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Sunday, AUGUST 08 , 2026
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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York

Australia Blends Tech And Tradition

Wildfire strategy combines satellites and Indigenous knowledge

Lily Anderson

Australia is gaining attention for combining modern technology with Indigenous ecological knowledge to better manage wildfire risk as severe fires spread in parts of the world.
In Canberra, Professor Marta Yebra leads the Bushfire Research Centre of Excellence, created after the devastating Black Summer fires of 2019-20. Her team uses satellites, drones and AI to detect dry vegetation and identify areas most likely to burn.



Photo: Spain declared a national state of emergency as it grapples with several major wildfires
Image Source: Getty Images/ BBC

Indigenous knowledge holders, including Adrian Webster, help interpret those findings by reading signs in the land, such as plant color, scent, shade and soil conditions.
Australia also uses cultural burning,

HIGHLIGHT

- **Australia is combining satellites, drones, AI and Indigenous knowledge to manage wildfire risk.**

including small controlled “cool fires,” to reduce fuel before major blazes start. Fire officials say prevention is increasingly important as climate change lengthens fire seasons. The approach is drawing international interest, with France recently requesting help from Australian firefighters during severe wildfires.

NEW YORK NEWS
Sunday, AUGUST, 2026
ISSUE-91
Please send news to
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Published by NYNN
New York News Networks



Photo: Trump at a cabinet meeting at Camp David on Friday
Image Source: Reuters/BBC

Iran Strike Suspended

President says deal must come rapidly

Alexander Sullivan

President Donald Trump said he canceled planned U.S. strikes against Iran, provided a deal is reached “rapidly,” after days of heightened warnings and reports that Washington and Israel were considering a major new bombing campaign.
In a post on Truth Social on Saturday, Trump said Iran and other countries in the Middle East had asked the United States to hold off on an attack because the basic terms of a possible agreement had been discussed. He added that the U.S. remained “locked and loaded” and ready to strike Iran with major military force if diplomacy failed.
Iran disputed Trump’s account. The country’s semi-official Mehr news agency denied that Tehran had asked Washington to delay military action, calling the claim false. Iran’s acting defense minister, Majid Ibn al-Reza, said Tehran viewed threats from its adversaries as serious and would not remain passive.
The announcement came after reports that the U.S. and Israel had discussed some of the harshest strikes yet against Iranian energy infrastructure. During a recent cabinet meeting, Trump reportedly said the U.S. could hit Iran hard enough that Tehran would eventually say it could no longer withstand the pressure.
The pause also followed a call between Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who urged dialogue and efforts toward a truce, according to Saudi state media.
Tensions between the U.S. and Iran have escalated since a ceasefire collapsed in June. Washington has blockaded Iranian ports and struck Iranian sites, while Tehran has launched missiles and drones at U.S. assets in the region and targeted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.
The confrontation has raised concerns among Gulf allies, affected oil prices and created political pressure in the United States as the administration faces public opposition to the war and looming midterm elections.

Spain Faces Migration Fallout

Ceuta crossings expose EU divisions

John Paul

A deadly migrant surge into Ceuta, Spain’s North African exclave bordering Morocco, has sparked political tensions across Europe and raised concerns about the role of social media misinformation.
Most of the migrants who entered Ceuta on Thursday have returned to Morocco, escorted by Spanish soldiers and police. But the crossings left at least 72 people dead, with bodies recovered from the sea.
Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez criticized some European leaders for using the crisis politically rather than supporting Spain. The situation escalated after Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni suspended Italy’s Schengen arrangement with Spain, citing security concerns.
Officials are also examining viral posts that falsely claimed “Spain is open,” encouraging dangerous sea crossings. Spain has
since moved to strengthen border defenses, while EU ministers are expected to discuss migration and external border security.



Photo: Migrants started to return to Morocco after thousands entered Spain's Ceuta on 30 July
Image Source: Reuters/BBC



Photo: Zelensky warns air defenses are being overwhelmed as Russia pounds Ukraine, killing 9
Image Source: Online

Zelensky Urges More Air Defenses

Russian strikes kill nine in Ukraine

Rodrigo Diaz

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky renewed his appeal for Western air defenses after a deadly overnight Russian assault killed at least nine people and wounded 30 others across Ukraine, officials said.
The attack targeted Kyiv and surrounding regions, with Mayor Vitali Klitschko reporting damage to residential areas and emergency crews responding to trapped residents. Ukrainian officials said Russia launched 27 ballistic missiles, but only one was intercepted, underscoring Kyiv’s shortage of advanced air defense systems.
Zelensky said the lack of missiles for Patriot systems is encouraging Russia to carry out more deadly strikes. “Every anti-ballistic missile package saves the lives of our people,” he said, urging allies to provide weapons needed “here and now.” The latest barrage followed another major Russian assault earlier in the week and came as President Donald Trump expressed hesitation over allowing Ukraine to manufacture Patriot interceptors. Ukrainian officials said civilian buildings, a school, infrastructure facilities and the Lithuanian embassy were damaged in the attack.

