

Egyptian family stunned after father 'returns from dead'

Sun, 2020-07-19 21:53

CAIRO: The family of an Egyptian man who they thought had died and been buried have been left stunned after he appeared to come back from the dead. Mohammed El-Gammal, who is in his 40s, was found wandering out of a cemetery in the village of Kafr Al-Hosar in the Sharqiyah region north of Cairo. However, his family thought they had held his funeral four months ago after they incorrectly identified another corpse as being El-Gammal.

El-Gammal, who had worked as a teacher and is married with children, had suffered from mental illness and would often disappear for up to a month at a time, a village resident told [Youm 7](#) news website.

But in January he went missing and never returned. His family kept searching for him until they received a call from a relative who worked at a local hospital.

The relative told them that an unidentified dead body had arrived at the hospital and the family went to see if it was El-Gammal.

They all believed the corpse was his apart from one of his sisters.

The report said a DNA sample was taken from the body but the result was never received by the family and the funeral took place on March 21.

Four months later, the real El-Gammal was found alive by youths over the weekend and taken to the nearest police station.





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How technology is keeping elderly Egyptians safe during coronavirus crisis
Social media users demand 'Palestine' is added to Google Maps

[Hagia Sophia mosaics will be covered with curtains during prayers -Turkish presidential spokesman](#)

Author:

Sun, 2020-07-19 21:47

ISTANBUL: Mosaics depicting Christian figures in Istanbul's ancient Hagia

Sophia will be covered with curtains during Muslim prayers, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said on Sunday, as work to prepare the building for use as a mosque continues.

Authorities had said last week that the mosaics would be concealed with either curtains or lasers when the first prayers are held next Friday.

In a move that sparked international criticism and concern, President Tayyip Erdogan declared Hagia Sophia open to Muslim worship earlier this month following a court ruling that said the building's conversion to a museum in 1934 was unlawful.

Hagia Sophia dates back to the sixth century and has a history as both a church and a mosque before it was turned into a museum.

In an interview with broadcaster NTV, Kalin said some mosaics of Mary and Gabriel that are positioned in the direction of Qiblah, where Muslims face during prayer, would be covered with curtains.

He said other mosaics of Jesus and other Christian figures did not pose an obstacle for Muslim prayers because they are not located in the direction of Qiblah. But he did not say whether they would remain uncovered at all times. Outside prayers, Hagia Sophia will be open to all visitors and tourists and all mosaics will be uncovered, authorities have said.

Erdogan visited the mosque earlier on Sunday to inspect the progress in preparing the building. (Reporting by Ali Kucukgocmen Editing by Frances Kerry)



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Hagia Sophia will open outside prayer time, says Turkey
Turkey will inform UNESCO about Hagia Sophia moves – foreign minister

Emir's brothers raise red flags as Qatar prepares to host 2022 FIFA World Cup

Author:

Sun, 2020-07-19 21:20

CHICAGO: When Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani was named Emir of Qatar in 2013 by his father, Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who took power in a coup in 1995, his biggest controversy was his eagerness to continue his father's policy of building ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Emir Tamim Al-Thani declared as his mission to promote sports and healthy living among Qatari's and rebuild Qatar's image abroad as he leads Qatar's plans to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Today, the Emir is busy sorting out the violent mischief of several of his 24 siblings from his fathers' three wives, while distancing himself, at least publicly, from Qatar's involvement in the killing and maiming of at least 10 Americans during his father's reign.

But his worst public scandals involve the antics of two younger brothers, playboy racing driver and accused murderer Sheikh Khaled Al-Thani and the until now obscure Sheikh Khalifa Al-Thani, who is the cornerstone of an exposé published in the Los Angeles Times this week.

Sheikh Khaled has been accused in a federal lawsuit filed in June by six former employees of murdering an Indian driver who worked for his wife, and threatening to murder a dozen others, from racing car industry rivals to friends he suspected of leaking information about his personal life.

On June 16, 2020, Florida Attorney Rebecca Castaneda asserted KHK's brother, Sheikh Khaled, "created an environment of hostility, falsely imprisoned employees, caused personal injury, assaulted and battered employees, inflicted emotional distress, engaged in retaliation, and intentionally interfered in business relationships," and was involved in at least one murder.

Sheikh Khaled first made a name for himself when he recklessly drove his \$3.4 million yellow McLaren P1 GTR Ferrari at speeds of 100 mph through Beverly Hills, California, in a 2015 rampage caught on video. Confronted by police, Sheikh Khaled declared "diplomatic immunity."

