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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Trade Tensions Rise

U.S. president vows retaliation over European tech

Rodrigo Diaz

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to impose a 100% import tariff on any European country that introduces a digital services tax targeting American tech giants. In a Truth Social post, he warned such tariffs would override existing trade agreements.
The move has renewed attention on the UK's 2% Digital Services Tax, introduced in 2020, which raised over £800 million in 2024–25 and applies to companies including Apple, Google,

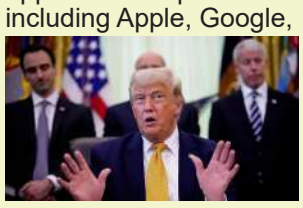


Photo:US President Donald Trump speaks during an event in the Oval Office of the White House on June 22, 2026 in Washington, DC. Image Source: Getty Images

Meta, and Amazon. The warning comes shortly after a new U.S.-EU trade agreement. Cyprus' commerce minister said the EU would respond "swiftly and proportionately" if its interests were threatened. France, Italy, and Spain already levy similar digital taxes, highlighting ongoing tensions between Washington and Europe over digital taxation and trade.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Trump threatened 100% tariffs over digital taxes.**
- **The warning targeted countries taxing U.S. tech firms.**
- **Several European nations have such taxes.**

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Photo: Aerial images show destruction in La Guaira
Image Source: AFP via Getty Images

Race Against Rubble

Emergency crews intensify search efforts

Alexandar Sullivan

The death toll from Venezuela's twin earthquakes has climbed to 1,430, with 3,238 people injured, as emergency crews continue an urgent search for survivors nearly 72 hours after the disaster struck. Speaking on state television, top lawmaker Jorge Rodríguez described the earthquakes as "the most disastrous event this republic has suffered in the last 123 years," while confirming that 3,142 families remain in emergency shelters.
Authorities reported 430 aftershocks following the powerful earthquakes that struck on Wednesday, prompting officials to urge residents to remain indoors and avoid traveling to La Guaira, the hardest-hit state, where widespread destruction has severely damaged homes and infrastructure. Officials also confirmed that about 60% of electricity services have been restored in the affected region. Rescue teams from around the world continue working around the clock despite challenging conditions. Hector Mendez, a member of a Mexican search and rescue team, described recovering the body of a woman while her dog survived the collapse. "The dog came out alive, but the woman unfortunately died," he said, adding that crews were still searching for her son. Families of the missing have pleaded for rescue operations to continue. Yamile Santana, whose son and partner remain trapped after a building collapse in Caracas, urged authorities not to suspend search efforts, saying hope remains that survivors can still be found. With dozens of international rescue teams deployed and thousands still unaccounted for, the coming hours are expected to be critical for saving lives.

Europe Faces Extreme Heat

Scientists call for urgent climate action

Lily Anderson

Europe's June heatwave has been identified as the region's most severe for the month, with scientists linking the extreme temperatures to human-caused climate change. A World Weather Attribution report said such a heatwave would have been "virtually impossible" 50 years ago.
Temperatures above 40°C affected millions across France, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe, straining healthcare systems, infrastructure and economies. Researchers found that a similar June heatwave in 1976 would have been about 3.5°C cooler, while one in 2003 would have been around 2°C cooler. Scientists said the weather pattern was not unusual, but climate change made the heat far more intense. They warned that phasing out fossil fuels is essential to prevent even more dangerous heatwaves.



Photo: A construction worker drinks water amid extreme heat in Frankfurt, Germany, on June 25
Image Source: Michael Probst/AP Photo



Photo: Mayor Mamdani *Image Source: Online*

Mamdani Effect Reshapes Politics

Progressive victories send national message

John Paul

Zohran Mamdani's influence on Democratic politics grew sharply after several candidates he supported won major New York Democratic primary races on June 23, 2026, signaling a broader shift inside the party.Only a year after Mamdani defeated Andrew Cuomo in the New York City mayoral primary, his political movement appeared to gain new strength. Former Comptroller Brad Lander defeated Congressman Dan Goldman, Assemblymember Claire Valdez unseated Antonio Reynoso, and community activist Darializa Avila Chevalier defeated longtime Congressman Adriano Espaillat. The victories suggested that Mamdani's appeal was not limited to one mayoral race. His message—focused on affordability, housing, working-class power, immigrant communities and Palestinian rights—has increasingly shaped Democratic debates in deep-blue districts. The results also placed pressure on the party establishment. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries backed some defeated candidates, making the outcome a symbolic setback for national Democratic leadership. Supporters described the wins as proof that younger, diverse and progressive voters are demanding a different kind of Democratic politics. Critics, however, warned that the "socialist" label could become a challenge in swing districts.
For now, the Mamdani Effect has turned New York into a testing ground for the future of the Democratic Party.



Bangladeshi-American Lieutenant Honored

NYN Desk

Lieutenant Md Latif’s journey from Chattogram, Bangladesh, to leadership in the New York City Police Department has become a powerful story of immigrant achievement and public service.
Born and raised in Panchlaish, Chattogram, Latif earned his Bachelor of
Commerce from Omorgoni MES College and his Master of Commerce from Chattogram Commerce College. His family roots trace back to Chandina, Cumilla, and he now lives in East Elmhurst, Queens.
Latif moved to the United States through the DV-2004 visa program and built a life that reflects the promise of the American Dream. He began serving in the NYPD in 2005 as a Traffic Enforcement Agent. After becoming a U.S. citizen, he advanced to the role of Police Officer and continued rising through dedication and service.
Over the years, Latif served as an NYPD Police Academy Instructor
and later as a Supervisor in the NYPD Community Outreach Division, where he worked closely with communities across the city.
His career stands as a source of pride for Bangladeshi-Americans and a reminder of how commitment, education and public service can open doors for future generations.



Photo: Lieutenant Md Latif
Image Source: Online

Health Fair At Cunningham Park





Photo: Community Board 8 connects residents with resources
Image Source : Online

Staff Reporter

Community Board 8 brought health education and local resources to Cunningham Park, organizing a community health resources fair that connected residents with wellness information and service providers.
More than 20 vendors joined the event, offering information on health programs, community support services and resources available to residents. The fair gave attendees an opportunity to speak directly with participating organizations, ask questions and learn about services that may help support healthier daily living.
The event reflected a broader effort to make health information more accessible outside traditional clinical settings. By hosting the fair in a public park, organizers created a welcoming space where families, seniors and community members could gather, learn and connect.
Health resource fairs play an important role in helping residents become more aware of preventive care, local assistance programs and available support networks.
For many participants, the event served as both an educational opportunity and a reminder that community wellness depends on strong local partnerships.Through the participation of vendors and residents, Community Board 8 highlighted the value of bringing practical health resources directly into neighborhood spaces.

