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## Open university under study

The Government is considering the possibility of setting up an open university in the country. Education Secretary Quazi Jalaluddin Ahmed said in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

The benefits of an open university have already been established as some countries in the region have gone for such universities, he said.

The Education Secretary was addressing as the chief guest at the concluding session of a 6-day workshop on "Development of Instructional materials for B Ed course through distance education." The session was also addressed by Dr M Selim, Educational Adviser in UNESCO Regional Office, Bangkok and Dr K M Serajul Islam Director, Bangladesh Education of Distance Education (BIDE).

Quazi Jalaluddin Ahmed however, said that feasibility of the open university was being considered and a decision about it would be taken in due course.

The Education Secretary referred to the concept of distance education and said that B Ed course through distance education had been introduced recently on an experimental basis and it was found to be useful. He described the workshop which was jointly orga-

nised by BIDE and the UNESCO Regional Office, as important to find out ways to make the concept further useful and effective. Dr Selim assured all possible assistance from this Organisation.

Meanwhile, the workshop recommended the establishment of an university as soon as possible. It called to strengthen the BIDE and suggested that the institute should have regional centres all over Bangladesh and research cell may be added to it.

The workshop which was participated by 26 persons suggested that BIDE syllabus and curricula should be revised to make them more "life centred and need-based".