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Sunday, JULY 19 , 2026
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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

FDA Traces Cyclosporiasis Source

Iceberg lettuce tied to Taco Bell supplier

John Paul

Federal health officials said iceberg lettuce from Taylor Farms has been linked to a major cyclosporiasis outbreak that has sickened thousands of people across the United States. The Food and Drug Administration said a lettuce sample collected during its investigation tested positive for Cyclospora, the parasite connected to the outbreak. Taylor Farms supplies lettuce to Taco Bell and has removed iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico from the U.S.



Photo: Health officials identify source of US explosive diarrhoea outbreak
Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

HIGHLIGHT

●The FDA said an iceberg lettuce sample from Taylor Farms tested positive for the parasite linked to the outbreak.

●Thousands have been infected with Cyclospora, according to health officials.

●At least 94 people have been hospitalized, with no deaths reported.

market. No deaths have been reported, but at least 94 people have been hospitalized. Symptoms can include watery diarrhea, appetite loss and sudden weight loss. The CDC advised consumers not to eat shredded iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell locations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. Some Marketside iceberg lettuce sold at Walmart is also included in the recall.

NEW YORK NEWS
Sunday, JULY, 2026
ISSUE-89
Please send news to
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Published by NYNN
New York News Networks

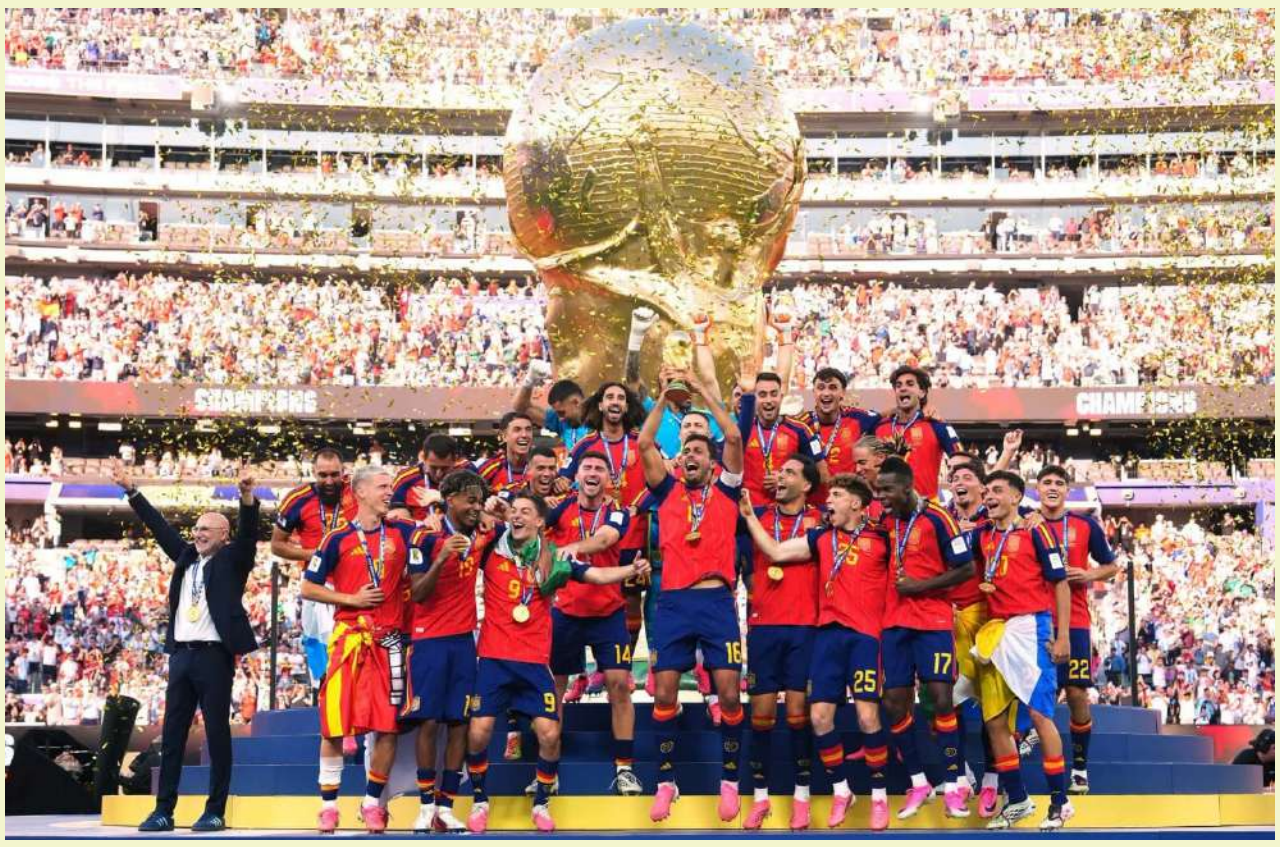


Photo : Spain lift the 2026 World Cup
Image Source : online

Spain Wins Second World Cup

Ferran Torres' extra-time goal sinks Argentina

NYN Desk

Spain captured its second men's World Cup title Sunday with a 1-0 extra-time victory over Argentina at New York New Jersey Stadium, ending a 16-year wait for another global championship. Substitute Ferran Torres scored the only goal in the 106th minute, firing a shot past goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez and into the top of the net. The goal gave Spain its first World Cup title since 2010 and made Torres the first substitute to score in a final since Mario Götze in 2014. Spain controlled possession and limited Argentina to just one shot on goal, while producing 12 of its own. Argentina's challenge became more difficult after Enzo Fernández was sent off following a second yellow card, leaving the defending champions with 10 players in extra time. The defeat may mark the end of Lionel Messi's celebrated international era. The 39-year-old captain led Argentina to the 2022 World Cup and Copa América titles in 2021 and 2024.

HIGHLIGHT

●Spain defeated Argentina 1-0 to win the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

●Ferran Torres scored the winning goal in the 106th minute.

Spain conceded only one goal throughout its eight-match campaign. With the 2024 European Championship and the 2026 World Cup, La Roja has confirmed its place as soccer's newest dominant force.



