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NEW YORK NEWS

From New York

The Voice of People

Alexandar Sullivan

The United States and Iran signaled progress on Sunday toward a possible peace agreement, but officials said major terms remain unresolved and no deal was expected to be signed immediately. A senior U.S. official said talks were still focused on critical details, including reopening the Strait of Hormuz, handling Iran's highly enriched uranium, sanctions relief and the possible unfreezing of Iranian assets. Another U.S. administration official said Tehran had committed in principle to reopening the strait and disposing of its enriched uranium stockpile, though the method and timeline remain under negotiation. President Donald Trump said negotiations were moving in an "orderly and constructive manner," but warned that the U.S. would not "rush into a deal." He added that the American blockade of Iranian ports

Hormuz Talks Continue

Energy markets await outcome

would remain in "full force and effect" until an agreement is reached. The proposed deal could unfold in two phases, with the first focused on restoring shipping through the strait and the second involving 30 to 60 days of broader nuclear negotiations. Still, analysts warned that even if the war ends, easing the global energy crisis and lowering consumer prices could take time.



Photo: President Donald Trump: "US won't rush into an Iran deal."
Image Source: Online

Ukraine Hit Overnight

Missiles and drones target cities

Lily Anderson

Russia launched a large-scale overnight attack on Ukraine, killing four people and injuring about 100 as missiles and drones struck Kyiv and several other regions. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the capital was the main target of the assault, which began late Saturday and continued into Sunday. Ukrainian officials said dozens of residential buildings, a school, an opera house and a museum were damaged. In Kyiv, 69 people were injured, and emergency crews worked through multiple scenes of fires, debris and destroyed buildings.

Ukraine's air force said it detected 90 missiles and 600 drones, adding that early data showed 55 missiles and 549 drones were shot down or intercepted. Officials also reported direct missile and drone hits across 54 locations. Russia's defense ministry said the strikes were a response to Ukrainian attacks on civilian infrastructure and claimed it used the Oreshnik hypersonic missile. Ukraine did not immediately confirm that claim. European leaders condemned the attack, while EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas called the reported use of the weapon a "political scare-tactic and reckless nuclear-brinkmanship."

White House Shooting

Gunman killed near checkpoint



Photo: Suspect killed after opening fire on Secret Service near White House
Image Source: BBC/Getty Images

Lily Anderson

A gunman opened fire near a White House security checkpoint on Saturday evening, prompting Secret Service officers to return fire and killing the suspect in a tense incident that briefly locked down reporters inside the complex. Authorities said the shooting happened shortly after 6 p.m. near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, D.C., close to the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The suspect, identified in U.S. media as Nasire Best, 21, approached the checkpoint, pulled a weapon from his bag and began firing before officers struck him. He later died at a hospital. A bystander was also wounded, though officials said it was not immediately clear whether the person was hit by the suspect's gunfire or during the exchange with officers. No Secret Service personnel were injured. President Donald Trump was inside the White House at the time and was not harmed. Trump thanked law enforcement for their "swift and professional action," while reporters described hearing multiple shots before being rushed into the briefing room. The incident renewed concerns about security around the presidency after recent gunfire near major White House-related events.

Chemical Tank Threat

Thousands evacuated in Orange County

Henry Bob

A damaged chemical tank in Garden Grove, Southern California, kept about 50,000 residents under evacuation orders as officials continued working to prevent a possible explosion at a GKN Aerospace Transparency Systems facility. The pressurized tank, holding 6,000 to 7,000 gallons of methyl methacrylate, overheated on Thursday and began venting vapors. Fire crews have been spraying the tank with water to cool the chemicals inside. Officials said a possible crack was spotted overnight, but as of Sunday morning, no leak had been confirmed. "There's still the danger of a possible explosion," said Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Wayhowe Huang. "We're still operating as



Photo: Southern California chemical tank at risk of exploding as 50,000 residents are ordered to evacuate
Image Source: Online

if that is the risk." EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the most likely scenario appeared to be a "low-volume release" that could be monitored and contained. Air monitoring so far has remained within normal limits, and no injuries have been reported. The emergency has disrupted families and businesses across Orange County, with evacuation areas extending beyond Garden Grove into

nearby cities. Some residents filed a class-action lawsuit against GKN, arguing the crisis has already harmed the community. Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to support local response efforts.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Mourners pay tribute together

NYN Desk

Thousands of community members gathered for the janaza prayer of Amin Abdullah, Nader Awad and Mansour Kaziha, offering a solemn farewell to three men remembered with deep respect and honor. The funeral prayer brought together mourners from across the community, many of whom came to pay tribute, stand with the families and offer prayers for the departed. The large turnout reflected the emotional weight of the moment and the strong connection many



people felt to the three men. Attendees remembered Amin Abdullah, Nader Awad and Mansour Kaziha as heroes, with prayers asking that Allah grant them the rank of shaheed, or martyrs. The gathering was marked by grief, unity and a shared sense of loss. For many, the janaza was not only a funeral prayer, but also a public expression of community solidarity. As mourners stood together, the tribute underscored how deeply the three men had touched those around them and how strongly their memory will remain within the community.

