The Daily Star

Enron goes bust, sues Dynegy India aims to privatise 13 HK property sales

AP, New York

Beleaguered energy company Enron Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection and began a \$10 billion lawsuit against Dynegy Inc. -- the culmination of a stunn ing six-week downfall that has led to one of the largest US corporate bankruptcies ever.

Houston-based Enron listed \$24.7 billion in assets -- more than \$38 billion less than it had two months ago -- and \$13.1 billion in liabilities, according to the Chapter 11 filing Sunday.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy frees a company from the threat of creditors' lawsuits while it reorganizes its finances. The debtor usually retains control of the business and its assets.

Also, Enron accused Dynegy of wrongfully terminating its \$8.4 billion takeover bid and said Sunday it would seek at least \$10 billion in damages. Enron said proceeds from the lawsuit would benefit it creditors. Both actions were filed in US Bankruptcy Court in New York

Enron also sad it is in "active discussions" with several financial institutions to secure credit for the continued operation of its wholesale energy trading business, as well as additional funding to keep the rest of the company operating

A cash and credit crunch following disclosures in mid-October of questionable financial partnerships has made it difficult for the once-mighty energy trading to continue doing business.

Enron tried to restore confidence by raising more cash and promising to sell its money-losing businesses to shore up its once-profitable trading business. But investors continued dumping shares and several energy companies stopped making trades with Enron for fear they wouldn't be paid.

Enron chairman and chief executive Kenneth Lay said Sunday's filings will help the company, which just months ago was the country's seventh largest in terms of revenue, regain the confidence it has lost.

While uncertainty during the past few weeks has severely impacted the market's confidence in Enron and its trading operations, we are taking the steps announced today to help preserve capital, stabilize our businesses,

store the confidence of our trading counterparties, and enhance our ability to pay our creditors," Lay said.

"From an operational standpoint, our energy businesses-including our pipelines and utilities- are conducting normal operations and will continue to do so," he said.

Jim McAuliffe, an analyst with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, said he was surprised Enron hadn't nailed down its debtor-in-possession financing before the announcement

"That's going to be the tricky one. That comes well ahead of all unsecured creditors and all secured creditors," he said.

The company said it plans to launch "substantial work force reductions." most in Houston, where it's based. It didn't say how many workers would be affected. On Friday, Enron laid off 1,100 workers in Great Britain. The com-

pany employs more than 20,000 workers worldwide and 7,500 in Houston. The bankruptcy filing had been expected by several analysts and stock holders, many of whom were stunned by the company's fall from grace.

Japan sees limited impact

Another report from Tokyo says: A top official at Japan's financial watchdog said Monday that the failure of US energy company Enron Corp. will have only a limited impact on Japanese banks.

The Houston, Texas-based Enron filed for bankruptcy protection Sunday with the US Bankruptcy Court in New York and began \$10 billion lawsuit against Dynegy Inc. -- the culmination of stunning six-week downfall that has let to one of the largest US corporate bankruptcies ever

"Lending by individual major banks to the Enron group is between a few billion yen (several million dollars) and around 10 billion yen (\$80.6 million) In total, it is less than 100 billion yen (\$806 million," said Shoji Mori, commis sioner of the Financial Services Agency.

Separately, Teijin Ltd., a major Japanese maker of synthetic fibers, said Monday it has asked E Power Corp., a venture set up in Japan by Enron Corp. and Orix (IX), a leasing company, to cancel a joint feasibility study on building a 70,000- kilowatt coal-fired thermal power plant in western Japan.

state-run firms by April

AFP, New Delhi

BUSINESS

Privatisation Minister Arun Shourie said Sunday that India would push ahead with the sale of 13 state firms over the next four months despite the global economic downturn.

Shourie told a three-day global economic summit that the government had set a deadline of April 2002 to sell its stake in 13 firms in an attempt to kickstart its long-

delayed privatisation programme. "Before April 1, 2002, India will privatise 13 state-run firms which nclude large interests in the petroleum, telecommunication and cement sectors," said Shourie. Among the 13 firms on the list

are India's largest car maker, Maruti Udyog Ltd., telecom company Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), petroleum products marketing firm IBP and the Cement Corporation of India.

All the concerned ministries and departments have sat down together and sorted out the issues

to ensure the calendar is strictly adhered to during the planned selloff." said Shourie

He added that suitors for VSNL and IBP would be invited to put in their bids by the end of December. "We have investment banks

such as Lazard India and J.P Morgan carefully working out the valuations for the companies on the block," said Shourie.

The government, which holds 52.97 per cent of the New York Stock Exchange-listed VSNL. plans to reduce its holding to 26 per cent by selling a 25 per cent stake along with management control to a strategic partner and another 1.97 per cent to VSNL's employees.

