



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
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ALBANY, NY 12236

May 22, 2015

Bishawjit Saha, President
Muktadhara Foundation
39-25 65th Street, Suite 2E
Woodside, NY 11377



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this weekend for the 24th Annual International Bangla Festival & Book Fair hosted by the Muktadhara Foundation. Since 2006, when it was created as a nonprofit affiliate of Muktadhara, Inc., the Muktadhara Foundation has worked to support the advancement of the Bengali community in North America, to honor and share the rich Bangla linguistic and cultural legacy, and to foster a lively dialogue among the diverse members of the international Bangla-speaking community. The Foundation builds upon the pioneering efforts of Muktadhara, which has been sponsoring book fairs, cultural programs, film festivals and an art competition for young people since the 1990s.

Over the years, the Bangla Festival has become a popular and much-appreciated opportunity for immigrants from Bangladesh and from West Bengal, India, Americans of Bengali descent and their friends to come together in joyful celebration of the Bangla heritage, featuring seminars, workshops, music, an outstanding book display and much more. Each year, the Muktadhara Foundation publishes its journal, the *Abhibhashi Bengali Magazine*, in honor of the occasion and distributes it free of charge in Bangladesh as well as in North America. The Festival encourages networking and the development of sustaining ties within the community, while also giving voice to Bangla pride and helping members of the next generation fully appreciate their ancestral home. The dedicated officers, board and supporters of the Muktadhara Foundation are honoring cherished traditions and making New York a more vibrant and harmonious place to live.

Best wishes for a memorable meeting and continued success.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller