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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: President Donald Trump, left, walks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Temple of Heaven on Thursday, May 14, 2026, in Beijing. Image Source: AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein

Trump–Xi Summit Outcomes

Beijing's stance complicates U.S. strategic decisions

Alexandar Sullivan

Returning from a high-stakes visit to China, Donald Trump said

Friday he has not yet decided whether to proceed with a major arms package for Taiwan, following direct

concerns raised by Xi Jinping during their talks. The remarks underscore the delicate balance shaping

relations between the world's two largest powers. Speaking aboard Air Force One en route

to Washington, Trump acknowledged Xi's opposition to Taiwan's independence, stating, "I heard him out," while emphasizing that he would make a decision later. The proposed arms deal, valued at \$14 billion, remains pending formal submission to Congress. The issue of Taiwan dominated discussions, with Xi warning that mishandling the matter could lead to "clashes and even conflicts." Despite this, Trump described the overall visit as productive, calling it "a great couple of days," while Xi labeled it a "milestone." Beyond Taiwan, the leaders explored broader global concerns, including the ongoing Iran conflict and a potential nuclear agreement involving the U.S., China, and Russia. Trump claimed he received a "very positive response" from Xi on limiting nuclear arsenals. While both sides signaled progress in stabilizing ties, significant differences persist, leaving key geopolitical questions unresolved.

Tensions Surge in Hormuz

Rising geopolitical strain heightens risks for commercial shipping

Lily Anderson

A fresh wave of maritime incidents has heightened tensions in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, as a ship was seized near the United Arab Emirates and another vessel sank off the coast of Oman following an attack on Thursday. Authorities reported that the seized vessel, anchored roughly 38 nautical miles northeast of Fujairah, was taken by unauthorized personnel and is now heading toward Iranian waters. Meanwhile, an Indian-flagged cargo

ship, identified as Haji Ali, caught fire after an attack on Wednesday and later sank. All 14 Indian crew members were rescued safely by Oman's coast guard. The incidents come amid escalating geopolitical strain, with Donald Trump and Xi Jinping emphasizing the need to keep the waterway open during talks in Beijing. Iran, however, has doubled down on its stance. "It has always been our property," said Mohammadreza Aref, asserting sovereignty over the strait. The Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil once passed, has become a flashpoint in ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran. Continued instability threatens global energy markets, with shipping firms and insurers already reacting to heightened risks in the region.



Photo: Location of the ship seized off UAE coast Image Source: United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center Graphic: Will Jarrett

Kyiv Mourns Russian Strike

Grief spreads as rescue efforts conclude at destroyed residential site



Photo: People lay flowers in front of a house heavily damaged after a Russian strike on residential neighbourhood in Kyiv, Ukraine Image Source: AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky

Lily Anderson

Kyiv mourned on Friday after the death toll from a Russian missile strike on a nine-story apartment building rose to 24, including three teenagers. The missile hit the Ukrainian capital on Thursday during what officials described as Russia's largest barrage of the full-scale war. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said emergency workers finished searching the rubble after more than a day.

Near the destroyed building, residents placed flowers, toys and photographs at a makeshift memorial. Many mourners were children and teenagers grieving classmates and neighbors. Zelenskyy said 48 people were wounded in Kyiv, including two children. He also said Russia had launched more than 1,560 drones at Ukrainian population centers since Wednesday, damaging homes and other sites across the country.

USS Ford Ends Long Deployment

World's Largest Aircraft Carrier Comes Home to Norfolk

Henry Bob

The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, returned to Norfolk, Virginia, on Saturday, May 16, 2026, after a historic 11-month deployment, marking the longest U.S. carrier mission since the Vietnam War. Docking at Naval Station Norfolk, the warship and its accompanying destroyers brought home nearly 5,000 sailors, many of whom were reuniting with their families for the first time since June 2025. The deployment spanned operations in multiple regions, including support for the Iran conflict and the capture of Nicolás Maduro. Despite its successes, the mission tested both crew and equipment. Sailors endured a fire aboard the ship that displaced hundreds and required repairs in Crete, highlighting the strain of extended deployments. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth praised the crews, saying, "You didn't just accomplish a mission, you made history." The carrier group received the Presidential Unit Citation, the military's highest unit award, for exceptional performance in combat. While the return marked a moment of relief and pride, the unprecedented duration of the deployment has sparked ongoing concerns about its impact on sailors and long-term naval readiness.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Jamaica Hills Goes Green

NYN Desk

Jamaica Hills Civic Association and Mentor Power Village hosted an environmental awareness and civic engagement program at Captain Tilly Park on Friday, May 1, 2026, bringing local students together to learn about nature, public service and community responsibility.

The event, held from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., marked an Earth Day-focused effort to connect local high school students and rising college students with environmental education and mentorship opportunities. Organizers included Ms. Bhitihara, Ms. Swati Chakraborty, Mr. Sayeed, Ms. Dima Nefartity, Ms. Jamini Young and representatives from The



Urban Park Rangers. Participants learned how park rangers serve as environmental educators, park stewards and safety liaisons between city residents and nature. The program highlighted ranger activities such as leading hikes, birding programs and kayaking sessions, while also supporting wildlife rescues, park patrols and public safety.

Swati Chakraborty, CEO of Mentor Power Village, said the organization also provides internship and career networking opportunities in the environmental and civic engagement field. The event encouraged students to see local parks not only as public spaces, but also as places for learning, leadership and future career growth.

Brooklyn Half Marathon Draws Record



Photo: More than 30,000 runners participated in the Half marathon
Image Source: CBS News

Island Boardwalk. The first wave of runners started at 7 a.m., followed by additional waves at 7:30 a.m., 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Organizers urged participants and spectators to plan ahead because of subway guidance, security screenings and extensive road closures across the route. Rob Simmelkjaer, CEO of New York Road Runners, said the race was more than a one-day event, describing it as "the ultimate Brooklyn experience" and an unofficial kickoff to summer.

The event brought energy and crowds to neighborhoods across the borough while also requiring temporary closures on major roads including Eastern Parkway, Flatbush Avenue, Ocean Parkway and Surf Avenue.

Senior Reporter

More than 30,000 runners filled the streets of Brooklyn on Saturday for the 2026 RBC Brooklyn Half Marathon, setting a record for one of New York's signature running events.

The 13.1-mile race took participants through some of the borough's best-known areas, beginning near Washington Avenue and passing through Grand Army Plaza, Prospect Park, Ocean Parkway and Surf Avenue before ending near the Coney

Legal uncertainty draws attention

Community Desk

Former federal attorneys took center stage at the New York City Bar Association's annual White Collar Crime Conference on May 14, after several active government officials withdrew from the event in the days leading up to it. The conference focused heavily on shifting enforcement priorities at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, where former officials said staffing cuts under President Donald Trump could affect how

the agency handles certain investigations. Ian McGinley, a former CFTC enforcement director, said limited personnel may influence whether companies choose to self-report violations. "You know that personnel is limited," McGinley said, adding that the agency appears most focused on fraud, manipulation and insider trading rather than more technical registration cases. The event also addressed growing litigation over prediction markets, including whether they should

be treated as gambling platforms requiring state gaming licenses or as derivatives overseen by the CFTC. Former officials said conflicting court rulings may eventually draw review from the Supreme Court. The withdrawals included prosecutors and enforcement officials from federal agencies and city government. The changes came amid rising tensions between bar associations, law firms and the Trump administration over legal oversight and Justice Department policies.

Bronx Hospital Hits Record

News Correspondent

NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx has reached a record high in child and adolescent immunization rates, rising from 84% in 2018 to 91% in 2025 through targeted outreach, education and improved tracking systems. The hospital administered 22,103 vaccine doses to pediatric patients ages 0 to 19, along with 102,385 doses across all age groups. The increase brings North Central Bronx Hospital in line with national benchmarks and highlights its role as a key immunization resource in the North Bronx.



