

## 2015-J5139

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 16-22, 2016, as International Bangla Festival and Book Fair Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthen the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of this great Empire State are proud to recognize and commemorate International Bangla Festival and Book Fair Week, an observance that celebrates the contributions of Bengali-Americans to New York State's unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 16-22, 2016, as International Bangla Festival and Book Fair Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The objective of the International Bangla Festival and Book Fair Week is to celebrate the cultural heritage of expatriate Bangladeshi and West Bengali communities, building a link between these communities and the land where they or their ancestors were born; and

WHEREAS, Since 1992, the Muktaadhara Foundation, an organization dedicated to the promotion of Bangla literature and culture, has organized the International Bangla Festival and Book Fair, the largest gathering of Bangla language and literature enthusiasts outside of the Indian Subcontinent; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating its 25th year, the Festival will bring together more than 10,000 attendees from New York and across the United States to enjoy music and books with leading writers and artists; and

WHEREAS, The Festival will include seminars, workshops, musical pres-

entations, and booths displaying books, music and handcrafts; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 16-22, 2016, as International Bangla Festival and Book Fair Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; Roquia Haider, Convener of the International Bangla Festival and Book Fair; and Bishawjit Saha, President of the Muktadhara Foundation.