



# IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE!



**UAE becomes first Arab country and 5th in the world to reach the Red Planet**

**DUBAI**  
BY ANGEL TESORERO  
Senior Reporter

**T**he UAE made history yesterday when it became the first Arab nation to place a spacecraft into Martian orbit, joining an elite group of four other countries.

Emirati space scientists and engineers at the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) broke into applause at 8.08pm when they received the first transmission from the Hope Probe. The unmanned craft reached the end of its seven-month, 493.5-million-km journey and began circling the Red Planet, where it will gather detailed data on Mars' atmosphere.

Hailing the breakthrough, President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan said: "This historic achievement would not have been possible without the persistence and determination to implement the idea that emerged at the end of 2013 by Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid who followed it up closely until its success."

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said: "We dedicate our Mars achievement to the people of the UAE and the rest of the Arab world. We mark our country's 50th anniversary by our Mars stop, and invite Arab youth to join the UAE's science movement that marched at high speed."

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said: "The Hope Probe's successful arrival to Mars is an Arab and Islamic achievement that was made possible by the relentless efforts of our youth. The mission marks our entry in the global race to space."

**EDITORIAL COMMENT — P10**

■ Shaikh Mohammad, Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed and Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad celebrate the success of the Hope Probe with the MBRSC team in Dubai last night.



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Old UAE stamps reveal vision to conquer space **P7**



Tourist passports stamped with 'Martian ink' **P7**

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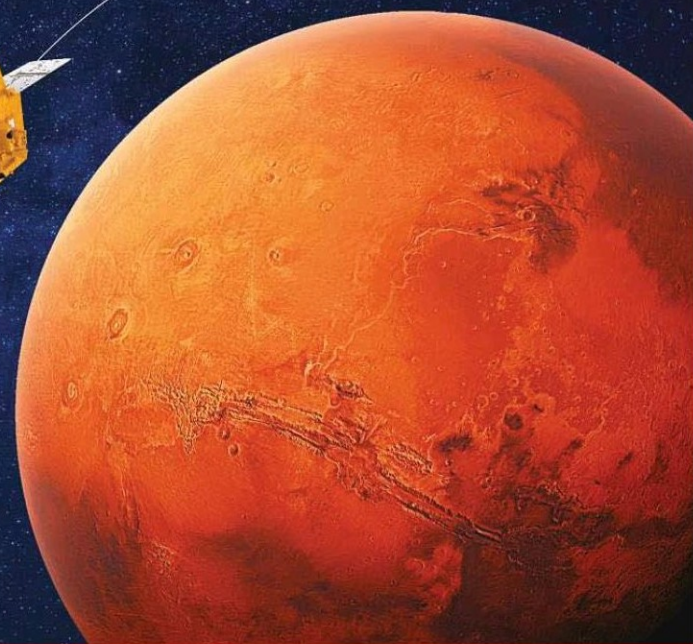
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What residents think about Hope Probe



# HOPE

*has arrived*



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Congratulations to a proud nation and its visionary rulers.

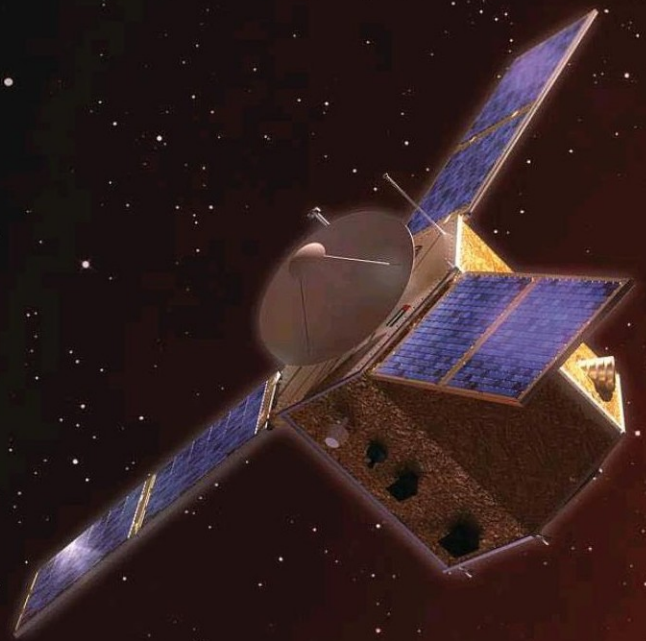
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**This historic achievement would not have been possible without the determination to implement the idea that emerged at the end of 2013 by Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid."**

Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan



**The Hope probe's historic arrival to Mars is the greatest celebration of our country's 50th anniversary. We dedicate this achievement to the people of the UAE and the Arab world."**

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum



# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

## HOPE IN ORBIT OF ARAB HISTORY

**First Arab interplanetary mission reaches Mars to usher new era in global space exploration**

**DUBAI**  
BY ANGEL TESORERO  
Senior Reporter

**M**ission accomplished. Hope Probe has arrived — Marhaba, Mars!

The Emirati spacecraft swung into orbit around Mars last night in a historic triumph for the Arab world's first interplanetary mission, ushering in an era that His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said was "the greatest celebration of the 50th anniversary of our country".

It was indeed a moment of immense Arab pride and jubilation as Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, congratulated Emirati scientists and engineers at the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai for the stupendous achievement, soon after witnessing the historic moment at the Ground Control Station at Al Khawaneej.

Young Emirati engineers rose to their feet and broke into spontaneous applause when the Hope Probe beamed its first signal from the Martian orbit at 8.08pm, reaching the end of its seven-month, 493 million km journey.

Upon reaching Mars' orbit at 7.30pm, the probe fired all six of its thrusters for 27 minutes in an intricate, high-stakes manoeuvre to dramatically slow its average cruising speed of 121,000km per hour to about 18,000kmph — slow enough to be captured by Mars' gravity. It took a nail-biting 11 minutes for the signal confirming success to reach Earth. Tensions were high: Over the years, only 50 per cent of missions to Mars have been successful.

But at 8.13pm, a visibly relieved Omran Sharaf, the mission's director, declared: "To the people of the UAE and Arab and Islamic nations, we announce the success of the UAE reaching Mars."

**Historic feat in first attempt**

The UAE is now only the fifth country or entity in the world that has arrived on Mars and also the third country that has achieved the historic feat on first attempt. "We dedicate our Mars achievement to the people of the UAE and the rest of the Arab world. Today is the start of a new chapter in Arab

history... of trust in our capability to compete with other nations and people," Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid tweeted. "The UAE will celebrate its Golden Jubilee with science, culture and inspiration because we aim to build a model of development... This sets the tone for the beginning of the next 50-year phase with boundless ambitions and dreams. Our next accomplishments will be even bigger and greater," he added.

**Sustainable scientific development**

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed said: "The Hope Probe's successful arrival at Mars is an Arab and Islamic achievement that was made possible by the relentless efforts of our youth. The probe's arrival at the Red Planet celebrates our journey of 50 years and is an achievement that reflects the UAE's rising profile and its remarkable success story." He noted that the Emirates Mars Mission "paves the way for the next 50 years of sustainable scientific development in the UAE," and said: "Our human capital is the true wealth of our nation. Investing in our people forms the main pillar of all our development strategies and policies. Emirati youth will be the ones leading our development for the next 50 years with their acquired knowledge and skills."

**UAE CREATES SPACE HISTORY**

- Hope Probe is the **first successful Arab interplanetary mission** and the fifth globally to reach Mars.
- It **entered Mars orbit at 7.42pm** after the most critical manoeuvre of its journey.
- Al Khawaneej ground control station received **first signal from the probe at 8.08pm**.
- The probe, whose **arrival on Mars coincides with the UAE's Golden Jubilee celebrations** — is expected to send the **first picture of Mars within a week**.
- The **probe's scientific mission commences in April and will continue until April 2023**, with a possible extension of two more years.
- The probe will provide the **first complete picture of the Martian atmosphere** in data that will be shared with more than 200 global research centres.