Photo: The childhood immunization rate has gone up immensely at the North Central Bronx Hospital.
Image Source: NYC Health + Hospitals

"Improving our vaccine rates has been a group effort," said Dr. Jana Romm, attending physician at the Pediatric Primary Care Clinic. She credited pediatric providers, nurses and clerical teams for contacting families, educating

patients and helping children stay up to date on vaccines. The hospital expanded follow-up calls, added dedicated clerical support, replaced paper systems with digital tracking and began HPV vaccination at age 9. Dr. Boris Mashalov said immunization remains crucial for both children and the broader community. Despite staffing challenges, missed appointments and vaccine hesitancy, hospital leaders said they remain focused on preventive care. Chief Operating Officer Alfredo Jones said the goal is to build healthy habits that continue into adulthood.

LeGrand Opens Headquarters



Photo: Community leaders rally behind Latoya LeGrand's Assembly campaign in Jamaica, Queens.
Image Source: Orlande Fleury

Staff Reporter

Latoya LeGrand, a Democratic candidate for New York State Assembly District 32, opened her campaign headquarters in Jamaica, Queens, on May 11, marking a major step in her bid to represent communities across Southeast Queens. The event, held at 141-28 Rockaway Blvd., drew community leaders and supporters, including State Senator James Sanders Jr., Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson and Jasmine Gripper of the New York Working Families Party. LeGrand is seeking to succeed retiring Assemblymember Vivian Cook in a district that includes Jamaica, Rochdale Village, South Jamaica, Baisley and South Ozone Park.

"This campaign is about bringing real leadership, transparency, and results to District 32," LeGrand said. LeGrand highlighted her personal journey through foster care, shelter living, teen motherhood and NYCHA housing as experiences that shaped her public service work. She also spoke about advocating for children with autism and families navigating IEP services. Supporters praised her community work through Projects II Projects Inc., a nonprofit serving families, foster youth and underserved residents. Sanders said the district needs "a fighter," while Anderson described LeGrand as a leader rooted in the daily struggles of working families.

Prayer Time IN New York

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03:59	12:53	04:50	08:13	09:48
03:58	12:53	04:50	08:14	09:49
03:57	12:53	04:51	08:15	09:50

OPINION

AI Ethics, Hate, and Radicalization: A Community Responsibility

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

Artificial intelligence is no longer only a matter for engineers, technology companies, or research laboratories. It has become a powerful force shaping how people think, communicate, trust, and respond to one another. As AI enters our homes, schools, workplaces, and social media platforms, it also enters the moral space of our communities. Recent academic discussions from institutions such as New York University, UNESCO, and global AI ethics researchers remind us that technology is never neutral when it affects human life. AI can support education, improve communication, and expand opportunity. But without ethical guidance, it can also spread misinformation, amplify hate, deepen bias, and influence vulnerable minds toward division or radicalization. As a faith leader and community servant, I believe this is one of the defining moral challenges of our time. Hate prevention can no longer be limited to streets, schools, or places of worship. It must also include the digital world, where young people

spend much of their time and where harmful ideas can spread quickly through algorithms, fake content, and online manipulation. Research has shown that AI systems may reproduce human bias in areas such as policing, employment, housing, and public services. When discrimination is hidden behind technology, it becomes harder for ordinary people to recognize and challenge. This is why transparency, accountability, and human oversight must be central to any responsible use of AI.

The danger is not only misinformation, but influence. Modern AI systems can shape emotions, opinions, and decisions. They can recommend what we watch, what we believe, whom we fear, and whom we trust. If such power is used without moral responsibility, it can weaken human agency and



— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah
CEO, Save The People USA,
Community and Faith Leader

damage social harmony. For communities like ours, this moment calls for action. Faith leaders, educators, parents, youth mentors, and civic organizations must work together to build digital awareness. Our young people need more than access to technology; they need wisdom to use it responsibly. They must learn how to identify misinformation, reject online hate, protect their dignity, and think critically before sharing or believing digital content.

At Save The People USA, our mission has always been rooted in service, education, safety, and human dignity. In this new era, that mission must also include ethical technology leadership. We must help families understand the risks of AI, support youth with digital literacy, and create programs that promote compassion, critical thinking, and responsible online

behavior. Interfaith and community dialogue must also expand into digital spaces. Hate does not remain confined to one group. When one community is targeted online, all communities become less safe. Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and other communities must stand together against digital hate, just as we stand together against hate in public life. AI can become a tool for healing or harm. The choice depends on the values we place at its center. If we guide technology with justice, compassion, transparency, and human dignity, it can strengthen society. If we leave it unchecked, it can divide us further. The future of AI must not be decided by machines alone. It must be shaped by human conscience, ethical leadership, and communities committed to peace. Our responsibility is clear: we must educate, protect, and empower the next generation so that technology serves humanity—not the other way around.



“Hate prevention can no longer be limited to streets, schools, or places of worship. It must also include the digital world.”



“The future of AI must not be decided by machines alone. It must be shaped by human conscience, ethical leadership, and communities committed to peace.”

Health Is a Human Right, Not a Luxury

— Dr. Ayesha Rahman

Health is not only the absence of illness. It is the foundation of human dignity, productivity, family stability, and social progress. A society cannot call itself truly developed if its people are unable to access basic healthcare, nutritious food, clean water, mental health support, and safe living conditions. Too often, health is treated as a personal matter alone. People are told to exercise, eat well, sleep properly, and avoid stress. These are important habits, but they are not enough. Health is also shaped by income, education, housing, environment, employment, and access to medical care. A mother who cannot afford treatment, a worker who skips medicine to pay rent, or a child growing up without proper nutrition is not simply facing a private problem. They are experiencing a public failure.

Modern healthcare must therefore move beyond hospitals and prescriptions. Prevention should be at the center of national and community planning. Regular health education, early screening, vaccination, mental health awareness, and affordable primary care can save lives before diseases become emergencies. It is always wiser—and more humane—to prevent suffering than to respond only after crisis arrives. Mental health deserves special attention. In many communities, anxiety, depression, loneliness, and trauma remain hidden behind silence and stigma.



— Dr. Ayesha Rahman
Writer, Public Health Educator and Community Wellness Advocate

People often suffer quietly because they fear judgment. A healthy society must create safe spaces where people can seek help without shame. Mental well-being is not weakness; it is part of complete health. Community organizations, schools, faith institutions, and local leaders all have a role to play. Health awareness should not remain limited to doctors' offices. It should reach homes, classrooms, workplaces, and places of worship. When communities work together, people become more informed, more supported, and more likely to make

healthier choices. Health equity must also be treated as a moral priority. No one should be denied care because of poverty, immigration status, language barriers, race, gender, or geography. The measure of a society is not how well it serves the privileged, but how carefully it protects the vulnerable. The path forward requires compassion, policy, education, and accountability. Governments must invest in accessible healthcare. Families must support healthy habits. Communities must reduce stigma. Individuals must take responsibility where they can. Together, these efforts can build a culture where health is protected as a shared responsibility. A healthier future is possible, but only if we recognize one simple truth: health is not a luxury for the few. It is a basic right for all.

