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MEDIA COVERAGE

Guest Lecture by Ambassador (Retd.) Riaz Khokhar

“Improving Pak-US Relations: Ways and Means”

1. DAWN

Pakistan should aspire to working relationship with US, says former ambassador

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan should not seek a strategic relationship with the United States and should instead aspire to a working relationship that is cordial and dynamic and does not curtail sovereignty and national interest, former ambassador Riaz Khokhar said on Monday.

Giving a guest lecture on ‘Improving Pakistan-US Relations: Ways and Means’, organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), Mr Khokhar explored Pakistan’s relationship with the US in light of the former’s ties with China and the latter’s with India.

Mr Khokhar was posted as Pakistan’s envoy to Dhaka, New Delhi, Washington D.C. and Beijing before becoming foreign

secretary in 2002.

He said on Wednesday that India is an important actor influencing the dynamic between Pakistan and the US.

“The US expects India to be a partner in the containment of China and in this regard, Pakistan’s overall endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative may also be problematic for Washington, so the Western countries have a soft corner for Delhi,” he said.

He added: “That is why India is painted as a responsible nuclear power.”

Discussing rising tensions in India-held Kashmir, Mr Khokhar remarked that mild US statements on Indian atrocities were indicative of where their sympathies lie.

“War is neither an option for India nor for Pakistan, both have nuclear capabilities. Pakistan would like to live in peace

and harmony with India. We should engage with India but not beg for a dialogue,” he said, adding: “A dialogue has to be in the interest of both countries. As far as Kashmir is concerned, India has never agreed to third-party mediation, and I doubt they ever will.”

On Prime Minister Imran Khan’s meeting with US President Donald Trump and the situation in India-held Kashmir, Mr Khokhar said Pakistan and the US have been allies and have shed blood together.

He said neither side can easily brush this relationship aside, in spite of Mr Trump’s choice of hard words at times and vacillating approach towards Pakistan.

“My take is that we should not be emotional about our relationship with the US. Pakistan needs to have a working relation-

ship,” he said.

“Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat for the US, followed by Russia, North Korea and Iran. Pakistan has historic relations with China that go as far back as the 1950s, and neither side should allow anyone to undermine this relation,” he added.

He said the US’ main interest remains Afghanistan, and Pakistan believes that “it has to be an Afghan solution”.

IPRI President retired ambassador Khan Hasham bin Saddique provided a brief historical overview of Pak-US relations and said: “Unfortunately, our relationship with the US has historically suffered due to a lack of trust on both sides.”

He added that current relations are transactional.

Ex-envoy says engage India, but not beg for dialogue

Doubts New Delhi will agree to third-party mediation over Kashmir

ISLAMABAD

With relations between the nuclear-tipped but hostile neighbours, Pakistan and India sparring over the disputed Himalayan territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a former foreign secretary and Pakistan's envoy across the Radcliff Line have said that Islamabad should engage in dialogue with New Delhi but not beg for it.

This was stated by former foreign secretary Riaz Khokhar while delivering a guest lecture on 'Improving Pakistan-US Relations: Ways and Means' at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Wednesday.

Having served as Pakistan's envoy to Bangladesh, India, the United States and China before taking on the mantle as foreign secretary in 2002, Khokhar pointed out that India was an important actor influencing the Pakistan-US dynamics.

"The US expects India to be a partner in the containment of China. In this regard, Pakistan's overall endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative may also be problematic for Washington," he said.

Western countries, he pointed out, have a soft corner for Delhi.

"This is why India is painted as a responsible nuclear power," he said.

Discussing the rising tensions in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), the former ambassador remarked that "mild-US statements on Indian atrocities were indicative of where their sympathies lie.

"War is neither an option for India nor Pakistan, as both have nuclear capabilities," he said, adding that Pakistan will like to live in peace and harmony with India.

"We should engage with India but not beg for a dialogue."

Having served in New Delhi, Khokhar said that India has never agreed to third-party mediation as far as Kashmir is concerned and doubted they ever will.