Queens BP Addresses Concerns

Senior Reporter

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. hosted a town hall in South Jamaica on June 25, giving residents a direct platform to raise quality-of-life concerns and hear updates on major investments across the community.
The meeting was held at the Edward Byrne PAL Center, located at 116-25 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., and brought together representatives from several city agencies, including NYCHA, the Department of Parks, Department of Transportation, Department of Sanitation, Con Edison, LIRR, FDNY and the NYPD.
Richards discussed summer safety plans with police officials and outlined investments secured for southeast Queens, including $2.4 billion for long-standing infrastructure issues, a $70 million plan to improve Jamaica Avenue, new cameras at South Jamaica Houses and funding for senior centers, affordable housing, schools and community centers.
The town hall was co-sponsored by the Police Athletic League, LIFE Camp, Inc. and Fathers Alive in the Hood.
Residents asked questions about illegal dumping, double parking, park safety and other neighborhood concerns, with some attending in protest to seek long-awaited answers.
The event reflected continuing community demand for stronger services, safer streets and greater accountability from city agencies.



Photo: Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. on June 25 hosted a town hall at the Edward Byrne PAL Center in South Jamaica. Image Source: Alice Moreno

DA announces major trafficking indictment

Community Desk

Ten people were indicted following a long-term investigation into an alleged drug trafficking operation based in Jamaica, Queens, District Attorney Melinda Katz announced Friday.
Prosecutors said the defendants sold cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and other drugs from several locations, including Spizot, an unlicensed social club at 105-13 177th St. The operation allegedly extended into Nassau County.
The investigation, launched in November 2022 with the NYPD Narcotics Bureau Queens South, led to the seizure of 10 kilos of cocaine, more than 500 grams of fentanyl, over $15,000 in cash and a loaded 9 mm Ruger pistol.
Katz said the case targeted those selling deadly drugs. Castell Brown of Roosevelt, Long Island, faces up to life in prison if convicted.



Photo:Queens DA Melinda Katz announces indictments in Jamaica drug trafficking investigation.
Image Source: Courtesy of DA’s office

Masjid Al Abidin and UMMAH NY lead training





Photo: Community learns prevention and protection

News Correspondent

Masjid Al Abidin, in partnership with UMMAH NY, recently hosted an educational seminar focused on protecting children and strengthening awareness among families, teachers and community leaders.
The program, titled “Protecting Our Children and Teachers: Awareness, Prevention & Empowerment,” addressed ways to prevent abuse, inappropriate contact, exploitation and other forms of harm. Organizers said the goal was to equip students, parents and educators with practical knowledge to help create safer and healthier environments.
The session featured presentations by Alaa M. Shareef, LMHC, MA, EdM, and Omar Shareef, MD, MBA, who discussed sensitive topics with professionalism, compassion and respect.
Organizers said the information was presented in a way that aligned with Islamic values while maintaining strong professional standards.
Approximately 75 participants attended, including
students, parents, teachers, imams, school staff and community leaders.
Positive feedback from the audience reflected the need for continued education on child protection and prevention.
Community leaders emphasized that safeguarding children is a shared responsibility and called for more imams, educators and youth leaders to receive similar training.

Prayer Time IN New York

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03:51	01:00	05:00	08:31	10:09
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OPINION

Bangladeshi-American Lieutenant Honored

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Key Takeaways from the NYC Primary Election

– Imam Shamsi Ali

On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, New York City held its "Primary Election", the Democratic Party's preliminary vote to select candidates for city, state, and federal offices in November. In a city as overwhelmingly Democratic as NYC, winning the primary is almost a guarantee of victory in the general election.

What made this primary stand out was the shadow cast by the mayoral election just concluded. New York had just elected Zohran Mamdani, 34 years old, an immigrant, a Muslim, and virtually unknown, with only 1% name recognition at the start. His victory stunned not just New York, but the U.S. and the world. "No way a Muslim can win in the city with the largest Jewish population outside Israel," many of my friends abroad told me.

That shockwave didn't fade. It shaped the tone and direction of this primary. Three major developments emerged:

1. The Foundations of the Status Quo Are Cracking. Mamdani's win without the backing of the Democratic establishment already proved it: the comfort zone of incumbents is eroding.

That comfort zone was built on cozy ties with moneyed interests and political lobbies. For years, many politicians felt secure thanks to unlimited campaign cash from oligarchs, in exchange for public policies that kept them richer. The most powerful of those lobbies is AIPAC.

This NYC primary, following the mayoral race, delivered a blow to that model. Money in politics and oligarchic influence were challenged openly, not whispered about.

2. Zohran Mamdani: The New Kingmaker. Mamdani's popularity has only surged since taking office. He managed to defuse the backlash from oligarchs, parts of the Democratic establishment, anti-immigrant groups, and supporters of Zionism, Jewish and non-Jewish alike.

He didn't respond with rhetoric, but with actions and results. He delivered on campaign promises, including what some call "magical": closing a $12 billion budget deficit inherited from the previous administration. That's why people trust him.

So it made sense when observers predicted his endorsements would decide the primary. They did. All three congressional candidates he backed won. Two unseated powerful incumbents:

1. Brad Lander is Mamdani's former rival in the mayoral primary, then his key supporter in the general election. He defeated Rep. Dan Goldman, the incumbent in NY-10 covering Lower Manhattan and western Brooklyn, by a landslide.

2. Claire Valdez was a State Assembly member and fierce Mamdani ally. She beat Antonio Reynoso, the Brooklyn Borough President backed by many Democratic leaders, for the open seat in NY-7, spanning Brooklyn and Queens.

3. Darializa Avila Chevalier is a young Muslim convert of Hispanic-Haitian descent. She defeated Rep. Adriano Espaillat, a 30-year incumbent and chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, in NY-13 covering Harlem and the Bronx.

The media called it "the night the Democratic establishment officially surrendered to Zohran Mamdani." Even Hakeem Jeffries, House Democratic Leader, reportedly negotiated to keep himself off Mamdani's target list.



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

At the State Senate level, Mamdani's candidate Aber Kawwas also won decisively against former Assembly member Steven Raga. Aber, a Palestinian-American woman who grew up attending Al-Hikmah Mosque, is known for her courage. She's the one who lobbied Mamdani when he was still in the State Assembly to sponsor the "Not a dime from our money" resolution to cut U.S. aid to Israel's war in Gaza.

3. AIPAC, Israel, Gaza Genocide & ICE Became Central Issues. The hallmark of every Mamdani-backed candidate: they made AIPAC, Israel, and the genocide in Gaza core campaign issues. All rejected money from AIPAC and other special interests. All called Israel's actions in Gaza genocide. All called for abolishing ICE, the immigration enforcement agency that targets undocumented immigrants.

That's the direct impact of Mamdani's mayoral win. Criticizing Israel used to be "political suicide." Now, taking AIPAC money is what's seen as shameful.

Goldman, for example, was hammered for refusing to forgo AIPAC support. In his victory speech, Lander was blunt: "It's time for the Democratic Party to walk away from dark money; crypto PACs, Wall Street, AI, and AIPAC."

At a June 18 rally, Mamdani called AIPAC a "monster" that spends millions in dark money to divide working people. He was condemned by the ADL and AJC for antisemitic tropes, but he fired back with Gramsci: the deaths of thousands in Gaza even after the so called ceasefire are the price of politicians bought by the Zionist lobby.

