

Nazims, councillors plan rallies at tehsil level
By Our Staff Reporter
Thursday, 04 Feb, 2010

LAHORE, Feb 3: Nazims, their deputies and councillors will not allow the Punjab government to usurp the democratic right of the masses to self-rule.

Peaceful rallies would be arranged at tehsil headquarters level in the province to protest against government's any such move, said National Reconstruction Bureau former chairman Daniyal Aziz at a meeting at Charing Cross on Wednesday.

"This is our first protest of a series to press for continuation of the local government system," he said after leading a march by representatives of local governments from Regal Chowk to Charing Cross. Activists of Aurat Foundation, Mazdoor Kisan Network, Sangat Foundation, Free and Fair Network and other civil society organisations and workers of political parties like PPP, PML-Q, Jamaat-i-Islami and Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaaf also joined the rally participated in by councillors, nazims, naib nazims and councillors from Gujranwala, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Vehari, Rahim Yar Khan, Nankana Sahib, Khanewal and Lodhran.

Aziz found no justification for the creation of a provincial authority when a full-fledged election commission had been functioning in the country. The government should immediately announce schedule for local government elections instead of appointing administrators. "In fact, it is an attempt to strengthen bureaucracy and deprive masses of their elected representatives," he said.

Opposition leader in Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Zaheeruddin said his party would extend all-out support to the elected representatives who constituted the local government system. He termed the proposed Punjab Local Government (Amendment) Bill a black law and said it would give the government a certificate for corruption.

"Inflation has made the life of masses miserable and instead of finding ways and means to control it, the PML-N government is busy in such anti-people activities," he said.

PPP leader Chaudhry Asghar demanded that the Punjab government should allow nazims to continue instead of appointing administrators till announcement of local body election schedule.

Local Councils Association Punjab president and Lodhran tehsil nazim Syed Asghar Husain Shah demanded that schedule for the local government elections should be announced immediately.

Data Gunj Bakhsh Town nazim Tariq Sana Bajwa termed the government move to wrap up the local government system 'political robbery' and said establishment of a provincial election authority would do no good. "The local government system should continue as it has served the people."

Ravi Town nazim Yousaf Ahad Malik, JI's Hafiz Salman Butt, PTI's Ahsan Rasheed also spoke on the occasion.