Although hard to steal the headlines from his racing "bad boy" brother, Sheikh Khalifa is on his way to "Qatari fame," the focus of a detailed profile published in the Los Angeles Times. Sheikh Khalifa, a head of Qatar's internal security apparatus, the notorious "Lekhwiya" – derived from a Qatari

word for brother – has been exposed as a part of the growing college admissions scandal that has resulted in charges being filed against more than 50 Hollywood and sports celebrities, mostly in California.

Sheikh Khalifa, better known as “KHK,” has a bachelor’s in public policy with distinction and master’s in public diplomacy from the University of Southern California (USC), sources claim as a result of a pattern of bribes, bullying, and broken rules by the Qatari royal family.

Sources claim KHK skipped classes claiming “security” concerns and got his degrees without stepping foot on the campus, allowed to study remotely while living at the posh Beverly Wilshire hotel. A professor said KHK submitted his finals in a bag that included a Rolex valued at more than \$12,500.

KHK’s education was bought by his family through huge donations to California universities. Before “graduating” from USC, KHK attended with two cousins the LA Mission College, a community college 25 miles from Beverly Hills. He then made a failed attempt to transfer to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

A hotel executive identified in the story allegedly promised “a substantial donation” if UCLA would admit KHK.

When UCLA officials refused to meet to discuss KHK’s enrolment, his mother Mozah bint Nasser traveled to California to lobby for her son’s admission. She personally oversaw \$1 billion in donations to American universities, according to the LA Times.

When the push for UCLA failed, the family turned to USC, where they targeted influential people around the university, including friends, business associates and several of USC’s wealthy trustees. One of these was the billionaire Thomas J. Barrack Jr, an LA investor and founder of Colony Capital, who oversaw the construction of the Al-Thani family’s \$300-million hilltop Bel-Air California compound.

Four months later, KHK was a certified USC student, although the Qatar Foundation and Mozah insisted that the prince had “already been admitted.” Members of the Qatari royal family and employees were sent to Los Angeles to care for KHK, and found themselves, allegedly, concealing inflated expenses from the family back home, according to the LA Times. These included airline ticket reimbursements (\$200 became \$8,700), and nonexistent legal fees of \$73,000.

The slush fund of inflated payments from the Emir went to cover KHK’s luxurious lifestyle in Los Angeles.

Like his playboy racing older brother Sheikh Khaled, KHK loved fast cars, too, and was pulled over by the California Highway Patrol in 2014 for racing down the 10 Freeway at 130 mph in a white Maybach Ferrari which rivals for cost Sheikh Khaled’s McLaren P1 GTR. KHK was charged but never showed up for the arraignment.

Their Ferraris achieved their own fame as car enthusiasts shot videos of them parked outside the Beverly Wilshire. One included a photo of Scott Disick, the ex-boyfriend of Kourtney Kardashian who posed on the hood of Al-Thani’s car. “Thanks for the ride @KHK,” Disick captioned the photo on Instagram.

After KHK received his bachelor’s degree, he received a “special dispensation” to study remotely for his master’s because “family duties” prevented him from attending classes. Nonetheless, KHK was praised by USC for turning in papers of a “high standard” that were “potentially publishable.” KHK’s exploits and controversies only add weight to the searing issues Emir

Tamim must weigh as Qatar turns the corner to hosting the FIFA World Cup. On June 10, relatives of 10 Americans who were killed or seriously injured during terrorist attacks in Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank filed a “wrongful death” lawsuit against Qatar’s Royal family. The Al-Thanis are accused of financing Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which are both designated as “terrorist organizations” by the US government. According to the lawsuit, Qatar sought to evade US sanctions by channeling money through three entities, the Qatar Charity, and two Middle East banks that Qatar’s royal family controls, Masraf Al-Rayan and Qatar National.



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[Sheikh Khalifa Al-Thani](#)

[Sheikh Khaled Al-Thani](#)

UN report: Qatar’s migrant workers face ‘structural racism’Mauritania investigates gifting of island to former Qatari Emir

[Fire at factory in northwest Iran-ILNA](#)

Author:

Reuters

ID:

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Sun, 2020-07-19 12:24

A fire broke out at a cellophane factory in northwest Iran on Sunday, the ILNA news agency reported, posting video of thick black smoke rising from the site.