AIPAC spent over $600,000 to save Espaillat, but he still lost to Avila Chevalier. The same pattern played out in New Jersey: Dr. Hamawy, an Egyptian-American doctor who served in Gaza, rejected AIPAC money and is now almost certain to be elected to Congress.

The Future of the Democratic Party & U.S. Politics

From these developments, three major shifts are emerging:

1. Democratic Socialists are rising. DSA now has more members in Congress. Their platform: affordable housing, free buses, abolish ICE, end military aid to Israel, and clean politics of special-interest lobbies including AIPAC. That platform is gaining traction, especially among young politicians.

2. Gaza is the new fault line in the Democratic Party. Elections are becoming referenda on the Gaza genocide. Young voters and immigrants are rejecting the Democratic foreign policy consensus of blind support for Israel. Even 67% of Jewish voters under 44 backed Mamdani. That's a signal the old pro-Israel politics is weakening.

3. Republicans will weaponize this. The GOP will use these wins to frame Democrats as "captured by radical socialists." Trump is already calling it communism. But at its core, it's simply a demand for social justice for all Americans.

ConclusionThe June 23 NYC primary marks a sharp left turn for Democrats in urban strongholds. Mamdani proved that grassroots organizing plus an economic message plus Gaza can beat AIPAC money and entrenched incumbents.

The question now: will this formula work in swing districts this November? We'll see.

"This NYC primary, following the mayoral race, delivered a blow to that model. Money in politics and oligarchic influence were challenged openly, not whispered about."



Image Source: Online

"Mamdani proved that grassroots organizing plus an economic message plus Gaza can beat AIPAC money and entrenched incumbents."

The Earth is Falling, and So Are Our Illusions

– Akbar Haider Kiron

The Earth races through space at 30 kilometers per second—and yet, here I am, sitting perfectly still.

The floor beneath my feet is solid. The tree outside my window doesn't tremble. The dishes in my kitchen sink remain utterly unbothered. This is where nature's most beautiful deception begins. It shows us a lie so convincing that we forget we are actually hurtling through an infinite void. We are nothing more than seaweed floating on a boiling cosmic pot—only we don't feel the heat.

And within this grand cosmic lie, we nurture our anxieties. About what? Our jobs, our families, our love lives—and most obsessively, the political ghosts that haunt our headlines. BNP, Awami League, Trump. They sit like invisible parasites on our cerebral cortex. But can these specters stop the sun's magnetic flip? Can a single Trump tweet alter the Earth's axial tilt?

No.

Here lies the supreme irony of human existence: we entrust our futures to individuals who are, cosmically speaking, negligible. Their rallies, their party decisions, their press conferences—they are merely dust motes swirling on a blue marble that is spinning helplessly in one corner of an indifferent universe. Yet, our daily lives—our sleep, our meals, our children's futures—depend entirely on those dust motes. What a paradox.

So, what is the cure for this anxiety? Must we live in perpetual dread?

Yes, but we must transform that dread into defiance. The moment we truly accept that we have zero control over nature—earthquakes will strike when they must, asteroids will pass if they please, and the sun will eventually burn out—our fear paradoxically begins to dissolve. Why worry about what you cannot command?



— Akbar Haider Kiron Senior Journalist and Writer

Instead, we turn our focus to what we can possess: this exact moment. The scent of fresh rain. The winter fog clinging to the windowpane. The dew that catches the afternoon light. Our only genuine control lies in recognizing the sacredness of the now.

Trump will rise and fall. Political parties will rotate in and out of power like tired seasons. But the Earth? It keeps rotating. 30 kilometers per second. Steady, relentless, and eternally indifferent.

Astronauts often speak of the "Overview Effect." When they look back at Earth from the void, they don't see borders, maps, or party flags. They see a fragile, luminous blue pea suspended in black velvet. In that instant, they realize we are all passengers on the same fragile ship. On that ship, political affiliations are meaningless noise to the engine room.

Let our lives be guided by this philosophy. Do not fear nature—respect it. Acknowledge the politicians, but know in your heart that they are merely fleeting frames in a cosmic film that has been running for billions of years. And so are we.

So let us live vividly. Let us orbit peace, let us revolve around love. Because in the final calculation, before the vast neutrality of the universe, all parties, all leaders, and all man-made borders are rendered equal. And perhaps, that equality is the greatest consolation of all.

ENGAGEMENT

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JHCA Recognizes Local Leadership

Council Member James Gennaro receives appreciation certificate from neighborhood association

James Anderson

Rain and storm warnings did not stop Jamaica Hills residents from showing up for their neighborhood, as the Jamaica Hill Community Association (JHCA) held a well-attended community meeting on Monday, June 22, focused on redevelopment, quality-of-life concerns, and recognition of local service.

The meeting brought together residents, city representatives, and community supporters for a discussion on issues affecting Jamaica Hills, Queens. According to organizers, 26 JHCA members attended, along with seven non-members including officials, agency representatives, and supporters, bringing the total turnout to about 33 people despite severe weather concerns.



A key part of the evening was a presentation on the Jamaica Redevelopment Project by representatives from Deputy Speaker Dr. Nantasha Williams' office and the New York City Department of Buildings. The presentation gave residents an opportunity to learn more about development-related matters and ask questions about the future of the neighborhood.

The association also honored Council Member James F. Gennaro with a Certificate of Appreciation, recognizing his work on behalf of Jamaica Hills. JHCA praised Gennaro for addressing zoning concerns, helping protect the character of the neighborhood, supportingenvironmental initiatives, and working with the Department of Environmental Protection on efforts related to the water tower. The association also acknowledged his investment in renovations at Captain Tilly Park, as well as his office's partnership in a coat drive and two sanitation walkthroughs along Hillside Avenue.

In a public message after the event, Council Member Gennaro said he was honored to receive the certificate and grateful for JHCA's recognition of his office's work to improve parks, protect neighborhood character, advance environmental initiatives, and address quality-of-life concerns.

Following the main program, JHCA members received Certificates of Recognition for their contributions to the association.

Organizers said the strong attendance demonstrated the commitment of residents to civic participation and neighborhood improvement.

The meeting also reflected the growing role of local civic groups in shaping conversations around development, sanitation, environmental conditions, and public spaces. For JHCA leaders, the turnout was especially meaningful because it showed that residents remain engaged even under difficult conditions.

As the association looks ahead to summer events and future fall meetings, organizers encouraged residents within the Jamaica Hills boundaries to get involved. The evening closed with a message of pride and unity from the association: "We are Jamaica Hills strong."

























EDUCATION

Sunday School Ends with Carnival Day

Hillside Islamic Center celebrates another successful year with students, families, and volunteers



Ashley Reed

The final day of the school year was filled with laughter, games, and celebration as Hillside Islamic Center marked the conclusion of its Sunday School program with a festive Carnival Day, bringing together students, parents, teachers, and volunteers to celebrate another successful year of learning and community.

The end-of-year celebration transformed the final day of classes into a memorable occasion for students, recognizing their hard work and participation throughout the year. The carnival atmosphere offered children an opportunity to enjoy a day of fun while celebrating the friendships, lessons, and experiences they gained during their time in Sunday School.

