

US government says

Sanctions on India, Pakistan may be lifted soon

WASHINGTON: The US government says sanctions imposed to punish India and Pakistan for testing nuclear weapons may be lifted soon, reports IPS.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who has been negotiating intensively with senior Indian and Pakistani leaders since the tests were carried out last May, also has stressed that Washington intends to remain even-handed toward both countries.

The administration imposed sweeping sanctions against the two countries as required by a 1994 law aimed at punishing any "non-nuclear" country which acquires, tests, or exports nuclear weapons.

In addition, both countries have pledged to strengthen controls on the export of nuclear and missile technology and are participating in multilateral talks to halt production of fissile material in Geneva.

Finally, Washington will restore military training programs, although it will retain its ban on military sales or sales of any item, such as supercomputers, which has a clear military use.



Nawaz Sharif and Atal Behari Vajpayee, the two prime ministers hit by the US sanctions.

Extrajudicial killings still going on in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Sacking Benazir Bhutto as Pakistan's prime minister exactly one year ago, then president Farooq Leghari said her government had failed to maintain law and order in accordance with the law, says IPS.

Take the case of Dr Rahim Solangi, of the Sindh Tarqi Pasand Party, a small regional party. He was arrested without a warrant in June 1996 and when the Sindh High Court inquired about his whereabouts, the police claimed ignorance.

Neither has Pakistan ratified international human rights treaties, like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its first Optional Protocol, and the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

New Delhi: Even as hopes are being pinned on the Jawant Talbott talks, it is unlikely that the dark clouds over Indo-US relations will move away, especially after nuclear tests by India, says a US watcher, reports PTI.

Indo-US ties will take time to heal

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By Nirendra Dev

What will be the US approach towards Sino-Pakistani strategic cooperation and the level of US-China security cooperation?

Dr Mahapatra traces Washington's "hard" policy towards India from the days of president Eisenhower and Kennedy and notes that the selective use of food-aid programme to "arm-twist" New Delhi was particularly noticeable during the tenure of Lyndon B Johnson.

Force the Senators into passing Shariat bill, says Sharif

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's attempt to Islamise Pakistan has been checkmated by the imposition of Governor's rule in the troubled Pakistani province of Sindh, reports IPS.

Since he was sworn in last year, Sharif has taken momentous decisions without taking his Cabinet into confidence, like the enforcement of the Anti-Terrorist Act, the swearing in of right-wing Judge Rafiq Tarrar as Pakistan President, conducting nuclear tests, imposing Emergency and most recently, Governor's rule in violence-torn Sindh.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's attempt to Islamise Pakistan by introducing the Shariah Law has been checkmated by the imposition of Governor's rule in the troubled Pakistani province of Sindh.

Nepali minister faces flak for small schemes

KATHMANDU: Every government in Nepal has touted the development of the country's hydroelectric resources as its answer to chronic problems of poverty.

By Suman Pradhan

New Delhi's goodbye to old cars

NEW DELHI: For a change, Delhi's air was breathable one day in early October. That was when a bewildering congeries of antiquated taxis, trucks, buses, autorickshaws, vans and other commercial transport vehicles defying description were finally off the roads, reports IPS.

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