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+1646 444 6644
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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo:Fireworks were set off across the country, including over New York City's Brooklyn Bridge Image Source: Reuters

America Turns 250

Fireworks, flyovers and concerts mark national milestone

Rodrigo Diaz

The United States marked the 250th anniversary of its independence on July 4 with fireworks, military flyovers, concerts and community events across the country, despite weather disruptions in some areas. In Washington, D.C., thunderstorms briefly forced officials to evacuate the National Mall, but celebrations later resumed with live performances, a military flyover featuring the new Air Force One, and a major fireworks display. President Donald Trump addressed the crowd, praising the nation's achievements and saying "the American dream is back," though critics said the milestone had become too political. Across the country, communities celebrated with concerts, local gatherings and naturalization ceremonies, while Philadelphia honored the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Trump Pushes Peace

US president renews diplomatic efforts in Ukraine conflict

Alexander Sullivan

U.S. President Donald Trump has renewed efforts to help end the Russia-Ukraine war, offering to assist Russian President Vladimir Putin in finding a political solution during a nearly 90-minute phone call held on Saturday, according to the Kremlin. Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said the conversation focused on the ongoing conflict ahead of the NATO summit in Ankara, scheduled for July 7–8. Ushakov described the discussion as "businesslike and quite constructive," adding that Trump reaffirmed his willingness to work toward "a rapid end to the fighting" while Russia maintained its preference for a political and diplomatic resolution. He also said U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner remained prepared to continue mediation efforts and could visit Moscow again. The call came as fighting continued across the war's 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) front line. Russia claimed its forces had captured the strategically important city of Kostiantynivka in Ukraine's Donetsk region, a claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ukraine's military rejected, insisting the city remains under Ukrainian control. Later on Saturday, Zelenskyy confirmed that he also spoke with Trump. In a message on Telegram, he said the two leaders discussed the battlefield situation and agreed to continue talks during the upcoming NATO summit. The renewed diplomatic engagement highlights continued international efforts to seek a negotiated resolution, even as military operations and competing narratives persist on the ground.



Photo: US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin Image Source: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP

Millions attend Khamenei Funeral

Iran launches weeklong ceremonies for late supreme leader

John Paul

Iran began large-scale funeral ceremonies for late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday, with senior officials and thousands of mourners gathering in Tehran. President Masoud Pezeshkian, Revolutionary Guards chief Ahmad Vahidi, and Khamenei's sons Masoud, Mostafa, and Meysam attended, while Mojtaba Khamenei's absence continued to fuel speculation.



Photo: A crowd attends the start of the dayslong funeral ceremonies at the Imam Khomeini Mosalla Grand Mosque in Tehran, Iran, Saturday, July 4, 2026 Image Source: Altaf Qadri/AP

Authorities expect 12 million to 20 million mourners to take part in weeklong ceremonies across Iran and Iraq, calling it the "funeral of the century." Khamenei's body lay in state at Tehran's Grand Mosalla, with a procession planned through Tehran, Qom and Iraq before burial in Mashhad on Thursday.
Security has been tightened as the ceremonies take place under a fragile Iran-Israel ceasefire and ongoing diplomatic efforts.



Photo: General view as the big screen displays a message during Belgium's last game in Seattle Image Source: Blake Dahlin/Reuters

Miracle Beneath Rubble

Man rescued alive eight days after Venezuela earthquakes

Lily Anderson

Rescue teams in La Guaira, Venezuela,
pulled Hernán Alberto Gil Flores alive from the rubble of a collapsed shopping mall parking structure on Thursday, eight days after devastating earthquakes struck the country.
Gil, a security guard in his 40s, had been trapped under nearly 29 feet
of debris at the Galerias Playa Grande mall. Officials said the rescue took more than 70 hours, with local and international crews working carefully as the unstable structure shifted.
Rescuers kept him alive by sending water,
food, medication and fluids through a hose before freeing him in good condition. His wife, Gusvimar Gonzales, called his survival a source of renewed hope.
Officials described the rescue as extraordinary,
noting that survival chances usually fall sharply
after the first 72 hours following an earthquake.



Photo: The international rescue team assists Hernan Gil, a 43-year-old security guard, following his rescue in Catia La Mar, Venezuela, on Thursday, eight days after the quake. Image Source: Federico Parra/AFP/ Getty Images

Ticket Prices Drop

USA-Belgium World Cup clash sees sharp resale decline

Adrian Smith

Resale ticket prices for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Round of 16 match between the United States and Belgium in Seattle have dropped sharply, though demand remains high.
According to TicketData.com, the lowest available ticket peaked near $4,000 on June 1 before falling to $1,549 earlier in the week.
Prices briefly rose after the U.S. beat Bosnia and Herzegovina 2-0, then dropped again to $1,423 on Saturday before rebounding to $1,635.
The matchup remains the second-most expensive Round of 16 game, behind Mexico vs. England, where the lowest resale ticket was $3,574. The shifting prices reflec

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Ships and jets mark America 250 celebration

NYN Local Correspondent

Hundreds of spectators gathered at Pier 84 along the Hudson River on Saturday to watch a parade of tall ships and fighter jet demonstrations celebrating America's 250th birthday. Visitors from across the country lined the waterfront, many dressed in red, white and blue, as vessels from several nations sailed past Manhattan. The celebration brought families, tourists and local residents together despite hot weather. "I think this is awesome," said Hailey Glasgow of Florida, who praised both the boat show and the earlier air show. Another Florida visitor,



Image Source : Online

Kathy Elliot, said the event was an unexpected surprise, calling it "an awesome show."
For many attendees, the celebration was about more than spectacle. Jarret Freeman of Alaska said the event reflected a chance to share America's identity with the world, while John McSweeney of Massapequa said living in peace and enjoying public celebrations carried deep meaning. The day was especially personal for Andy Meek of Dallas, who marked his 50th birthday during the celebration. Tiffany Mattson of Queens praised the free public access, calling the gathering an incredible moment of unity for the city and country.

Grace Meng celebrates district art winner



Photo: Rep. Grace Meng honors Francis Lewis High School student Cher Shu Yi Li for winning the congressional art contest.
Image Source: Office of U.S. Rep. Grace Meng

NYN Community Reporter

Francis Lewis High School junior Cher Shu Yi Li will have her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for the next year after winning U.S. Rep. Grace Meng's annual Sixth Congressional District Art Contest.
Li, who lives in Auburndale, won with an acrylic painting titled "Night Meal in Flushing," showing people seated inside a Chinese restaurant. She said the piece reflects how culture is woven into everyday life. The contest, part of the national "An Artistic Discovery" competition sponsored by the House of Representatives, drew 58 submissions from middle and high school students in Queens. Li traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to attend a ceremony honoring winners from congressional districts across the country and watched as her painting was officially placed on display.
"I'm honored to win this competition," Li said, thanking Rep. Meng, her family, friends and art teacher for their support.
Meng praised Li's talent and said thousands of Capitol visitors will now see her work. Second place went to Seungran "Ellie" Lim of St. Francis Preparatory High School, while Jhustin Ramirez-Vasquez of Hillside Arts and Letters Academy placed third.

Addabbo Awards Scholarship

NYN Neighborhood Report

Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. presented Emma Fernandez, an Ozone Park student and recent St. Francis Preparatory School graduate, with a $3,000 scholarship on Thursday, June 11, at his Woodhaven District Office. Fernandez received the Conte Memorial Academic Scholarship from the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators for her academic achievement



Photo: Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. and Emma Hernandez celebrate her scholarship award
Image Source: Senator Joseph Addabbo's office

and community service. She completed more than 100 volunteer hours at Jamaica Hospital and Lions Club events.
This fall, Fernandez will attend New York University, where she plans to pursue nursing and become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.
Addabbo praised Fernandez's dedication, saying her academic excellence and service represent the best of the district.

Astoria Energy Project Breaks Ground

NYN News Correspondent

MicroGrid Networks broke ground on a new battery energy storage system in Astoria on June 17, marking a major step toward strengthening New York City's electric grid.
The project will include two 5-megawatt battery storage systems at 24-51 49th St., a former parking site. The facility is expected to be completed by early 2027 and is designed to support cleaner energy, reduce strain on the grid and help



Photo: Elected officials, community partners and energy stakeholders break ground on an battery energy storage system (BESS) in Astoria.
Image Source: MicroGrid Networks

prevent blackouts during peak demand.
MicroGrid Networks CEO Tim Dumbleton called the project an investment in a "stronger, cleaner, and more resilient energy future for New York City."
The groundbreaking was attended by State Sens. Michael Gianaris and Jessica Ramos, Deputy Queens Borough President Ebony Young and other officials.
Young said the facility would help create cleaner air and a more reliable grid for local communities.

Jummah Prayer Scare Averted





Image Source: Online

NYN Community Desk

A Muslim worshipper helped prevent a possible tragedy during Jummah khutbah at the Muslim Center of New York in Flushing, Queens, after stopping an armed man who entered the mosque, according to a community summary.
The incident occurred while the imam was delivering the sermon.
The man reportedly began taking a gun out of his pocket when a worshipper noticed the threat, tackled him and managed to take the weapon away.
The mosque was placed under a brief lockdown as a precaution. The women's section lights were turned off to help protect worshippers while the suspect was restrained until police arrived.
NYPD officers responded within minutes and arrested the man.
No shots were fired, and no injuries were reported.
Community members described the worshipper's quick response as an act of courage that protected families, elders and congregants gathered for Friday prayers.
The incident also renewed attention to the importance of mosque safety, emergency awareness and community readiness during religious gatherings.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
03:53	01:01	05:00	08:30	10:08
03:54	01:01	05:00	08:30	10:07
03:55	01:01	05:00	08:29	10:07
03:56	01:01	05:01	08:29	10:06
03:57	01:01	05:01	08:29	10:05
03:58	01:01	05:01	08:28	10:05
03:59	01:02	05:01	08:28	10:04

OPINION

Ships and jets mark America 250 celebration

Page-02

A Rich Heart Is True Wealth

– Imam Shamsi Ali

In a world that often measures people by wealth, status, and appearance, Islam invites us to look deeper: a person's worth lies not in what they own, but in what lives in their heart. True wealth isn't piles of gold or a hefty bank balance. It's a heart skilled in gratitude, a soul steadfast in patience, and the awareness that every condition, ease or hardship, is a test from Allah to strengthen and elevate His servant.