After Hope Probe's successful orbit entry, UAE scientists and engineers will spend two months testing the spacecraft and its on-board scientific instruments before the orbiter transitions to its science orbit. The Emirates Mars Mission team is using the Deep Space Network, Nasa's international array of giant radio antennas that supports interplanetary spacecraft missions, plus a few others that orbit Earth for communications. Hope Probe is also being monitored through three antennas spread across Canberra, Australia; Madrid, Spain; and Goldstone in California, US.



■ **Above:** Sarah Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology and Chairperson of the UAE Space Agency, briefs the media at Burj Plaza yesterday as the Hope Probe prepares for the Mars Orbital Insertion. Reuters

■ **Right:** Omran Sharaf (left) at the MBRSC Ground Control Station during the final minutes. At 8.13pm, a visibly relieved Sharaf declared: "To the people of the UAE and Arab and Islamic nations, we announce the success of the UAE reaching Mars." WAM



**This achievement was made possible by the Emirati pioneers whose work will inspire future scientists and engineers for generations. We are immensely proud of them.**

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan



**The Emirates Mars Mission drafts a new chapter in the UAE's record of achievements in space science and supports our efforts to build a knowledge-based economy driven by advanced technologies.**

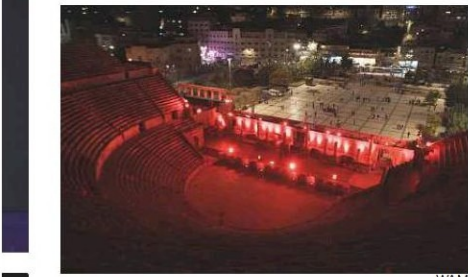
Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid, Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed and Shaikh Hamdan visited the MBRSC ground control station in Al Khawaneej and congratulated the Emirates Mars Mission team yesterday. WAM



UAE engineers will spend two months testing the probe and its scientific instruments. WAM



Khor Fakkan's Roman-style amphitheatre was lit up in red to celebrate the success. WAM



People at Burj Plaza react with joy to the news of Hope Probe entering Mars' orbit. Reuters



**The Emirates Mars Mission has inspired the nation to look to the future... It has shown that global collaboration in the face of challenges can forge brilliant outcomes for the benefit of us all.**

Sarah Al Amiri | Minister of State for Advanced Technology



**We used our own programme to navigate Hope Probe from Earth to deep space and then to Mars. The design, system and software used for the MOI were all Emirati made.**

Omran Sharaf | Project director of Emirates Mars Mission

**Engineers at the ground control station at MBRSC in Dubai will conduct three Transition to Science manoeuvres to move the probe from its capture to science orbit.**

**5 million** man hours put in by over 200 Emirati engineers working on the Hope project

**1,000GB** Mars data that Hope will collect during its mission

# Old stamps reveal UAE's vision to conquer space

Series issued by Shaikh Rashid has pride of place in expat's collection

**DUBAI**  
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN  
Senior Reporter

An Indian expat's collection of stamps, issued in 1964, show the UAE's vision about space missions that became real yesterday. Nandlal Hiranand Mirchandani, who runs a real estate and catering businesses, has stamps issued by Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum to mark international space achievements. The stamps commemorate American astronauts' first successful trip to outer space under the theme 'Honouring Astronauts.'

### Celebrating space science

One of those stamps hit the headlines in 2016 when His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, tweeted it on the UAE Space Agency's second anniversary. "A stamp issued by my father Shaikh Rashid 50 years ago, celebrating space science. We dreamed of such future ideas. Today we have a Dh20 billion space sector, with a mission to Mars driven by a wholly Emirati team of scientists," he tweeted.

