



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif laying floral wreath at Martyrs' Monument during his visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad. (16-10-2014)



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif with Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, during his visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad. (16-10-2014)

PAF PLAYING LEAD ROLE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION ZARB-E-AZB : PRIME MINISTER

ISLAMABAD 16 October, 2014: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Nawaz Sharif arrived on a scheduled visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. He was received by Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air force. Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif also accompanied the Prime Minister. On his arrival, a smartly turned out contingent presented guard of Honour. The Prime Minister laid a floral wreath at martyrs' monument and he was also introduced to the Principal Staff Officers at the Air Headquarters.

Later, the Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had a meeting with Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt in his office. Both the dignitaries remained together for some time and discussed matters pertaining to internal and external security situations. Future developmental plans of PAF soliciting Government's approval were also discussed in the meeting. He was also given a comprehensive brief on the operational readiness of Pakistan Air Force and the role played during operation *Zarb-e-Azb*. While lauding the lead role played by PAF in law enforcement during operation *Zarb-e-Azb*, the Prime Minister said, ***“PAF leadership has done wonders in the past and will continue to do wonders to come up to the nations expectations. PAF has always done extremely well. I admire PAF since my child hood when I saw the dogfight in the skies of Lahore during 1965 war”***. He further said, ***“We as a country and as a nation are proud of our heroes like Sarfraz Rafiqi (Shaheed), Younis Hussain (Shaheed), M.M. Alam (Late) and all those who laid their lives in the line of duty”***.

The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction on completion of upgradation programs and induction of new equipment and said, ***“I am fully convinced that PAF is a viable and dynamic Air Force. Despite our resource constraints, whatever we have in our kitty will be provided to the Pakistan Air Force as Air power is the most effective power to meet the challenges”***. He further added, ***“We are committed to work out a program to give more resources and funds to make up the deficiencies and transform Pakistan Air Force on modern lines”***.

The Prime Minister was also briefed about the nation building measures taken by PAF in the form of education and sports. Pakistan Air Force has worked relentlessly in rescue and relief for the victims of recent flood in Punjab and Sindh region. PAF flew 126 sorties and dropped 85000 KG of relief goods. PAF has always stood shoulder to shoulder with the entire nation in helping Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of North Waziristan. The Air Chief also presented a memento to the Prime Minister at the occasion.