New playground planned for 2027



Photo: Officials and Flushing community members celebrate the \$5.6M Captain Mario Fajardo Playground reconstruction. Image Source : NYC Parks/Hannah Mrakovčić

Staff Reporter

NYC Parks has broken ground on a \$5.6 million reconstruction of Captain Mario Fajardo Playground in Kissena Corridor Park in Flushing, launching a major upgrade designed to create safer, more inclusive recreation space for local

families. The project will rebuild the playground, basketball courts and handball courts, with construction expected to finish by Spring 2027. Plans include separate play areas for different age groups and abilities, more greenspace, improved drainage and plumbing, additional lighting

and universally accessible entrances on all three sides of the park. The redesigned playground will feature swings of different heights and seating styles, while a relocated spray shower will serve as a central gathering point. During the off-season, that area will also function as a children's bike-riding space. Jacqueline Langsam, Queens commissioner for NYC Parks, said the project reflects the city's commitment to safe and welcoming spaces for people of all ages and abilities. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards said the timing near Memorial Day was meaningful because the park honors Captain Mario Fajardo, a Flushing resident and Ecuadorian immigrant who died while serving during Operation Desert Storm. Council Member Sandra Ung said the improvements will better serve children, athletes and the broader community for years to come.

Ellis Island medal recognizes service



Photo: Elissa Montanti and Alfred (Fred) Cerullo III stop to pause for the camera after they received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award. Image Source: Elissa Montanti / Staten Island Advance

News Correspondent

Two Staten Island community leaders were honored with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, a prestigious national award recognizing public service, philanthropy and commitment to cultural heritage. Elissa Montanti and Alfred "Fred" C. Cerullo III were named to the Class of 2026 and recognized on May 16 during a formal gala in the historic Great Hall on Ellis Island. The medal is officially recognized by both houses of Congress and entered annually into the Congressional Record. Montanti, founder and executive director of the Global Medical Relief Fund, and Cerullo, president and CEO of the Grand Central Partnership, were recognized for their civic leadership and dedication to improving lives. Nasser J. Kazeminy, chairman of the Ellis Island Honors Society, said the honorees represent the legacy of immigrants who helped shape the nation through "hard work, courage and service." Montanti called the ceremony "a night never to be forgotten," noting that her grandparents first arrived in America through Ellis Island more than 100 years ago. Cerullo described the recognition as both "an honor and humbling," saying it was a weekend his family would never forget.

Hamptons Express Resumes



Photo: Hamptons-bound Long Island Rail Road riders hop on the first "Cannonball" express train of the summer. Thursday, May 21, 2026 Image Source: Marc A. Hermann / MTA

Senior Reporter

The MTA launched its summer travel season on Thursday afternoon with the return of the Long Island Rail

Road Cannonball, giving beachgoers a faster route from New York Penn Station to the Hamptons ahead of Memorial Day Weekend. MTA Chair and CEO Janno

Lieber and LIRR President Rob Free announced the service before the first train departed at 4:07 p.m. on May 21. The Cannonball skips all stops between Penn Station and West Hampton, then continues to Southampton, Bridgehampton, East Hampton and Montauk. "Summer is finally here," Free said, calling the Cannonball a signature way to reach seasonal destinations. Tickets cost \$33, with trips to West Hampton taking about 92 minutes on Thursdays and 96 minutes on Fridays. The MTA is also expanding beach access across the city, including extended Rockaway Park Shuttle service, frequent D, F, N and Q trains from Coney Island-Stillwell Avenue, seasonal Q35 service to Jacob Riis Park and weekend Bx12 service to Orchard Beach.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
03:56	12:53	04:51	08:16	09:50
03:55	12:53	04:51	08:16	09:51
03:54	12:53	04:52	08:17	09:52
03:53	12:53	04:52	08:18	09:54
03:52	12:53	04:52	08:19	09:55
03:52	12:53	04:52	08:20	09:56
03:51	12:54	04:53	08:20	09:57

OPINION

Eid al-Adha: The Deeper Meaning of Sacrifice

— Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

Every year, Muslims around the world observe Eid al-Adha, one of the most important and meaningful occasions in Islam.

Many people know it as the festival when Muslims sacrifice an animal, but the true meaning of this day goes far beyond the outward ritual. Eid al-Adha is a spiritual reminder of faith, obedience, humility, compassion, and service to humanity.

At its heart, sacrifice is not only about the animal; it is about what we are willing to remove from within ourselves. It asks us to confront the ego, greed, pride, selfishness, hatred, jealousy, and inner darkness that distance us from Allah and from one another. The sacrifice becomes meaningful only when it helps purify the heart and strengthen our moral character.

The story of Eid al-Adha takes us back to Prophet Ibrahim, peace be upon him, whose life was a model of complete submission to Allah. When he was commanded to sacrifice what he loved most, he showed absolute obedience and trust in his Creator. His son, Prophet Ismail, peace be upon him, also displayed remarkable

patience and surrender. In the end, Allah replaced Ismail with a ram, teaching humanity that Allah does not desire cruelty or blood, but sincere faith, obedience, and devotion. This is the real lesson of Eid al-Adha. Every year, this sacred occasion asks us an important question: What are we willing to give up for the sake of Allah? Are we ready to sacrifice arrogance? Are we ready to give up dishonesty and selfishness? Are we willing to remove the inner devil that pushes us away from compassion, justice, mercy, and humility?

The Qur'an teaches us that neither the flesh nor the blood of the sacrificed animal reaches Allah, but what reaches Him is our piety and sincerity. This means the sacrifice is not a ritual of display. It is not about showing wealth, competing with others, or turning worship into a social status symbol. It is an act of worship meant



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

to awaken humility and remind us that Allah looks at the sincerity of our hearts.