### 'Proof of great vision'

In an exclusive interview to *Gulf News*, Nandlal revealed that he was unaware of Shaikh Mohammad tweeting about a stamp, which is in his collection of around 10,000 stamps from over 65 countries. "As an Indian expat living in the UAE, I am proud to have these stamps that tell a lot about the history of this country," he said.

Ahead of Hope Probe's historic



Mirchandani with the space stamp series issued by Shaikh Rashid in 1964. He has 10,000 stamps from over 65 countries.

**I salute the great vision of our Rulers back then. Postage stamps are literally a stamp of proof of that. We are blessed that we live in a country with such a futuristic vision.**

Nandlal Mirchandani | Indian stamp collector

achievement, Nandlal said: "I salute the great vision of our Rulers back then. Postage stamps are literally a stamp of proof of that. We are blessed that we live in a country with such a futuristic vision."

### Childhood collection

The 51-year-old father of two said he had collected stamps during his childhood in Ajmer in the north

Indian state of Rajasthan. "Many early migrants to the Gulf countries and Africa from India were from my place. I used to collect the stamps from them. Some were my relatives, some neighbours. If I had multiple copies of stamps, I also used to exchange them with other children collecting stamps."

### Fascination for UAE stamps

Stamps from the UAE, which has been his home for 30 years, always fascinated Mirchandani. He has several old UAE stamps of different sizes and shapes. But the space series is closest to his heart.

Mirchandani hoped to show the stamps in his collection to students in the UAE. "I want to organise an exhibition of my stamps and show to all the schoolchildren and teach them and train them to visualise their dreams and create a vision or find out their goals. I hope it will make them ambitious and assertive in their lives," he said.

## ON GULFNEWS.COM



### Complete coverage

Hope Probe: What UAE residents think about it  
Milestones in the UAE space programme  
Meet the young minister behind the Mars mission



## Tourists get passports stamped with 'Martian ink'

Special stamp created using basalt rock from desert

**DUBAI**  
BY ANGEL TESORERO  
Senior Reporter

Visitors arriving at UAE airports were pleasantly surprised to receive a special stamp on their passports with a message in Arabic and English saying: "You've arrived in the Emirates. The Emirates is arriving at Mars on 09.02.2021."

The stamp says 'Printed in 'Martian ink' and features a logo of Hope Probe orbiting Mars to mark Hope's arrival on Mars.

Khalid Al Shehi, executive director of Production and Digital Communication Sector, UAE Government Media Office, said: "To commemorate this historic occasion, we created a special stamp



printed with 'Martian ink' - made of basalt rocks found in the deserts. This will be embossed on the passports of all visitors for a limited period."

The rocks were collected from Al Hajar Mountains and Maliha Desert by experts and gemologists. They were then crushed into a fine paste, dried in the sun, and mixed with adhesives to create three separate colours that represent the Red Planet.

This moment represents a watershed for the UAE's advanced technology sector. Our national competencies in research and development, as well as the capabilities of our young people – scientists and engineers – are well known."



**Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber** | Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology

The success of the Mars Orbital Insertion, the most crucial part of the Hope Probe, demonstrates our ability to compete with countries in advanced fields. Inspired by our leadership, our ambitious youth proved that no frontier is too far for a young nation."



**Ahmad Al Daheri** | CEO of National Petroleum Construction Company

In such a short time, the UAE has joined a powerhouse list of countries that have sent spacecraft to the Red Planet. Hope Probe will lead to a more ambitious goal by the UAE, and that is to build a human settlement on Mars within 100 years."



**Hussain Al Mahmoudi** | CEO of Sharjah Research, Technology, and Innovation Park

# EMIRATIS, EXPATS COME TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION

DAZZLING BURJ KHALIFA LASER SHOW HIGHLIGHTS HOPE PROBE'S JOURNEY

**DUBAI**  
Staff Report

Emiratis and Emiratis celebrated the triumph of the Arab world's first interplanetary mission at Burj Plaza in Dubai yesterday.

