



**Professor Gowher Rizvi**  
Advisor for International Affairs  
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of the Honourable Prime Minister  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Bishawjit Saha  
Chief Coordinator  
International Bangla Festival & Book Fair 2010  
Muktadhara Foundation  
37-69 74<sup>th</sup> Street  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Dear Bishawjit Babu:

I write to congratulate the Muktadhara Foundation for yet again showcasing the Bangali Diaspora Literary Figures and Literature. The festival not only celebrates the enormously rich and long history of Bangla literature but it is also an occasion to salute and celebrate the martyrs of the Bangla language movement of 1952 who sacrificed their lives so that we could make our mother tongue also our national language in Bangladesh. Few have made such sacrifices for the preservation and protection of their mother language; to those we owe a deep gratitude.

I also want to celebrate the efforts of the Muktadhara Foundation to carry the message of Bangla to the whole world. The Bangali Diaspora is today truly global. Many of the most prominent Bangali writers, poets and singers are today part of that diaspora; and from their adopted homes in Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East are busily engaged in spreading the glory of the Bangla language. Through their efforts they have ensured that our language, literature, culture and music will forever remain an integral part of our existence no matter where we live or die. To them and to the Muktadhara Foundation I offer my salute, my gratitude and my deepest homage.

Rarely does one have such an opportunity and singular delight in being invited to a celebration as outstanding as your festival. Please accept my heartfelt thanks and congratulations—may this year's festival be as well attended and successful as those that have preceded it. I am looking forward with much anticipation the privilege of participation in the festival.

With warm regards and all best wishes,

*Gowher Rizvi*

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