Eid al-Adha also carries a powerful social message. The meat is shared with family, neighbors, and especially the poor and needy. In this way, the day becomes a bridge between worship and service. It reminds us that faith is incomplete when we ignore hunger, poverty, and human suffering around us. A true believer does not celebrate alone while others remain forgotten.

As CEO of Save The People USA, I see the spirit of Eid al-Adha as deeply connected to community service. Sacrifice means standing beside the vulnerable. It means feeding the hungry, supporting struggling families, protecting the dignity of the poor, and building a community where no one feels abandoned. The lesson of Prophet Ibrahim is not only remembered in prayer; it must be

practiced through compassion and action.

In today's world, where materialism, division, and selfishness often dominate human behavior, Eid al-Adha calls us back to moral clarity. It teaches that the greatest victory is not over another person, but over our own lower desires. A person may sacrifice an animal, but if pride, hatred, and injustice remain alive in the heart, then the deeper lesson of Eid al-Adha has been missed.

Eid al-Adha is therefore a celebration of faith, but also a call to transformation. It asks us to renew our obedience to Allah, restore our compassion for humanity, and recommit ourselves to justice and mercy. The knife used in sacrifice should remind us to cut away cruelty from our character, greed from our habits, and arrogance from our souls. May this Eid al-Adha inspire us to become better servants of Allah and better servants of humanity. May our sacrifice be accepted, our hearts be purified, and our communities be strengthened through kindness, generosity, and love.



“Sacrifice is not only about the animal; it is about what we are willing to remove from within ourselves.”



Photo: A picture of the Holy Hajj

Image Source: Online



“A person may sacrifice an animal, but if pride, hatred, and injustice remain alive in the heart, then the deeper lesson of Eid al-Adha has been missed.”

Punctuality: The Discipline That Builds Trust

— Farhana Karim

Punctuality is more than simply arriving on time. It is a reflection of discipline, respect, responsibility, and character. In every society, time is one of the most valuable resources, yet it is also one of the most easily wasted. A person who respects time respects not only their own life, but also the lives and commitments of others.

In personal life, punctuality creates order. It helps people manage responsibilities, reduce stress, and build consistency. A student who arrives on time develops discipline. A worker who meets deadlines earns reliability. A leader who respects schedules builds confidence among those who follow. In this way, punctuality becomes a quiet but powerful sign of maturity.

In professional life, punctuality is directly connected to trust. Meetings, appointments, projects, and services all depend on time. When someone is repeatedly late, it sends a message that other people's time is not

important. On the other hand, being punctual shows seriousness and accountability. It tells others that one's words and commitments can be trusted.

Punctuality also has a moral dimension. Time lost can never be returned. Every delayed responsibility, missed opportunity, or ignored commitment affects someone. A late doctor may increase a patient's anxiety. A late teacher may waste students' learning time. A late public service may disrupt an entire community. Therefore, punctuality is not only a personal habit; it is a social responsibility.

Many societies that value punctuality tend to function with greater efficiency. Public transportation runs better,



— Farhana Karim
 Writer and Community Observer

institutions become more dependable, businesses operate smoothly, and people feel greater confidence in systems. Where punctuality is ignored, disorder grows. Delays become normal, excuses replace accountability, and progress slows down. However, punctuality should not be understood only as strict clock-watching. It also requires planning, preparation, and respect for realistic limits. Being on time means thinking ahead, avoiding unnecessary delay, and valuing commitments before they become

urgent. It is a habit formed through self-control and awareness. In today's fast-moving world, punctuality is becoming even more important. Digital communication,

global business, education, and community work all depend on timely action. A delayed response, missed deadline, or late decision can create larger consequences than before. Time management is now a basic requirement for success and credibility.

Families and schools must teach punctuality from an early age. Children who learn to wake up on time, attend class regularly, complete assignments, and respect schedules grow into responsible adults. Communities also need to encourage a culture where time is valued and delays are not casually accepted. Ultimately, punctuality is a form of respect. It respects commitments, strengthens trust, improves productivity, and reflects inner discipline. A punctual person may not always be the loudest or most visible, but they often become the most dependable. In a world full of promises, punctuality is one of the clearest proofs of sincerity.

HATE TO HOPE

Interfaith Unity Sends Message Against Hate and Violence

Leaders affirm safety, dignity, and justice for all communities



James Anderson

In a solemn show of unity after a deadly attack on the Muslim community in San Diego, leaders from

government agencies, law enforcement, interfaith organizations, and diverse communities gathered in New York City on May 19, 2026, to mourn, condemn hate,

and stand with Muslim Americans. The gathering was organized on short notice by Save The People USA CEO Imam Muhammad Shahidullah

and JMC Secretary General Mohammed Fakhru Islam Delwer, together with the NYC Muslim community. The event reflected an urgent call for solidarity following the tragedy that claimed the lives of three Muslims. The program opened with a Quran recitation by Imam Zafeer Ali, Dean of Al-Mamoor School, setting a prayerful and reflective tone. Community members, faith leaders, and partner organizations then joined in a shared message that hatred, violence, and division have no place in society. Representatives from the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office, Mayor's Office, NYPD, FDNY, MTA, NYC Office for the

Prevention of Hate Crimes, COPO, Commonpoint, and other community partners attended. Their presence underscored the importance of institutional and grassroots cooperation in responding to hate-driven violence. Speakers and guests included Aftab Mannan, Caura Richardson, FDNY Chaplain Joseph Potasnik, Bob Kaplan, Vijay Ramjattan, Darin Sawan, Mohammed Mohsin, Inspector Abdullah, Mohammad Sadik, Rokaiya, Dr. Henry Goldsmith, Ravi Reddy, Matt Abraham, Rabbi Yossi Mendelson, Imam Safraz Baccus, Imam Sheikh, Mohammed Rezvi, Japneet Singh, Chuck Park, Mohamed Amin, and Jahangir Alam.

Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Caribbean, Buddhist, and other community leaders stood together, reflecting the strength of shared humanity during grief. Organizations including JCRC, UJA-Federation of New York, QJCC, HJC, GodSquad, JMC leadership, and the Save The People "Hate to Hope" team reaffirmed their commitment to peace, justice, and community protection. The gathering concluded with prayers for the victims and their families, and a renewed call to confront Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism, and every form of hate. Its message was clear: in moments of pain, unity becomes a community's strongest defense.



HATE TO HOPE

Save The People USA helps organize urgent unity gathering



PHILANTHROPY

STPUSA Food Drive Supports Over 1,200 Family Members

More than 300 households receive emergency food assistance

Ashley Reed

Save The People USA (STPUSA) organized a major Halal Food Distribution in Jamaica, New York, providing emergency food assistance to families facing food insecurity and helping hundreds of households meet essential needs with dignity. The distribution was held on May 21, 2026, as part of STPUSA's continued commitment to supporting vulnerable residents across the community. More than 300 households, representing over 1,200 family members, received essential food support during the effort. The program focused on families struggling with rising costs and limited access to reliable food resources. By providing halal food assistance, organizers ensured that support was both practical and culturally



appropriate for many community members. STPUSA was joined by key partners, including Human Concern USA, Prothom Alo Trust Foundation, and Met Council, along with dedicated volunteers who helped organize, prepare, and distribute food to residents. Their



collaboration reflected the importance of



community-based partnerships in

addressing hunger. Volunteers played a central role throughout the distribution, assisting families and ensuring food packages reached those in need. The atmosphere reflected service, compassion, and shared responsibility, with organizers emphasizing

the importance of standing beside families during difficult times. The impact of the event extended beyond food assistance. For many recipients, the distribution offered relief, reassurance, and a reminder that the community has not forgotten them. Efforts like this also help strengthen trust between local organizations and residents. As food insecurity continues to affect families across New York, Save The People USA has remained active in organizing direct support programs. The May 21 Halal Food Distribution demonstrated how coordinated action can bring meaningful help to households in need. By working with partners and volunteers, STPUSA once again showed that compassion becomes most powerful when turned into action.



PHILANTHROPY

Community partners join effort to fight food insecurity in Queens



RECOGNITION

A Tribute to Service and Community Commitment

Mohammed Fakrul Islam Delwar recognized by family, friends, and civic partners

Jessica Morgan

In a heartfelt celebration of community service and personal achievement, Mohammed Fakrul Islam Delwar was recently honored by friends, family, and community supporters following his recognition as a 2026 honoree at the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club's 71st Annual Dinner Dance. The gathering came few days after Delwar was recognized at the Queens Village event for his longstanding civic contributions. This celebration offered those closest to him an opportunity to express appreciation for an honor many described as a proud moment for the Bangladeshi-American community. The event was supported by Save The People USA, Elhaam Academy, and Jamaica



Bangladesh Friends Society, reflecting the broad network of organizations connected to Delwar's community work. Their support underscored the respect he has earned across educational, social service, and cultural spaces. Originally from Bangladesh, Mohammed Fakrul Islam Delwar came

to the United States in 1993 and gradually built a reputation as a committed community advocate, business leader, and supporter of immigrant families. Over the years, he has been active in

Bangladeshi-American business and civic organizations, helping promote small business development, cultural identity, and community engagement. Delwar's work has also included support for youth empowerment and immigrant assistance, areas that remain deeply important to many families building new lives in New York.

His recognition at the Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club's 71st Annual Dinner Dance highlighted those contributions alongside other honorees dedicated to public service and civic life. For friends and family, the follow-up celebration was not simply about an award. It was a tribute to

sacrifice, and leadership. Attendees recognized Delwar as someone whose work has helped connect communities, preserve heritage, and strengthen participation among South Asian and immigrant residents. The support of Save The People USA, Elhaam Academy, and Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society gave the gathering added community significance. Together, the organizations helped mark a moment of pride and appreciation for a leader whose service continues to inspire others. As the celebration concluded, Delwar's honor stood as a reminder that civic leadership often begins at the neighborhood level—with individuals who build trust, support families, and work steadily to improve the community around them.



