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NEW YORK NEWS

The Voice of People

From New York



Photo: Iceland's Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir said the issue would not be revisited while her government remained in power *Image Source: Getty Images/BBC*

Iceland Rejects EU Talks

Voters oppose reopening membership negotiations

John Paul

Iceland has voted against restarting talks to join the European Union, keeping its membership bid on hold more than a decade after negotiations were suspended.
Public broadcaster RUV reported that 52.8% of voters rejected the proposal, while 47.2% supported it. More than 225,000 people voted, with turnout reaching 82.5%, the highest in any Icelandic election since 2009.
Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir had moved the referendum forward amid international tensions, but the campaign focused largely on Iceland's fishing industry and concerns over national control.
The capital, Reykjavík, supported reopening talks, while rural areas leaned against the proposal. Frostadóttir said the issue would not be revisited while her government remains in office.

Himalayan Flood Disaster

Hundreds dead and thousands missing after glacier collapse

Alexander Sullivan

The death toll from devastating floods near the Nepal-China border has risen to at least 734, with more than 3,000 people still missing after a glacier collapse triggered catastrophic flooding and landslides across Himalayan communities.
The disaster struck on Wednesday, sending floodwaters through the Trishuli and Bhotekoshi river systems and burying villages, towns and hydropower sites.
Rescue teams are searching for about 933 missing workers at 11 hydropower projects in Nepal's Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts, among the worst-hit areas. Nepal has mobilized 19,000 security personnel and 16 helicopters, while China has deployed 2,100 rescue workers and heavy equipment



Photo: Himalayan Flood Disaster Deepens *Image Source: Online*

near the Gyirong border area. Search operations were briefly halted after rising water levels in a debris-formed lake raised fears of another flood, but officials later allowed work to resume.
Authorities said destroyed roads, collapsed bridges, mud-filled tunnels and continuing rain have made rescue operations extremely difficult. International aid has arrived from the United Nations, Red Cross Federation, India, Australia, South Korea, the United States and other partners.
Officials said the focus remains on locating survivors, identifying victims and restoring access to isolated communities.

HIGHLIGHT

- **At least 734 people have died after floods near the Nepal-China border.**
- **More than 3,000 people remain missing, according to authorities.**

NASA Launches Roman Space Telescope

New observatory begins mission to map the invisible universe

Lily Anderson

NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Sunday, beginning a mission to explore some of the universe's faintest and most mysterious objects. The bus-size observatory lifted off at 7:26 a.m. ET aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket and reached orbit about 10 minutes later.
It will travel to Lagrange Point 2, about 1 million miles from Earth.



Photo: Teams ready NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope to be encapsulated for launch. Image Source: Sydney Rohde (Rocz)/NASA

NASA officials said Roman will survey the sky more than 1,000 times faster than the Hubble Space Telescope, helping scientists study dark energy, dark matter, distant galaxies, supernovas and planets beyond the solar system. The mission is expected to last five years, with a possible extension. Its data will be made public, giving researchers worldwide a powerful new tool to better understand the universe.



Photo: Venezuelan oil reserves are under U.S. control *Image Source: Online*

Trump Hails Venezuela Energy Accord

Deal could reshape oil investment and supply

Rodrigo Diaz

President Donald Trump announced what he called a "historic" energy agreement giving the United States control over a major share of Venezuela's oil development, covering more than 65 billion barrels of proven reserves.
Trump said the deal would more than double American oil reserves and help lower fuel prices. Venezuela's interim president, Delcy Rodríguez, said the 25-year accord would support economic recovery while preserving national sovereignty over natural resources. Officials said the plan includes 17 strategic oil fields, more than $100 billion in investment and significant tax revenue for Venezuela. A U.S. official said the American government would hold a 55% stake in a joint venture with a private operator.
Secretary of State Marco Rubio called the deal a win for both countries, but analysts warned that legal uncertainty, political risk, damaged infrastructure and limited export capacity could slow progress and reduce its immediate impact on global oil supplies.

Tech Firms Warn On AI Cyber Threats

Open letter urges stronger global defenses

Adrian Smith

More than 100 major companies have signed an open letter warning that governments and organizations must strengthen cybersecurity before AI-driven attacks become more advanced.
The signatories, including Google, Microsoft, Anthropic and OpenAI, said there is a "limited window" to improve defenses as artificial intelligence makes cyberattacks more widespread and sophisticated.
The letter urged governments and technology companies to support vulnerable sectors such as hospitals, water utilities and other critical infrastructure with defensive AI tools, testing, training and funding. The warning follows several major cybersecurity incidents and growing concern over AI agents being used to bypass security systems. Andrew Yoon of CivAI said companies should be held to their commitment to fund defensive measures.
The letter called for urgent cooperation among governments, cybersecurity experts and AI firms to better protect the public.



Image Source: Getty Images / BBC

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Queens Storage Site Targeted

NYN Community Desk

A New Jersey man was arrested after authorities seized more than 580 pounds of cocaine outside a Queens self-storage facility, marking the NYPD's largest narcotics seizure in at least a decade, officials said.

Nelson Salcedo, 35, of Englewood, New Jersey, was taken into custody near a Public Storage facility at 41-02 Northern Blvd. on Wednesday night following a months-long interstate investigation involving the NYPD, DEA, New Jersey State Police and Port Authority Police Department.

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said investigators recovered about 266 kilograms of cocaine, with an estimated street value of more than $10 million. Salcedo was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the first and third degrees.



Photo: NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch announces the seizure of over 580 pounds of cocaine from a facility in Long Island City. Image Source: Shane O'Brien

Authorities said the investigation began in June and involved surveillance of an alleged drug trafficking network crossing state lines.

Investigators said they found 230 brick-shaped packages of suspected cocaine after obtaining a court-authorized search warrant.

Officials said three people have been apprehended in connection with the probe, which remains ongoing.