Photo: Smoke billows near an oil facility in Mangaf, Kuwait, on Saturday after Iranian strikes
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

Regional Tensions Deepen

Missiles, port blockade and infrastructure strikes reported

Alexander Sullivan

The United States and Iran exchanged strikes for an eighth consecutive day after an Iranian attack on a base in Jordan killed two U.S. soldiers and left another missing, intensifying fears of a wider regional conflict.
Iranian media reported overnight strikes on an under-construction nuclear power plant in Darkhoveyn and on Qeshm Island, while officials in Kuwait said an electricity and water facility was hit for a second time. Later on Sunday, Jordan's military said it shot down three Iranian missiles, with a fourth landing in a remote area.
The U.S. military said its latest attacks were aimed at weakening Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and punishing Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces involved in attacks on American personnel.
U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth honored the fallen soldiers, saying, "Godspeed, heroes. Their sacrifice only stiffens our resolve."
The renewed fighting follows the collapse of a preliminary ceasefire, with both sides accusing each other of strikes on critical infrastructure and escalating threats across the Gulf region.

Ukraine Faces Massive Barrage

Zelensky urges more air defenses

Rodrigo Diaz

Russia launched a major ballistic missile attack on Ukrainian cities, killing at least five people and injuring 35 others, officials said.
In Kharkiv, four people were killed and 19 wounded after a postal terminal was struck. In Kyiv, one person died and 16 others were injured as missiles and drones hit several areas overnight.
President Volodymyr Zelensky called the raid on Kyiv one of the most massive ballistic attacks on the capital since Russia's full-scale invasion began in 2022.
Ukraine's military said air defenses intercepted 18 of 41 missiles and 108 drones.
Ukraine also reported strikes on Russian oil facilities in the Stavropol region and tankers in the Black Sea. Zelensky said protection against ballistic missiles remains Ukraine's top priority.



Photo: The latest Russian strikes hit both residential and non-residential buildings, Kyiv's mayor said
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

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MUNA Dawah Team Shares Quran

NYN Community Desk

The Dawah team of Muslim Ummah of North America, known as MUNA, carried out a community outreach program on Hillside Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, distributing free Quran copies and other Islamic books to the public.

The initiative was led by Jahangir Alom, who joined volunteers in sharing religious literature and engaging with community members. Organizers said the effort was intended to promote understanding, education and access to Islamic teachings in a welcoming public setting.

The distribution reflected MUNA’s broader commitment



to Dawah, community service and interfaith awareness. By offering free copies of the Quran and related books, volunteers sought to make Islamic knowledge more accessible to residents,

visitors and anyone interested in learning more about the faith.

The outreach also highlighted the active role of Muslim community organizations in Queens, where diverse faith and cultural communities often come together through public service, education and dialogue. Participants said programs like this help build awareness, strengthen community connections and encourage respectful engagement across different backgrounds.

Muslim Community Network leads six-day visit



Image Source : Online

NYN Local Correspondent

A 17-member youth team from New York, Boston and other parts of America is taking part in a six-day visit to Ireland through an initiative led by the Muslim Community Network. The trip brings young participants together for activities centered on peacemaking, youth leadership, cultural learning and personal growth.

Organizers said the program aims to help young people develop confidence, build relationships and understand their role in creating more peaceful and responsible communities.

During the visit, participants are engaging in discussions and activities that encourage teamwork, leadership and service. The group is also experiencing Ireland’s natural beauty, using the trip as an opportunity to reflect on harmony, cooperation and respect across different backgrounds.

The initiative highlights the growing role of youth programs in preparing the next generation of community leaders. By bringing together young people from different parts of the United States, the Muslim Community Network is helping participants strengthen their sense of responsibility, deepen their understanding of peacebuilding and return home with experiences that can benefit their communities.

Won Announces NYCHA Funding



Photo: Council Member Julie Won presents a ceremonial check at Queensbridge Family Day.

NYN News Correspondent

Council Member Julie Won announced $18.5 million in funding for NYCHA developments during Queensbridge Family Day on July 11, bringing new investment to public housing residents across the city.

The funding includes $17 million in citywide capital support for NYCHA upgrades in the FY 2027 adopted budget, including vacant unit readiness, supportive housing repairs and preservation. An additional $1.5 million will fund a new play area at the PAL Daycare Center at Queensbridge Houses, supported by the City Council and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards.

Won said the investment will help residents at Queensbridge, Ravenswood and Woodside Houses live with dignity after waiting too long for repairs and well-maintained apartments.

She also announced additional support for the Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement, the Queensbridge Houses Tenants Association and future improvements connected to Queensbridge Baby Park.

Assembly Member Diana Moreno and State Sen. Kristen Gonzalez joined Won at the event, where community members were honored for their local service.

City Council Votes For Raise

NYN Community Reporter

The New York City Council voted Thursday to approve an 18.2% pay raise for Council members and several top elected officials, while Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Council Speaker Julie Menin said they would not accept their own increases.

The measure passed 42-6, with Menin casting the lone abstention. Rank-and-file Council members’ salaries would rise from $148,500 to $175,500, marking the first increase for most affected city officials since 2016.



Photo: Council Speaker Julie Menin speaks at City Hall, July 16, 2026.
Image Source: Lloyd Mitchell/AMNY

Under the bill, the mayor’s salary would increase from $258,750 to $305,800, while the public advocate, comptroller, borough presidents, Council speaker and district attorneys would also receive higher pay.

The raises would take effect 45 days after the bill becomes law and would be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2026.

Supporters said the increase follows recommendations from the Quadrennial Advisory Commission and reflects inflation. Critics argued the timing was difficult as many residents continue to struggle financially. Mamdani said he would prefer the money go to New Yorkers facing hardship.

Philly Mosque Arson Probe Advances



NYN Neighborhood Report

A Philadelphia man was arrested on a federal charge after investigators said he set fire to the Northeast Philadelphia Islamic Center in a targeted arson attack.

Vincent Lang, 60, was taken into custody on Thursday, July 16, following the July 5 fire at the mosque in the 1400 block of Tyson Avenue.

Officials said no one was injured, but the building suffered significant damage.