This world is fleeting and ever-changing. Today you may be on top; tomorrow you may fall. That's why Allah never made worldly status the measure of honor.

Scholars often remind us: Closeness to Allah isn't measured by what's in your wallet, but by what's in your heart. Some are materially sufficient yet spiritually barren, distracted from Allah. Others live simply, yet their hearts flourish with remembrance, reliance on Allah, and contentment. A timeless wisdom says:

"Fa kam min ghaniyyin lam yashghalhu ghinaahu 'anillah, wa kam min faqeerin shaghalahu faqruhu 'anillah."

"How many a wealthy person is not distracted from Allah by his wealth, and how many a poor person is distracted from Allah by his poverty."

So it's clear: what matters isn't whether you're "rich" or "poor," but how your heart responds to both.

Allah reminds us:

"La'in shakartum la-azeedannakum wa la'in kafartum inna 'adhaabee lashadeed."

"If you are grateful, I will surely increase you in favor. But if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe." QS. Ibrahim: 7

Allah affirms that true wealth begins with gratitude. Gratitude isn't merely saying "Alhamdulillah" with the tongue. It's a heart that accepts, uses blessings in obedience, and refuses to let blessings breed arrogance or heedlessness.

He also says:

"Fadhkuroonee adhkurkum washkuroo lee wa la takfuroon."

"Remember Me; I will remember you. Be grateful to Me and do not deny Me." QS. Al-Baqarah: 152

A meaningful life is one connected to Allah. Remembrance brings peace to the heart; gratitude increases blessings. Both are hallmarks of a rich heart.

The Messenger of Allah said:

"'Ajaban li amril mu'min, inna amrahu kullahu khayr... in asabat-hu sarraa'u shakar fa kaana khayran lah, wa in asabat-hu darraa'u sabar fa kaana khayran lah."

"How wonderful is the affair of the believer. All of it is good for him, and that is for no one but the believer. If something pleasing happens, he is grateful, and that is good for him. If hardship befalls him, he is patient, and that is good for him." HR. Muslim



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

This flips the world's standards. It's not your circumstances that define your life, but your heart's response. Wealth becomes a field of reward when met with gratitude. Poverty becomes a ladder to nobility when met with patience.

Some scholars explain: gratitude in ease is often harder than patience in hardship. In comfort, we easily forget. That's why gratitude holds such a lofty rank.

Yet patience and gratitude aren't opposites. They are two wings. Patience keeps you from falling when tested. Gratitude keeps you from flying into arrogance when blessed. With both, a servant can soar toward Allah's pleasure.

Correcting the Social Illusion

In reality, many are trapped by illusion, assuming wealth equals honor and poverty equals disgrace. But Allah declares that: "the most noble of you in Allah's sight is the most righteous," not the richest.

How many have vast wealth but narrow hearts: anxious, greedy, restless.

And how many have little yet live with expansive hearts: content, generous, and serene.

True wealth is when money doesn't enslave the heart, but the heart masters the money. Wealth stays in the hand, never ruling the heart. It becomes a tool for widespread benefit, not a path to arrogance and neglect.

Likewise, poverty can be dangerous when it pulls you away from Allah, leading to constant complaint, despair, and suspicion of His decree.

A Blessed Life

A blessed life is one where every state points back to Allah: grateful without self-conceit in ease, patient without despair in hardship. In both, you remain in remembrance, knowing all is from Allah and to Him it returns.

Remember: never belittle your situation. You may be small in people's eyes, but great in Allah's sight because of a grateful heart and a patient soul.

Sufficient with Allah

In the end, true wealth is a heart at peace, not dependent on the world, but on nearness to the Owner of the world. That is "ghina an-nafs" (richness of the soul).

When the heart is rich with Allah, life feels sufficient even if the world hasn't fully favored us. For we're not chasing the glitter of this life, but Allah's pleasure. And whoever has Allah's pleasure has everything. Insha-Allah!

> "True wealth isn't piles of gold or a hefty bank balance. It's a heart skilled in gratitude, a soul steadfast in patience, and the awareness that every condition is a test from Allah."



Image Source: Online

> "True wealth is when money doesn't enslave the heart, but the heart masters the money. Wealth stays in the hand, never ruling the heart."

July 5: A Birthday Written in My Father's Hand

– Akbar Haider Kiron

July 5 is more than a date on the calendar for me. It is the day my father carefully wrote down as the beginning of my life's journey. By the grace of Almighty Allah, I have been blessed to witness this day many times. As far as I can remember, I have never been interested in celebrating my birthday with grand parties or elaborate gatherings.

There was a time when the telephone rang continuously on my birthday. Today, social media has transformed those phone calls into an overwhelming wave of messages and warm wishes from friends, relatives, colleagues, and well-wishers across the world. Each greeting reminds me how fortunate I am to have been touched by so much kindness.

Yesterday evening, a dear elder sister affectionately suggested that we meet somewhere to celebrate my birthday. I thanked her sincerely and replied, "Wherever you are, please keep me in your prayers. Your blessings and good wishes are the greatest gifts I could ever receive."

As my birthday approaches each year, my heart turns toward those who struggle to survive—the poor, the homeless, and the forgotten. I dream of spending the day offering a little help to those in need, regardless of their religion, race, or background. The genuine smile on someone's face after receiving a small gift or a few dollars brings me far greater happiness than any birthday celebration ever could.

When my beloved mother was alive, she was always the very first person I called on my birthday. Receiving her prayers made the day complete. She left this world many years ago, yet I still feel as though I speak with her every day. Today, my eldest sister has become a reflection of our mother in my heart, and she is now the first person I call on this special day.

During my years in the workforce, I found joy in treating my colleagues to lunch or cake on my birthday. Their happiness was my celebration. It has now been nearly a year since I entered what people call retirement. Life has changed profoundly. I no longer wake before dawn to prepare for another demanding day at work. Instead, I find myself living at a quieter pace, reflecting more deeply on the journey behind me than on the road ahead.



— Akbar Haider Kiron Senior Journalist and Writer

Days pass into nights, and nights become mornings once again. From the moment we are born, each passing second quietly carries us toward another world. Such is the eternal law of life. One day, every one of us must leave everything behind.

Not long ago, while visiting my dear friend Sabuj's home, I sat beside my sister Mukta and softly sang the timeless song: "When my footprints disappear from this path…" Those words echoed in my heart as a gentle reminder that our time here is temporary, but the love we leave behind may remain.

Living in Woodside, I often find myself stopping by Sakil Mia's store in Jackson Heights or visiting Kazi Montu Bhai's office. It has become part of my daily rhythm. Perhaps one day, no one will see me there anymore.

The loving care of my cousin Liza and my younger brother Zero during their visits, the affectionate phone calls and caring reminders from Roquia Haider Apa, the anticipation of meeting Nihar Bhai for another walk or conversation—these precious moments, too, will eventually become memories.

That is simply the way of this world. Until that day comes, I pray that I may continue to live with gratitude, compassion, and purpose. A birthday, to me, is not merely another year added to life; it is an opportunity to ask whether I have loved enough, helped enough, forgiven enough, and thanked my Creator enough.

If you remember me on July 5, I ask for no gifts. Please keep me in your prayers. May Almighty Allah grant us all lives filled with kindness, humility, good health, and the opportunity to leave this world a little better than we found it.

EDUCATION

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Elhaam Academy Brings Learning to Mosques

Community outreach program shares Islamic knowledge with young learners

NYN Desk Report

Education extended beyond the classroom as Elhaam Academy brought its Community Knowledge Service Program to local mosques across New York, offering children and young students an engaging opportunity to strengthen their understanding of Islam through interactive learning and community participation.

The outreach initiative featured teams from Elhaam Academy visiting different mosques to conduct educational sessions focused on Islamic values, knowledge, and history. Through age-appropriate discussions, quizzes, and learning activities, organizers aimed to make religious education both meaningful and enjoyable while encouraging young participants to remain connected to their faith and local mosque communities.

As part of the program, Sr. Afrina Tanzin and Sr. Nazeema Khan represented Elhaam Academy by delivering presentations on the Islamic New Year 2026 at Hollis Muslim Center and Darus Salam Mosque in New York. Their presentations introduced children to the significance of the Islamic New Year, encouraging reflection on its historical and spiritual importance while inspiring students to continue seeking knowledge throughout the year.

The sessions included interactive quizzes that allowed children



to actively participate rather than simply listen. The educational format encouraged discussion, reinforced key lessons, and created an enjoyable learning environment where students could test their knowledge while building confidence.

The combination of presentations and quizzes kept participants engaged and made the experience both educational and memorable.

Organizers also arranged refreshments for attendees, with snacks served following the sessions. The hospitality helped create a welcoming atmosphere for children, parents, and community members, allowing participants to socialize and continue conversations after the educational activities concluded.

The Community Knowledge Service Program reflects Elhaam Academy's commitment to extending Islamic education beyond its own classrooms by collaborating with local mosques and community centers. By bringing knowledgeable educators directly into neighborhood masjids, the academy continues to support the religious and personal development of young Muslims while strengthening relationships among families and community institutions.