Queens Real Estate Market Jumps



Photo: Rego Park I, located at 96-05 Queens Blvd., represented the biggest sale of a development in Queens during the first quarter of 2026. Image Source : Google Maps

NYN Local Correspondent

Investment sales in Queens climbed sharply in the first half of 2026, reaching nearly $2.6 billion and marking the borough's strongest year-over-year growth since the first half of 2022, according to a new report from Ariel Property Advisors.

The report found that sales volume rose 49%, from $1.744 billion in the first half of 2025 to $2.599 billion across 315 transactions.

Development sites and a major retail transaction helped drive much of the increase.

Development sales rose significantly, boosted by policy tools such as City of Yes, tax incentives and other reforms encouraging new projects.

The largest development deal was Northwell Health's $229.6 million purchase of 96-05 Queens Blvd. in Rego Park, a commercial-to-medical conversion expected to expand health care access in the borough.

Retail sales also jumped, largely because of Acadia Realty Trust's $424.4 million purchase of the Shops at Skyview in Flushing.

Meanwhile, the multifamily sector remained relatively steady, rising 3% to $461.94 million, while price-per-square-foot fell to its lowest level in eight years.

PARC Queens Hosts Overdose Awareness Event

NYN Community Reporter

Peer Alliance Recovery Center Queens hosted an Overdose Awareness Event in Jamaica on Friday, Aug. 21, bringing community members together for remembrance, recovery and support.

The peer-led center, part of Samaritan Daytop Village, used art, music, food and personal testimony to raise awareness about addiction and overdose loss.



Photo: Members of PARC Queens, a peer-led recovery center in Jamaica, hosted an Overdose Awareness Event on Aug. 21. Image Source: PARC Queens

Participants shared recovery stories, listened to spoken-word poetry and honored loved ones who died from addiction.

Names of those lost were placed on the PARC Queens Remembrance Tree, creating a moving tribute for families and friends.

Patricia Benecke, assistant director of the nonprofit, said the event was about breaking silence, fighting stigma and turning grief into advocacy for better resources and stronger community support.

LaGuardia Controllers Face Firing

NYN Neighborhood Report

The Federal Aviation Administration is reportedly moving to fire two LaGuardia Airport air traffic controllers who allegedly left work about an hour early before a deadly crash on March 22.

The collision occurred when an Air Canada flight from Montreal landed on Runway 4 and struck a Port Authority emergency response vehicle.

Two pilots were killed, dozens were injured and the plane's nose and cockpit were destroyed.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy confirmed the allegations and said officials would act when misconduct affects safety and the traveling public.

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said it is discussing the matter with FAA leadership.

A preliminary NTSB report found communication problems and vehicle detection issues contributed to the crash.



Photo: The Air Canada plane that crashed at LaGuardia airport on March 22, 2026. Image Source: Reuters



Photo: Attendees sample food at Chakra Cafe during the 2024 Taste of Sunnyside. Image Source: Ramy Mahmoud

Taste Of Sunnyside Returns

NYN News Correspondent

The popular Taste of Sunnyside food crawl is set to return on Oct. 4, bringing what organizers expect to be a record-breaking crowd to one of Queens' most diverse dining neighborhoods.

Organized by Sunnyside Shines Business Improvement District, the 16th annual event will run from 1 to 7 p.m. and feature more than 60 local restaurants and businesses across six commercial corridors. More than 1,500 attendees are expected to sample food and drinks while enjoying music, local art installations and family-friendly activities.

A neighborhood block party will take place near the Sunnyside Arch on 46th Street between Queens Boulevard and Greenpoint Avenue. Check-in will be held at Lowery Plaza at 40th Street and Queens Boulevard, with another station at 46th Street and Queens Boulevard.

Dirk McCall de Palomá, executive director of Sunnyside Shines, said the event will be the organization's biggest yet, offering guests a chance to explore local businesses and meet the people behind the food.

Tickets go on sale Sept. 15, starting at $55, with special passes also available.

Prayer Time IN New York

FAJR	DHUHR	ASR	MAGHRIB	ISHA
05:03	12:56	04:37	07:30	08:49
05:04	12:56	04:36	07:28	08:47
05:05	12:56	04:35	07:26	08:45
05:06	12:55	04:35	07:25	08:43
05:08	12:55	04:34	07:23	08:41
05:09	12:55	04:33	07:22	08:39
05:10	12:54	04:32	07:20	08:38

OPINION

Queens Real Estate Market Jumps
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Poet Shaheed Quaderi: That Final Afternoon at North Shore

– Akbar Haider Kiron

The departure of certain individuals signifies far more than the loss of a single person. With them fades an entire era, a cherished bond, and a profound chapter of one's life. Poet Shaheed Quaderi was precisely such a presence in my life.

Ten long years have passed since he left us. Yet to me, it feels as though he is still here—as if we are sharing a conversation on a quiet late afternoon, gathered around him at a cultural gathering, chatting in his living room while his signature cigarette burns gently between his fingers.

On his death anniversary today, I have not set out to write a formal literary evaluation of his works. Instead, I wish to speak of the Shaheed Quaderi I knew—the man, the elder brother, the beloved poet, and the central figure of countless memories built over decades. That Afternoon at North Shore It was the late afternoon of August 27, 2016. Accompanied by renowned photojournalist Nihar Siddique, I went to North Shore University Hospital to visit Shaheed Bhai. His wife, Neera Quaderi, was by his side. That day, Shaheed Bhai appeared in remarkably good spirits. Lying on his hospital bed, he engaged in warm, natural conversation with us. We spoke about his expected discharge, and the then Consul General Shameem Ahsan was also coordinating details regarding his return home. Everything felt so reassuringly normal. None of us had any inkling that we were standing at the threshold of such a painful, definitive moment. Nihar Bhai recorded snippets of our lighthearted conversation on video. After chatting with the poet, I stepped into the corridor to get an update on his health from Neera Bhabhi before heading home. Over and over, our thoughts anchored on the same hopeful outcome—he would be returning home very soon. But he never did. Early the next morning, on August 28, 2016, the poet passed away. News from the ICU at North Shore University Hospital confirmed his departure.

