

## Plan to remove illiteracy within 10 yrs

HAMBURG (Germany), July 14: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today expressed the hope that her government in cooperation with NGOs and other international organisations would be able to free the country from the curse of illiteracy, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina, who was the focal point of the joint press conference immediately after the inaugural session of the five-day international conference on adult education, told a questioner that her government was making a unified and integrated thrust for eradicating illiteracy within the next ten years.

Held at the Congress Centre, the press conference was also addressed by UNESCO Director

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## Illiteracy

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General Federico Mayor and Conference President Prof. Dr. Rita Sussmuth. Secretary General of the conference Dr. Paul Belanger worked as moderator of the press meet.

Sheikh Hasina appealed to the international community, particularly the agencies working for development and spreading education, to give more thrust on Asian countries, including Bangladesh, where illiteracy prevails as detrimental to all kinds of developing efforts.

Laughter evoked into the venue of the press conference when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, replying to a questioner on "Micro-credit" success in Bangladesh, said that women are good in paying back of loans than their male counterparts. "It is good to give small loans to many people instead of giving a lot of money to a few business lords," she said while explaining the success of Bangladesh in the field of micro-credit system. "Bangladesh experiences can, well, be followed as a model by other countries," she said.

The Prime Minister also supplemented to a number of other questions put forward by the newsmen to Mr. Mayor and Ms Rita Sussmuth.