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## Ershad stresses role of educated in ending illiteracy

DHAKA, Sept 7. (BSS): President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today laid stress on sincere efforts of the educated section in the society to free the large segment of population from the curse of illiteracy.

In a message on the eve of International Literacy Day the President said illiteracy was a complex problem adding that in a country like ours with poverty and less education such problem could be solved with the sincere endeavours of the educated section of the society side by side the Government efforts.

The President said the Inter-

national Literacy Day like every year was also being observed this time in the country as elsewhere in the world to create mass awareness against illiteracy. The drive against illiteracy was an integral part of the movement to achieve improved life, crossing over the walls of ignorance and superstition, he said.

President Ershad said the success of the day would expedite the flourishing of civilisation and ensure overall development and economic emancipation of people in each and every country of the world.

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Stressing the need for ensuring universal education for the greater interest of the nation President Ershad said the country's primary education had been made compulsory from the next year to ensure universal education. He said primary education had been made compulsory on the eve UNESCO's announcement of 1990 as the International Literacy Year.

The President referred to the introduction of free education for girls upto class eight outside the municipality areas and hill districts. Pathakali Trust had also been established for ensuring education for distressed children.

Besides, he said, the Government had a plan to intensify its mass literacy programme with a view to expanding the movement against illiteracy.

The President said the observance of the day would be meaningful if the educated section became firmly determined to eradicate illiteracy from the society.

He wished every success of the day.