Investigators said surveillance video showed a masked person igniting a suspected incendiary device and throwing it inside the mosque.

Federal documents also cited phone records placing Lang’s iPhone near the mosque at the time of the fire.

Authorities said Lang had allegedly expressed anti-Islamic views, including messages on his vehicle.

The ATF said fires at houses of worship remain a priority investigation.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:08	01:02	05:00	08:23	09:56
04:09	01:02	05:00	08:22	09:55
04:11	01:02	05:00	08:21	09:54
04:12	01:02	04:59	08:20	09:52
04:13	01:02	04:59	08:19	09:51
04:14	01:02	04:59	08:18	09:49
04:16	01:02	04:59	08:17	09:50

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OPINION

Won Announces NYCHA Funding

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Spain's World Cup Triumph

– Akbar Haider Kiron

For four unforgettable weeks, the FIFA World Cup captivated billions across the globe. From the first whistle to the final match, football became the world's common language—uniting people through passion, hope, heartbreak, and celebration. Now, as the curtain falls on another remarkable tournament, a new world champion stands at the summit of the sport: Spain.

This victory was no surprise. It was the culmination of years of meticulous planning, tactical excellence, technical brilliance, and unwavering consistency. Having already established themselves as the reigning European champions, Spain arrived at the World Cup as one of the favorites and departed as deserving world champions. They have demonstrated that, at this moment in football history, they are the finest national team on the planet.

Against a formidable Argentina in the final, Spain dictated the rhythm of the match with remarkable composure. Their possession-based football, intelligent movement, and relentless control reflected the philosophy that has defined Spanish football for generations. Throughout much of the game, the ball seemed to belong to Spain, leaving little doubt about which side had earned the greatest prize in world football.

The final also carried significance beyond the pitch. U.S. President Donald Trump attended the championship match and took part in the trophy presentation ceremony, adding another dimension to an already historic occasion. His presence underscored the global importance of a tournament hosted across North America and highlighted football's growing influence in the United States.

Nature also played its part. Under beautiful summer skies and ideal weather conditions, the atmosphere inside and outside the stadium was festive and unforgettable. Supporters from every corner of the world transformed the occasion into a celebration of sport, friendship, and international unity.

Among the tournament's brightest stars was the sensational young Spaniard Lamine Yamal. At just 19 years old, he has already achieved what many footballers can only dream of—becoming a FIFA World Cup champion. An extraordinary coincidence has captured the imagination of football fans everywhere: he is 19 years old, wears jersey number 19, and lifted the World Cup on July 19. While purely coincidental, it has become one of the tournament's most talked-about stories and a symbol of an extraordinary young career that is only beginning.



— Akbar Haider Kiron
Senior Journalist and Writer

I had the privilege of watching the World Cup final in New York City's Jackson Heights, where community leader Sakil Mia organized a public viewing on the giant screen at Graphics World. Sharing the experience with hundreds of passionate football supporters made the evening truly unforgettable. Every attack, every save, every roar from the crowd, and finally Spain's victorious celebration created an atmosphere impossible to replicate at home.

Football once again proved that it is far more than a game—it is a universal language capable of bringing together people of different cultures, backgrounds, and generations. Throughout this World Cup, the tournament became the dominant topic of conversation around the globe. Spain's rise, the emergence of a new generation of stars, the successful North American hosting, and the evolving tactics of modern football will remain subjects of discussion for years to come. Many analysts believe this tournament not only crowned a champion but also marked the beginning of a new era in international football.

For me personally, this World Cup was more than just another sporting event. Over the past month, I watched the matches with deep passion, analyzed the performances, and had the privilege of writing a series of reports and commentaries for New York News. Each article became an opportunity to preserve not only the results, but also the emotions, drama, and human stories that make the FIFA World Cup the greatest sporting event on Earth.

Now the final whistle has been blown. The stadium lights will fade, the celebrations will eventually end, and the trophy will begin its journey with a worthy champion. Yet the unforgettable moments, extraordinary performances, and emotional memories of the 2026 FIFA World Cup will remain with football lovers for generations.

Spain did not simply win the World Cup.

They earned the admiration of the football world and secured their place in history as the undisputed champions of a remarkable era.

> **"Football once again proved that it is far more than a game—it is a universal language capable of bringing together people of different cultures, backgrounds, and generations."**



Photo : Spain lift the 2026 World Cup
Image Source : BBC

> **"Spain did not simply win the World Cup. They earned the admiration of the football world and secured their place in history as the undisputed champions of a remarkable era."**

U.S. Aid to Israel and the Shifting Domestic Political Landscape

– Imam Shamsi Ali

The United States and Israel have maintained a relationship for more than seven decades. One of its core pillars is the uninterrupted flow of military aid. Yet in recent years, the political landscape in Washington has begun to shift. Critical voices once deemed taboo are now emerging at the heart of Congress. This essay outlines the facts of U.S. aid to Israel and examines the domestic political transformation currently underway in America.

Breakdown of Annual U.S. Aid to Israel

Under the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering Fiscal Years 2019-2028, the U.S. provides $3.8 billion in assistance each year. Of that total, $3.3 billion is delivered as Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grants, while the remaining $500 million funds joint missile defense programs, including Iron Dome.

It is important to emphasize that the U.S.-Israel MOU is not legally binding; it is a political commitment. Congress must still approve the funding every year and retains the authority to raise or lower the amount.

This aid is entirely military in nature. Economic assistance was completely phased out in 2007. All current funding is dedicated exclusively to defense. This reality further entangles the United States in Israel's military operations and, particularly over the past two years, in the violence and what many describe as genocide in Palestine.

Another key condition is that the aid must be spent in the U.S. Roughly 74-75% of FMF funds are required to go toward defense equipment, services, and training from American companies. In effect, the U.S. also reaps economic benefits from these grants.

Israel's ability to spend aid domestically is being phased out. At present, Israel may still use about 25% of FMF funds for its own defense industry. That allowance will drop to 0% by FY2028.

A Brief History of U.S. Assistance

Since 1951, total U.S. aid to Israel has reached approximately $174 billion, or about $298 billion when adjusted for inflation. Since 1985, that averages to roughly $3 billion per year.

