

Worried Asia to take a look at anti-corruption drive

SEOUL, Dec 10: Asian countries will take a new look at their attempts to eradicate widespread corruption at a conference starting here Monday, amid signs that some are getting tough, reports AFP.

President Joseph Estrada of the Philippines is on trial, China has executed two top officials this year for taking bribes, South Korea, which is hosting the Conference on Combating Corruption in the Asia-Pacific Region, has ordered a new clampdown after a series of embarrassing scandals.

But all the signs are that the prosecutors, corruption-busters and government officials at the three-day conference face an uphill struggle. Some countries may be taking action but the sums involved are also getting bigger, experts say.

Clay Westcott, an administration specialist with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), said as much as one-third of public investment in many Asia-Pacific nations is squan-

dered on corruption.

But he said a "wave of anti-corruption sentiment is sweeping through the Asia-Pacific region." He highlighted how senior officials in China, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam had been forced to resign or face criminal charges.

Corruption remains "a universal cancer," said Peter Eigen, chairman of Transparency International (TI), a leading anti-corruption campaign group, as he introduced this year's world corruption rankings in September.

Asian countries are predominant in the bottom half of TI's annual Corruption Perceptions Index. South Korea was 48th out of 90 countries included. China was joint 63rd, Indonesia was 85th equal with Angola.

Singapore was the top ranked Asian nation in sixth place. Only Hong Kong (15th), Japan (23rd) and Taiwan (28th) also made it into the top half of

the index.

The private Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) said in its last annual corruption report in March that the gap between those most effective in fighting corruption - such as Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan - and those that have allowed corruption to flourish has widened significantly.

It said venal bureaucrats in China, India, Indonesia and the Philippines threatened their economic recovery.

TI has helped with the Seoul conference which has been organised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the ADB, indicating how seriously they take the epidemic.

But PERC and other groups have applauded China for acknowledging the gravity of its problem.

The World Bank has been advising the Chinese government on good administration.

But Beijing has taken severe measures of its own to combat an epidemic that the communist leadership sees as a threat to its rule. But opinion polls show the public has little confidence in the clampdown.

Former parliament Vice-chairman Cheng Kejie and former Jiangxi province vice-governor Hu Changping have been executed this year for taking bribes.

Justice Minister Gao Changli could become the most high-profile name to fall. He is suspected to be under investigation though he is officially said to be out of the public eye because he is unwell.

Zhao Denglou, China's deputy prosecutor general, is to give details of Beijing's strategy at the conference.

The Philippine leader is also fighting for his political life. Estrada is on trial in the House of Representatives accused of bribery, betrayal of public trust, violation of the constitution and corruption.

Clinton sees slower US growth

WASHINGTON, Dec 10: President Bill Clinton yesterday brushed aside Republican warnings of a coming recession, predicting the US economic expansion would continue, albeit at a slower pace, says Reuters.

Disputing suggestions by Republican vice-presidential candidate Dick Cheney and others that the nation might be on the verge of a recession, Clinton said in his weekly radio address the "bulk of evidence suggests that our record-breaking expansion is continuing."

Rather than expressing alarm, Clinton embraced signs the economy was slowing. He said growth rates as high as 5 per cent could "not be sustained forever," and cautioned against an abrupt change in economic policy by the next administration.

Separately, the president's top economic advisers warned that the massive tax cuts proposed by Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Cheney, who hold a razor-thin lead in the contested US presidential election, would

jeopardize the economy, now in its 10-year expansion.

In the Republican response, Illinois Rep. Judy Biggert said the tax cuts Bush has promised to enact would provide an insurance policy against any economic downturn. She noted Bush had also promised to raise limits on retirement saving accounts and to push forward with educational reforms.

Recent government reports have pointed to a softening in the once soaring US economy.

The unemployment rate inched up to 4 per cent in November.