Through initiatives like this, Elhaam Academy is helping foster a lifelong appreciation for Islamic learning among the next generation. The successful visits to Hollis Muslim Center and Darus Salam Mosque demonstrated how collaboration between educational institutions and local mosques can create meaningful opportunities for youth to learn, participate, and grow together within their communities.



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LEADERSHIP

NYPD Fraternal Day Welcomes New Recruits

Annual event highlights mentorship, diversity, and professional support

NYN News Desk



From the first days of training, building strong professional relationships can be just as important as learning the responsibilities of policing. That message was at the heart of the annual Fraternal Day at the NYPD Police Academy, where new recruits were introduced to the department's diverse network of employee organizations dedicated to mentorship, inclusion, and professional development.

The annual event brought together representatives from a variety of the New York City Police Department's religious, cultural, and professional organizations, giving recruits an opportunity to learn about the many support networks available throughout their careers. Among the participating organizations was the NYPD Muslim Officers Society, which joined fellow fraternal groups in welcoming the department's newest class of future officers.

Designed to take place during the recruit training phase, Fraternal Day serves as an introduction to organizations that promote brotherhood, fellowship, and mutual support within the department. Representatives shared information about their missions, encouraged recruits to become involved, and highlighted the importance of maintaining strong professional and personal connections while serving New York City's diverse communities.

The event also emphasized mentorship as a key component of career development. By connecting recruits with experienced officers and established employee organizations early in their training, the program helps create opportunities for guidance, networking, and leadership throughout an officer's career. Organizers noted that these relationships can provide valuable support as recruits transition from the academy into active service.

The participation of the NYPD Muslim Officers Society underscored the department's commitment to recognizing the diversity of its workforce and fostering an environment where officers from different backgrounds can find community and encouragement. Alongside other fraternal organizations, the society demonstrated how shared experiences, cultural understanding, and professional collaboration contribute to a stronger and more inclusive police department.

Beyond introducing available resources, Fraternal Day reinforces the idea that effective policing is strengthened through teamwork, respect, and mutual support. The annual gathering continues to serve as an important tradition at the NYPD Police Academy, helping new recruits begin their careers with access to organizations dedicated to service, mentorship, and professional growth. As each new class enters the academy, events like Fraternal Day provide an opportunity to build connections that extend well beyond graduation, reinforcing a culture of unity and collaboration that benefits both officers and the communities they serve.



















FELLOWSHIP

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Jamaica Community Unites Over Breakfast

JMC hosts welcoming event for families and residents



NYN Correspondent

A shared meal often creates opportunities for meaningful conversations, and that spirit of togetherness was on full display as JMC welcomed members of the community to its Community Breakfast in Jamaica, New York. The event brought together families, friends, and neighbors for a morning centered on fellowship, hospitality, and strengthening community bonds. Held on July 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 85-37 JMC Way, Jamaica, NY 11432, the breakfast was open to both brothers and sisters, reflecting the organizers' commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for the local community. The gathering encouraged attendees to celebrate together while enjoying a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Guests were treated to a complimentary breakfast featuring fresh bread, pastries, waffles, and honey, providing an opportunity for community members to connect over a shared meal. The event emphasized hospitality and service, with volunteers helping ensure that everyone who attended felt welcomed and comfortable throughout the morning. The breakfast was organized by JMC in partnership with Children of Adam, whose collaboration supported the event's goal of promoting unity and community engagement. Rather than focusing solely on the meal itself, the gathering served as an opportunity for individuals and families to strengthen relationships, meet fellow residents, and build connections that extend beyond a single event. Community breakfasts have long been recognized as simple yet effective ways to bring people together across different backgrounds and generations. By creating a space where conversations could flourish in an informal setting, the organizers reinforced the importance of neighborly support, mutual respect, and community participation.

The successful gathering reflected JMC's ongoing commitment to serving the local community through programs that encourage fellowship and meaningful engagement. Events like this help foster a stronger sense of belonging while reminding residents that community is built not only through large initiatives but also through everyday moments shared around the same table.

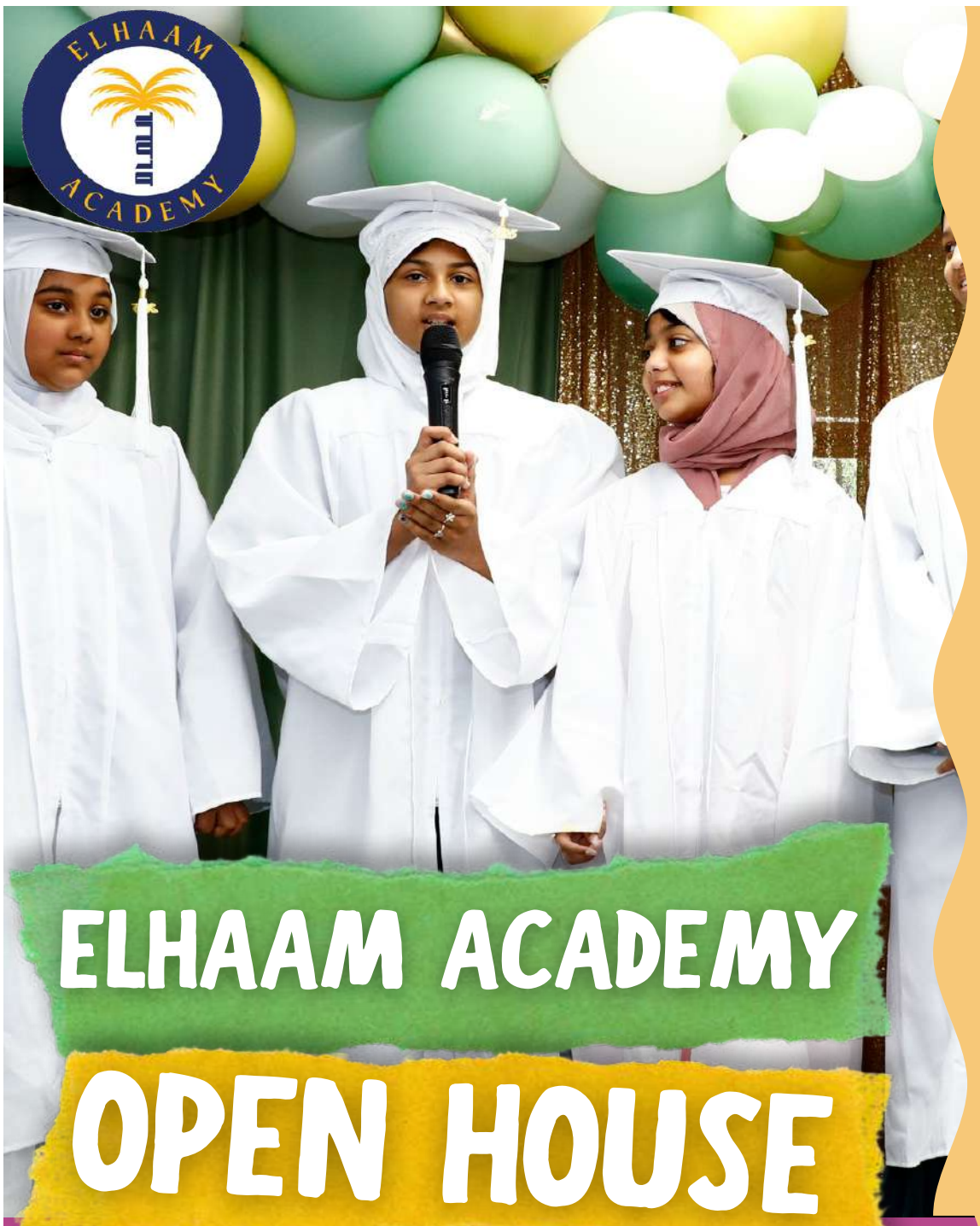
As attendees departed following the morning's program, they left with more than a satisfying breakfast. The event demonstrated how acts of hospitality and collaboration can strengthen relationships, promote unity, and create lasting memories within the Jamaica, New York community.











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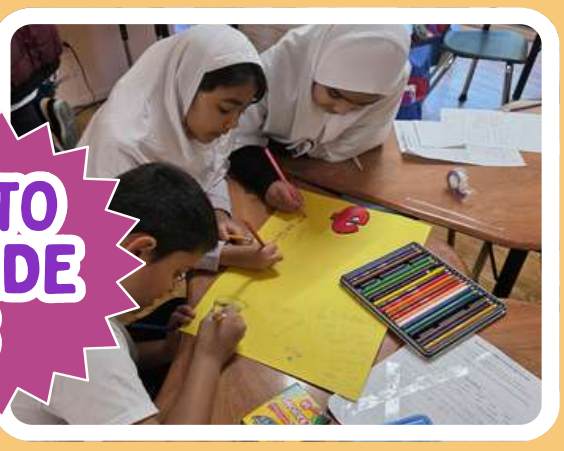
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USBCCI Expands Global Partnerships

Strategic ceremony highlights trade, investment, and entrepreneurship

NYN Staff Reporter



A major step toward deeper international business cooperation took place in New York as the U.S.-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (USBCCI) joined a high-level strategic partnership and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony hosted by the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce & Industry (TACCI USA).

The event was held at the iconic Turkish House (Türkevi), bringing together diplomats, elected officials, chamber leaders, business executives, entrepreneurs, and community representatives. The ceremony focused on strengthening international trade relations, expanding business networking, and creating new opportunities for cross-border economic cooperation.

Md. Liton Ahmed, President & CEO of USBCCI, attended the ceremony and expressed appreciation to TACCI USA for organizing the event and recognizing USBCCI as part of its growing network of strategic partners. He said the partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and economic development among the United States, Bangladesh, Türkiye, and broader global business communities.

