

BOU plans to introduce 8 more

Contd. from page 1

up a new vista in distance education in the country. It has launched several programmes both formal and non-formal, in the field of science, social science, agriculture, technology and business education. Besides, it has also some non-formal and certificate courses.

Prof. Islam said about 15 thousands students of different courses including two batches of B. Ed have already passed out from this university.

Of them, about eight thousand have completed B. Ed course, four thousand have got certificate in English language proficiency course and rest have obtained certificates in other programmes like certificate in Arabic language proficiency and in some non-formal programmes.

Secondary School Certificate (S. S. C), a two year course, began in December of 1995 and students of first batch of S. S. C. will pass out in December this year.

Later, these students will be able to get themselves admitted to H. S. C. course under this university. The HSC course is scheduled to be opened by January next.

Asked whether the students obtaining degrees from open

university get jobs in practical life, Prof. Islam said the standard of BOU Education is as good as education imparted by other conventional universities. He said most of the students of open university are aged, dropped out and housewives. So it is difficult to say how many of BOU passed outs get jobs.

Referring to recently introduced diploma in management course, he said this course has created a great enthusiasm among various professionals, including bankers, army officers, journalists.

The BOU will launch MBA course by next January, and those who will be able to secure 80 per cent marks in the diploma in management course will qualify for admission into MBA in this university.

BOU admits students for its formal courses twice a year, once between November and December and again between May and June. Admission for January-June semester takes place between November and December and that for July-December semester between May and June.

Commenting on mode of teaching of the university Prof. Islam said as a distinct mode of imparting education, BOU relies heavily on print materials,

electronic media like radio, television and audio-video cassettes and specialised communication such as computer networking and internet.

The BOU has a media division which produces audio-video educational programmes and transform them into cassettes for Broadcasting by radio and television. Every student of BOU Formal programme is provided with a set of text books, video cassettes and VCPs are available at 12 regional resource centres throughout the country.

At present Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television broadcasting the programmes of Open University for one hour everyday.

The BOU V. C. said when Bangladesh Television will open second channel, Open University will seek two to four hour slot everyday to broadcast its education programmes. He said the main media centre of the university is being constructed at at Gazipur at a cost of Taka 40 crore. It will be equipped with the latest technology.

BOU is also going to develop audio-teleconferencing system for getting tutorial interaction from students in remote areas.

BOU plans to introduce eight more courses next year

Humayun Kabir

June 1998.

Prof. Islam said 80 per cent of the construction of the infrastructure and media bhaban has already been completed.

At present the office of Vice-Chancellor and other departments like Administration planning and finance are at Dhaka and these offices will be shifted to Gazipur, inside the university campus, by early next year. Construction of physical structures is nearing completion.

Be said the BOU has opened

taka 180 crore while rest 20 per cent funded by the Government of Bangladesh.

The BOU Vice-Chancellor said that the tenure of the project will expire in June in 1998 when ADB will stop financing the project.

According to agreement with ADB the construction work of infrastructure of the university will have to be completed by June 1998.

BOU is funding 80 per cent of total project expenditure of

total project expenditure. BOU is to run 18 formal courses. At present the BOU is running 10 courses, he said.

Talking to the Bangladesh Times Vice-Chancellor of BOU

functions since 1994.

The prime objective of establishing the BOU was to transform the country's vast human resources into an educated and trained workforce by extending

funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh (GOB).

ADB is funding 80 per cent of total project expenditure of

These courses will be of two year (four semesters) and four year duration (eight semesters).

According to an agreement with Asian Development Bank, which is funding 80 per cent of

year of them five will start by January next.

The new courses to be introduced by January next are: B. Sc in Nursing, diploma in computer applications, higher secondary certificate (HSC), bachelor degree, and masters in business administration (MBA).

Three other courses namely masters in education (M. Ed), certificate in education (C. Ed) and diploma in women studies (WS) will be opened by next

Formal, non-formal education programme