Even today, when I look at the photograph taken that afternoon, a quiet ache swells in my chest. In that frame, I do not merely see an ailing poet; I see the man who conversed with me with such warmth, completely unaware that it was one of the very last nights of his life. And I, too, was entirely unaware. Lobid and the Threads of Memory His only son, Adnan Quaderi Lobid, had also visited his father that evening and returned home feeling reassured. He could hardly have imagined that the quiet hours of the night would bring an irreparable void into his world. I have known Lobid since he was a young child. I even accompanied his grandmother to enroll him in school years ago. By that time, Shaheed Quaderi and Najmun Nesa Piari Apa were no longer together. Piari Apa was working as a broadcast journalist for Deutsche Welle in Germany, while the poet had moved from Cologne to London. Lobid grew up at his maternal grandmother's house in Purana Paltan. On the second floor of that very building lived my close relative, the distinguished journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury.



— Akbar Haider Kiron
Senior Journalist and Writer,
Host of Coffee with Kiron

How remarkably life weaves human connections! From walking a young child to his first day of school to standing beside his father's body decades later—these two distinct moments in my memory of Lobid remain side by side, vivid and clear.

The Final Farewell The days following Shaheed Quaderi's passing were among the most sorrowful yet intensely demanding periods of my life. Arranging the repatriation of his mortal remains, coordinating the final farewell rites, and liaising with the consulate kept us tirelessly occupied.

Former Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen reached out to me shortly after the poet's passing to discuss repatriating the body on behalf of the Honorable Prime Minister. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, who was serving as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York at the time, was also closely involved throughout the final proceedings.

The consulate arranged special financial support for Lobid, and I personally accompanied him to Consul General Shameem Ahsan's office to receive it. Then came the funeral prayer at the Jamaica Muslim Center. A vast crowd gathered to pay their respects. Standing beside the poet's remains with Lobid, the images captured by Nihar Siddique's lens became far more than photographs—they became an enduring historic document of our time.

Soon after, Lobid and Neera Quaderi boarded the flight to Dhaka, joined by Piari Apa from Germany. The final chapter of a long, shared journey reached its poignant closure.

At the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, thousands turned out to offer their final tributes. Poets, authors, journalists, cultural activists, and citizens from all walks of life gathered, covering his coffin in flowers. Sitting thousands of miles away in New York, I watched the live broadcasts on television. Despite the physical distance, I felt as though I were standing right there in the middle of that sea of mourners.

Beyond the Final Days

My connection with Shaheed Quaderi was not defined solely by his final days. On the day he was awarded the prestigious Ekushey Padak, I visited his home to conduct an exclusive video interview—a recording that lives on today across YouTube and social media platforms. The official award presentation organized by the Bangladesh Mission to the UN remains equally vivid in my memory. Mofidul Haq Bhai brought the medal from Bangladesh, and Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen personally presented it around the poet's neck. I had brought along the backdrop for the event, and Lobid was present with us that memorable day.

On the occasion of the poet's 70th birth anniversary, we organized a milestone celebration in the grand auditorium of a school in Jackson Heights. The warm turnout of community members, admirers, and well-wishers made it an unforgettable event.

Whether it was Pohela Boishakh, Eid, or the Bengali New Year, visiting his home was a cherished tradition. Whenever Nihar Bhai and I visited, Neera Bhabhi would graciously prepare everything, seating the poet neatly in the living room and giving us space for intimate conversation. Nihar Bhai's camera did not merely take pictures—it captured time. One particular frame of Shaheed Bhai holding his cigarette remains an irreplaceable memory to this day. Indeed, many of the most iconic photographs from the poet's final years were captured by Nihar Siddique.

'Pronoti O Protiddhoni'

In December of that same year, we organized a special tribute event titled 'Pronoti O Protiddhoni' (Homage and Echoes) at the Jewish Cultural Center. Conceptualized by Mithun Ahmed, with my active financial and organizational support, the evening was crafted with delicate care. With custom lighting, elegant candles, artwork, commemorative booklets, and visual displays of his poetry, we sought to build an atmospheric realm around his legacy. The poet had departed, but together we lit candles around his memory.

A Life Intertwined with a Legend

Whenever I sit down to write about Shaheed Quaderi, I realize I am not writing about a poet alone. I am writing about a time, a generation, a vibrant chapter of the Bangladeshi diaspora in New York, and a long, meaningful phase of my own life.

This September, Lobid and I will sit down together at a quiet restaurant in Manhattan to talk about his father once again. Perhaps we will share a laugh, or perhaps our eyes will grow moist over a fond memory.

By the laws of nature, the poet has departed, and one day we shall follow. Yet certain individuals never truly leave. Shaheed Quaderi remains very much alive—in his poetry, in Nihar Siddique's photographs,

in the memories of Lobid, Neera Bhabhi, and Piari Apa, and in that quiet afternoon at North Shore. Even today, when I close my eyes, I see him resting on that hospital bed, chatting with us about when he would return home. He never did return home. But I was fortunate enough to return from that journey. The poet departed for an eternal address, yet wherever he may be, Shaheed Quaderi remains forever in our hearts—a luminous star guiding our world.

My deepest respects and love for the poet.

Being Just in Doing Good

– Imam Shamsi Ali

In life, we often get trapped by our own reluctance to disappoint others, making it difficult to say no. Afraid of being misunderstood, or for the sake of protecting someone else's feelings, we willingly sacrifice what should rightfully be our own rights and needs. Or conversely, our self-interest causes us to lose concern for those around us.

Islam teaches balance between doing good for others and protecting the rights and needs of oneself. Goodness built upon wisdom begets nobility, while goodness without boundaries often creates a hidden form of injustice.