Beamed live around the world by international television stations, the Hope Probe successfully entered the orbit of Mars, the second-smallest planet in the solar system at 7.42pm UAE time.

The moment was marked by a dazzling laser show on the façade of the Burj Khalifa reviewing the journey of the Hope Probe, the stages of the project, and the efforts of the Emirati scientists who participated in the realisation of the country's space dream.

## Hundreds watch display

As hundreds of spectators watched the stunning display, the world's media were joined by high-level government officials and the Emirati Hope Probe team for a special briefing on the mission's progress.

Sara Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology, Chairperson of the UAE Space Agency and leader of the scientific team of the Emirates Mars

## 'WE HOPE TO JOIN YOU ON MARS SOON'

"Congratulations on your safe arrival to Mars' orbit!" Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of Nasa tweeted yesterday, congratulating the UAE and the Mars mission team on Hope Probe's successful entry to the Red Planet's orbit.

"Your bold endeavor to explore the Red Planet will inspire many others to reach for the stars. We hope to join you at Mars soon with @NASAPersevere," he added.

Nasa's Perseverance is expected to land on Mars on February 18 while China's Tianwen-1 is expected today.

— WAM

Mission project, gave a detailed explanation in Arabic and English of all stages from ideation to launch and the seven-month journey to space.

Her briefing shed light on the Hope Probe's journey and the UAE's long-held dream of reaching space. A meeting was also held between the scientific team and several media professionals, offering in-depth detail on aspects of the project.



■ Above: Emiratis celebrate the news of the Hope Probe entering Mars orbit, at the Burj Plaza yesterday. AP

■ Left: National pride was at its highest at the Burj Plaza with posters announcing 'Arabs to Mars' and showing milestones of UAE's space programme placed all over. Ahmed Ramzan/Gulf News

■ Below left: Hundreds of spectators gathered at the Burj Plaza to watch the stunning light show at the Burj Khalifa. Ahmed Ramzan/Gulf News

■ Left: Eight-year-old Ward Arabi dressed as an astronaut as he arrived at Reel Cinemas in Dubai Mall with his family to watch the live broadcast of Hope Probe's Mars Orbital insertion. Vox Cinemas, Novo Cinema and Reel Cinemas broadcast the event live yesterday. Virendra Saklani/Gulf News



Clint Egbert/Gulf News



Ahmed Ramzan/Gulf News



Ahmed Ramzan/Gulf News

■ People maintain social distancing watch the live broadcast at Vox Cinemas, Mall of the Emirates. Several cinemas held special screenings.

■ Burj Plaza turned into an open-air media centre for local and international media covering Hope Probe historic arrival to Mars.

■ As hundreds watched the Burj Khalifa light show at Burj Plaza, Hope Probe team officials arranged special briefings on the mission's progress.

“My country's attitude towards innovation, risk, ambition to set its own goals and achieve it full on inspires me too as an Emirati and businesswoman. I feel so proud of the UAE.”



**Sara Al Madani** | UAE businesswoman

“Monumental achievement! I am sure the success of this mission will further boost UAE's confidence to go ahead with bigger initiatives in future.”



**Yousuf Ali M.A.** | Chairman of LuLu Group

“The Mars mission reflects the courage and vision of the leadership. Allocating resources for scientific and technological advancement of the UAE shows the visionary leadership behind it all.”



**Rizwan Sajjan** | Chairman, Danube Group

“This is testimony to the vision of our leaders and of UAE's capability to go beyond expectations and create new paths. The success is all the more sweeter given the challenges that were overcome.”