RECOGNITION

Save The People USA, Elhaam Academy, and JBFS support community gathering



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Community Leaders Unite to Expand Civic Participation

STPUSA and NYC CEC focus on voter access, language support, and inclusion



William Henry

In a meaningful effort to strengthen civic participation among immigrant and language communities, Save The People USA (STPUSA)

participated in the NYC Civic Engagement Commission's first convening, Building Civic Power Across Communities, held on May 18. The gathering brought



together community-based organizations, civic leaders, voter assistance teams, and members of the Language Assistance Advisory Committee (LAAC) to discuss how New York's diverse communities can become more engaged in public life. Leaders representing more than 12 language communities took part in the convening. Representing Save The People USA, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of STPUSA and a member of LAAC, joined the organization's team, the Voter Assistance Program team, fellow LAAC members, and other community leaders for the discussion. The event focused on identifying challenges, gaps, lessons learned,

advocacy strategies, and collaborative plans to increase civic participation. The convening emphasized that language access is central to democracy. For many immigrant communities, limited English proficiency can create barriers to voting, public services, and civic participation. By bringing together organizations that work directly with these communities, the event created space for practical solutions rooted in lived experience. For STPUSA, the event aligned closely with its mission of uplifting immigrant voices and supporting community empowerment. The organization's participation reflected its ongoing commitment to helping residents access

information, understand civic systems, and engage more confidently in decision-making processes. The impact of the convening extended beyond one meeting. By connecting CBOs across language communities, the event strengthened partnerships that can support future outreach, voter education, and advocacy efforts. As New York continues to grow as one of the world's most diverse cities, initiatives like Building Civic Power Across Communities highlight the importance of inclusion, representation, and accessible civic engagement. For Save The People USA, the message was clear: stronger communities are built when every voice has the tools and opportunity to be heard.





The poster features a dark blue background with various educational icons: a blue graduation cap, a yellow book, a white lightbulb, a white paper airplane, and a white paper airplane. In the center, the Elhaam Academy logo is displayed, which consists of a palm tree and a book within a circular frame, surrounded by the text 'ELHAAM ACADEMY'. The main text is presented on torn paper strips: 'ENROLLMENT' on a green strip, 'NOW OPEN' on a yellow strip, and '2026 / 2027 Session' in a yellow script font. Below this, it states 'NY STATE APPROVED ISLAMIC SCHOOL'. A white grid paper section at the bottom contains the text 'LET YOUR CHILD EXPLORE, CREATE, AND SHINE WITH US!' in blue, with a green arrow pointing to it from the right. Two more torn paper strips are pinned to the grid: a yellow one saying 'Limited seats available!' and a green one saying 'Register today! KG TO GRADE 8'. At the bottom, contact information is provided in blue text.

ENROLLMENT
NOW OPEN
2026 / 2027 Session
NY STATE APPROVED ISLAMIC SCHOOL

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ICNACON

ICNACON 2026 Brings Muslim Families and Scholars Together

51st annual ICNA-MAS Convention highlights faith, education, service, and community

Noah Presley

The 51st Annual ICNA-MAS Convention, known as ICNACON 2026, brought thousands of Muslim families, scholars, activists, educators, youth, and community leaders together for a major weekend of faith, learning, service, and reflection. Organized by the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) and MAS, the convention offered a wide-ranging program designed to address the spiritual, social, educational, and civic needs of American Muslims. The gathering featured main sessions, keynote lectures, youth programming, technology discussions, mental health sessions, legal and community panels, Quran recitation, Qiyam ul Layl, childcare programs, a health fair, career fair, debate competition, Quran competition, hackathon, halal food, and family-



friendly activities. The convention's schedule reflected the breadth of issues facing Muslim communities today. Sessions covered topics such as "A World in Darkness: Jahiliyyah Then & Now," "Revelation: When Light Breaks Through," "Mental Health & the Heart," "Smart Foundations: Data, AI,



and the Next Generation of Learners," "Muslims in America," "Palestine, Kashmir, Uyghurs," "Islamic Finance," and

"Standing Strong Under Surveillance." Founded on September 1, 1968, ICNA began as a response to the need for a supportive Muslim community in North America. Over the decades, it has grown into a major grassroots organization focused on Islamic education, outreach, social service, youth development,

interfaith engagement, and community empowerment. Its work includes initiatives such as ICNA Relief, WhyIslam, Young Muslims, ICNA Sisters, and The Message International. In his message, ICNA President Br. Saad Kazmi said the organization remains committed "to serve

