

**BY:** Senator STAVISKY

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 25, 2020, as Bangladeshi Immigrant Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; 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 September 25, 2020, as Bangladeshi Immigrant Day in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Bangladeshi immigrants began arriving in the United States in the late 19th Century, leaving behind the hard economic and political times of the still developing Bangladesh, which achieved independence from Pakistan in 1971; and

**WHEREAS,** During this time, the largest groups of Bangladeshi immigrants arrived in New York City, where many worked at the ports on various ship docks; and

**WHEREAS,** Hailing mostly from the regions of Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and Noakhali, more than 10,000 Bangladeshis immigrate to the United States annually; and

**WHEREAS,** As of 2014, the total number of Bangladeshi immigrants in the United States was approximately 500,000, with more than half residing in New York; and

**WHEREAS,** On September 25, 1974, for the first time in its history, the father of the nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibir Rahman, gave a speech in Bengali in the general assembly of the United Nations; and

**WHEREAS,** For two decades, the Muktadhara Foundation, a New York based organization dedicated to the promotion of Bengali culture, has celebrated its history and literature by hosting the Bangla Festival and Book Fair; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York recognizes the accomplishments of the Bengali people around the world as well as their perseverance in their fight for independence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim September 25, 2020, as Bangladeshi Immigrant Day in the State of New York, and to recognize the many contributions of Bangladeshi-Americans to New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and Bishawjit Saha, CEO and Founder of the Muktadhara Foundation Inc.