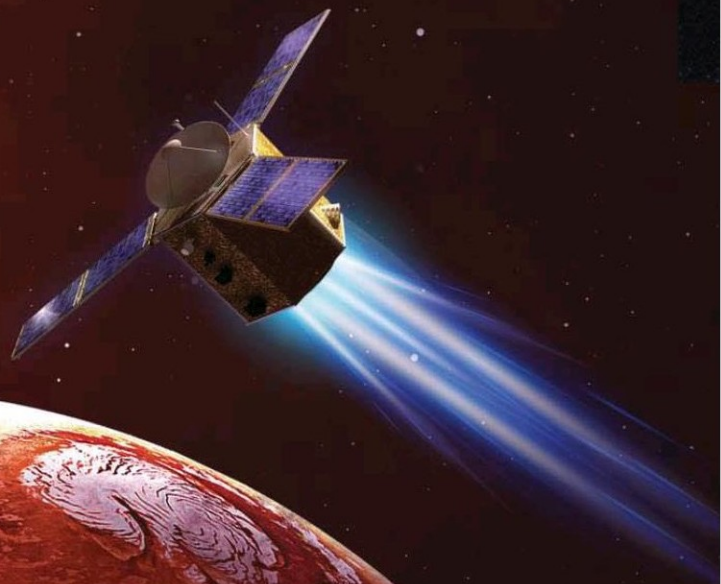


**Joy Alukkas** | Chairman of Joyalukkas Group

“The Mars mission means much more than its contribution to science. All credit goes to the UAE leadership and the team involved in this historic mission. The Hope Probe is a game changer.”



**Kamal Vachani** | Group director, Al Maya Group



DESTINATION

MARS

ENOC GROUP CONGRATULATES THE UAE  
ON THE SUCCESSFUL  
HOPE PROBE MISSION TO MARS



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Today in quotes

"We begin preparation for the next 50 years."

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai | Twitter

"Any image we got of Mars would be iconic but I just can't imagine what it's going to feel like to get that first full-disk image of Mars, once we're in orbit."

Sarah Al Amiri, UAE minister of state for advanced technology and chair of the UAE Space Agency | BBC 1

"Emirati Hope Probe will enrich our scientific knowledge about the red planet."

Jean-Yves Le Gall, president of the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES) | WAM

"Seeing everybody's personal abilities grow has been tremendously fulfilling."

Pete Withnell, Hope programme manager at Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics | BBC World

GULF NEWS

Hope Probe: Mission accomplished

The successful UAE Mars mission instills a sense of pride in Arabs the world over

This is a day that will be circled on calendars and remembered in decades to come across the Arab world as the UAE's Hope Probe enters its orbit above Mars. After years of planning, the freight preparations before launch and months of trundling through the dark, inky vacuum of space, the Hope Probe has reached the red planet at 7.42pm UAE time yesterday. For the first time in history, the green, red, white and black colours of the UAE flag circle another celestial body - a remarkable achievement for this nation and for our brothers across this region. Across the Arabian Gulf and beyond in the wider region, the UAE's remarkable scientific and technological elevation into a rare club of nations is being celebrated as buildings are turned red and the leadership of our homeland and everyone involved in this project receives plaudits for this mission.

Yes, this is the Hope probe - and it indeed has brought hope to the Arab world, who can now look at this mission and see what is possible by working together, focusing on building and educating youth, dreaming of what might be possible, and setting goals to focus on the future. It is a story of cooperation and community together harnessing the abilities and talents of so many - and in that there is indeed a lesson for so many.

But the Hope Probe is far more than merely being a symbol - it is also a serious scientific mission, one that will greatly enhance our knowledge of the climatic conditions on the surface of Mars. In the coming months, the Hope Probe will map the surface and climate of the planet, trying to answer what happened to the atmosphere on the planet and why it is so thin now.

The importance of this research cannot be underestimated. If mankind is one day to reach out and set up a permanent colony on the red planet, then it is vitally important to understand what drives the weather patterns on the surface, how they have evolved, and scientifically predicting what is likely to happen in the future. The information gathered by this mission will be critical in shaping future decisions - and will be used to make future key decisions for decades to come. The UAE will be joined in orbit by a Chinese orbiter and a US probe will arrive in a matter of weeks. Studying Mars from above or touching down and exploring its surface all add greatly to our ever-expanding body of knowledge. Right now, though, let us all look up to the dark sky and smile. Yes, for now, it is mission accomplished.

