



Scan for
our social
media

© All rights reserved 2022

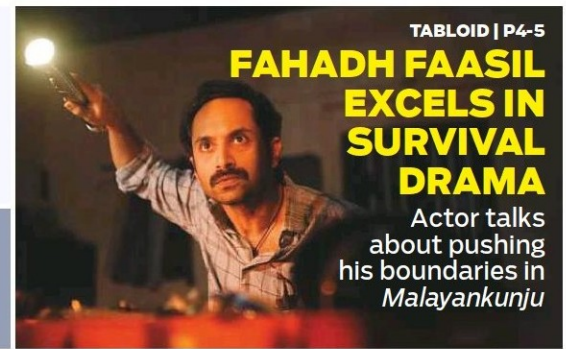
SPECIAL REPORT
**Selection of
unique summer
fragrances**



THE VIEWS | P11, INDIA | P14
**Why India's first
tribal President
is significant**



BUSINESS | P6
**Getting a visa to
Europe from UAE
proves difficult**



TABLOID | P4-5

**FAHADH FAASIL
EXCELS IN
SURVIVAL
DRAMA**

Actor talks
about pushing
his boundaries in
Malayankunju

UAE astronaut set for 6-month ISS mission

LEADERS HAIL AL NEYADI AS ROLE MODEL FOR ARAB YOUTH

DUBAI

BY TAWFIQ NASRALLAH
Senior News Editor

The UAE will become the first Arab country and the 11th country to send an astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS) on a six-month mission in 2023.

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) announced yesterday that Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi will join a Nasa, Space-X and Crew-6 mission that will launch in spring 2023 from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, US.

Al Neyadi's selection follows the signing of a strategic partnership agreement last April between MBRSC and Axiom Space, a US company.

President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, hailed Al Neyadi as a model for Emirati and Arab youth. The UAE is strengthening its stature in the space sector due to its people's determination and ambition, they said.

'Historic milestone'

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed said: "I am proud to congratulate Sultan Al Neyadi on being selected as the first Arab astronaut to spend six months on the ISS as part of a mission to commence in 2023.



■ Sultan Al Neyadi prepared at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre for the ISS mission. He has also trained in Russia.

WHO IS AL NEYADI?

Sultan Al Neyadi was one of two astronauts in the first batch of the UAE Astronaut Programme launched in 2017. He was the back-up for Hazzaa Al Mansoori in the UAE's first scientific mission to ISS in 2019. He has received an astronaut badge from Nasa's Johnson Space Centre.

This historic milestone builds on the strong foundations of the UAE's space programme."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid, who announced the news yesterday, tweeted: "Our young people have made us feel so proud."

On the ISS, Al Neyadi will conduct advanced scientific experiments as part of the UAE Astronaut Programme.

UAE space missions

Last year, the UAE became the first Arab country and the fifth globally to reach Mars. Its unmanned Hope Probe has since discovered a new type of aurora on Mars, challenging scientists' understanding of the planet, which was thought not to possess auroras at all.

The UAE plans to carry out a lunar landing by 2024 as part of a \$100 million project. The project is a result of an agreement signed between Israeli space company SpaceIL and the UAE will be the first double-landing on the moon.

SEE ALSO P4

How Al Neyadi prepared for space

ASTRONAUT FIRST ARAB CHOSEN FOR 6-MONTH MISSION TO INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

HISTORIC MISSION

DUBAI

BY FAISAL MASUDI
Assistant Editor

In a historic announcement, the UAE yesterday revealed that Emirati astronaut Sultan Saif Al Neyadi has become the first Arab selected to serve on the International Space Station (ISS) on a six-month mission.

Al Neyadi was handpicked from a group of Emirati astronauts at the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) in Dubai. He will join NASA's SpaceX Crew-6 Mission to ISS in the spring of 2023.

Who is Al Neyadi?

A brief by MBRSC highlights the background, accomplishments and training of Al Neyadi for the upcoming mission.

Al Neyadi is an Emirati astronaut, who was the back-up for Hazzaa Al Mansoori, in the UAE's first scientific mission to ISS in 2019, under the slogan 'Zayed's Ambition'.

How did he train for mission?

In preparation for the ISS mission, Al Neyadi trained at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre at Star City in Moscow, based on an agreement with the Russian space agency Roscosmos. He also received training in Houston in Texas, US, and Cologne in Germany, as part of partnership agreements with major space agencies, including NASA, ESA, and JAXA.