The fire was in the town of Sheikh Hassan in East Azerbaijan province.

There have been several fires and explosions at military, industrial and nuclear sites in Iran since late June.



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Iran halts execution of 3 convicted over November protestsIran sends downed Ukrainian plane's black box to France

Japan rocket carrying UAE Mars probe ready for Monday launch

Author:

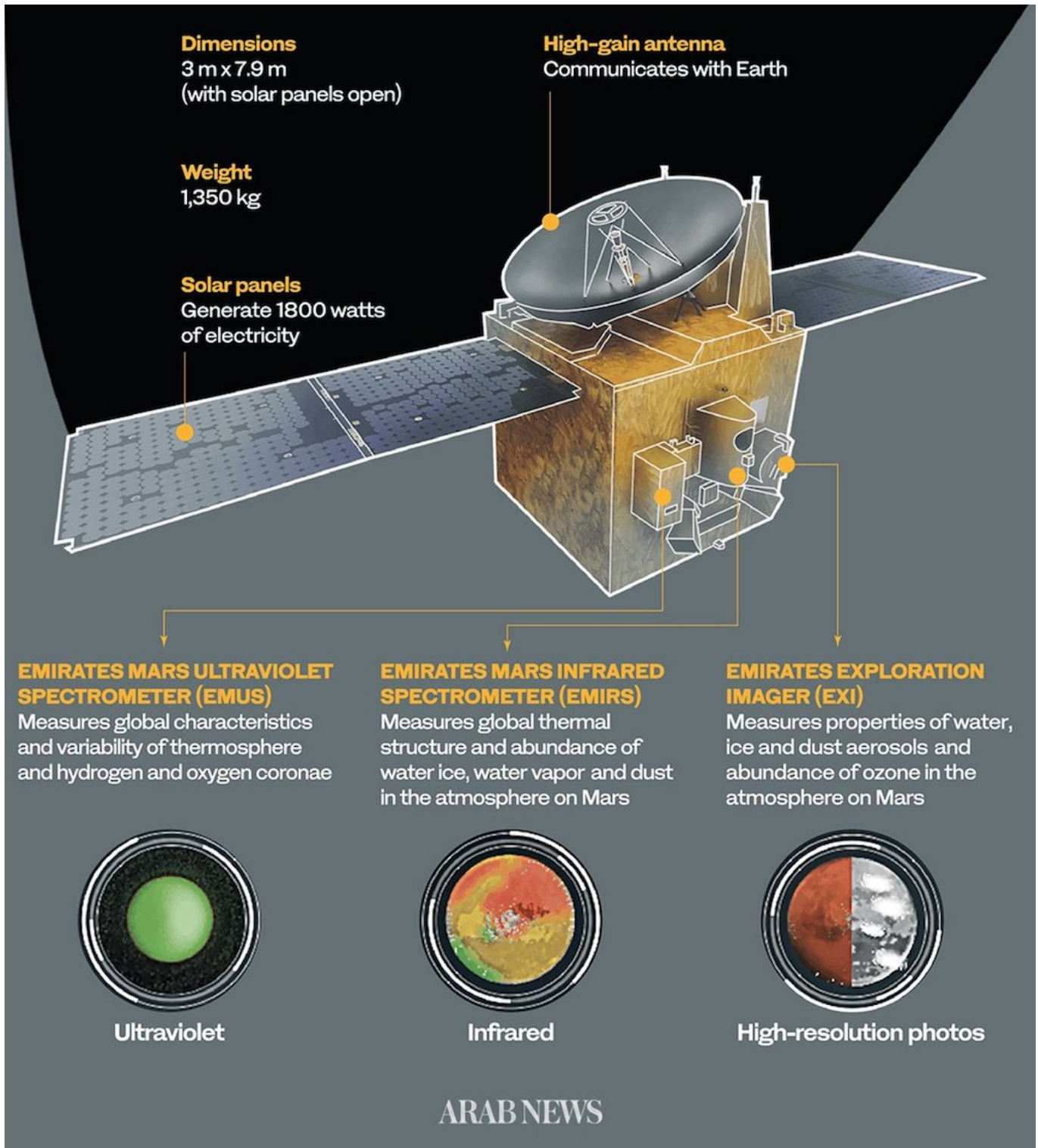
By MARI YAMAGUCHI | AP