Today in History

February 10

1811 - Russians take Belgrade and capture Turkish army.

1846 - British forces under Hugh Gough defeat Sikhs at Sobrahan, India.

1947 - Italy cedes most of Venezia Giulia to Yugoslavia.

1952 - India holds its first general election since independence.

1981 - American journalist Cynthia Dwyer is released after nine months in an Iranian jail.

1996 - A mudslide in a highway tunnel kills 20 motorists on the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

2004 - A Kish Airlines plane crashes on the side of the road near Sharjah International Airport.

2006 - Egypt wins African Nations Cup for a record fifth time after beating Ivory Coast.

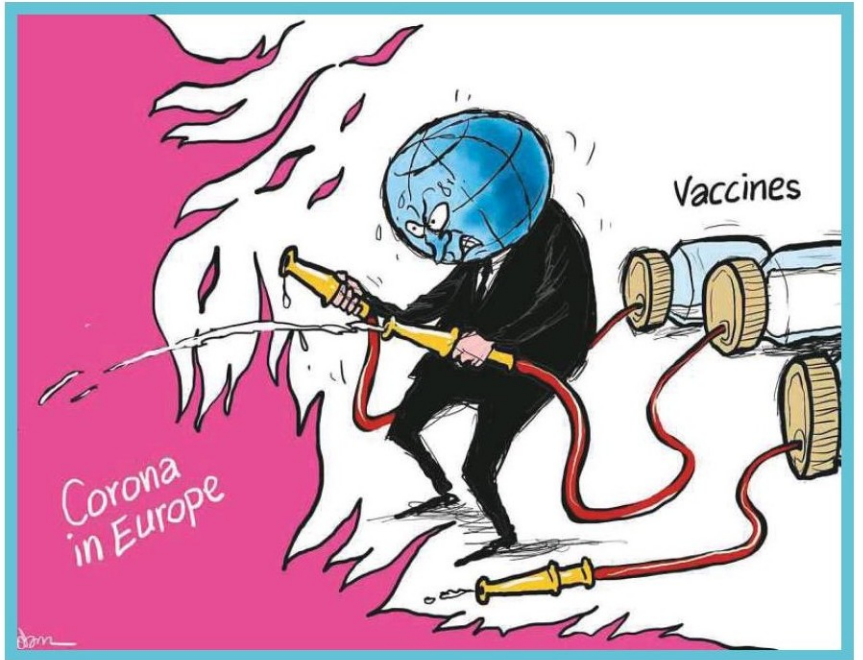
2019 - Former US president Jimmy Carter wins his second Grammy Award.



AS REPORTED BY GULF NEWS

Lithuania votes for independence

1991 - Lithuanians have voted overwhelmingly in support of their government's radical independence drive, but the vote may do little to break the deadlock with the Kremlin over the republic's future. "I think this is a victory against lies and intimidation," Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said, calling on the Soviet Union's two other breakaway Baltic republics to draw courage from his success. Preliminary results showed just over 90 per cent of those taking part in the week-end poll voted for an independent, democratic Lithuania.



EUROPE WILL REDEFINE ITSELF DESPITE POLITICAL SHIFT IN US

European leaders are wary of the unhindered reliance on its trans-Atlantic partner

BY RAMZY BAROUD | Special to Gulf News

Despite the long-awaited political change in Washington, Europe is unlikely to resume its previously unhindered reliance on its trans-Atlantic partner.

The four years of Donald Trump were rife with tension and strife between the United States and Europe - in fact, between the US and its traditional allies, including Mexico and Canada. However, the strain in the US-EU relationship long preceded Trump's presidency.

