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LG bill sails through KP Assembly

Nov 01: PESHAWAR- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Thursday passed the Local Government Bill, 2013 providing for establishment of village and neighborhood councils through non-party based polls, a move opposed by the opposition.

Of the total 127 clauses of the bill, the House unanimously passed 125 as reported by the select committee on the local government, while the opposition was against only two clauses, which were related to the village or neighborhood councils.

The opposition parties, including Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl, Awami National Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party, opposed the bill's



Clause 26 and Clause 27, which provide for the establishment, composition and election of village and neighborhood councils.

The opposition also rejected

the holding of election at village and neighborhood council level on non-party basis, fearing it would encourage horse trading.

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LG polls in Balochistan on December 7

Nov 01: ISLAMABAD- Announcing the conduct of local government elections in Balochistan on December 7 and releasing the related schedule, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has hinted at the holding of LG polls in the two big provinces not before the next year.

The commission is to move a civil miscellaneous application (CMA) in Supreme Court expectedly today (Friday) or Monday citing operational and logistical constraints that require not less than four months to hold LG polls in Punjab and Sindh, to seek time for the elections prepara-

tion. This implies the LG polls would not be held in the two provinces before March 2014.

Earlier, the commission was set to announce today the LG elections schedule for Sindh and that of Punjab on the coming Tuesday.

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Ex-PM, ex-adviser, ex-Ogra chief implicated in scam

Nov 05: ISLAMABAD-Islamabad- A former prime minister has been named as one of the 12 key accused in the Rs100 billion Ogra scam, paving the way for his arrest by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), The News has learnt.

The former PM, whose name is already on the Exit Control List (ECL) for his alleged involvement in the mega scam, has made it to the list of 12 accused whose

arrest warrants are being sought by the NAB team probing the Ogra case.

Sources told The News that the final investigation report of the NAB directly implicates the former PM, a former petroleum adviser, a former Ogra chairman, member Board of SSGCL and SNGPL, a former MD SNGPL, an energy tycoon and others in the multi-billion corruption scam. Sources said the bureau had recommended arrest of



all these persons.

Sources added that the NAB was unable to finalise the investigation on some aspects of the Ogra scam due to scarcity of time.

ECP announces LG polls schedule for Punjab, Sindh



Nov 06: ISLAMABAD- The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday announced that local government elections

in Punjab province will be held on Dec 7, while voting would be held on Nov 27 in Sindh.

According to the schedule issued by the commission, nomination papers would be received on Nov 11 and 12. Objections against nomination papers will be allowed to be filed until the end of day on Nov 13, while the process of scrutiny would

commence from Nov 16 and end on Nov 18.

Appeals against objections to nomination papers would be filed on the 19th and 20th of this month and these would be disposed of by Nov 23.

Nominations paper can be withdrawn by Nov 24, according to the schedule announced by the ECP.

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Ombudsperson disposes of plea against PU VC

Nov 06: LAHORE- The Punjab ombudsperson on Tuesday disposed of on technical grounds a complaint lodged by Punjab University Law College lecturer Khujista Rehan against Vice-Chancellor Dr Mujahid Kamran on allegations of sexual harassment.

Ms Rehan had invoked the jurisdiction of the ombudsperson under the Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (Amendment) Act 2012. Ombudsperson Prof Dr Mira Phailbus stated in her order that the allegations of sexual harassment levelled

by the complainant pertained to the period before the enforcement of the relevant law.

The ombudsperson stated that the alleged acts of sexual harassment by the VC might be taken up under the relevant laws...

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After months of foot-dragging, the treasury members began electing heads of the National Assembly's standing committees.

PM to decide new COAS on Nov 28: Pervaiz

Nov 09: ISLAMABAD- Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Pervaiz Rashid on Friday said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would make a decision on the appointment of the new Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) on November 28.

“The appointment of the new army chief is the prerogative of the prime minister according to the Constitution and he will announce the name on the 28th of this month,” he added. He was of the opinion that the govern-

ment did not want to disturb the authority of the current COAS in the prevailing circumstances and the decision in this regard would be announced at a proper time.

The minister said this at a function organised by the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) here at the press gallery of the Parliament House. The minister said there was no deadlock on the local bodies elections in the Punjab and the government would abide by the court’s decision. He said that

the drone attacks could not cause damage to the dialogue process with the Taliban.

“The talks were between the government and Taliban and a third party could not damage the process by conducting an attack,” Pervaiz Rashid said. The Taliban also had a dialogue process with the United States in Qatar. “The Taliban never put a condition of halting the drone attacks prior to the dialogue process,” he said.

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PTI expels QWP from KPK coalition over ‘corruption’

Nov 14: PESHAWAR- The PTI-led Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government Wednesday ended its coalition with the QWP after Chief Minister Pervez Khattak suspended two provincial ministers from the junior partner for alleged involvement in corrupt practices and poor performance.

The ouster of Malik Ibrar Hus-

sain Khan and Bakht Bedar was followed by a strong-worded advisory by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan to CM Khattak to end partnership with Aftab Sherpao’s Qaumi Watan Party (QWP). The chief minister also removed another minister – Yousaf Ayub – from his own PTI after he was disqualified by the Supreme Court

in fake degree case the same day.

In a tweet, Imran said he had “asked KP CM to pull out of coalition with QWP”.

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PM to ensure merit in youth loan scheme

Nov 22: ISLAMABAD- Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Thursday directed to ensure 100% transparency and merit at the administrative level in the PM’s Business Loan Scheme being launched on December 2, 2013. Any complaints in connection with the transparency of the Loan Scheme will be entertained on a toll free

number 0800-77000. While chairing a high-level meeting on the Prime Minister’s Business Loan Scheme at the PMs House, Nawaz Sharif was thoroughly briefed on the various phases, details, Banks’ processes, training of the Banks’ employees, training of loan applicants etc. “The scheme is an excellent opportunity for the youth of the

country to change their destinies for the better,” he observed. Under the Prime Minister’s Business Loan Scheme, 50% loans have been allocated for women, especially the educated ones, and 5% quota has been reserved for widows, families of the Shaheeds and disabled.

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