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# NASA Space station equipped with new solar panel 'wing'

## Only one of two 115-foot blankets unfolded on first

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — NASA officials were assessing their options early Monday about when to finish unfurling the international space station's newly attached set of powerful solar panels.

The debut of the \$600 million solar wings was incomplete as only the right panel was deployed Sunday. Although the right wing has started generating electricity, some of its tension cables appeared to be slack.

Engineers are trying to figure out if this will be a problem in unfurling the left wing and if that can be done or should be delayed

until today, when astronauts on the space shuttle Endeavour conduct their second of three spacewalks during this mission.

"Since we are in a good, safe posture, there's no reason to be in a big hurry and deploy the other blanket until we absolutely understand what we saw, or what we're looking at right now," said lead flight director Bill Reeves.

The crew of Endeavour was to have a light schedule of activities Monday after a busy day of construction work.

During a 7 1/2-hour spacewalk, astronauts Carlos Noriega and Joe Tanner helped attach the truss con-

taining the solar wings to space station Alpha. It went smoothly until the right wing's unfurling did not proceed after commander Brent Jett Jr. entered computer commands to do so.

A computer software problem prevented the latches and retention pins on the wings from opening so the panels could be deployed.

New software was sent up, and Jett was able to open all the latches and pins, except one on the left wing. He continued to send commands and eventually freed the stuck pin.

The right wing's deployment delighted Noriega and Tanner.

"Ah, it looks better," Noriega exclaimed. "More power to the station," Tanner said.

It took less than 15 minutes for the first wing to spread to 115 feet.

Noriega and Tanner were the first space station crew to have their own laptops. They released latches and viewed what they they drove in both directions. Tanner released latches and viewed what they they drove in both directions.

"We promise to have all of our movement and slow and steady body gets stuck before the flight."

# First heart surgery planned for tiger

TYLER (AP) — Five-month-old Karma is preparing to undergo open-heart surgery on Saturday to save his life.

No ordinary patient, the tiger cub is thought to be the first of his species to have surgery that corrects a congenital heart defect. And the groundbreaking procedure will be done in a human facility — Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

"Heart bypass surgery to allow surgeons to correct congenital heart defects in children is routine," said Dr. Sonya Gordon of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. "However, the procedure on a 45-pound tiger may create some unique challenges since it hasn't been done before."

Karma's surgery — a collaborative effort of Texas Children's Hospital and the A&M veterinary school

— aims to correct a heart defect that is common in humans, doctors said.

"He has a big hole inside the heart and there is obstruction of a pathway of blood to the lungs," Dr. Charles

Fraser, chief of cardiac surgery at Texas Children's Hospital, said Monday's editions of the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

"We are going to close the hole and fix the pathway so blood can flow to the lungs more readily."

The cat will stay at the hospital overnight, then be transported to Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. Karma is expected to stay three to five days there in the intensive care unit. Doctors expect him to cover soon after the operation.

Karma, who lives at Tiger Wildlife Refuge north of Tyler, is a popular attraction. Refuge officials said he was growing as quickly as his sister.

"His body is trying to grow, but his heart is having a hard time keeping up," said Terri Block, refuge director.

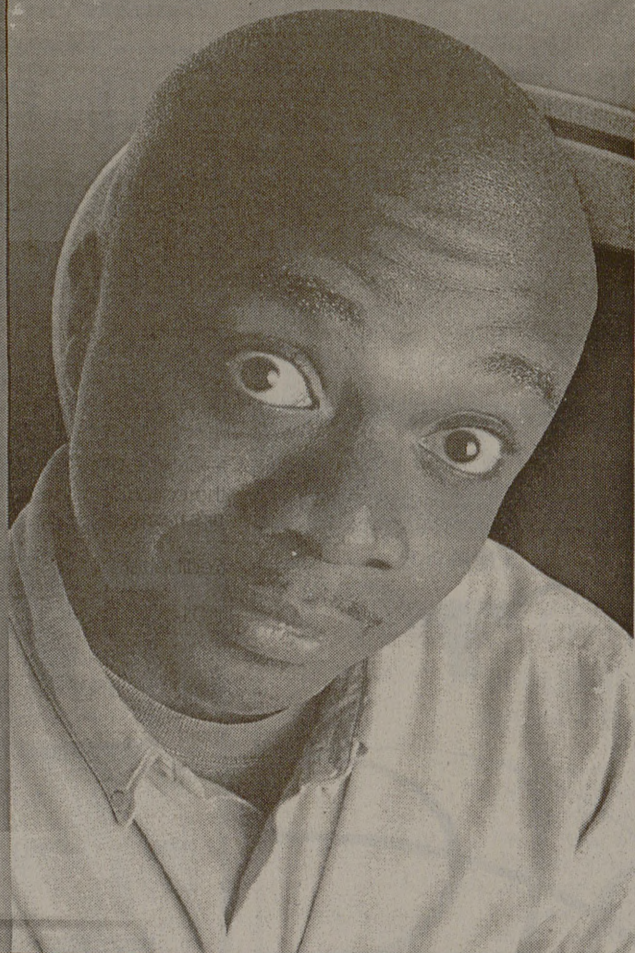
*"The procedure on a 45-pound tiger may create some unique challenges since it hasn't been done before."*

— Dr. Sonya Gordon  
Texas A&M University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

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