

Laying foundation for future satellites in Bangladesh

Afraim Karim | Published : 31 May 2017, 22:05:21



University is not only the premises to learn, but to create and set an example. The very first ground station was built by BRAC University students, and the inauguration took place on May 25, 2017 in the Mohakhali campus. The inauguration was done by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, chairperson of BRAC and chairperson, Board of Trustees of BRAC University. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Saad Andaleeb was present during the inauguration ceremony.

As Sir Fazle Hasan Abed entered the ground station, he was presented with a replica of 'BRAC Onnesha', followed by an introductory presentation by BRAC University students on behalf of the three diligent minds who created the satellite to set up the ground station in Bangladesh.

The cubic satellite shall be launched to International Space Station (ISS) by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Florida, USA on June 02, 2017. On receiving the news of their successful project, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed congratulated all the students of BRAC University on setting a benchmark for the engineering students of Bangladesh and motivating further innovation within our own homeland.

After the presentation by the students of BRAC University, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Professor Andaleeb had a video conversation with Maisun Ibn Monowar, Abdulla Hil Kafi and Raihana Shams Islam Antara- the creators of BRAC Onnesha. During the conversation, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed asked them to elaborate on the advantages of the satellite.

They explained that the satellite is supposed to collect topographical data when it will be deployed into the low earth orbit with an altitude of 410 km. This will then be sent to the newly established ground station on the premises of BRAC University. The satellite will rotate over Bangladesh for approximately four to six times a day. The collected data will help the data analysts to interpret and figure out the topographical locations of Bangladesh which in turn will help boost the economy of our country.

The satellite will also receive all sorts of audio signals in times of disasters or any other emergency and send the signal across the country. The entire set up of the room where the ground station has been established was developed by Architecture Department of BRAC University along with BRAC'S construction department.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed also wanted to know what the three alumni Maisun Ibn Monowar, Abdulla Hil Kafi and Raihana Shams Islam Antara's plan to do next.

Maisun Ibn Monowar mentioned that he intends to do further research to help improve the communication system of the satellite which will help satellites retrieve lost data. Raihana Shams Islam Antara has based her research on developing the antenna in the satellite and find a way to install the antenna inside the satellite which will deploy only when it goes to space, since the existing structure of all the antennas in any satellite has its own flaws. Abdulla Hil Kafi is doing a futuristic research on the environment of space. He believes that the current conditions are harsh for any satellite to go and stay on space. Thus it requires proper research on finding a solution to improve the conditions for the future satellite.

Maisun Ibn Monowar, Abdulla Hil Kafi and Raihana Shams Islam Antara mentioned that their next aim is to build a satellite with the help of a purely Bangladeshi team and spread out all the knowledge that they have gained throughout these years.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed expressed his best wishes to the students who have been working day and night on the satellite and the ground station. He also hopes that our government will acknowledge the existing talents of

Bangladesh and be more open to fund such scientific and social science researches that will help the country reach a new era.

The writer is studying Economics at BRAC University. She can be reached at afrim.karim.nowal@gmail.com

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Telephone : PABX : 9553550 (Hunting), 9513814, 7172017 and 7172012 Fax : 880-2-9567049

Email : editor@thefinancialexpress-bd.com, fexpress68@gmail.com

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