

# Democracy Vibes

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## IMF happy economy is on track

**Feb 04, 2014 - ISLAMABAD:** The IMF has said that the government was fully committed to the reforms agenda and the economy was now on track.

The IMF mission chief, Jeffery Franks, appreciated the efforts of the government and said that the macro-economic situation of Pakistan was favorable. The IMF believes that the Government of Pakistan was fully committed to the reforms agenda, he added.

Jeffery Franks appreciated the efforts of revenue collection by the FBR and also the other economic indica-

tors of Pakistan's economy, which suggests that the economy is on the track and its outlook is positive.

The Federal Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs, Revenue and Statistics, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, while chairing a meeting with the IMF delegates in Dubai, which was among others attended by senior officials of Ministry of Finance and State Bank of Pakistan, gave a detailed economic review of Pakistan's economy.

The finance minister said the government was following the Economic Reform



Agenda and nearly all the economic indicators were on track. The first quarterly results of the economic growth in Pakistan indicate that GDP had shown a growth of 5.0 percent in the first quarter as compared to 2.9 percent of the same period last year, he added.

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## Judiciary to continue striking balance

**Feb 04, 2014- ISLAMABAD:** Chief Justice (CJ) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani on Monday said the courts would continue exercising the power of judicial review whenever there is a transgression of authority by the executive or the legislature.

Addressing a dinner hosted in his honour by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at a local hotel, the chief justice said only an independent and sensitive judiciary can oversee the exercise of power by state institutions and thereby protect and preserve the rights guaranteed in the Constitu-

tion.

He said the Constitution has defined role and power of every organ of the state, and no organ can transgress limits of the other and has to work within its jurisdictional domain. [Read...](#)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Contentious clauses: PPO runs into wall of 'Opposition' in Senate 2
- Failure to conduct LB polls violation of Constitution: SC 2
- Bills for mobile courts drawing little attention 2
- Senate calls for protecting rights of women, minorities in talks 3
- A potential bomb-shell Tax Directory to be out today 3
- Govt gives lion's share of posts to old DMG, CSP groups 3

## Contentious clauses: PPO runs into wall of 'Opposition' in Senate

**Feb 05, 2014- ISLAMABAD:** Already facing resistance in the National Assembly, Protection of Pakistan Ordinance (PPO), with its contentious clauses, has dwindling chances of approval in the Opposition-dominated Senate.

When the ordinance was presented before the Senate on Tuesday, opposition parties in the Upper House made it clear that they would not let it pass, unless

the clauses that infringe basic human rights are amended.

Senators Raza Rabbani and Babar Awan of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) warned the government that the proposed law could be misused if enacted.

To transform the ordinance into a law, it needs approval from both houses of Parliament separately.



The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government has been facing resistance in the National Assembly but the party has a convincing numerical majority in the lower house. [Read...](#)

*The government will release the Tax Directory of all the 1,174 lawmakers for the first time in history after a couple of reports unmasked tax evasion by the political class and the majority was found either not filing tax returns or without National Tax Number (NTN).*

## Failure to conduct LB polls violation of Constitution: SC

**Feb 07, 2014 - ISLAMABAD:** The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday observed it was an open violation of the Constitution that the government was not holding local bodies (LB) elections in the cantonment boards.

A two-member bench of the apex court comprising

Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani and Justice Sheikh Azmat Saeed resumed hearing into the local bodies (LB) elections case. The apex court said that LB elections could not be put on the backburner on the pretext of legislation in this regard.

The SC asked as to what would be the consequence of any further delay in holding the local bodies (LB) elections in the cantonment boards in terms of Article 140A and as required by the Principles of Policy enshrined in the Constitution (Article 32).

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## Bills for mobile courts drawing little attention

**Feb 10, 2014 - PESHAWAR:** Like the former Awami National Party (ANP)-led government, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government also seems least interested in lawmaking for mobile courts as the two draft-bills forwarded by the Peshawar High Court (PHC)

are still pending in the Law Department for necessary procedures.

Official sources told The News that there were two reasons for the years-long delay in making the law on the mobile courts. First, the government is not interested

and second the non-appointment of the new law minister, as the government has not yet named another law minister after the assassination of Israrullah Gandapur in a suicide blast.

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## Senate calls for protecting rights of women, minorities in talks

**Feb 13, 2014 - ISLAMABAD:** The Senate unanimously adopted on Wednesday a resolution calling upon the government to make no “compromise” on the rights of women and minorities during its talks with Taliban. The lawmakers from all sides also criticised PTI chief Imran Khan for his controversial statement questioning the army’s capability to carry out an operation against militants.

The resolution moved by Senator Nasreen Jalil of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) also urged the government to constitute a commission to monitor jirgas being used against women having an access to civil society organizations working for the cause of women rights.

The Senate witnessed a heated debate on a recent TV interview of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chief Imran Khan in



which he had allegedly questioned the capability of the armed forces to take on militants.

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## A potential bombshell Tax Directory to be out today

**Feb 15, 2014– ISLAMABAD:** The government will release the Tax Directory of all the 1,174 lawmakers on Saturday for the first time in history after a couple of reports unmasked tax evasion by the political class and the majority was found either not filing tax returns or without National Tax Number (NTN).

Although, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has repeatedly extended the deadline for filing tax returns that expired for general public on November 30, 2013, at least 10 percent or close to 120 lawmakers had not filed returns till Friday evening, the last working day. The FBR confirmed to The News that tax data of all mem-



bers will be uploaded today afternoon on its website. “So far, 1,052 lawmakers have filed tax returns.

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## Govt gives lion’s share of posts to old DMG, CSP groups

**Feb 19, 2014 - ISLAMABAD:** In a major administrative move concerning the country’s civil bureaucracy, the federal government has given the lion’s share to the Pakistan Administrative Service, formerly known as DMG/CSP, in the federal and provincial secretariats.

Through an SRO issued by the Establishment Division on February 10, the provincial civil servants have been allowed to get inducted into the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) in BS-19 and above through the FPSC but against cadre posts not exceeding 30%.

SRO earmarked 65% post of federal secretaries, 65% posts of additional secretaries, 35% posts of joint secretaries and 25% posts of deputy secretaries for the PAS whereas the remaining posts in the federal secretariat would be shared by other groups/cadres/services and ex-cadre. [Read...](#)

In the federal secretariat, the