EDUCATION



Students Learn Empathy Through Hands of Hope

Elhaam Academy's Program with NYC OPHC uses art and teamwork to teach kindness

James Anderson

Elhaam Academy recently hosted two meaningful sessions of the Hands of Hope Program, giving students the opportunity to explore respect, empathy, and kindness through creative activities and guided discussion. The program, held in partnership with the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC), engaged different age groups across the school. On Monday, students in K-3 participated in activities centered on creativity and reflection. Through drawings, teamwork, and conversation, the younger students expressed what respect and empathy mean in



their daily lives. The learning continued on Wednesday, when students in grades 4-7 took part in a second Hands of Hope session. Their activities included creating bracelets that

symbolized positivity and connection, as well as working together on a kindness chain. The chain served as a visual reminder that even small acts of kindness can strengthen

relationships and help unite a community. The sessions reflected the importance of teaching compassion at an early age. By combining art, discussion, and teamwork, the program



NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes

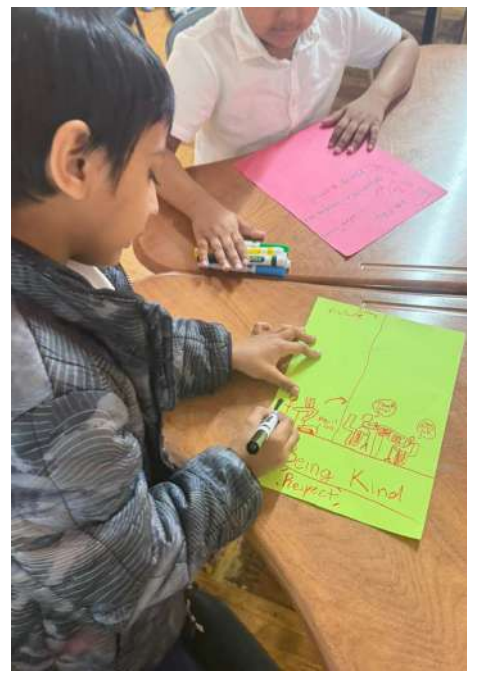
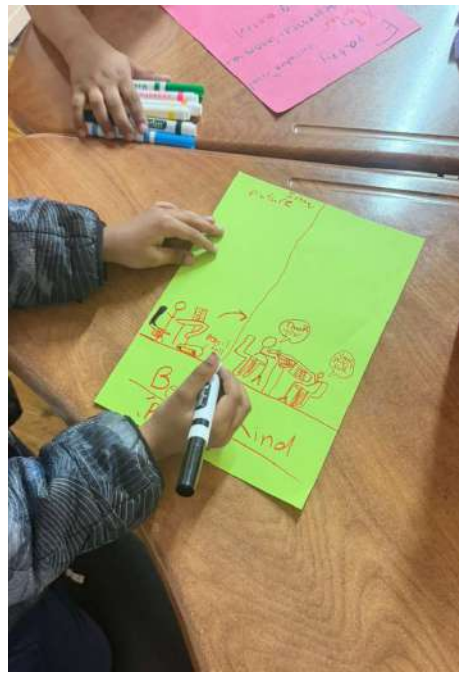
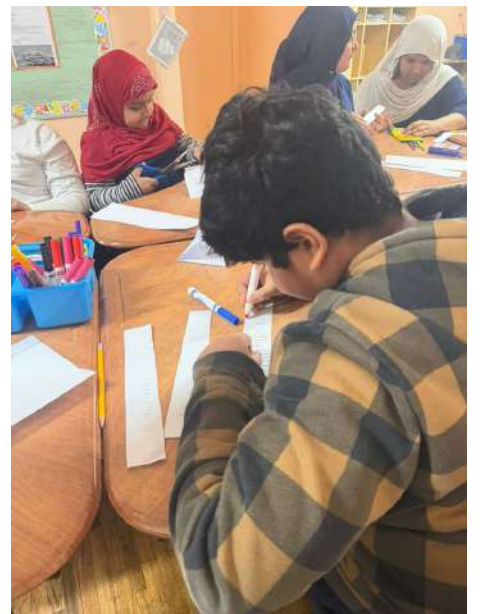
helped students understand that respect is not only an idea, but a practice shown through words, choices, and actions. For younger students, drawing offered a simple and powerful way to express feelings. For older students, the bracelet-making and kindness chain encouraged deeper reflection on how individual behavior can affect classmates, families, and the

wider community. The partnership with NYC OPHC added broader civic significance to the program. At a time when schools and communities continue working to prevent hate and bias, programs like Hands of Hope help students build emotional awareness and social responsibility before harmful attitudes take root. The impact of the sessions was visible in the students' creativity, cooperation, and thoughtful participation. By giving children tools to recognize kindness and practice empathy, Elhaam Academy reinforced a message that extends beyond the classroom: strong communities begin with young people who know how to care for one another.



EDUCATION

Students explore respect, compassion, and community connection



HERITAGE

Historic Quran Exhibition Opens Window Into Islamic Heritage

Upstate New York display highlights rare and old copies of the Quran



Ashley Reed

A profound exhibition in upstate New York recently offered visitors a rare opportunity to explore the historical depth and enduring influence of the Quran,

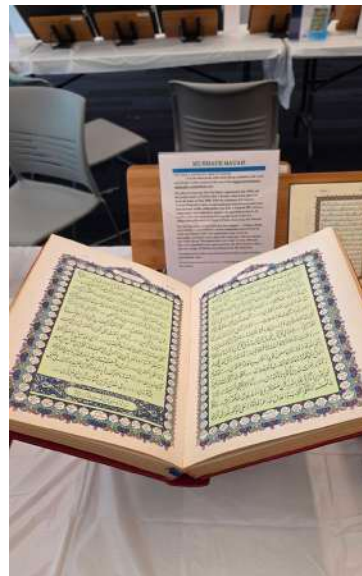
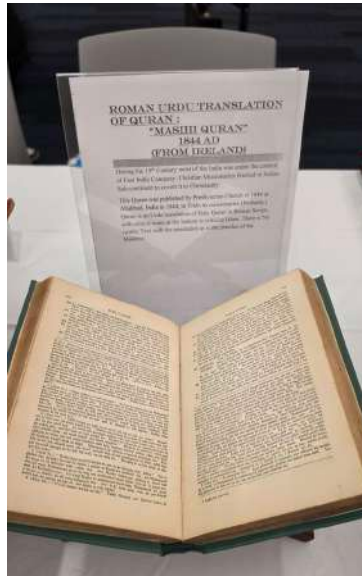
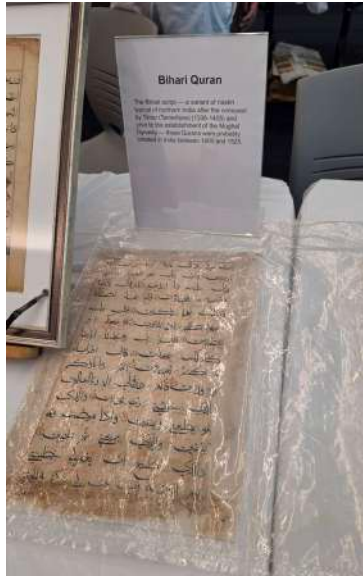
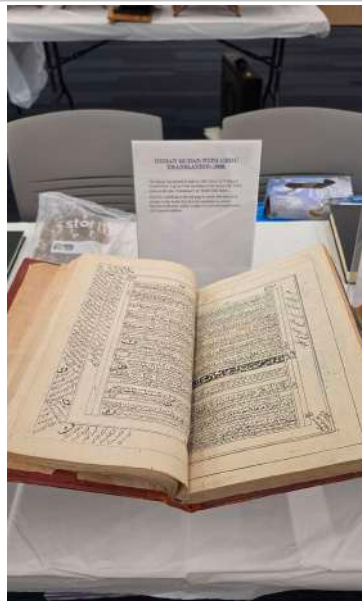
Islam's sacred text, through a display of old and historic copies. The exhibition featured multiple versions of the Quran, including older editions that reflected the long tradition of preservation, recitation,

scholarship, and reverence associated with the text. For attendees, the display served not only as a visual experience but also as a reminder of the Quran's central place in Muslim faith and

civilization. The Quran holds deep religious importance for Muslims around the world, who believe it to be the word of God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Its verses guide worship, ethics, family life, justice, compassion, and personal conduct. By presenting older copies in an exhibition setting, organizers created a space where visitors could reflect on how the Quran has been studied, memorized, copied, printed, and carried across generations. The event also highlighted the broader cultural and historical impact of the Quran. For centuries, Quranic

