



MONEY MEAL. Rupee currency notes valued at 2000 are seen in Jammu, India in this file photo. Police say at least one rat slipped through a hole in the back of an ATM in northeastern India and ate more than \$19,000 in currency. (AP Photo/Channi Anand, File)

Rats enjoy \$19,000 meal in India

By Wasbir Hussain
The Associated Press

GAUHATI, India — It was a cash machine heist with a difference: The attackers were hungry rodents.

At least one rat slipped through a hole in the back of an ATM in northeastern India and started eating. By the time it was finished, police say more than \$19,000 in bills were shredded.

When technicians arrived June 11 to fix a broken State Bank of India cash machine in the town of Tinsukia, they found a dead

rat inside it and Indian currency notes worth nearly 1.3 million rupees, or a little over \$19,000, chewed to shreds. The rat had entered the ATM through a small hole for cables, police superintendent Mugdha Jyoti Mahanta said. The notes were in 500-rupee and 2,000-rupee denominations.

The ATM had been broken since May 20, officials said.

A State Bank of India official said the cash machine was overseen by another company.

“We are surprised at what has happened. An investigation has been ordered,” said the official, Bimal Debroy.

All aboard Hello Kitty: Pink bullet train debuts in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — A Hello Kitty-themed *shinkansen* bullet train has debuted in Japan. Adorned with the cartoon icon inside and out, it’s a dream ride for fans of the internationally popular character.

A special shinkansen took its inaugural round trip between Osaka and Fukuoka, connecting Japan’s west and south. It will run through September.

The stylish, eight-car train is painted pink and white, showcasing Hello Kitty images and trademark ribbons from flooring to seat covers and windows.

In one car, a life-size Hello Kitty doll donning a train crew uniform and a hat — decorated with a pink bow, of course —

greeted passengers, offering a chance for selfies.

Hours later in Osaka at the train’s final stop, hundreds of fans waited for the arrival of the first Hello Kitty shinkansen, cheering and taking photos during its 16-minute stopover before it headed back to Fukuoka, according to Japanese media reports.

Hello Kitty, created in 1974 by the Japanese company Sanrio Co., is a global icon with fans of all ages.

After more than 40 years in the market, the round-faced feline with no mouth is still seen everywhere, on stationery and towels to jewelry and even furniture.

Rocket developed by Japan startup in flames after liftoff

TOKYO (AP) — A rocket developed by a Japanese startup company burst into flames seconds after a failed liftoff in northern Japan.

The MOMO-2 rocket,

U.N. refugee agency: Record 68.5 million displaced

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displaced people has utterly collapsed. Rich countries are building walls against families fleeing war, at the same time as less money is available for aid to people in conflict areas,” Egeland said. He said leaders in many countries are invoking border closures in Europe to carry out their own exclusion policies.

“We have to end this race to the bottom, and rather let us be inspired by generous recipient countries like Uganda, where vulnerable refugees are being protected,” he said.

developed by Interstellar Technologies, was launched in Taiki town on Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost main island. It was supposed to reach as high as 62 miles into space.

Television footage showed the 33-foot pencil rocket lifted only slightly from its launch pad before dropping to the ground, disappearing in a fireball. Footage on NHK public television showed a charred rocket lying on the ground.

The incident caused no injuries.

Interstellar Technologies president Takahiro Inagawa said he believes the rocket suffered a glitch in its main engine.

He apologized for the failure and said his team would collect the debris to analyze the problem and improve the rocket.

The failure was the second after the rocket’s first launch last July.

The project was started
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