



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

May 20, 2016

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



Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this weekend for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Bangla Festival & Book Fair hosted by the Muktadhara Foundation. Since 1991, the Muktadhara Foundation has been devoted to celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh and West Bengal, India, promoting Bangla literature and culture in the United States and encouraging awareness and appreciation of this legacy within the next generation.

The Bangla Festival, which grew out of a traditional book fair held in New York City in 1992, has become the largest assembly of Bangla language and literature enthusiasts outside of South Asia. Featuring seminars, workshops, musical presentations and traditional handicrafts as well as book displays, the Festival attracts thousands of visitors from the United States, Canada and Europe, including prominent artists and senior officials from India and Bangladesh. In addition to hosting the Bangla Festival, the Muktadhara Foundation works with the United Nations to promote International Mother Language Day, donates Bangla books to libraries across America, sponsors cultural programs and film festivals, and organizes artistic competitions for children. The dedicated officers, board and supporters of the Muktadhara Foundation are honoring cherished traditions, and nourishing the dynamism and vitality of our multicultural society.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. DiNapoli  
State Comptroller