The event also served as an opportunity for the mosque to express appreciation to the families who have supported the program throughout the year. Organizers thanked parents for their continued trust and encouragement, acknowledging that their involvement plays an important role in helping children grow both academically and spiritually.

Special recognition was also given to the dedicated teachers and volunteers whose commitment made the program possible. Their efforts throughout the school year helped create a welcoming learning environment where students could strengthen their understanding of Islamic values while building character and community connections.

While the carnival brought excitement and entertainment, it also marked the completion of another meaningful chapter in the Sunday School calendar. The celebration reflected the importance of balancing education with joyful community experiences, allowing students to conclude the year on a positive and memorable note.

Community members described the event as a fitting way to recognize the achievements of the students while celebrating the teamwork of everyone who contributed to the program's success. The gathering highlighted the strong sense of community that continues to define Hillside Islamic Center, where families, educators, and volunteers work together to support the next generation.

As the festivities came to a close, organizers wished all students a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break. They also shared their excitement about welcoming everyone back for another year of learning, growth, and faith-based education.

The celebration was more than the end of a school year—it was a reminder of the lasting relationships, shared values, and community spirit that continue to make Hillside Islamic Center's Sunday School an important part of many families' lives.

















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From Queens to the World Cup: Jihan Wazed Leaves His Mark

Bangladeshi-American artist showcases culture and creativity on one of soccer's biggest stages

William Henry

The world's biggest sporting stage has become a new canvas for Bangladeshi-American artist Jihan Wazed, whose monumental mural now welcomes distinguished guests inside the VIP Lounge of MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, adding a striking artistic centerpiece to one of the most anticipated venues in international soccer.

Created for the stadium hosting the FIFA World Cup Final, the mural measures approximately 40 feet long and 16 feet high, transforming the VIP Lounge into a vibrant celebration of regional identity and American heritage. The large-scale artwork features recognizable elements of New York, New Jersey, and other iconic American landmarks, offering visitors an immersive visual experience before the championship match.



The completion of the mural marks another significant milestone in Jihan Wazed's growing career as one of the most recognized muralists in the United States. While the artwork celebrates its surroundings, it also reflects the artist's broader creative vision of connecting people through public art.

His murals frequently incorporate themes of culture, diversity, and shared human experiences, while also drawing inspiration from the landscapes, traditions, and colors of Bangladesh.

The MetLife installation joins an impressive portfolio of permanent public artworks completed by Wazed across the country. His work can be found at the World Trade Center in Manhattan, JFK Airport Terminal 4, the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Queens Hospital, and several prominent locations throughout Queens and New York City. His recently completed permanent mural at the Arthur Ashe Stadium for the U.S. Open further strengthened his reputation as a leading public artist.

Among his most recognized community projects are the "Hustle and Bustle" mural celebrating the vibrant energy of Queens, the "Welcome Astoria" mural, and a widely praised Bangladesh Mural in Jackson Heights' Diversity Plaza, where the red and green colors of the Bangladeshi flag prominently symbolize cultural pride. These works have earned recognition for beautifying neighborhoods while promoting cultural understanding and supporting community well-being.

Beyond mural painting, Jihan Wazed is also involved in sculpture, choreography, and creative new media. Although he studied Perceptual Psychology at Baruch College after attending Stuyvesant High School, his lifelong passion for art ultimately shaped his professional career. Born in Benghazi, Libya, to Dr. Wazed Khan, publisher of the New York-based Weekly Bangladesh, Wazed has continued to build an international artistic presence while remaining deeply connected to his Bangladeshi roots.

As visitors admire his latest creation inside MetLife Stadium, Wazed's artwork stands as both a celebration of American landmarks and a proud reflection of the contributions of the Bangladeshi-American community to the cultural landscape of the United States.























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Warm Welcome for Salah Sarsour

Family and community celebrate his return while legal case continues

Jessica Morgan



An emotional reunion unfolded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as Salah Sarsour, president of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, returned home to his family and community following his release from more than 80 days in federal custody. The gathering marked a significant moment for supporters who had advocated for his release throughout his detention.

The event took place one day after Sarsour was released from custody. Surrounded by his six children, nine grandchildren, and members of the community, he expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support he received during his time in detention. Reflecting on the hundreds of letters sent to him, Sarsour shared that one correctional officer even asked him to help carry a box because it had become so full.

"It means a lot to someone who is going through an unjust situation," Sarsour said, describing how the messages of encouragement helped sustain him during his detention.

Addressing the crowd at the mosque, he added, "Finally, I am back, and I'm here with my grandchildren, with my family, with my dear community—with people of freedom, people of justice, people of faith, who stood with my cause and my case. Thank you very much, everyone. This means the world to me."

Sarsour, who immigrated from Ramallah and has lived in the United States for more than 30 years, also serves as a board member of American Muslims for Palestine. He told supporters that he was ready to return to serving the community after his release.

Othman Atta, Executive Director of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, welcomed Sarsour back, saying the day represented a joyful moment for both the organization and his family. "It's a beautiful day for our dear, beloved brother Salah. We obviously are very happy to have him back here," Atta said.

Sarsour was arrested by immigration authorities on March 30 and remained in custody until U.S. District Judge James Patrick Hanlon ordered his release on personal recognizance. According to his attorneys, he lost more than 30 pounds while detained. His legal team has filed a writ of habeas corpus, while his immigration proceedings continue separately in immigration court.

The legal dispute remains active. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security alleges that Sarsour made false statements on his immigration forms and has made additional allegations regarding his background. Sarsour's attorneys strongly deny those claims, maintaining that the allegations are false and arguing that he was targeted because of his lawful pro-Palestinian advocacy.

While the legal process continues, the gathering in Milwaukee focused on faith, family, and community. For those who welcomed him home, the day represented not only a reunion but also a renewed commitment to supporting a community leader as his case moves forward.



