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SULTAN OF  
 SPACE SET TO  
 TOUCH DOWN  
 ON SEPTEMBER 3

**DUBAI**  
 BY FAISAL MASUDI  
 Assistant Editor

**A**fter six months on-board the International Space Station (ISS) orbiting the Earth, to accomplish the longest Arab space mission, Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi is set to return to Earth on September 3.

Al Neyadi, dubbed the 'Sultan of Space', became the first Emirati and Arab to perform a spacewalk when he floated out from the ISS into the vacuum of space in April. He was joined by Nasa astronaut Stephen Bowen for the spacewalk to upgrade the space station's power generation system and to retrieve a major communication equipment.

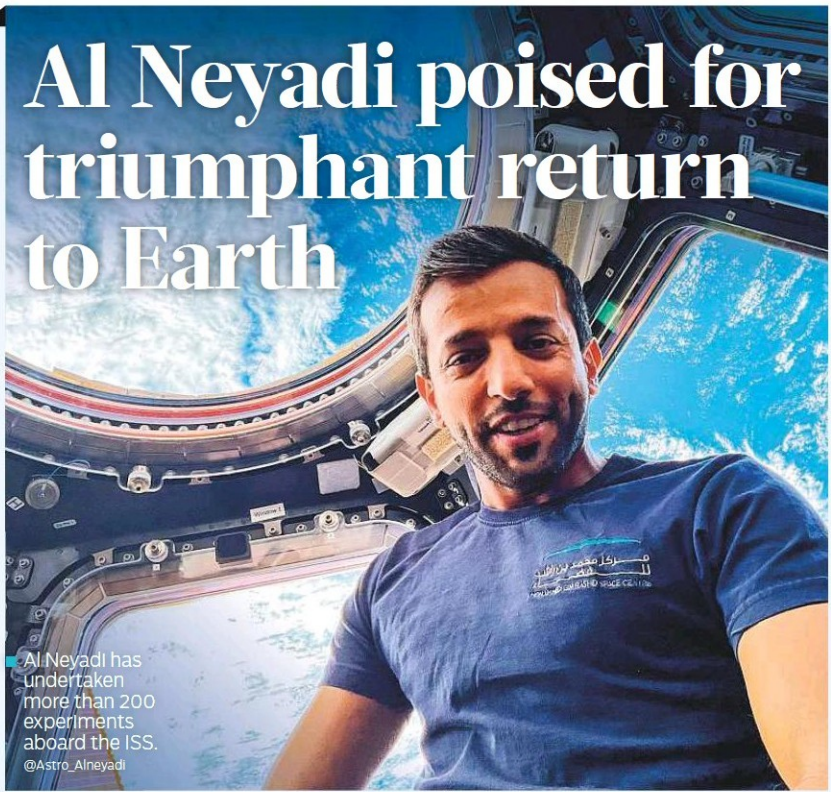
**Undocking on September 2**

Yesterday, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBR-SC) in Dubai announced that Al Neyadi and other members of Crew-6 will undock from the ISS on September 2 in the SpaceX Dragon capsule that will bring them to Earth.

The journey home is scheduled to conclude on September 3, with American space agency Nasa saying the nighttime splashdown will be in the waters off the coast of Florida, USA, at around 1am local time (about 9am in UAE).

During his mission, Al Neyadi has undertaken more than

# Al Neyadi poised for triumphant return to Earth



Al Neyadi has undertaken more than 200 experiments aboard the ISS.  
 @Astro\_Alneyadi

200 experiments, helping scientists understand the impact of space's microgravity on human health and plant life, among others.

The 42-year-old, who hails from Al Ain city, also set up hardware inside the ISS, for the CapiSorb Visible Systems fluid physics study, to investigate the potential for using a liquid-based carbon dioxide removal system to promote more efficient space-based solutions.

In the latest study, which was

revealed yesterday, Al Neyadi participated in the host-pathogen experiment to analyse the reaction between astronauts' immunity and the microbial pathogens on the ISS.

**Martial art in space**

In between his busy schedule, Al Neyadi became the first person to practise the martial art form of jiu-jitsu in space, sharing a video of his moves in May. The same month, Al Neyadi along with his Crew-

6 crew members successfully completed the mission to relocate the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft on ISS.

The father-of-five has also beamed down stunning pictures of cities, natural formations and weather developments from space.

Meanwhile, thousands of students in the UAE and elsewhere saw their hero live during the 'Call from Space' interactions, learning about life and work onboard the ISS.