once in a lifetime for Muslims

who are physically and financially able to perform it. During the pilgrimage, Muslims from every race, nationality, and social background gather

in the same sacred spaces, dressed simply and standing together before Allah. The experience is meant to renew faith, cleanse the heart, and remind believers of humility, patience, and accountability. Beyond its religious meaning, Hajj carries a powerful social message. It brings together people from across the world, strengthening bonds among communities and reminding pilgrims of shared human dignity. The pilgrimage also encourages generosity, discipline, service, and compassion—values that often continue to shape families and communities long after pilgrims return home. For U.S. citizens preparing for Hajj, the U.S. Department of State advises that all bookings, visas, payments, and Hajj

permits must be arranged through Nusuk, the official platform of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. Travelers should not use third-party agents for Hajj arrangements. Performing Hajj without a permit can lead to deportation, detention, fines, or bans from future travel to Saudi Arabia. Pilgrims are also advised to review visa dates carefully, as Saudi Arabia uses the Hijri calendar for official purposes. U.S. citizens performing Umrah may use a tourist e-visa, Umrah visa, or transit visa outside Hajj season, but Hajj requires a Hajj visa issued through Nusuk. Security and health planning are essential. Travelers should beware of fake visa offers and fraudulent tour operators, protect

passports, keep digital and physical copies of important documents, and follow Saudi laws and local authority instructions. Summer temperatures in Mecca may exceed 105°F / 41°C, making hydration and heat precautions critical. The State Department also recommends enrollment in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). In emergencies, U.S. citizens may contact the U.S. Consulate General Jeddah at +966-12-220-5000, the U.S. Embassy Riyadh at +966-11-835-4000, or the U.S. Consulate General Dhahran at +966-13-839-5700. As pilgrims prepare, Hajj 2026 stands as both a personal act of worship and a global reminder of unity, responsibility, and faith in action.



Important Hajj Guidelines from the U.S. Department of State

- Book Hajj only through the official Nusuk Hajj platform. Do not use third-party agents for Hajj visas, payments, or packages.
- Travel with a valid Hajj visa and permit. Performing Hajj without proper approval may lead to fines, detention, deportation, or future travel bans.
- Check visa dates carefully and do not overstay, as Saudi Arabia uses the Hijri calendar for official purposes.
- Be aware of scams and theft. Keep your passport safe and carry both digital and physical copies of important documents.
- Follow Saudi laws and local authority instructions, especially in Mecca, Medina, and other holy sites.
- Prepare for extreme heat by staying hydrated and taking health precautions.
- Respect photo and video rules. Do not record people praying, security officials, government buildings, or vehicles.
- Keep emergency contacts ready, including local emergency services at 911 and U.S. Embassy or Consulate numbers.

APPRECIATION

A Week of Gratitude for Teachers at Elhaam Academy

Students and families recognize the educators shaping young lives

Alex Mason

In a heartfelt celebration of service and dedication, Elhaam Academy recently observed Teacher Appreciation Week, honoring the educators whose daily work shapes the academic, moral, and personal growth of students. The week served as an opportunity for the school community to recognize teachers not only for classroom instruction, but also for the patience, care, and guidance they provide throughout the year. At Elhaam Academy, educators play a central role in building a learning environment where students are encouraged to grow with confidence, curiosity, and strong values. Students and members



of the school community took time to express gratitude to their teachers, reflecting on the many ways

educators support young learners beyond textbooks and lessons. From helping students understand difficult

subjects to encouraging kindness, discipline, and responsibility, teachers were recognized as essential



partners in each child's development. The observance also highlighted the emotional and social impact teachers have on school life. Their work often extends far beyond the classroom, as they mentor students, communicate with families, and help create a safe and nurturing educational environment. For parents and families, Teacher Appreciation Week offered a reminder of the trust placed in educators each day. The celebration

reinforced the idea that strong schools are built through collaboration among teachers, students, families, and administrators. By honoring its teachers, Elhaam Academy emphasized that education is not only about academic achievement, but also about character, compassion, and community. The recognition served as a meaningful tribute to the educators who help guide students toward success. As the week concluded, the message was clear: teachers remain at the heart of Elhaam Academy's mission, and their dedication continues to leave a lasting impact on the students and families they serve.