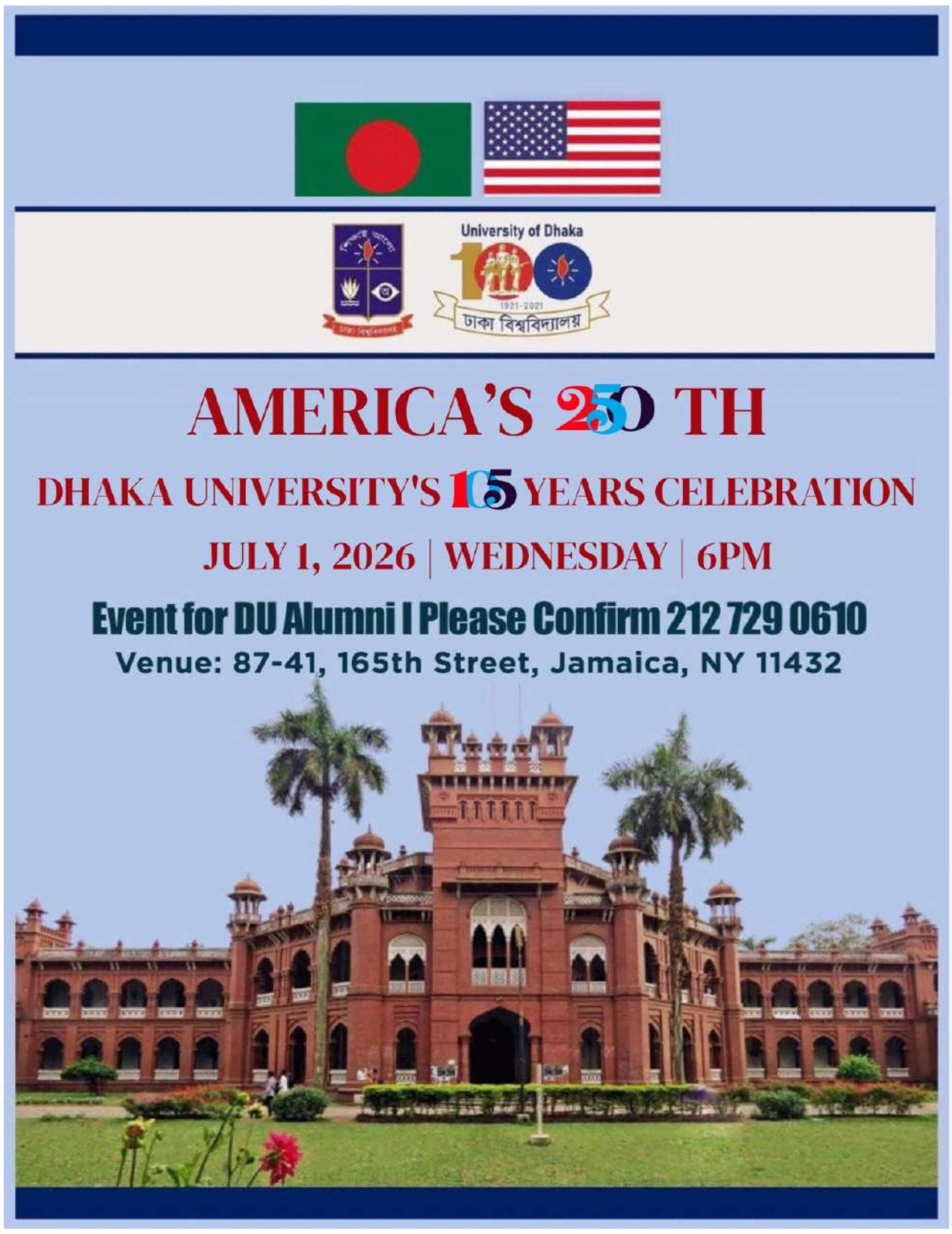








Photos: Angela Major/WPR



REUNION

DU Forum Canada Picnic Brings Alumni Together

Graduates reconnect through culture, memories, and friendship at a lively community gathering

Jessica Morgan



A cloudy sky and intermittent winds did little to dampen the spirit of celebration as members of Dhaka University Forum Canada gathered for a vibrant community picnic at Thomson Memorial Park on June 14, 2026. Bringing together both recent and former graduates of Dhaka University, the event offered a day of friendship, nostalgia, and cultural celebration in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The annual picnic served as an opportunity for alumni to reconnect, strengthen old friendships, and welcome newer graduates into the growing network of Bangladeshi professionals and families living in Canada. Throughout the day, attendees shared stories from their university years, reflecting on cherished memories while creating new ones with fellow alumni.

The cultural segment added a special touch to the gathering, featuring poetry recitations, musical performances, and informal storytelling sessions. Participants celebrated their shared heritage through performances that highlighted the rich literary and cultural traditions associated with Dhaka University, one of Bangladesh's most respected educational institutions.

The event also offered an impressive selection of traditional refreshments and meals. Guests enjoyed breakfast in the morning, followed by a hearty lunch.

As the afternoon progressed, participants gathered again for light refreshments that included sweets, spicy puffed rice, and fresh watermelon, creating a festive atmosphere that encouraged conversation and relaxation.

Children remained at the center of the celebration, taking part in a variety of games and recreational activities organized throughout the day. Their laughter and enthusiasm added to the lively environment, making the picnic an enjoyable experience for families of all ages.

Despite the less-than-ideal weather conditions, attendance remained strong as alumni chose to embrace the opportunity to spend quality time together. The gathering reflected the enduring bond shared by Dhaka University graduates, demonstrating how educational connections continue to unite people across continents long after graduation.

Organizers expressed sincere appreciation to the members of Dhaka University Forum Canada whose dedication and volunteer efforts helped make the picnic a memorable success.

The event concluded on a positive note, leaving participants with renewed friendships, lasting memories, and anticipation for future gatherings that continue to strengthen the Bangladeshi community in Canada.

Photographs of the event were captured by Kazi Hasan Sarowar, documenting the memorable moments shared throughout the day.



























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YOUTH

Resilience Walk Inspires Families

Free event recognizes every young participant as a winner

Daniel Matthew



A morning of movement, encouragement, and family connection filled Cunningham Park as Resilience USA Foundation, Inc. hosted the Resilience Youth Walk & Run 2026, a free community event focused on youth wellness, healthy living, and community resilience.

The event was held on Sunday, June 28, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Cunningham Park, located at 196-10 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366.

Families, children, youth participants, and community supporters gathered for a noncompetitive walk and run designed to promote wellness, empathy, healthy choices, and a drug-free lifestyle.

Unlike traditional races, the event emphasized participation over competition. Children and youth were encouraged to walk, run, rest, and enjoy the program at their own pace in a safe and positive environment.

Organizers said every young participant was recognized as a winner for showing effort, courage, and commitment to health and community.

The program was hosted by Aftab Uddin Mannan, Distinguished Board Chair and Strategic Lead of Resilience USA Foundation, Inc.

The event's message centered on building stronger youth, stronger families, and stronger communities through active living and shared purpose.

Youth participants were recognized with certificates of participation, medals, and free T-shirts, offering encouragement and a lasting reminder of their achievement.

The gathering also created space for parents, neighbors, and community members to connect while supporting children in a joyful and uplifting setting.

The event was supported by several community partners and sponsors, including Save The People USA, Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC), Hillside Islamic Center, Elhaam Academy, Al-Mamoor School, MUNA, MAA, Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, and Guidance Residential. Their collaboration helped turn the event into a broader celebration of community wellness and youth empowerment.

By the end of the morning, the walk and run had become more than a fitness activity. It served as a reminder that investing in young people requires encouragement, positive spaces, and strong community partnerships.

Through the Resilience Youth Walk & Run 2026, families left with memories of unity, wellness, and purpose.



Mastic-Shirley Masjid Breaks Ground

Community marks a historic milestone after nearly 24 years of effort



Emily Parker

What had been a construction site only days earlier became a place of prayer, gratitude, and history as the Islamic Center of Mastic-Shirley marked the groundbreaking of a long-awaited masjid project nearly 24 years in the making.

The ceremony brought together families, community members, volunteers, donors, and supporters to witness the beginning of a dream that organizers described as rooted in faith, sacrifice, and unity.

