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### BOU introduces SSC programme

Varsity Correspondent

Bangladesh Open University (BOU) is going to introduce Secondary School Certificate (SSC) programme through its distance teaching system this year, which makes it possible for those who are otherwise deprived of existing learning system in schools.

Addressing a Press conference at the National Press Club, BOU Vice-Chancellor Prof Shamsher Ali said the duration of the course is two years and anyone above fourteen years of age and have passed at least class eight from a recognised school will be able to get admission. The course contains ten subjects and a total 1000 marks.

A student under this programme would be allowed to study five subjects in the first academic year and in

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the second year he or she would be allowed to study another five subjects. Examinations will be held in December every year.

The course fee for each subject is Taka 200 and, a student will be provided with text books, tutorial service, counselling opportunity and examination mark sheets in exchange of this fee.

Prof Shamsher Ali said that at present about fifty thousand students would be accommodate under this programme but necessary steps would be taken gradually to expand the programme.

He said that BOU was established on October 2 in 1992 with a view to creating an educated and trained workforce by providing access to wide range of educational programme and vocational training for all levels of people.

It is a five-year project to be completed by 1997 at an estimated cost of Taka 163 crore including an ADB loan of Taka 133 crore.

The permanent location of BOU with its administrative unit will be at Gazipur where the infrastructure with necessary physical facilities including a modern medical centre is now being developed. It will be supported by 10 regional centres and 80 local centres throughout the country.

During the project period, the BOU will offer 17 formal and nine non-formal programmes.

The Press conference, was attended, among others, by Prof Mohammad Anwar Ali, Prof Sham-sul Haq, Prof Shamsul Kabir, Dr Enamul Haq and AGM Farooq.