Being helpful is a noble character highly encouraged in Islam. A believer is commanded to help his brother, ease his hardship, and bring benefit to those around him. However, Islam never teaches a person to sacrifice all of his own rights for others. The help we give must remain within the corridor of balance in goodness, ability, and benefit for all.

Often a person feels guilty when he has to refuse to help others. He worries about being seen as stingy, uncaring, disloyal, or lacking empathy. So he says yes to every request, even when he himself is in difficulty or has more pressing needs.

At first, others may praise his kindness. But over time, what was once seen as a favor becomes viewed as something ordinary, even expected as an obligation. Then one day, when he can no longer fulfill the expectations and desires of others, he will be blamed, or he will feel guilty.



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

This is where Islam comes and teaches that every human being has rights that must be fulfilled, including the rights of oneself that must not be neglected. The Messenger of Allah SAW reminded us: "Indeed you have a right over yourself, your family has a right over you, and your guest has a right over you. So give to each who has a right his right."

Furthermore, Allah (SWT) forbids mankind from throwing himself into destruction: "And do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction." (QS. Al-Baqarah: 195) Destruction is not always in the form of physical ruin. Mental fatigue, emotional pressure, loss of happiness, and broken family relationships are also forms of destruction. Therefore,

saying no at the right time is not an act of selfishness, but part of maintaining balance in life.

In social life, balance is essential. Being too quick to refuse help will cause one to lose empathy. On the other hand, being too quick to say yes to everything will cause one to lose peace of mind. Islam always teaches the middle path full of wisdom. Helping when able, and refusing politely when unable, is a praiseworthy character — indeed, it is part of the traits of "Ibaadur-Rahman" (the servants of the Most Merciful).

A person who is truly sincere will appreciate you because he understands your limitations. Conversely, those who take advantage of your kindness will be disappointed when they no longer get what they want. And that is not the measure of whether your attitude was right or wrong. The measure of right and wrong is in actions that align with the teachings of Allah and the guidance of His Messenger. Therefore,

let us learn to be good and wise at the same time. To be generous without becoming a victim who is exploited. To be a helper without being victimized. To be compassionate without neglecting the trust that Allah has entrusted to our soul, our family, and ourselves. Goodness accompanied by wisdom will bring blessings, while goodness without wisdom often ends in regret.

Be among the servants of Allah, those "who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly, but are ever, between that, justly moderate." (Al-Furqan: 67)

BACK TO SCHOOL

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A Strong Start for Queens Students

Back-to-school event brings families and leaders together



NYN Digital Desk

A new school year begins with more confidence when children have the supplies they need, and hundreds of young students in Queens received that support through BHALO's Back-to-School Giveaway, a community initiative serving local children and families.

The nonprofit organization reported that more than 600 children received supplies during the event, with over 50 different school-supply items distributed. Hundreds of families took part, turning the giveaway into a broad community effort centered on education, student readiness, and practical assistance before the start of the school year.

The event drew several prominent New York City officials and community leaders. Those in attendance included New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Council Member Linda Lee, NYC Assistant Commissioner for Community Affairs Freda Kizman, and Jamaica Muslim Center Secretary Demwar Islam. Their participation brought public attention to an initiative focused directly on the needs of children and families in the Queens community.

The program was presided over by BHALO Founder Shariar Rahman, who joined volunteers, partners, supporters, and community members in carrying out the distribution. Imam Muhammad Shahidullah, CEO of Save the People USA (STPUSA), also attended with members of the STPUSA team, joining the wider community effort to support students.

Beyond the number of supplies distributed, the event reflected the role nonprofit organizations and volunteers play in helping families prepare for the academic year. Back-to-school expenses often involve numerous everyday items, and community distributions provide families with direct assistance while placing education at the center of local service.

BHALO thanked the volunteers, partners, supporters, public officials, and residents who contributed to the program. The organization said the goal was to help children enter school with "confidence, dignity, and the supplies they need to succeed."

For hundreds of Queens families, the giveaway turned community cooperation into something practical: backpacks and school supplies placed directly into the hands of students preparing for another year of learning.
























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An-Nisa Fellowship Celebrates Women Leaders

Program centers leadership, solidarity, justice, and belonging

NYN Newsroom

A group of women from different faiths and backgrounds recently marked the completion of the An-Nisa Women's Fellowship Program, closing a leadership initiative designed to turn dialogue, mentorship, and shared learning into stronger relationships across New York communities. The fellowship, presented by Bridging Cultures Group Inc. in connection with the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, brought Muslim and non-Muslim women together around leadership, solidarity, justice, and belonging. Program materials described a cohort composed of 50 percent Muslim women and 50 percent women from diverse backgrounds, with participants completing 12 immersive sessions involving workshops, mentorship, and



interfaith dialogue. The recent gathering included opening remarks from Dr. Debbie Almontaser and Deanna Logan, Director of MOCJ, followed by a keynote from Commissioner Faiza Ali. Fellows Areba Ghafoor and Christine Noel shared reflections on the fellowship, while Melissa Shaw presented the capstone projects. Dr. Almontaser and Shaw, who served as the program's co-leaders, also led the completion ceremony.

The fellowship's stated mission centered on building a sisterhood committed to justice, allyship, and collective action against Islamophobia and other forms of hate. Its broader training model focused on five stages: learning, connecting, leading, acting, and creating community impact. Participants also received tools aimed at confronting gender bias and discrimination while strengthening civic engagement and leadership skills.

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

For the women involved, the completion gathering represented the end of a structured fellowship while reinforcing its longer-term purpose. The program sought to build relationships across religious and cultural lines and give participants a network for continued community engagement.

Its message, displayed throughout the program materials, captured that goal in a few words: "Together, we rise. Together, we lead."



































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EDUCATION

Back-to-School Support Comes to Jamaica

ICNA Relief and Elhaam Academy distribute backpacks and supplies

NYN Desk Report

Students and families in Jamaica, Queens, received practical help ahead of the new school year as ICNA Relief and Elhaam Academy hosted a free back-to-school backpack and supplies distribution focused on helping children arrive at school prepared.