The trend is unmistakably upward. The 2009-2018 MOU set aid at $3.1 billion per year; the 2019-2028 MOU raised it to $3.8 billion. The data show that assistance to Israel has increased steadily over time.



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

It should be noted that the $3.8 billion figure represents only regular, annual aid. Congress routinely passes supplemental packages. After October 7, 2023, the U.S. approved large additional military aid. In FY2024, U.S. assistance at one point covered more than one-third of Israel's total defense budget.

A Historic Shift in Congress

Although no bill has yet become law, we are witnessing a "historic shifting" unfold openly in the U.S. Congress. For the first time, 104 members of Congress have publicly proposed altering the $3.8 billion in annual aid to Israel. Some are calling for reductions; others are urging its complete elimination.

This is extraordinary and unprecedented. Just two or three years ago, opposing this aid was almost unthinkable. It was treated as a breach of political norms, even branded "anti-American." Representative Cori Bush of Missouri was formally censured and threatened with expulsion simply for criticizing the aid.

Yet the winds of change have begun to blow. In the most recent vote, 104 members backed revising an aid package that, for decades, has been renewed automatically and without meaningful conditions. This signals that debate over Israel is no longer taboo in America's public sphere.

Conclusion

The data make clear that U.S. aid to Israel continues to grow and remains the backbone of Israel's military. At the same time, domestic political dynamics in the U.S. are shifting. Critical voices once silenced now have a place in Congress.

This change did not happen overnight, nor will it necessarily alter policy in the immediate future. But one thing is certain: a discussion that was once impossible is now real. History shows that great change always begins with the courage to speak out. Never remain silent in defending truth and justice.

InshaAllah, this change is real!

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NYPD Dedicates Police Academy in Honor of Steven D. McDonald

Ceremony celebrates a legacy of courage, forgiveness, and service



NYN Desk Report

The New York City Police Department honored the life and legacy of Detective First Grade Steven D. McDonald during a dedication ceremony at the Police Academy in Flushing, Queens, on Thursday, July 16, 2026. Hosted by Police Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch, the event brought together city officials, NYPD members, clergy, McDonald's family, and community representatives.

The ceremony opened with an introduction by Captain Jack Conway, followed by the national anthem performed by Detective Brianna Fernandez. Chief Chaplain Rev. Dr. A. R. Bernard delivered the invocation. Speakers included Mayor Zohran K. Mamdani, Police Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch, Chief Chaplain His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Patti Ann McDonald, and Captain Conor McDonald. The program also featured a sign unveiling, a blessing of the Police Academy, and closing remarks from Conway.

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA (STPUSA), attended the ceremony on behalf of Queens. He said he was deeply honored to join the tribute and stand alongside Mayor Mamdani, Commissioner Tisch, New York State Attorney General Letitia James, and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. Shahidullah described the gathering as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice shown by NYPD members and the strength of their families. "As CEO of Save the People, I was proud to honor Detective Steven McDonald's enduring legacy, remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, and stand in support of New York's Finest and their loved ones," Shahidullah said.

The dedication recognized McDonald's service after he joined the NYPD in 1984, following service in the United States Navy. While on patrol in Central Park on July 12, 1986, he was shot while responding to reports of robberies. He survived but was left quadriplegic and dependent on a ventilator.

McDonald later became known for his message of forgiveness and reconciliation. "I forgave him because I believe the only thing worse than receiving a bullet in my spine would have been to nurture revenge in my heart," he said of the person responsible for the shooting. His message later reached communities in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and Israel.

McDonald received the NYPD Medal of Honor in 1987 and later rose to Detective First Grade. He died in 2017 from complications related to his injuries. The dedication ensured his example of service, resilience, and forgiveness will remain part of the Police Academy's history.







































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FELLOWSHIP

ICNY Celebrates Interfaith Leadership Graduates

Nine-month fellowship concludes with graduation ceremony

NYN News Desk

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) celebrated the completion of its 2025-2026 Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy with a graduation ceremony on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, recognizing a diverse class of faith and civic leaders who completed the program's nine-month fellowship. The event honored participants for their commitment to interfaith dialogue, civic engagement, and community leadership across New York City.

The graduation program opened with a prayer led by Dubbs Weinblatt of Judaism That Stands for All, followed by welcome remarks from Ruth Messinger, representing Judaism That Stands for All and ICNY, and Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of New York.



The ceremony featured the presentation of certificates by Dr. Henry Goldschmidt and Danielle Williams of ICNY, reflections from several graduating fellows, and concluded with a closing prayer delivered by Imam Muhammad Shahidullah of Dawah USA Mosque and Save the People USA (STPUSA).

The keynote address was delivered by Pastor Gilford Monrose, Senior Pastor of Mt. Zion Church of God 7th Day and National Convener of Clergy for Safe Cities. Throughout his career, Monrose has served as Executive Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships and as a faith advisor to city leadership. He has also been active in numerous community initiatives, including founding the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, known as "The God Squad," which works to reduce gun violence while strengthening relationships among law enforcement, clergy, and neighborhood residents. His career has focused on faith-based leadership, youth development, violence prevention, and civic collaboration.

The graduating class included faith leaders and community representatives from a wide range of religious traditions. Among them was Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA (STPUSA), whose completion of the fellowship reflected his continued commitment to interfaith cooperation and community service. The class also included leaders representing churches, mosques, temples, nonprofit organizations, and other civic institutions throughout New York.

The Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy is designed to strengthen relationships among faith communities while equipping participants with practical leadership skills and opportunities for collaboration. Over the course of nine months, fellows engaged in learning, dialogue, and community-based projects aimed at addressing challenges facing neighborhoods across the city.

By recognizing the accomplishments of its newest graduates, ICNY reaffirmed the importance of building partnerships across faith traditions to strengthen civic life. The ceremony celebrated not only the completion of a fellowship, but also the beginning of continued collaboration among leaders dedicated to serving their communities through dialogue, understanding, and public engagement.