Talking about Pakistan-US ties, he said that there were more divergences than points of convergence.

"Pakistan should not seek a strategic relationship with the US. Instead, we should aspire for a working relationship, which is cordial and dynamic, and does not curtail our sovereignty and national interest," he pointed out.

Discussing Prime Minister Imran Khan's meeting with US President

Donald Trump, he strongly held the view that both leaders 'clicked' and had chemistry.

He opined that Pakistan and the US have been allies and have shed blood together.

”There are more divergences than points of convergence in Pakistan and US relations

Former foreign secretary
Riaz Khokhar

"Neither side can easily brush this relationship aside in spite of harsh words at times and vacillating approach towards Pakistan," he said.

"My take is that we should not be emotional about our relationship with the US. Pakistan needs to have a working relationship," he suggested.

The US is a superpower and the only way forward is to have sustained diplomatic dialogue, collaborating in areas where there is convergence

such as trade, energy, transport, especially, education, he said.

Pakistan's relationship with the US, he said, cannot be analysed in isolation since the international order is in flux with China rising phenomenally and Russia reasserting itself while the Middle East is in extreme turmoil.

"Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat, followed, by Russia, North Korea and Iran," he said, adding that Pakistan has historic ties with China that date as far back as the 1950s.

This is a solid, iron-clad strategic relationship which neither side should allow anyone to undermine, he stressed.

He added that the US' main interest remains Afghanistan since there was a realisation in Washington that there is no military solution to the Afghan tangle.

"It has to be an Afghan solution, and how far Pakistan could go towards helping them in resolving it."

He said that while the Taliban are now on the negotiating table, Pakistan does not have an overwhelming influence over them nor

the ethnic mosaic of Afghan tribes.

"It would not be in Pakistan's interest to give any guarantees or get involved in the actual terms and conditions of a settlement agreement," he said, adding that Pakistan is not seeking an Islamabad-made solution to the Afghan problem.

Earlier, while welcoming the speaker, diplomats, senior academics, students and media workers, IPRI President Ambassador (retired) Khan Hasham bin Saddique provided a brief historical overview of Pak-US relations.

He said that despite multiple centres of power emerging around the globe, the US remains the sole superpower given its economic, technological and military power.

"Unfortunately, our relationship with the US has historically suffered due to a lack of trust on both sides.

The one word which best describes this relationship is 'transactional,'

he opined. While pointing out that Pakistan has USD 4 billion trade surplus with the US, Vice Admiral Saddique remarked that 'our relationship with Washington is generally hyphenated with India and Af-Pak.' DNA

3. The Asian Telegraph

Diplomatic corner

Neither Pak nor US can brush aside relationship

War not an option for Pakistan and India: Amb. Riaz

OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

Former Ambassador Riaz Khokhar, Wednesday, opined that Pakistan and the US had been allies and have shed blood together. Therefore, neither side can easily brush this relationship aside in spite of President Trump's choice of hard words at times and vacillating approach towards Pakistan.

Discussing the rising tensions in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the Ambassador remarked that mild US statements on Indian atrocities were indicative of where their sympathies lie. 'War is neither an option for India nor for Pakistan, both have nuclear capabilities. Pakistan would like to live in peace and harmony with India. We should engage with India but not beg for a dialogue. A dialogue has to be in the interest of both countries. As far as Kashmir is

concerned India has never agreed to third-party mediation, and I doubt they ever will,' he observed.

'My take is that we should not be emotional about our relationship with the US. Pakistan needs to have a working relationship.' The US was a superpower and the only way forward is to have sustained diplomatic dialogue, and to collaborate in areas where there is convergence such as trade, energy, transport, and especially, education, he said while delivering a lecture on Improving Pakistan-US Relations

Ways and Means' here. He also discussed Prime Minister Imran Khan's meeting with US President Donald Trump and the situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

He shared that Pakistan's relationship with the US cannot be analyzed in isolation since the international order is in flux, with China rising phenom-

nally, Russia re-asserting itself, and the Middle East in extreme turmoil. 'Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat for the US, followed by Russia, North Korea and Iran. Pakistan has historic relations with China that go as far back as the 1950s. This is a solid, iron-clad strategic relationship which neither side should allow anyone to undermine,' he stressed.

