

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
(mszk786@gmail.com)  
Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
**Islamabad Office:** Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.  
**Karachi office:** Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
**Lahore Office:** 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
**Email:** spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com  
**Whatsapp:** 0346-5008408

## Diplomats discuss int'l public procurement, business expansion at Beijing Forum

The Global Procurement and Enterprise Overseas Expansion Forum, held in Beijing, focused on critical issues including international public procurement, global business expansion, and talent development.

The forum brought together key diplomats, ministers, and commercial counselors from 12 countries, to explore collaborative opportunities and address pressing challenges in these areas, China Economic Net reported.

Babagana Wakil, the Nigerian Ambassador to China, stressed the close and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Africa.

“As one of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria holds immense development potential,” he said. “To harness this potential, it’s essential to leverage the platform provided by the China Association for Promoting UN Procurement to foster collaboration of stakeholders.”

Grasiano Nyaguse, Economic Counselor of the Zimbabwean Embassy in China, said Zimbabwe was no stranger to Chinese companies. “China is our largest trading partner and investor, particularly in mining, manufacturing, transportation, infrastructure, and agriculture. I invite Chinese companies to invest in our country.”

Elsie Maseke, Charge d’Affaires of the Namibian Embassy in China, highlighted Namibia’s rich natural resources and its commitment to sustainable development and green energy. “Namibia is an ideal partner for investments in renewable energy, especially solar power. I warmly invite Chinese companies to explore investment opportunities in Namibia.”

Sabita Nakarmi, Counselor of the Nepalese Embassy in China, said trade between Nepal and China had been progressing well. Events like the CFTIS and the China International Fair for Investment and Trade had facilitated Nepalese businesses to expand their businesses in China and around the globe, he added.

Tricia Bethel, First Secretary of the Grenada Embassy in China, said Grenada was renowned for its scenic beauty and rich culture, and was becoming an important investment destination. “We invite you to explore industries such as tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy in Grenada,” she added.

Hugo Siles, Ambassador of Bolivia to China, highlighted that China had welcomed Bolivian agricultural products, including coffee, quinoa, soybeans, and beef.

She said, “The Bolivian government fully supports Chinese companies and investors. We sincerely invite you to learn about Bolivia and look for business opportunities.”

The conference launched the “Enterprise Overseas Expansion Plan”, which intends to provide one-stop, full-process services for enterprises to go overseas and participate in global cooperation through international resource sharing, overseas brand building and talent training.

# Challenges in Transitioning from ATMIS to a New Peace Support Mission: The Ethiopian Perspectives

The changing patterns of contemporary Horn of Africa politics cannot be understood without knowing Addis Ababa’s unwavering commitment to peace and stability in the region. The Ethiopian government’s determination to ensure peace and stability in East Africa has convinced leading Addis Ababa-based state authorities to play a valuable role in introducing and supporting various peacekeeping efforts and the inter-state level proposal for conflict resolutions. This support mainly focused on the emerging interconnectedness of regional and international efforts to address the question of violent non-state actors in the Horn of Africa. The presence of Al-Shabaab and Daesh violent non-state actors and clandestine terrorist entities in Somalia causes great danger to Horn of Africa states particularly peacekeeping contributing countries. The widespread terrorist activities of the Al-Shabaab group have been internationally considered a serious threat to the entire East African regional security, and the Somalia-based origin of this non-state element dragged the attention of the entire region towards Somalia. The cross-border terrorist activities of this Somali-based extremist group have challenged the legitimate state structure of the country parallel to expanding its activities to the territorially adjoining nations. The covertly designed violent activities of this non-state actor have jeopardized the position of East African nations in their home region by disturbing everyday life, increasing the number of displaced people, and preventing the chances of foreign investment and economic development. Thus, the transnational violent activities of Al-Shabaab mainly target the countries

supporting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) and the states advocating the operations of peacekeeping forces in the Horn of Africa.