For many attendees, the gathering was more than a formal construction milestone. It was a deeply emotional moment that reflected years of patience, planning, fundraising, and collective commitment.

In a message shared after the event, the Islamic Center of Mastic-Shirley described the day as one that turned memories into history. The organization noted that the groundbreaking represented the start of building a house of worship that, by the permission of Allah, will serve the community for generations to come.

The event carried special meaning for families who have long hoped to see a permanent masjid rise in the area. Children and young people in attendance became part of a milestone that community leaders said they will remember for years, not only through photographs but through the legacy of faith and service the project is intended to create.

Organizers expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed to the effort, including those who volunteered, donated, attended, and supported the project over the years.

Their participation reflected the strength of a community that continued working toward its goal despite the long timeline and challenges involved.

The future masjid is expected to serve as more than a prayer space. It is envisioned as a center for religious learning, family connection, community service, and spiritual growth.

Supporters said the project will help strengthen local Muslim identity while providing a welcoming space for worshippers and future generations.

As the ceremony concluded, the message from organizers remained clear: the groundbreaking was only the beginning. The community now looks ahead to the continued work of building a house of Allah that will stand as a symbol of perseverance, unity, and hope in Mastic-Shirley.





































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MILESTONE

Families gather to witness the start of a long-awaited masjid project



PHILANTHROPY

Food Drive Serves Hundreds in New York

Save The People USA partners with Darul Uloom NY to fight food insecurity

Carlos Stewart



Acts of service often have the greatest impact when they meet everyday needs, and that spirit of compassion was on full display as Save The People USA (STPUSA) organized a large-scale food distribution at Darul Uloom NY last Thursday, providing food assistance to more than 400 people. The community outreach event brought together volunteers, organizers, and local residents for a coordinated effort to support individuals and families facing food insecurity.

Throughout the distribution, participants were welcomed in an organized and respectful environment as volunteers worked efficiently to ensure food reached those who needed it most.

The initiative reflected STPUSA's continued commitment to addressing essential community needs through humanitarian service. By partnering with Darul Uloom NY, the organization created an accessible distribution point where community members could receive groceries while connecting with volunteers dedicated to serving others with dignity and care. Food insecurity continues to affect many households, making community-led efforts like this an important source of support. Organizers emphasized that providing food is about more than meeting immediate nutritional needs—it is also about strengthening neighborhoods through compassion, cooperation, and shared responsibility.

Volunteers played a central role in the success of the event, assisting with organizing supplies, distributing food packages, and helping ensure that the process remained smooth and welcoming for every attendee. Their dedication demonstrated the power of collective service and highlighted how community partnerships can create meaningful impact.

For many recipients, the distribution offered practical relief while reinforcing the importance of local organizations working together to care for vulnerable members of the community. The event also served as a reminder that small acts of generosity, when multiplied through volunteer efforts and community support, can reach hundreds of lives.

As the distribution concluded, organizers expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed their time and effort to the initiative.

With more than 400 people receiving food assistance, the outreach stood as another example of Save The People USA's mission to promote humanitarian service and strengthen communities through meaningful action.

The successful event at Darul Uloom NY underscored the value of collaboration, volunteerism, and compassion—demonstrating how community organizations can come together to provide hope and practical support to those who need it most.

















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GRADUATION

Bronx Muslim Center Honors Weekend School Students

Annual ceremony celebrates academic growth, faith, and student achievement

Noah Presley



A year of learning, perseverance, and spiritual growth culminated in a joyful celebration as Bronx Muslim Center hosted its 2026 Weekend School Ceremony, recognizing students for their dedication and accomplishments throughout the academic year.

The ceremony brought together students, parents, teachers, volunteers, staff, and community members for a day filled with smiles, applause, and heartfelt moments. Awards and certificates were presented to students in recognition of their commitment to learning, while families proudly celebrated the progress their children had made over the course of the year.More than an awards ceremony, the event reflected the important role the Weekend School plays in nurturing young Muslims with a strong foundation in Qur'an, Islamic knowledge, good character, and a lasting connection to the masjid. Organizers emphasized that these values extend beyond the classroom, helping students develop into compassionate and responsible members of their communities.

Throughout the celebration, the atmosphere was one of gratitude and encouragement. Parents were recognized for their continued support, while teachers, staff, and volunteers were thanked for their dedication to guiding and mentoring students throughout the year. Their collective efforts, organizers noted, have helped create an environment where children can grow both academically and spiritually.

The event also served as a reminder that student success is built through a partnership between families, educators, and the broader community. Organizers encouraged attendees and supporters to continue uplifting students by celebrating their achievements, offering words of encouragement, and making du'a for their continued growth and success.

In a message shared following the ceremony, the Bronx Muslim Center expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to making the day memorable. The organization prayed that Allah bless the students, increase them in beneficial knowledge, guide them throughout their lives, and make them a source of goodness for their families and the wider Ummah.

As the ceremony concluded, graduates and award recipients left with certificates, cherished memories, and renewed confidence for the journey ahead.

The celebration not only honored their accomplishments but also reaffirmed the community's shared commitment to investing in the next generation through education, faith, and service.

Congratulations to all the students and award recipients whose hard work and dedication were celebrated during the 2026 Weekend School Ceremony at Bronx Muslim Center.


















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GRADUATION

Bronx Muslim Center marks another successful year of Islamic education

















































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Families gather as Bronx Muslim Center recognizes Weekend School students




















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CELEBRATION

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Queens Celebrates Knicks Championship

Borough Hall rally honors the team's first NBA title in 53 years

Alex Mason

After 53 years of waiting, Queens made sure the celebration was loud, proud, and painted in orange and blue as fans gathered at Borough Hall for a New York Knicks championship rally and flag raising hosted by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. The event marked another joyful chapter in the citywide celebration of the NBA Champion New York Knicks, whose long-awaited title has energized fans across all five boroughs. At Borough Hall, supporters came together to honor the team, celebrate the historic victory, and recognize the deep loyalty that helped make the championship run feel especially meaningful.



In a message following the rally, Borough President Richards captured the mood of Knicks fans who had waited more than five decades for this moment. "We waited 53 years for this," he said, adding that fans should expect the celebration to continue throughout the offseason.

Donovan Richards Jr.
QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

The rally drew residents and basketball fans who have followed the Knicks through years of heartbreak, rebuilding, and hope. For many, the championship represented more than a sports victory. It was a shared civic moment, uniting generations of New Yorkers who had grown up hearing stories of past Knicks glory while waiting for a new era to arrive.

The flag raising at Queens Borough Hall served as a symbolic tribute to the team and its supporters. The Knicks' orange and blue colors became a public expression of pride, turning the borough's civic space into a celebration of perseverance, loyalty, and community spirit. Richards thanked everyone who attended, crediting the fans for helping make the title run unforgettable.

He noted that the way supporters "rode with this team" was part of what made the championship so special.The event also kept alive one of the most memorable rallying cries of the playoff run: "Knicks in 5." For fans, the chant has become more than a prediction. It is now a symbol of confidence, joy, and the collective belief that carried the city through the championship season.As celebrations continue across New York, the Queens rally showed how deeply the Knicks' victory resonates beyond Madison Square Garden. At Borough Hall, the championship became a boroughwide celebration of patience rewarded, loyalty recognized, and a city finally able to say that the long wait was worth it.