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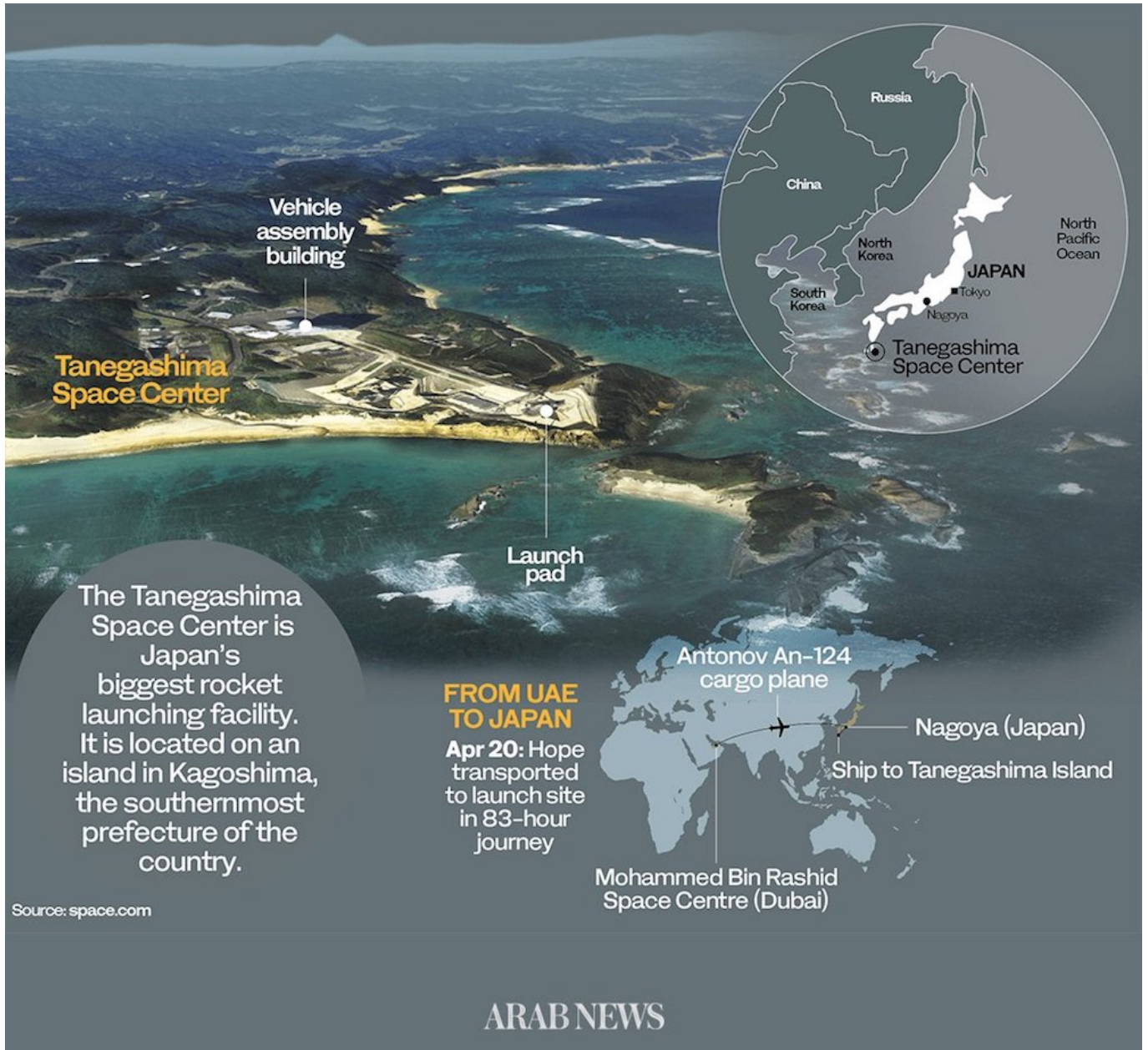
Sun, 2020-07-19 11:13

TOKYO: A Japanese H-IIA rocket carrying a United Arab Emirates Mars spacecraft has been placed on the launch pad for Monday's scheduled liftoff for the Arab world's first interplanetary mission, officials said Sunday. The launch of the orbiter – named Amal, or Hope – from Tanegashima Space Center on a small southern Japanese island was initially scheduled for this past Wednesday, but was delayed due to bad weather in the region.



Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the provider of the H-IIA rocket, announced Sunday that the launch would proceed at 6:58 a.m. Monday (2158 GMT Sunday). The preparation has been completed, and the rocket is now on the launch pad, Mitsubishi said.

Hope is expected to reach Mars in February 2021, the year the UAE celebrates 50 years since its formation. A successful Hope mission would be a major step for the oil-dependent economy, which is seeking a future in space.



Two other Mars missions are planned in the coming days by the US and China. Japan has its own Martian moon mission planned for 2024. Hope will carry instruments to study the upper atmosphere and monitor climate change on Mars. It is scheduled to circle the red planet for at least two years. The UAE says it will provide a complete view of the Martian atmosphere during different seasons for the first time.

The Hope Probe is ready to launch into space in a few hours..

Watch the launch LIVE: <https://t.co/A0mQfe2Awh>

20th July

01:58:14 AM (UAE Time)

19th July 2020

09:58:14 PM GMT [#HopeMarsMission pic.twitter.com/ZU7T1FtT55](https://twitter.com/ZU7T1FtT55)

– Hope Mars Mission (@HopeMarsMission) [July 19, 2020](https://twitter.com/HopeMarsMission/status/1282444444444444444)

A newcomer in space development, the UAE has so far successfully launched

three observation satellites, but has not gone beyond the Earth's orbit. Omran Sharaf, project director of Emirates Mars Mission, said in a Twitter video message Sunday: "The Emirates' Mars mission is a message of hope to the Arab youth. If a young nation like UAE is able to reach Mars in less than 50 years, then we can do much more as a region."



When a Saudi went to space

Prince Sultan bin Salman speaks exclusively to Arab News about his 1985 NASA mission and how he became the first Arab, Muslim and royal in space

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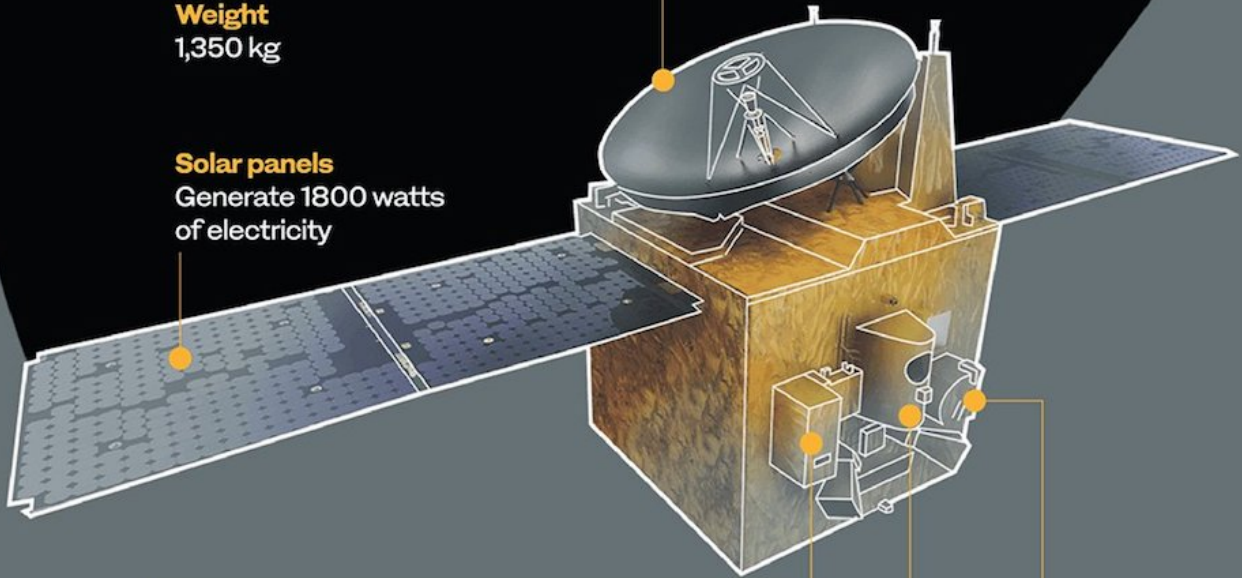


Dimensions
3 m x 7.9 m
(with solar panels open)

Weight
1,350 kg

Solar panels
Generate 1800 watts
of electricity

High-gain antenna
Communicates with Earth



EMIRATES MARS ULTRAVIOLET SPECTROMETER (EMUS)

Measures global characteristics and variability of thermosphere and hydrogen and oxygen coronae



