

NSSA propelling space dreams

Bahraini space scientists gain mission-critical experience from UAE as part of a capacity-building programme

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“I had the opportunity to work on three satellites, with one amongst them was in the final testing phase.”



Space team members of NSSA

These are the words of Aisha Al-Haram, a Space Data Analyst at Bahrain National Space Science Agency. She had this experience at the space laboratories of the Emirates Space Agency with four of her colleagues from NSSA.

Their mission took shape from a deal signed by NSSA with the Emirates Space Agency, Al Yah Satellite Communications Company and the Khalifa University of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi to improve the skills of NSSA employees.

National Space Science Authority believes that such outings will eventually help the country master the art of satellite making and space technologies crucial for the Kingdom to earn its place in the lucrative space race.

When asked about her experiences at the space laboratories in the UAE, Al-Haram said, “I am benefitting greatly from this opportunity in boosting my practical skills, which would contribute to NSSA’s upcoming projects.”

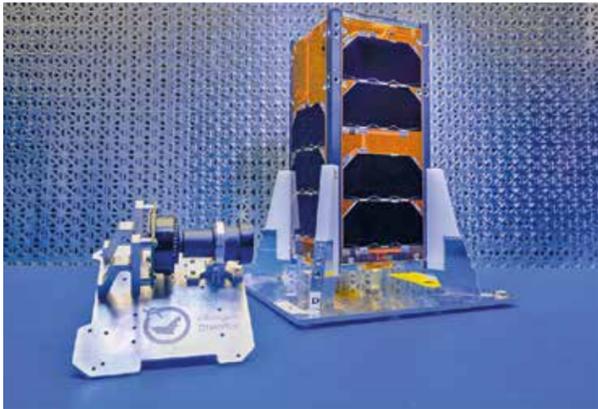
She was also part of the DhabSat, the second CubeSat designed and developed by Khalifa University students with Al Yah Satellite Company and Northrop

Grumman.

The satellite launched on the Northrop Grumman Antares rocket from Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, US to the International Space Station (ISS) on 20 February 2021 will be deployed from the resupply spacecraft Cygnus NG-15 during its departure from the ISS.

Al-Haram said the satellite would reach its operational orbit by the end of this month.

She also associated with preparing an integrated operational plan for the satellite and its control and navigational systems.



DhabSat

The CubeSat will gather data for space research and capture high-resolution images from an altitude of 450 kilometres.

Al-Haram said she also had the opportunity to work on a third satellite.

“I worked to design its operating system and contributed to the projects of undergraduate students in the development of a microsatellite attitude determination and control subsystem.”

Al-Haram was also a member of the “Mission Concept Review” committee for space missions, besides handling other

space science-related tasks at Yahsat Space Laboratories at Khalifa University.

She will be presenting a general summary of a set of future tasks that will be part of her work during the second half of this year. She will most probably be part of a space experts team for projects implemented by Khalifa University in cooperation with the National Center for Space Sciences at the UAE University and the Center Mohammed bin Rashid Space Agency and the Emirates Space Agency.

Aerospace Engineers Yaqoub Al-Qassab, Ali Al Qaraan, Amina Al Balushi and Ashraf Khater are the others in UAE from NSSA.

Priceless opportunity

Yaqoub Al-Qassab termed the opportunity as priceless. “It provided us with tremendous practical experience in building satellites.”

“My association with the “DhabSat” enhanced my skills and knowledge, especially in control systems and direction-finding.”

“I associated with several projects, which included preparing satellite safety reports for global launch companies, mechanical

The Bahrain National Space Science Agency was established by a Royal Decree “To promote Bahrain to a position of international prominence in the field of space science”. NSSA focuses on harnessing space technologies for national development, promoting space science and applications, developing advanced space research programmes, ensuring capacity building and creating a new space sector in the Kingdom.

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ASHRAF KHATER

systems for satellites, in addition to several joint scientific research with Khalifa University of Science and Technology in the field of nano-satellites.”

Pre-launch review

Amina Al Balushi said her works focused on carrying out pre-launch reviews of space missions, including environmental testing, satellite safety verification, and operational and control tasks.