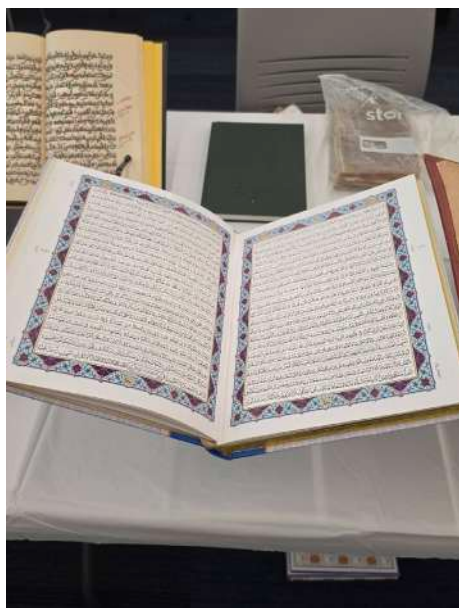
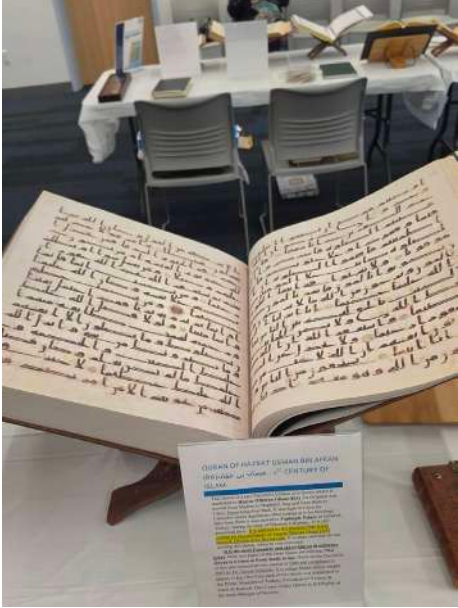
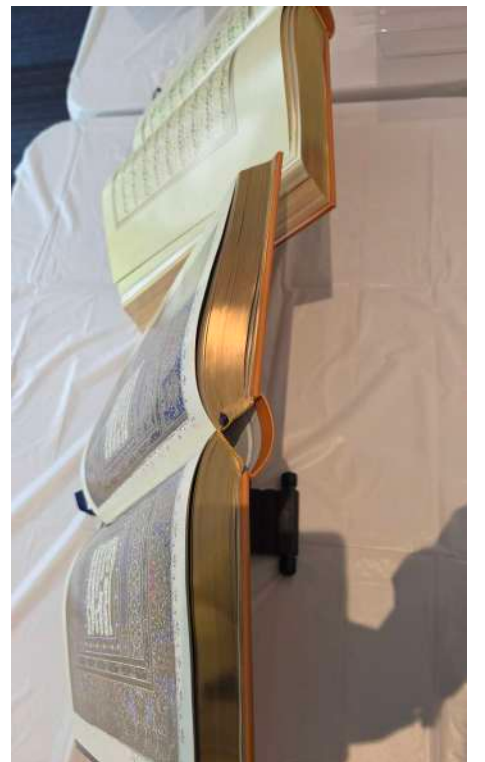
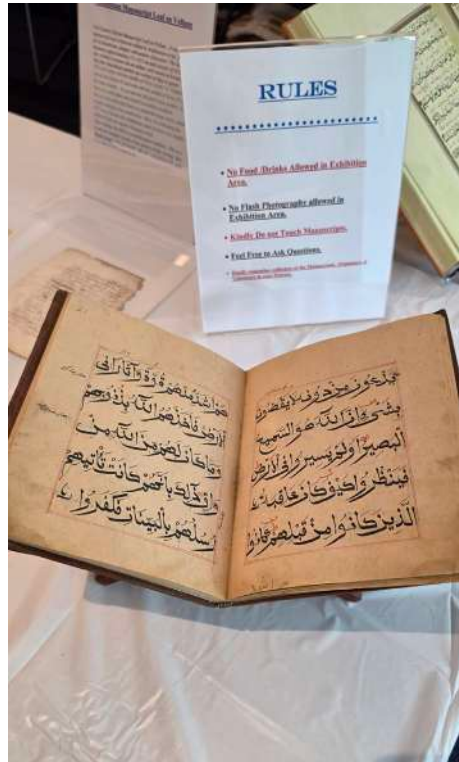
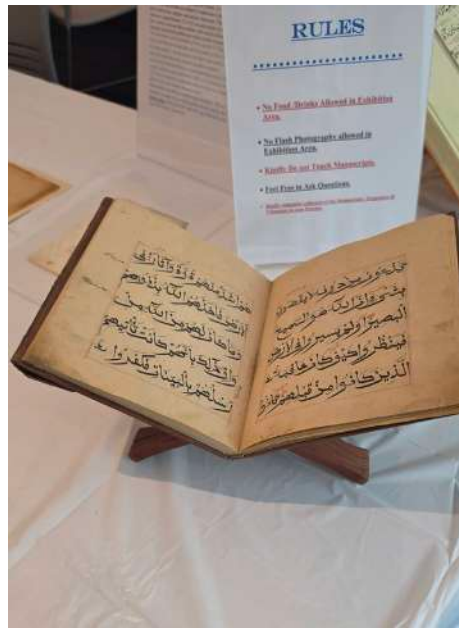
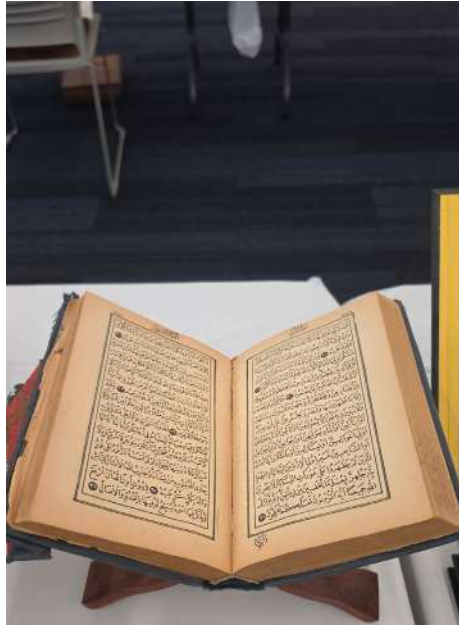
manuscripts and printed editions have influenced calligraphy, language, education, law, literature, and architecture across many societies. The exhibition allowed viewers to appreciate that history while recognizing the care taken to preserve sacred texts over time. For Muslim visitors, the display offered a meaningful connection to spiritual heritage. For others, it provided an educational opportunity to learn about Islamic history and the role of scripture in shaping communities. Such exhibitions can help build understanding by presenting faith through

history, art, and shared human curiosity. The gathering also carried intergenerational value. Younger attendees were able to see older copies of the Quran up close, gaining a deeper appreciation for the devotion and scholarship that preserved the text. Elders and community members, meanwhile, saw the exhibition as a tribute to continuity and faith. By bringing historic Qurans into public view, the upstate New York exhibition underscored the Quran's lasting impact as both a sacred scripture and a source of knowledge, identity, and reflection for millions across the world.