On the issue of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the US, Ambassador Khokhar strongly held the view that while both leaders 'clicked' and had chemistry, the US' main interest remains Afghanistan since there was realization in Washington that there is no military solution to the Afghan tangle. It has to be an Afghan solution, and how far Pakistan could go towards helping them in resolving it.



He said that 'while the Taliban are now on the negotiating table, Pakistan does not have overwhelming influence over them nor over the ethnic mosaic of Afghan tribes. It would not be in Pakistan's inter-

est to give any guarantees or get involved in the actual terms and conditions of a settlement agreement. Pakistan is not seeking an Islamabad-made solution to the Afghan problem.'



4. PAKISTAN TODAY

Former diplomat urges Pakistan to seek a working Relationship with Washington

August 22, 2019

ISLAMABAD: Former foreign secretary Riaz Khokhar believes that despite being historical allies, a strategic relationship between the US and Pakistan would be detrimental to the latter's national interest. He said that Pakistan should instead seek a relationship with Washington based on mutual areas of interest.

Speaking at a lecture at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Ambassador Khokhar said, "The US is a superpower and the only way forward is to have sustained diplomatic dialogue and to collaborate in areas where there is convergence such as trade, energy, transport, and especially, education."

In regard to Prime Minister Imran Khan's much-publicized visit to the US, Ambassador Khokhar stated that while Khan managed to develop a good rapport with US President Trump, relations between the two countries depended largely on the situation in Afghanistan about which there is a growing realization in Washington that no military solution is possible.

"It has to be an Afghan solution, and how far Pakistan could go towards helping the US in resolving it. While the Taliban are now on the negotiating table, Pakistan does not have overwhelming influence over them nor over the ethnic mosaic of Afghan tribes. It would not be in Pakistan's interest to give any guarantees or get involved in the actual terms and conditions of a settlement agreement. Pakistan is not seeking an Islamabad-made solution to the Afghan problem," he said.

He stated that with Beijing's growing influence in Pakistan and Washington's strong relations with New Delhi the regional dynamic had changed significantly.

“Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat for the US. Pakistan’s relations with China go as far back as the 1950s. This is a solid, iron-clad strategic relationship which neither side should allow anyone to undermine,” he said, adding, “The US expects India to be a partner in the containment of China. Pakistan’s overall endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative may also be problematic for Washington. Western countries have a soft corner for Delhi. That is why India is painted as a responsible nuclear power,” he opined.

Speaking about the situation in Kashmir, the Ambassador said that the solution to the crisis largely depended on the willingness of the Indian leadership to engage with Pakistan in meaningful dialogue.

“ We should engage with India but not beg for dialogue. A dialogue has to be in the interest of both countries,” he concluded.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/08/21/former-diplomat-urges-pakistan-to-seek-a-working-relationship-with-washington/>

Pak should seek working relationship with US instead of strategic relationship: Riaz Khokhar

August 22, 2019

ISLAMABAD, AUG 21 (DNA) – Former Secretary Foreign Affairs Riaz Khokhar has said “there are more divergences than points of convergence between Pakistan and US relations.

Pakistan should not seek a strategic relationship with the US. Instead, we should aspire for a working relationship, which is cordial and dynamic, and does not curtail our sovereignty and national interest.”



These were the views of former Ambassador Riaz Khokhar at the guest lecture organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute here in Islamabad, today.

Ambassador Khokhar has been Pakistan’s envoy to Dhaka, New Delhi, Washington, D.C. and Beijing before becoming Foreign Secretary in 2002. The lecture on ‘Improving Pakistan-US Relations: Ways and Means’ explored Pakistan’s relationship with the US, in light of the former’s ties with China and the latter’s with India. He also discussed Prime Minister Imran

Khan’s meeting with US President Donald Trump and the situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK).

