

## Milky Way a fairly large galaxy?

WASHINGTON, Jan 9 : US and Australian astronomers have formed a new theory after detecting what they believe are the remnants of a smaller galaxy that was swallowed up by the Milky Way, reports AFP.

"The Milky Way is a fairly large galaxy, and we believe it was formed by the merging of a number of smaller galaxies," Rosemary Wyse, professor of physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, told the American Astronomical Society in San Diego, California, on Monday.

The theory was formed after the group observed intriguing patterns of star motion and composition in the Milky Way that hinted at the presence of a remnant of a smaller galaxy consumed by the Milky Way billions of years ago.

"What's not clear is what merged when, and this is very significant in trying to constrain

the theories of how galaxies evolve," added Wyse, who studies the Old Stellar Population Survey, an attempt to map out structural details of parts of the Milky Way galaxy.

"The Milky Way is a disk galaxy, which means it has a disk of gas and stars, and these are moving in approximately circular orbits around the center of the galaxy, and essentially all the stars in the disk are moving together," Wyse said.

"There is also a component called the thick disk, because it's puffed up to a higher scale height than the rest of the disk," she added.

This 'puffing up' effect is most likely a result of the entry of a fairly massive satellite galaxy into the Milky Way," Wyse said.

Astronomers perform their observations for the survey at the Anglo-Australian Observatory near Coonabarabran, New South Wales, Australia.

## Road digging back again

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A DCC official said that WASA is yet to hand over the roads near Moghbazar and Shahajapur to DCC.

Explaining the delay, a senior WASA official said that some post-installation tests like hydraulic tests and pressure tests carried out by a Chinese company is taking some time. He said that WASA has already handed over the road from Nikhet Crossing to Bangla Motor link road to DCC for repair.

The DCC official said they have finished carpeting the road and that the repair work was likely to begin in a couple of days.

In addition to DESA's cable installation work in Sobhankhara area, Dhaka Urban Transport Project authorities has been relocating the road dividers at Sobhankhara and its adjacent areas on Mirpur Road under a 'demonstration project'.

Preferring anonymity, a DCC official said, "Water, power and telephone all are essential services and the situation becomes more critical if we do not permit the agencies concerned to dig the roads for underground repair and installation work".

DCC permits an agency for digging a road after receiving application from the agency

realising an amount for repairing the damaged road.

DCC is yet to give permission to some such agencies for digging roads in Shantinagar area where it has recently repaired roads at a huge cost, he added.

There is no coordination among the agencies, which results in this unexpected situation, he alleged. "Even the Nagar Bhaban sometimes does not have immediate knowledge that an agency is digging up a road as they have got the permission from the office of superintendent engineer concerned of DCC".

A number of officials of different agencies admitted the lack of coordination among the agencies in this regard. "DESA does not know which city road DCC is going to repair and we do not know if DESA or BTTB is going to install cable under the same road after the repair work has already been finished," said an official.

WASA MD Khandakar Azharul Haq told The Daily Star that WASA pipe installation work will continue till April 2002.

While sympathising with the city dwellers for their suffering, he said, "Road digging for installation of water pipelines is necessary as the city's water supply will improve considerably once the project is completed."

## Babu acquitted

From page 1  
Just after the murder, Fazlur Rahman Tanmoy was caught with a revolver by some players of Dhanmondi Club nearby.

Zahirul Haq Khan, father-in-law of Humayun Zahir, filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Thana the same day, accusing Fazlur Rahman Tanmoy.

The investigation officers of the case submitted a charge sheet before the CMM's court, Dhaka, against seven persons including influential Awami League Leader Aktheruzzaman Chowdhury Babu in 1994.

Charges were framed against the accused on March 3, 1994.

Matin, Tanmoy and Alam gave judicial statements at CMM's court, Dhaka, during the investigation.

The court recorded statements of 45 out of 65 prosecution witnesses in the case.

Of the seven, Babu and Matin

were granted ad-interim bail by the High Court in 1997.

District PP Mohammad Ali appeared for the state while senior advocate Sirajul Haq, Mahbub Ahmed, Abdul Rashid, Najibullah Hero and Shamim Ahsan appeared for the accused.

