

India, Bangladesh interlinked

Pranab tells DU convocation

The first Bangalee Indian President Pranab Mukherjee on his maiden visit as a president to Bangladesh said yesterday that India and Bangladesh are interlinked like no other nations on earth.

He said this while speaking as the convocation speaker at the 47th convocation of Dhaka University.

The university conferred the Indian president with honorary Doctorate of Law degree as recognition of his statesmanship at its regular convocation with DU Chancellor President Zillur Rahman in the chair.

Termed his visit as an emotional journey, Pranab said, "I have my roots in the soil of Bangladesh, and We are committed to working closely with Bangladesh to avoid any untoward incidents on our border. We can together make it a gateway of peace and mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

He said sharing of the waters of common rivers is a high priority for India.

Pranab expressed his confidence that democratic traditions in Bangladesh will grow stronger with time and the country's youth will preserve democracy with their constant vigil.

He said India will also allow flow of 500 MW of power from India to Bangladesh.

The Indian president announced that the Visva Bharati University at Santu Niketan would provide land within its campus to Bangladesh for construction of 'Bhaban'.

India and Bangladesh would sign the Teesta Water Sharing Treaty soon, Pranab said adding that a bill is also going to be placed in the Indian parliament for ratification of the 1974 India-Bangladesh land boundary agreement.

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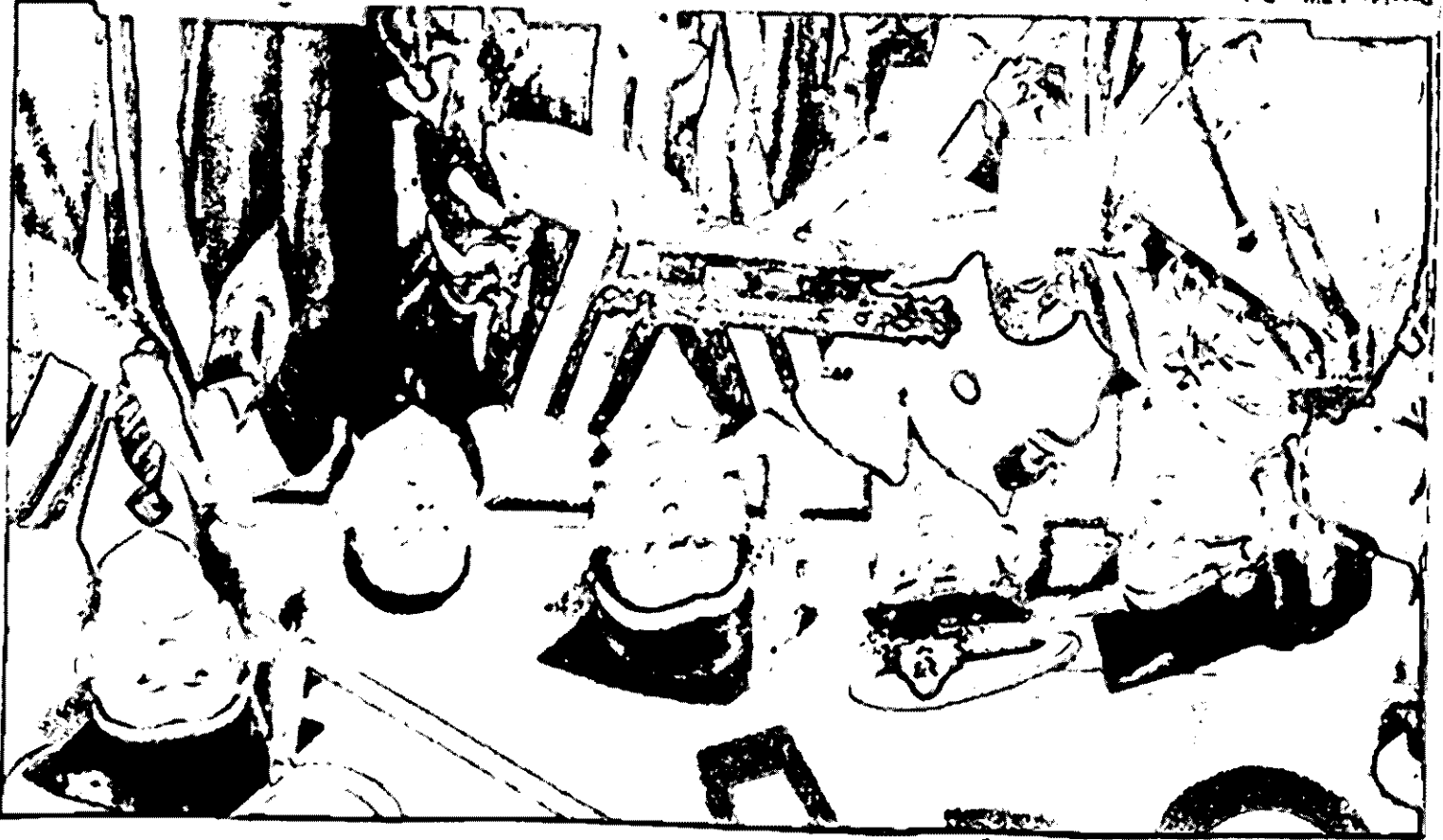
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BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman confers honorary Doctorate of Law on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at the 47th convocation of Dhaka University yesterday.



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