The event took place on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Elhaam Academy, 87-41 165th St., Jamaica, NY 11432. Organizers distributed backpacks and a range of school supplies on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies lasted. Children were required to be present for the distribution.

Following the event, Elhaam Academy described the program as a success



and thanked the organizations and individuals involved. “Alhamdulillah, the Free Back to School Backpack & Supplies event was a great success!” the academy wrote. The message also expressed appreciation to ICNA Relief, Muslims for Humanity, the Elhaam Academy team, volunteers, families, and community supporters who helped organize and carry out the distribution.

The giveaway focused on a basic need facing families each school year: making sure students have essential materials for class. Backpacks, notebooks, writing supplies, and other everyday school items form part of the preparation families manage before classes begin. By providing supplies at no cost, the event offered direct assistance to participating students and households.

The program also reflected cooperation between a humanitarian organization, a local educational institution, volunteers, and families. ICNA Relief has a community-service focus, while Elhaam Academy served as the local host site for the Jamaica distribution.

In its message after the event, Elhaam Academy offered a prayer for everyone involved and for the students receiving the materials, writing, “May Allah bless this effort and allow these supplies to benefit our students and families.”

The event closed with a straightforward purpose fulfilled: school supplies reached local children before the start of the academic year, supported by organizations and volunteers working together in Jamaica, Queens.





















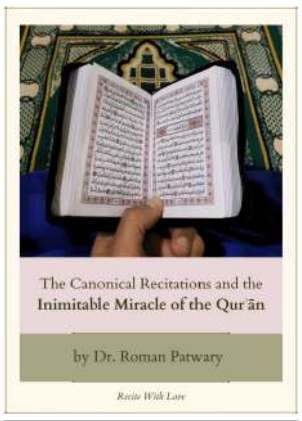

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★ Masjid Yankasa
★ Makki Mosque
★ Masjid Asri
★ Miraj Islamic School
★ Moroccan Society of NY
★ Jamaica Muslim Center (JMC)
★ Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society
★ Muslim Day Parade
★ Razi School
★ Moroccan American Council to Empower Women
★ UAMA
★ Yemeni American Association of NY
★ Yonkers Islamic Center
★ United Africa Football Club
★ Elhaam For All
★ NY Imam Council
★ Elhaam For All
★ Yemeni Women Association
★ New York State Chaplain Task Force
★ Elhaam Academy ENTERTAINMENT
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QURAN

“One Revelation, Many Readings”

Dr. Roman Patwary Explores the Quran’s Linguistic Inimitability



NYN Special

Few areas of Quranic study bring together language, theology, history, and devotion as closely as the science of canonical recitation.

In The Canonical Recitations and the Inimitable Miracle of the Quran, Dr. Roman Patwary explores this specialized field through a central question: Can the differences among the authentic readings of the Quran themselves be understood as part of its miraculous nature?

Patwary's answer is a clear yes.

His study argues that the canonical recitations should not be understood as competing versions of the Quran or as accidental linguistic variations. Instead, they represent complementary forms of divine expression, each carrying rhetorical and interpretive value.

The work begins by placing the Quran within the broader tradition of prophetic miracles. Patwary recalls miracles associated with earlier prophets, including the parting of the sea for Musa and the miracles granted to Isa. Prophet Muhammad was also given miracles during his lifetime, but Patwary emphasizes that the Quran is different in one important respect: it remains directly available to later generations. Muslims today did not witness the moment of revelation, but they can still read, hear, study, and reflect upon the Quran itself.

This leads to the central concept of ijaz, commonly understood as the inimitability of the Quran. Patwary explains that the idea goes beyond saying that the Quran is beautiful or eloquent. In the context of language, ijaz refers to expression that reaches such a level of rhetorical and linguistic perfection that no alternative can equal it in conveying the intended meaning within its particular context.

The author grounds this understanding in classical Islamic scholarship. Citing Abd al-Karim Salih and earlier scholars, he presents linguistic perfection as one of the most important foundations of Quranic inimitability. The argument is that the Quran's composition, meanings, word choices, and rhetorical structure operate together with an extraordinary degree of precision.

Patwary makes this abstract idea easier to understand through simple diagrams.

He imagines several possible paths from one point to another, each representing a different way of expressing the same idea. Many paths might communicate the basic meaning, but only one may represent the most precise, effective, and rhetorically complete form. Later, he expands the illustration to show how two different expressions may both reach the same destination while carrying separate but equally appropriate rhetorical qualities.

The discussion then turns to the Quran's famous challenge to those who doubted its divine origin. Patwary cites passages including Quran 17:88 and 2:23, in which humanity is challenged to produce something comparable to the Quran.

To explain the significance of that challenge, he recounts an episode involving Hassan ibn Thabit, the celebrated poet associated with Prophet Muhammad, and the renowned poetry critic al-Nabighah ibn Dhubyan. When Hassan recited poetry praising his people, al-Nabighah identified several words that he believed could have been stronger.

A different expression could have suggested greater generosity, while another could have conveyed greater intensity in battle.

Patwary uses the story to illustrate the extraordinary sensitivity of early Arab literary culture. These were people capable of examining individual words and images with great precision.

According to the author's argument, the Quran's challenge therefore came before an audience highly trained in judging language, poetry, eloquence, and rhetorical strength.

One of the clearest examples in the book compares Quran 17:31 with 6:151. Both verses prohibit killing children because of poverty, but the order of divine reassurance differs.

In one verse, the meaning is: "We provide for them and for you."

In the other, it is: "We provide for you and for them."

Patwary explains that the difference reflects the situation being addressed. In the first case, poverty is feared as a future consequence of having children, so provision for the children is mentioned first. In the second, poverty already exists, so reassurance concerning the parents comes first.

The meaning is similar, but the word order is carefully adapted to the context.