The PSC’s decision to convert AMISON into ATMIS originated from its 1068th meeting of PSC, and highlighted the issue of peace and stability in the region generally, and the Somali Peninsula specifically. Addis Ababa’s vision for launching direct and indirect military campaigns against terrorist outfits in Somalia was inherited with the objective of preventing the presence of Al-Shabaab significantly beyond Somalia’s territorial jurisdictions. For the

in the Horn of Africa that advance regional integration through policy harmonization and mutual benefits and respect. To this end, Ethiopia’s peace and stability cannot alienated from the peace and security of its neighbors. Hence, Ethiopia will not tolerate any external forces that tried to destabilize and create hostile environment and erode the trust between or among the region that has a ramification on the success gained on the terrorist entities.

In this perspectives, Ethiopia communicated to the regional and international communities the serious concerns of Addis Ababa regarding the transition of ATMIS into a new peace-supporting mission with the support of the United Nations and the African Union. The statement recalled the sacrifices of Ethiopian defence forces in preventing the overwhelming role of non-state violent entities in Somalia and rationalizing Addis Ababa’s mission for ensuring peace and security in the region. Several international and regional reports and various formal government statements from different countries have acknowledged the critical role of Addis Ababa in the support of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) in the Somali Peninsula in fighting against the anti-peace elements. So, it can be maintained that the Ethiopian role must be connected to the greater multilateral efforts for installing durable peace and sustainable development in Somalia. The contribution of Addis Ababa to the greater cause of peace will enable the region to benefit from the Ethiopian vision of development in which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmad has

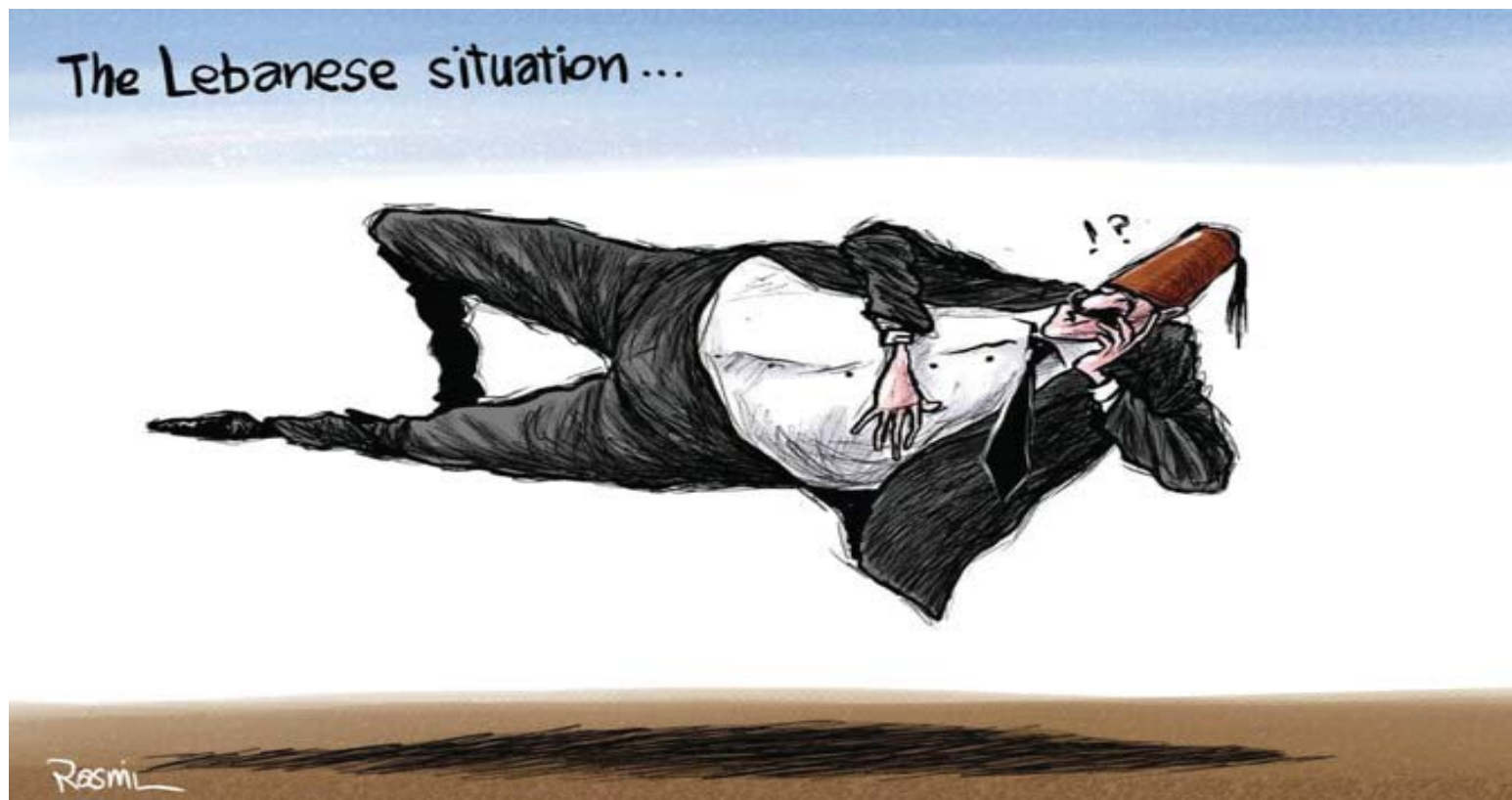
already introduced its energy diplomacy with the completion of a mega hydropower project and coupled with infrastructure connectivity, and port diversification that enhance regional integration and collective prosperity.