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CIVIC

Emgage New York Metro Gala Celebrates Faith and Resilience

Muslim New Yorkers gather for civic engagement, leadership, and community power



Daniel Matthew

The Emgage New York Metro Gala: Faith & Resilience brought Muslim New Yorkers, civic leaders, advocates, and community supporters together for a powerful

evening focused on representation, political engagement, and collective strength. Held on Friday, May 8, 2026, the gala marked 20 years of Emgage and highlighted the organization's work to educate and mobilize



Muslim American voters. The event gathered changemakers and influential voices at a pivotal moment, with an emphasis on civic engagement, leadership, and community resilience. The program featured New York Attorney General Letitia James, actor and comedian Azhar Usman, and Emgage Interim CEO Mohamed Gula. The evening also placed special focus on the importance of Muslim American participation in public life and the need for communities to remain organized ahead of future elections. Introducing Attorney General James, Dr. Debbie Almontaser welcomed attendees and described the room as filled with people "from every ethnic, racial, religious background,"

united around "civic engagement and political power." She also noted the significance of holding the event at the Dr. Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X Memorial, calling it the home of Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz, "the icon for Muslim Americans across this country, across this world." In her remarks, Letitia James reflected on the challenges facing diverse communities and the importance of solidarity. "What gives me hope is when we stand together as one with no space between us, when we stand arm-in-arm, shoulder-to-shoulder," she said. James also emphasized voting rights, calling the vote "the most basic right from which all rights emanate." She urged attendees to respond through civic participation, saying

communities must come out "in record numbers" and vote "in quiet defiance." Speaking from the theme of the evening, James said, "It's faith over fear. And faith is a powerful voice, a powerful force." She added that she would continue to use the law "both as a sword and as a shield" to protect people's rights. The gala's message extended beyond celebration. It served as a call for Muslim Americans and allies to remain visible, organized, and engaged. By centering faith, resilience, and political power, Emgage reinforced the role of civic participation in shaping stronger, more represented communities across New York.



CIVIC

Letitia James, Debbie Almontaser, and community leaders highlight unity and voting rights



FAITH

Event uplifts Muslim American voices ahead of key civic moments



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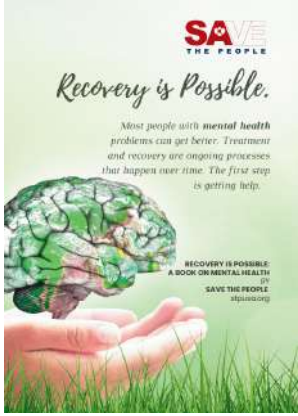
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HEALTH

Mental Health Month 2026 Highlights Hope and Recovery

Save The People USA continues community-focused wellness work



Issac Andrew

As Mental Health Month 2026 is observed throughout May, community organizations are renewing attention to one of the most urgent public health issues

facing families, schools, and neighborhoods: emotional well-being. For Save The People USA (STPUSA), the month is a reminder that mental health is not a private struggle to be hidden, but a community responsibility that requires education, compassion, and action. STPUSA has made mental health awareness part of its broader mission of community service. In its mental health resource book, "Recovery is Possible," the organization states that "most people with mental health problems can get better" and that the first step is

getting help. The book, compiled by Samira Tahsoon, a youth community organizer at STPUSA, was published on World Mental Health Day and highlights hope, resilience, and practical guidance for recovery. The organization's work is especially important for children and young people. STPUSA's materials note that children can experience mental



health challenges and that early warning signs should not be

ignored. Through youth empowerment, education, mentorship, and community programs, STPUSA encourages families to recognize stress, isolation, mood changes, fear, sadness, and other signs that someone may need support. A major part of STPUSA's message is breaking stigma. The book explains that stigma can make people feel ashamed or afraid to seek help, and that open, compassionate conversations are necessary to normalize mental health care. That approach is particularly meaningful in

