

BY: Senator LIU

OBSERVING the week of September 6-13, 2020, as Bangabandhu New York Book Fair Week, in recognition of the promotion of Bangla language and literature

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, this year renamed the Bangabandhu New York Book Fair Week, an observance which celebrates the contributions of Bengali-Americans to New York State's unique heritage; Bangabandhu is a term, when translated means Friend of Bengal (or Bangla); and

WHEREAS, Since 1992, the Muktaadhara Foundation, an organization dedicated to the promotion of Bangla, also known as Bengali, 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, The Festival brings together more than 1,000 delegates from different states as well as other countries, and 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, Journalists, industrialists, bankers and IT specialists will participate in the 29th International Bangla Festival; in addition to seminars, workshops and musical presentations, the festival will include stalls displaying books, real estate, music and handicrafts; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when events 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 observe the week of September 6-13, 2020, as Bangabandhu New York Book Fair Week, in recognition of the promotion of Bangla language and literature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Convener, Bangabandhu New York Book Fair 2020, and Bishawjit Saha, Founder and CEO, Muktaadhara Foundation.