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**NEWAGE**

## BRAC univ team inaugurates base station for nano-satellite

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BRAC University chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed cuts a cake to inaugurate ground control station for the BRAC Onnesha satellite in a programme on its campus in Dhaka on Thursday. — New Age photo

BRAC University chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed in a programme on Thursday inaugurated the ground control station for the BRAC Onnesha satellite, which is scheduled to be launched by the SpaceX's falcon 9 Rocket from the USA on June 2.

The ground station will allow relaying audio signals and capturing communication through HAM radio signals during emergencies and catastrophes and facilitate space environment observations and satellite location monitoring, said BRAC university professor Khallilur Rahman.

The low-cost small satellite, categorised as nanosat, has been designed, developed and assembled by BRAC University students at Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan in February.

'Bangladesh holds a bright future in the far frontiers of space, provided the government invests the necessary financial resources in the research sector, said Fazle Hasan Abed while inaugurating the ground station at the university's campus.

The inauguration was followed by a video conference between chairperson Abed and the three students, along with faculty members, responsible for the satellite project in Japan.

As part of its academic endeavours, BRAC University took this initiative of starting space and remote sensing research in collaboration with Kyutech and SPARRSO almost three years ago.

This cross-border interdisciplinary satellite project was supported by Japan for four non-space faring countries and was titled 'Joint Global Multi-Nation BIRDS Satellite' or BIRDS Project.

The nano-satellite was handed over to the authorities by the Japanese institution in February.

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