

Glowing tributes paid to Bappu

By A Staff Reporter

BOMBAY, August 24: Rich tributes were paid to the noted Indian astronomer, Dr. M. K. Vainu Bappu, who died in West Germany last week, by scientists of Bombay at a condolence meeting held at the Nehru Planetarium here on August 22.

Dr. Bappu, who was the director of Indian Institute of Astro-Physics, Bangalore, was also the current president of the International Astronomical Union. He was the first Indian to be honoured with that post.

Prof. B. V. Sreekantan, director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, said Dr. Bappu was a giant among astronomers. The famous 90-inch telescope being installed at Kavayur in Tamil Nadu should be named after him, he suggested.

Prof. Jayant V. Narlikar said his death had created a great void for the community of astronomers. Prof. S. M. Chitre recalled the Bappu-Wilson effect which provided a method for measuring the distances of stars. Dr. Bappu was also the first Indian to discover a comet which had been named after him.

Among others who spoke at the meeting were Prof. S. Vardya of the TIFR and Dr. V. S. Venkatayaradan, director of the Nehru Planetarium.

25.8.1982