

**SPEECH OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
ON  
OPENING DAY/BRIEFING SESSION OF  
EX SHAMSHEER-E-BAHR IV**

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General Tariq Majid, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Committee

Admiral Noman Bashir, Chief of the Naval Staff

Distinguished Guests and Gentlemen

Asslalam-o-Alaikum

It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning to attend the opening brief of Exercise Shamsheer-e-Bahr-4. I am pleased to note that this series of [war games](#) has been instituted as a regular feature with keen participation of other two Services and relevant Ministries of the Government. Importance of war games needs no emphasis as they constitute an essential ingredient of military planning. War games allow the military commanders to take real stock of the new imperatives on ground and undertake critical review of old doctrines and tactics. These exercises also provide a forum to develop new concepts of war-fighting through extensive brain-storming and formulating practical responses to meet both existing as well as upcoming challenges.

In military planning, perceived threat is invariably based on the capabilities of the adversary and not his intentions. While the Government is making sincere and all-out efforts to achieve lasting peace through dialogue and negotiation, it is of equal importance that our [Armed Forces](#) maintain credible deterrence and remain prepared against any act of aggression against our motherland.

The ongoing fight against extremism has come at a great cost to our nation. As a self-respecting nation, let me make it clear that we consider no sacrifice too great to secure the ideals of freedom and prosperity for our people. Despite resource constraints, my Government has accorded due priority to meet the requirements of our Armed Forces. While developing

response options, the numbers do matter, but at the same time, motivation, quality training and superior strategy also act as a Force Multiplier. The success can be guaranteed when operational plans are well articulated and rehearsed exhaustively during the [peace time](#).

I am glad to note that Exercise Shamsheer-e-Bahr 4 has been designed on realistic settings and takes into account emerging realities and concepts in the region. I would like to commend the Blue and Orange Commanders for making candid briefings that clearly re-establish the vitality of our sea lines of communications, security and safety, which is of equal importance during the peace time. The support from [Pakistan Army](#) and PAF for the maritime operations is well articulated in the [war game](#). I would encourage this kind of harmony in the conduct of joint operations and planning. Commander ERF also made an adept assessment of the influence of Extra-Regional Forces who have not maintained their near-permanent presence in our region. I am sure that the lessons learnt from exercise would be taken note of and further refined to formulate an effective and responsive [naval strategy](#) in the future.

Gentlemen

We are all aware of the importance of sea for the economic well being of a [maritime nation](#). It is of even greater significance for a developing economy like that of [Pakistan](#) where our trade with the outside world is sea dependent. The prosperity of our people, therefore, hinges upon the [freedom of the sea](#) and security of our sea lines of communication. Notwithstanding its small size, [Pakistan navy](#) has maintained close vigilance of the seas and is fully capable of protecting our maritime interests.

Nature has placed Pakistan in a unique geo-strategic location at the confluence of three civilizations. The world's energy highway passes right across our coast, which serves as a lifeline for sustenance of the global economy. Given our location primacy, Pakistan considers it an obligation to secure our area of responsibility from all sorts of threats posed to our country and also to the international community. The development of maritime infrastructure is, thus, imperative to capitalize on this natural geographic advantage. The development of Gwadar Port, coastal highway and road networks connecting coastal cities to hinterland will give impetus to our economy.

I know that these increased maritime activities would enhance our responsibilities manifold. Thus our navy in the future will have to shoulder

greater responsibilities to ensure protection of maritime trade and to provide secure environment at sea and off our coast. [The Government](#) on its part will provide all the resources required for safeguarding Pakistan's maritime interests.

On this note, I would like to thank Chief of the Naval Staff for inviting me to this important forum and providing a realistic insight into maritime challenges confronting our country. I also appreciate the efforts put in by the officers of the three services and representatives of the Ministries for their contribution in this war game.

I thank you, all.

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