

17 September Express Tribune Editorials

2024

Editorial (1): Whither Amendment

A much-hyped constitutional amendment, which was set to rewrite the terms of judicial engagement, could not **see the light of the day** apparently **owing** **واجب الادا** to a lack of desired strength on the floor of the house. The mysterious draft remained shrouded in **secrecy** **رازداری** till both the houses were **prorogued**, **ملتوی** after a high-drama of being in session till the wee hours of Monday. It is for the first time that even members of the ruling **clique** **گروه** did not know of the specifics of the bill, conveying a weird impression that extra-parliamentary forces are pulling the strings. It was **irritating** **پریشان کن** for both the treasury and the opposition to keep their fingers crossed in the absence of a formal draft, and the governmental persuasion to win over the JUI-F and BNP-Mengal **rested on** assumptions of the proposed legislation.

See the light of the day: Idiom; To be made public or come into existence.

Rested On: Phrasal verb; Depended on or was based on.

While the government is still hopeful to go ahead with the stunt it had created of its own, critics see little potential in it. The JUI-F thoroughly remained in the spotlight as it **maneuvered** **چال چلی** its demands to the core and refused to give in for reasons best known to it. The PTI too **put up a good show** of defiance but was seen **wandering in the dark** as many of its legislators went **astray** **گمراه** and were not in the roll call. Last but not least, what **pricked the balloon** of amendment was a **castigation** **تنبيه** from the Supreme Court directing the Election Commission to notify the so-called 'Independent' MNAs as PTI members in the lower house. That fizzled out the momentum of floor-crossing. Moreover, the fact that such an overrated set of amendments did not go through the house committees, nor was it presented before the cabinet for approval made it an utterly disgraced show for the PML-N, which was steering the initiative. The proposed amendment has dented the parliamentary credentials of the ruling coalition, and exposed their alleged intentions of **clipping** **تراشنا** the feathers of the judiciary. Likewise, the **thrust** **زور** to route the appointment of superior judiciary through the legislature and executive would be seen as conflict of interest, along with undesired extension in service tenure of the sitting chief justice.

Put up a good show: Phrase; To present or display a strong effort or performance.

Wandering in the dark: Idiom; Being confused or uncertain about the situation or direction.

Pricked the balloon: Idiom; Caused a deflation of excitement or progress, usually by introducing a problem or criticism.

Editorial (2): HIV Alarm

Pakistan is **grappling with** an alarming escalation in HIV cases. The country is experiencing the second fastest rate of HIV increase in the Asia-Pacific region, largely due to the spread of the virus from key populations to the general population through sexual networks. The epidemic is primarily affecting key populations such as people who inject drugs (PWID), male and female sex workers and transgender individuals. HIV is spread through specific bodily fluids and gradually weakens the immune system,

reducing the body's ability to fight infections. Without treatment, it can advance to AIDS, a stage where the immune system is **severely** سختی سے compromised, making even minor illnesses potentially life-threatening. Recent reports highlight the severity of our fight against this public health crisis, especially in the light of global advancements in managing and reducing HIV transmission. A small percentage of those **diagnosed** تشخیص are receiving the essential antiretroviral therapy, leaving the majority vulnerable to further spread of the virus.

Grappling with: Phrasal Verb; **Struggling to deal with or overcome a challenging situation.**

Another significant factor in the spread of the disease is the extensive use of **contaminated** آلودہ medical equipment by healthcare providers. In Pakistan, there is a dire need to change society's attitude towards the disease. People often avoid getting tested for HIV because of the stigma associated with the disease, which can **lead to** judgment from relatives and even healthcare professionals. It is essential to understand that the battle against HIV involves more than just the health sector. Addressing the HIV issue requires a societal shift to challenge **misconceptions**, غلط فہمیاں fight discrimination and create a supportive environment. Essential components include mental health support, strict infection control in healthcare settings and inclusive policies for marginalised communities. India, with a population base of over a billion, has largely been successfully combating the epidemic over the past two decades. There is no reason why authorities in Pakistan cannot do so either.

Lead To: Phrasal verb; **To cause or result in something.**

Editorial (3): Hockey Humiliation

Pakistan hockey, once a global powerhouse that competed with the best teams in the world, now finds itself humbled on the regional stage. In what can only be described as a **humiliating** ذلت آمیز defeat, Pakistan fell in the semi-final of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy. China, a team with far less history and experience in the sport, **knocked** Pakistan **out** of the tournament in a dramatic penalty shootout. For a country that once **dominated** غلبہ the world stage, winning Olympic gold and World Cup titles, this loss to a relatively inexperienced Chinese side is a painful reminder of how far Pakistan hockey has fallen.

Knocked out: Phrasal verb; **To eliminate or defeat a team or individual from a competition.**

Gone are the days when Pakistan faced off against top-tier teams like Australia, the Netherlands and Germany with confidence and skill. Now, Pakistan is struggling to even maintain a foothold in Asia. Despite managing a 5-1 win over China earlier in the tournament, the national team could not capitalise on their opportunities when it **mattered** اہم most. Missing four consecutive penalties in the shootout, Pakistan handed China a 2-0 victory - a defeat that speaks volumes about the state of the game in the country. The signs of decline have been evident for years, from **lackluster** کمزور performances to administrative mismanagement. There has been a **glaring** چمکدار lack of investment in grassroots development. Young talent is no longer being nurtured, and the local clubs and schools that once fed into the national team have lost their focus. Moreover, administrative mismanagement has left the Pakistan Hockey Federation in disarray, with internal disputes and corruption **hampering** رکاوٹ the sport's growth.

Gone are the days: Idiom; Refers to a time in the past that no longer exists, usually with a sense of loss or nostalgia.

This is a **wake-up call** for Pakistan hockey, and a moment of **reckoning** حساب. If the team and the administration cannot **bounce back** from these repeated failures, the sport will continue to decline, and the humiliation will only deepen. The federation must urgently reassess its strategy, leadership and development of talent, or it risks permanently losing its once-proud position in the world of hockey.

Wake up call: Idiom; A warning or realization that something needs urgent attention or change.

Bounce back: Phrasal verb; To recover from a setback or failure.

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