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New Douglaston-Little Neck Library Begins

NYN Community Desk

Officials gathered on Monday, July 27, to mark the start of construction on a new Douglaston-Little Neck Library, launching a $40.2 million project that will replace the existing branch at 249-01 Northern Blvd. The project, managed by the New York City Department of Design and Construction on behalf of Queens Public Library, will create a modern 12,000-square-foot facility expected to open in summer 2030. The new building will include two stories and a lower floor, doubling public space for learning, gatherings and library services.
Queens Public Library President and CEO Dennis M. Walcott called the groundbreaking a major milestone, saying the new library will reflect the community's changing needs with expanded indoor and outdoor areas, updated amenities and sustainable design.
The branch will feature an outdoor terrace, a children's garden,
rooftop solar panels, an all-electric mechanical system and enhanced air filtration. It will also offer 24 public computers and about 26,000 books and materials in multiple languages.
U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi and State Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky praised the project, describing libraries as essential community hubs for information, connection and civic life.



Photo: Officials and community members break ground on the new Douglaston-Little Neck Library. Image Source: Matthew Lapiska from DDC

Donovon Richards Launches Park Task Force



Photo: Officials launch task force to address chronic disinvestment in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Image Source : Shane O'Brien

NYN Local Correspondent

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards unveiled a new Flushing Meadows Corona Park Task Force on Thursday morning, calling it a step toward correcting decades of "chronic disinvestment" in one of the borough's most important public spaces.
The announcement came as officials and community partners gathered in Flushing Meadows Corona Park to celebrate $22.5 million in funding to renovate the Playground For All Children, which opened in 1984 and was designed for children with physical, sensory and vision-related disabilities.
Richards said the investment is personal and necessary, noting that children with disabilities deserve a high-quality playground designed around their needs. The funding includes $17.5 million from his office and $5 million from Council Member Shanel Thomas-Henry.
The new task force includes elected officials, city agencies, community boards, cultural institutions and private partners, including the USTA, Governor's Ball, the Queens Museum,
New York Hall of Science and Queens Zoo.
Officials said the group will also focus on flooding, safety, lighting and long-term infrastructure needs across the 900-acre park. Thomas-Henry
said the playground renovation represents a vision of true inclusion for future generations.



Photo: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez announces funding to remove abandoned vessels. Image Source: Shane O'Brien

AOC Announces Waterway Cleanup Funds

NYN News Correspondent

U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez joined NYC Parks Commissioner Tricia Shimamura on Wednesday, July 29, along the shores of Flushing Bay in College Point to announce more than $2 million in federal funding to remove abandoned vessels from New York City waterways. The $2.3 million grant, provided through the NOAA Marine Debris Program, will help remove about 1 million pounds of abandoned boats and debris from the South Bronx, northern Queens and Brooklyn. The funding will also support a new vessel turn-in program, allowing boat owners to surrender boats before they become derelict.
Officials said abandoned vessels can leak oil, rust, fiberglass and microplastics into waterways while creating hazards for boaters and wildlife.
"These vessels are not just unfortunate to look at; they pose serious risks to our community safety and the marine life we all depend on," Ocasio-Cortez said.
Since its creation in April 2024, the NYC Parks Office of Marine Debris Disposal and Vessel Surrendering has removed more than 500 tons of abandoned vessels and debris.
Local nonprofit Coastal Preservation Network will partner with the city on the cleanup effort.

GatewayJFK Unveils New Signs

NYN Community Reporter

GatewayJFK BID unveiled 11 new signs and 16 banners along Rockaway Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens, marking its first district-wide beautification and branding initiative.
The project is designed to give the business district a stronger identity and create a more welcoming corridor near John F. Kennedy International Airport. GatewayJFK represents more than 500 businesses, 4.12 million square feet of commercial space and over 8,000 workers.



Photo: GatewayJFK unveils new signs and banners in Jamaica. Image Source: Renee DeLorenzo

James Johnson, executive director of GatewayJFK, said the effort took significant work and reflects pride in the community. Officials, business owners and local leaders gathered near Rockaway Boulevard and North Conduit Avenue to celebrate the unveiling.
Community leaders said the signs and banners will help support local businesses, improve visibility and show visitors that the area is an active gateway to Southeast Queens.

Brooks-Powers Presses NYCHA

NYN Neighborhood Report

Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers is calling on NYCHA to address vacant public housing units in Southeast Queens, where her district has one of the city's highest vacancy rates.
In a July 28 letter to NYCHA CEO Lisa Bova-Hiatt, Brooks-Powers asked the agency to prioritize five developments in Council District 31, including Beach 41st Street–Beach Channel Drive, Carleton Manor, Hammel, Ocean Bay Apartments and Redfern.



