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Viswa Bharati confers D.Lit on Hasina

CA:CITTA, Jan. 28:—Viswa Bharati University of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore conferred its highest honorary degree "Deshikottoma" on Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a gala ceremony at

Shantiniketan here today (Thursday), reports UNB.

Chancellor of the University and former Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral conferred the D.Lit degree on her at a special convocation. The Chancellor handed over Hasina an academic scarf on a podium at Amrakunja (Mango Garden) on the campus.

The university students presented flowers and garlanded the Prime Minister after the convocation procession. University teachers took part in the convocation procession while girl students waived national flags of the two countries.

Girl students wearing colourful sarees with flowers in their tuft of hair sang inaugural song (affirmation of ideal) and showered petals when the Prime Minister in her light gray coloured printed Jamdani saree climbed the podium tastefully decorated with handicraft and flowers.

Vice-Chancellor of the University and Higher Education Minister of West Bengal Dilip K. Sinha read out the citation while Chancellor I.K. Gujral formally conferred the degree on Sheikh Hasina. The singer group then sang "Shanti Vachan".

In his address, I.K. Gujral welcomed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, saying "Your arrival created a new sense of love among us. Paying rich tribute to Bangabandhu, he said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman liberated Bangladesh while Rabindranath united the two Bengals through his poems and songs."

The hour-long ceremony ended in a calm, cordial and tranquil atmosphere. The girls sang Tagore's song "Barishe Dhara Majhe Shantir Bari."

Renowned litterateurs, poets, teachers, ministers, PMs and members of Bangladesh delegation attended the function.

The Prime Minister later went round Rabindra Bhawan "Uttarayan" and some areas of Shantiniketan. Later, she left for Churulia to visit the birthplace of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.