HERITAGE

Historic Quran Exhibition Opens Window Into Islamic Heritage



LEADERSHIP

Leading New York Together Graduates Nonprofit Leaders

Participants explored values, strategy, equity, and organizational change

William Henry

Leading New York Together (LNYT) brought a diverse group of New York nonprofit executives together for a high-level leadership experience designed to strengthen the city's civic and community-serving institutions. The program, organized by UJA-Federation of New York (UJA) and the Association for a Better New York (ABNY) in conjunction with Columbia Business School's Tamer Institute Executive Education, focused on preparing senior nonprofit leaders to meet complex challenges facing communities across New York City, Long Island, and Westchester. The participant roster included 40 leaders from a wide range of organizations. Among them were Muhammad



Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People; Dan Lehman, President and CEO of HELP USA; Sabrina Lippman, CEO of Habitat for Humanity NYC & Westchester; Blondel Pinnock, President & CEO of Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation; Eric Rosenbaum, President and Chief Executive Officer of Project Renewal, Inc.;



House New York. Other participants included Shani Adess, Army Armstead, Nechama Bakst, Raye Barbieri, Georgia Boothe, Jessica Brenner, Rosa Chang, Jose Cotto, Allison Deal, Suzanne DeLasho, Tara Gardner, Cassaundra Howell, Trevor John, Dominique Jones, Kim Kaplan, Vidhya Kelly, Deborah Kirschner,

Lorena Kourousias, Laura Lazarus, Shalima McCants, Hannah Moore, Regina Myer, Richard Nightingale, Jenny Notis Lyss, Alexis Offen, Jonathan Oliver, Tracey Onyeuche, Danielle Palmisano, Mark Parauda, Nicole Perry, Monae Priolena-Jones, Kerri Smith, Nikki Thompson, and Ian Wilder. The institute was guided by distinguished faculty and civic leaders, including Joel Brockner, Phillip Hettleman Professor of Business at Columbia Business School; Modupe Akinola, Sanford C. Bernstein Associate Professor of Leadership and Ethics; Paul Ingram, Kravis Professor of Business; Bruce Usher, Professor of Professional Practice and co-director of the Tamer Institute for Social Enterprise and Climate Change; and Kathryn

Wylde, President and CEO of the Partnership for New York City. Through sessions on values-based leadership, organizational culture, inclusive leadership, negotiation, equity, strategic communication, and difficult conversations, LNYT emphasized practical tools for leading people and institutions with clarity and purpose. For New York's nonprofit sector, the program's impact goes beyond professional development. By connecting executives across missions and communities, LNYT helped build a stronger leadership network prepared to respond to public needs with collaboration, resilience, and vision.



BUSINESS

USBCCI Expo Highlights Real Estate Opportunities in 2026

Experts discuss AI tools, halal financing, home buying, and tax strategies

Jessica Morgan

The U.S.-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (USBCCI) hosted its 3rd Real Estate Expo 2026 in Queens, New York, bringing together real estate professionals, investors, buyers, sellers, lenders, attorneys, and first-time home buyers for a full day of networking and industry-focused learning. The expo was held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at the New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott. The program ran from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with doors opening at 9:00 AM and a free breakfast and networking session held from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Organizers described the event as a collaborative and deal-making platform for those connected to the real estate market. Throughout the day,



expert-led sessions addressed some of the most pressing topics for today's buyers and professionals. The agenda included discussions on AI-powered tools for closing deals faster, market trends for 2026, rates and investment outlooks, halal home



loans, legacy planning, first-time home buying,

inventory challenges, fix-and-flip strategies, basement legalization, new construction, and tax planning. The event also featured an opening ceremony at 12:30 PM, followed by panels with real estate brokers, mortgage professionals, attorneys, financial experts,

technology leaders, and elected officials. A closing program from 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM included an award ceremony recognizing Announcing 2026 Top 100 BA Realtor Program Award winners. The expo was organized by USBCCI in collaboration with LIBOR

— Long Island Board of Realtors. Daily News Media Group served as media sponsor, while MSBD Digital Solution was listed as tech partner. For the Bangladeshi American business community and the broader New York real estate sector, the expo offered a practical space to build connections and access professional guidance under one roof. First-time buyers, in particular, had opportunities to learn about financing, legal preparation, market conditions, and trusted pathways toward homeownership. By combining education, networking, and business development, the USBCCI Real Estate Expo 2026 reinforced the chamber's role in supporting economic opportunity and professional growth within the community.



HATE TO HOPE

AI Ethics Forum Highlights Fight Against Digital Hate

Experts explore how technology can identify and reduce online extremism

Emily Parker

A timely forum at New York University recently brought faith leaders, scholars, technology voices, and civic stakeholders together to examine one of the most urgent questions of the digital age: how artificial intelligence can be used to protect human dignity rather than fuel hate. The event, titled “AI, Ethics, and the Digital Frontier: Safeguarding Humanity Against Hate and Radicalization,” was hosted by NYU in collaboration with the Muslim World League. According to the program overview, the gathering focused on the risks of digital radicalization and the automated spread of hate speech at a time when AI is redefining



human interaction. The forum explored the role of ethical leadership in the age of generative AI, the ways AI-driven algorithms may contribute to radicalization, and the promise of data-driven tools to identify and counter online hate. A central focus was the “Decoding Hate”



project, described as an approach to identifying and neutralizing antisemitism and Islamophobia online. Among the distinguished participants was His Excellency Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, whose leadership was presented as an

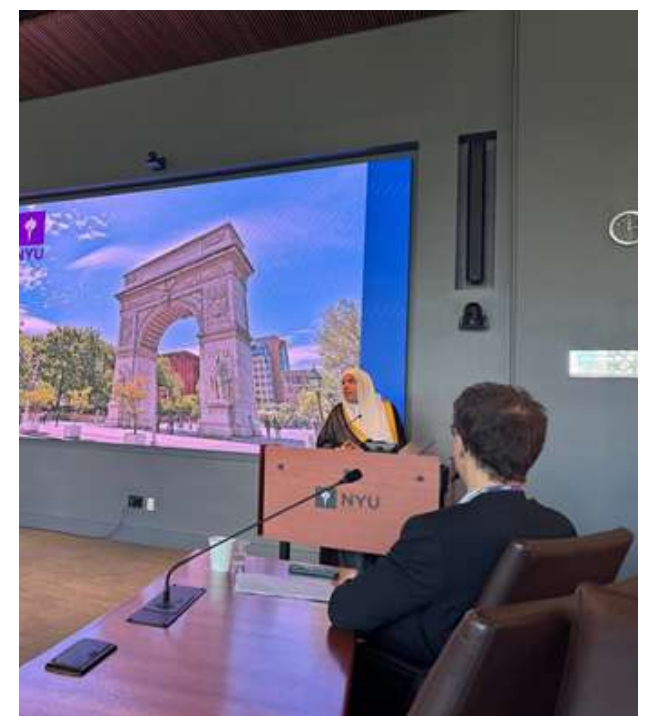
ethical framework for confronting extremism in the digital era. Also featured was Dr. Matthias J. Becker, an Address Hate Research Scholar at the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism, whose work uses computational linguistics and social psychology to study how hate speech moves across digital platforms. The program included a presentation on the “digital architecture of hate,” examining how implicit antisemitism and anti-Muslim bias can spread beneath mainstream moderation systems, and how AI can be weaponized to accelerate radicalization. Importantly, the discussion also emphasized that AI can be used positively to flag implicit hate and support targeted civil society

interventions. The event’s broader impact was its effort to connect moral leadership with data science. By bringing together the Muslim World League, academic researchers, and invited faculty, the forum created space for policy recommendations, ethical AI development, and stronger digital literacy through religious and civic institutions. At a time when online hate can quickly become real-world harm, the gathering underscored that preventing hate crimes requires both technological tools and human responsibility. Its message was clear: AI must be guided by ethics, accountability, and a commitment to protecting vulnerable communities.