Photo: City Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers. Image Source: Paul Frangipane

The district has 182 vacant units, a 6.49% vacancy rate compared with the citywide average of 4.2%.
Brooks-Powers said empty apartments should be repaired
quickly and made available to families during the housing crisis.
NYCHA said it is inspecting vacant units and working with the
NYPD Housing Bureau's Reclamation Unit to address unauthorized occupants and safety concerns.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
04:26	01:02	04:56	08:09	09:37
04:28	01:02	04:56	08:08	09:36
04:29	01:02	04:55	08:07	09:34
04:30	01:02	04:55	08:06	09:32
04:32	01:02	04:54	08:04	09:31
04:33	01:02	04:54	08:03	09:29
04:34	01:02	04:53	08:02	09:28

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OPINION

New Douglaston-Little Neck Library Begins
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Future Muslim Generation at Threat

– Imam Shamsi Ali

I have said this before repeatedly: America is still a promising land. A Land of Dreams. A Land of Opportunities. That is exactly why America remains a destination for so many immigrants. Many of you know this story firsthand. You came to this country with almost nothing in your pockets. Yet today, your children are doctors, engineers, lawyers, and entrepreneurs. They are growing in their professional careers.

This American reality is an embodiment of a phrase enshrined in the Constitution: "The Pursuit of Happiness". Islam's Stance on Success and the "Pursuit of Happiness" Islam supports this concept. Islam is a religion of success and happiness. The word "al-falaah" (true success) is mentioned repeatedly in the Qur'an. Allah also affirms in Surah Taha: "We did not reveal the Qur'an to you to cause you distress." Islam did not come to make life miserable. But Islam has its own unique definition of success and happiness. It is a complete and comprehensive concept. And it is lasting, forever in nature. It is not just about wealth, degrees, or comfort in this world, it should last till hereafter. That Islamic aspiration is captured in the most popular doa, known as the universal doa: "Rabbana atina fid-dunya hasanah wa fil-akhirati hasanah wa qina 'adhaban-nar." (Our Lord, give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Hell Fire).

Our Future Generation at Threat

It is worrisome to see what is happening with our young generations today in America and in the West in general. We have seen this tendency for a long time: Good Muslim parents came to this country, actively involved in the masajid, even leaders of masajid, but have lost their generation. I am not talking about "losing" them physically. I am talking about what Ya'qub (AS) asked his children before he died: "Maa ta'buduuna min ba'di?" (What will you worship after me?).

Their deen is not clear. Their faith fades away. Their identity melts into society. The Prophet reminded "Kullu mawluudin yooladu 'alal-fitrah, fa abawaahu yuhawwidanihi aw yunassiranihi aw yumajjisanih." (Every child is born upon the fitrah, but his parents make him Jewish, Christian, or Magian).

Future Generation: The Most Important Priority of Our Community

It is therefore to take into consideration the importance of preserving our generation from being lost. And for that the Islamic education cannot be overstated. Here are seven important steps we must take:

First, Fix the Immigrant Mindset. The big question: How do you see life? How do you see your presence in the U.S.? Is America only about material gain? Or is it a place of ibadah, of worship through how we live? If we came to this country only for money, we will raise children who chase money. If we came to this country in order to serve Allah's deen in this land of opportunity, we will raise children who will serve Allah's deen.

Second, Understanding the Responsibility & its Consequences. We have an obligation to protect the deen of our generations. Allah commands: "Qu anfusakum wa ahleekum naara" (Protect yourselves and your families from Hell Fire).



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

The Messenger said: "Kullukum raa'in wa kullukum mas'oolun 'an ra'iyyatih." (Every one of you is a shepherd, and every one will be asked about his flock). And be aware, there are those who will turn our own family into an enemy to our deen. Allah warns: "Inna min azwaajikum wa awlaadikum 'aduwwan lakum fahdharoohum."

Third, Knowledge About Parenting.

First, basic knowledge about Islam. You cannot give what you do not have.

Second, know the environment your child lives in. What is the school teaching? What is TikTok teaching?

Third, know each child individually. One child may need love, another needs discipline, another needs a role model. Fourth, Start With the First Step, Don't Be Late. The process begins early. The Prophet said: "Tunkaḥul-mar'atu li-arba'". Marriage is based on four things, and deen should be first. Choose a right spouse who will help you raise righteous children.The Prophet also said: "Muru awlaadakum bis-salaati li-sab'. (Command your children to pray at seven). Start early. We are competing with the speed of technology. Children mature faster today. If we delay, the phone and the internet, the culture and social media, and the street will raise them. Fifth, Parents Must Be Role Models (Qudwah). Children look up to their parents. They expect admiration from them. It is a human nature to follow an example. Allah gave us the best example: "laqad kaana lakum fee rasoolillahi uswatun hasanah". If not parents, then who? If we are absent, Hollywood and Bollywood figures will be their role model. Sixth, Make the Home a Center for the 3 M's. Madrasah: A place of Islamic learning. Not just weekend school. The dinner table should be a halaqah.

Masjid: A place of obedience. Children should see parents pray, make du'a and turn to Allah first.

Musalla: A place where they feel entertained and at peace (sakinah). The home should be the happiest place for them, not a place they want to escape. Seventh, Partnership of Three: Home, School, Community

No one can do this alone. We need a partnership. Home gives the foundation. School reinforces it. Community protects it.

I want to emphasize that the community must become a real partner to parents. Our masajid, full-time schools, youth programs, and religious leaders, must step up. When one part fails, the other two must catch the child before they fall.