The gathering also highlighted the importance of chambers of commerce in connecting entrepreneurs and institutions across borders. By participating in the event, USBCCI reaffirmed its role in promoting Bangladeshi-American business interests while building bridges with international partners.

Ahmed also congratulated TACCI USA and the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) for their work in bringing diverse business communities together. He noted that such collaboration helps create meaningful opportunities for entrepreneurs, investors, and professionals seeking to expand beyond local markets.

Special appreciation was extended to H.E. Ambassador Muhittin Ahmet Yazal, Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye in New York, for hosting the ceremony at Turkish House and for his remarks emphasizing unity, cooperation, and global partnership.

The event concluded with a message centered on shared progress and long-term collaboration.

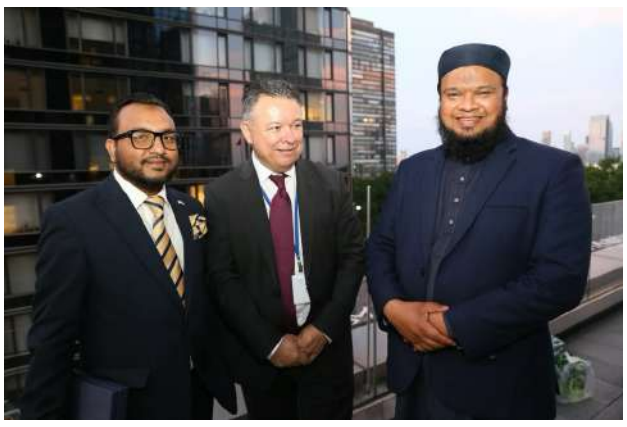
For USBCCI, the ceremony represented another step in expanding international partnerships, supporting entrepreneurs, and helping strengthen trade relations between communities with growing economic potential.

As participants left Türkevi, the spirit of the gathering was captured in the event's closing message: "Stronger Together. Greater Tomorrow."























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OUTREACH

BAPA Brings Service to the Community

Outreach event promotes donation and civic engagement



NYN Digital Desk

A day dedicated to saving lives, inspiring future public servants, and strengthening community ties brought residents together in the Bronx as the Bangladesh American Police Association (BAPA) successfully hosted its Blood Drive, Recruitment Drive & Community Outreach Event on June 26. The community-focused initiative combined several important public service efforts under one roof, giving attendees the opportunity to donate blood, learn about careers in law enforcement, and connect with members of the community through meaningful outreach. The event reflected BAPA's ongoing commitment to promoting civic engagement while encouraging residents to participate in programs that directly benefit their neighborhoods.

One of the event's central components was the blood drive, where community members came forward to make life-saving donations. Organizers emphasized the importance of maintaining a stable blood supply and highlighted how a single donation can make a meaningful difference for patients in need. The participation of local donors demonstrated the community's willingness to support one another through simple yet impactful acts of service.

In addition to the blood drive, the recruitment component introduced attendees to opportunities in public service and law enforcement. Community members were able to learn more about careers that contribute to public safety, while engaging directly with officers and representatives who shared information about service, leadership, and professional development.

The outreach portion of the event further strengthened connections between law enforcement and the communities they serve. By creating an open and welcoming environment, BAPA encouraged dialogue, built trust, and reinforced the value of collaboration between public institutions and local residents. Volunteers also played an important role in ensuring the smooth operation of the event, contributing their time and effort throughout the day. Following the event, the Bangladesh American Police Association expressed its appreciation to everyone who donated blood, volunteered, and participated. The organization noted that the success of the initiative reflected the collective spirit of service and compassion shared by the community.

The June 26 gathering demonstrated how partnerships between community organizations and residents can extend beyond traditional outreach efforts. Through blood donation, recruitment, volunteerism, and public engagement, the event highlighted the power of working together to build healthier, stronger, and more connected neighborhoods across the Bronx.

























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YOUTH

Leadership Program Empowers Young Voices

Youth complete training focused on service and respect

NYN Newsroom



Leadership, inclusion, and community service took center stage as the Youth Ambassador Leadership Program (YALP) celebrated the graduation of its inaugural class, marking the successful completion of a year-long initiative designed to prepare young people to become leaders and advocates within their schools and neighborhoods.

The graduation ceremony recognized students who participated in an extensive program of workshops, mentorship, presentations, and community-based projects throughout the academic year.

The initiative equipped participants with practical leadership skills while encouraging them to address important social issues affecting their communities.

The program covered a wide range of topics, including inclusion, standing against hate, bias, and bullying, air pollution, gender equality, and youth wellness.

Participants also took part in interactive learning experiences, including a therapy dog wellness session, which emphasized the importance of mental health and emotional well-being alongside leadership development.

Beyond classroom learning, Youth Ambassadors engaged directly with schools and community organizations by delivering presentations and participating in projects that promoted understanding, respect, and civic responsibility.

These activities allowed students to apply what they had learned while encouraging meaningful conversations about creating safer and more inclusive communities.

Vijah Ramjattan, Executive Director of the New York City Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, congratulated the graduates on reaching this important milestone. Reflecting on the achievements of the inaugural class, he praised the students for their dedication throughout the program and expressed confidence that they would continue making positive contributions in their schools and communities.

The program was supported through the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, reinforcing New York City's commitment to investing in youth leadership and violence prevention through education, mentorship, and community engagement.

By empowering young people with knowledge and practical experience, the initiative seeks to build stronger communities where respect, inclusion, and civic participation remain central values.

As the first class of Youth Ambassador Leadership Program graduates moves forward, organizers expressed optimism about the lasting impact the students will have.

Their year of learning, collaboration, and service has prepared them not only to address challenges such as bias and bullying but also to inspire others through leadership and community involvement.

The graduation of the inaugural YALP cohort represents an important milestone for the program and highlights the value of equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to become positive agents of change across New York City.







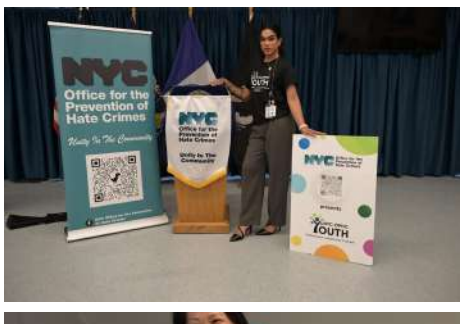






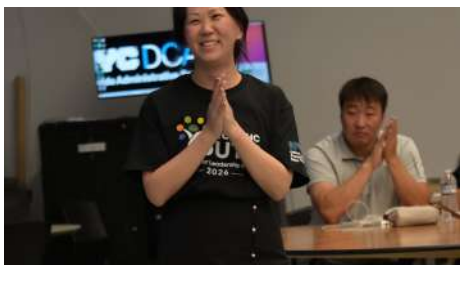













REUNION

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DU Legacy Celebrated in New York

Anniversary event brings graduates and supporters together

NYN Special Correspondent

More than a century after its founding, Dhaka University continues to inspire generations far beyond Bangladesh, a legacy celebrated with pride in Jamaica, New York, as alumni and community members gathered to mark the university's 105th anniversary.

The celebration was held on July 1, 2026, at 87-41 165 Street, Jamaica, New York, and was organized by The 105th Anniversary Celebration Committee of the Dhaka University Alumni Association of USA, Inc.

The event brought together graduates, supporters, and members of the Bangladeshi-American community to reflect on the university's historic contributions to education, leadership, culture, and national development.



For many attendees, the anniversary was more than a ceremonial milestone. It was an opportunity to reconnect with memories of student life, honor the institution's role in shaping intellectual and civic leadership, and celebrate the enduring bond shared by Dhaka University alumni living in the United States.

Throughout the gathering, participants reflected on the university's long-standing influence in producing scholars, professionals, public servants, writers, activists, and community leaders. The event also underscored how alumni networks abroad continue to preserve the spirit of the university while contributing to their adopted communities.

The celebration in New York highlighted the importance of maintaining educational and cultural ties across generations. For younger members of the community, the event offered a chance to learn about the significance of Dhaka University and its place in Bangladesh's history, while older alumni used the occasion to renew friendships and strengthen community connections.

Organizers emphasized that the anniversary celebration reflected both gratitude and responsibility.

By honoring the university's past, alumni also reaffirmed their commitment to supporting education, civic engagement, and cultural identity within the Bangladeshi diaspora.

As the evening concluded, the gathering stood as a reminder that the legacy of Dhaka University remains alive wherever its alumni live and serve.

The 105th anniversary celebration in Jamaica, New York, honored not only an institution, but also the generations of people shaped by its classrooms, ideals, and enduring mission.















