

FRIDAY

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THE VIEWS | P7

A green transition that leaves no one behind



NATION | P2

Girl swims her way to top, flies back for GCSE exam

ENTERTAINMENT | P15

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Al Neyadi drives protein experiment in space

Dubai-Japan alliance to advance research into heart ailments

DUBAI

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) and Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (Jaxa) have joined forces for an important Protein Crystal Growth Experiment (PCG) conducted by Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi aboard the International Space

WHAT IS THE EXPERIMENT ABOUT?

The PCG experiment is focused on the protein molecule GIRK2. It is instrumental in controlling heart rate and has connections with serious conditions, including epilepsy, cardiac arrhythmias, and addiction. The objective of developing high-quality crystals of GIRK2 is to enhance our comprehension of its structure. This knowledge will be invaluable in guiding the creation of treatments targeted at conditions influenced by this molecule. —S.S.

Station (ISS). The experiment, launched during the recent Space X-28 cargo mission, aims to enhance understanding of the protein molecule GIRK2 [G-protein-gated inwardly rectify-

ing potassium] and its role in controlling heart rate and various conditions.

Al Neyadi played a crucial role in installing the samples for the experiment, which will

later undergo analysis on Earth. The UAE Astronaut Programme has been actively involved in microgravity research, focusing on diverse scientific investigations.

Adnan Al Rais, manager, UAE Astronaut Programme, said: "This initiative represents a significant achievement in UAE's contribution to global space science. It underscores our commitment to strengthening international scientific partnerships and propelling our understanding of complex biological systems for the betterment of humanity."



Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi played a crucial role in installing the samples for the PCG experiment aboard ISS.