

'UN risks going BROKE by Aug end'

UNITED NATIONS July 2 (IANS)

THE world organisation is in danger of going broke by the end of next month despite a life-line thrown to it by the General Assembly through a change in funding procedure, according to UN officials.

Assistant Secretary-General Chandramouli Ramanathan put it bluntly on Wednesday (local time): "We don't have cash beyond August".

That's just before the UN's annual high-level meeting that convenes in September with a parade of world leaders.

Come "September, money is gone", he said.

But Ramanathan, who is the UN's finance chief, hoped to save the meeting with account-

ing manoeuvres, rescuing the UN from an unprecedented embarrassment.

"We are going to make the high-level happen by scrounging around and stopping other payments," he vowed.

Beyond that, continued operation after August will depend on contributions coming in, mainly from the US and China. The UN is in a bind because its two biggest budget contributors, China, whose share of the budget is about \$635 million or 20 per cent, and the US, accounting for \$767 million or 22 per cent, have yet to fully pay up their dues.

China owes about \$430 million for this year, while the US has run up a tab of about

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Russian missiles, drones kill 17

■ By **Hanna Arhirova** and
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KYIV, July 2 (AP)

RUSSIA hammered Kyiv in a major drone and missile attack overnight into Thursday morning, killing at least 17 civilians and injuring scores more in what Moscow described as retaliation for Ukrainian strikes on oil facil-

Damage caused across Ukraine capital

ities that have caused fuel shortages and put pressure on President Vladimir Putin.

Loud explosions shook the Ukrainian capital for hours during the night, with many people sheltering at subway stations after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other authorities issued the first warnings of an incoming attack. Emergency crews were still digging through the rubble of collapsed and charred apartment buildings in search of victims as dawn broke.



A residential apartment building is seen damaged after a Russian strike on Kyiv on Thursday. (AP/PTI)

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that the deadly bombardment was in response to Ukraine's long-range strikes on its civilian infrastructure. Ukraine's increasingly frequent

and large-scale attacks - described by Zelenskyy as a 40-day blitz - have especially targeted oil refineries, causing a fuel crisis that has frustrated Russians, more than four years after

Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

The attack killed 17 people in Kyiv and injured more than 90 others, according to Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

Army's Corps of Signals Dare Devils attempt new world record at Atal Tunnel

SHIMLA, July 2 (PTI)

INDIAN Army's Corps of Signals Dare Devils team successfully completed a new world record attempt inside the Atal Tunnel in Rohtang, the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 feet in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, on July 1.

The remarkable feat saw 10 riders performing on just two motorcycles, traversing the 9.8-kilometre Atal Tunnel in an impressive 9 minutes and 47.97 seconds at an altitude of 10,075 feet, the Army said in a statement on Thursday.

Executed under demanding high-altitude conditions, the attempt required extraordinary precision, balance, endurance, flawless teamwork and excep-

tional riding skills, demonstrating the highest standards of military professionalism.

The Corps of Signals Dare Devils team, which is currently on a nationwide "Wheels of Valour: Sanchar Shakti" motorcycle expedition, reached Palchan in Kullu on June 30, before creating history on Wednesday. The achievement was part of a series of ambitious world record attempts planned by the Dare Devils team as a tribute to the spirit of Kargil Vijay Diwas. The accomplishment -- which followed months of intensive training, rehearsals and technical preparation -- marked the first of the several record attempts planned.

The event was conducted under comprehensive safety

arrangements, with every operational and safety protocol being meticulously followed throughout the attempt, the Army said. The Dare Devils worked in close coordination with the civil administration, police authorities and road management agencies to ensure the complete safety of the riders, officials, support staff, and all road users, it said.

On behalf of the Corps of Signals, Lieutenant General Vivek Dogra, Signal Officer-in-Chief and Colonel Commandant, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Manali district administration, Himachal Pradesh Police, Director General Border Roads, Project Yojak, Project Deepak and 38 Border Roads Task Force for their cooperation.

Prashant Sitaram appointed Additional Secy in Home Ministry

NEW DELHI, July 2 (PTI)

CBSE chief Lokhande Prashant Sitaram was on Thursday appointed as an Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry.

Sitaram, a 2001 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories or AGMUT cadre, was appointed CBSE chairperson last month after the incumbent was shifted out amid the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system row.

He was then already serving as an Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, with additional charge of the post of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) chairperson until a regular incumbent is appointed, according to order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

Methyl Isocyanate of Law: SC quashes verdict based on AI-generated precedents

NEW DELHI, July 2 (PTI)

RED flagging the use of “non-existent, fake, and hallucinated” judgements generated by artificial intelligence (AI), the Supreme Court on Thursday set aside a verdict of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), saying that courts must adopt zero tolerance against citing or using AI-generated precedents.