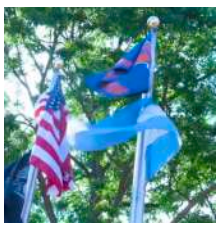



















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A Son's Tribute to His Real-Life Hero

Wasim Haque's Father's Day reflection honors love, sacrifice and family bonds

Issac Andrew

On Father's Day 2026, Wasim Haque offered more than a personal tribute. He gave readers a tender portrait of fatherhood built not on grand declarations, but on everyday sacrifice, quiet discipline and lifelong affection.

In a heartfelt social media post titled "Abba: The Real Hero I Have Seen in My Life," Haque reflected on the man who has remained central to his memories from infancy to adulthood. "Does loving Abba need a special day?" he wrote, crediting his father as a constant presence in his daily life. The question sets the tone for the entire reflection: Father's Day may bring memory to the surface, but a father's place in





a child's life is never limited to one date on the calendar.

Haque recalls that his father was serving as manager of Janata Bank's Kishoreganj branch when he was born at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

From the beginning, his father shared the responsibilities of care, staying awake at night with his mother whenever needed.

Later, during Haque's childhood, even a short lunch break became an opportunity for father and son to spend time together by a nearby pond. The memories are simple but vivid: broken brick pieces skipping across the water, a bright orange football on holidays, sweat-soaked play before Jummah prayer, and a father patiently changing his child's clothes and offering water. These images transform the post into something larger than personal nostalgia. They remind readers that love is often preserved in small acts repeated over time.

Haque also remembers his father as his first teacher. Before formal schooling fully began, his father taught him math, English, geography and the names of countries and capitals through storytelling. The post also highlights his father's command of Arabic, English, Persian and Bengali, as well as his professional life after retirement from Janata Bank, including work with Al-Arafah Islami Bank and later involvement with Chayan Prokashon and Chayan Magazine.

At its heart, the tribute is also about family values. Haque writes that his father supported his mother, brother and himself throughout life. Even after marriage, he and his brother remain with their parents in what he describes as the peace of a joint family in a "stone city." For him, comfort is not measured by luxury, but by the happiness of sharing simple meals and staying close to the parents who raised him.

Haque ends by asking for prayers for both his father and mother, invoking the Qur'anic prayer: "Rabbi irhamhuma kama rabbayani sagheera" — "My Lord, have mercy on them as they raised me when I was small." In doing so, his Father's Day message becomes a universal reminder: real heroes are often the people who stand quietly behind our lives, shaping us with love long before the world knows our names.

A Father Preserved in Childhood Memory

Abdullah Zobayer's reflection turns private grief into a universal portrait of love

Stephanie Nicole

A resurfaced personal reflection by Abdullah Zobayer has offered readers a moving meditation on fatherhood, memory and the strange way time preserves the people we lose. In the post, Zobayer writes not from the distance of formal tribute, but from the intimate world of a son whose father remains forever tied to childhood.

The writing begins with a striking contrast. Zobayer says he is now grown, tall, married and settled into family life. Yet he has no photograph with his father from this stage of life. "I have no picture with Abba at this age," he writes in translation. "Abba has no picture from old age either. He left before old age came." That absence becomes the emotional center of the piece. His father is not remembered as an elderly man, but as the strong, watchful figure of Zobayer's childhood and adolescence.

Zobayer's memories unfold like scenes from a vanished landscape: the playing field in front of the house, dormitories, quiet roads, rickshaws and vans passing with soft sounds, and long afternoons that seemed almost otherworldly.

He recalls walking hand in hand with his father, feeling nervous as a madrasa teacher reported his mischief. He remembers his father's serious eyes, but also his gentle



humor. When the young Zobayer tried to avoid studying with a teacher's son by saying the boy looked frighteningly dark, his father did not scold him. Instead, he covered his mouth and laughed.

The post is filled with the restless energy of a mischievous child: fights with classmates, fear of residential madrasa life, reluctance toward study and sudden bursts of emotion. Yet through each episode, the father appears as a patient, perceptive presence. He understands his son's fear, discipline and stubbornness without needing dramatic words.

The memories later turn toward faith and public life. Zobayer recalls walking to the mosque with his father, who held a radio in one hand and his son in the other while Qur'anic recitation played. He also describes photographs showing his father speaking at a protest gathering, possibly related to concerns over Islamic education, and serving in an academic leadership role. The post mentions figures including Afaz Uddin Sir, Hasanat Sir, Rafiqul Islam, Dr. Solaiman Sir, Dr. Waliullah Sir, Dr. Abu Zafar Sir, Dr. Obaidullah Sir and Dr. Abdul Kader Sir, while praying for those who have passed away.

In a powerful closing reflection, Zobayer writes that even after many years, his father remains "the man of a long shadow," while he himself remains the playful boy of adolescence. The post, originally written five years ago and later brought back with additions, becomes more than remembrance. It is a reminder that life is brief, loved ones leave, but the guidance of a father can continue to live inside a son long after childhood has ended.









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POLITICS

New York Primary Delivers a Jolt to the Democratic Establishment

Progressive wins shook New York Democrats as Tom DiNapoli held firm.



Marcos Alonso

New York's June 23, 2026, primary elections sent a strong message to the Democratic establishment, as progressive and DSA-backed candidates won major races across New York City and Albany.

The results showed that the city's left wing has become a serious force inside Democratic politics, not just a protest movement.

The biggest wins came in congressional races. Former New York City Comptroller Brad Lander defeated Rep. Dan Goldman in New York's 10th Congressional District, covering parts of Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn.

In the open 7th Congressional District, Assemblymember Claire Valdez defeated Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, despite his support from major unions and the Working Families Party.

In New York's 13th Congressional District, political newcomer Darializa Avila Chevalier unseated longtime Rep. Adriano Espaillat, a major figure in New York and national Democratic politics.Together, the victories strengthened the influence of Mayor Zohran Mamdani, whose endorsements helped shape several high-profile contests.

His allies' success suggested that his own rise was not a one-time political surprise, but part of a larger shift among Democratic voters frustrated with party leadership and the high cost of living.

The results also showed a divide inside the Democratic coalition. Some defeated candidates were establishment figures, while others, like Reynoso, were also considered progressive. But the DSA-backed candidates appeared to benefit from stronger grassroots organizing, younger voters and a clearer message on housing, affordability, labor rights and public services.

The left also made gains in state legislative races. Aber Kawas won the Democratic primary in State Senate District 12 in Queens, defeating Assemblyman Steven Raga. In Assembly races, DSA-backed candidates including Samantha Kattan, David Orkin, Christian Celeste Tate, Eon Huntley and Illapa Sairitupac also won. Some of those victories came against sitting incumbents, further showing the growing power of the city's progressive movement.