The government, which holds a 57 per cent stake in IBP, plans to sell a controlling 33.58 per cent to a strategic partner.

India's attempts to sell off state companies have made slow progress because of opposition from labour unions fearing job losses and ministries unwilling to cede

Although the government has

already approved the sale of stakes in major state-owned firms including international airline Air India, domestic carrier Indian Airlines and Maruti, little progress has been made.

AFP, Hong Kong The number of Hong Kong property transactions was up 53.2 per cent year-on-year in November, the Land

Registry said Monday. The registry received 9,723 sale and purchase agreements on residential and non-residential building units in November, up 87.6

per cent from October.

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2001

CURRENCY

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving	Impor Discl
J/1	Mergui	GI (Y Ma)	Yang	Bnsship	30/11	6/12	156
J/2	Triumph Kaoshung	GI	P Kel	RML	02/12	-	17
J/5	Iron-B	WT(P)/Copra	Sing	MSA	19/11	10/12	157
J/7	Danjelion	Wheat(P)	Sing	Litmond	18/11	8/12	184
J/8	Supreme	GI	Yang	SBS	29/11	4/12	120
J/10	QC Lark	Cont	T Prk	QCSL	29/11	4/12	122
J/12	Boxer Capt Cook	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	25/11	3/12	65/
J/13	Hai Xiong	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	30/11	6/12	
CCT/1	Banglar Moni(Flag)	Cont	Sing	BSC	29/11	3/12	24,
CCT/2	Banga Lanka (Flag)	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	30/11	8/12	142/2
CCT/3	Jaya Mars	Cont	Col	Everbest	30/11	3/12	
RM/14	Baglar Gourab	Repair	Viza	BSC	2/11	8/12	
RM/15	A A Venture	Repair	Yang	CLA	3/11	-	
CCJ	Togo Charm	C Clink	T Pak	Seacom	3/11	3/12	
GSJ	Agios Nikolas	Wheat(G)	K Dia	OWSL	R/A	3/12	
RM/5	Ocean Marlin	-	K Dia	MSTPL	R/A	3/12	
DD	Bangla Birol	Repair	-	Bdship	R/A	6/12	
DDJ/2	Sea Captain	-	K Dia	Arafeen	R/A	-	
RM/9	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	11/12	
TM Compou	ind:Tug Kandari-10	-	Suez	Сар	29/11	-	
Vessel	s due at outer anch	orage					
Name	of Vessels	Date of	L Port Call	Local		Cargo	Loading
		Arrival		Agent			Por
Uni Wealth(Cont)		3/12	P Kel	RSL		Cont	L/Sing
Overseas Harriette		3/12	P Land	Lams		Wheat(G)	Mon
QC Dignity(Cont)		3/12	P Kel	QCSL		Cont	L/Sing

4/12

7/12

4/12

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5/12

5/12 5/12

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5/12 5/12

Shun An

B Robi(Cont)

Gihock(Cont)

Artemiz(Cont

B Mookh

Bright Hope

Athlos

Star Glory

Eliki

Ava

Ava

Spica

aipan

Balikesir

Diana

Sonali

Matrix

Greenville

Celine

Alina

Riza

Pita

Kythira

Accord

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Yang

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🖉 দেশ গার্মেন্টস লিমিটেড ২৪তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ভিস্নেম্বর ২, ২০০১ইং থেটেল রাজমণি ঈশা খাঁ ইন্টারন্যাশনাল (অডিটেরিয়াম) াই,পি, রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০ 52/0 PHOTO: DESH GARMENTS

Rokeya Quader, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Desh Garments Ltd, presides over the 24th A G M of the company held at a city hotel on Sunday.

China to continue spending to ensure economic growth

the current global downturn.

AFP, Hong Kong

China will continue to fuel economic growth through expansionary public spending programme, with urban development becoming a key spending area, an official said Monday

able to boost its gross domestic product by 4.0-5.0 per cent if its Qiu Xiaohua, the deputy director urban population was increased to general of China's State Statistics

consumption power of the lower economy through massive public works projects including road and strata of society". bridge building for the past four years. This has helped its economy

In particular, the incomes of 64 per cent of China's 1.3 billion popuoutperform the rest of the world in lation involved in agriculture had to be increased, he said. While there were many unclear Qiu said the country would be

factors such as prospects for the global economy. China would "still be charging ahead with positive growth and have a dominant posi

Desh Garments holds its 24th AGM

The 24th AGM of Desh Garments Ltd was held at a city hotel on Sunday, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of the Board of Directors Rokeya Quader

A large number of shareholders attended the meeting.