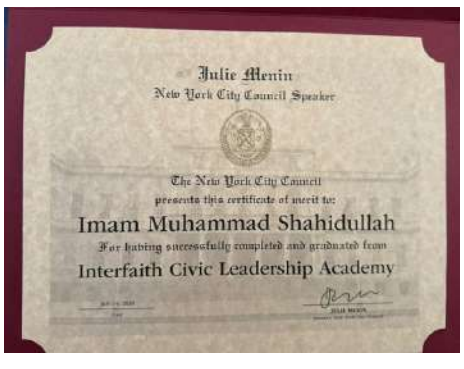

















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Bronx Street Renamed for Detective Didarul Islam

Ceremony honors his service, sacrifice, and legacy



NYN Correspondent

A once-ordinary Bronx intersection now carries the name of a fallen officer whose final act became part of New York City's memory. The corner of East 172nd Street and Beach Avenue was formally dedicated as Detective First Grade Didarul Islam Way, creating a permanent tribute to a Bangladeshi American police officer remembered for courage, service, and sacrifice.

The street renaming ceremony was held on Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Bronx. Community members, law enforcement supporters, neighborhood leaders, relatives, and members of Save the People USA (STPUSA) gathered to honor Islam's legacy and the impact he left on the city.

Islam was killed the previous July during a shooting inside the lobby of an office building on Park Avenue in Manhattan. According to the account shared by organizers, he was working an additional security shift when he confronted the danger and was struck by the gunman's first shots. Four people died in the attack, including Islam. His presence and response were remembered as actions that helped protect others inside the building.

His death reached a family awaiting a new child. Islam's wife was pregnant at the time, and their third child was born weeks later. The street sign now stands as a public record of a father the youngest child never met, and as a message from the city that his service will not be forgotten.

Islam came to New York from Bangladesh at age 20. He first worked as a school safety agent before joining the New York City Police Department. During more than three years at the 47th Precinct, he became known within the Parkchester community as both an officer and a trusted neighbor. He was promoted posthumously to Detective First Grade. The dedication was supported through the efforts of Council Member Amanda Farías, along with members of the Bangladeshi community, the Bangladeshi American Police Association, fellow officers, neighbors, and Islam's family.

Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA (STPUSA), attended with members of his organization. "Today, our community came together to remember a true hero whose courage, service, and sacrifice will never be forgotten," he said. "May his memory continue to inspire generations to come."

The new street sign places Islam's name into the daily life of the Bronx. Residents will pass beneath it on their way to school, work, worship, and home, carrying forward the memory of an officer whose story now belongs to the city's map and history.






























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LEADERSHIP

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GodSquad Welcomes Mayor to Reflections Church

Youth-led initiative promotes communication and conflict resolution

NYN Staff Reporter



Young people took center stage at Reflections Church in Brooklyn, where New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani met with local faith leaders and observed a youth-led violence prevention program built around communication, leadership, and conflict resolution.

During the visit, Mamdani met with members of the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, widely known as The GodSquad, and saw Project ECHO's "Another Way" Initiative in action. The program places young participants at the center of conversations about safety, responsibility, and peaceful responses to conflict.

The initiative focuses on building practical skills among youth, including stronger communication, better decision-making, leadership development, and conflict resolution. Organizers view those skills as part of a broader strategy to prevent violence before disputes grow into serious harm. By giving young people structured opportunities to lead and speak, the program also supports confidence and community involvement.

The mayor's visit brought added attention to the role of faith institutions and neighborhood organizations in local public safety efforts. Reflections Church provided a setting where civic leadership, youth development, and community support came together. The presence of The GodSquad also reflected the council's continued work connecting clergy, residents, and local institutions around violence prevention.

For the young participants, the program offers a space to practice skills tied to school, family life, employment, and neighborhood leadership. Learning how to listen, express concerns, resolve disagreements, and guide peers gives youth tools with value beyond a single workshop or meeting.The visit highlighted a prevention model centered on young people rather than treating them only as recipients of services. Through Project ECHO's "Another Way" Initiative, participants take an active role in shaping safer relationships and stronger communities.

Mamdani's stop at Reflections Church also reinforced the value of collaboration among city leaders, faith groups, clergy councils, and youth programs. The gathering showed how community-based efforts in Brooklyn are working to address violence through trust, education, and leadership development.