Conclusion: In conclusion, alhamdulillah we made it in America. Our children have degrees. But will they have deen? Success without akhirah is not "al-falaah" (real succes). It is not "hasanah" (not path to happiness). Let us ponder again the doa we ask daily: "Rabbana atina fid-dunya hasanah wa fil-akhirati hasanah". Let us build homes that function as madrasahs (learning), masajid (obedience), and musallas (peace). Let us remember: We will be asked and be responsible about our flock (family). Remember, our Muslim generation is not just at risk. They are our "amanah". And they are our only real legacy.

May Allah help us!

America: One Nation, Countless Roots

– Akbar Haider Kiron

America, to me, is not merely the name of a country. It is the story of a journey—a journey of dreams, struggles, sacrifices, and hopes. It is a nation shaped by millions of people whose roots reach far beyond its borders. The history of this land began with the Indigenous peoples who have lived here for thousands of years. Over time, people from every corner of the world arrived on these shores—some escaping hardship, some searching for freedom, and many carrying nothing but the dream of a better future.

Their courage, determination, and contributions helped build the America we know today. That is why I do not find it surprising that former President Donald Trump's wife, Melania Trump, was born in Slovenia, or that Vice President J.D. Vance's wife, Usha Vance, is the daughter of Indian immigrants. To me, this is not unusual; it represents the true character of America. America has always been a nation of immigrants. Most Americans, except the Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have been here for generations, have a connection to another part of the world. Their parents, grandparents, or earlier generations crossed oceans and borders carrying dreams, memories, and hopes for a new beginning. My own story is a small chapter in that larger American story.

I first came to New York as a guest of the United States government's International Visitors Program. During that visit, I had the opportunity to see some of America's most iconic places—the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the United Nations Headquarters, Voice of America, the World Bank, and many other institutions.

At that time, I looked at America through the eyes of a visitor—with curiosity, admiration, and a desire to understand this remarkable country. I never imagined that a few years later I would return, not as a visitor, but as an immigrant. With a suitcase, some dreams, and many uncertainties, I began a new chapter of my life in New York. More than three decades have passed since then. During these years, I have visited the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island countless times. Whenever relatives, friends, and visitors came to New York from Bangladesh or other parts of the world, I made sure to take them there. Every visit brought back memories of my own first experience of seeing those historic places.

Many of those people are no longer with us today. But memories remain.



— Akbar Haider Kiron Senior Journalist and Writer

I still remember the photographs taken on ferry decks, the conversations carried away by the river breeze, the moments of silence while standing before the Statue of Liberty, and the emotional experience of walking through the Ellis Island Museum. When I enter the Ellis Island Museum, I feel a special connection with the past. The old suitcases, trunks, worn-out clothing, shoes, letters, and personal belongings displayed there tell stories without words. Looking at those objects, I often imagine the immigrants who carried them across the ocean. Perhaps they packed their entire lives into those simple suitcases. Perhaps they wore clothes just like those displayed behind the glass when they stepped onto American soil for the first time.

History is not only written in books. Sometimes, history lives inside an old suitcase, a faded coat, a pair of worn shoes, or a handwritten letter preserved from another time.

I have visited these places in the heat of summer and in the freezing cold of winter. Seasons have changed, the skyline has changed, and generations have changed—but the Statue of Liberty continues to stand as a symbol of welcome and hope. I have also had the privilege of joining many river cruises organized by Alomgir Khan Alam of Showtime Music. I have experienced New York from the water both during the day and at night.

The nighttime beauty of the city is unforgettable—the glowing Manhattan skyline, the lights reflecting on the river, the Brooklyn Bridge shining in the distance, and the Statue of Liberty standing quietly beneath the stars. At those moments, New York feels less like a city of buildings and more like a living dream created by millions of people. After more than thirty years of living in America, I have come to understand one simple truth: the greatest strength of this country is its diversity. Different languages, cultures, traditions, and histories come together here to create a shared identity.

That is why America is often called "A Nation of Immigrants."

I am only a small part of this vast story. But I feel proud to be part of it. Whenever I look at the Statue of Liberty or walk through the quiet halls of Ellis Island, I do not feel that I am merely observing history.

I feel that I am walking through history. Because America is not only a place where people arrive.

It is a place where countless roots become one nation.

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Queens Community Honors Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad

Prayer vigil brings leaders and residents together in remembrance

NYN Desk Report

Community members and public officials gathered in solemn remembrance during a Candlelight Vigil honoring Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, a proud Queens native who gave her life while serving in Jordan. Held on Monday, July 27, 2026, the vigil brought together residents, veterans, faith leaders, and elected officials to pay tribute to her courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to serving her country.

The event, hosted by the Ozone Park Residents' Block Association, took place at the corner of 96th Street and 133rd Avenue in Ozone Park, Queens, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Participants gathered in prayer and reflection while offering their support to Sgt. Rampersad's family during a time of profound loss.

Among those in attendance were Congressman Gregory Meeks, Congresswoman Grace Meng, New York State Attorney General Letitia James, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Assemblymember Clyde Vanel, and Councilmember Ty Hankerson. They were joined by veterans, community leaders, and local residents who stood together to recognize Sgt. Rampersad's service and the sacrifices made by military families.



The vigil emphasized not only the life of Sgt. Rampersad but also the strength of the community that gathered to honor her memory. Organizers invited everyone to stand in solidarity with her loved ones, describing the gathering as an opportunity for the community to express its gratitude for her service and to remember the sacrifices made by both Sgt. Rampersad and her family.