Practical Tips on AI and Hate Prevention:

- Use AI tools to detect patterns of hate speech, but keep human review in the process.
- Teach students and community members how algorithms can spread harmful content.
- Report online threats early, especially when hate speech targets religious or ethnic groups.
- Promote digital literacy in mosques, schools, community centers, and interfaith spaces.
- Build partnerships between tech experts, faith leaders, educators, and civil rights organizations.



RECOGNITION

Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club Honors Community Leaders

71st Annual Dinner Dance celebrates service, advocacy, and civic leadership

Noah Presley

The Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club marked a major milestone with its 71st Annual Dinner Dance, bringing together community leaders, public advocates, elected officials and supporters for an evening dedicated to honoring service and civic commitment in Queens Village. Held on Friday, May 15, 2026, at 8:00 p.m. at Antun's Catering, 96-43 Springfield Blvd, Queens Village, N.Y. 11429, the annual gathering celebrated the club's 2026 honorees and recognized individuals whose work reflects leadership, advocacy and dedication to community life.



This year's honorees included Shaquana Johnson, Bridget Smith, Carl Clay, Veronica Washington, Donna Edge Rachell, Corey Pegues, Icema Gibbs, Cynthia Gresham, Lorraine Bridges, Alecia Abraham, L.

Joy Williams, Teresa Mack, Steven E. Taylor and Mohammed Islam Delwar. Their recognition underscored the event's central purpose: to highlight people whose service has contributed to neighborhoods, civic engagement and public

life. The evening drew a notable audience of public officials and community figures, including New York Attorney General Letitia James and Congressman Gregory Meeks, along with other community leaders and

public advocates. The program also included welcomes, greetings, acknowledgments, honoree presentations, music, a raffle drawing and a silent auction. The event reflected the continuing role of local civic organizations

in bringing residents, leaders and institutions into shared spaces. In a city where communities often face complex social, economic and political challenges, gatherings such as the 71st Annual Dinner Dance serve not only as celebrations but also as opportunities to strengthen relationships and recognize those working on the ground. For the honorees, the recognition represented appreciation for years of contribution, leadership and public involvement. For the wider community, the event offered a reminder that civic service is sustained by individuals who invest time, energy and commitment into improving the lives of others.



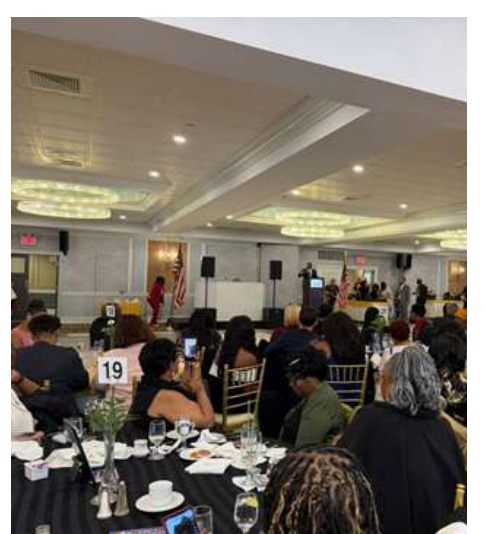
Mohammed Islam Delwar was one of the 2026 honorees recognized at the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club's 71st Annual Dinner Dance. Originally from Bangladesh, he came to the United States in 1993 and later built a record of service in business, community advocacy and immigrant support. His work includes leadership in Bangladeshi-American business and civic organizations, support for small businesses, cultural preservation and youth empowerment. His recognition at the event honored his contributions to community development, public service and the broader South Asian community in New York.



RECOGNITION



Honorees recognized for contributions to civic and community life



ADVOCACY

NY Muslim Community Safety and Policy Summit Held in New York

Leaders discuss advocacy, hate crime prevention, and community protection

Daniel Matthew

The NY Muslim Community Safety & Policy Summit 2026 brought advocates, government representatives, legal professionals, researchers, public agencies, and community-based organizations together in Manhattan for a focused discussion on safety, belonging, and policy priorities affecting Muslim communities across New York. Hosted by We Belong Here New York, the summit was held on Saturday, May 16, at the Turken Foundation Hall. The event created a platform for participants to address issues ranging from hate crime prevention and Islamophobia to immigration resources, civic engagement, racial equity, and community protection. It reflected a growing effort to connect community experience with practical policy solutions at a time when many Muslim New Yorkers continue to seek stronger protections and greater representation. "This summit reflects the importance of creating



intentional spaces where Muslim communities can engage directly in conversations surrounding public safety, civic participation and equitable policy development," said Iman Mergen, Founding Executive Director of We Belong Here NY. "At a time when many communities continue to navigate discrimination, misinformation and systemic barriers, it is critical that we invest in informed dialogue, cross-sector collaboration and community-centered solutions." Mergen said the summit helped bring advocates,

public institutions, legal professionals, researchers, and residents into one shared space to strengthen civic engagement while advancing dignity, safety, access, and meaningful representation for Muslim communities across New York. The program opened with remarks from Iman Mergen and Maha Akhtar of We Belong Here NY, followed by a session



on community advocacy and civic engagement led by Meer Abdul-Wali of Muslims for Progress. The agenda also included immigration advocacy and legal resources presented by Afia Yunus, Esq., of Yunus Law and We Belong Here NY. A major portion of the summit focused on anti-Muslim bias and public safety. Sofia Gage of CAIR-NY delivered an

Islamophobia research presentation, while Linda Tigani of the NYC Commission on Racial Equity addressed government accountability and racial equity. Vijah Ramjattan, Executive Director of the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, was present for the session on hate crime prevention and community safety, underscoring the role of city agencies in working with communities to prevent bias incidents and improve public trust. Community-based organization leaders and advocates also joined the discussion,

including Dr. Debbie Almontaser, Japneet Singh, Muhammad Shahidullah, Mamadou Bah, and others. Their presence highlighted the importance of grassroots leadership in shaping responses to hate, discrimination, and community vulnerability. The summit also included community remarks, lived-experience reflections, interactive policy feedback posters, Asr prayer, light refreshments, and a closing reception. Event partners and supporters included Muslims for Progress, CAIR-NY, Turken Foundation USA, Workers' Advocate Law Group, Yunus Law, and the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes. By combining research, policy discussion, legal guidance, and community engagement, the summit helped turn concern into action. For Muslim New Yorkers, the event reinforced a clear message: safety is strengthened when communities are heard, organized, and included in shaping the policies that affect their lives.



SPORTS

Countdown to World Cup 2026 Begins Amid “Last Dance” for Football Legends Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar, and Modrić headline emotional final chapter



Carlos Stewart

Global excitement is reaching a peak as the FIFA World Cup 2026 prepares to begin in less than one month, setting

the stage for what is widely expected to be one of the most historic tournaments in modern football. Hosted jointly by the United States, Canada, and Mexico,



this edition will be the first World Cup ever staged across three nations, marking a major milestone in the sport's global expansion. Beyond its unprecedented scale, the tournament carries a deep emotional narrative. For many fans, this will represent the final World Cup appearance for a generation of football icons who have shaped the modern era of the game. Stars such as Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar Jr., and Luka Modrić are widely expected to make their “last dance” appearances on football's biggest stage, bringing a sense of nostalgia and reflection to an otherwise highly competitive event. These players have

defined football for nearly two decades, dominating club and international competitions while inspiring millions worldwide. Their presence in 2026 adds a powerful storyline that goes beyond trophies and titles, symbolizing the closing of one of the most influential chapters in the sport's history. At the same time, the World Cup itself is undergoing transformation. With an expanded format featuring more teams and matches, the tournament aims to include a broader global representation and increase competitive opportunities for emerging football nations. Stadiums across North America are undergoing final preparations as host

cities prepare for millions of traveling fans and an unprecedented level of global attention. As kickoff approaches, anticipation continues to grow not only for the matches themselves but also for the emotional moments that will define them. The World Cup 2026 is expected to serve as both a celebration of football's present and a farewell to its legendary past, bridging generations in a way few sporting events ever have. When the tournament finally begins, it will not just be about who lifts the trophy, but also about honoring the legacy of those who helped shape the game into the global phenomenon it is today.



GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
MEXICO	CANADA	BRAZIL	USA
SOUTH AFRICA	FIFA WINNER PLAY-OFF A	MOROCCO	PARAGUAY
KOREA REPUBLIC	QATAR	HAITI	AUSTRALIA
FIFA WINNER PLAY-OFF B	SWITZERLAND	SCOTLAND	FIFA WINNER PLAY-OFF C
GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	BELGIUM	SPAIN
CURAÇAO	JAPAN	EGYPT	CAROLINA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	FIFA WINNER PLAY-OFF D	IRAN	SAUDI ARABIA
ECUADOR	TUNISIA	NEW ZEALAND	URUGUAY
GROUP I	GROUP J	GROUP K	GROUP L
FRANCE	ARGENTINA	PORTUGAL	ENGLAND
SENEGAL	ALGERIA	FIFA WINNER PLAY-OFF 1	CRISTINA
FIFA WINNER PLAY-OFF 2	AUSTRIA	UZBEKISTAN	CHINA
NORWAY	JORDAN	COLUMBIA	PANAMA



TOURISM

Perfect Summer Escapes

Travel ideas for New Yorkers planning warm-weather getaways

Alex Mason

As summer approaches, travel planners across New York City are encouraging residents to take advantage of the season with carefully planned vacations that combine relaxation, affordability and memorable outdoor experiences. From nearby coastal retreats to international cruise destinations, tourism experts say travelers have more options than ever for creating flexible summer itineraries. For those seeking a quick beach getaway, the Hamptons continue to rank among the most popular destinations for New Yorkers. Known for their scenic coastline, upscale restaurants and relaxing atmosphere, the Hamptons offer easy access from the city and remain ideal for weekend escapes. Nearby destinations such as the Jersey Shore and Cape Cod are also attracting families looking for



traditional summer vacations filled with beach activities, seafood dining and outdoor entertainment. Travel agencies say road trips are becoming increasingly popular among families and groups hoping to avoid expensive airfare. One frequently recommended

destination is Niagara Falls, where visitors can enjoy boat tours, hiking trails, observation decks and nearby wineries during the peak summer months of June through August. Tourism officials describe the area as one of the Northeast's most accessible destinations for multi-day vacations.

Meanwhile, cruise operators departing from ports near New York City and Bayonne are promoting Caribbean itineraries featuring stops in Nassau, San Juan and other tropical destinations. Industry experts say cruises remain appealing because they

combine transportation, accommodations and entertainment into one package, making planning easier for families and large groups. Outdoor travel has also become a major focus this year. National parks, lakeside cabins and mountain

retreats throughout the Northeast are seeing growing interest from travelers seeking quieter vacations away from crowded urban centers. Travel advisers note that destinations offering hiking, kayaking and nature experiences continue to attract younger travelers and families alike. Experts recommend booking flights, hotels and attraction passes early, particularly around holiday weekends when demand tends to peak. They also advise travelers to remain flexible with schedules and transportation plans due to changing weather conditions and heavy traffic on major routes leaving the city. With a wide variety of destinations available within driving distance and beyond, tourism officials say this summer presents an opportunity for New Yorkers to explore new places while balancing convenience, budget and comfort.



YOUTH

COPO Youth Career Day Opens Doors for Future Leaders

Save The People USA helps connect youth with public service careers



took part, creating a broad platform for youth to explore opportunities in law enforcement, public service, education, healthcare, emergency response, and community leadership. The event also included halal lunch and gift bags, helping create a welcoming and supportive environment for participants. The gathering featured representatives and symbols of multiple agencies, including the NYPD, FBI, U.S. Department of Justice,

New York State Police, FDNY, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Marshals Service, NYPD Community Affairs Bureau, Homeland Security Investigations, Nassau County Police Department, and Port Authority Police. Community organizations also played a major role. Participating groups included Darul Uloom NY, Save The People, Afghan School, Jamil Foundation for Children & Youth, Al-Iman School, Jamaica Muslim Center, Yemeni American Association of NY, Elhaam Academy, and many others. For STPUSA, the event reflected its ongoing commitment to youth

development and civic engagement. By helping organize the program, the organization supported a space where young people could ask questions, meet mentors, and imagine future careers in service-oriented fields. The impact of the event extended beyond career information. It encouraged confidence, networking, and leadership among youth while strengthening trust between families, community organizations, and public institutions. By investing in young people and connecting them with real opportunities, COPO Youth Career Day 2026 reinforced a clear message: safer and stronger communities are built when youth are guided, supported, and given pathways to succeed.

Issac Andrew

In a strong show of youth empowerment and community partnership, COPO Youth Career Day 2026 brought young people together with public service professionals, agencies,

and community leaders at the NYPD Police Academy in Queens. The event was held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at 130-30 28th Ave., Queens, NY 11354. Organized with the participation of Save The

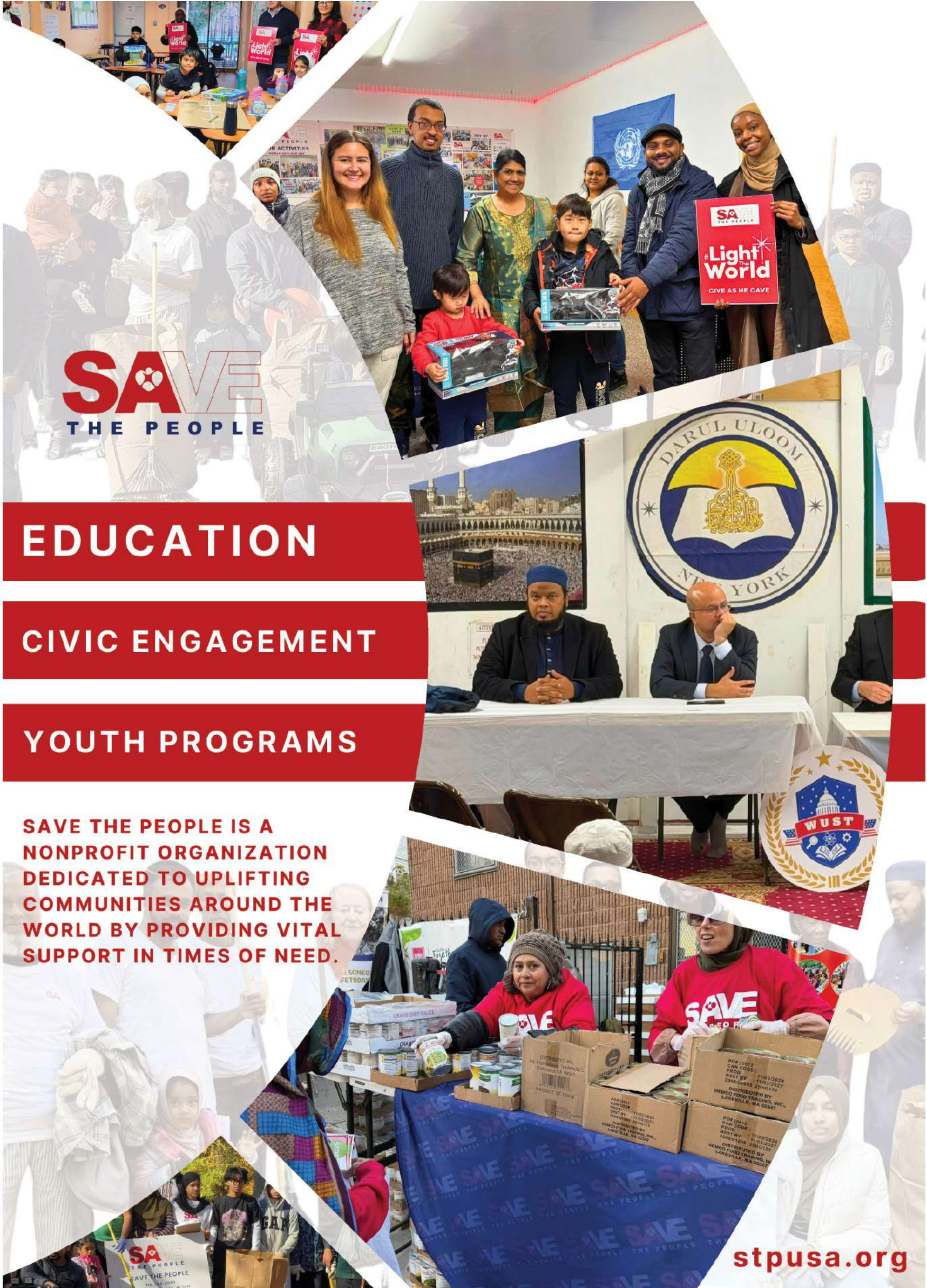
People USA (STPUSA), the program gave students and young community members a direct opportunity to learn about career pathways in federal, state, and city agencies. More than 18 agencies and community partners