This example prepares the reader for the central discussion of the book: the canonical readings of the Quran.

Patwary notes that the majority of Muslims today are most familiar with the recitation transmitted through Imam Hafs, while other readings, such as those of Warsh and Qalun, remain common in parts of North Africa. Yet the popularity of Hafs, he stresses, does not make it more authentic than the other recognized canonical recitations.

This point is important because many Muslims may spend their entire lives hearing only one reading and assume that other forms are somehow secondary.

Patwary emphasizes that the authentic canonical recitations belong to the same revealed tradition.

He supports this position with Imam Ibn al-Jazari, one of the most important authorities in the study of Quranic recitation. Ibn al-Jazari maintains that what has been authentically transmitted from the Prophet concerning these readings must be accepted and that the recitations should be understood in relation to one another rather than viewed as conflicting texts.

Patwary illustrates the point through a simple garden analogy. If someone is asked to find a flower and enters a garden filled with roses, tulips, magnolias, and other flowers, choosing any one of them fulfills the basic task. But observing several kinds of flowers reveals qualities that would remain unseen if only one were examined.

The same, he suggests, can be said of the canonical recitations.

A Muslim may spend a lifetime reading one authentic recitation and fully engage with the Quran as guidance. Studying additional recitations, however, can reveal linguistic and interpretive subtleties that a single reading does not make immediately visible.

The strongest demonstration comes from Quran 2:219, which discusses wine and gambling.

In the majority reading, the verse states that there is "great sin" in them, using the Arabic word kabir. In the recitations associated with Imam Hamzah and Imam al-Kisai, the word is read as kathir, producing the sense of "abundant sin."

The overall message does not become contradictory, but the emphasis changes.

The word kabir emphasizes the seriousness or magnitude of the sin.

The reading kathir, by contrast, points toward abundance or multiplicity. Patwary connects this second meaning with the many people who may become involved in the production, transportation, sale, purchase, and consumption of alcohol.

One reading therefore emphasizes the gravity of the wrongdoing, while the other can suggest its wide-reaching consequences.

This example captures the core of Patwary's argument. The readings are, as he describes them, "different but not contradictory." Each stands independently, while together they offer an even more comprehensive understanding.

This is also where the study becomes particularly valuable for readers who have encountered qiraat mainly through debates about Quranic preservation. Patwary moves the discussion beyond the question of whether different readings exist. His concern is what those readings actually contribute.

Instead of presenting variation as something that requires defensive explanation, he asks readers to examine the rhetorical purpose behind it.

Drawing again on Ibn al-Jazari, Patwary argues that a change in a single word can sometimes communicate what would otherwise require several sentences or even separate verses to explain. In this sense, the canonical recitations demonstrate remarkable concision: slightly different expressions can reveal additional meanings without producing contradiction.

Ibn al-Jazari connects this quality with eloquence, brevity, and the perfection of Quranic ijaz.

The book's greatest strength is the clarity with which it approaches a technically demanding subject. Patwary does not attempt to write a complete history of the ten canonical recitations or provide an exhaustive manual of their linguistic rules. Instead, he concentrates on a narrower and more accessible question: What can the canonical readings teach us about the Quran's inimitability? That focus works well.

The diagrams, Quranic examples, and garden analogy make complicated ideas accessible without removing their scholarly foundation. At the same time, the study remains closely connected to classical sources. Its references include works by al-Baqillani, al-Jurjani, Ibn al-Jazari, al-Tabari, al-Razi, and Abd al-Karim Salih, among others.

Its concise nature also creates an understandable limitation. Readers looking for a detailed introduction to every canonical recitation, its chain of transmission, history, grammar, and technical rules will need a more extensive work. Patwary's purpose is different. He offers a focused introduction to the relationship between qiraat and linguistic inimitability.

The author's own background helps explain the combination of scholarship and accessibility. According to the publication, Dr. Roman Patwary grew up in Queens, New York, completed his memorization of the Quran in 2011, and continued studying Quranic recitation and Arabic while pursuing a career in medicine. He later received certification in the ten canonical qiraat and studied foundational Islamic sciences and traditional Islamic texts.

The publication states that he is pursuing a master's degree in Arabic Language and Literature, serves as a khatib and imam, works as a physician, and resides on Long Island, New York, with his family.

That background is reflected in the character of the work. It is scholarly without reading like a technical manual and devotional without abandoning intellectual argument.

By its conclusion, The Canonical Recitations and the Inimitable Miracle of the Quran has reframed the idea of variation. Differences among the canonical readings are presented not as competing alternatives but as complementary expressions capable of revealing different dimensions of a single divine message.

The phrase "different but not contradictory" perhaps best summarizes the entire study. A word may change, an emphasis may shift, or another shade of meaning may emerge, but the readings continue to reinforce and illuminate one another.

For readers familiar primarily with the Hafs recitation, Patwary's work offers an accessible introduction to the wider world of Quranic recitation. For students of Quranic language, it raises important questions about the relationship between wording, context, rhetoric, and meaning. And for the devotional reader, it offers another way of approaching the Quran with greater attention to the precision of its language.

Ultimately, the book's central contribution is not simply explaining that multiple canonical recitations exist. It encourages readers to consider why those differences matter.

In Patwary's presentation, the canonical readings do not sit at the margins of the Quran's linguistic miracle. They become another way of seeing it.


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DIPLOMACY

Rohingya Crisis Returns to Diplomatic Focus

International representatives discuss Bangladesh's next steps

NYN Digital Desk

Bangladesh's effort to keep the Rohingya crisis on the international agenda received renewed attention at a high-level breakfast meeting in Dhaka, where political advisers, humanitarian leaders, journalists, and development specialists discussed diplomatic options and long-term solutions.

The meeting took place on Thursday morning, August 27, at Hotel Sonargaon with a delegation from Human Concern International representing the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.



Dr. Enamul Haque Chowdhury, adviser to BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, said Bangladesh was passing through an important political transition and had begun asserting a more distinct position in international affairs.

