

Drafts Remarks by Ambassador at the Launching of *Nuskha Hye Wafa*

24 November 2021

Professor Intekhab Aalam,

Ambassador Lu Shulin,

Ms. Zhou Nasreen,

Head of Urdu Language Department of Beijing Foreign Studies University

Dear Friends,

It is a great honour for me to participate today in the launching ceremony of Chinese version of '*Nuskha Hye Wafa*', which has been translated by eminent Chinese intellectual, poet and great friend of Pakistan, Professor Intekhab Aalam.

I would first like to express my heartiest felicitations to Professor Intekhab for his painstaking efforts to translate entire collection of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poetry into Chinese language.

This work is indeed a labour of love and only a true admirer of Faiz and Urdu poetry could have accomplished it.

I am confident that it would help Chinese readers understand the message of Faiz's poetry and his consuming passion for a harmonious, beautiful and promising future for the entire mankind.

Dear Friends,

There are few poets like Faiz Ahmed Faiz which have left such a deep impression on the intellectual landscape of Urdu language and Pakistan. His intellect, imagination and humanism place him far above the narrow limitations of creed and nationality.

It is no small feat that his name has now become synonymous with lofty ideals like freedom, equality and justice.

Dear Friends,

Poetry is an art to captivate beautiful thoughts in words. Seen from this perspective, Faiz was a magician who would cast spell upon his readers with his poems. Many of his poems have been sung by top Pakistani singers and have become all time classics.

He used the medium of poetry to highlight miseries, sufferings and exploitation of human beings and raised his voice against xenophobia, narrow geopolitical interests and racism. He deeply felt human agony during World War-II and partition of subcontinent which brought about untold sufferings for the countless people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Faiz was a friend of China as well. He was a socialist at heart. He died when China had just embarked on reform and opening-up process. If he were alive today, he would be very happy to see the remarkable progress and prosperity attained by Chinese nation.

Dear Friends,

Year 2021 is a special year when Pakistan and China are celebrating 70th anniversary of establishment of our diplomatic ties.

It is also a defining moment of the history when world is set to turn a new page in history. We are witnessing the resurgence of old hatreds and prejudices which, in past, have always stifled human progress and engendered intellectual paralysis in our societies.

At such critical juncture, all of us, especially our younger generation need to benefit from the wisdom of great sages like Faiz, understand the true meaning of his ideas and continue our efforts for prosperity and happiness of the entire humanity.

I thank you all.