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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2023, SAFAR 23, 1445
WEEKEND EDITION

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GULF NEWS

Emirati space cadets 'rock' their Moon and Mars class

DUO UNDERGO GEOLOGY TRAINING ALONGSIDE NASA CLASSMATES

'GOING PLACES'

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN,
Senior Reporter

There is no stopping the UAE's manned space missions after the return of astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi on Monday following the successful completion of the longest Arab space mission. The country's next batch of astronauts is continuing their training for future human space flight missions.

Astronauts Mohammad Al Mulla and Nora Al Matrooshi, part of the second batch of Emirati astronauts, have received geology training as Nasa Astronaut Candidate Class of 2021 participants, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), responsible for the UAE Astronaut Programme, announced yesterday.

Demanding exercises

Their training involved studying the surfaces of the Moon and Mars, not just their appearances but also the geological processes happening on these celestial bodies over time. They are even creating geological maps to show the locations of rocks and features on the Moon and Mars. This training will make them better astronauts and scientists for



■ Mohammad Al Mulla and Nora Al Matrooshi, the duo who form the second batch of UAE astronauts, with their Nasa classmates and trainers during a training session.

Al Matrooshi and Al Mulla were selected in 2021 alongside 10 Nasa candidates. They will become flight-eligible astronauts in 2024.

future planetary exploration. Both astronauts also recently underwent spacewalk training at Nasa's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL) in Houston, Texas, following a series of demanding exercises, including survival training in Alabama and orientation at the Marshall Space

Flight Centre in the US. This NBL training, conducted in the world's largest indoor pool for simulating spacewalks, is a crucial phase in their training.

Al Matrooshi and Al Mulla were selected in the 2021 class of astronaut candidates, alongside 10 Nasa candidates

chosen from over 12,000 applicants. These candidates are currently undergoing training at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre and will become flight-eligible astronauts in early 2024.

Al Neyadi eager for more

Meanwhile, Al Neyadi, who is currently under medical observation in the US after returning from space, is eager to participate in the next mission. He expressed his readiness to a high-ranking MBRSC official during their meeting in Houston.

UAE team studies mysterious asteroid Justitia

Students join UAE Space Agency for occultation study

COLORADO, US
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

Ahead of the UAE's historic Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt (EMA), a team from the UAE Space Agency studied the mission's final destination, asteroid

Justitia, as it passed over a star in the US recently.

March 2028 mission

The EMA aims to explore seven asteroids, flying past six and culminating in a rendezvous with (269) Justitia, one of the most puzzling objects in the belt located between Mars and Jupiter.

'MBR Explorer', the mission's spacecraft named after His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

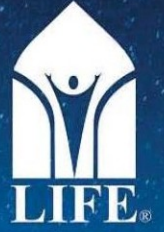
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, will blast off to space in March 2028 for the "world's first multiple-asteroid tour and landing mission."

Student volunteers

The stellar occultation campaign to study Justitia was conducted by 60 volunteers, which included EMA team members, University of Colorado students, Emirati students, and other occultation campaign

volunteers. All volunteers had to take three trainings to prepare for the campaign, one during the daytime to learn how to set up the telescope, and two during the night-time at round 2am to 4am to learn how to collect data.

On the week of the campaign, based on the weather of the locations where Justitia's shadow was going to pass over, the campaign's base was selected to be Wheatland, Wyoming in the US.



UAE'S SPACE HERO

**Congratulations to Sultan Al Neyadi
on his stellar return**

Life Healthcare Group proudly congratulates Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi on his triumphant return. His unwavering dedication and stellar achievements have not only made the UAE proud but also opened new horizons for the nation in the realm of space exploration.

We salute your remarkable journey.



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