

BRAC Onnesha launches into space

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BRAC Onnesha, the nation's first nano-satellite, was launched by SpaceX, FALCON 9 Rocket by its CRS-11 mission to ISS (International Space Station) early Sunday, reports UNB.

The launch took place from Kennedy Space Center, Florida around 3:07am (Bangladesh time) and was the 100th launch from Launch Pad 39A, said a press release.

The same "launch site" was used for Apollo-11 lunar mission, which took humans to achieve its first footprint on the Moon.

Falcon 9 is a two-stage rocket designed and manufactured by SpaceX for reliable and safe transportation of such satellite missions.

BRAC Onnesha is now on board Dragon, a spacecraft, which is expected to dock at the ISS on Monday, and from there BRAC Onnesha will be deployed into earth's orbit by ISS astronauts to begin its operation in a few weeks (expected to be by the end of June but no confirmation received yet).

The first launching attempt on 2 June 2017 failed due to bad weather condition, including lightning, near Kennedy Space Center, Florida, USA, from where today's launch successfully took place.

Through today's launch Bangladesh has entered space for the first time. The historic event was watched through NASA's telecast through <https://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/index.html#public>

Earlier, on 8 February, BRACU became the first Bangladeshi educational institution to get its very own nano-satellite, developed and assembled by three of its students - Abdulla Hil Kafi, Raihana Shams Antara and Maisun Ibn Monowar - using technology and facilities of a Japanese university. BRAC Onnesha, a cube measuring 10cm along its edge and weighing around one kilogram, will be deployed into low earth orbit at an altitude of around 410km.

It will be passing over Bangladesh four to six times every day. BRAC Onnesha Ground Station, set up at BRAC University campus in the capital, is kept ready to receive beacon (data) from BRAC Onnesha.