At the same time growth as measured by gross domestic product - the sum of all goods and services produced within US borders - decelerated abruptly to a 2.4 per cent annual rate in the July-September quarter from 5.6 per cent in the second quarter.

In addition, Clinton said most private-sector experts were still forecasting "solid but measured growth in the coming year with low employment, low inflation and strong productivity."

Shipping Intelligence

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 10-12-2000

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Southern Queen	GI (Copro)	Sing	Aeka	28/11	-
J/3	Bago	GI	Sing	Everett	5/12	10/12
J/4	Enos	GI	Yang	SMSL	8/12	-
J/6	Chief of Cherokee	GI	Visa	ASA	6/12	10/12
J/8	Jin Cheng	GI	Qing	Bdshp	29/11	-
J/10	Oriental Queen	Clink Gypsum	Krab	EML	23/11	10/12
J/11	Banga Brol	Cont	Sing	Bdshp	2/12	12/12
J/12	Kui Hsiung	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	1/12	14/12
J/13	Arabella	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	1/12	12/12
CCT/1	Banglar Mohi	Cont	Sing	BSC	7/12	10/12
CCT/2	Jurong Balsam	Cont	Sing	Nol	2/12	12/12
CCT/3	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	7/12	12/12
RM/14	Banglar Urmi	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	15/12
RM/15	Princess of Lorne	Sugar (TCB)	Bang	CENI	2/11	14/12
CCJ	St Aubin	C Clink	Karb	Everett	30/11	11/12
TSP	Iran Sokan	R Phos	Haur	Seacom	27/11	-
RM/4	Agnour-1	CDSO	Mumb	MTCL	27/11	11/12
RM/5	Melody	HSD	Sing	ECSL	4/12	10/12
DD	Banglar Kakoli	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	25/12
RM/9	Banglar Shourabi	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	12/12

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Mary	10/12	Lang	BSL	Cement	(Scant)
Etessos	10/12	Sing	Rainbow	GLY P-M Seed	-
Dea Captain	10/12	-	Arafen	P Mai	-
Xpress Resolute	Cont/30/11/10/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Tug Britoil-9	11/12	Indo	OTBL	Towing D/VL Progress	-
Progress	11/12	Indo	Othl	For Scraping	-
QC Pintail	Cont/29/11/12	PTP	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
Jaami	Cont/3/12	Sing	Cross	Cont	L/Sing
Asliki-1	12/12	-	SBS	Sale	-
Zoe	12/12	-	SBS	TSP	-
Ibn Battutah	14/12	Tampa	Litmond	TSP	-
Tina-1	12/12	-	SBSC	Clink(Hyundai)	-
Amarta Jaya-1	12/3/12	13/12	Sing	ASAGI (St coil)	-
Bower C Cook	Cont/13/12	13/12	-	Bdshp	Cont
Xpress Resolute	Cont/11/12/13/12	13/12	Sing	RSL	Cont
Da Fa	Cont/3/12	14/12	Sing	RSL	Cont
K Cahaya	Cont/4/12	14/12	Sing	Pil/BD	Cont
B Bijo	Cont/3/12	14/12	Sing	Bdshp	Cont
B Shikhal	Cont/3/12	14/12	Sing	BSC	Cont
Qena	15/12	-	SBS	Fert(Urea/Bag)	-
Jaya Mars	Cont/5/12	15/12	-	Everbest	Cont
Bglar Kallol	15/12	15/12	Sikka	BSCC	Clink (BulK)
Kota Naga	Cont/6/12	15/12	Sing	Pil/BD	Cont
Bright Vega	Roro/24/12/11/15/12	15/12	-	Everett	Vehi
O Independence	Cont/17/12/15/12	15/12	-	Bdshp	Cont
San Mateo	Roro/24/12/21/12	21/12	-	JF	Vehi
Asian Century	Roro/24/12/22/12	22/12	-	JF	Vehi