Many shareholders expressed their opinion as to why the Securities and Exchange Commission has not excluded Desh Garments Limited from 'Z' group for accumulated loss because this is not due to operational loss. This is the loss of devastating tidal-bore and cyclone of 1991.

The meeting unanimously passed the Audited Accounts for the year ending June 30, 2001 together with report of the directors and auditors

The meeting unanimously reappointed the retiring directors Rokeya Quader and AKM Mosharraf Hossain as per Articles of Association of the company.

As per new order of the Securities and Exchange Commission, M/s. Zahir Ahmed & Co. was appointed unanimously auditors of the company for the next financial year ending June 30, 2002.

Malaysia's trade surplus falls 23pc in Oct

Investors upbeat on /ietnam climate

AFP, Hanoi

Foreign and domestic investors alike were upbeat about Vietnam's business climate as they held annual talks with the communist authorities Monday

Business leaders singled out a andmark trade agreement with the United States, which was finally ratified by Vietnam last week after six years of tortuous negotiations, as a "momentous step forward."

The deal will see US tariffs on Vietnamese exports slashed from

after parliament debates a series of amendments later this week. 'By the end of this week, the



S'pore IT services set for double-digit growth

AFP, Singapore

Demand for information technology (IT) services in Singapore is projected to post double-digit growth even though the city-state is in the midst of its worst downturn, according to a report released Monday.

Industry research firm Gartner Dataquest said the IT services sector will generate revenue of 2.04 billion US dollars this year, a 12.7 per cent rise over last vear.

The market will continue to grow through 2005 when revenue will reach 3.6 billion dollars, said Gartner

"Following 2002, increased confidence in the economy and business will present vendors with an opportunity to benefit from renewed demand among end users of IT services based on exploiting technology innovations," said Rolf Jester, regional research director.

"Our local research shows that IT management services continue to do well despite sluggish economies," said Jester. Development and IT integration

will remain the largest component with revenue to rise to 1.0 billion dollars in 2005 from 566 million dollars last year.

week found Vietnam is no longer

regarded as the most stressful

have yet to regain their pre-1997

levels amid continuing suspicion of

Vietnam's reputation for red tape

Minister Tran Xuan Gia promised a

level playing field for the private

sector would soon be enshrined in

the communist state's constitution

Planning and Investment

But foreign investment flows

country in Asia for expatriates.

and corruption.

Dureau, salu triat write the maintain	
economy has had a "relative	v percent.
good" year, there remained grea	
potential for further growth.	achieved
He told the Asian Securitie	s internatio

Analysts Federation conference in Hong Kong that falling exports had hurt the country but that this could be countered through new domestic projects such as urban development

China has poured money into its

up to 50 per cent from the current 36 tion in the region," Qiu said through e said growth would also be an interpreter.

ved through technology and China's top economic planner nationalisation, which would has predicted the country's ecocome about through Beijing hosting nomic growth will slow to 7.4 per cent this year from 8.0 per cent in the 2008 Olympics and China's imminent formal accession to the 2000, state media said Monday, citing Zeng Peiyan, head of the World Trade Organization. There were further gains to be State Development Planning made through the increased use of Commission. monetary policy and boosting "the

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's trade surplus in October fell 22.8 per cent from a year earlier as the worsening world economy drove down exports by 12.7 per cent, government statistics showed Monday.

It was the 48th consecutive month since November 1997 that Malaysia had registered a surplus, but the figure was down to 4.4 billion ringgit (1.2 billion dollars) from 5.7 billion ringgit a year earlier.

The statistics department said a lower surplus was posted after exports fell 12.7 per cent year-onyear to 28.8 billion ringgit compared to a 10.5-per cent decline in imports to 24.4 billion ringgit.

Exports of electrical and electronics products remained the the Singapore-based Political and largest revenue earner, accounting Economic Risk Consultancy last for 58.2 per cent of total exports.

an average of 40 per cent to just three per cent as the United States finally grants its former foe normal relations in return for the trade gradual opening up of its markets. Vietnam's largest foreign business association, the American Chamber of Commerce (Amcham), complained that sentiment about Vietnam in the world's financial centres still lagged developments

on the ground. "Those of us on the on the ground have a much more positive attitude, but outside of Vietnam, particularly in the major international financial capitals... Vietnam's reputation remains as poor as in the 1997-1998 era." Amcham representative Peter Ryder told the meeting.

said.

"It is clearly in Vietnam's interests to develop a very, very well thought out... promotional campaign," he An annual survey published by

National Assembly will consider a series of amendments to the consti-B Bonik(Cont) tution, which will... affirm that the private sector is part and parcel of B Birai(Cont) the Vietnamese economy and subject to equal treatment before Da Cheng the law." he said.

The ruling communist party's elite politburo will also meet early next year to further review the private sector's position, he said.