Ambassador Khokhar opined that Pakistan and the US have been allies and have shed blood together. Therefore, neither side can easily brush this relationship aside in spite of President Trump’s choice of hard words at times and vacillating approach towards Pakistan.

‘My take is that we should not be emotional about our relationship with the US. Pakistan needs to have a working relationship.’ The US was a superpower and the only way forward is to have sustained diplomatic dialogue, and to collaborate in areas where there is convergence such as trade, energy, transport, and especially, education, he said.

He shared that Pakistan’s relationship with the US cannot be analysed in isolation since the international order is in flux, with China rising phenomenally, Russia re-asserting itself, and the Middle East in extreme turmoil.

‘Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat for the US, followed by Russia, North Korea and Iran. Pakistan has historic relations with China that go as far back as the 1950s. This is a solid, iron-clad strategic relationship which neither side should allow anyone to undermine,’ he stressed.

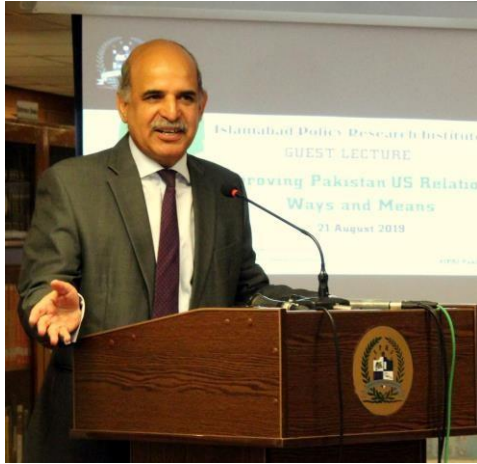
On the issue of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to the US, Ambassador Khokhar strongly held the view that while both leaders ‘clicked’ and had chemistry, the US’ main interest remains Afghanistan since there was realisation in Washington that there is no military solution to the Afghan tangle. It has to be an Afghan solution, and how far Pakistan could go towards helping them in resolving it.

He said that ‘while the Taliban are now on the negotiating table, Pakistan does not have overwhelming influence over them nor over the ethnic mosaic of Afghan tribes. It would not be in Pakistan’s interest to give any guarantees or get involved in the actual terms and conditions of a settlement agreement. Pakistan is not seeking an Islamabad-made solution to the Afghan problem.’

Ambassador Khokhar pointed out that India was also an important actor influencing Pak-US dynamics. The US expects India to be a partner in the containment of China. In this regard, Pakistan’s overall endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative may also be problematic for Washington. Western countries have a soft corner for Delhi. That is why India is painted as a responsible nuclear power, he said.

Discussing the rising tensions in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the Ambassador remarked that mild US statements on Indian atrocities were indicative of where their sympathies lie. ‘War is neither an option for India nor for Pakistan, both have nuclear capabilities. Pakistan would like to live in peace and harmony with India. We should engage with India but not beg for a dialogue. A dialogue has to be in the interest of both countries. As far as Kashmir is concerned India has never agreed to third-party mediation, and I doubt they ever will,’ he observed.

Earlier, welcoming the eminent speaker, diplomats, senior academics, students and media channels, President of IPRI Ambassador (Retd.) Khan Hasham bin Saddique provided a brief



historical overview of Pak-US relations and said that despite multiple centres of power emerging around the globe, the US remains the sole super power given its economic, technological and military power.