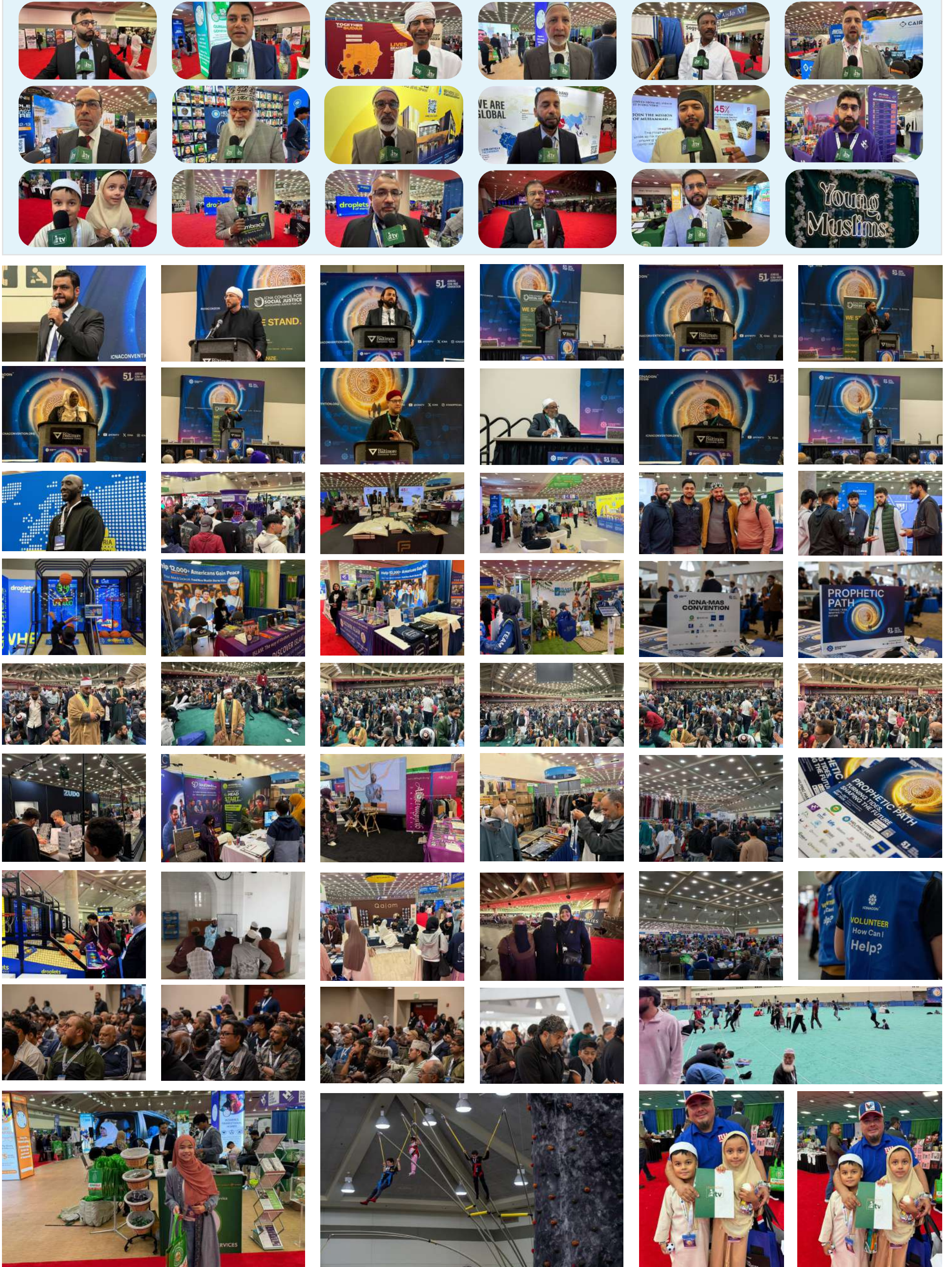
humanity, spread the message of Islam, and build a more just and compassionate society." He highlighted ICNA's grassroots foundation, describing "thousands of dedicated volunteers working across communities to uplift lives, dispel misconceptions, and uphold the values of mercy, service, and justice that Islam teaches." The impact of ICNACON 2026 extended beyond lectures and workshops. For many attendees, the convention served as a space for spiritual renewal, family connection, youth mentorship, professional networking, and community building. By combining scholarship, service, worship, and practical guidance, the ICNA-MAS Convention once again demonstrated its role as one of the most significant annual gatherings for Muslims in North America.



ICNA CON

Annual event reflects ICNA's grassroots mission across North America

The broadcast partner of the event was ITV USA.



RELIEF

Flood-Affected Families Receive Relief in Jamaica, Queens

STPUSA organizes emergency food distribution at 183rd Street and 90th Avenue

Emily Parker

In response to recent flooding caused by heavy rainfall and standing water in Jamaica, Queens, Save The People USA (STPUSA) organized an emergency food distribution on Friday, bringing immediate relief to families facing hardship. The distribution took place near 183rd Street and 90th Avenue, where flood-affected residents received essential food assistance. Families were provided with fresh produce and dry food items, helping address urgent needs after the flooding disrupted daily life for local households. The effort was led by STPUSA CEO Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, who joined community partners



and residents at the site. Also present were Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society President Mohammad Fakhru Islam Delwar,