Vietnamese business representatives urged the government to take even faster steps to liberalise trade, complaining that a planned free trade area with southeast Asian states would not bring down some tariffs before 2006.

They also called for urgent action to reduce Vietnam's high power, telecommunications and transport costs which they said were dogging their efforts to gear up to the increased foreign competition that lay ahead

Japan's new
auto sales
drop 9.3pc

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's new vehicle sales in November fell 9.3 per cent from last year to 311,015 autos as a prolonged economic slump hit consumer spending, an industry association said Monday. "The ongoing slowdown of the economy has cooled consumers' spending sentiment. That has slowed the sales of new vehicles." said a spokesman for the Japan Automobile Dealers Association. "We do not expect the sales figure to improve for now," he said. Car sales in November skidded

5.5 per cent to 236,908 vehicles, while truck sales plunged 20.0 per cent to 73,151 units, the association said. Bus sales, however, rose 11.0 per

cent to 956 units. Tovota Motor Corp., the nation's

leading automaker, sold 131.056 vehicles in Japan, down a massive 18.0 per cent vear-on-vear. Numbertwo automaker Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. sold 56,745 vehicles -- a 1.5-per cent slide

But Honda Motor Co. Ltd. bucked the trend with sales up 20.2 per cent from a year earlier at 49,989 vehicles.

5/12 For Scrapping Pacific Cemerald 5/12 Tara Litmond GI (Copra) 6/12 RML(3000 W/LD J Goods) Mong Xpress Padma(Cont) 8/12 Sing RSL Cont L/Sing QC Honour(Cont) Estella Eterna (Roro/24)2/12 P Kel Sin 7/12 QCSL Cont L/Sing 6/12 Everett Vehi 6/12 6/12 Sing Sing Rkship For Demolition S Glory T T Britoil-9 Rkshir Towing D/VI: 7/12 QCSL Cont L/Sing Kuo Hsiung(Cont) B. Barta(Cont) 8/12 7/12 Col Baridhi Cont L/Col L/Sing Pil(BD) K. Beriava(Cont) Sing Cont 7/12 Rainbow HR. Coil Well Prescadores 8/12 8/12 Sing UAE BSC L/Sing B. Shikha(Cont) Cont OTBL For Demolition Banga Bijov(Cont) 9/12 Sing Col Indo Bdship Cont L/Sing 9/12 Everbes Cont L/Col Jaami (Cont) 1/12 10/12 OTBL For Demolition Xpress Resolve (Cont) 2/12 12/12 RSL L/Sing Cont 10/12 Yang Bnsship GI K Singa(Cont) 10/12 Pil(BD) L/Sing Cont Sing 12/12 G Yong Jiang Bdship Fu Wen Shan 13/12 Bdshir GI 13/12 Sing Pil(BD) Cont L/Sing K. Agung(Cont) QCSL BSL QC Teal(Cont 15/12 P Kel Cont L/P Kel GI (Log) 11/12 Yangon Tanker Due CDSO (RM/4) 3500W/LT 7/12 Bdship Vessels at Kutubdia Cargo Name of Vessels L Port Local Date of Call Agent Arrival Vessels at outer anchorage Vessels ready 2/12 Pil(BD) Kota Naga(Cont) Cont Sina P Kel 3/12 Qc Pintail (Cont Cont Vessels not ready R.Phos 30/11 Tiaz Atlantic Alam Teladar GI(Y.MA) 1/12 Sing Sunchine OLM C.Clink/Gyp 1/12 Krab Vessels awaiting instruction 31/10 Ballas Yang Angeli BSC R/A Banglar Jyoti Vessels not entering SBS 21/11 C Clink Pearl of Bahrain Koshi GTSP (P) Tuni SSST 21/11 Litmond Fu Yun Shan Mop(P) Nik 29/11 C Clink 30/11 Alam Sentosa Kosh Radiant Star C Clink Sing ROL 1/12 Sing OTBL 29/11 29/11 Scraping Sing OTBL Athenian Theodore Dubai OTBL 29/11 Scraping Scraping Fuja Rkshir 22/11 USL Alexandra-1 R/A(22/11) Scraping Mong AHZ 17/11 Kapitan Ivanchuk Scraping Scraping Fuii Rsship 26/11 28/11 Fuja Scraping Litmond 3/11 Idle Cement Viking 5/4 Sing Movement of Vessels for: 4-12-2001 Outgoing Shifting Incoming JJ/2 T. Kaohsiung Banglar Robi J/9 J/8 Supreme Kota Naga CCT-3 Qc Dignity J/10 J/10 Qc Lark

J/2 Spica The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per Berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Qc Pintail J/12

Shun An J/4