

Immediate

Daultana calls for firm NA date in March

LAHORE, March 4: Mian Mumtaz Muhammad Khan Daultana, President of the Pakistan Council Muslim League, today called for a firm and unalterable date for the inaugural session of the National Assembly at Dacca within the month of March and to hold the proposed meeting of the parliamentary leaders under the presidentship of President Yahya Khan seven or ten days before the date at Dacca.

In a Press statement Mian Daultana said: "on the 23rd of February, the Muslim League National Assembly Parliamentary Party expressed its firm belief that without a spirit of cooperation, open conviction and mutual understanding of different points of view, a meeting of the National Assembly would not lead to fruitful results. Nevertheless, it was clear that at a session of the National Assembly summoned by the President of Pakistan, to participate in which was the primary mandate of our electorate, there could be no question of the Muslim League Assembly Party not attending the session or boycotting in the process of democracy.

The Muslim League would also consider it its duty to participate in a meeting of the parliamentary leaders called by the Head of the State, but it is too obvious to mention that such a meeting would not serve the slightest purpose without the participation of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, the leader of the absolute majority party in the National Assembly. Holding it without him would disastrously aggravate the situation and is unthinkable.

CRISIS OF EXISTENCE

The statement said Pakistan today faces not a political crisis but a crisis of its existence. It is a measure of the failure of our democratic leadership that saving steps must now be taken by the President of Pakistan. I believe that the only correct step now would be to fix a firm unalterable date for the inaugural session of the National Assembly at Dacca within the month of March and to hold the proposed meeting of the parliamentary leaders under the presidentship of the President of Pakistan, seven or ten days before that date at Dacca.

"A single word uttered in haste or hate or rancour by any one of consequence at this stage can do irremediable harm. Faced with a disaster of such magnitude, I hope there will be no further threats or provocation or unworthy arrogance.

I regret that certain contradictory statements have been issued by eminent members of my party. I humbly request them and issue a directive asking them to desist from doing so in such an explosive situation.

"I propose to call a meeting of the Working Committee and Parliamentary Board of my party immediately, preferably at Dacca as soon as the coming together of our members from all parts of the country is physically possible.