Unfortunately, our relationship with the US has historically suffered due to lack of trust on both sides. The one word which best describes this relationship is ‘transactional,’ he opined. While pointing out that Pakistan has USD 4 billion trade surplus with the US,

Vice Admiral Saddique remarked that ‘our relationship with Washington is generally hyphenated with India and Af-Pak.’ =DNA

<http://www.dnaneews.com.pk/pak-see-working-relationship-us-instead-strategic-relationship-riaz-khokhar/>



6. 18 Successful Years of Publication

Former Foreign Secretary Says Pak-US Ties Need 'working Instead Of Strategic Partnership'

August 22, 2019

Ambassador (R) Riaz Khokhar on Wednesday said that Pakistan needed to maintain a 'working relationship instead of strategic partnership' with the United States, and stressed that a sustained diplomatic dialogue was the only way forward.

ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 21st Aug, 2019) :Ambassador (R) Riaz Khokhar on Wednesday said that Pakistan needed to maintain a 'working relationship instead of strategic partnership' with the United States, and stressed that a sustained diplomatic dialogue was the only way forward.

"Pakistan should aspire a working relationship with the US, which is cordial and dynamic, not curtailing our sovereignty and national interest," Ambassador Khokhar said at a guest lecture organized here by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Ambassador Khokhar, who served as Pakistan's envoy to Dhaka, New Delhi, Washington and Beijing before becoming Foreign Secretary in 2002, emphasized on finding areas of convergence between Pakistan and the US including trade, energy, transport, and especially education to expand the scope of collaboration.

The lecture on 'Improving Pakistan-US Relations: Ways and Means' explored Pakistan's relationship with the US in light of the former's ties with China and the latter's with India.

Ambassador Khokhar said Pakistan's relationship with the US could not be analysed in isolation since the international order was in flux with China rising phenomenally, Russia re-asserting itself, and the middle East in extreme turmoil.

He pointed out that India was also an important actor influencing Pak-US dynamics as the US expected India to be a partner in the containment of China.

In this regard, Pakistan's overall endorsement of the Belt and Road Initiative might also be problematic for Washington, he added.

Ambassador Khokhar said Afghanistan remained a main issue of interest for the US since there was a realisation in Washington that there was no military solution to the issue.

On rising tension in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the Ambassador remarked that war was neither an option for India nor for Pakistan due to their nuclear capabilities.

Vice Admiral Saddique said Pakistan's relationship with Washington was generally hyphenated with India and Afghanistan and emphasized that "working together would accrue mutual benefits, whereas, antagonism would serve neither party".

President of IPRI Ambassador (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique giving a historical overview of Pak-US relations said unfortunately the relationship suffered due to lack of trust on both sides and the word 'transactional' best described their relationship.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/former-foreign-secretary-says-pak-us-ties-nee-694572.html>

7.

West accountable for Daesh's presence in Afghanistan: Ex-Pak envoy

Aug 23, 2019

Former Ambassador of Pakistan says that terrorist organization Daesh is a threat to the entire region and the west should be answerable for its presence in Afghanistan.

Former Ambassador Riaz Khokhar speaking as a guest speaker on future of Pakistan-US ties at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) categorically stated there is no organized presence of Daesh in Pakistan.

Former foreign secretary said there are doubts that from where Daesh has come to Afghanistan. "Who created them in Iraq and Syria, who helped them in selling oil in Iraq and how they have reached to Afghanistan," asked the expert.

He noted that former Afghan President Hamid Karzai had once stated that Daesh has been brought to Afghanistan by the west.

"Daesh is not a threat to the US, they know from where they have come to Afghanistan," said the analyst.

Ambassador Khokhar said despite Pakistan being a close US ally President Donald Trump at times used hard words and vacillating approach towards Pakistan.

'My take is that we should not be emotional about our relationship with the US. Pakistan needs to have a working relationship,' stated the analyst.

He shared that Pakistan's relationship with the US cannot be analyzed in isolation since the international order is in flux, with China rising phenomenally, Russia re-asserting itself, and the Middle East in extreme turmoil. He added that the US main interest in the Middle East is its very special relationship with Zionist Regime.

'Every US security document over the past few years identifies China as a major threat for the US, followed by Russia, North Korea and Iran. Pakistan has historic relations with China that go as far back as the 1950s. This is a solid, iron-clad strategic relationship which neither side should allow anyone to undermine,' he stressed.

