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## PM's directive to extend time limit of BOU edn programme

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday directed the authority to extend the time limit of the distant education programme of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) telecast by Bangladesh Television to 40 minutes from the existing 25 minutes, reports BSS.

The directive was given when the members of the Board of Government of BOU called on her at the Prime Minister's office in Dhaka on Monday morning.

Bangladesh Television used to telecast the BOU programme for 25 minutes.

The members apprised the Prime Minister of the on-going and future courses to be offered by the university. The BOU now offers courses like certificate course in education, school business, MBA, science technology, women education and vocational training.

The Prime Minister was told that the university has a plan to impart training to the teachers of non-government primary schools. The university would also like to introduce the vocational training programme at the school level for creating skilled labour force.

She was further told that the greater Faridpur district was kept out of the purview of the BOU.

The Prime Minister said that her government wanted to ensure a balanced development throughout the country. She said that illiteracy was the main obstacle to the country's journey to progress and development.

She said steps had already been taken to eradicate illiteracy from society within the next ten years. The Prime Minister said that the BOU could play an important role in this regard.

Education Minister A.S.H.K. Sadek, Education Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha, Information Secretary Kazi Raqibuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Aminul Islam, President of FBCCI Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, Chief Scientific Officer (Seeds) Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzak, and architect Mazharul Islam were present.