

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR : BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE

Edited by

**Mufleh R Osmany
Mohammad Humayun Kabir**

This book addresses some fundamental issues and problems relating to the U.S.-led global war on terror, offering a fresh perspective on the menace from a Muslim majority country. The focus of this volume is on explaining and assessing the nature and sources of terrorist threat in Bangladesh. The contributors raise and discuss various policy options for Bangladesh in dealing with the problems of terrorism, including forging close cooperation with the developed Western countries. This collection of papers offers some insights into Bangladesh's fight against terrorism and presents an important contribution to the discourse in Bangladesh and beyond on terrorism, in general, and on the global war on terror, in particular. This book should figure high on the reading list of those interested in the issues of terrorism in Bangladesh and in the larger context of South Asia.

See back flap

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A former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Ambassador Mufleh R. Osmany is currently Chairman of the Board of Governors, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Dhaka. He served as Bangladesh's Ambassador and High Commissioner in several countries of North America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East. He was Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UN Offices in Geneva & Vienna. He participated in several UN sponsored summits, SAARC summit, NAM summit, Commonwealth summits, OIC summits as well as in a number of UN General Assembly meetings and many more international conferences. Ambassador Osmany was Professor, Dr. Rashid Chair at Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka, and Chairman, Rupali Bank. A columnist and author, he is associated in voluntary social work with a number of social welfare organizations. Two of his latest co-edited books are: *Security in the Twenty First Century: A Bangladesh Perspective* (2003) and *Religious Militancy and Security in South Asia* (2006). Ambassador Osmany's e-mail address is: chairman@biiss.org

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Preface

The contemporary wave of terrorism presents a serious threat to peace and security. Terrorism slows down the pace of development and presents a grave threat to social progress. All people in Bangladesh, South Asia and around the world feel equally threatened by the spectre of terrorism. Ever since the 9/11 tragedy people all over the world have been struggling to understand and combat terrorism in all its forms. Most of the terrorists of this generation are exploiting the name of Islam to justify their criminal assault on peace and security.

Notwithstanding the conceptual problems in defining terrorism for academic and legal purpose, it is not difficult either to identity a terrorist or to understand the nefarious act of terrorism. Bangladesh has joined the world in the global war on terrorism. In the context of UN and SAARC Bangladesh has deep obligations to carry on with this war on terrorism. As a friend of the USA, Bangladesh is very much a part of the US-led war on terror.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised a one-day national seminar in Dhaka on "Global War on Terror: Bangladesh Perspective". This seminar aimed at understanding the nature and magnitude of the problem confronting Bangladesh today. The policy response of the Government also came under discussion. The seminar attracted a wide participation by civil society members and received a good coverage by the print and electronic media.

The participants from the government side included the Foreign Minister and the Advisor for Foreign Affairs. Eminent scholars and security experts presented well-researched papers.

It was highlighted that certain international quarters were working overtime to paint Bangladesh as a hub of terrorism,

while Bangladesh has always been most active in combating terrorism with the cooperation and support of the United States and other Western friends. Some of the facts highlighted in the papers that were presented at the seminar clearly establish the fact of media-war being waged against Bangladesh - a Muslim majority country.

This anthology brings together the keynote presentation, four research papers and the proceedings of the seminar as marginally edited.

We offer our sincere thanks to those who made this seminar possible through their active participation and support. The views expressed in this book are those of the respective authors. As a matter of policy, BIISS does not take any position on views expressed by participants and authors.

Dhaka: September 2007

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