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REUNION

New York alumni celebrate legacy, learning, and community pride

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City Hall Hosts Muslim Roundtable

Mayor Mamdani and community leaders discuss collaboration and accessibility



NYN Bureau Report

A new chapter in civic engagement unfolded at New York City Hall as Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani convened the city's first Muslim Leadership Roundtable, bringing together more than 40 Muslim faith leaders, nonprofit representatives, community advocates, and civic stakeholders from across the five boroughs for a landmark discussion on strengthening partnerships between City Hall and New York City's diverse Muslim communities. The gathering marked the first formal roundtable of its kind since Mayor Mamdani took office, underscoring the administration's commitment to building stronger relationships through direct dialogue. Rather than focusing solely on policy, the meeting emphasized three central themes: partnership, resources, and accessibility—areas viewed as essential to ensuring that communities can effectively engage with city government and access available services. The discussion covered a broad range of issues affecting Muslim communities, including housing, immigration, public safety, food insecurity, small business development, and community resources. Participants shared perspectives on local challenges while exploring practical ways to strengthen collaboration between city agencies and neighborhood organizations. The event also featured participation from MOIA Commissioner Faiza N. Ali, who joined fellow city officials in listening to community concerns and identifying actionable steps to improve outreach and support. According to the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), the conversation was designed to deepen relationships with community leaders while ensuring that policies and services remain responsive to the needs of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds. Among those in attendance were respected faith leaders and community advocates, including Imam Khalid Latif, Imam Shamsi Ali, Linda Sarsour, Ali Najmi, Aliya Latif, Jagpreet Singh, Arman Chowdhury, Mohammed Islam Delwar, Syed Meesam Razvi, Debbie Almontaser, Erum Hanif, Marwa Janini, and Youssef Mubarez, among others. Their participation reflected the diversity of New York City's Muslim communities and the collective commitment to advancing meaningful civic engagement. Organizers described the roundtable as an important opportunity to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and ensure that community voices are represented in conversations about the city's future. Participants also viewed the meeting as a milestone that demonstrated growing recognition of the contributions and perspectives of Muslim New Yorkers. As the discussion concluded, attendees expressed optimism that the inaugural NYC Muslim Leadership Roundtable would serve as the foundation for continued collaboration between City Hall and Muslim communities throughout New York City, reinforcing a shared commitment to building a more inclusive, accessible, and responsive city for all.

NYC Office of the Mayor



































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SAFETY

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FDNY Relaunches Clergy Advisory Council

Faith leaders and fire officials renew community partnership



NYN Desk Report

After a four-year hiatus, the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) officially relaunched its Clergy Advisory Council, bringing together faith leaders from across the city to strengthen collaboration on public safety, emergency preparedness, and community engagement.

The meeting, hosted by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, took place on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 9 Metrotech Center, Room 8S-7, marking the council's first gathering since 2022. The relaunch signaled a renewed commitment to building stronger partnerships between the FDNY and New York City's diverse religious communities.

The session focused on several critical public safety initiatives, including fire safety education, EMS recruitment, community engagement, CPR awareness, and the department's Stop the Bleed campaign. Organizers emphasized that while these life-saving programs are essential, their impact grows significantly when trusted community leaders help deliver these messages to congregations and neighborhoods throughout the city.

In remarks shared following the meeting, Jéneen K. Gilliam, Director of External Partnerships for the FDNY, thanked council members for their participation and reaffirmed the department's appreciation for their continued partnership. She noted that clergy members serve as ambassadors for the FDNY within the communities they lead, helping ensure that important public safety information reaches people across cultural and religious backgrounds.Organizers described the gathering as the beginning of renewed momentum for the advisory council. They also expressed their intention to expand participation in future meetings by welcoming additional faith leaders, broadening the council's reach, and strengthening trust between the department and the communities it serves.

The relaunch reflects the FDNY's recognition that effective emergency preparedness extends beyond emergency response. By partnering with religious institutions and community leaders, the department aims to improve public awareness of fire prevention, emergency medical services, and life-saving preparedness initiatives while fostering stronger communication with New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds.

As the meeting concluded, participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to promoting safety, preparedness, and community resilience throughout the city. The FDNY announced that the next Clergy Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Fall 2026, continuing the renewed partnership between the department and New York City's faith communities.

The successful relaunch highlighted the vital role that collaboration between public agencies and religious leaders plays in protecting lives and strengthening neighborhoods, laying the foundation for an even more connected and resilient New York City.









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EMPOWERMENT

An-Nisa Fellowship Celebrates First Graduating Class

NYC program honors women leaders and interfaith unity

NYN News Desk

The An-Nisa Fellowship Program celebrated a historic milestone with the graduation of its inaugural class during a special ceremony held on June 30, 2026, at 52 Chambers Street, New York, NY. The event marked the successful completion of the program's first fellowship cycle, recognizing women who completed a year of leadership development, interfaith dialogue, and community engagement. Designed to bring together Muslim and non-Muslim women, the An-Nisa Fellowship Program focuses on cultivating leadership, strengthening cross-community relationships, and promoting collective action to address Islamophobia, gender bias, and all forms of hate. Rooted in the values of justice, dignity, mutual respect, and belonging, the fellowship



aims to empower participants to become effective leaders within their communities while building lasting bridges across diverse backgrounds.

The graduation celebration honored the accomplishments of the inaugural fellows, who participated in 12 immersive sessions featuring workshops, mentorship opportunities, and interfaith dialogue throughout the program. According to the program presentation, the fellowship maintained an equal representation of 50% Muslim women and 50% women from diverse backgrounds, encouraging meaningful collaboration and lifelong connections among participants.

The fellowship was co-led by Melissa Shaw and Dr. Debbie Almontaser, who guided participants through a curriculum centered on leadership, civic engagement, allyship, and community impact.

The graduating class included Hanan Yafai, Ghezal Nazari, Erica Ware, Meredith Sharkey, Lady Pamela Damon, Christine Noel, Areba Ghafoor, Jill Starishevsky, Micali Morin, Sahr Ali, Iman Dakmak-Rakka, and Kathleen DiPerna.

The evening's program featured welcome remarks from Dr. Debbie Almontaser and Deanna Logan, Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ).

NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Faiza N. Ali delivered the keynote address, while fellowship reflections were presented by Areba Ghafoor and Christine Noel. Melissa Shaw also introduced participants' capstone projects before the ceremony concluded with the official completion celebration and a community dinner.

Throughout the fellowship, participants explored a leadership journey built around five core principles: Learn, Connect, Lead, Act, and Impact. The curriculum encouraged deeper understanding, relationship building, leadership development, collaborative action, and long-term community impact. The inaugural graduation represented more than the completion of a fellowship program. It highlighted the growing importance of cross-cultural collaboration and women's leadership in New York City. By bringing together women from different faiths and backgrounds to learn, serve, and lead together, the An-Nisa Fellowship Program established a strong foundation for future cohorts committed to building more inclusive, resilient, and compassionate communities.



























OPINION

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America's Glorious 250 Years and the Proud Legacy of Bangladeshi Americans



Abubokor Hanip

America's glorious 250 years! For those of us who have lived in this country for many years, the United States of America is truly a unique nation. From personal and family life to institutional, social, and civic life, almost everything that happens here offers us the experience of a peaceful, secure, and fulfilled life. Even though such a life is often preceded by huge struggles, we value this life. We spend meaningful and beautiful years here with our families-kids, kith and keens.

Here we are Americans. Yet, very clearly, another name remains closely attached to our identity. That is 'Bangladeshis'. We are called Bangladeshi Americans, and we are proud of that identity. We are proud because we belong to an independent nation rich in culture, heritage, art, and tradition, where we born- our motherland. We love America, and we love Bangladesh.

The presence of Bangladeshis in the United States is nearly from the birth of Bangladesh as an independent nation or even before that. I myself came to this country nearly three decades ago. Yet, sometimes I meet people who say they have been here since the early days of Bangladesh's emergence more than five decades ago. Some arrived even earlier. They settled here and, in their own words, became "naturalized" in this country. Their second and even third generations may have been born here. Since then, they have been living here with their families, enjoying the American way of life. But are they only enjoying life here? Certainly not. These individuals have continuously contributed to the American economy and society through their labor, talent, strength, intelligence, and creativity. Some have exceeded every expectation. After arriving in this country, they demonstrated exceptional ability and left lasting marks that have made them memorable, respected, and celebrated.

When we recall names, one of the first that comes to mind is architect and engineer Fazlur Rahman Khan, widely known as F. R. Khan. In 1974, the Sears Tower (later renamed the Willis Tower) was built based on his design and helped show the United States a new direction in the construction of skyscrapers. He is widely recognized as the father of tubular design. The bundled-tube design developed by F. R. Khan later became the foundation for the construction of the 110-story World Trade Center. Even after achieving such extraordinary recognition in skyscraper design, F. R. Khan did not stop. When the computer age arrived, he also advanced the use of computers in structural analysis and design. In this field as well, he was a pioneer. He was a pride of Bangladeshis and a pride of Bangladesh as a nation.

Over the passes of time, many more feathers have been added to the history of our pride. In science and engineering, we know Abul Hussam, who earned global recognition by developing the SONO arsenic filter. His unique invention has helped provide life-saving clean water for millions of people around the world. He was honored with the Grainger Challenge Prize. We may also mention Princeton University professor M. Zahid Hasan, whose pioneering contributions to quantum materials and topological physics are undeniable.



Then there is Maksudul Alam, whose work in sequencing the genomes of papaya, jute, and rubber earned wide recognition in the globe.

In technology and innovation, Jawed Karim deserves special mention. He is a co-founder of YouTube and was also a key designer at PayPal. Professor Dr. Sultana N. Nahar of Ohio University has earned recognition for her important contributions to cancer treatment. Another prominent name in cancer research is Dr. Ryan Saadi. He has achieved notable success as a medical entrepreneur and is widely recognized for his work in medical innovation. This Bangladeshi American physician is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tiziana Life Sciences, working to develop affordable treatments for cancer and complex infectious diseases. His contributions to research, innovation, and human welfare have earned him special international recognition.

In education, I would first mention yet another Bangladeshi American Salman Khan. His Khan Academy's role in transforming the lives of millions of students through free online education is highly appreciated.

For the past 22 years, I too have been working to change people's lives through education and training in the United States. Through my self-founded institution, PeopleNTech, I have trained and helped more than 10,000 people enter the mainstream technology sector of this country and secure jobs with six-figure salaries. The core of my educational philosophy is the "Triple Mission: Degree, Skills, Career." I believe that earning a degree alone is not enough; practical skills and strong preparation for a professional career are equally important. With this philosophy in mind, I have been serving as Chancellor and Chairman of Washington University of Science and Technology since 2020. One of our distinguishing features is that our faculty members are not only scholars; they are also experienced professionals in their respective industries. As a result, they bring real workplace environments into the classroom. Here students do not merely gain theoretical knowledge. They have opportunities to work on real projects, learn to solve industry problems, and gain practical professional experience. As a result, many of our students are able to begin their careers not only with entry-level capabilities, but with the confidence and skills to take on mid-level responsibilities.More than 5,000 students have already earned degrees and practical skills from this university and entered successful professional careers. This is the first fully established university in the United States founded and operated by a Bangladeshi born American.



