



THE VIEWS | P9

George Floyd death: Trial of the century

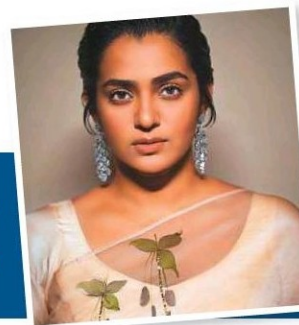
Chauvin courtroom drama is where racism is being adjudged



TABLOID | P6-7

Parvathy: Girl next door

South Indian actress says *Aarkariyam* puts the extra in the ordinary



WORLD | P11

Denmark becomes first in EU to drop Astra jab

There is a link between rare, but 'serious' side effects



ANOTHER ARAB FIRST

UAE's Rashid rover to land on moon next year

DUBAI

Rashid, an Emirati-made lunar rover, will be launched next year two years earlier than planned.

The announcement was made yesterday by the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre and ispace, a Japanese private lunar robotic exploration company that will transport Rashid, named after Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, to the moon in its lander.

More than 50 per cent of the prototype's components are ready and testing will start in a few months. The project marks another first for the UAE, making it the first trip to the Moon by an Arab country.

SEE ALSO P7

Japan lander to place UAE's rover on moon

MBRSC TO BEGIN TESTING PROTOTYPE FROM SEPTEMBER

DUBAI

BY ANGEL TESORERO
Senior Reporter

Emirati-made lunar rover Rashid will be placed on the moon's surface by a lander developed by ispace, a Japanese private lunar robotic exploration company.

Rashid will be launched in 2022, two years earlier than planned, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) announced in a press briefing yesterday.

Takeshi Hakamada, founder and CEO of ispace, said that the lander Hakuto-R, which will carry Rashid, will be launched into space aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

UAE-Japan space pact

Rashid is named after Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the builder of modern Dubai and one of the UAE's founding fathers. The collaboration with ispace is part of a UAE-Japan agreement on space exploration.

MBRSC said it selected ispace based on its technological credibility after considering competing lunar payload delivery service providers.

"This cooperation with ispace is yet another exemplification of MBRSC's unique ability to tap into the best of the global space value chain through strategic collaborations with key partners," Yousuf Hamad Al Shaibani, MBRSC director-general, said.

Prototype testing this year

Dr Hamad Al Marzouqi, project manager of the Emirates Lunar Mission at MBRSC, said more than 50 per cent of the prototype's components are ready and testing will start in a

RASHID'S MISSION

Emirati-made lunar rover Rashid will travel to a part of the moon that has never been reached before. Its exact landing site is yet to be revealed.

Equipment

- A 3D camera, advanced motion system, sensors, a microscope and thermal imaging cameras plus advanced communication system.

Objectives

Once on the Moon, Rashid will run on power generated by its solar panels. Its four cameras will move vertically and horizontally. Its sensors and other systems will analyse the properties of soil, dust, radioactivity, electrical activities and rocks on the Moon.



Did you know?

Rashid will be the smallest and lightest rover to land on the moon. The rover will be 70cm tall, 50cm long and 50cm wide and weigh around 10kg with its payload.

“From September to March, we should finish development and testing of the flight model and the rover will be ready for launch by next year.”

Dr Hamad Al Marzouqi
Project manager

few months. "From September to March [next year], we should finish development and testing of the flight model. The rover will be ready for launch by next year," he said.

Adnan Al Rais, Mars 2117 programme manager and senior director of the remote sensing department at MBRSC, said: "The Emirates Lunar Mission represents a milestone in the UAE's

space sector as the mission will contribute towards providing valuable data and information relating to the moon that will serve the global scientific community as well as test capabilities that would be crucial for manned missions to Mars."

Why the mission is historic

This will not only be the first lunar mission from the Arab world, but will also make the UAE only the fourth country in the world to land on the moon after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.

"We are leveraging our advanced scientific and technological hub by partnering with international entities that will aid in creating a new space economy landscape," Al Shaibani said. "Our mission is to be at the forefront of scientific achievements that will change the face of humanity."