The bench comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe said, “The production of fake, non-existent, and hallucinated material and its utilisation as precedents in law, is like the release of methyl Isocyanate in the province of law and justice: invisible, insidious, and catastrophic by the time anyone notices. It not only contaminates but takes away the very lifeblood

of judicial determination.”

It set aside an NCLT judgement on Essel Infra projects insolvency after finding that the tribunal had relied on non-existent, fake and hallucinated judgement precedents generated through AI tools.

“It is necessary for Courts to adopt a zero-tolerance mode for producing, citing or using AI-generated precedents without verification. It is a misconduct on the part of an advocate to cite such judgements without verification,” the verdict said.

The bench said it was equally a “serious lapse” if a judge relies on such a fake or hallucinated AI-generated material as precedents in support of the determination. “We have no hesitation in declaring that such a decision is no decision in the eyes of the law,



irrespective of whether such material had a direct or indirect bearing on the decision-making. Such decisions are to be set aside even if an iota of fake or hallucinated material enters the decision-making process, as it would violate the sanctity of adjudication,” it said. The bench said it is absolutely necessary to maintain integrity in decision-making.

“And we reiterate and declare

The production of fake, non-existent, and hallucinated material and its utilisation as precedents in law, is like the release of methyl Isocyanate in the province of law and justice: invisible, insidious, and catastrophic by the time anyone notices. It not only contaminates but takes away the very lifeblood of judicial determination.

- SC bench said on AI-generated verdict

zero tolerance for the Bar as well as the Bench to cite, refer to, or rely on such material. It is also clarified that our judgement shall have no bearing on the rightful use of AI, but on the presentation or reliance on fake or hallucinated material as if it were a court precedent,” it said.

The bench said mere declaration of prohibitory action is not sufficient and there must be a

consequential action following accountability. “So far as the responsibility of the bar is concerned, we direct the Bar Council of India (BCI), being the apex statutory body, to constitute a committee and deliberate on this issue of members of the bar submitting such fake and hallucinated material before the Court as if they are precedents of law,” it said.

'Positive progress' made in US-Iran talks in Doha: Pak

ISLAMABAD, July 2 (PTI)

PAKISTAN on Thursday said its mediators, along with Qatar, concluded separate meetings with the US and Iranian negotiators in Doha and reported "positive progress" on various aspects of the MoU, with the two sides agreeing to further discussions.

The US and Iran signed the memorandum of understanding on June 18, aimed at restoring peace in West Asia. It was followed by technical-level talks in Switzerland on June 21, with Pakistan and Qatar as mediators.

"Qatari and Pakistani mediators concluded separate meetings with the US and Iranian negotiators in Doha today (Thursday), with positive progress made on issues related to the aspects of the Islamabad MOU, building on the Lake Lucerne Summit," the Foreign Office said.

Though the next date of talks was not announced, it was decided to continue discussions after the funeral of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Skyroot announces launch window for Vikram-1

NEW DELHI, July 2 (PTI)

HYDERABAD-based Skyroot Aerospace on Thursday announced that a launch window between July 12 and August 4 for the maiden test flight of its Vikram-1 launch vehicle -- the nation's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.

The final date of the lift-off will be subject to the completion of assembly and testing operations at the launch site in the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, and weather, safety, and range clearance. "We want to understand how the vehicle performs from lift-off through every

phase of ascent. This data cannot be fully replicated through ground testing," Pawan Kumar Chandana, co-founder and CEO of Skyroot Aerospace said.

The mission, called "Agaman", will gather critical data across propulsion, stage separation, guidance, navigation, control and overall vehicle performance. Vikram-1 is a seven-storey-tall, multi-stage orbital launch vehicle built with an all-carbon composite structure and powered by in-house developed propulsion systems, including 3D-printed engines and high-thrust solid-fuel rocket boosters.



India, Japan unveil agenda to boost strategic ties

NEW DELHI, July 2 (PTI)

INDIA and Japan on Thursday unveiled a raft of landmark initiatives including an economic partnership framework, a defence pact to co-develop military hardware and steps to enhance energy ties to tackle oil shocks following summit talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi.

The major outcomes from the meeting included a declaration on economic security, a joint statement for cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence and a document to bolster engagement in the energy supply chain.

The two sides also finalised a mobility framework to facilitate required framework for cooper-



Japanese Ambassador to India Ono Keiichi and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri exchange Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi during a joint press statement following delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi. (PTI)

ation in shipbuilding, aviation and logistics.

"In today's era of uncertainty, both India and Japan fully understand the importance of economic security and energy security. With this in mind, we have today prepared a joint roadmap for economic security," Modi said in his media statement.

"Through this, we will strengthen supply chain resilience in strategic sectors such as semiconductors, quantum technology, and advanced materials," he said.

Modi and Takaichi also deliberated on the situation in Indo-Pacific, a region that has witnessed growing Chinese military muscle flexing.

"Today, both India and Japan
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