

**Address by the Prime Minister of Pakistan  
at Firepower Demo of PAF  
on 06<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

Bismilla-ir-Rehman-ir-Rahim  
Air Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman,  
Chief of Air Staff  
Federal Ministers,  
Members of the Senate & National Assembly,  
Services Chiefs,  
Distinguished Guests,  
and My dear Airmen,  
Assalam-o-Alaikum,

I am immensely pleased and proud to be here at this momentous occasion of Firepower Demonstration-2010, marking successful completion of the first phase of Exercise High Mark-2010. It is with great pride that I witnessed a very professional display of the application of Pakistan's Airpower. The speed, accuracy and strength of our Air Force was clearly visible in this demonstration. Today's event not only portrays the true potential of Pakistan Air Force, but also indicates its superior professionalism, incomparable skills and matchless team work of its air warriors, as well as the vision and planning of its commanders.

It is heartening to see that Pakistan Air Force, despite its heavy commitment in the ongoing Counter Terrorist Operations, and remaining within its own resources, undertook a major Exercise High Mark-2010, which shows that it always remains fully prepared for its Missions, Role and Task. I therefore sincerely appreciate and rightly feel the exemplary commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of PAF personnel, which has made this event possible.

As you are well aware, we as a Nation are presently living in turbulent times. Our region, as indeed the entire World, continues to witness numerous destabilizing events. The challenges that confront us today have to be viewed in the context of these changes, which have shaped the geopolitical landscape of the world. While these changes increase mutual stakes through greater interdependence, they also transform global as well as regional security environment in South Asia.

Despite many external and internal challenges, Alhamdulillah, Pakistan has slowly but steadily managed to negotiate the pitfalls, and make a mark for itself on the international scene. I am well aware of the multifaceted challenges faced by our Nation While we move ahead to provide solutions, the high state of preparedness of our Armed Forces strengthens our national resolve and confidence.

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My special felicitation is to the pilots and the entire personnel at PAF Bases, who have made today's Firepower Demonstration a success. The superb display of rescue operation by the combined team of Air Force and Army Commandoes shows our preparedness to professionally tackle a new dimension of threat, with all means at our disposal. I am particularly impressed to see the display of joint operations by Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force.

I am aware of the pressing requirements of our Armed Forces, especially the Air Force, whose inductions & upgradations require more funding comparatively. I also realize that this is a necessity, to maintain the cutting edge of a force, which is the '**pride of the nation**', and indeed is '**second to none**'.

While we strive for peace with honour in a stable environment, I wish to assure all countries in the region that we are a peace loving nation, with no aggressive designs against anyone. We, however, need to test our defensive capabilities. High Mark-2010 is one such opportunity to validate our joint operational concepts.

In the end, I once again congratulate Chief of the Air Staff on the successful conclusion of today's very professional demonstration. I also deeply commend the devotion of all PAF airmen & civilians involved in the preparation of this mega event. I also pray for the continued prosperity and success of PAF in all its future endeavours for excellence. May Allah bless you all, and may you have safe landings, always!

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