Also present was Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA (STPUSA), who joined fellow community leaders in prayer and remembrance. According to STPUSA, the organization was honored to participate in the vigil and reaffirmed its commitment to honoring fallen heroes, supporting veterans, and standing beside families who have experienced the loss of a loved one in service to the nation.

The evening concluded with a shared message of remembrance, unity, and gratitude. As candles illuminated the gathering, the community reflected on the enduring legacy of Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, whose dedication and sacrifice continue to inspire those who knew her and the many others who came together to honor her life.

























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PATRIOTISM

America 250 Celebration Unites Queens

Residents and officials reflect on the nation's past and future

NYN Correspondent



A celebration of American history, civic values, and community spirit brought residents and public officials together as Queens Borough President Donovan Richards hosted the America 250 Celebration at Helen Marshall Hall. The event commemorated 250 years of the nation's history, resilience, and democracy, providing an opportunity for community members to reflect on the country's past while looking ahead to its future.

The gathering welcomed elected officials, civic leaders, and residents from across Queens, creating an atmosphere of unity and shared purpose. Speakers emphasized the importance of preserving democratic values, recognizing the contributions of diverse communities, and continuing to build a stronger future for generations to come.

Among those delivering remarks were Queens Borough President Donovan

DONOVAN RICHARDS JR.
QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Richards, New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Councilmember Ty Hankerson, and other distinguished speakers. Throughout the program, they reflected on America's historical journey, the resilience of its people, and the role local communities continue to play in shaping the nation's future.

The event served as both a commemoration and a community gathering, encouraging residents to celebrate the nation's achievements while recognizing the responsibility of strengthening civic engagement and fostering unity. The program highlighted the diversity that defines Queens and reinforced the borough's role as one of the country's most vibrant and inclusive communities.

Also in attendance was Save the People USA (STPUSA). Representing the organization, CEO Imam Muhammad Shahidullah joined elected officials, community leaders, and residents in marking the historic occasion. According to STPUSA, the organization was honored to participate in the celebration and to stand alongside local leaders in recognizing the significance of the America 250 milestone. The organization expressed appreciation to Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and everyone involved in organizing the event, noting that the celebration provided an opportunity to honor the nation's past, celebrate the present, and encourage continued collaboration in building stronger communities.

As the America 250 Celebration concluded, attendees departed with a renewed appreciation for the nation's history and a shared commitment to advancing the values of democracy, service, and community. The event reflected the spirit of unity that continues to define Queens, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate a milestone of national significance.

























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NYPD Youth Cricket League Opens

Hundreds of young players begin a summer of growth



NYN News Desk

The sound of bats striking cricket balls marked the beginning of another summer of competition, learning, and community connection as hundreds of young people gathered for the opening ceremony of the NYPD Youth Cricket League. The league brings participants from across New York City together around one of the world's most widely followed sports. Beyond competition, the program gives young people a structured summer activity where they develop friendships, remain physically active, and learn skills linked to success in school, work, and community life. Organizers described the league as an example of youth engagement and community policing working side by side. Through practices and games, participants strengthen teamwork, discipline, communication, responsibility, and leadership. The program also offers young people a positive space during the summer and encourages them to stay focused on healthy activities.

The league carries a history dating back to 2008, when the initiative was created to connect law enforcement with young New Yorkers through cricket. One longtime supporter said the opening held personal meaning because of his role in creating the league, leading it through 2018, and continuing to support its work.

"Through this league, our youth stay active, stay away from trouble, and learn the values of teamwork, discipline, and leadership," the supporter stated. "This is what community policing and youth engagement is all about."

The opening ceremony also recognized the continued involvement of the NYPD Police Commissioner and the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau. Their support has helped the program maintain its focus on youth development and stronger relationships between officers, families, and neighborhoods.

For the young athletes, the league offers more than a schedule of cricket matches. It provides a place to practice cooperation, manage pressure, accept responsibility, and work toward shared goals. Those lessons extend beyond the field and support personal growth throughout the summer.

The opening ceremony launched another season built around sport and service. As hundreds of participants prepared for competition, the NYPD Youth Cricket League reaffirmed its central purpose: helping young New Yorkers build skills, confidence, and stronger connections with their communities.




















250 YEARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
UNITED IN FAITH
DIVERSE IN CULTURE
ONE UMMAH. ONE NATION.
PROUD AMERICANS.
Many Cultures. One Faith. One Future.
MUSLIM
DAY PARADE
A CELEBRATION OF FAITH, HERITAGE & COMMUNITY
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
STARTING AROUND
11:00 AM
STARTING AT
41ST & MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY
UNITED BY FAITH. INSPIRED BY HERITAGE.
TOGETHER WE BUILD A STRONGER AMERICA.
The Muslim Day Parade highlights the beauty of our faith,
the richness of our cultures, and our commitment
to a united and peaceful society.
Love for All ★ Hatred for None
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Rafeek Mohamed
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★ Council of African Imams
★ Islamic Leadership School
★ Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC)
★ Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society
★ Khylee Society
★ Masjid Al-Hikmah
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★ Makki Mosque
★ Masjid Asri
★ Miraj Islamic School
★ Moroccan Society of NY
★ Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC)
★ Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society
★ Muslim Day Parade
★ Razi School
★ Moroccan American Council to Empower Women
★ UAMA
★ Yemeni American Association of NY
★ Yonkers Islamic Center
★ United Africa Football Club
★ Elhaam For All
★ NY Imam Council
★ Elhaam For All
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Muslim World League Expands Charter Awareness

Programs bring Makkah principles to Muslim minority communities

NYN Staff Reporter

A broad international effort to expand awareness of the Charter of Makkah continued as the Muslim World League advanced educational programs and public campaigns focused on Muslim communities around the world, particularly those living as minorities.