Trump's eccentric personal style - and often blunt rhetoric and action - was an indicator to Europe that the continent urgently needed to create its own leadership alternatives to Washington. Following Second World War, the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) in 1949 and the collapse of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact in 1991, the US became the uncontested leader of the West and, eventually, the globe's only superpower. These dynamics are now experiencing an unparalleled influx.

The US commitment to the post-war paradigm was clearly faltering. Consequently, statements from Europe's political elites in recent years suggest a massive rethink among European governments regarding their definition of the relationship with Washington, an alliance that ran the world for decades.

In an unprecedented statement in May 2017, German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, articulated the massive shift in Europe's new political outlook when she said, "The times in which we could completely depend on others are, to a certain extent, over." In that momentous speech in Munich, Germany's strong leader signalled the beginning of the end of the disproportionate reliance on the US and the United Kingdom.

The reason behind the distrust in Washington and London was obvious. On the one hand, President Trump has laboured to disrupt and reverse traditional US policies towards Europe, including a scathing attack on the integrity and the mission of Nato, and the latter's usefulness to the US in terms of global security.

The UK, no longer a member of the European Union, on the other hand, has confronted the EU with its greatest challenges, as it rejected not only EU's fiscal, migration and other policies but also the very notion of the European Community. Coupled with Washington's global retreat, 'Brexit' decisively ended any illusion that a post-WWII political scenario can still be possible.

Attesting to this seismic change in the attitude of Europe's mainstream politicians, were the remarks by French President, Emmanuel Macron, in November 2018 when he called for a "true European army" to protect the continent from outside threats. "We must have a Europe that can defend itself on its own without relying only on the United States," Macron said.

While there is some truth to media as-

sertions that "the EU sighs with relief as Biden enters White House", this should not be confused with hyped European expectations that the new American president is able to fully reset EU-US ties of yesteryears, nor should it indicate European eagerness to engage the US with unfiltered trust and enthusiasm.

Actual data from a large pan-European survey commissioned by the European Council on Foreign Relations confirm Europe's fundamentally changing attitude towards the US. The survey included more than 15,000 people in 11 EU countries and was held after it became clear that Biden had won the US elections.

According to the survey, the majority in leading EU countries believe that "the US political system is broken," that "China will be more powerful than the US within a decade" and, finally, that "the Europeans cannot rely on the US to defend them". Particularly interesting, the ECFR's commissioned poll signalled a massive geopolitical shift in Europeans' view towards global alliances, viewing "Berlin, rather than Washington, as the most important partner".

Fleeting economic phenomenon

On the issue of trust, only 27 per cent of polled Europeans believe that 'Americans can be trusted' after they voted for Trump in 2016. With Germany currently being Europe's de facto leader, the views of Germans towards their American counterparts are particularly critical. Hence, the US must take note that 53 per cent of German respondents have lost trust in a country that once was a close partner. The ECFR chose the eve of Biden's inauguration to release the findings of the report, itself a message to the new administration to tread very carefully while attempting to repair broken ties on both sides of the Atlantic.

The ball is no longer in Washington's court alone. The fact that the majority of Europeans believe in China's impending global leadership in a matter of a few years means that the EU will have no patience for any American ultimatum to choose between Washington and Beijing. The latter is no longer a fleeting economic phenomenon but an irreversible force on the global stage that cannot be easily dismissed, effectively 'sanctioned' or simply wished away.

The next few years should be enough for Europe to determine its new identity. Considering Europe's brewing political crises, with Italy being the latest example, and the unavoidably dire economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, Europe's journey to a revamped version of itself is likely to be a painful one and, like all difficult choices, rife with challenges and much introspection.

Ramzy Baroud is a journalist and editor. He is the author of five books.

QR code with text: SCAN ME How Muslims contributed to European Renaissance





CONGRATULATIONS UAE!  
ON THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT IN SPACE AND SCIENCE  
WITH THE "HOPE PROBE" MARS MISSION

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