



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**DAVID A. PATERSON**  
GOVERNOR

July 2-5, 2010

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to send greetings to everyone gathered for the *International Bangla Festival & Book Fair 2010*, presented by the Muktaadhara Foundation.

New York State is proud to be home to a magnificent array of ethnic communities – groups that infuse our cultural landscape with diversity and foster global awareness and understanding by sharing their unique values and traditions. The Bangladeshi-American community has long been a vital contributor to our State's social, cultural, and economic development, and the Muktaadhara Foundation has done much to promote the heritage, customs, and history of these most valuable members of our society.

Each year, the International Bangla Festival & Book Fair highlights the vibrancy of Bengali culture and literature and the common threads that unite Bangla speakers worldwide. Through a diverse offering of workshops, seminars, and presentations, this four-day event celebrates the vital presence of Bengali art and culture in New York and strengthens the fabric of our shared community here in the Empire State.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I commend all affiliated with the Muktaadhara Foundation for your long tradition of excellence and leadership – advancing interests of the community while building bridges of cultural understanding and enrichment with others across the state.

With warmest regards, and best wishes to all for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Paterson".

David A. Paterson