The initiative centered on introducing the Charter's principles through religious curricula, awareness activities, and community programs.

According to the organization, the approach seeks to make the Charter's message accessible through institutions responsible for religious learning, cultural engagement, and public education.

The campaign builds on the Charter's endorsement by a large and diverse group of Muslim religious and intellectual leaders.



More than 1,200 muftis and scholars, along with more than 4,500 Muslim intellectuals, gathered in Makkah to support the document. Participants represented a wide range of Islamic schools of thought and sects, giving the endorsement broad religious and intellectual significance.

The gathering in Makkah also reflected the city's central place in Islam as the direction of prayer for Muslims worldwide.

By bringing together leaders from different traditions in one setting, the endorsement demonstrated a shared commitment to principles intended to guide religious understanding, education, and community relations.

The Muslim World League said its continuing work places particular attention on countries where Muslims form minority communities. In those settings, educational programs and public awareness efforts offer a way to strengthen understanding of the Charter while supporting constructive engagement within diverse societies.

The Charter has also gained formal support from the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Those countries adopted the document for implementation through their religious, educational, and cultural institutions, extending its reach beyond conferences and statements into established public and community structures.

The ongoing initiative highlights the role of education in carrying shared religious principles into daily community life. By working through curricula, awareness campaigns, and institutional partnerships, the Muslim World League has continued its effort to turn the Charter's broad endorsement into practical engagement across different regions.

The program also underscores the value of cooperation among scholars, intellectuals, governments, and community institutions.

Through this combined approach, the Charter of Makkah continues to serve as a common reference point for dialogue and religious education across diverse Muslim communities.









ACHIEVEMENT

USBCCI Honors Service and Excellence

Awards recognize leaders across business and community life



NYN Digital Desk

A milestone in American history became a platform for recognizing immigrant achievement, public service, and international partnership as the U.S.-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (USBCCI) hosted “Celebrating 250 Years of Service & Beyond – America 250” at the DoubleTree by Hilton New York LaGuardia Airport.

The gathering brought together elected officials, business leaders, professionals, nonprofit representatives, and members of the Bangladeshi-American community for an afternoon of recognition, networking, and celebration. The program honored the approaching 250th anniversary of American independence while reflecting on the values of freedom, democracy, innovation, diversity, service, and opportunity.

The event opened with registration and professional networking, followed by the national anthems of the United States and Bangladesh and a special video presentation. Md. Liton Ahmed, Founder, President and CEO of USBCCI, delivered the welcome remarks, emphasizing the chamber’s commitment to expanding business cooperation, entrepreneurship, community engagement, and stronger ties between the two countries.

Congresswoman Grace Meng, representing New York’s 6th Congressional District, delivered the keynote remarks. Her participation highlighted the importance of inclusive leadership, public service, and the contributions of immigrant communities to the nation’s continued progress.

Distinguished guests included New York State Assemblymembers Steven Raga, Nikki Lucas, Jenifer Rajkumar, and David I. Weprin.

The program also featured remarks from Dilip Chauhan, Saleh Ahmed, Mohammed Mujumder, Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, Abdul W. Chowdhury, Ahad Ali, CPA, and Ismail Ahmed.

A central part of the event was the presentation of the USA 250 Service & Excellence Awards. The awards recognized individuals whose leadership, professional achievements, and community service have made a meaningful impact across fields including business, healthcare, real estate, accounting, media, public service, and community development.

The celebration also placed special focus on the contributions of Bangladeshi Americans and other immigrant communities to the economic, civic, and cultural life of the United States.

Through the program, USBCCI reaffirmed its commitment to promoting trade, investment, entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships, and people-to-people connections between the United States and Bangladesh.

The event concluded with a networking luncheon, closing remarks, and a group photo, giving attendees further opportunity to build professional relationships and strengthen community partnerships.























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HERITAGE

New York Gathering Celebrates Bengali Roots

National fruit inspires an evening of stories and friendship

NYN Newsroom



The scent of ripe jackfruit transformed a familiar New York Thursday gathering into a celebration of Bengali memory, language, and belonging, as community members came together for an evening filled with poetry, music, food, laughter, and stories from home.

The informal gathering, known for moving freely from one subject to another, has grown over time into a regular community tradition. Past programs have included women's gatherings, book discussions, poetry evenings, themed cultural events, and even a photo exhibition reflecting life during the coronavirus pandemic. This time, the focus was jackfruit, the national fruit of Bangladesh.