When contacted, the PP said that the judgement was given according to law. Mahbub Ahmed, lawyer of Babu, refused to comment on the verdict.

When contacted, Babu, who was the main accused in the case, said he got justice. In the last eight years, he was harassed in every sphere of life for this murder case, he said.

Babu's supporters welcomed him with flowers as he came out of the court.

Additional police force was deployed on the court premises and in the court room to maintain law and order.

## Involve China: Khaleda

From page 12  
afternoon also discussed the entire gamut of bilateral issues and regional politics.

BNP advisory council member MM Rezaul Karim briefed news-men after the meeting that lasted more than an hour.

About bilateral trade, Bastola said though it is in favour of Nepal for the last three years, the volume is small compared to the demand of markets of both countries.

He hoped trade volume will increase in days to come.

The Nepalese Foreign Minister mentioned that 28km transit route through the Indian territory is not utilised satisfactorily for lack of infrastructure, customs and immigration facilities.

He requested the Bangladeshi government to remove the barriers.

Bastola favoured involvement of Bangladesh in the Indo-Nepal joint project for development of water resources of the Koshi river.

Khaleda requested Bastola to convey her felicitations to the King and the Prime Minister of Nepal.

Nepalese Ambassador in Dhaka Madhu Ramam Acharya and high officials of Nepalese Foreign Ministry accompanied the Foreign Minister.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and advisory council members M Morshed Khan and Reaz Rahman were also present during the meeting.

## Militant movement

From page 1  
the elections side by side with continuing the movement.

But BNP leadership apprehends that the government might go for stern action and arrest opposition leaders and activists indiscriminately under the Public Safety Act. This is why the party preferred to launch a campaign to press the government to repeal the PSA, the insiders added.

A top BNP leader told this correspondent that the Awami League government already filed "false" cases against at least 70,000 leaders, activists and supporters of the party across the country and killed about 300 activists in the last four and a half years.

He feared that the government might intensify repression on the opposition if it launched an oust-government movement. "We have information that the government is planning to detain a large number of leaders and activists under the black law as soon as we start movement," he said.

Asked about opposition MPs' en masse resignation from parliament, an influential BNP leader said the party is yet to take any decision on the issue. He mentioned that party hardliners who had taken the move in mid-1998 now do not want it as the tenure of AL government is nearing an end.

He dismissed the reason behind imposition of surcharge by CFTC.

Replying to a question, he stressed the need for concerted efforts to operate the port round-the-clock to cope with any critical situation in case of frequent haults.

A Biman official when asked denied that there was any pressure or lobbying for sale of the Airbus A340 aircraft. A deal has not been concluded with any one, he said.

The sources said Max has offered to buy the four DC-10-30 aircraft for 25 million dollars, which is "half the current market price of the aircraft".

The DC-10-30s form the backbone of Biman's international fleet.

As per the RFP, "manufacturers, owners, operators, airlines, leasing, financial institutions having aircraft of their own can only submit the offer".

But records show that Max did not have any aircraft other than Boeing 727, which it offers as 'flying homes'.

## CPA sees

From page 12  
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Activists of Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the textbooks scandal. - Star photo

## Independent judiciary a must for rule of law: CJ

Against the backdrop of recent controversies, Chief Justice Latifur Rahman yesterday requested all to honour Supreme Court judgement although he said he didn't rule out constructive criticism, reports UNB.

"A judge is not immune from criticism . . . but the criticism must not be destructive or with mala fide intention," he said, adding that as per the provision of the Constitution, the final cause of the law is welfare of the people.

He said this while addressing the inaugural function of the annex building of the Supreme Court yesterday afternoon.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the new building built at a cost of Tk. 38.73 crore.

"It is our duty to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and to secure the fundamental rights of the citizens through judicial review of the administrative actions of the government."

He said that an independent judiciary is indispensable for establishment of the rule of law and without the rule of law democracy cannot be established.

With that end in view, the chief justice sought cooperation of the other two organs of the state-

legislative and the executive.

"Matured democracy will not be established unless we can provide an independent judiciary and an experienced legislative and a free press."