In the technology sector, I would also like to mention Imran Khan, another proud Bangladeshi American whose leadership has played an important role in the growth of globally recognized companies such as Alibaba and Snap.

Bangladeshi Americans have achieved success not only in education, training, science, and invention, but also in business and investment. Omar Ishrak, former CEO of Medtronic and former Chairman of Intel; Iqbal Quadir, founder of Grameenphone; and Kamal Quadir, founder of CellBazaar and co-founder of bKash, are all proud Bangladeshi Americans.

Similarly, Bangladeshi American entrepreneur Dr. Kali Pradip Chaudhuri deserves special mention. Although he began his professional career as an orthopedic surgeon, he later built one of the world's most successful diversified business empires through the KPC Group. Today, his organization has assets worth more than $10 billion and operates in more than 25 sectors across eight countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, India, and the United Arab Emirates. His investments span healthcare, five-star hotels, commercial development, medical colleges, educational institutions, tea gardens, energy, and real estate. Among his visionary development projects are major real-estate initiatives in California and an environmentally friendly green-town development project opposite Buckingham Palace in the United Kingdom. His extraordinary success is another shining example of the global capacity of Bangladeshi American entrepreneurs.



I would especially like to mention Ambassador M. Osman Siddique. He is a distinguished Bangladeshi American, American politician, diplomat, and author. He served as the United States Ambassador to Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, and Tuvalu. He was the first Muslim and the first Bangladeshi American in U.S. history to be appointed as an American ambassador. His historic achievement is not only a source of pride for Bangladeshi Americans; it is also a remarkable example of America's pluralism, equal opportunity, and appreciation of merit. His success demonstrates that Bangladeshi Americans have proven their abilities not only in business, education, and technology, but also at the highest levels of American diplomacy and national leadership.

In politics as well, several individuals who have advanced into the mainstream are well known to us. Hansen Clarke was the first Bangladeshi American elected to the U.S. Congress, representing Michigan in the House of Representatives. Following in his footsteps, Sheikh Rahman has been elected to the Georgia State Senate five times and continues to represent the Fifth District. He is the first Muslim legislator in Georgia's history and a proud Bangladeshi American. His achievement is not merely a personal success; it is an outstanding example of Bangladeshi Americans' growing influence in political leadership, public service, and the American mainstream.

Shahana Hanif was elected as the first Muslim woman to serve on the New York City Council. Saddam Azlan Salim has been elected to the Virginia State Senate for a second term. He is a young and influential Bangladeshi American

* America's 250th anniversary is celebrated as a milestone of freedom, democracy, opportunity, and immigrant success.
* Bangladeshi Americans are recognized as an important part of America's growth story.
* The article highlights the dual identity of the community: proud Americans and proud Bangladeshis.
* Bangladeshi Americans have contributed strongly to U.S. society through science, technology, education, business, politics, medicine, and public service.
* F. R. Khan's groundbreaking skyscraper designs are presented as a historic contribution to American architecture and engineering.
* Innovators such as Abul Hussam, Jawed Karim, Salman Khan, and M. Zahid Hasan are highlighted for global achievements.
* Bangladeshi American entrepreneurs have created jobs, built businesses, and contributed to the U.S. economy.

OPINION

leader emerging in Virginia's mainstream politics. His active role in public service, community advocacy, and representative politics is a shining example of the political advancement of a new generation of Bangladeshi Americans. Abul B. Khan has also made notable contributions in politics. He is a proud Bangladeshi American and a seven-time elected member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. These achievements are bright examples of the political progress of Bangladeshi Americans and their participation in



mainstream American leadership. There are many more who are advancing in mainstream politics.

Soma Syed became the first Bangladeshi American elected as a judge in a U.S. court in New York. Another notable figure is federal judge Nusrat Jahan Choudhury.There are also several prominent names in journalism and literature. Reihan Salam, President of the Manhattan Institute, has served as editor of the leading American publication National Review. Rumaan Alam has earned recognition as the bestselling author of Leave the World Behind, a novel that was later adapted into a Netflix film.

I would also like to mention Jai Wolf, who has gained international recognition as an electronic music artist. Kamal Ahmed became a member of the comedy group The Jerky Boys. Abuhena Saiful Islam was the first Muslim to join the United States Navy, and he is a Bangladeshi American.

In addition, countless Bangladeshi Americans have earned recognition through their involvement in medicine, engineering, education, entrepreneurship, and public service. In the New York Police Department alone, there are more than 1,000 Bangladeshi Americans serving the community day and night. There are thousands of Bangladeshi educators and researchers teaching at universities across this country. Through their research-based knowledge, they are not only advancing their own excellence but also contributing meaningfully to the American education system.

Another matter is especially noteworthy. At one time, many Bangladeshi Americans began their journeys in this country through very small businesses—some with a grocery store, some with a convenience store, some with a gas station, and others with small retail businesses. Through hard work, honesty, and entrepreneurial spirit, many of them have achieved extraordinary success. There are Bangladeshi American entrepreneurs who now operate more than 500 retail businesses. These enterprises have created employment for thousands of people and continue to make important contributions to the American economy, tax system, and local communities.

Equally encouraging is the success of our new generation. A large number of second- and third-generation Bangladeshi origin American young people have graduated from, or are currently studying at, Ivy League universities such as Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia, as well as other leading institutions such as MIT and Stanford. Many of them are establishing themselves in important fields including research, medicine, engineering, architecture, artificial intelligence, law, business, public policy, and public leadership.

Moreover, many are engaged in teaching and research at these world-renowned universities and other leading higher-education institutions, helping shape new generations and contributing significantly to the advancement of knowledge, science, and innovation. Their success proves that the contributions of the Bangladeshi American community are not limited to America today; they will also play an important role in tomorrow's knowledge-based economy, innovation, policymaking, and global leadership.

I would also like to recognize ordinary people who came to this country and are establishing themselves through their greatest efforts, creating benefits that their families will enjoy for generations. Bangladeshi people have traveled halfway across the world to the United States and, through their hard work, sweat, and talent, have continued to contribute to the American economy. They are all stakeholders in the glorious 250-year story of the United States. On behalf of all of them, I extend my greetings and congratulations.



This historic milestone of America's 250 years is not merely the anniversary of a country's birth. It is a celebration of a unique history of freedom, democracy, equal opportunity, and the fulfillment of immigrants' dreams. Within that history, the contributions of Bangladeshi Americans are becoming brighter every day. Our first generation laid the foundation through struggle; the second generation is establishing itself in mainstream leadership; and the third generation will play an important role in building the America of tomorrow through science, technology, education, medicine, entrepreneurship, art, culture, politics, and public service. This achievement is not only our pride. It is also a bright symbol of friendship, mutual respect, and shared progress between Bangladesh and the United States.

Happy Independence Day and Happy Birthday, America!

— Abubokor Hanip : The Founder, Chairman, and Chancellor of Washington University of Science and Technology; and the Founder and CEO of PeopleNTech.









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America at 250: A Nation Celebrates from Harbor to Sky

New York marked the milestone with tall ships, fireworks and a mayoral message on the meaning of freedom



NYN News Desk

With tall ships crossing New York Harbor, fireworks rising over the Brooklyn Bridge and a mayoral address rooted in the city's immigrant history, America's 250th birthday became both a celebration and a moment of national reflection.

The milestone, observed on July 4, 2026, marked 250 years since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Federal organizers described the anniversary as a yearlong national commemoration, while cities across the country held public events, concerts, ceremonies and fireworks displays. In Washington, D.C., the Salute to America 250 celebration took place on the National Mall, though severe weather caused a temporary evacuation before the program resumed.

In New York City, the most dramatic daytime spectacle unfolded on the water. The Sail4th 250 celebration brought more than 40 tall ships from 20 foreign countries into New York Harbor, traveling from near Sandy Hook, New Jersey, through the harbor and up toward the George Washington Bridge. Organizers billed the gathering as one of the largest maritime and aerial events in American history, with the fleet passing the Statue of Liberty and the city's waterfront before public ship tours opened from July 5 through July 7.

The harbor celebration connected the city's present to its past. For generations, New York's waterways have carried immigrants, workers, soldiers and visitors into the American story. That theme shaped the address delivered on July 3, 2026, by Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani, who spoke from City Hall ahead of the anniversary. The mayor described the harbor as a place where people saw "New York City" and "America," while arguing that the country's promise has always depended on people struggling to expand freedom and belonging.

Mamdani's remarks placed New York at the center of the nation's revolutionary memory. He recalled the Battle of Brooklyn, the survival of George Washington's Continental Army, the legacy of Weeksville, and the millions who later arrived through Ellis Island. His central message was that American greatness is not fixed in the past but renewed by each generation. "The work of fulfilling the values first enshrined in the Declaration of Independence — that work endures," he said.

As evening fell, the celebration turned skyward. The 50th edition of Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks lit up the city with 85,000 shells in 30 colors, launched from six barges, along with a new laser show from the Brooklyn Bridge. The display was visible from the Lower East River, the Lower Hudson River, Brooklyn Bridge Park, The Seaport, parts of Manhattan and Jersey City.

For New Yorkers, the anniversary was more than a display of patriotic symbols. It turned public spaces into gathering places and gave residents a chance to think about the country's past, present and future. The city opened a lottery for 100,000 free tickets to the fireworks, while non-ticketed viewing areas were also made available along the waterfront.