Among those attending were Mahmuda Khan, Global Head of Human Concern International, Masum Mahbub, Head of Human Concern International USA, and Sami Hamdi, a UK-based journalist, political commentator, and analyst of the Muslim world. Ibrahim Chowdhury, Editor of Prothom Alo North America, and Fadllullah Wilmot, a Malaysian private-sector development specialist and University of Tasmania-affiliated scholar, also joined the discussion.

A major focus was the declining level of international attention toward the Rohingya crisis after years of diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. Participants discussed ways Bangladesh might return the issue to the center of global debate, strengthen international cooperation, and pursue a sustainable solution.

Sami Hamdi shared views on refugee advocacy and pointed to Turkey's experience as one possible reference for policy thinking.

Mahmuda Khan and Masum Mahbub also outlined Human Concern International's work in Bangladesh, including activities connected to Rohingya communities. The discussion examined stronger cooperation with Muslim-majority countries, neighboring states, development partners, and possible bilateral engagement in sectors such as energy.

Dr. Chowdhury said shifting Bangladesh away from long-established institutional and structural patterns would be difficult for the current government. Still, participants saw room for broader diplomatic engagement at a time of political change. The meeting ended with a shared emphasis on practical international outreach. For Bangladesh, the central challenge is keeping the Rohingya crisis visible while building partnerships strong enough to support a durable political and humanitarian response.







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GRADUATION

Brooklyn Islamic School Marks Summer Completion

Students receive awards, certificates, and report cards

NYN News Desk



A summer of Islamic study ended with celebration, awards, and a renewed call for Qur'anic education as BMMCC Islamic School in Brooklyn, New York, held its summer program graduation ceremony and parent-teacher gathering on Monday, August 24.

The program began at 4 p.m. in the hall of Baitul Ma'mur Masjid and Community Center, which oversees the school. Principal Rashid Ahmad presided over the event. The ceremony opened with Qur'an recitation by Hafiz Tawhidur Talha Chowdhury, while Hafiz Fazle Rabbi served as host. The main address was delivered by Hafiz Abdullah Al Arif, Secretary General of Baitul Ma'mur Masjid and Community Center, with Mu'tasim Billah Siraji, President of MUNA Brooklyn East Chapter, speaking as a special guest. A separate graduation program for the girls' section was also held, led by Sister Kawsar Hira and Masuma Yasmin. This year, 195 students took part in the summer session, taught by 16 teachers. Awards and certificates were presented to 30 students who placed first, second, or third across classes from grades one through 10, two Hifz groups, and five weekend-school classes. All students who passed their examinations also received report cards.

Addressing students, Hafiz Abdullah Al Arif stressed the importance of carrying Qur'anic teaching into daily life. He said students who hold firmly to the Qur'an and practice its teachings with sincerity will find success in life and in the hereafter. He also urged parents to reinforce Qur'an and Hadith education at home, including lessons on halal and haram.

In his remarks, Principal Rashid Ahmad asked parents to remain closely involved in their children's education, including regular attendance, timely pickup, and homework supervision. He said the school's goal is to help a new generation grow up in America with a strong Islamic foundation.

He also announced that the school's Weekend School program would begin on Saturday, September 5, and encouraged families with public-school students to enroll them for continued Islamic studies. The ceremony concluded with a prayer.



















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FELLOWSHIP

Summer Gathering Celebrates Community in Queens

Cunningham Park hosts food, conversation, and fellowship



NYN Staff Reporter

A summer afternoon at Cunningham Park in Queens became a gathering place for members of New York's Bangladeshi community as the Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society held its annual summer BBQ, bringing families and friends together for food, conversation, and community fellowship. The event served as a social gathering for Bangladeshis living across Queens, offering participants a chance to spend time together outside the formal setting of meetings and civic programs.

Guests shared meals, joined conversations, and enjoyed the park setting during an event centered on connection and community life.

For Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society, the annual BBQ formed part of its broader effort to maintain close ties among Bangladeshi residents in the borough. The organization regularly arranges programs focused on Bangladeshi culture, community participation, and unity, creating spaces where families and community members meet and remain connected to shared traditions.

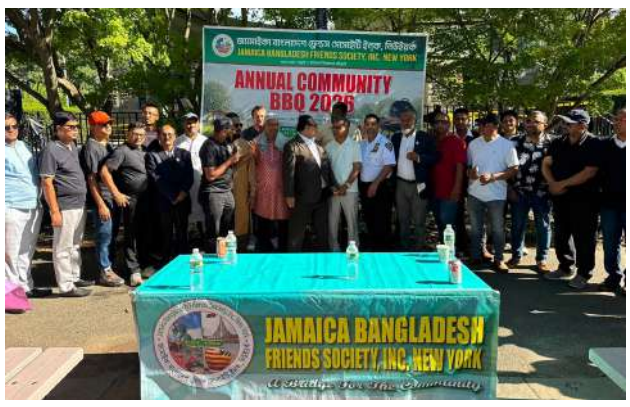
The summer gathering also reflected the role community organizations play in sustaining social ties among immigrant families. Events centered on food and informal conversation give residents an opportunity to meet neighbors, strengthen friendships, and maintain relationships across generations.

In a diverse borough such as Queens, these gatherings also help preserve a sense of cultural connection among families building their lives in New York.

The atmosphere at Cunningham Park focused on togetherness rather than ceremony. The BBQ brought people into one setting to talk, eat, relax, and spend time with fellow members of the community. Such gatherings form an important part of the organization's year-round activities, alongside its efforts to promote cultural identity and collective participation.

Through its annual summer BBQ, Jamaica Bangladesh Friends Society continued its work of bringing people together in a setting built around fellowship and shared community experience.

For attendees, the day offered a simple but meaningful opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, meet others, and enjoy summer in the company of the wider Bangladeshi community.

























