President Zardari shakes hands with Gordon Brown, former British PM and UN Special Envoy for Global Education, as Unesco Director-General Irina Bokova looks on during the event "Stand up for Malala, Girls’ education a right!" at the Unesco headquarters. – Reuters
Malala Fund for education set up

President Zardari said Pakistan is not only working for the promotion of girls' education but is also raising its voice at the international level. Paying tribute to Malalas sacrifices, he called upon other governments, donors, politicians, and educators to help so that it can be sure that every Malala in Pakistan receives quality education and contributes towards a progressive Pakistan and peaceful world.

In a message read by a girl at the conference, Malala thanked her supporters and well-wishers and vowed to keep struggling hard. "Today is the happiest day for me because the honourable president of Pakistan and the Unesco welcomed me to the Malala fund and said they would be education for all girls. "The sooner all deprived children go to school, the sooner I will get better."

Organised jointly by Pakistan and Unesco, the conference is being held to pay tribute to the Malala education activists who were attacked by the Taliban who are bitterly opposed to girls education. As for the Malala Fund, it will consist of a revenue account and other modalities for managing funds for programming activities for the betterment of girl's education.

President Zardari added that Pakistan is working to ensure the education for girls within the framework and in line with the objectives and priorities of the UN Secretary-General's Global Initiative on Education and the Unesco Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education.

The programme will achieve the goal of improving access for girls at all levels of education, improve the quality and relevance of basic education to ensure that educational contents, teaching practices and learning environment are gender-sensitive and eliminate school-related gender-based violence.

Indian director Amjad Khan on Friday announced that the next project he will work on will be a biopic on Malala Yousafzai, while a US diplomacy official in Pakistan recently wrote and sang a Pashto song "Jenay", which means "girl", as a tribute to the teenager.

On the other hand, the father of Malala has been named a UN special adviser on global education, UN envoy Gordon Brown said on Monday. Ziauddin Yousafzai, Malala's father, is a former teacher and headmaster and has been appointed to help in what Brown has dubbed a new 'Malala Plan' to get all girls into school around the world by the end of 2015.

Brown added that the 15-year-old schoolgirl, who is recovering in a British hospital after being brutally attacked and wounded on October 9, will herself join the campaign when she is better. Brown is also pushing for Malala's birthday, July 12, to be designated a day of action each year when children around the world are invited to march, demonstrate, petition and pray for education to be delivered worldwide.

"Before she was shot, Malala was advocating the cause of girls' education faced by a Taliban that had closed down and destroyed 600 schools," said the former British prime minister, now UN special envoy for global education. "If the Taliban sought to vanquish her voice once and for all, they failed.

"For today her voice and her persistent dream that children should go to school still resonate around the world, as girl after girl, each wanting all girls to have the right to go to school, identifies with Malala." Brown added: "In time Malala herself is determined to join the campaign for every girl's right to education and when she has recovered she will do so, becoming one of the leaders of that campaign."

In an attack that shocked the world, Malala was shot in the head as punishment for the "crime" of campaigning for girls' rights to go to school. She survived the murder attempt but required reconstructive surgery after the bullet grazed her brain, coming within centimetres of killing her. President Zardari on Saturday visited Malala at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and met with members of her family.