

Clinton okays economic ban on Myanmar

WASHINGTON, Apr 22: President Bill Clinton has approved imposing economic sanctions against Myanmar due to human rights abuses by the Myanmar military government, a Clinton administration official said today.

The official said Clinton made the decision within the last few days since Myanmar's military government had become "increasingly repressive lately" and was ignoring international calls for progress toward a democratically elected government.

ITT Sheraton named Best Hotel Chain

ITT Sheraton has been voted the "Best Hotel Chain" in the prestigious 1997 Travel Awards, says a press release.

The Travel Awards, presented by Millar Freedman, publisher of TTG Asia and PTN Asia Pacific, recognise the most outstanding individuals and organisations in the Asia Pacific travel industry.

Suppliers and industry leaders throughout the Asia Pacific region participate in voting. ITT Sheraton was awarded the title of Best Hotel Chain based on its comprehensive network and consistency in product and services, agent-friendly systems in terms of reservations and confirmations and the professionalism, innovation and servicing of its sales and marketing teams.

Steve Nikolov, Vice President and Director of Sales and Marketing ITT Sheraton Asia Pacific Division, accepted the award on behalf of ITT Sheraton.

Bangladesh on Thai priority list of potential trade partners

The visiting Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Pitak Intrawityanunt has said Bangladesh is on Thailand's priority list of potential partner countries regarding trade and investment.

This is why my delegation and I are here," he added.

He was addressing a discussion meeting between Thai business delegation and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry DCCI here yesterday.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Jute and Textile A K M Faezul Haq and DCCI President A S M Quasem also addressed the meeting.

Pitak said his country and Bangladesh have already agreed to double the volume of trade and investment by the year 2000.

"And we have reached a mutual understanding on how best to facilitate business interactions between our private sectors, and how to create an atmosphere conducive to bilateral trade and investment," he added.

The Thai Deputy Foreign Minister laid emphasis on setting up of a joint Thai-Bangladesh business council in future so that the private sectors of the two countries could take full advantage of the economic complementarities existing between the countries.

He assured that the government of Thailand would do its best to create an atmosphere conducive to further business activities between the two countries and added "I am certain that the Bangladesh government would do the same."

Pitak said, economic coop-

Investors identify areas

The Indo-Chinese and ASEAN countries including Thailand are now looking towards the South Asia for their overseas investment while the later one has identified Bangladesh as one of its "priority countries" in this regard, a senior Thai official said here yesterday.

Welcoming the delegation, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury said in a long term scenario of international competitiveness, Thai industries must relocate some of their operations to "cheaper production bases" to enjoy competitive edge in the global market.

"In this perspective, Bangladesh has established itself as one of the cheapest production bases in South Asia," he told the Thai entrepreneurs.

Chowdhury told the Thai delegation that Bangladeshi business community face "humiliating treatment" at the Bangkok Airport despite multiple entry visa system has been introduced to facilitate the business community of the two countries.

"Such a treatment is most unfortunate and it is our expectation that suitable instructions would be issued to immigration authorities at the earliest to stop such type treatments to Bangladeshi travellers," he added.

The visiting Thai entrepreneurs reviewed the possibilities and scopes of investment with their Bangladesh counterparts

here during the talks.

Welcoming the delegation, MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury said in a long term scenario of international competitiveness, Thai industries must relocate some of their operations to "cheaper production bases" to enjoy competitive edge in the global market.

Quasem said, the two countries should jointly aim at increasing the volume of trade and diversifying it in such a way that the trade gap between the countries remain at a manageable level.

Currently there is a trade imbalance between Bangladesh and Thailand which is in favour of Thailand.

In 1995-96, Bangladesh's import from Thailand was about 61 million dollars while export was about 11 million dollars.

Meanwhile, a Thai trade fair will open at Sonargaon Hotel today.

Thirty companies will take part in the fair with products like food and beverages, toys, plastic goods, electrical appliances, gems and jewellery.

Progress made in China's bid to join WTO

BEIJING, Apr 22: Talks on China's bid to join the world's largest trade body have made "remarkable progress" but the most difficult negotiations remain ahead, a trade official said Monday, reports AP.



Supat Limpaporn, Assistant Secretary-General of Thai Board of Investment addressing the members of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka yesterday. Star photo

Thailand keen to invest in EPZs

Thailand has expressed keen interest to invest in the Export Processing Zones of Bangladesh, says a press release.

The interest was shown when the visiting Thai Deputy Foreign Minister, Pitak Intrawityanunt, went to see the Dhaka Export Processing Zone at Savar yesterday. He is leading a high-power-49-member delegation.

The Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, Moazzem Hossain Khan, briefed the Thai Deputy Foreign Minister about various facilities and incentives offered by BEPZA to the investors.

Intrawityanunt evinced deep interest to learn that production cost in the EPZs of Bangladesh is one of the lowest in the world because of most inexpensive labour force and uninterrupted production.

He said Thailand is actively considering increasing investment in Bangladesh on priority basis.

Later Intrawityanunt visited a number of industries in DEPZ and expressed satisfaction over the working process and environment.

Navana, Thai co sign MOU

Navana Limited of Bangladesh and Loxley Public Company Limited of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together in the telecommunication sector in the country, says a press release yesterday.

The signing ceremony held at the Office of the Telecommunications Minister of Bangladesh was attended by Mohammad Nasim, Minister for Post and Telecommunications and the visiting Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand Pitak Intrawityanunt.

S Vidhyameth, Ambassador of Thailand in Bangladesh, Akramul Qader, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Thailand, Secretary, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications and Secretary of Public Works Department were also present on the occasion.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kamal, Chairman of Navana Limited and Dr Prasert Shusang, Vice President of Loxley Public Company Ltd of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding in the city yesterday on behalf of their respective sides to work together in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh.

Shafiu Islam Kam