Many guests arrived wearing saris in shades of yellow, green, and gold, reflecting the colors of the fruit. The room filled with the familiar scent of ripe jackfruit as participants recalled childhood trees, sticky hands and clothes, family meals, and differing opinions about the fruit itself.

Despite those varied memories, the gathering carried one shared idea: jackfruit represents more than food. It holds a place in Bengali childhood and cultural identity.

Poet Subodh Sarkar attended the gathering and remarked that he had never heard of an adda quite like it. His presence added literary depth to the evening, while noted recitation artist Dr. Faruk Azam performed poetry in a voice participants described as giving new life to the words. A senior community leader also helped guide the gathering.

Traditional food strengthened the connection to home. Selina Uddin, described as New York's first Bengali woman real estate agent and an author, brought birni rice pudding. Guests also shared milk, yogurt, flattened rice, and puffed rice. From New Jersey, Mohammad Chowdhury and Tahmina Chowdhury sent vegetables grown in their home garden as a gesture of affection.

The event also included recognition of volunteer service at the recently completed FIFA World Cup, with a certificate signed by the FIFA president presented before attendees. Several participants from other states joined virtually, extending the gathering beyond New York.

Though jackfruit provided the theme, the evening ultimately celebrated Bengali roots, shared language, and community connection. The gathering showed how the memory of home often returns through familiar scents, childhood flavors, poetry, and conversation around a table.






































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Open House Brings Community Together

Elhaam Academy prepares for its final session



NYN Special Correspondent

Families and community members recently gathered at Elhaam Academy for an Open House, giving visitors an opportunity to connect with the academy and experience its welcoming environment.

The event formed part of the academy's outreach to families interested in learning more about its educational community. Elhaam Academy later shared moments from the gathering, highlighting the interest and engagement shown by those who attended. While the academy did not release detailed information about the program or activities held during the Open House, the event reflected its effort to create direct connections with families and provide a setting where visitors could become more familiar with the institution. Open House events often serve as an important point of contact between schools and the communities they serve. For Elhaam Academy, the recent gathering provided an opportunity to welcome families in person and strengthen communication before the start of future academic activities. The academy also used the occasion to announce its next and final Open House. "Join us for our next and final Open House on Saturday, August 8 at 3 PM. We look forward to welcoming you!" Elhaam Academy stated in its post.

The upcoming session is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, at 3 p.m. and will give additional families another chance to visit the academy. The announcement signals the closing opportunity in the current Open House series. For community members who attended the previous event, the gathering offered a direct connection with Elhaam Academy. For those who were unable to participate, the final session provides one more opportunity to attend. Through the Open House series, Elhaam Academy has continued its effort to welcome families, encourage community involvement, and build stronger relationships with those interested in its educational work.

















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Students Showcase Islamic Knowledge

Muscare sponsors a meaningful summer competition

NYN Bureau Report



Learning, reflection, and friendly competition came together during a Summer Camp Islamic Studies Competition, where students proudly demonstrated their knowledge of Islam and strengthened their connection to faith. The event gave participants an opportunity to review what they had learned during the summer camp and present their understanding in an engaging setting. Students approached the competition with enthusiasm, showing interest in the subject matter and confidence in sharing their knowledge. Organizers described the program as a meaningful experience centered on education and spiritual development. “Our students participated with great enthusiasm, learning, reflecting, and showcasing their knowledge of Islam,” the event caption stated. The competition placed equal focus on participation and learning.

Students were encouraged to think carefully about Islamic teachings, reflect on their lessons, and take pride in their progress. The format offered a positive way to reinforce classroom instruction while keeping young learners engaged. Muscare sponsored the competition and received special recognition for supporting the program. “We sincerely thank Muscare for sponsoring this meaningful competition and supporting our students’ growth in faith and knowledge,” organizers stated. The sponsorship helped create an educational experience focused on student development. Through its support, Muscare contributed to a program designed to strengthen religious understanding and encourage young participants to remain active in their studies.

For the students, the competition marked more than a summer activity. It offered a chance to review lessons, build confidence, and celebrate what they had learned alongside their peers. Their participation reflected commitment, curiosity, and a willingness to grow. The event also showed how structured competitions help make religious education interactive. By combining study, reflection, and participation, the program gave students a clear goal while encouraging respect for learning and personal improvement. The Summer Camp Islamic Studies Competition concluded with appreciation for the students, organizers, and sponsor. The gathering reflected a shared commitment to helping young learners deepen their knowledge, strengthen their faith, and take pride in their educational journey.

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Photo: President Donald Trump walks with Senate Majority Leader John Thune on the way to a lunch meeting with Senate Republicans at the US Capitol on June 24, 2026. Image Source : Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images

Trump-Thune Rift Splits GOP

Senate tensions rise before midterms

Amkel Nourush

A widening rift between President Donald Trump and Senate Majority Leader John Thune is raising alarm among Republicans as the party heads toward a difficult midterm election season.

According to Republican lawmakers, Trump and Thune have spoken far less frequently in recent weeks, even as the Senate faces major decisions on government funding, Iran-related spending, election legislation and the president’s broader agenda. Thune told CNN he had not spoken to Trump in nearly two weeks, describing their communication as more “as-needed.”