The training programme for the ISS mission included training on all sections and units of the ISS and how to use its devices and equipment, emergency fire drills, dealing with low pressure and ammonia leak inside the station, in addition to survival training if the capsule had to land in a cold forest.

Al Neyadi was also trained on the spacesuit, weighing up to 10kgs, and how to wear it in micro gravity.

He was also trained to perform daily tasks such as preparing food, how to use the camera to document events, taking pictures of the Earth, communicating with the ground stations, and other day-to-day tasks during the mission.

Al Neyadi underwent more than 90 courses, with the total number of training hours exceeding 1,400. Al-

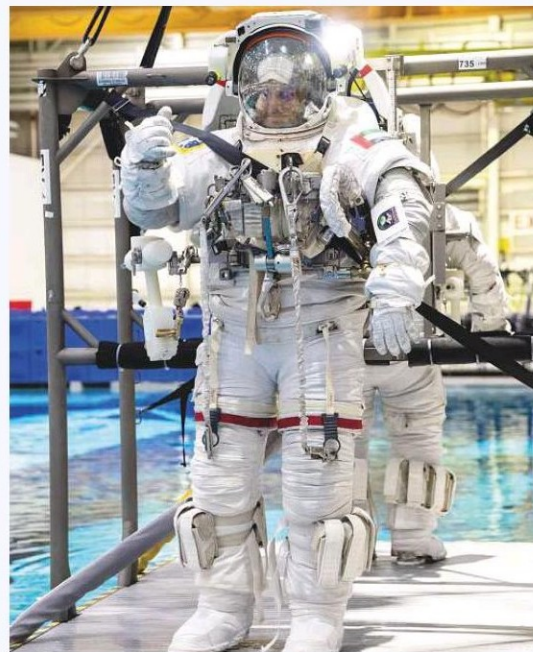


UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi in T-38 training at Ellington Field.

The training programme for the ISS mission included training on all sections and units of the ISS and how to use its devices and equipment, emergency fire drills, dealing with low pressure and ammonia leak inside the station, in addition to survival training if the capsule had to land in a cold forest.

90

courses Al Neyadi underwent with training hours exceeding 1,400



UAE astronauts Hazzaa Al Mansoori and Sultan Al Neyadi during training at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre.

Neyadi further successfully completed his first year of training at Nasa's Johnson Space Center in 2021 and is currently ready to work as an operator onboard the ISS.

He trained in the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL), passed evaluations which included using the Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU), maintenance of the International Space Station, the Incapacitated Crew Rescue (ICR), and completed theoretical and practical training sessions on the T-38 jet.

He was granted the NASA astronaut's pin after complet-

ing around 20 months of general training at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

What is the UAE Astronaut Programme?

Al Neyadi was one of the two selected astronauts in the first batch of the UAE Astronaut Programme, launched in 2017 by His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and President His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who then was Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy

Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed forces.

The programme aims to train and prepare a team of Emirati astronauts and send them to space on various scientific missions. AlNeyadi was selected from over 4,000 more candidates, following a series of mental and physical tests in the UAE and abroad.

He is a holder of a PHD in Information Technology (Data Leakage Prevention) and practices Jujitsu, which helped him to be ahead of other candidates and successfully pass the UAE Astronaut Programme's tests, as he

ABOUT THE MISSION

The first long-duration duration Arab astronaut mission

Launch: Spring of 2023 as part on NASA's SpaceX Crew-6

Duration of the mission: Six months

Throughout the mission, advanced scientific experiments will be carried out, providing valuable results to the scientific community.

Upon the completion of this mission, the UAE will rank 11th globally among countries that have successfully achieved a long-duration mission at the International Space Station.



Watch: Emirati astronaut gearing up for space mission

shared the high mental abilities and fitness required.

Professional and personal life

Al Neyadi was born on May 23, 1981, in Umm Ghafa, 30km southeast of Al Ain, in Abu Dhabi, where he received primary and secondary education. He excelled in his education, following his father's footsteps, who served in the military.

Al Neyadi joined the armed forces and was assigned to study Communications Engineering. He began his higher education in the UK, and received a Bachelor's degree of Science in Electronics and Communications Engineering from the University of Brighton in the UK.

He returned to the UAE and began serving for the Armed Forces. He later resumed his passion for education by heading to Australia to receive his Masters degree in IT, from Griffith University in Australia, in 2008.

Al Neyadi worked as Network Security Engineer for the UAE Armed Forces, and visited more than 20 countries around the world.

At the beginning of 2012, he returned to Australia for five years, where he earned a PHD in Information Technology (Data Leakage Prevention) and published six research papers on international websites.