CAROLYN B. MALONEY
14TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

2332 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3214 (202) 225-7944

COMMITTEES: FINANCIAL SERVICES

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE



## Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3214

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DISTRICT OFFICES:

1651 THIRD AVENUE SUITE 311

New York, NY 10128

(212) 860-0606

21-77 31ST STREET

ASTORIA, NY 11105

(718) 932-1804

WEBSITE: http://maloney.house.gov

Muktadhara Foundation 39-25 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 2E Woodside, NY 11377

To all the participants and supporters of the International Bangla Festival:

I am delighted to send my best wishes to the Muktadhara Foundation and the participants of the 21<sup>st</sup> International Bangla Festival & Book Fair! This event is an important tradition that keeps Bengali communities in North America culturally connected to those in Bangladesh through literature and artistic expression.

As you celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the International Bangla Festival, which has grown from the traditional book fairs that the Muktadhara Foundation has organized since 1992, I congratulate you on the wonderful exhibits, speakers and cultural exchanges you celebrate over the three days of the festival. It provides a wonderful opportunity for the more than 1,000 delegates who attend from New York and elsewhere in North America to enjoy cultural music and books and interact with prominent writers and artists from Bangladesh.

I offer my congratulations to the Muktadhara Foundation for its dedication to promoting cultural exchanges between Bengali communities around the world through this annual festival. To all the participants celebrating the International Bangla Festival & Book Fair, I salute you and wish you the best in the future!

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY

**Member of Congress** 

CBM/cp