"Controversies at times arise when a legislative or an executive order is knocked down by the Supreme Court in its constitutional dispensation," the chief justice said.

"Please remember that we strike down a legislation only because it is plainly unconstitutional. We do not strike it down in a spirit of confrontation or to assert supremacy."

## Myanmar massing troops

From page 1  
A company-level flag meeting between BDR and Nasaka Monday evening led to a seven-day cease-fire and suspension of construction of an embankment.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh is closely monitoring the situation along the southeastern border. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is learnt, is expecting a reply to the complaint it has lodged with Myanmar Ambassador U Ohn Thwin in Dhaka on Monday regarding construction of an embankment in violation of international law and a bilateral agreement on the river Naf.

Authorities concerned in Dhaka said that they were expecting assurance from the Myanmar authorities that they were not erecting any permanent embankment on the Naf river since it would lead to flood-

ing, river erosion and loss of shrimp farming in Bangladesh territory.

Besides, it would be a flagrant violation of the maritime agreement signed between the two countries, they added.

The authorities pointed out that an agreement encompassing the demarcation across the Naf river was signed in 1966. In 1980, another agreement on land boundary demarcation was sealed between Dhaka and Yangon in which the 1966 agreement was also recognised.

Clause Five of the 1966 agreement on the Naf river says: "The contracting parties agree that after coming into force of the present agreement, neither party shall conduct river training, river training work or utilise the flow of the Naf river or its waters on its own side of the international boundary agreement on the river Naf."

The incident which was reported to have taken place will be settled shortly and tension defused. The BDR and Nasaka will hopefully solve it by having more flag meetings," the official said.

"We have established nine separate courts for trying cases under the Public Safety Act. Altogether, the present government has established courts of 80 district judges, 12 additional district judges and 70 sub-judges. Creating so many district judge courts in the shortest possible time is a record," she said.

The Prime Minister said the government had formed legal aid

"We have established nine separate courts for trying cases under the Public Safety Act. Altogether, the present government has established courts of 80 district judges, 12 additional district judges and 70 sub-judges. Creating so many district judge courts in the shortest possible time is a record," she said.

"I don't know whether any government has given so much honour and importance to the judiciary before us. We have done all this for developing the judicial system and ensuring justice for the people in the shortest possible time."

Hasina told the function that her government is also committed to giving appointment of judges of the Supreme Court according to the suggestion of the Chief Justice. She assured her government's continued support for the development of the judiciary.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said the government is increasing facilities for the judges so that common people can afford to get justice.

The government has imposed a restriction on the movement of all goods carriers in the capital from 8 am to 8 pm. The decision is to be made effective from today.

The government has also decided to establish special courts in greater district headquarters for speedy completion of anti-corruption cases.

"Our justice is very costly and time-consuming. The poor cannot afford to seek justice here," he said in a veiled criticism of judicial hassles and expressed the hope that the court would ensure justice for all.



Indian paramilitary personnel inspect a portion of the main telephone exchange in Srinagar that was damaged in a massive explosion yesterday. At least 28 people, including two paramilitary policemen, were injured in a massive explosion, suspected to be the handiwork of Musl

## 2 Bangladeshis shot dead by BSF in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 9 : Indian border guards (BSF) shot dead two Bangladeshi nationals and injured two others in frontier Koikhali union under Shyamnagar upazila of the district Monday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Radha Rani, 50, wife of Pushupati Mistri of village Sripholpati and her son Gopal, 30.

Two of her sons who received bullet injuries in the shooting remained missing.

Local sources said BSF opened fire on the Bangladeshi nationals as they, along with other smugglers, tried to cross the frontier-river Kalindi at Huloghat at about 9 am.

BSF personnel took away the bodies of two Bangladeshi nationals.

A police spokesman said Singh was drunk.

Scores of security personnel have died in similar incidents across Kashmir since the eruption of a Muslim separatist drive in 1989 which has claimed more than 34,000 lives so far.

Such attacks have been blamed on low morale, poor living conditions and homesickness among troops who are often deployed in a hostile region for long stretches with no home leave.

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