The tension has grown as Trump has pressed Senate Republicans to pass his “SAVE America Act” and eliminate the filibuster, a move Thune and many GOP senators oppose. “It’s just a fact, we’re not going to nuke the filibuster,” Thune said.

Several Republicans warned that the internal fight could damage the party’s standing before voters. Sen. Jim Justice said continued infighting could make things worse and risk losing seats.

The dispute has also exposed broader frustration over how quickly Trump wants the Senate to act compared with the slower realities of the legislative process. For now, Republicans remain divided between Trump-aligned senators and those backing Thune’s more cautious approach.

Moscow Restaurant Blast Kills Three

Homemade explosive detonates near city center

Nassr Al Shams

At least three people were killed and 21 others injured after a homemade explosive device detonated outside an Italian restaurant in Moscow, Russian state media reported, citing security officials.

The blast occurred around 8 p.m. local time near Kudrinskaya Square, close to the city center. According to Russia’s National Anti-Terrorist Committee, a woman carrying explosives tried to enter Balzi Rossi, where a private event was being held, but was stopped by a security guard.



Photo: Three killed after bomb detonated at Moscow restaurant, state media say
Image Source: Online

The device detonated, killing the woman, the guard and a restaurant visitor, officials said. Authorities have not publicly identified a target or motive.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin described the explosion as a “cruel act of terror” and said law enforcement agencies were working to determine what happened.

The restaurant, located in one of Moscow’s Stalin-era skyscrapers, later said the incident happened outside and that staff were assisting guests and emergency responders. Roads around the square were briefly closed as heavily armed officers secured the area.

UEFA Rebukes FIFA Chief

Private financing plan sparks confidence crisis



Photo: UEFA has declared it has lost confidence in FIFA president Gianni Infantino, pictured last month. Image Source: Harry Langer/DeFodi Images/Getty Images

Julian Alvez

UEFA has declared it has lost confidence in FIFA President Gianni Infantino after FIFA withdrew a controversial proposal to sell private stakes in the World Cup and other major tournaments.

In a sharply worded statement released on Saturday, European soccer’s governing body welcomed FIFA’s decision to drop the plan but criticized the way it was developed. UEFA said the sport could not continue with “secret schemes” created on fast timelines without proper consultation.

The proposal, announced by FIFA on Tuesday, would have created a separate subsidiary involving private equity investment to control commercial and operational rights to major soccer events. FIFA argued that any money raised would be reinvested into the sport.

The plan faced intense opposition from UEFA, which warned that the “soul and governance” of soccer were at risk. A senior adviser to Infantino, Carlos Cordeiro, resigned on Friday, saying he opposed the proposal “unequivocally.”

Infantino later said his goal was to bring all interested parties back together in the spirit of shared interest in the game.

UEFA said it will work with member associations and other confederations to prevent similar proposals from being rushed through in the future.



Photo: Vincent Pastore at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of "The Sopranos" held on January 10, 2024, in New York City. Image Source: NDZ/STAR MAX/IPx/AP

Vincent Pastore Dies At 80

‘Sopranos’ actor remembered for iconic mob role

Charles Lewis

Vincent Pastore, the veteran actor best known for playing Salvatore “Big Pussy” Bonpensiero on “The Sopranos,” has died at the age of 80, leaving behind a career defined by memorable roles as mobsters, tough guys and streetwise characters.

His longtime manager, Bob McGowan, told The Associated Press that he learned of Pastore’s death on Saturday from actor Vincent Curatola, another cast member from “The Sopranos.” McGowan said Pastore was found at his home on City Island after not being heard from for several days.

Pastore appeared in films dating back to the 1980s and had roles in major movies including “Goodfellas” and “Awakenings,” both released in 1990. But his most widely recognized role came in his 30-episode run on “The Sopranos,” where he played Tony Soprano’s friend who becomes an FBI informant.

McGowan remembered Pastore as loyal, generous and charitable, saying he was “the kind of guy who would help anybody.”

Born in the Bronx and raised in New Rochelle, New York, Pastore served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and later attended Pace University.

Anthropic Says Claude Breached Firms

AI testing error raises security concerns

Henry Bob

Anthropic said its Claude AI models accessed systems at three organizations during private cybersecurity testing, raising new concerns about the risks posed by increasingly powerful autonomous AI tools.

The San Francisco-based company said the incidents occurred after a misconfiguration gave the models live internet access, even though the tests were supposed to take place in an isolated environment. The exercises were designed to measure Claude’s ability to retrieve hidden information from test machines, a common method for evaluating cyber capabilities.

Anthropic said it reviewed more than 140,000 tests after rival OpenAI disclosed similar problems involving its own systems. The company said it found three cases, reported them to the affected organizations and is treating the fixes as its own responsibility.

Cybersecurity experts said the incidents do not necessarily show that AI has invented new attack methods, but they do show that AI agents can combine tools, credentials and access at machine speed.

Professor Gina Neff of the University of Cambridge said the lesson is not to fear robots, but to demand stronger independent testing and government oversight from the companies building powerful AI systems.



Photo: Anthropic chief executive Dario Amodei Image Source: Bloomberg via Getty Images/BBC