On the issue of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to the US, Ambassador Khokhar strongly held the view that the US' main interest remains Afghanistan since there was realization in Washington that there is no

military solution to the Afghan tangle.

He said that ‘while the Taliban are now on the negotiating table, Pakistan does not have overwhelming influence over them nor over the ethnic mosaic of Afghan tribes.

It would not be in Pakistan’s interest to give any guarantees or get involved in the actual terms and conditions of a settlement agreement. Pakistan is not seeking an Islamabad-made solution to the Afghan problem.’

He said that future of Pakistan-US ties depends on how much we deliver in Afghanistan. He went on to say that there are lobbies in the US who are against trade with Pakistan.

Former foreign secretary added that the US has also played negative role in the FATF towards Pakistan. Ambassador Khokhar pointed out that India was also an important actor influencing Pak-US dynamics.

<https://en.irna.ir/news/83447498/West-accountable-for-Daesh-s-presence-in-Afghanistan-Ex-Pak>



اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ انشٹیٹیوٹ میں سیمینار کے شرکاء کا ریاض کھوکھر کیساتھ گروپ فوٹو

بھارت، امریکہ اور مغرب کی پیک کو اپنے لیے خطرہ سمجھتے ہیں، ریاض کھوکھر

امریکہ سے ورکنگ تعلقات ہی بہتر ہیں، امریکہ نہ ہمارا دشمن اور نہ ہی دوست ہے

امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے کشمیر پر پٹائی کے بیان اور فون سے زیادہ توقعات نہ رکھی جائیں

اسلام آباد (نور ڈیسک) سابق سفارتکار ریاض کھوکھر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے امریکہ سے نہیں جھن سے دفاعی تعلقات ہیں، بھارت، امریکہ اور مغرب ہی پیک کو اپنے لیے خطرہ سمجھتا ہے پاکستان کوئی پیک پر کوئی کھمبہ نہیں کرنا چاہیے، امریکہ سے ورکنگ تعلقات ہی بہتر ہیں امریکہ نہ ہمارا دشمن اور نہ ہی دوست ہے، عمران خان کے دورہ امریکہ سے پاکستان کے تعلقات بہتر ہوئے ہیں، امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے کشمیر پر پٹائی کے بیان اور فون سے زیادہ توقعات نہ رکھی جائیں، امریکہ نے ہر مشکل مرحلہ پر بھارت کا ساتھ اور پاکستان کے مفاد کیلئے کام کیا ہے، معاشی اور دفاعی طور پر مضبوط پاکستان کی عزت ہو گی اور ادا جائیں گے تو کوئی عزت نہیں کرے گا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار سابق سیکرٹری خارجہ و سفارتکار ریاض کھوکھر نے اسلام آباد پالیسی ریسرچ

انسٹیٹیوٹ میں پاکستان امریکہ تعلقات پر لیکچر دیتے ہوئے کیا۔ تقریب سے صدر ایچ پی ہشام بن صدیقی نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ سابق سفارتکار ریاض کھوکھر نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے پاکستان کے خلاف غیر سفارتی زبان استعمال کی تھی جو پہلے بھی استعمال نہیں کی گئی اور جنوبی ایشیا میں امن کی خرابی کا دہرا پاکستان کو قرار دیا تھا مگر افغانستان کے مسئلہ پر ٹرمپ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو خط لکھ اور امن کی کوششوں میں ساتھ دینے کی بات کی ان کو پتہ چل گیا کہ مذاکرات کے علاوہ کوئی امن کا راستہ نہیں ہے۔ صدر ایچ پی ہشام بن صدیقی نے کہا کہ پاک امریکہ تعلقات کو دو ٹکوں کے تعلقات کے طور پر دیکھا جائے جہاں پر ہر ایک کا اپنا مفاد ہوتا ہے جس میں جذبات کوئی معنی نہیں رکھتے ہیں۔