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The seniority principle for the appointment of chief justice of Pakistan has been abolished, significantly undermining judicial independence. Before the 26th Amendment, the most senior supreme court judge was appointed as CJP. This principle was established after the Al Ishaq Trust case PID 1996. However, the Amendment introduced a special Parliamentary committee which selects the CJP among the three senior - most supreme court judges through a two-third majority vote. This committee is problematic because all of its members are politicians. It is constituted by eight members from the National Assembly and four members from the Senate. Moreover, seats are allocated to parties based on their strength in each house. This means the

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ruling party has more influence over the appointment of the CJP. This reform gives way to lobbying. Judges might not decide those cases impartially which are against the ruling party. Furthermore they will seek political favours so that they can be appointed as CJP. Therefore, the end to the seniority principle adversely affects the independence of judiciary.