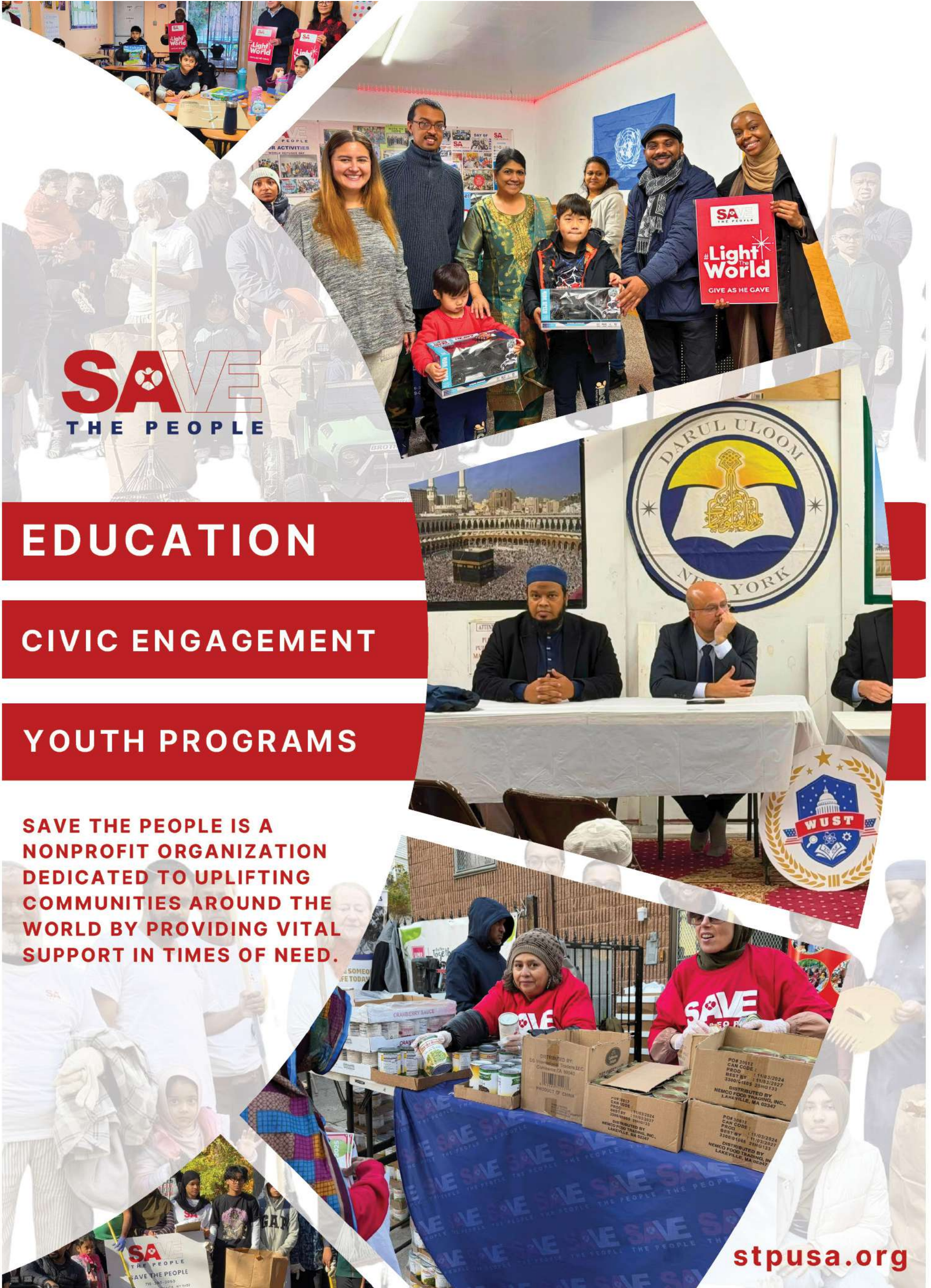


Secretary Belal, and flood-affected family members Dora, Amrita, and Amit, who stood with organizers as relief was distributed.

The flooding, which followed heavy rainfall and water buildup in the neighborhood, created difficulties for residents already managing household and financial pressures. In such moments, emergency food support can provide both practical assistance and emotional reassurance. For Save The People USA, the response reflected its broader mission of standing with vulnerable families during times of crisis. By mobilizing quickly, the organization helped ensure that residents had access to basic food supplies while the community continued recovering from the impact of the storm. The presence of local leaders and affected families also underscored the importance of

grassroots coordination. Community-based responses often play a critical role in reaching residents quickly, especially when emergencies affect specific blocks or neighborhoods. Beyond the food distribution itself, the event carried a message of solidarity. It showed that during difficult moments, neighbors, civic groups, and community leaders can come together to support families with dignity and care. As residents in Jamaica, Queens continue to recover from the flooding, STPUSA's emergency assistance served as a timely reminder that local action can make a meaningful difference when families need help most.





SAVE
THE PEOPLE

EDUCATION

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

YOUTH PROGRAMS

**SAVE THE PEOPLE IS A
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
DEDICATED TO UPLIFTING
COMMUNITIES AROUND THE
WORLD BY PROVIDING VITAL
SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED.**

SERVICE

Volunteers Help Jamaica Flood Victims Clean Damaged Homes

STPUSA, IRUSA, NYDIS, and partners join emergency recovery effort



Carlos Stewart

In the aftermath of flash flooding in Jamaica, Queens, volunteers from several community and disaster-response organizations joined forces to help affected families clean out



damaged homes and begin the difficult path toward recovery.



The house-cleaning operation brought together Save The

People USA (STPUSA), Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA), NYDIS, and other partners responding to homes damaged by heavy rain and flooding. Many residents saw basements flooded, household belongings destroyed, and water rising close to first-floor levels, leaving some families displaced and in urgent need of assistance. Fatima Niass, Program Manager of STPUSA, helped lead the volunteer team on the ground. Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save The People USA, also joined the operation, along with JMC Secretary Fakhru Islam Delwar, who assisted volunteers and flood-affected residents. Other representatives and volunteers from partner organizations were also present. Speaking from the

