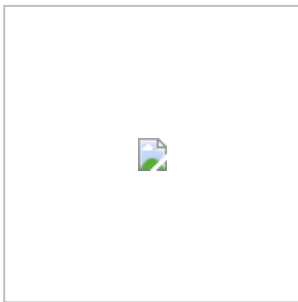




28th Mar, 2012

Liberation War Honour to the Third Druk Gyalpo



«Privy council chairman **Chenkyab Dorji** receives the award from Bangladesh president **Mr Zillur Rahman** as Bangladesh PM **Sheikh Hasina** (left) looks on.

Liberation War Honour In a solemn ceremony, presided over by the president and the prime minister of Bangladesh, the Third Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, was awarded the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour in Dhaka yesterday, in recognition of Bhutan's contribution to Bangladesh's Independence War of 1971.

Late His Majesty was one of the eight recipients of the honour. An additional 75 individuals from throughout the world were awarded the Friends of Liberation War Honour, together with a few international organisations.

“I am happy that today Bangladesh as a nation seeks to recognise the invaluable contribution of our comrades from across the globe,” the prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, said, during the award ceremony. “By honouring them, we are actually reaffirming our faith in the principles we stood for – equity, democracy and democratic practice, inclusive development, social justice and the rule of law. This is a token of recognition of our respect for your show of unity with a nation that was fighting for rights, respect and dignity.”

Former minister and chairman of the Privy Council, Chenkyab Dorji, accepted the award on behalf of the third Druk Gyalpo.

“While it is deeply gratifying to be acknowledged for Bhutan's modest contributions, Bangladesh succeeded because of the determination and valour of its brave people, under the visionary leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation,” Chenkyab Dorji said. “In honouring us, we honour the ideals and visions of Bangabandhu, who has made the supreme sacrifice in the service of this great nation.”

Bhutan was the first country, after India, to recognise independent Bangladesh, after the country fought a brief but bloody war of independence in 1971 and established formal diplomatic relation with in 1973.

In March 2011, His Majesty the King visited Bangladesh as the Special Guest of Honour for its 40th Independence Day. Prior to the visit, Lyonchhoen paid a state visit in January 2011 as Chairman of SAARC.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also made history in Bhutan-Bangladesh relations, by choosing Bhutan as the first

country for her state visit in 2009, after her election as the prime minister of Bangladesh for the second time.

In 2012, trade between the two countries reached the Nu 1B mark, and more than 110 Bhutanese students, mainly in medical fields, are currently studying in Bangladesh. Source: Kuenselonline

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