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## I miss my mother's food, Al Neyadi says

ASTRONAUT ADDRESSES STUDENTS ON 42ND BIRTHDAY

ALAIN

BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN  
Senior Reporter

**O**n a special call from space on his 42nd birthday yesterday, UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi, who is on the longest Arab space mission on the International Space Station (ISS) since March, expressed a longing for his mother's food.

"I miss my mother's cooking," he said during the 'A Call from Space' event organised at his hometown, Al Ain, by the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre. His remark was in reply to a student's question on where he preferred to live — on Earth or in space without gravity.

"You can do all kinds of moves. That is fun," Al Neyadi said, as he did a forward somersault. "But with time, you miss your family, your loved ones, you miss cooked food. Usually, our food is well prepared."

Al Neyadi then showed some samples of space food and explained that the water content is removed to prevent spoilage.

Around 2,000 university and school students attended the Al Ain edition of the event at UAE University which was held in the presence of Lt Gen Shaikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Dep-



Courtesy: MBRSC

■ Sultan Al Neyadi addresses around 2,000 university students gathered at UAE University in his hometown Al Ain during the 'A Call from Space' event on his 42nd birthday yesterday.



Read the complete  
story on Al Neyadi's  
interaction with  
students

ty Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and Salam Humaid Al Marri, director general of MBRSC and other officials.

### Saif attends event

Shaikh Saif began the conversation with Al Neyadi. He thanked the UAE leadership for enabling the audience to speak with the country's pride Al Neyadi from his hometown.

While speaking about being the first Arab astronaut to conduct a spacewalk outside the ISS, Al Neyadi emphasised to students that nothing is beyond the reach of the Arab youth, inspiring them with a message.

He spoke about putting the nation's slogan 'Nothing is Impossible' along with its logo on a notebook on the cuff of his spacesuit during this historic spacewalk on April 28.

"When we were depressurising and reaching the vacuum of space, I saw this message ... and that reminded me again that there is nothing that is impossible," Al Neyadi said.