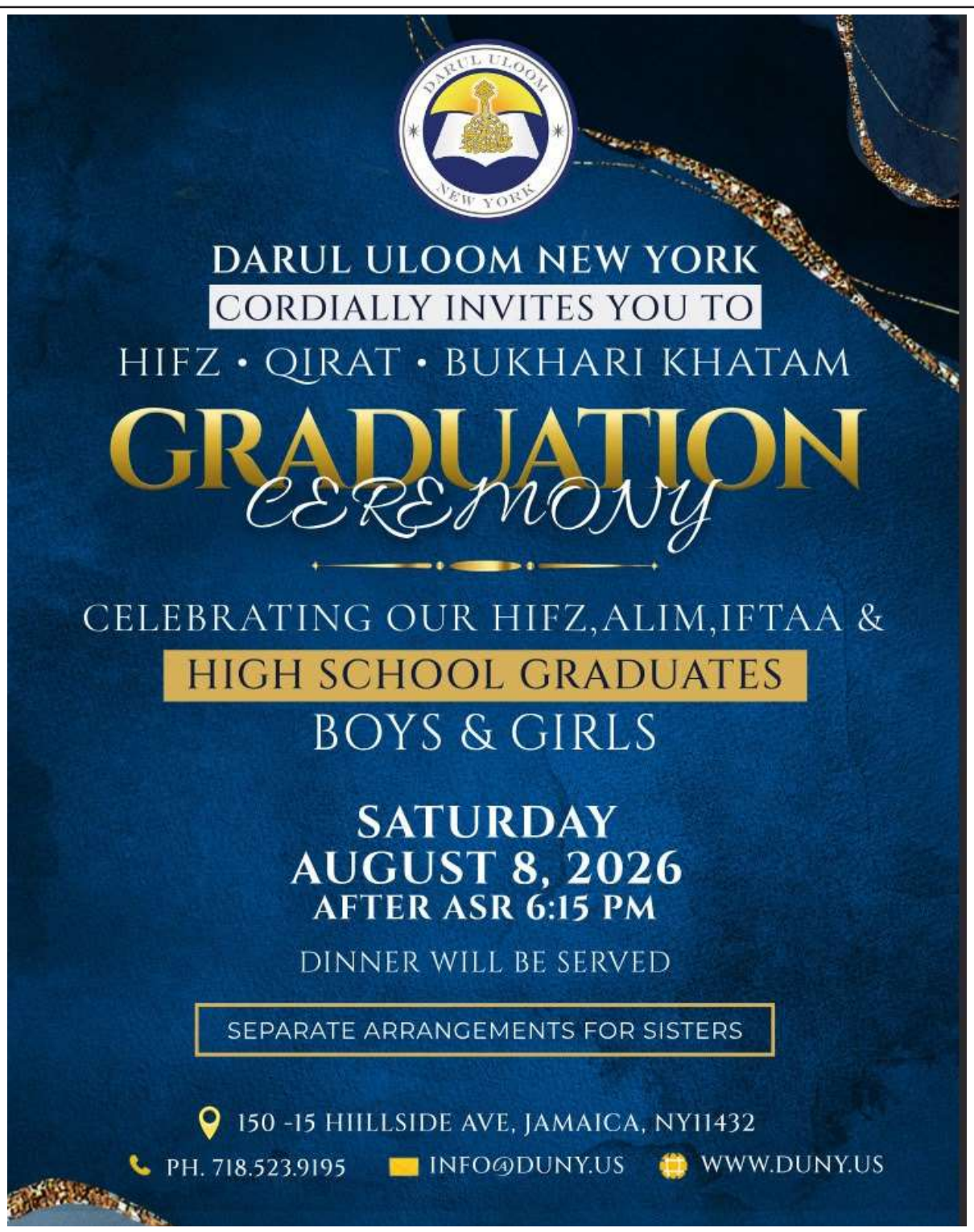








All Photo Credit : Ed Reed/Mayoral Photography Office



YOUTH

FBI Teen Academy Celebrates Class of 2026

Students complete youth leadership and public safety program



NYN Digital Desk

The FBI Teen Academy 2026 concluded with a graduation ceremony recognizing students who completed the educational program designed to introduce young people to the work of federal law enforcement and public service. The event celebrated the accomplishments of participants who spent the academy learning about leadership, civic responsibility, and the role of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in protecting communities. Throughout the program, students were exposed to a variety of topics that offered a broader understanding of law enforcement and public safety. The academy encouraged participants to strengthen leadership skills, develop critical thinking, and gain insight into the responsibilities carried by federal agents and other public servants. The experience also provided students with opportunities to better understand teamwork, ethics, and community engagement.

The graduation ceremony recognized the dedication and commitment demonstrated by the participants during the academy. Family members, mentors, and program supporters gathered to celebrate the students' achievements and the successful completion of the program. The event marked the conclusion of an educational experience aimed at preparing young people to become informed, responsible, and engaged members of their communities.

Beyond introducing students to the field of law enforcement, the FBI Teen Academy serves as a platform for career exploration and civic education. By interacting with professionals and learning about public safety, participants gain a clearer understanding of the importance of integrity, service, and collaboration in protecting the public. The program also highlights the value of positive engagement between youth and law enforcement agencies. Educational initiatives such as the FBI Teen Academy help create opportunities for dialogue, learning, and mutual understanding while encouraging students to consider future careers in public service and criminal justice. As the 2026 graduating class completed the academy, participants left with new knowledge, practical leadership experience, and a greater appreciation for civic responsibility. The graduation ceremony celebrated not only the completion of the program but also the continued investment in developing the next generation of community leaders throughoeducation, service, and public engagement.





















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Mayor's Community Affairs Unit · NEW YORK CITY DOT · NYPD · District Attorney Queens County · NYC Department for the Aging · NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes · DYCD The Department of Youth & Community Development

PEACE BIKE TOUR -
INTERFAITH COMMUNITY RIDE

Join us for a fun and meaningful bike ride that celebrates peace, unity, and hope across our community! This interfaith event brings together participants from different faiths and neighborhoods to enjoy the outdoors, connect with others, and spread positive messages along the route.

Friday, July 24th 2026

Time : 9:30am to 1:00pm

STARTING POINT
Hindu Temple 101st Avenue & 120th Street

STOP ALONG THE ROUTE
Muslim Masjid 150th Street & Hillside Avenue

STOP ALONG THE ROUTE
Jewish Synagogue Union Turnpike & Chevy Chase

FINAL STOP
Christian Church 120th Avenue & 140th Street

At our Final Stop
we'll enjoy food and interfaith dialogue to reflect on our shared journey and celebrate peace together.

Please fill out this form to register for the ride and let us know if you need a bike provided.Safety guidelines will be in place.

We can't wait to ride with you!

SAVE THE PEOPLE · P.A.T.H. FORWARD Partners Against the Hate · Asian American Clergy Council · GREATER NEW YORK CONFERENCE of Seventh-day Adventists · Shri Shakti Mariamman Temple · JCRC 50