YOUTH

Program empowers students through mentorship, networking, and opportunity





SAVE
THE PEOPLE

EDUCATION

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH PROGRAMS

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stpusa.org

CULTURE

Bangladesh Day Parade 2026 Celebrates Culture in Jackson Heights

Diaspora community gathers to showcase heritage, music, and unity

Marcos Alonso

Jackson Heights turned into a vibrant celebration of Bangladeshi heritage as Bangladesh Day Parade 2026 brought together families, community leaders, public officials, artists, and Bangladeshi Americans from across the United States. The parade showcased the culture, pride, and identity of the Bangladeshi diaspora through colorful traditional clothing, music, dancing, rallying, and public celebration. For many attendees, the event was more than a parade; it was a living expression of memory, belonging, and connection to Bangladesh. Held in one of New York's most diverse neighborhoods, the celebration reflected the growing presence and influence of Bangladeshi



Americans in civic and cultural life. Participants used the occasion to represent their roots while also highlighting their contributions to American society. Public officials, including

Grace Meng, joined the event, underscoring the importance of Bangladeshi American communities in Queens and beyond. Community leaders such as Shah Nawaj also participated,

adding to the sense of unity and shared purpose. The parade also drew major figures from Bangladesh's entertainment world. Celebrities including

Chanchal Chowdhury, Sojol, Nirob, and others attended, helping connect the diaspora with the country's cultural and artistic life. Their presence added excitement and visibility

to the event. Throughout the day, attendees celebrated through songs, performances, cultural displays, and community gatherings. Children and young people were able to witness Bangladeshi identity in a public and joyful setting, helping strengthen intergenerational ties. The impact of Bangladesh Day Parade 2026 extended beyond celebration. It offered a platform for representation, reminding the broader public that diaspora communities preserve heritage while also shaping the cultural fabric of New York. As the event concluded, the message was clear: Bangladeshi Americans are proud of their roots, active in their communities, and committed to carrying their culture forward in the United States.



All Photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee



Congo Outbreak Alarms WHO

Rare Ebola strain sparks urgent response in Congo and Uganda

Amkel Nourush

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday declared the Ebola outbreak in Congo and Uganda a public health emergency of international concern as health officials struggle to contain the spread of a rare and dangerous virus strain. According to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the outbreak has already caused 336 suspected cases and 88 deaths, with most infections reported in Congo's Ituri province and two cases confirmed in neighboring Uganda. Authorities said the outbreak is linked to the Bundibugyo virus, a rare form of Ebola for which no approved vaccines or treatments currently exist. The outbreak began in the mining region of Mongwalu before spreading to Rwampara and Bunia, a city near the Ugandan



Photo: Local Healthcare workers on alert Image Source : AP Foto/ Hajarah Nalwadda

border. Health officials warned that heavy population movement, weak road networks and ongoing violence by armed groups could complicate containment efforts. The Africa CDC also reported gaps in contact tracing as authorities work to identify exposed individuals. "This outbreak presents unique challenges because of the unusual strain," said public health expert Dr. Gabriel Nsakala, noting that treatment efforts largely focus on managing symptoms. In response, regional health agencies and international partners have deployed surveillance teams, isolated high-risk contacts and increased border monitoring. However, officials warned that limited funding and logistical difficulties could slow the emergency response in one of Africa's most remote regions.

CNN Founder Dies

Media pioneer Ted Turner remembered for transforming global television news

Adrian Smith

Ted Turner, the visionary businessman who founded CNN and reshaped global television news, has died at the age of 87, according to a statement released Wednesday by Turner Enterprises and confirmed by CNN. Turner transformed the media industry when he launched CNN, the world's first 24-hour television news network, changing how audiences across the globe consumed breaking news. His influence extended beyond broadcasting into philanthropy and international advocacy. In 1998, he founded the United Nations Foundation after



Photo: Ted Turner in Atlanta on 5 October 1986. Image Source: Jean-Louis Atlan/Sygma via Getty Images

pledging a record \$1 billion donation to the United Nations. In a statement, Mark Thompson, chair and CEO of CNN Worldwide, described Turner as

"an intensely involved and committed leader" who was "fearless, and always willing to back a hunch." Thompson added that Turner "was and always will be the

presiding spirit of CNN." Turner also established the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonprofit focused on reducing nuclear and biological threats worldwide. His impact on journalism and public life earned him Time magazine's 1991 Man of the Year recognition. In 2018, Turner revealed he had been diagnosed with Lewy body dementia, a progressive neurological disorder. He was briefly hospitalized in 2025 with pneumonia. According to CNN, Turner is survived by his five children, 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, leaving behind a legacy that profoundly shaped modern media and philanthropy.



Photos: A supermajority of Americans disapprove of Trump's war on Iran, a new CNN poll shows Image Source: AFP via Getty Images

War Support Falls

Americans increasingly reject prolonged conflict with Iran

Nassr Al Shams

A new CNN/SSRS poll shows growing public opposition to President Donald Trump's military campaign against Iran, with only 34% of Americans approving of the operation launched on Feb. 28. The poll found 66% disapprove of the war, while 77% oppose additional Pentagon funding and 68% reject sending U.S. ground troops into Iran. Rising fuel prices linked to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have also fueled criticism of the conflict. Trump continued defending the campaign and criticized NATO allies for refusing to support military operations. In comments posted on Truth Social, he warned Iran the U.S. would continue attacks until maritime traffic resumed through the vital waterway. The survey also placed Trump's overall approval rating at 35%, reflecting growing public concern over the administration's foreign policy direction.



Photo: Senate security run after gunfire was heard along a hallway at the Philippine Senate in Pasay, Philippines Image Source: Aaron Favila/AP

Senator Escapes Custody

Philippine lawmaker sought by ICC slips out amid Senate chaos

Julian Alvez:

Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, a Philippine lawmaker wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), escaped from the Senate complex in Manila after chaos erupted during a confrontation involving security personnel and a government agent. Gunshots fired Wednesday night reportedly created confusion that allowed the senator to flee while under Senate protective custody. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. later called

for calm and confirmed an investigation into whether the disturbance was staged. Senate President Alan Cayetano denied any obstruction of justice, saying he had not seen an official ICC arrest warrant. Critics, however, blamed Senate officials for failing to prevent the escape. Dela Rosa, a former police chief under ex-President Rodrigo Duterte, is linked to investigations into deadly anti-drug operations now being examined by the ICC.



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