

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

From page 12

A DCC official said that WASA is yet to hand over the roads near Moghbazar and Shajahanpur 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 Nilkhet 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 Sobhanbagh area, Dhaka Urban Transport Project authorities has been relocating the road dividers at Sobhanbagh and its adjacent areas on Mirpur Road under a 'demonstration project'.

Preferring anonymity, a DCC official said, "Water, power and telephone 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 BTB 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 Tannoy 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 Tannoy.

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

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

Matin, Tannoy 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, Abdur Rashid, Najibullah Hero and Shamin 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 newsmen 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 Bangladesh 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 Raman 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.

CPA sees

From page 12

now the situation has improved a lot.

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 hartals.

Biman

From page 1

3.

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'.



Activists of Chhatra Dal broughtout 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 for

industrial purpose, drainage, water conservancy, irrigation, generation of hydro-electric power and the like to such an extent as to prejudice the interest of the other party."

A high-ranking official of the Myanmar embassy, when asked about the deployment of troops across the border yesterday and the construction of embankment said, "We have received no feedback from our headquarters. Therefore, it is the embassy's view that the incident in the border is not a big deal, and it is a common event involving any international border."

"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.

Govt wants to hold trial

From page 12f

The Prime Minister said the judiciary is enjoying full freedom in this country and the present government had taken a number of steps for its development including establishing the Judicial and Administrative Training Institute in 1996 and forming a permanent Law Commission.

The Prime Minister said her government had taken initiative to ensure human rights in order to establish the rule of law. "We have taken realistic steps to remove the causes of violation of human rights and increase awareness at grassroots level."

The government has introduced effective, timely and strict law to stop woman and child repression, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government had formed legal aid

committees to ensure justice for poor people and allocated necessary funds for it. People have started reaping the benefits of all these measures.

"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.

"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.

TAOA threatens indefinite strike from today

By Staff Correspondent

Transport Agency Owners Association (TAOA) has threatened an indefinite strike of all goods carrier vehicles from 8 pm today if the government fails to withdraw its ban on movement of vehicles in the Dhaka city during day time.

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.



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 Mus-

2 Bangladeshis shot dead by BSF in Sathkhira

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

The deceased were identified as Radha Rani, 50, wife of Poshupati Mistri of village Sripolkhati 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 Hulorghat at about 9 am.

BSF personnel took away the bodies of two Bangladeshi nationals.

30 houses gutted in city slum

Some 30 houses were gutted in a fire at a slum at city's East Lalchhora Damalkot area under cantonment thana yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Fire service sources said the fire originated from an oven at about 2 pm and soon engulfed the surrounding houses.

More than 150 people lost their belongings and valuables in the fire.

Four fire fighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after an hour-long effort.

20 hurt as BCL factions clash at Bakerganj

BARISAL, Jan 9 : A gunfight between the two factions of Chhatra League in Bakerganj upazila today left 20 injured, 10 of them seriously, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble began at about 11 am at Bakerganj Government College when the activists of Lokman group attacked the followers of Boalia Jalal group over a trifling matter.

Traffic on Barisal-Kuakata regional highway remained suspended for about two hours during the clash.

The feuding groups also ransacked some shops at bus stand and fired at least five gunshots.

Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Ten of the injured, identified as Liton, 18, Mahbub, 16, Jewel, 17, Shaheen, 18, Sohul, 19, Shahidul, 18, Al Amin, 19, Reaz, 18, Nasir, 18 and Mintu, 18, were admitted to Bakerganj Thana Health Complex.

Bangla Bazar Patrika Collapse of dialogue protested

Journalists, employees and workers of Bangla Bazar Patrika yesterday strongly protested the collapse of dialogue between the authorities and Oikya Parishad without any decision over resumption of the publication of the daily, and terrorists attack on its journalists, reports UNB.

The protest was made from a joint meeting held in front of the newspaper office yesterday. Convenor of the Sangbadik Sramik Karmochari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) Shahnewaz Dulal presided over the meeting.

From the meeting, the leaders urged the authorities to resolve the crisis by Tuesday night and resume publication of the newspapers without delay.

Otherwise, they threatened to announce next course of action from a meeting to be held in front of the newspaper office today.

The will also gather the house of the owner of the newspaper, Zakaria Khan, and stage a sit-in demonstration there.

Bastola

From page 12

surface transit route from Banglabandh in Bangladesh to Kakarvitta in Nepal, said it will be "worked out with India."

Responding to a question about the recent anti-Indian violence in Kathmandu over reported remarks of Indian film star Rithik ORshan, the foreign minister said there was no basis for it as the film star himself had denied making any such comment.

Obituary

From page 1

that an opposition lawmaker had submitted an application for a general discussion on the case against BNP lawmaker Morshed Khan under the Public Safety Act.

But the BAC members refused to entertain the plea on the grounds that the Rules of Procedure don't allow such a discussion.