EDUCATION

Summer Maqtab Combines Faith and Creativity

Elhaam Academy offers a hands-on learning experience



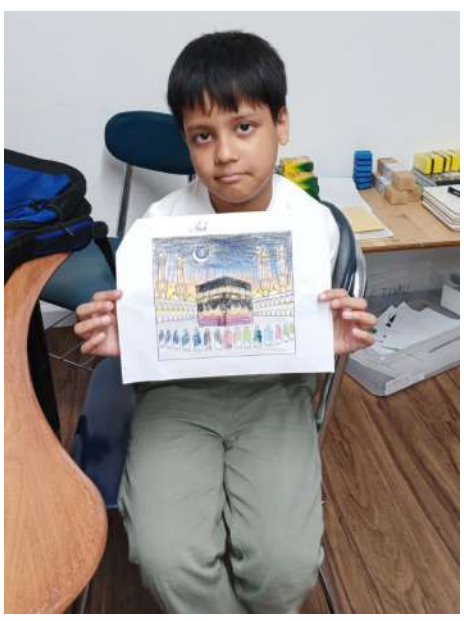
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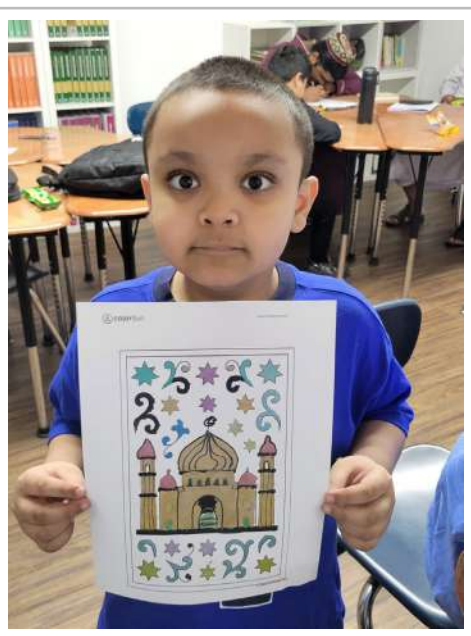
Color, creativity, and faith came together at Elhaam Academy, where Summer Maqtab students took part in an Islamic coloring activity designed to make learning engaging and meaningful. The session gave young participants space to explore Islamic themes while strengthening focus and expressing themselves through art.Students worked on Islamic coloring pages, using the activity as both a creative exercise and a learning experience. The format encouraged them to concentrate on their work, make thoughtful artistic choices, and connect visual elements with the values introduced through the program.“Our Summer Maqtab students enjoyed working on Islamic coloring pages, learning through creativity, focus, and fun,” Elhaam Academy stated in its post. The academy described the session as an activity that supported both personal expression and faith-based education. The lesson offered students a different way to engage with Islamic teachings. Rather than relying only on reading or formal instruction, the coloring activity invited children to participate through observation, imagination, and hands-on work. This approach helped make the learning process more accessible for young students while giving them time to reflect on the ideas represented in the pages. “It was a beautiful activity that helped them connect with Islamic values while expressing themselves through art,” the academy said. The statement reflected the central goal of the session, which was to combine learning with an enjoyable and age-appropriate creative experience.

For the Summer Maqtab students, the activity also supported skills useful beyond the classroom. Coloring requires patience, attention, and steady effort, while artistic choices give children room to develop confidence and individuality. By connecting those skills with Islamic themes, the session created a balanced learning environment centered on both personal growth and religious understanding.

The activity reflected Elhaam Academy’s effort to make summer learning interactive and engaging. Through a simple art-based lesson, students strengthened their focus, explored Islamic values, and completed work that represented both what they learned and how they chose to express it.





















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PEACE

Hillside Youth March for Peace and a Cleaner Park

Rain shortens route but not the community's commitment

NYN Special Correspondent



A message of peace moved through the streets of Jamaica, Queens, before turning into hands-on community service at Captain Tilly Park, where young people, local leaders, and volunteers joined a combined peace walk and park cleanup.

The Hillside Summer Youth Peace Walk 2026 and the cleanup were held on Saturday, July 18, 2026, bringing together residents around the themes of unity, respect, public service, and opposition to hate. The walk began at the Save the People USA, or STPUSA, office at 87-41 165th Street, continued to the Jamaica Muslim Center, and then reached Captain Tilly Park.

The original route also included planned stops outside the Sri Chinmoy Center and the First United Methodist Church on Highland Avenue. Those final visits were canceled after rain affected the schedule. Despite the weather, participants continued with the main activities and gathered at the park for the cleanup, which was scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. near the 165th Street and 85th Avenue playground area.

Those present included Mohammad Fakhrul Islam Delwar, president of the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, Saif Alom, president of the Jamaica Hills Community Association, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA, and Bitihara Martha Fulton, a community board member connected with the parks division. A representative from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation also attended, along with STPUSA members and volunteers.

Volunteers from the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run later joined the gathering, participated in the event, and took photographs with community members. The broader group of participating and supporting organizations included the Partnership for Captain Tilly Park, Jamaica Hill Community Association, 67th Precinct Clergy Council, known as The GodSquad, and the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes.

The combined event linked a public message with direct action. Participants promoted "No Hate, Only Peace" while cleaning shared park space and strengthening ties among youth, faith groups, civic organizations, and city representatives.

Though rain shortened the planned route, the central purpose remained intact. The gathering showed how a neighborhood peace campaign could move beyond words, giving volunteers a practical way to care for their community while standing together against hate.























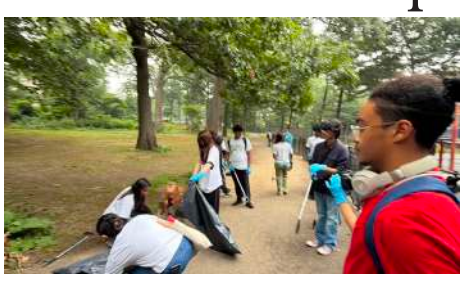


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Youth, faith leaders, and volunteers take part in a peace walk and cleanup































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ELHAAM ACADEMY

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WHO WE ARE

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Elhaam Academy is a **New York State-approved Islamic school** serving students from **Kindergarten through Grade 8** in Jamaica, Queens — the heart of one of the most diverse Muslim communities in America.

Every day, our students walk in, make wudu, recite Qur'an, and grow up knowing exactly who they are and Whose they are — in a world that does not always make that easy.

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70%+ Need Financial Assistance

K–8 Grades Served

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- **Weekly Jumu'ah Khutbahs**
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- **STEAM Enrichment**
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- **Halal Lunch Daily**
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- **Recognized Globally**
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RECOGNITION

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Volunteers Take Center Stage at Annual Event

Zakat Foundation celebrates dedication and humanitarian service



NYN Bureau Report

Volunteers whose time and effort support charitable work received public recognition during the Zakat Foundation of America's Annual Volunteer Award Ceremony, a gathering focused on gratitude, service, and community responsibility. The event took place on July 19, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Merrick Golf Course, located at 2550 Clubhouse Road in Merrick, New York. Guests gathered in the upstairs meeting room for lunch and an awards program honoring volunteers connected with the foundation's outreach and humanitarian work. Among those present were Nayma Kose, Outreach and Community Engagement Director of Zakat Foundation of America, and Murat Kose of Zakat Foundation of America. Mursheda Mira and Sharah Khan, both representing the organization's New York office, also attended the event. Their presence reflected the foundation's support for volunteers and the role of staff members in building stronger connections between the organization and the communities it serves. The annual ceremony placed volunteers at the center of the program. Through formal recognition, the foundation acknowledged the time, energy, and steady commitment involved in supporting charitable programs, outreach events, and community initiatives.

