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The Nation

US using Pak as scapegoat for Afghan failure: Mush

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Former president Pervez Musharraf Sunday accused the United States of using Pakistan as a scapegoat for its failure in Afghanistan.

In a video link interview with a private news channel from Dubai, Musharraf said Pakistani forces should use whatever influence they have and tell the Haqqanis not to cross the border.

He said the US was responsible for controlling Haqqani activities on the Afghan side of the border. Former US joint chiefs of staff committee chairman Admiral Mike Mullen had caused a diplomatic storm by saying at a recent Senate hearing that the Haqqani network was 'a veritable arm' of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and that the spy agency had directed the militant group's recent attacks at US installations in Kabul.

Terming Mullen's statement as irresponsible, Musharraf said the blame game needed to be stopped, and that Pakistan and the US needed to have same opinion against their common enemy.

He said the world needed to understand the standpoint of Pakistan, and unless the US stopped violating Pakistani interests, there would be no more alliance between the two nations.

Musharraf also insisted that the future lay in talking to the peace-seeking Taliban, and pointed out that while not all Pashtun were Taliban, all Taliban were Pashtun.

The former president stressed on the need to identify the peace-seeking Taliban and hold reconciliatory talks with them.
"Unfortunately, this selective process has been dubbed by the US as a sort of double game," he
added.