



RETURN TO EARTH

Malaysian time

'Superman' misses teh tarik and roti canai

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PENANG: He feels like a Superman in space and he misses *teh tarik* and *roti canai*.

This was what Malaysia's first Angkasawan Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor told a group of Malaysia Amateur Radio Transmitter Society (MARTS) members in Penang on Thursday night.

During the one-minute conversation, Dr Sheikh Muszaphar described his space life on the International Space Station (ISS) as "flying from one corner to another like Superman."

He also said that he spent less than 10 minutes to change his clothes in space and expressed his happiness at getting "a call" from Malaysia when the ISS crossed Malaysia.

This was the first time Penangites had a live conversation with him.

Amateur Radio operator Azhar Samat, 36, said they felt ecstatic in being able to get a clear communication with Dr Sheikh Muszaphar



12.15pm tomorrow: The crew will climb into the Soyuz vehicle connected to the Zarya module, one of two modules on the ISS belonging to the Russians.

3.15pm: Undocking will take place.

3.21pm: Soyuz jets will be fired to begin departure from the ISS.

5.50pm: Soyuz computers will initiate re-entry manoeuvres.

6.20pm: Spacecraft just above first traces of the Earth's atmosphere. Soyuz vehicle will break into three modules – orbital, instrumentation and descent. Crew in descent module.

6.23pm: Crew will feel effects of gravity. Parachutes will open.

6.30pm: Landing in swampy Arklyk, Kazakhstan. The crew will be rescued by helicopters and amphibious vehicles. Orbital, instrumentation modules burn up in space.

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despite the downpour.

"It started raining about 9pm and we almost thought of aborting the plan," he said.

"We were extremely lucky to get him. His voice was clear that it

sounded almost like our usual phone calls," he said.

The consultation firm manager said they spent two days researching and an hour setting up at Pearl Hill in order to get the short conversation.

The group of 14 started calling at 11.36pm and it was established three minutes later.

"The conversation, though very brief, was worth getting us all wet," Azhar said.