immigrant and minority communities, where cultural barriers may prevent families from discussing emotional struggles openly. STPUSA also connects mental wellness to everyday life. Its guidance encourages sleep, exercise, healthy food, mindfulness, hobbies, social connection, and professional help when needed. The organization emphasizes that mental health affects how people think, feel, act, manage stress, relate to others, and make choices. Beyond awareness, Save The People USA

works across areas that directly affect mental well-being, including education, food distribution, immigration support, youth empowerment, anti-hate initiatives, and community service. These efforts help reduce isolation and strengthen support networks. During Mental Health Month 2026, STPUSA's message is clear: recovery is possible, support matters, and communities become stronger when mental health is treated with the same urgency and dignity as physical health.



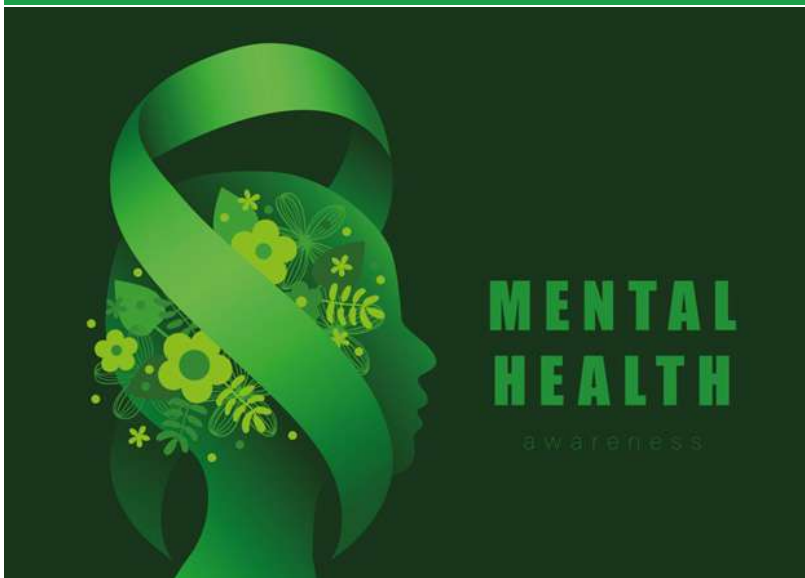
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Canada's Military Surge

Recruitment reaches 30-year high

Amkel Nourush

Canada's armed forces are seeing their strongest recruitment surge in 30 years, marking a major shift for a military that recently faced deep personnel shortages and warnings of a possible "death spiral."

The Canadian military enrolled more than 7,000 new members in the last fiscal year, while confirmed applications nearly doubled by February, rising from



Photo: Why Canada is seeing its biggest military recruitment surge in 30 years
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

21,700 to 40,116. Officials said total applications over the past year approached 100,000, a sharp increase from pre-pandemic levels.

The surge comes amid global instability, Russia's war in Ukraine, and renewed debate over Canada's defense readiness. Analysts also point to rising national sentiment after President Donald Trump referred to Canada as the "51st state," a remark many Canadians viewed as a challenge to sovereignty. Prime Minister Mark Carney has made military expansion a priority, announcing major pay increases and

confirming that Canada has reached NATO's 2% of GDP defense spending target for the first time since the late 1980s.

Recruitment has also been helped by reduced paperwork, digital applications and expanded eligibility for permanent residents, who made up about 20% of last year's recruits. Still, analysts warn that rebuilding Canada's military capacity could take five to 10 years.



Photo: Blake Lively settles legal battle with Justin Baldoni's Wayfarer Studios.
Image Source: Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

Hollywood Dispute Resolved

Settlement closes high-profile case

Charles Lewis

Blake Lively's legal battle with Justin Baldoni's production company, Wayfarer, has ended in a settlement just two weeks before trial was set to begin. Attorneys announced the agreement on Monday, ahead of jury selection scheduled for May 18. Details of the settlement were not immediately released. Lively had accused Baldoni of sexual harassment during production of "It Ends With Us" and alleged that he later helped launch a smear campaign against her.

