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## Hasina calls for eradication of illiteracy

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday called upon all irrespective of party affiliation and opinion to be united to eradicate illiteracy from the country to face the challenges of the coming 21st century, says BSS.

"The challenges of the 21st century is to eradicate illiteracy. I called upon all to unite to achieve this objective," she said in a message on the eve of observance of the International Literacy Day and the National Adult Education Week.

The Prime Minister said the present government believes in the policy of turning the huge population of the country into human resources. "We have introduced non-formal education along with the formal education to attain the goal," she added.

Sheikh Hasina said the Bangladesh Awami League is committed to ensuring the constitutional rights of all citizens of the country. "Our great leader Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had taken massive programmes for expansion of education in all spheres of life," she added.

The Prime Minister said that a target had been fixed to raise the country's literacy rate to 62 per cent by the year 2002 and to totally free the nation from the curse of illiteracy by 2006. "The country's literacy rate has already been estimated at 58 per cent," she added. Sheikh Hasina said that the glory of receiving the UNESCO International Literacy Award, which Bangladesh earned, would inspire the nation to spread the light of education to all spheres of life.

Wishing all success of the programmes on the occasions, the Prime Minister said that those would help create awareness and encourage people to eradicate illiteracy from society.