



THURSDAY MARCH 9, 2023
SHA'ABAN 17, 1444

gulfnews.com



Scan for our social media

TABLOID | P4-5

A COMEDIAN WHO HASN'T YET BEEN TO ANTARCTICA



Much-travelled Indian stand-up Varun Thakur on humour, women performers and entering movies

NATION | P3
Expat eyes record with 700km run



VIEWS | P11
Myanmar trapped in a vicious conflict



BUSINESS | P8
Opec concerned over demand slowdown

Ramadan OFFER

3-5* DAYS DELIVERY



CARGO & COURIER

800 916
www.abccargo.ae



Courtesy: Twitter/ @Astro_Alneyadi

■ Al Neyadi tweeted his first selfie from space yesterday.

Al Neyadi gets up to speed with life on orbit

UAE developing second Moon rover

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Travelling at 28,000km per hour on the International Space Station (ISS), UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi is getting up to speed with life on orbit, US space agency Nasa has said.

In a blog post, Nasa gave an update about Al Neyadi and the other three members of the SpaceX Crew-6.

"The four newest crew members continue getting up to speed with life on orbit familiarising themselves with space station operations and systems," said

Nasa. "The foursome also spent Monday installing new space biology hardware, replacing electronic components, and updating emergency procedures for the expanded crew."

Meanwhile, the UAE's Emirates Lunar Mission is working on a second rover to the Moon. Dr Hamad Al Marzooqi, project manager, Emirates Lunar Mission (EML), Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBR-SC), made the announcement at a plenary session at the 17th International Conference on Space Operations (SpaceOps 2023) in Dubai.

SEE ALSO P4

UAE WORKING ON CONCEPT OF A SECOND MOON ROVER

Official: Rashid Rover a success irrespective of landing

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

The Emirates Lunar Mission is developing a second rover to the Moon, a top official revealed at the 17th International Conference on Space Operations (SpaceOps 2023) in Dubai yesterday.

Dr Hamad Al Marzooqi, project manager, Emirates Lunar Mission (EML), Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), was speaking at a plenary session on 'MBRSC Missions: From Earth to Mars passing by Moon'.

Speaking to *Gulf News* later, he confirmed that MBRSC is working on a new concept design for the next Moon rover. He said no name has been given to the rover as details of the next mission have not firmed up yet.

"We are working on the concepts, ideas and objectives. The mission will be announced later, the name of the robot etc will come later," he said.

April 25 landing

The UAE's Rashid Rover, is scheduled to land on Moon's surface on April 25. Pointing out that Moon landing is a high-risk mission, Al Marzooqi said MBRSC considers Rashid Rover to be a success irrespective of its landing success.

"Developing that mission, designing it from scratch, developing testing, and now preparing for operations, all these know-how is a success by itself," he said. The second aspect is that it [offered] a successful international collaboration platform for us and that allowed us to open up opportunities for future missions as well... that is a success even before we land on the Moon.

"At MBRSC, we have started working and planning for the next rover before we know whether we are successful or not. So it's not the end. If we can call it a trial, yes, maybe it's a trial. But again, we use them to have a second, a third and so on."

Lunar Orbit Insertion

Al Marzooqi said the Rashid Rover is fast approaching the Moon's orbit, and we will have a Lunar Orbit Insertion soon.

He said the Atlas crater was chosen for the landing taking into account the flat nature of its surface and the scientific interest associated with it.

Dr Sara Al Maeeni, senior expert, Space Robotics Lab, Mars 2117 Programme at MBRSC, said the success rate of landing on the Moon historically is 40 to 50 per cent. She said the main objective of the Emirates Lunar Mission is to understand the lunar environment and geology.

In view of International Women's Day yesterday, Dr Al Maeeni said: "There are a lot of opportunities for women in the UAE and today women make around 40 per cent of the team at MBRSC."

Moon vs Mars missions

The officials on the panel highlighted that it was important to have short-term, successful missions to the Moon while the country is aiming for long-term plans to Mars.

Khalid Badri, senior engineer, Earth and Planetary Science Section, MBRSC said: "One of the main components



Sajila Saseendran/Gulf News

■ Dr Hamad Al Marzooqi (second from right) speaks during a panel discussion titled 'MBRSC Missions: From Earth to Mars passing by Moon' at SpaceOps 2023 in Dubai yesterday.

At MBRSC, we have started working and planning for the next rover before we know whether we are successful or not. If we can call it a trial, yes, maybe it's a trial. But again, we use them to have a second, a third and so on.

Dr Hamad Al Marzooqi
Project manager, Emirates Lunar Mission

of the Emirates Mars Mission was knowledge transfer, and one of the objectives was to learn how to build the instruments."

Meanwhile, Abdulla Harmoul, senior manager, Space Payload and Instruments Section, MBRSC pointed out that MBRSC had "started with a knowledge transfer programme that led us to launch our first satellite DubaiSat-1 and currently we have around 200 engineers."



Courtesy: Twitter

■ Sultan Al Neyadi yesterday tweeted a picture showing him against the background of the cupola on the ISS.

AL NEYADI BEGINS ISS MISSION

'From space, I salute earth. our homeland and leaders'

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter



Read more about Nasa updates on Al Neyadi's mission on the ISS

UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi has swung into action on the International Space Station (ISS) installing space biology hardware and replacing electronic components, Nasa said in a blog post update on the SpaceX Crew-6. "The four newest crew members spent Monday installing new space biology hardware, replacing electronic components, and updating emergency procedures for the expanded crew," it said.

The Dragon Endeavour carrying Al Neyadi, along with Nasa astronauts Stephen Bowen and Woody Hoburg and Andrey Fedyayev of Roscosmos, docked at the Harmony module's space-facing port at 10.40am UAE time on Friday. The quartet joined the seven-member Crew-5 of Expedition 68 and will live and work aboard the orbital outpost for six months.

Yesterday, Al Neyadi tweeted a picture of himself on ISS, saying: "From space, I salute earth. I salute our homeland and its leaders. I salute all those who carried Zayed's Ambition in their hearts and aim high to the sky. The dream has come true and now we dream bigger." The photo shows him against the background of the cupola on the ISS. The cupola is a small observatory dome-like module designed for the observation of operations outside the station such as robotic activities, the approach of vehicles, and spacewalks.

Harvesting tomatoes in space

On Tuesday, Nasa said Al Neyadi harvested tomatoes, collecting them for both scientific analysis and crew consumption for the Veg-05 space botany study.

Nasa said the research of Veg-05 expands crop variety to dwarf tomatoes and focuses on the impact of light quality and fertilizer on fruit production, microbial food safety, nutritional value, taste acceptability by the crew, and the overall behavioral health benefits of having plants and fresh food in space.