Baldoni denied the claims. A federal judge recently dismissed 10 of the 13 claims, leaving only claims involving retaliation, aiding and abetting retaliation and breach of contract against Wayfarer, a film-related LLC and a public relations company. In a joint statement, attorneys said the film's production "presented challenges" and that Lively's concerns "deserved to be heard." They said they hoped the settlement would bring closure.

One Nation Breakthrough

Party wins first lower-house seat

Nassr Al Shams

Australia's right-wing One Nation party has won its first-ever federal lower-house seat, marking a historic breakthrough for the populist movement and a warning sign for the country's traditional political parties. With nearly all votes counted in Farrer, a large regional electorate in New South Wales, One Nation candidate David Farley won more than 57% of the vote, defeating independent Michelle Milthorpe, who received almost 43%



Photos: One Nation leader Pauline Hanson and candidate David Farley celebrate the result
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

after preferences were distributed. The by-election was triggered by the resignation of Sussan Ley, who stepped down after being removed as leader of the opposition

Liberal Party. Although the result will not affect the Labor government's large majority, it carries symbolic weight because Farrer had always been held by either the Liberal or

National parties. Pauline Hanson, the leader of One Nation, told supporters the result was "not just a win for Farrer, but a win for Australia," adding that the party was now targeting other seats. Farley, whose background is in agribusiness, said voters had lost faith in major parties. The result follows strong support for One Nation in the South Australian state election in March, suggesting growing momentum for right-wing populist politics in regional Australia.



Photo: Tuareg rebels ride through Kidal, northern Mali, April 26, 2026.
Image Source: Stringer/AFP/Getty Images

Moscow's Sahel Setback

Africa Corps withdrawal damages prestige

Adrian Smith

Russian-backed forces have withdrawn from Kidal, a strategic town in northern Mali, after a major rebel offensive dealt a serious blow to Moscow's influence in the Sahel. The retreat followed coordinated attacks on April 25 by Tuareg rebels and militants linked to al Qaeda, who overran several military positions. Facing pressure, the Africa

Corps, which replaced the Wagner Group, negotiated safe passage out of the town. The loss is a major setback for Mali's junta, which had captured Kidal with Russian support in 2023. Videos later showed rebels jeering departing Russian vehicles, turning the withdrawal into a public embarrassment for the Kremlin. The crisis worsened after Malian Defense

Minister Sadio Camara, a key supporter of cooperation with Russia, was killed in a suicide bombing near Bamako. The al Qaeda-linked JNIM claimed responsibility. Analysts said the fall of Kidal damaged Russia's reputation as a reliable security partner. But with Western forces gone, Mali still has few alternatives as insecurity spreads.

Food Labels Matter

Clear packaging can shape healthier choices

Julian Alvez

Clearer food labels and better nutrition education are emerging as powerful tools in the fight against obesity, as researchers warn that today's food environment often pushes consumers toward unhealthy choices.

Experts say supermarkets are filled with tempting ultra-processed foods, many of which are heavily marketed and designed to be convenient, affordable and hard to resist. Franco Sassi of Imperial College London said people may feel they are making independent choices, but "the environment is what determines what you're going to choose." Evidence suggests labels can change behavior. In 2016, Chile introduced mandatory black warning labels on foods high in sugar, salt or calories. The policy was followed by a 23.8% decline in purchases of high-calorie products. In



Photo: Food labels have far-reaching effects on our health
Image Source: Getty Images

HIGHLIGHT

● Food labels can influence buying habits.

● Ultra-processed foods are linked to rising obesity.

● Chile's warning labels reduced high-calorie purchases.

● Experts say education and policy must work together.

Europe, the color-coded Nutri-Score system has also helped consumers identify healthier options and encouraged some manufacturers to reduce sugar or improve ingredients. Researchers at University College London found that one-on-one coaching helped participants reduce ultra-processed food intake by 25% over six months. Still, experts say labels alone are not enough. Lasting change will require stronger policy, public education and better access to affordable healthy food.