Tanker due

Spiros	11/12	Rast	BSL	Crude	Oil
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Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Banga Lanka	Cont	Col	Baridhi	5/12
Xpress Makoli	Cont	Col	Everbest	6/12
Osg Alpha	Cont	P Kel	RSL	6/12
Kota Bintang	Cont	Sing	Pil/BD	6/12
Actuarial	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	6/12
Kota Bantang	Cont	Sing	Pil/BD	6/12
Alum Tabah	Sugar	Turi	Litmond	7/12
Tiger River	Cont	Sing	Nol	8/12
Bumma	CPO	Bela	Rainbow	8/12
Diana	C Clink	Kant	NWSL	6/12
Le Ding	WT(G+GI)	Cher	Litmond	8/12

Vessels awaiting instruction:

Banglar Jami	BSC	R/A	3/12
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A girl sits selling flowers in front of a booth in Vientiane yesterday. Laos is Asean's poorest country trying to draw in foreign investments to develop its national economy, which remains mainly agricultural.

— AFP photo

Weekly Currency Roundup

Aussie dollar continues rise as other Asian units slip

HONG KONG, Dec 10: The Australian dollar continued what one dealer called its "Lazarus-type recovery" as many other Asian currencies slipped this week, with the Japanese yen in particular failing to consolidate earlier gains against the dollar, reports AFP.

Japanese yen: The yen failed to reap its gains against the dollar during the week with investors concerned about the snail's pace of Japan's economic recovery, dealers said.

The yen was quoted at 110.61-64 to the dollar in Tokyo Friday afternoon, against 110.68-70 to the dollar a week earlier.

Earlier in the week the Japanese currency was traded at 111 to the dollar as investors sold it off due to a lack of fresh leads.

"The general direction of the market is still to buy the dollar and to sell the yen. There is no

major incentive to support the yen," said Mitsuru Sahara, vice president of foreign exchange at Sanwa Bank.

Although climbing back to 110, the yen remained under selling pressure due to concerns about economic recovery.

Australian dollar: A global shift away from US investments pushed the Australian dollar up almost one US cent over the week and its recovery will continue in the days ahead, dealers said.

"The Lazarus-type recovery of the Australian dollar remains in place," said Commonwealth Bank economist Besa Deda.

NZ dollar: The New Zealand dollar closed the week worth 42.56 US cents against the close a week earlier of 41.56 cents.

It fell back Friday awaiting the outcome of the European Union meeting and employment data from the US.

Singapore dollar: The dollar

traded at 1.736 Singapore dollars in late Friday trade, down from 1.7513 a week ago.

HK dollar: The dollar traded slightly higher at 7.7967-7.7977 to the greenback compared with the previous week's 7.7992-7.8002.

Indonesian rupiah: The Indonesian rupiah weakened slightly to 9,560 to the dollar on Friday from last Friday's close of 9,520 to the greenback.

Dealers said they saw unexplained selling of the rupiah in London and corporate buying of dollars.

Philippine peso: The Philippine currency weakened to close at 50.05 pesos to the dollar on Friday from 49.56 to the dollar on December 1.

South Korean won: The won strengthened from 1,209.5 won per dollar a week earlier to 1,190.30 won Friday. Dealers expected the US greenback to trade at between 1,180 won and 1,210 won in the week ahead.

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No. of Dependents	Father's Name				
Bank	Branch		Account No.		
Occupation / Designation	Employer / Business				
Business Address					
Period of Service (Years)	Phone Nos.	Fax No.	E-mail:		
SPOUSE					
Surname		Other Names			
Date of Birth	Passport No.				
Occupation / Designation	Employer / Business				
Business Address					
Period of Service (Years)	Phone Nos.	Fax No.	E-mail:		

FINANCIAL STATUS	ASSETS (TK.)	MONTHLY INCOME (TK.)	MONTHLY EXPENDITURE (TK.)
Applicant			
Spouse			

REFERENCES					
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