Given the serious threat of cross-border terrorism, it is crucial for the countries committed to maintaining peace in the Horn of Africa to develop and enhance their existing counterterror measures. The formal decision-makers of Ethiopia advocate for more comprehensive and coordinated regional counterterror approaches, with the support of the international community, to establish East Africa as a prominent terror-free area. Ethiopia’s significant contribution to multilevel counter-radicalization efforts has earned the nation high ranks and demonstrated its deep commitment to keeping the Horn of Africa safe from the threats of non-state actors. A comprehensive overview of Ethiopian foreign relations suggests that the country has become a hub of regional counterterror campaigns, and the formulation of new or upgraded anti-terror alliances can only be effective with the active involvement of Ethiopia. Ethiopia’s active participation in the Somalia-centric counterterror efforts could enable the participating countries to achieve the desired objectives from their multilateral anti-terror collaboration. In the light of these, leaders of the region should unite their policies, resources, capacities, and actions to fight and eliminate the terrorist groups from Somalia peninsula and ensure peace and stability in the region.

*Writer is Special Envoy, and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia to Pakistan*

Analysis

Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

## A Day of Reflection Peace: 12 Rabiul Awal Inspires Individual Lives

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) the founder of Islam is consider one of the most influential figures in history. His (P. B. U. H) teaching have a profound impact on the world and have shaped the way millions of people live their lives. One of the key teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) is the importance promoting peace and harmony in the society.

Throughout his life, Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) preached a message of peace, tolerance and understanding. He taught his followers to treat each other with kindness, compassion and respect regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) emphasized the importance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means and encouraged his followers to work towards creating a peaceful society.

Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) emphasis on peace and harmony seen in many aspects of his life. HE known for his compassion towards others, HE often went out of his way to help those in needs. Prophet (S. A. W) encouraged his followers to practice forgiveness and to treat others with kindness and respect, even in the face of adversity. One of the most famous examples of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) commitment to peace and harmony is the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah.

In 628 CE, Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) signed a peace treaty with Quraysh tribe ending years of conflict between the two groups.

The birth of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H) is a significant day in Islamic history as it signifies the beginning of a new era of guidance and enlighten for humanity. Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) chosen by ALLAH (S. B. T) to convey HIS message to humanity and to set examples of moral conduct and compassion for people to follow. On the 12th day of Rabiul Awal, Muslims around the world commemorate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, (PEACE BE UPON HIM). This day holds special significance in Islamic history as it marks the arrival of a figure who would profoundly inspiration the lives of millions of people.

On this auspicious day, Muslims gather to recite prayers, offer special prayers and reflect on the teaching of the Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H). It is a time of ALLAH Blessings as Muslims remember the life and teaching of their beloved Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) and seek to emulate his examples in their own life. For believers, 12 Rabiul Awal is not just a day of celebration, but also a day of reflection and self-examination.

