

## DU was closed for 358 days in Ershad's time

By A Staff Reporter

The Dhaka University remained closed for 451 days on 11 occasions during the period between 1972 and 1991 for situation arising out of terrorist activities.

This was stated by Minister of State for Education Prof Yunus Khan, in reply to a question from Awami League member Raushan Ali in the Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday.

Out of the total number of days the Dhaka University remained closed for terrorist activities, 358 days were during the period of fallen dictator H M Ershad.

According to the statement of the Education State Minister, the Dhaka University remained closed due to terrorist activities only for a single day, (April 5, 1973) till

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## DU was closed

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February 13, 1983 since liberation of the country. Prof Khan, replying to a question from Awami League member Rahmat Ali, informed the House, the average annual expenditure on a university student according 1989-90 estimate, was Tk. 19,454.

The State Minister said expenditures varied from institution to institution. Giving a list the State Minister said of the seven universities in the country, Agriculture University at Mymensingh with Tk. 53,550.22 incurred the maximum expenditure. Islami University with a spending of Tk. 1,757.88 had the minimum expenditure per student.

The universities with higher expenditures included Jahangirnagar University Tk. 25,469.08 and Engineering University Tk. 24,588.26. Expenditure in Dhaka University, was recorded at Tk. 14,619.32.

Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat) was informed that the government had no plan to establish a women's medical college or a women's university during the current five-year plan period.

Replying to another question from BNP member Sardar Sakhawat Hossain Bakul, Mr Khan said an amount of Tk. 651 crore and Tk. 254 crore have been earmarked in the budget for 1991-92 for the payment of salaries and allowances of government school and college teachers and non-government college and school teachers, respectively.

### NEW EXAM-SYSTEM

The State Minister, replying to a question from Awami League member Azizur Rahman, informed

that a new system of examinations will be introduced next year for the secondary level of education. Introduction of the same system for the higher secondary level is under consideration, he said.

Mr Yunus Khan, in reply to a question from Awami League member Md. Asaduzzaman, said 6.70 lakh illiterate people were brought under the mass literacy programme during the period between February, 1980 and March, 1982, at a cost of Tk. 7.80 crore. Another five lakh people were brought under a limited scale literacy programme introduced in 1987-88 at a cost of Tk. 8.09 crore.

BSS adds: Giving a break-up of students, the Minister said the highest enrollment was in the primary schools-1,19,39,949 that included 18,11,606 students in the private primary schools. The number of students in the colleges in 1991 was 859,966 compared to 823,912 in the previous year.

Replying to a supplementary, Prof Khan said posts of 4775 teachers are lying vacant in the government primary schools which are likely to be filled up within two months.

In the government secondary schools, nearly 1400 posts of teachers are also lying vacant and it is expected to be filled by next month. All these vacancies will be filled through proper ways and advertisement.