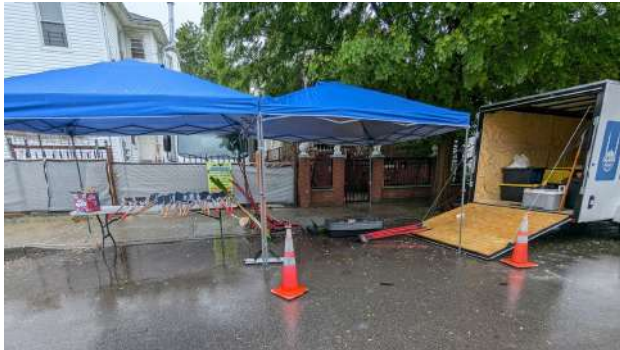
scene, Abdullah Shevky, Senior National Disaster Specialist with Islamic Relief's Disaster Management Team, said teams had deployed to support the local community after flash flooding damaged multiple homes. "This is what it's all about, is coming together as a community, working together, helping one another," he said. Volunteers worked to remove wet and damaged debris from inside homes, including drywall and flooring. Shevky noted that quick removal is critical after flooding because damp materials can lead to mold, creating serious health concerns for residents. The cleanup also had a financial impact. By helping with demolition and removal work, volunteers allowed families to preserve limited resources for future rebuilding rather than spending them

immediately on cleanup costs. The effort was coordinated alongside broader emergency partners, including New York City Emergency Management, reflecting a "full spectrum of community work," as Shevky described it. Despite continued rain, volunteers remained active in the field. The operation carried added meaning during the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah, a sacred period in the Islamic calendar. Organizers framed the work as both service and worship, encouraging volunteers to physically show up for families in need. For flood victims in Jamaica, the response offered more than cleanup. It brought reassurance, solidarity, and a reminder that recovery begins when communities stand together.



SERVICE

Volunteers remove damaged debris to prevent mold and support rebuilding





China Launches Shenzhou-23

Mission supports moon ambitions

Nassr Al Shams

China launched its Shenzhou-23 mission on Sunday, sending three astronauts to the Tiangong space station in a major step toward Beijing's plan to land humans on the moon by 2030. The Long March 2-F rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan launch center in northwestern China, carrying Lai Ka-ying, Zhu Yangzhu and Zhang Zhiyuan into orbit. The mission is historic for Hong Kong, as Lai, a former police officer, became the territory's first astronaut to travel into space. The crew is expected to carry out research in life sciences, materials science, fluid physics



Photos: Rocket carrying the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft blasts off at the Jiuquan space centre in Gansu province, China
Image Source: Maxim Shemetov/Reuters

and medicine. A key part of the mission will be China's first full yearlong orbital stay by one astronaut, though officials said that crew member will be named later. Experts said the extended mission will test human endurance, including bone loss, muscle decline, radiation exposure and psychological fatigue in space. It will also help China prepare for longer missions to the moon and possibly Mars. The launch comes as China accelerates its space program, including plans for a lunar landing before 2030 and a future scientific base on the moon.



Photo: Attendees walk past a Google sign at Google I/O on May 19, 2026, in Mountain View, California.
Image Source: Benjamin Fanjoy/Getty Images

AI Reshapes Internet

Search, shopping and social media evolve

Julian Alvez

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing how people search, shop and interact online, pushing major technology companies to redesign some of the internet's most familiar tools. At Google's annual conference, the company announced new search features that can generate custom visuals, interactive graphics and mini-apps directly on the search page. Robby Stein, vice president of product for Google Search, said users are now asking "much longer and harder questions" that may not have one clear answer online. The shift reflects how platforms like ChatGPT have changed user behavior. According to Google, searches in AI Mode are three times longer than regular searches and have more than doubled every quarter since launching a year ago. AI is also transforming social media and shopping. Virtual influencers such as Aitana Lopez and Lil' Miquela are attracting brands, while traffic from AI services to U.S. retail sites grew 393% year over year in early 2026, according to Adobe. Experts say the internet is entering a new phase where AI becomes harder to avoid. As marketing executive Robert Langenback noted, search could look very different within six months or a year.

Iran Chooses Mexico

Security concerns shape World Cup plans



Photo: Iran are preparing for the World Cup at a training camp in Turkey
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

Adrian Smith

Iran's Football Association says its World Cup training base has been moved from the United States to Mexico, as security concerns

and visa questions continue to surround the team's tournament preparations. Mehdi Taj, president of the Iranian FA, said FIFA approved Iran's request to relocate its base from Tucson,

Arizona, to Tijuana, a Mexican border city near the Pacific Ocean. FIFA has not yet publicly confirmed the change. "All team base camps for the countries participating in the World Cup must be

approved by FIFA," Taj said, adding that meetings with FIFA and tournament officials helped secure the move. He said Tijuana would reduce travel time for Iran's matches in Los Angeles. Iran is scheduled to face New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium on June 21, both in Los Angeles, before playing Egypt in Seattle on June 26. The tournament begins on June 11 and is being hosted by the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The decision comes amid ongoing Middle East tensions and unresolved visa issues, including concerns over individuals linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Iran is currently preparing in Antalya, Turkey.

Travel Costs Rise

Americans hit roads anyway

Charles Lewis

Americans traveled in record numbers over the holiday weekend despite sharply higher gas prices and airfares, showing that many families remain determined to take trips even as costs climb. AAA projected that 45 million Americans would travel at least 50 miles from home, surpassing last year's record of 44.8 million. The surge came as airfares rose more than 20% year and average reached gallon into the For many the higher prices changed did not them. Smith, New Mexico to Newark, New Jersey, said travel is one of the few things he allows himself to spend on. Others chose to drive long distances, stay with relatives or shorten vacations to save money. Adam Sacks, president of Tourism Economics, said travelers may worry about gas prices but often behave differently. "There's a disconnect between how people feel and how they act," he said. Hotel operators said some guests appeared to be cutting back on overnight stays, but the overall travel rush showed strong demand heading into the summer season.



Photo: Gas and airfare prices have jumped
Image Source: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg/Getty Images



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