The day also reflected the tensions of a divided country. National commemorations drew debate over politics, immigration and who gets to define patriotism. In New York Harbor, even a vessel carrying advocacy banners was removed from the parade route after officials said participants had agreed not to display political messages.

Still, the lasting image of America250 in New York was one of movement: ships moving through the harbor, crowds moving toward the waterfront and fireworks moving across the skyline. At 250 years, the country celebrated not only what it has been, but what it still hopes to become.















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AMERICA'S 250

Mayor Mamdani Delivers Address Marking America's 250th Birthday



Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani

Good morning, my fellow Americans.
Season after season, year after year, the tides have come in and out of New York Harbor. Long before the name "New York" had ever been spoken, Lenape dugouts crossed these currents. It was on these waters that tall masts crested the horizon, captained by explorers like Verrazzano and Hudson after whom we've named our bridges and rivers. And ever since, ships full of travelers weary from long journeys have passed through the Narrows, the winds of the Atlantic at their backs.
When those passengers lifted their heads to glimpse what lies just beyond the waves, what did they see? They saw land, lush and teeming with life. They saw men waiting at the docks to take them into bondage. They saw tenements rife with squalor. They saw industry rumbling with activity, steam and smoke rising, a city on the move. They saw a towering monument to freedom, her torch glowing world-wide welcome. They saw New York City. They saw America.
Tomorrow, our nation marks 250 years since we declared our independence. Two hundred and fifty years of a grand experiment in self-governance — an experiment so audacious that some in 1776 doubted it would last more than a few years, let alone a quarter of a millennium. From Lexington to Los Angeles, Selma to Seneca Falls, Morrisania to Midwood, Americans will come together for a day, just as we do each year. Families will gather around the grill. Fireworks will fill the night sky. This will be no ordinary day of celebration. Two hundred and fifty years presents a rare opportunity for more than 340 million people to turn together — both towards one another and towards ourselves, to take measure of who we are as a nation. When we look at America, what do we see?
Here at City Hall, as I sit behind George Washington's desk, alongside new Americans who came to this country, I cannot see all of America. But like so many who came before, I can see New York City.
The city I see today looks very different than the one that greeted George Washington. In July of 1776, our city simmered under the yoke of oppression. The British had imposed a colonial rule so repressive that 250 years ago, 80 miles south, a small group of newspaper editors, farmers, and soldiers signed their names on a document declaring truths that feel self-evident now but were revolutionary then, establishing the ideals our nation still strives to fulfill. The British did not take it well. War broke out. And that August, as the largest battle of the Revolutionary War unfolded in Brooklyn, batteries on Governors Island took aim at British ships anchored just offshore. We were outgunned, we were outmanned and we were soundly defeated. After only a few months, it appeared our fledgling attempt at democracy was on the precipice of collapse.
But that night, with the moon overhead, thousands of our soldiers silently climbed into ferries and flat-bottomed boats and escaped to Manhattan. The Continental Army survived to fight another day. Independence may have been declared in Philadelphia, but it was rescued in New York City. George Washington was the last to leave Brooklyn. As he waited at the river's edge, the sun beginning its rise, he would have looked out over New York City's waters and seen what so many have seen in the 250 years since — an opportunity to begin anew. Those opportunities — like everything in New York City — are not given. They are won.
In 1838, 11 years after New York outlawed slavery, a recently emancipated Black man by the name of James Weeks sought to begin anew as well — and to help hundreds of others do the same. He bought property in Brooklyn, won himself the right to vote, and sold lots to others newly freed. When they landed in New York Harbor, they knew they had something waiting for them that they had never had before: a home. Weeksville still stands today — a living, breathing testament to what we know America to be: a place each of us has the power to make.
The Harbor was busy those years, as ships poured in from around the world. Hundreds of thousands of Irish immigrants arrived with stomachs aching from a famine manufactured by imperial cruelty. Chinese sailors settled in what is today, Chinatown. Millions more traveled under the Statue of Liberty and through Ellis Island — Jewish people escaping pogroms, Italians fleeing poverty, Syrians seeking economic opportunity. Each of these new arrivals peered through portholes onto a city that was changing as fast as the nation. They saw merchants peddling their wares on the docks, streets being laid out on a grid, buildings rising into the clouds. They could not yet see the nativism they would face — the jobs they would be refused, the landlords who would not rent to them, and the abject labor and living conditions they would withstand. But no matter how much smog hung over the harbor, they still saw an opportunity to begin anew.
Over the years that followed, despite laws enacted by the federal government to bar their entry, despite sweatshop fires that killed hundreds of women, despite riots aimed at their very existence, immigrants made homes here in New York City, and they helped to make New York City. That legacy of every generation of Americans insisting that the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness extends to them, too, is no relic of the past. It carried millions of Black Americans north during the Great Migration; it drew hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans to New York City after the Second World War; it invited countless others from the West Indies, and South Asia, and West Africa, and across the world. And it is what brought my family to this city when I was seven years old.
My family did not arrive by boat, although we saw the Statue of Liberty from the window of the plane. Even from the air, we could make out the promise of America — the promise of the beautiful, patriotic work of rendering America, year after year, a little more faithful to its founding ideals. There is a term so often used to describe our nation and those who have shaped it: American exceptionalism. American exceptionalism, the conventional wisdom tells us, makes our freedom a little more free, is how we dug the Erie Canal and irrigated the West, is why children in faraway lands grow up dreaming of one day moving here.
And yet the irony is that the story of America has so often been written by those who were told by others with power and influence and wealth that they were anything but exceptional. For generation after generation, we have been told that when the world has sent its people to our shores, it has not sent its best. It sent Puritans and Sikhs and Quakers and Muslims and Jewish people who were banished for praying the wrong way, worshipping the wrong Gods, angering the wrong people. It sent peasants and serfs from slums and shtetls who were treated as less because they hardly owned clothes, let alone land. It sent immigrants for whom power was something someone else had. We are told that America is exceptional because we are richer, stronger, more powerful than everyone else.
The truth, my friends, is that America is exceptional because here, nothing is fixed into place. The frontier may be closed, we may have walked on the moon, but the work of fulfilling the values first enshrined in the Declaration of Independence — that work endures, my friends, and it belongs to us all. It belongs too to our newest Americans, those standing here with me today, all of whom were recently naturalized. Nearly a decade ago, I too felt what you feel — the joy of no longer being just a New Yorker, but an American too. You each hold a special power. The power to determine what America means.
The powerful have always known their answer. America, in their view, is an arena of supremacy, where only a select few are allowed freedom, where not all are created equal. America, if you ask them, becomes less the more people it welcomes. America, they will tell you, belongs only to those with the right accent or the right shade of skin. The rest of us, they insist, should be grateful for merely being allowed to visit.
How small they are, how weak, how unoriginal. At every moment in our past, those who led through exclusion and isolation have tried to win power and enrich themselves by turning us against one another. Division is the oldest trick in politics, and the cheapest. But time and again — including 250 years ago — those forces of division have been vanquished by the forces of progress. As Thomas Paine once wrote, "this new world hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty [...] hither have they fled." And yet today, too many of our leaders do not believe in a vision of this nation as an asylum for the persecuted — but rather as one that persecutes those seeking asylum. As we mark 250 years, what do we see?
We see a city of contradictions within a nation of contradictions. We see the wealthiest country in the history of the world — one where children go to sleep hungry while the world's first trillionaire hungers for more.
We see monopolies that dominate every industry and oligarchs who buy elections. We see masked agents terrorizing our streets, eating food cooked by our undocumented neighbors before spiriting them away in unmarked vans. We see a nation whose immense wealth has been built by those with calloused, dirt-streaked hands — those who toil on factory floors and chisel into stone — and we see a nation that has allowed so much of that wealth to be held instead in the soft hands of a precious few.
Yes, we see America in a health insurance industry that exploits the sick, but that is not all I see when we look for America. We see it too in the nurse who works a double shift and then stops on her way home to check on an ailing neighbor.
Yes, we see America in corporate landlords for whom negligence is a business model. We see it too in the father who tucks his children into bed beneath a ceiling stained with leaks, who wakes before dawn to go to work and still believes his country can do better by his family.
Yes, we see America when we spend our tax dollars on bombs and bailouts, when we sell our elections to the highest bidder. Yet we see it just as clearly in every American who still believes this country belongs to we, the people.
We see America each time neighbors link arms with neighbors — without

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asking how long they have lived here, or what papers they have — as ICE invades our neighborhoods.
We see America each time those young and old stand in the beating rain or the stifling heat to cast their ballots.
We see America each time working people demand more — not just for themselves, but for their fellow Americans.
There are some who respond to those who ask for more from America with a simple refrain: “Love it or leave it,” they say. But patriotism has never been about pretending our nation is without flaws. Patriotism is every act of righteous dissent, it is every march led under the heavy sun, it is every protest held a decade before its time. It is precisely because we love this nation that we will not leave it. After all, who loves America more than those who have sacrificed so much to make it free?
Today, I think not only of the Fourth of July — I think too of the ninth of July. Five days after the Declaration of Independence was signed, it arrived here in New York City. Redcoats had disembarked on Staten Island. More than a hundred British ships loomed just offshore. Across this city, the Continental Army prepared for an invasion. George Washington commanded his brigades to assemble just a few feet from this building. It was known then as the Commons — today, we call it City Hall Park.
There, within range of British guns, Washington ordered his generals to read the Declaration aloud. And with the world’s mightiest empire poised to attack, Washington told the people of New York City what we will celebrate tomorrow — that we had declared our independence. That freedom was within reach. That evening, danger loomed. Conflict was not a question but a certainty. And yet when those early
New Yorkers marched toward the statue of King George III that stood in Bowling Green, a statue they would melt down into bullets for their young army, they walked in unison — grounded not in the pursuit of plunder, but in ideals that for the first time had a name: America.
Those ideals upon which our nation was built —
they are strong enough to endure any authoritarian regime, but only if we reach for them. Ours is a nation working each day towards the perfection in which it was conceived. A nation striving each day to better itself. Therein lies the work of America — the striving, the bettering, the reaching towards perfection.
What a privilege each of us has, to live in a nation that every one of its inhabitants can shape. What a responsibility each of us possesses, to prove ourselves worthy of all those who came before. What power each of us holds, to bring America ever-closer to the greatness so many have seen when they looked upon these shores **— the greatness that, for 250 years, has been America.**
Thank you. God Bless America, God Bless New York City, and happy Fourth of July.