Ultraviolet

EMIRATES MARS INFRARED SPECTROMETER (EMIRS)

Measures global thermal structure and abundance of water ice, water vapor and dust in the atmosphere on Mars



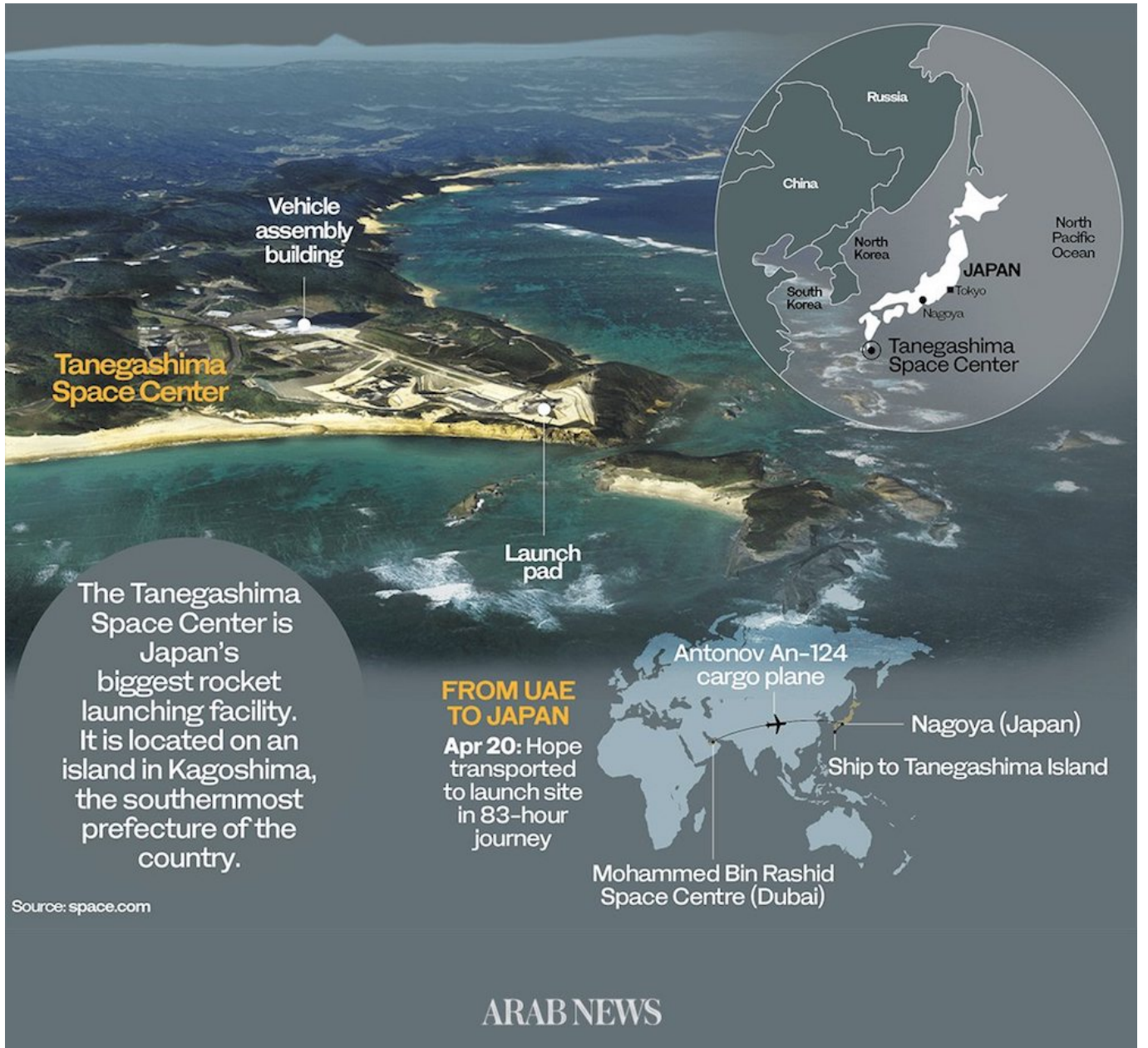
Infrared

EMIRATES EXPLORATION IMAGER (EXI)

Measures properties of water, ice and dust aerosols and abundance of ozone in the atmosphere on Mars



High-resolution photos



Vehicle assembly building

Tanegashima Space Center

Launch pad

The Tanegashima Space Center is Japan's biggest rocket launching facility. It is located on an island in Kagoshima, the southernmost prefecture of the country.

