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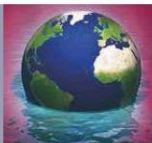
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AL NEYADI TO RELOCATE SPACECRAFT ON ISS

SPACEX CREW-6 WILL UNDOCK DRAGON ENDEAVOUR FROM PORT ON SATURDAY TO MAKE WAY FOR INCOMING CARGO CRAFT

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Two months after UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi blasted off to space, the four astronauts on the Crew-6 mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS) have been given a major assignment by Nasa.

They will relocate their SpaceX Dragon spacecraft on Saturday to make way for an upcoming cargo spacecraft, Nasa announced yesterday.

Al Neyadi will be joining his fellow Crew-6 members in boarding their launch spacecraft, Dragon Endeavour, once again for a short ride outside the ISS before docking it again.

He will join Nasa astronauts Stephen Bowen and Woody Hoburg, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyayev to relocate the spacecraft from the space-facing port of the station's Harmony module to the forward Harmony port.

Live coverage

Nasa will provide live coverage of the mission beginning at 7am EDT (3pm GST). The astronauts will undock the Dragon at 3.10pm here and dock it again at the station's forward Harmony port at 3.53pm.

This will free up Harmony's space-facing port for the docking of the next Dragon cargo spacecraft set to launch in June.

This is to facilitate the installation of the next pair of the International Space Station Roll-Out Solar Arrays, or iROSAs



Reuters file

■ Sultan Al Neyadi waves goodbyes as he departs for the launchpad for his expedition to the ISS at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on February 26, 2023.

Nasa will provide live coverage starting at 3pm UAE time. The astronauts will undock the Dragon at 3.10pm and dock it again at the ISS forward Harmony port at 3.53pm.

to upgrade the station's power generation system. The relocation is required to free up the zenith port on Harmony which allows the Canadarm2 robotic arm easier access to the iROSAs.

The new iROSAs will arrive on SpaceX's 28th commercial

resupply mission for Nasa for installation through a series of spacewalks.

Resting after EVA

Nasa said Al Neyadi and his EVA team members had Monday off following last week's spacewalk. "Bowen and Al Neyadi relaxed at the beginning of the workweek following Friday's seven-hour and 1-minute spacewalk that saw them route cables and install insulation on the orbital outpost's starboard-side truss structure. Nasa astronauts Woody Hoburg and Frank Rubio, who assisted them from inside the station also had the day off," the agency said.

Saturday's mission will be the third port relocation of a Dragon crew spacecraft.

26-SECOND CLIP OF SELECT MOMENTS

Sultan of Space shares 'surreal' time-lapse video of spacewalk

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Days after he completed the first Arab spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS), UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi yesterday shared a 'surreal' time-lapse video of the historic event.

The 26-second clip shows select moments from his seven-hour spacewalk, which was undertaken alongside Nasa astronaut Stephen Bowen.

'Challenging experience'

In a post in Arabic, Al Neyadi said the spacewalk was "a challenging experience." He also said in the post's English version that the time-lapse video captured "one of my most surreal moments on the ISS".

The video shows Al Neyadi, bearing the UAE flag on the arm of his bulky spacesuit, fixing the camera and moving upwards to join Bowen for the station maintenance work. As the duo kept working on the exterior of the microgravity laboratory, they orbited the Earth around 420km above the planet, travelling at about 28,000km/h.

Orbital sunrise

The video also shows the arrival of the first rays of the sun during an orbital sunrise spread across the Earth. The two spacewalkers laid cables and installed



insulation on mounting brackets on the starboard truss of the station for the installation of the next pair of iROSAs. However, they were unable to free up an electronics box located on the truss associated with a degraded S-band communications antenna. The antenna removal hence was deferred to a future spacewalk ahead of its planned return to Earth.

New frontiers

"After completing my first spacewalk, I am humbled by the experience," Al Neyadi said. "Thanks to the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre and Nasa teams for all that we have achieved and for always supporting me... Thank you to everyone for the unwavering support. Onward to new frontiers," he said.

In his first reaction immediately after entering back into the space station after the spacewalk, Al Neyadi had thanked the leadership and the agencies behind the mission.

"I would like to thank my leadership, the leadership of the UAE and the US, specifically MBRSC and Nasa for giving us this opportunity. This might be the first in the Arab world. But it definitely won't be the last. Arab astronauts are now training now to go on a mission to the ISS, to the lunar surface and to Mars. I would like to thank everybody who helped us for this moment," he said.



Watch select moments from the spacewalk