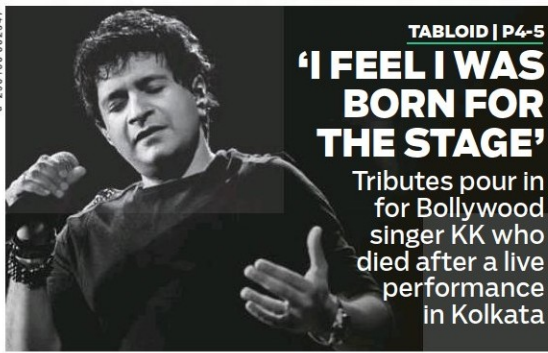


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Tributes pour in for Bollywood singer KK who died after a live performance in Kolkata

THURSDAY JUNE 2, 2022
DHU AL QA'DA 2, 1443

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UAE to chair UN committee on outer space

SHARAF, WHO HEADS EMIRATES MARS MISSION, NAMED DIRECTOR

DUBAI

BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

The UAE has won the presidency of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, it was announced yesterday.

With 100 member states, it is one of the largest UN committees. It was created by the UN General Assembly in 1959 to govern the exploration and use of space, and was tasked with reviewing international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, studying space-related activities, encouraging space research programmes and studying and recommending policy and legal infrastructure.

Omran Sharaf, Project Director of the Emirates Mars Mission, will be the director of the UN Committee.

Leaders hail achievement

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan wished Sharaf success in his new role. "A new achievement for the country that embodies the world's appreciation for its programme and contributions in the field of space. We wish him success in leading this committee to implement its goals and projects," he said in a tweet.

Expressing pride in the achievement, His High-

OMRAN SHARAF

Omran Sharaf, who will chair the UN panel for two years, is project director of the Emirates Mars Mission. He was the first Emirati engineer to travel to South Korea as part of technology transfer programme, which saw him working on the development of the DubaiSat-1 and DubaiSat-2 remote sensing satellites. He and his team launched Hope Probe, the first Arab interplanetary mission.

ness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, tweeted: "I am proud of the UAE's win of the presidency of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that includes 100 countries to ensure their just and peaceful reach to the outer space."

Sarah Yousuf Al Amiri, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology, and Chairwoman of the UAE Space Agency, said: "It's a great honour for the UAE and a chance to serve the global space sector. We founded our space programme on international partnerships and collaboration and continue to place these at the core of our space sector development."