

Invest more in research

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed urges govt at inauguration of ground station for BRAC University's nano satellite



Brac Founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed yesterday said the government should invest more in research for the country's development. "In our country, investment in research is very poor," he told journalists, while inaugurating a ground station for Brac University's nanosatellite "Brac Onnesha" at its campus in the capital's Mohakhali. "I don't know whether investment in research is 0.1 percent [of the GDP]...The country will be benefited if the government spends at least one percent of its economic growth in research," he added.

With inauguration of the ground station, the university authorities are now expecting to launch the nanosatellite, first of its kind in the country, into the orbit sometime next month. The satellite, a cube measuring 10cm along its edge and weighing around one kilogramme, will be launched into low Earth orbit, at an altitude of around 410 kilometres, through Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. The BRAC founder said there are instances when talented researchers had to leave the country after being frustrated due to a lack of support.

"The government needs to keep its talents," he said. Bangladesh will develop further by investing in scientific researches. Abed said the country now sees newer inventions through scientific researches and the BRAC authorities will contribute more in such areas in future. He also urged the government to lend its support in this regard. Referring to research done in agriculture, the Brac chairperson said a green revolution has been achieved with the availability of food.

Farmers will produce more if they are supported and educated, he said. Bangladesh now grows 7.6 tonnes of rice per hectare of land compared to 12 tonnes of rice per hectare of land in China, he added.

Khalilur Rahman, associate professor at Brac University and one of the key persons behind the “BRAC Onnesha” project, told The Daily Star that the ground station will be used to download information from the satellite once it is launched into the orbit. BRAC University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb among others was present.

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