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X-ray space telescope launched

PASADENA, Calif., June 13 (UPI) -- NASA said its NuSTAR X-ray observatory went into orbit Wednesday after it was dropped from an aircraft over the central Pacific Ocean.

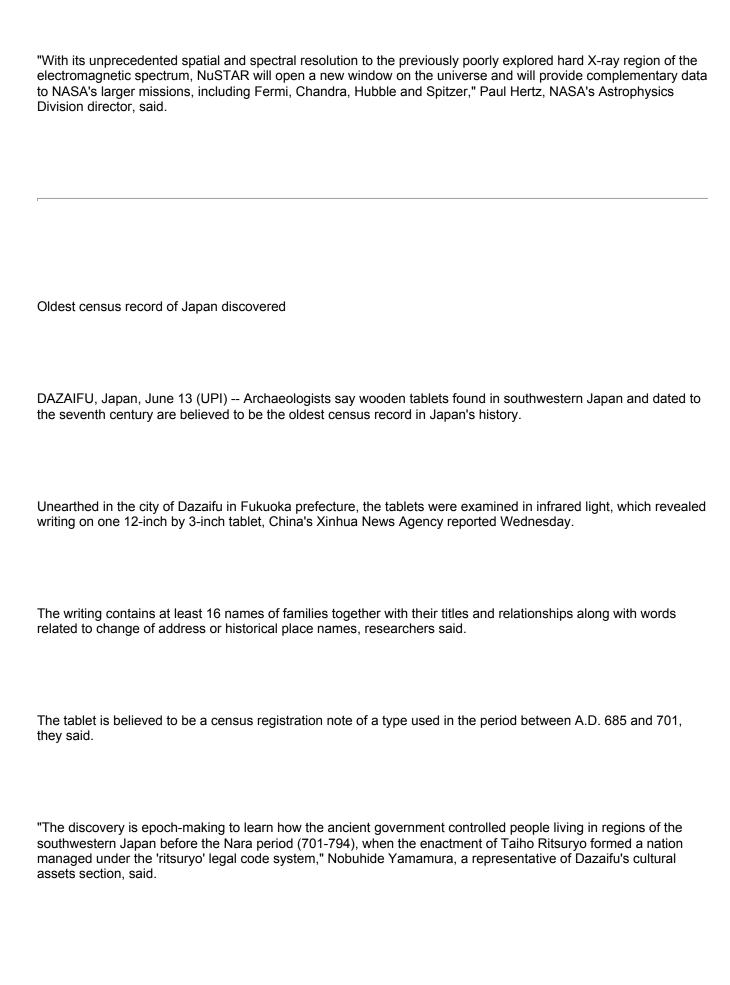
An L-1011 "Stargazer" aircraft, operated by Orbital Sciences Corp. of Dulles, Va., took off from Kwajalein Atoll with the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope attached to Orbital's Pegasus XL rocket, both strapped to the belly of the aircraft.

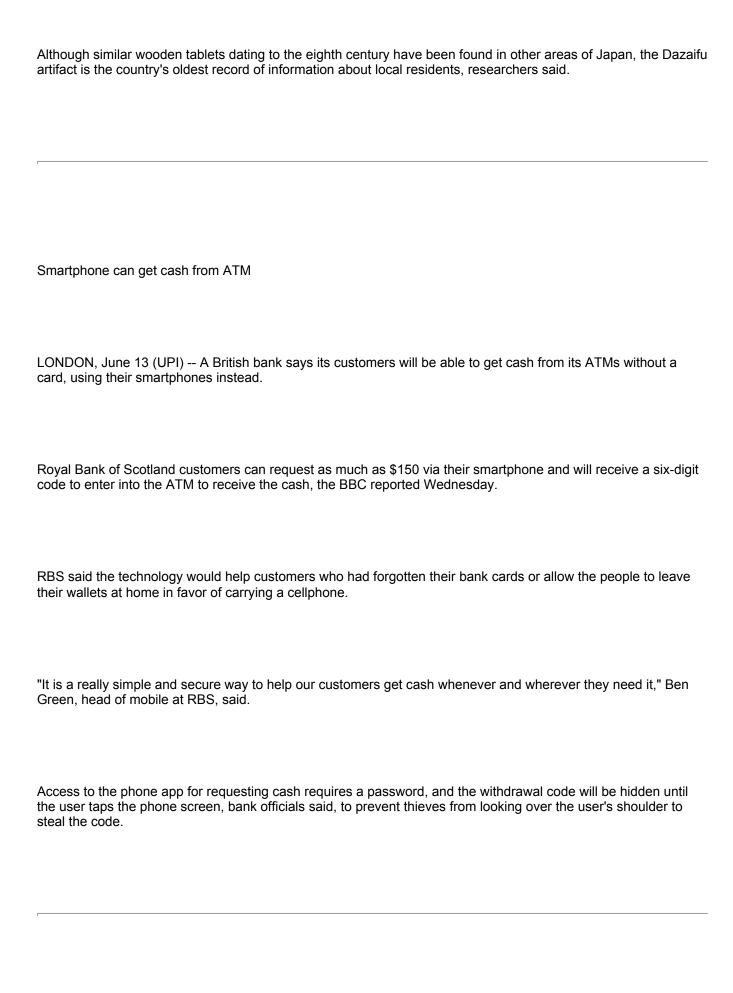
At noon EDT, the rocket dropped from the L-1011, free-falling for 5 seconds before firing its first-stage motor.

About 13 minutes later, NuSTAR separated from the rocket, reaching its final low-Earth orbit, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., reported Wednesday.

"NuSTAR spread its solar panels to charge the spacecraft battery and then reported back to Earth of its good health," Yunjin Kim, the mission's project manager at JPL, said. "We are checking out the spacecraft now and are excited to tune into the high-energy X-ray sky."

NuSTAR will detect the highest energy X-ray light from the cosmos, seeing through gas and dust to reveal black holes lurking in our Milky Way galaxy, as well as those hidden in the hearts of faraway galaxies, mission officials said.





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Problems reported in U.S. germ laboratory	
ATLANTA, June 13 (UPI) A U.S. bioterror germ lab has had ongoing problems with airflow synhelp prevent the release of infectious agents, government documents show.	ystems designed to
The problems involve Biosafety Level 3 labs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Today reported Tuesday.	n in Atlanta, USA
The labs are used for experiments involving anthrax, dangerous strains of influenza, the SARS other microbes that could possibly be used as bioweapons.	coronavirus and
In February, air from inside a potentially contaminated lab briefly flowed out into a "clean" corrid visitors who weren't wearing any protective gear were touring the facility, internal CDC e-mails	
While the agency said no one had been infected, one expert says the incident represents a malaboratory operating standards.	ijor violation of
CDC documents about problems at the labs "raise serious concerns," Rutgers University biosa Ebright said. "There appear to be significant irregularities."	fety expert Richard
CDC engineers have expressed concerns about the air containment systems since at least 20 reported.	10, USA Today

The CDC has declined to respond to questions submitted in writing about the problems inside the high-containment labs, the newspaper said.

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