“This experience will help me contribute more effectively to the design, construction and operation of satellites of the National Space Science Authority so that Bahrain will be among the leading countries in this field.”

Micro-satellites

Ashraf Khater said the initia-

tive allowed us to hone our skills in the field of micro-satellite technologies.

“We also worked on preparing simulation software for satellites structures to measure their suitability for launches and their ability to withstand the harsh environment in space.”

“This is a one-off opportunity, for which I thank the NSSA and the wise directives of our leadership.

Woman kills boyfriend with a plate, court adjourns case to Tuesday

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A woman charged with attacking her boyfriend with a dinner plate and causing his death had her case adjourned by the High Criminal Court to Tuesday.

According to court files, the woman, an Arab national in her thirties, allegedly smashed the victim, a Bahraini man, in his face with a plate following an argument.

Even though the man survived the knock, the forceful strike dropped him unconscious with a swollen eye.

The victim was then taken to a hospital by the woman herself.

However, when the hospital enquired about the injuries, she claimed it was due to the man slipping and falling inside a bathroom.

Police took up the case when the victim revealed to doctors that the cut was from a plate the woman threw at his face.

By then, the victim’s condition worsened from an infection, also leading to his death.

During a hearing, the victim’s brother told prosecutors that the woman used to as-



Even though the man survived the knock, the forceful strike dropped him unconscious with a swollen eye.

sault his brother physically and “this wasn’t the first time.”

“My brother’s girlfriend would always physically assault him,” he said.

The woman, however, claimed the victim was her sponsor, and she was staying with him as requested by him.

She claimed to be in Bahrain for the past three years and was a receptionist at a local hotel. Afterwards, she landed another job as an accountant.

The Public Prosecution charged the woman with attacking and causing the death of a man.

BD 3.5 million Hamad Town traditional market gets going

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Designs of the BD 3.5 million Hamad Town traditional market project, planned on land leased for 35 years, has been completed, the Works Ministry said.

The project, which faced cancellation and re-tendering at least twice since 2010, is being handled by Bahrain-based The Malls Real Estate Development company.

Works Ministry will receive an annual benefit for leasing the site, which earlier reports said was a plot in Block 1212 on Shaikh Hamad Avenue.

The Mall Real Estate Development Company is solely responsible for establishing and operating the market, Essam Khalaf, the Minister of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning, said

The ministry, he said, is pursuing the same strategy they adopted for the development of the Muharraq Central Market.

Hamad Town market with a built area of 12,303 square meters, the minister said, will serve the needs of the people in the

The design took into account the traditional aspects of the markets in the Kingdom, but with a modern touch taking cues from the Muharraq Central Market Project.

ESSAM KHALAF

western and northern regions of the country.

The project calls for building a central market section, three main sections, a section for vegetable, another for selling fish and meat, and shopping spaces. The design, the minister said,

took into account the traditional aspects of the markets in the Kingdom, but with a modern touch taking cues from the Muharraq Central Market Project.

Explaining, the minister said the three floors have a total area of about 28,462.3 square meters, of which the ground floor is on 2,294.7 square meters of area. Parking spaces are for 290 cars.

Fifty per cent of the first floor, with a total area of 1,1082.6 square meters, is set aside for various markets. There will be 38 vegetable stalls, 16 meat shops and 16 fish shops, in addition to spaces for other shops.

In total, the market will have 60 shops, where 50% of the total floor area is for retail shops.

The second floor will have a total built area of 5085.0 square meters.

“The ministry team and the company is working hard to complete the licensing procedures,

with construction had begun according to the project plan, despite the outbreak of the deadly pandemic,” the minister said.

“Through our partnership with the private sector, we seek to provide the best services to the general public and serve the sustainable development process of the Kingdom.”

The plan for a traditional souq in Hamad Town first mooted in 2010, with the ministry floating a tender in 2014, but failed to materialise.

The project was revived in mid-2018 as a public-private partnership but got cancelled for lack of suitable bids.