To Be American: a Reflection on Independence Day



Imam Shamsi Ali

Today, July 4th, is a day etched in the memory of every American. It is Independence Day. To all Americans, near and far, I extend my warmest wishes for a blessed and joyous Fourth of July. This year is certainly even more special because it also coincides with the commemoration of America’s 250th birthday. It is a very long span of time one that will never cease to be remembered and spoken of. From the hour it declared its freedom from England, the United States has been in restless pursuit of growth, maturity, and the constant betterment of itself. The America we know today, a superpower among nations, was not born whole. It has been tempered by challenge after challenge, and in answering them, America and its people have been gifted opportunity after opportunity.
I am an immigrant, as nearly all Americans are, save our Native Indian brothers and sisters. Since I first set foot on this soil, I have been met with abundance. My family has flourished. The pursuit of my American dream endures. And above all, I am blessed to belong to this great nation, and proud of the values for which it stands.
America is not merely a stretch of land traced by borders. Nor is it only a people endowed with brilliance in science and technology. Nor is it only the sum of its economic growth, political reach, or military power.
More profoundly, America is an idea. It is a set of ideals. It is the values this nation has held dear across its history: democracy, liberty, justice, equality, and the right to pursue happiness.
And it is this that makes me proud to be woven into the American tapestry, to be a among, a small thread in the vast, vibrant, and colorful fabric of American life.
I was born Indonesian. My faith is Islam. My heritage and culture are Asian. Yet none of this lessens my bond to my adopted home. It deepens it.
Each of us carries many identities at once. Cultural, spiritual, ancestral, they shift with time, shaped by personal journeys, by community, and by the turning of the world. Identity is not a fixed stone. It is a living process, not merely “being,” but always “becoming.”
American identity, too, is not static. It



is not carved in granite. It evolves with each generation, each era, each new voice added to the chorus.
America is a living organism. And like all living things, if it ceases to renew itself, to change with the seasons of history, it risks losing the very essence of who it is. With time, America has grown more diverse, more resilient, more beautiful. And with that, it carries greater hope, to be honored at home, and respected across the world.
So it is with American multiculturalism. Our history is one of an ever-widening embrace, an evolving acceptance of deep and profound diversity.
To preserve, to embrace, to welcome difference, this is the nature of our nation. America, born of immigrants, finds strength, not weakness, in the freedom of cultures and faiths to flourish.
As we move through the 21st century, the heart of multicultural life has shifted toward inclusive citizenship, toward the rights and responsibilities we all share, and the values that bind us.
Across the decades, the metaphor has changed: from “mosaic,” to “belonging,” to “harmony,” to “conforming.” Today, as this great nation marks another year of its founding, I would offer a different word: “respect”. Let “respect” be the key metaphor of our American multiculturalism. To be American is not only to be born on this soil, to hold an American passport, or to claim the shield of individual rights. To be American is to be a responsible citizen, in thought, in word, and in deed. To be American is to be indefinable. There is no single prototype. A newcomer may come to these shores and love this country as deeply, or even more deeply, than one whose family has been here for seven generations.
The 17th-century philosopher Spinoza once wrote, “Citizens are made, not born.” Nowhere is that more true than in America.
To be American, I hope, is to be a citizen of the finest country on earth and to be welcomed and respected wherever one goes.
To be American is to belong to a great, diverse, and functioning family, where every member is received, embraced, and honored.
To be American is to strive, always, to better ourselves, our bonds with one another, our service to the nation, and to the world.
To be American is to treat our sisters and brothers in other nations with dignity, and to accept responsibility when we have failed them, when we have mistreated those we called “the other,” those we deemed different from ourselves.
Thus, to be American is to practice acceptance. It is to live with respect for those unlike us. It is to feel compassion and to give generously, especially to those with less, and to share the blessings we enjoy, both at home and abroad.
To be American is to be free: free to dream, free to speak, free to laugh, free to live, free to believe and worship, free to carry our cultures without fear. And to be easy in your own skin, whatever its shade.
To be American is to be loyal, patriotic, and faithful to the nation, to care for its people and guard its peace.
And to be American is to be what you are in faith: Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jew, Muslim, non-believer, or seeker, and still be a good American, and a good human being.
To define “being American” in simple words is difficult. It is as complex, as layered, as wondrous as America itself. Happy Independence Day to all my fellow Americans!
*A Proud American of Kajang Origin



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China Releases Pastor

Rights group confirms pastor's arrival in the U.S

Amkel Nourush

Pastor Ezra Jin, founder of Beijing's Zion Church, has been released after spending months in detention in China, marking the end of a case that drew international attention over religious freedom and diplomatic engagement. The pastor arrived safely in Los Angeles on July 4, 2026, according to his family and the Christian advocacy group ChinaAid. Jin, whose Chinese name is Jin Mingri, had been held in detention centers in Beihai since October following a broader crackdown on leaders of underground Christian congregations. ChinaAid confirmed his release on Sunday, describing it as a moment of profound



Photo: Pastor Ezra Jin Mingri speaks during an interview at the Zion Church in Beijing, China, on August 1, 2018
Image Source : [Ng Han Guan/AP]

gratitude. Founded in 2007, Zion Church became one of China's largest unregistered house churches, continuing its ministry online after authorities shut its physical premises in 2018.
In statements released after his arrival, Jin's family described his release as "a miracle" and thanked President Donald Trump and his administration for their support. They also expressed appreciation to Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying they believed his direct intervention helped secure the pastor's freedom. The family voiced hope that the development would signal a more positive future for religious freedom in China and improve relations between China and the United States.

HIGHLIGHT

- **Prime Minister Mark Carney has pledged to build Canada into the "strongest in the G7."**
- **Canada entered a technical recession after two consecutive quarters of GDP decline.**
- **Inflation reached 3.2% in May, while high housing costs continue to strain households.**



Photo:A commuter sits among members of the group Patriot Front in the Washington, DC, area metro system on July 4
Image Source: [Cheney Orr/Reuters]

White Nationalists March

Masked marchers gather near the U.S. Capitol

Julian Alvez

Members of the white nationalist group Patriot Front staged coordinated marches across the Washington, D.C. area on Saturday, drawing concern during the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Videos showed masked marchers in matching uniforms moving through the Metro system before gathering near sites including New Carrollton, Maryland, and the U.S. Capitol. Participants carried U.S. flags, drums, shields and some Confederate flags, while chanting "Reclaim America." Experts at George Washington University's Program on Extremism describe Patriot Front as a fascist group advocating a white ethnostate. The march prompted renewed criticism of extremist activity and calls for condemnation, including from Senator Ed Markey, who said hatred and bigotry have no place in the United States.

Brooklyn Barbecue Shooting

Eight people, including children, wounded on July 4

Charles Lewis

A July 4 family barbecue in Coney Island, Brooklyn, turned into a scene of violence after a masked gunman opened fire on a gathering, injuring eight people, including four children, according to the New York Police Department (NYPD).
Police said the shooting occurred at approximately 10:35 p.m. on Saturday when a suspect dressed in black clothing and wearing a black ski mask approached



Photo: -NYPD officers work at the scene where eight people, including four children, were shot during a July 4 barbecue in the Coney Island neighborhood of Brooklyn.
Image Source: -Kyle Mazza/Anadolu/Getty Images

a fence along Surf Avenue and fired multiple rounds into the courtyard before fleeing on foot. Responding officers found victims ranging in age from 6 to 37 with gunshot wounds. The injured included boys aged 6, 7, 12, and 14, two women aged 21 and 25, and two men aged 33 and 37. Authorities said the 21-year-old woman remains in critical condition, while the other seven victims are in stable condition.
Mayor Zohran Mamdani condemned the attack, stating that violence has no place in New York City and pledging to continue efforts to make public celebrations safer. Police said there was no evidence of an altercation before the shooting but are investigating whether the incident is connected to a gang-related homicide reported on the same block the previous week.
Investigators recovered a TEC-9-style firearm with an extended magazine and 10 spent shell casings at the scene. No arrests have been made, and the motive remains under investigation.

Beyond Today's AI

Research aims to build systems that understand the real world



Photo: Yann LeCun, founder of AMI Labs, is developing a new AI system
Image Source: Getty Images

Henry Bob

AI pioneer Yann LeCun says today's leading chatbots, including ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini, have reached a limit because they do not truly understand the physical world.
Speaking at VivaTech in Paris, LeCun said large language models can write, code and solve problems, but mainly rely on statistical patterns rather than genuine reasoning.
He argued this makes them unsuitable for complex real-world tasks such as helping robots navigate unpredictable environments.
To address this, LeCun founded Advanced Machine Intelligence Labs in 2025, where researchers are developing Joint Embedding Predictive Architecture (JEPA), a framework designed to help AI form abstract representations of the physical world and evaluate possible outcomes.
AMI Labs has attracted major backing, including from Nvidia and a fund linked to Jeff Bezos' private wealth.

