



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 22, 2015

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to welcome everyone to the Muktaadhara Foundation's 24th International Bangla Festival and Book Fair.

As Bangla language and literature enthusiasts convene in Queens to kick off Muktaadhara Foundation's annual book fair and festivities, let us also take a moment to recognize the unmatched multiculturalism that makes our city so great. With residents who hail from every corner of the map and speak an estimated 200 languages, New York is a vibrant global hub. Events like today's festival demonstrate the many gifts of that diversity, including the way that it has defined our famed literary landscape. The vast contributions of South Asian authors, publishers and academics throughout the five boroughs have been vital to the evolution of our storied city, and I am delighted to commend Muktaadhara Foundation for the key role it plays in fostering pride and creativity.

On behalf of the City of New York, please accept my best wishes for a terrific event and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor