

INTERNATIONAL

# THE NEWS

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## METROPOLITAN 5

### PNAC offers to train NVM volunteers on AIDS control

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ISLAMABAD: About 0.5 million people died of AIDS in 2003 and this deadly disease is increasing rapidly every year. The most disturbing fact is that AIDS is affecting the youth on a very large scale, where 7,000 youngsters are getting HIV positive on daily basis. By the end of 2004, 1.3 million children lost either of their parents due to this fast spreading menace. This figure will reach 2.5 million by 2010.

Malik Aftab Ahmed Awan, National Programme Manager of Pakistan National AIDS Consortium (PNAC) said this Tuesday in a meeting with National Volunteer Movement Director General Khalid Masood Chaudhry at the NVM headquarters. He was leading a delegation of PNAC who met the NVM head to offer collaboration with NVM to train the volunteers on the subject of AIDS to create awareness in the earthquake-affected areas since this disease is spreading in the country in an alarming pace.

The delegation comprised Malik Aftab Ahmed Awan, National Programme Manager, and Kashif Syed, Programme Officer of PNAC.

Malik Aftab while highlighting his organisation's task and targets informed that according to the reports of some International organisations, about 0.8 million people are considered to be HIV positives in India, while in Pakistan the figure has exceeded from 80,000. He was confident that PNAC along with NVM can contribute in to curb this disease by raising awareness through training the volunteers who would participate in the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme in the earthquake-affected areas.

NVM DG Khalid Masood Chaudhry briefed the delegation about the achievements of NVM and the projects in hand in Kodar Bala, district Mansehra and Khori, district Muzaffarabad. He appreciated the delegation for their initiative and devotion for the great cause to help fight Aids and cure humanity.