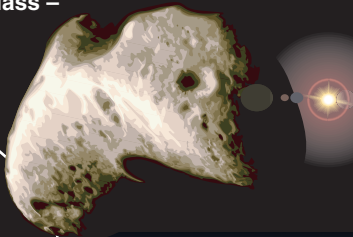
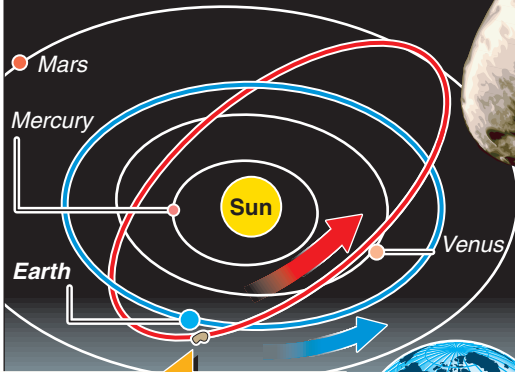


# Huge asteroid to hurtle past Earth

An asteroid up to one kilometre across is rapidly approaching the Earth. Although it poses no danger of collision, the space rock will pass exceptionally close to our planet, passing just beyond the Moon's average distance from Earth – a near miss in astronomical terms

**Asteroid 2004 XP14:** Member of Apollo class – asteroids with Earth-crossing orbits

**Diameter:** Estimated 410m-920m



**July 3:** Asteroid will pass closest to Earth at 04:25GMT at distance of 432,308km. Moon is 384,403km from Earth

Astronomers will gauge size and shape using NASA's 70m **Goldstone radar** – largest antenna of **Deep Space Network** – located in California's Mojave Desert



Picture: AP

Source: NASA © GRAPHIC NEWS