Source: space.com

FROM UAE TO JAPAN

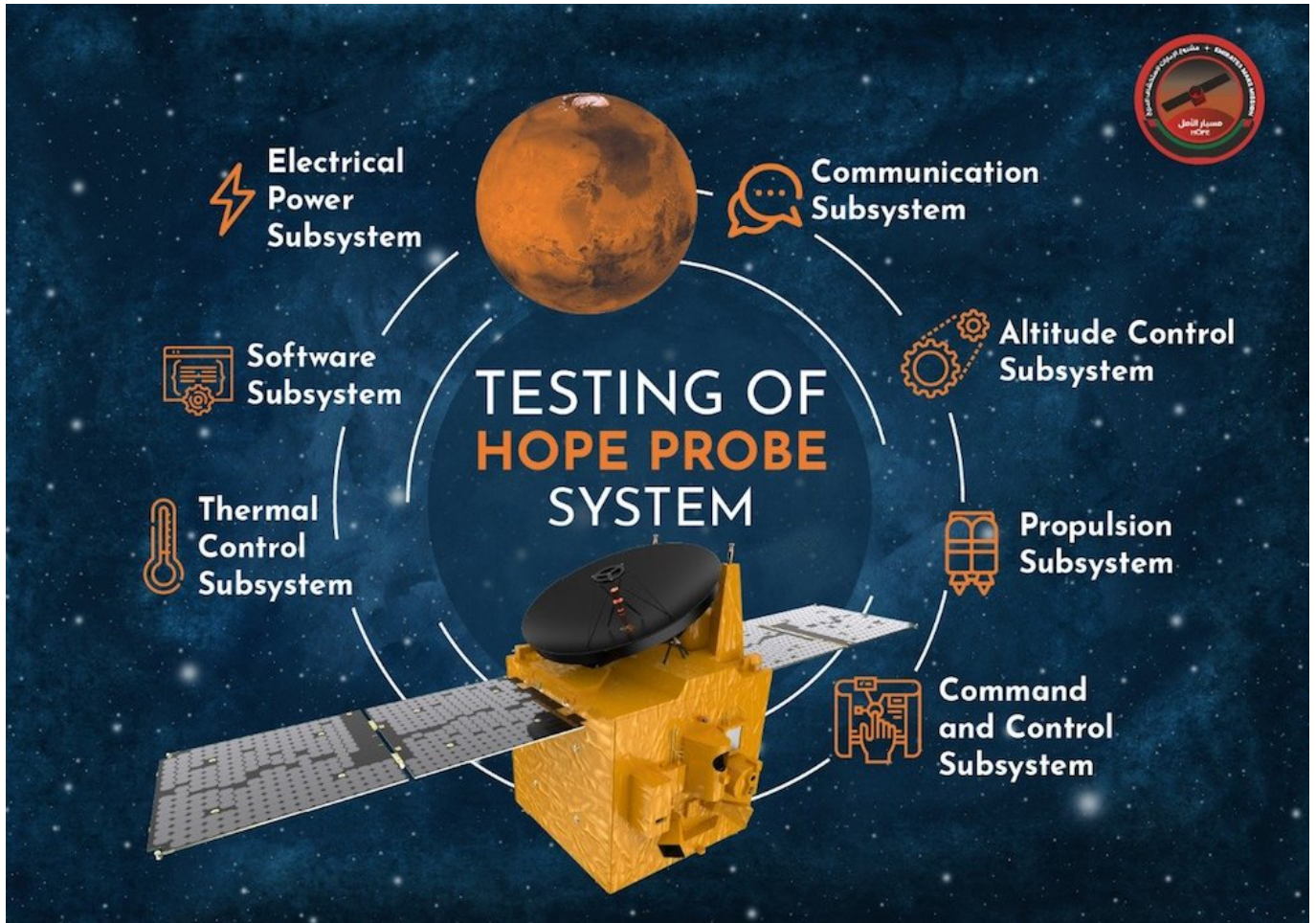
Apr 20: Hope transported to launch site in 83-hour journey

Antonov An-124 cargo plane

Nagoya (Japan)

Ship to Tanegashima Island

Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (Dubai)



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UAE reschedules Mars mission launch to between July 20 and July 22
Emirates Mars Mission poised to fulfil Arab hopes and aspirations