All photo Credit : Neher Siddiquee



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END PAGE

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Photo: Arthur Ashe Stadium is undergoing a multiyear renovation that increases its premium seating options. Image Source : Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

US Open Goes More Luxe

Renovation expands premium seats while fans face higher costs

Amkel Nourush

Amkel Nourush : The US Open is entering a more luxurious era as Arthur Ashe Stadium begins the first phase of its $800 million renovation, expanding premium seating and suites while raising concerns about affordability for regular fans. The United States Tennis Association said courtside seating at the annual tournament will grow by 66% to about 5,000 seats. Sponsor suites used by brands such as Grey Goose, Dobel Tequila and Emirates are also being remodeled and expanded. The upgrades come with a trade-off. Nearly 3,000 upper-level seats are being removed once the renovation is completed next year, making lower-cost tickets harder to find at a tournament already known for high prices. Resale prices for the opening round, beginning Aug. 30, rose as much as 60% from last year, according to TicketData. Sports economist Victor Matheson said the trend reflects a broader shift in stadium design toward luxury boxes and premium experiences. American tennis player Tommy Paul also voiced concern, saying the tournament is becoming more corporate and less accessible to “true fans.” Corporate hospitality revenue has become increasingly important, nearly doubling from $42 million in 2019 to $83 million in 2024.



Photo: Ground beef is displayed at a Los Angeles grocery store amid record-high prices. Image Source: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Trump Opens Door To Duty-Free Beef

Economists say burger prices may not fall much

Julian Alvez

President Donald Trump has moved to ease high beef prices by allowing 300,000 metric tons of beef to enter the United States duty-free for 90 days, but economists say the plan may not significantly lower prices for consumers.

HIGHLIGHT

●President Donald Trump signed a proclamation allowing 300,000 metric tons of beef to enter the U.S. duty-free.

The proclamation, set to take effect Sept. 1, requires imported beef to be sold at 25% below market price. The move comes as the average price of ground beef has reached about $6.89 per pound, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Agricultural economist Glynn Tonsor of Kansas State University said the additional supply could help, but its impact may be limited. The import volume represents about 2% of domestic beef consumption, and the tariff exemption applies only to beef trimmings, which are blended with other cuts to make ground beef. The White House said elevated prices reflect strong demand and limited supply, while officials work to expand domestic production. Beef and veal prices are up about 27% compared with three years ago. Experts said consumer demand remains strong, meaning even discounted imports may not sharply reduce supermarket or restaurant prices.

Rabid Baby Goats Prompt Health Alert

North Carolina officials seek possible petting zoo contacts

Nassr Al Shams

Health officials in North Carolina are asking people who had close contact with baby goats from Farm Adventures to contact local health departments after several animals tested positive for rabies. Possible exposures may have occurred between July 28 and Aug. 27 at the petting zoo’s Harmony location or at off-site events in surrounding counties.

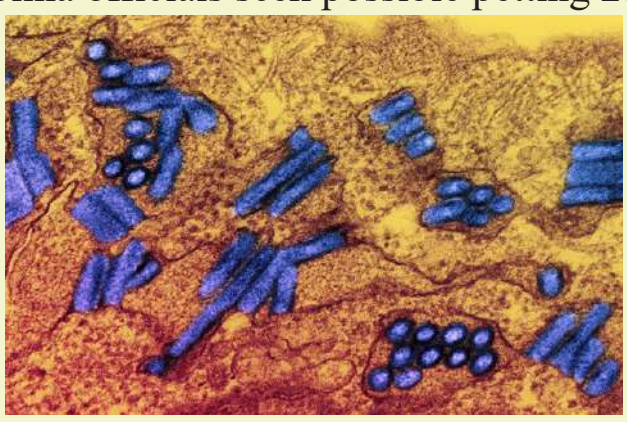


Photo: A mobile petting zoo's baby goats contracted rabies last month. Image Source: BSIP SA/Alamy Stock Photo

Officials said the goats were likely infected after a skunk entered their pen in late July. Three baby goats tested positive, and a fourth was presumed infected. Authorities said there is no broad public risk, but anyone who handled, bottle-fed or cuddled the goats should be evaluated. Mecklenburg County Health Director Kimberly Scott urged residents not to wait for symptoms before seeking guidance, noting that preventive treatment is most effective soon after exposure.

Federer Ready For Hall Of Fame Tears

Tennis legend reflects ahead of Newport induction

Henry Bob

Roger Federer said he is ready for an emotional moment as he enters the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island. Speaking to CNN Sports, Federer reflected on the tears that marked many key moments of his career, beginning with his 2001 Wimbledon victory over Pete Sampras. He said the upcoming ceremony could be especially moving because his parents, wife, four children and longtime team will be present. Federer won 20 Grand Slam titles and spent a record 237 consecutive weeks at No. 1, building one of the most admired careers in tennis history. Now retired, Federer said he is enjoying life at a slower pace as a father, philanthropist, investor and businessman, while remaining grateful for the game that shaped his life.



Photo: Federer cried after winning the Australian Open in 2018. Image Source: Saeed Khan/AFP/ Getty Images



Photo: Grand Theft Auto 6 follows the story of couple Lucia and Jason Image Source: Rockstar Games/BBC

Rockstar Reveals Extended GTA 6 Preview

Fans get detailed look at blockbuster sequel

Charles Lewis

Rockstar Games has released a 26-minute preview of Grand Theft Auto 6, giving fans a detailed look at the highly anticipated sequel after more than 18 months without major official footage.
The preview debuted on Netflix before appearing on YouTube and showcased improved graphics, cinematic environments, car chases, shoot-outs and the return of Vice City within Leonida, a fictional state inspired by Florida.
The footage focused on main characters Lucia Camino and Jason Duval, whose relationship drives the game’s story.
It also showed players switching between the two during missions.
Fans praised the lifelike visuals and expanded world, though Rockstar shared no new details about GTA 6 Online. The game is set to launch on Nov. 19.