

National conference to discuss counter-terrorism efforts: Mashood

LAHORE: The Punjab government in collaboration with the non-government sector is holding a national conference to discuss the implementation and impact of the National Action Plan on terrorism and extremism, Punjab Education and Youth Minister Rana Mashood said here on Sunday.


Punjab government and Bargad youth development organisation would host national level "Peaceful Pakistan Conference" from May 27-29. Punjab Minister for education and youth affairs Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan addressed the pre event press conference along with Bargad executive director Sabiha Shaheen and MPA Sardar Waqas Mokal at the Lahore Press Club. The minister said objective of the conference, was to pay tribute to martyrs of terrorists in incidents and discuss National Action Plan implementation to tackle terrorism.

He said that the conference would also discuss and debate NAP and would give suggestions too. Families of terrorism victims including parents of Army Public School Peshawar children would also participate in the conference. He said the Punjab government had also organised essay and speech competitions among school students on counter terrorism. He said youth has a big role in promoting peace and tolerance. Sabiha Shaheen, Bargad NGO executive director, said that the conference would also discuss role of media in curbing extremism and increasing intolerance and hate mongering on social media misuse of cyber space.

She said, "Youth of the country wants peace and their response to the restoration of international cricket in Pakistan after six years shows their desire for peace very cleaner and openly. Youth was going to cricket matches and that was a very positive step which government made." MPA Waqas Mokal, who is also chairman of Punjab Punjab Youth Parliamentary Caucus, said this peace conference was a right step ay right time. He said it was a timely initiative and youth can play a big role in ensuring peace, harmony and tolerance.

President of Pakistan Mamoon Hussain would inaugurate the conference while Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif, many ministers, parliamentarians, intellectuals, writers, academics and students from across Pakistan would participate in three day conference which would be held at Pearl Continental Hotel from May 27-29. Parents of victims' families of terrorism incidents would especially participate in the conference. Among the key participants of the

 **Staff Report**

 May 25, 2015

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