Terrorism is a serious threat to security. Terrorist threats transcend national and regional dimensions. Indeed, terrorism represents a global threat of unprecedented nature. It is a threat to peaceful political order. It is a threat to trade and economic security. It is a threat to humanity.

2. There are some major obstacles to the global war on terror. One can start with the intractable problem of definition. Who is a terrorist? What acts can be called acts of terrorism? The global community is sharply divided over this issue. Next to definition is the problem of threat perception. Those who see terrorism through the prism of religion end up with a convoluted perception of terror. Those who perpetrate terrorism in the name of religion defile and defame their own religion. Terror has no religion. Terror is an act of criminality and must be dealt with as such.

3. The second most serious obstacle is the blatant politicization of the issue of terrorism. War on terror is vitiated by political expediency, exclusivity and
Calling the global war on terror a "Crusade" obviously makes it an exclusive and narrow political agenda, leaving out more than one billion Muslims from the global coalition for war on terror. "Islamic fascism" is yet another term which makes a very negative impact on the global alliance against terrorism. Short-sighted politicization tends to indiscriminately cluster together nationalists, freedom fighters, resistance movements and out-and-out terrorists. In such a scenario, global credibility and support for war on terror wane and wither. Those who claim to lead the global war on terror, consequently weaken the alliance against terrorism. The alliance against terror has to be more inclusive and more objective. The global war on terror will thus be more dedicated, determined and decisive.

4. At the national level, the resolute national war against terror stands badly politicized and polarized, thus fragmented and fractious. Some disoriented Muslims outside the pale of democratic process suffer from the delusion that they can gain control of state power through terror and violence. Bangladeshis are resolutely against violence and terrorism. However, some political elements, obviously for narrow political gains, malign political opponents as the tacit patrons, supporters and even sponsors of terror. National war against terror thus becomes weakened. Credibility of the rule of law and the law enforcers suffers in the wake of crass political denigration of the national war against terror.

5. Bangladesh's war against terrorism suffers from many other national, regional and global factors. Bangladeshi criminals, smugglers, corrupt officials and some unpatriotic politicians, in alliance with similar elements
from across the borders, work hand in hand with the terrorists operating on both sides of the borders. Absence of institutional framework for cross-border official-level cooperation in war against terrorism is a major handicap in combating terrorism. The SAARC Convention on Terrorism needs to be translated into practical cooperation between the member states for effective war against terror in the region.

6. There is no evidence of any operational linkage between the terrorists in Bangladesh and the international terrorist organisations. At least so far no link has been found either by national agencies or by friendly international agencies, despite desperate efforts by some national and regional elements to portray Bangladesh as a hub of international terror. Bangladeshi law enforcing agencies are closely working with major international agencies in dealing with terrorists of all description, either national or international.

7. The politics of accusations and counter-accusations at the national and regional levels is, in fact, encouraging terrorists to operate in the misty domain of suspicion, non-cooperation and political imbroglio. It is very important for all responsible and mainstream political forces to close ranks in the national fight against terrorism. Bangladesh perspective on war against terror will then be better represented and better understood at home and abroad.

8. Our fledgling democracy provides a resilient institutional framework in our national war against terror. It is for all of us to support, sustain and sublimate our precious democratic process. The frivolous tendency to pull out now and then the roots, to allay suspicions whether the tender sapling of democracy is growing healthily, needs to
be overcome. The firmer the basis of democracy in our polity, the stronger will be our national efforts to deal with the menace of terrorism. It is important to make our democracy more inclusive. The more we are able to integrate the various competing political forces in the national stream of constitutional politics and democratic process, the more will we have national unity, solidarity and strength in our collective fight against terrorism.

9. Good governance and reduction of corruption will be significant factors in our fight against terrorism. Corrupt officials and corrupt politicians tend to condone and even connive with criminals and terrorists. Both the party in government and the constitutional opposition bear responsibility for good governance and reduction of corruption. The National Parliament should be made the main platform for national dialogue, cooperation and efforts for combating terrorism. We are still short of this goal. One can only hope that the political wisdom of our leaders will help to forge national unity for good governance and reduction of corruption so that our nation could face the threat of terrorism with better resolve and higher resilience.

10. By its very nature, the war on terror has to be composite, complex and comprehensive. Defining this global war in terms of only military power and narrow national agenda will be short-sighted and ineffectual. The world at large needs to be taken on board. This complex and complicated menace has to be confronted with a broad range of composite measures including economic, political, military, ideological and socio-cultural campaign. Together, the global community can fight this global war. This war is winnable.