The luncheon also gave volunteers and staff an opportunity to meet outside their regular service activities and reflect on the impact of collective work. Volunteer service plays a central role in many nonprofit programs. Participants often assist with event coordination, community outreach, distribution efforts, and direct support for families.

The award ceremony honored those contributions while emphasizing the importance of dependable service and teamwork.The gathering also strengthened relationships among volunteers, staff, and supporters.

Shared meals and recognition programs help reinforce a sense of purpose while encouraging continued involvement. By bringing participants together, Zakat Foundation of America created space for appreciation, connection, and renewed commitment.

The Annual Volunteer Award Ceremony carried a clear message. Community service depends on people willing to give their time, skills, and attention to others. By honoring those individuals, the foundation recognized both personal dedication and the wider impact of organized volunteer work.
















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RECOGNITION

Annual event brings staff, volunteers, and supporters together





NEW YORK NEWS Sunday, JJULY 19, 2026

END PAGE

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Photo: A view of the production base of Chinese steel manufacturer Jinye Group in Pingshan in northern China's Hebei province on May 6, 2020. Image Source : Chinatopix via AP

Jingye Seeks UK Compensation

British Steel nationalization sparks dispute

Amkel Nourush

Jingye Group, the Chinese company that formerly owned British Steel, demanded compensation from the U.K. government on Sunday after the nationalization of the steelmaker sparked a new dispute over investment losses and state control.

The British government took operational control of British Steel after Jingye considered closing blast furnaces at its Scunthorpe plant in northern England, the last facility in the United Kingdom producing virgin steel from raw materials.

The site employs about 2,700 people and has been central to British steelmaking for more than 130 years.

In a WeChat statement, Jingye said the move damaged the credibility of the British government, alarmed international investors and caused major losses. The company said it had begun negotiation procedures under bilateral investment agreements and reserved its rights, including possible international arbitration.

The Department for Business and Trade announced the takeover on July 17, saying it was necessary to protect thousands of jobs and secure domestic steel supplies for construction and defense.

The U.K. government said an independent evaluation will determine whether any compensation is owed to Jingye Group.

Bozeman Housing Crisis Deepens

Locals struggle as wealthy newcomers arrive

Nassr Al Shams

A fast-growing housing crisis in Bozeman, Montana, has pushed longtime residents to fight for stability as wealthy newcomers, private jets and out-of-state investment reshape the once-sleepy mountain town.

Since the pandemic, Bozeman’s population has grown by about 20%, driving up home values and rents. Mayor Joey Morrison said residents watched rents “double or triple” within a year or two, leaving many locals unable to afford the community they helped build.



Photo: The rugged beauty of Montana has attracted the rich and famous Image Source: Getty Images/BBC

For residents like Sara Folger, 73, the pressure has reached even mobile home parks, once considered one of the last affordable housing options. Folger, who has lived in her trailer park for 17 years, said many neighbors have nowhere else to go as lot rents rise.

The frustration recently led residents of two mobile home parks to organize what tenant advocates described as Montana’s first rent strike in 50 years. The action followed an almost $100 monthly increase in plot rent.

Local leaders say the conflict reflects a broader divide between working-class Montanans and wealthy arrivals. Young officials and organizers are now pushing for housing policies aimed at helping residents remain in Bozeman before more families are priced out.





Photo: Social media influencers Andrew and Tristan Tate arrested in Miami, US Image Source: Online

Tate Brothers Arrested In U.S.

UK charges rise to 59

Julian Alvez

Controversial influencer Andrew Tate and his brother Tristan Tate have been arrested in the United States after British prosecutors authorized 38 new charges against them, bringing the total number of charges in the U.K. case to 59, police said.The Crown Prosecution Service said Andrew Tate, 39, faces new charges including seven additional counts of sexual assault, as well as charges related to sex trafficking and indecent images of a child. Tristan Tate, 37, faces charges including two counts of sexual assault and three counts of arranging or facilitating trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The alleged offenses are said to have taken place between July 2010 and August 2017. The brothers, who are dual British-U.S. citizens, have previously denied any wrongdoing.

The CPS said legal proceedings will now begin to extradite the brothers to the United Kingdom. U.S. officials said the arrests were made in connection with extradition proceedings.

A lawyer for the brothers, Joseph McBride, rejected the allegations and described the new charges as politically motivated. Lawyers representing several alleged British victims welcomed the charges and said the case should move forward in court.



Photo: Matt Damon, Christopher Nolan and Anne Hathaway attend “The Odyssey” premiere in New York. Image Source: Evan Agostini/Invision/AP

Scholars Question Nolan’s Odyssey

Classicists praise attention but challenge choices

Charles Lewis

The release of Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” has brought new attention to Homer’s ancient epic, but some leading scholars say the film misses important parts of the poem’s meaning.

Greek translator Emily Wilson, whose acclaimed 2017 translation rose into the top five on Amazon, said she welcomed the renewed public interest in the classic work. Still, she told The Associated Press that the film seemed to be trying to include everything while overlooking themes central to the original poem.

The movie stars Matt Damon as Odysseus, Anne Hathaway as Penelope and Tom Holland as Telemachus.

Critics have praised its scale, performances and IMAX visuals, but scholars questioned whether the film leaned too heavily toward Nolan’s style rather than Homer’s vision.

Translator and critic Daniel Mendelsohn argued that Nolan’s Odysseus lacked the humor, cleverness and charm that define the legendary figure. Wilson also raised concerns about the reduced role of Penelope and the absence of major gods such as Zeus and Poseidon.

Despite her criticism, Wilson said she would still recommend seeing the film, especially on a big screen.