

Third Druk Gyalpo receives Bangladeshi award

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Bangladesh on March 27 awarded Bangladesh Liberation War Honour on the third Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. The honour was awarded in recognition of Bhutan's contribution to Bangladesh's Independence War of 1971. The late Druk Gyalpo was one of the eight recipients of the honour. Seventy individuals from across the world, along with a few international organizations, received Friends of Liberation War Honour. In a solemn award ceremony in Bangladeshi capital Dhaka, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the honours were a token recognition of Bangladesh's respect for the show of unity with a nation that was fighting for rights, respect and dignity. The chairperson of Privy Council, former minister Chenkyab Dorji, received the award on behalf of the third

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Druk Gyalpo. **Bhutan was the first country, after India, to recognize independent Bangladesh** after the country fought a brief but a bloody war of independence in 1971. In doing so, a strong foundation of friendship and cooperation was laid between the two neighbours. Bangladesh was the second country Bhutan established formal diplomatic relation with in 1973. Since then, the two countries have enjoyed a most cordial relations that encompass a large number of areas of cooperation. In recent years, bilateral relations between the two countries have reached new heights with the exchange of visits at the highest level. In March 2011, His Majesty the King visited Bangladesh as the special guest of honour for its 40th Independence Day anniversary. Before that, Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley paid a state visit in January 2011 as the chairperson of Saarc. This year, trade between the two countries has touched Nu 1 billion. More than 110 Bhutanese students are studying in Bangladesh, , mostly in the field of medicine. **By Staff Reporter**

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