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## TOP STORIES

### CJCSC seeks US cooperation in civil N-tech

*Urges India to resolve Siachen stand-off*

BRUSSELS: Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) Chairman Gen Ehsan ul Haq said on Thursday the United States should extend civilian nuclear cooperation beyond India and include Pakistan, arguing the economic growth of the country would help defeat extremism and terrorism.

Gen Ehsan said Washington was discriminatory in its approach when it offered New Delhi a wide-ranging agreement on civilian nuclear cooperation. Instead of considering such cooperation with specific countries, he said it should be open to all countries that meet specific standards.

"There should be a criteria approach. And if any country fulfils the criteria, it should have access to those technologies," the CJCSC said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Pakistan badly needs nuclear energy to feed the surging economy," he said, adding that the Pakistani government was targeting a 20-fold increase in nuclear energy output over the next 25 years.

The economy currently grows at some seven per cent per year and Gen Ehsan hoped that boosting that growth through nuclear power will reduce poverty and, hence, extremism which can lead to terrorism. "If there is no cooperation on civilian nuclear energy, it will seriously impact on our economic development and ... undermine our abilities to address the issues of extremism, which thrives on economic deprivation."

Pakistan has had close cooperation with China on nuclear energy but the CJCSC said it might not suffice. "We feel they may not be able to fill all of our requirements," he said, and added that China had already provided one reactor and was building a second, "yet there is a need to look to Washington", too.

"Any holding back on the economic front, or the creation of barriers on the nuclear energy front, will be counterproductive and disastrous for us on many counts," Gen Ehsan said earlier at a conference organised by the British-based South Asian Strategic Stability Institute.

Gen Ehsan believes in the potential of Pakistan also becoming another Asian economic giant, much like India, and deserves equal treatment from the United States. "We feel discrimination will be counterproductive," he told the conference.

He also told the conference that Pakistan had taken the extra ordinary steps to strengthen export controls over its nuclear capability, saying Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear capability was entirely a defensive response to legitimate national security needs.

The overarching policy of Pakistan is and will remain credible minimum nuclear deterrence, Gen Ehsan said, adding: "The emergence of a nuclear South Asia is a reality, Pakistan and India as well as the rest of the world has to live with it."

The top Pakistani general is here for ground-breaking talks at the Nato headquarters this week in an

effort to improve military cooperation between its forces and Nato troops across the border in Afghanistan. "There has been fairly good cooperation. We are trying to further enhance this cooperation with better liaison arrangements," Gen Ehsan said in the interview. "We hope that we will achieve that soon."

"It's very difficult to make an assessment of the strength of the Taliban," he said. "Of course there has been intensification of the activities there, but there are several factors responsible for that."

He said followers of the ousted Taliban regime were not the only threat facing Nato troops in the south. "Frankly speaking, the term Taliban is being used as a blanket coverage for lots of the anti-government, anti-social activities of a lot of elements, whether they be warlords or drug barons or other forms of disgruntled people."

In a separate interview with Reuters, Gen Ehsan ul Haq urged India to move to solve the stand-off over the Siachen glacier. "It's for the Indians to do something, they are in adverse occupation of that area, we don't have to do anything." In response to a question, he said there was no infiltration by Jihadis in Kashmir. "The Indians themselves are acknowledging that," he said.

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#### **Pakistan never claimed Kashmir as integral part: FO**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday declared that it has never claimed that Kashmir is its integral part.

"First of all Pakistan doesn't claim Kashmir. The Kashmir dispute is about the aspirations of.....[more](#)



#### **Autonomy package by end of Dec: NRB**

ISLAMABAD: The National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) will finalise a constitutional package on provincial autonomy by the end of this month.

"The NRB will finalise the package and hand it over t.....[more](#)



#### **Khokhrapar station to be operational soon: Rashid**

KHOKHRAPAR: The Khokhrapar railway station in Tharparkar district that remained desolate after the establishment of a railway station at Zero Point, 8 miles from Khokhrapar, bordering India, will beco.....[more](#)



#### **Waziristan a Taliban mini state: NYT**

WASHINGTON: Northern Waziristan, where Islamic militants recently signed a peace deal with the government, has virtually become a "Taliban mini-state", a 2,500-word report in the New York Times said o.....[more](#)



#### **WB for boosting forex to maintain rupee value**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan needs to strengthen its foreign reserves and further tighten monetary policy to maintain the rupee value at the present level with the existing trade deficit, said John Wall, Count.....[more](#)

**Kabul against holding of one peace Jirga**

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan has rejected the proposal of holding one Grand Peace Jirga with Pakistan, which was agreed between President Pervez Musharraf and Afghan President Hamid Karzai in September in W.....[more](#)

**Tahir thanks Musharraf in his first ever public appearance**

LONDON: A completely changed UK national Tahir Mirza, who narrowly escaped the gallows after his long ordeal in jail for 18 years, travelled all way along from Leeds to London in heavy rain, appeared .....[more](#)

**UNDP denies role in DTCE CEO resignation**

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) — the frontline donor supporting the military government's devolution plan — was in the picture as to how National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) Chairma.....[more](#)

**Women Protection Act challenged in SC**

ISLAMABAD: Freelance journalist Shahid Orakzai on Monday filed a constitutional petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws Amendment) Act, 2006.

Orakzai ch.....[more](#)

**Four US troops among 30 killed in Iraq violence**

KIRKUK: At least 26 people were killed in violence across Iraq on Monday including a pregnant woman and three of her children who were savagely gunned down in the north of the country.

The US m.....[more](#)

**Students disrupt Ahmadinejad speech**

TEHRAN: Iranian students disrupted a speech by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at a prestigious Tehran university on Monday, setting fire to his picture and shouting "death to the dictator," media repor.....[more](#)

**NAB probing some NWFP ministers**

PESHAWAR: The director-general of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), NWFP, has said that the bureau has started investigations against some ministers but refused to disclose their names and fur.....[more](#)

**No military training camps in Fata: official**

PESHAWAR: A top security official of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) has rejected the existence of military training camps in the region, saying no such evidence had been provided to th.....[more](#)

**Major UN powers weigh Iran curbs**

UNITED NATIONS: Six major powers resumed talks here on Monday on how to

coerce Iran into halting its nuclear fuel work as Moscow welcomed changes to a European resolution mandating UN sanctions against.....[more](#)

**Mirwaiz off to study Irish peace plan**

HELD SRINAGAR: A top Indian Kashmiri leader left for Northern Ireland on Monday, saying he would study the Irish peace process to see if it could help resolve the Kashmir dispute.

Mirwaiz Umar .....[more](#)

**briefs...**

Snowfall in Galiat stops

ISLAMABAD: The onrush of rain in Abbottabad and the adjoining areas and the deluge of snowfall at Galiat have declined. However, several link roads of Galiat are still.....[more](#)