Leader of the House Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the meeting that the concerned lawmaker should raise the issue by attending the House.

However, there was no decision as regards a discussion on the expatriate voters' enrolment issue, mentioned in the speaker's letter to the leader of the opposition. The speaker had invited the opposition leader to attend the coming session.

Advisory committee members belonging to BNP and Ershad-led Jatiya Party did not attend the meeting.

Indian troops kill five colleagues in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Jan 9 : Two Indian paramilitary troopers shot dead five of their colleagues, including an officer, and injured three others in the militancy-ridden state of Kashmir, police said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

A member of the Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire late Monday on his colleagues in downtown Srinagar, summer capital of Indian Kashmir, killing three colleagues and injuring three others.

In another incident, Balbir Singh of the Central Reserve Police Force, shot dead a sub-inspector and a constable from the same force late Monday in another area of Srinagar.

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.

Meanwhile, nearly 50 people, including two paramilitary police, were injured in two separate explosions caused by suspected Muslim militants in

Indian Kashmir on Tuesday.

A massive bomb explosion outside the main telephone exchange in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar, injured 28 people.

Hours later, suspected militants threw a grenade in a crowded market place in Anantnag town, injuring 20 pedestrians.

The Srinagar blast which took place at 9:50 am (0420 GMT), damaged a large section of the exchange building which is heavily guarded around the clock.

"Most of the injured had been lining up outside, waiting to pay their telephone bills," said a senior police officer.

Two members of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force were among those injured in the explosion, which shattered the windows of nearby houses and vehicles.

The exchange is located near Lal Chowk, Srinagar's main commercial area.

Police said witnesses had identified a suspect who had joined the queue outside the exchange and could have planted the bomb.

"The suspect left the scene, saying he did not have enough money to pay his bill. The explosion occurred minutes later," the police officer said.

15-member IT task force set up

The government has set up a 15-member task force headed by the Prime Minister to explore the prospects of Information Technology in economic, social, commercial and scientific fields, reports UNB.

The Ministers for Finance, Science and Technology, State Minister for Planning, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretaries of the ministries of Science and Technology, Post and Telecommunications and Commerce are the members of the Task Force from the government side.

Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and one representative each from the Computer Science and Engineering Department of BUET, Computer Science Department of Dhaka University, Bangladesh Computer Society, Bangladesh Association for Software and Information Services and FBCCI are the other members.

Planning Secretary will act as the Member Secretary of the Task Force, said a government notification yesterday.

It said the Prime Minister's Office will be the focal point of the Task Force which will get secretarial services from the Planning Division. New members can be co-opted into the Task Force, if necessary.

Home-coming Day

From page 1

the motherland on January 10.

His home-coming was marked by the biggest ever mass reception in the country.

Meanwhile, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the historic day.

The President in his message said that Bangladesh started a new journey after Bangabandhu returned home. "The Pakistani government was compelled to free him under the pressure of world opinion."

In her message, the Prime Minister termed January 10 as a historic day and called upon the people to work for building a 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister will inaugurate a mausoleum built on Bangabandhu's grave at Tungipara at 10:30 am today.

The ruling Awami League has taken up programmes to mark the day. It will hold a discussion at 3 pm at Engineers' Institute in the city.

The other programmes include hoisting of the National Flag and party flag at party offices and placing of wreaths at the portrait of the great leader at Bangabandhu Museum in the city.

Showcouse on Kabir Chy

From page 1

Mannan, wife of MA Mannan, Managing Director of Overseas Marketing Corporation Ltd and four others and also sent their names to Bangladesh Bank for approval as sponsor directors.

When contacted, Prof Chowdhury expressed his ignorance about it and denied the charges.

He also said that Ayesha Begum was never chosen as a director of the proposed company.

"We have only received the letter of intent from Bangladesh Bank and we will finalise everything including the names of directors later," he said.

The petitioner said that she became a sponsor director of the proposed company on the basis of the decision of its Board of Directors on December 15, 1997 and paid Tk 100,000 to Prof Din Mohammad.

She also said that later she paid Tk 500,000 in presence of another sponsor director, Miah

Md Shahidullah, to meet preliminary expenses of the proposed company. But Prof Chowdhury said he received no money from the plaintiff and that it was beyond his knowledge whether any other person received any money from her. "Can she produce any document supporting her claim?" he asked.

However, Ayesha Begum said in her petition, "The defendant No 1 (Prof Din Mohammad Bhuiyan) did not give any money receipts showing a reason that no receipt would be given until registration of the proposed company with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies."

The plaintiff also alleged that defendant Prof Din Mohammad Bhuiyan had taken a huge amount of money from a number of people including industrialist Syed Serajul Haque of Chittagong and one Mamun Abdullah giving them false assurance that they would be made sponsor director of the proposed company.