The life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) serve as an inspiration for individuals to lead lives of peace, compassion, and righteousness. His example of humility, kindness, and tolerance continues to guide Muslims in their daily lives, reminding them of the importance

of embodying these qualities in their interactions with others. 12th Rabiul Awal offers an opportunity for individuals to reflect on how they can follow the Prophet’s noble characteristics and strive to be better versions of themselves.

One of the key lessons that collected from the Prophet’s life is the importance of promoting peace and harmony in society. In a world widespread with conflict and dissonance, the message of peace that the Prophet preached is more relevant than ever. By following his example of forgiveness, empathy, and understanding, individuals can contribute to creating a more peaceful and inclusive world. Moreover, the day of 12 Rabiul Awal encourages individuals to reflect on their spiritual journey and relationship with the Divine.

The Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) known for his deep faith, devotion, and connection to ALLAH and his example inspires believers to strengthen their own spiritual practices and seek closeness to ALLAH Almighty. 12 Rabiul Awal is a day that offers a chance for individuals to pause, reflect, and recommit themselves to living lives of peace and goodness. Muslims drawing inspiration from the Prophet Muhammad (S. A. W) teachings and example, people can strive to make positive changes in their own lives and contribute to a more harmonious and compassionate society.

*Writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) in International Islamic University, Islamabad*

## The High-Stakes Push for Constitutional Amendments - I

Why was the government so desperate to push through half-baked, poorly conceived constitutional amendments, cloaked in mystery and secrecy, despite knowing that constitutional amendments are akin to rewriting the social contract? Such amendments should have evolved from a well-thought-out process, starting in schools and universities,

However, in a strange and unconventional manner, these amendments—still shrouded in secrecy—were pushed forward aggressively. Members of parliament were gathered like herds of goats and cattle, treated as mere numbers rather than representatives. Most members knew little to nothing about the content of the amendments but were still prepared to cast their votes in favor.

The haste and urgency behind these amendments must have been driven by some compelling reasons, possibly a matter of life and death for the proposers and seconders—far more significant than the image of the country, the economy, or the will and consent of the 250 million people of the nation. This urgency, along with bypassing the conventional legislative process, suggests several potential motives for the government.

The amendments could be aimed at centralizing power, weakening opposition forces, or ensuring control over key institutions such as the judiciary and the Election Commission. This might involve creating legal frameworks that legitimize the extension of executive authority, increased military involvement in civilian affairs, or altering election rules to secure favorable outcomes.

In one scenario, the government could assume powers

to appoint the Chief Justices of the Supreme Court and High Courts, reduce their tenure to three years, hold them accountable for their performance, and write their annual confidential reports. Additionally, the government could gain authority to transfer and post superior court judges. Such amendments would effectively end judicial independence, placing judges under the complete control of the government and reducing them to political tools, much like civil servants who have been turned into pawns of the government and establishment.

The government may have felt threatened by the Supreme Court’s decision to restore PTI and allow independent candidates to join the party, which would potentially undo efforts to marginalize PTI. This verdict could have shifted the balance of power back in favor of PTI, threatening the political dominance of the ruling coalition. The amendments could have aimed at preventing the PTI from regaining its full political strength leading to reconfiguring the Election 2024 results on the basis of form 45 or holding new elections which could have catapulted the PTI as a major political player. Only this aspect was tied to political survival of the ruling elite.

The amendments could have sought to provide constitutional cover to the composition of election tribunals, which now include retired judges or individuals such as lawyers, who could be appointed as tribunal judges. This could empower the government to apply the Election Act 2024 retrospectively, allowing it to be implemented for Election 2024. As a result, the election tribunals, which were constitutionally mandated to finalize complaints within six months of the election date, would only begin functioning eight months after the election, violating the constitutional timeline. These tribunals would now operate under retired judges or lawyers handpicked by the government, who may endorse election results based on Form 47, which is a derivative of Form 45, making it more difficult to challenge the results, particularly for opposition parties like PTI.

*To be continued*