These Albany races matter because the State Senate and State Assembly control major policy areas such as housing, taxes, tenant protections, public transit and climate policy. Although the DSA-backed bloc will remain a minority, its growth could give progressives more influence in budget talks and future legislative fights.

Still, the primary was not a total defeat for the Democratic establishment. In the statewide comptroller race, Tom DiNapoli easily defeated Drew Warshaw and Raj Goyle to win the Democratic nomination. DiNapoli, who has served as comptroller since 2007, campaigned on experience and fiscal stability. He now advances toward the Nov. 3 general election against Republican Joseph Hernandez.

Other races showed a more mixed picture. Micah Lasher won the Democratic primary in New York's 12th Congressional District, while Cait Conley won the Democratic nomination in the competitive 17th District, where she will face Republican Rep. Mike Lawler. In the Republican-leaning 21st District, Trump-backed Anthony Constantino won the GOP primary, while Democrat Blake Gendebien won his party's nomination.

Overall, the June 23 primary reshaped New York's political conversation. For Democrats, it raised serious questions about whether voters want cautious leadership or a more confrontational movement focused on affordability and structural change.

For Republicans, the rise of DSA-backed nominees may become a campaign issue in November.

By the end of primary night, one thing was clear: New York's progressive left has built an electoral machine capable of defeating powerful incumbents and shifting the direction of the Democratic Party. Whether that movement can govern effectively and expand its support will be the next major test.

















All Photos are collected online



NEW YORK NEWS Sunday, JUNE 28, 2026

END PAGE

Canada Faces Challenges

Muslim advocates celebrate rights victory

Amkel Nourush

Canada's economy is facing a period of significant uncertainty as Prime Minister Mark Carney works to deliver on his promise of transforming the country into the "strongest in the G7." While the government has launched initiatives to attract investment and strengthen long-term growth, recent economic indicators reveal that many Canadians continue to face financial hardship.
Official data confirmed that Canada entered a technical recession after recording two consecutive quarters of declining GDP in late 2025 and early 2026. Despite the setback, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts 1.6% economic growth this year, while the

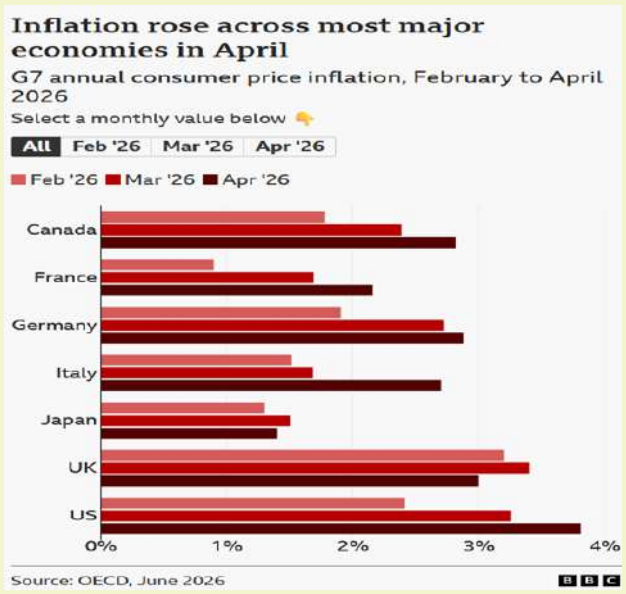


Photo: Inflation keeps on the rise in Canada
Image Source : OECD, June 2026

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expects growth to improve to 1.7% by 2027. Government officials say new investments in exports, productivity, and infrastructure are aimed at supporting the recovery.
Meanwhile, affordability remains a pressing issue. Inflation rose to 3.2% in May, driven largely by higher energy prices, while soaring housing costs have left many younger Canadians struggling to purchase homes. Household debt is now the highest among G7 nations, largely fueled by mortgages.
The labor market also presents challenges, with overall unemployment at 6.6% and youth unemployment at 13.4%. Although the government has introduced targeted affordability measures, including a one-time grocery benefit for eligible households, experts argue that many younger Canadians continue to bear the brunt of the country's economic pressures while awaiting the benefits of long-term reforms.



Photo: More international search and rescue teams have arrived in Venezuela
Image Source: BBC

Heroes Arrive

International rescuers receive emotional welcome in Venezuela.

Adrian Smith

International search and rescue teams have arrived in Venezuela to support efforts following the devastating twin earthquakes, as emergency crews race against time before the critical 72-hour rescue window closes.
Rescuers from Panama, Ecuador, Chile, and Mexico arrived with heavy equipment, medical supplies, and rescue dogs before heading to the disaster zone. A 30-member Panamanian team, including firefighters and medics, joined the operation, with one rescuer saying they were eager to begin searching immediately.
The teams received an emotional welcome from airport staff and residents, who applauded their arrival and thanked them for their assistance. For families waiting near collapsed buildings, the arrival of experienced international rescuers has renewed hope of finding survivors.

Hezbollah Rejects Deal

The Israeli Drone Strike Condemned

Nassr Al Shams

Israel carried out a drone strike in southern Lebanon on Saturday, just one day after Israel and Lebanon signed a U.S.-brokered framework agreement intended to reduce tensions along their shared border. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said the strike targeted an individual who posed a threat to its troops, while Lebanon's state news agency reported that the attack struck the town of Nabatieh al-Fawqa.
The strike came hours after Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem publicly rejected the new agreement, accusing the Lebanese government of undermining the country's sovereignty by accepting what he described as unilateral concessions. Calling the



Photos: Israel says its forces are preparing for an "extended stay" in southern Lebanon
Image Source: Reuters

framework "humiliating" and "null and void," Qassem criticized provisions linking Israel's military withdrawal to the group's disarmament, saying they crossed "all red lines." He also vowed that Hezbollah would continue its armed resistance.
Under the four-point agreement reached in Washington, Israel will withdraw from the South Litani area, while the Lebanese Armed Forces assume exclusive control of the territory. However, Israeli troops will remain in an expanded security zone inside southern Lebanon.
Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz confirmed that forces had been instructed to prepare for an extended deployment there.

Fraud Suspect Arrested

Somali-U.S. cooperation leads to arrest



Photo:A man accused of helping orchestrate a $250m US fraud scheme has been arrested in Mogadishu, the Somali capital Image Source: Faisal Ali/Al Jazeera

Julian Alvez

A key suspect in one of the largest COVID-19 relief fraud cases in U.S. history has been arrested in Mogadishu, Somalia, during a joint operation involving the FBI and Somali intelligence. U.S. prosecutors allege Abdikerm Abdelahi Eidleh, 42, was a senior figure in the $250 million Feeding Our Future fraud scheme, accused of recruiting participants, creating fake meal sites, and submitting fraudulent claims for pandemic child nutrition funds. Authorities say he fled to Somalia as the investigation expanded.
His arrest underscores growing international cooperation in combating cross-border financial crime. U.S. officials described Eidleh as a central player in the fraud network, while Somali authorities signaled their commitment to preventing the country from becoming a safe haven for fugitives.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Abdikerm Abdelahi Eidleh was arrested in Mogadishu.**
- **The operation involved the FBI and Somalia's intelligence agency.**

