

BRITISH BANGLADESHI POWER & INSPIRATION
Talent. Success. Leadership.

CUTTING-EDGE VIRTUAL REALITY SURGEON ANNOUNCED AS 2017 BRITISH BANGLADESHI PERSON OF YEAR

Shafi Ahmed was last night announced as the most influential British Bangladeshi at a prestigious event held at the Shard, in London.

Shafi scoops the 'Person of the Year' 2017 award for his extraordinary achievement in performing the world's first virtual reality operation. Medical experts hope Shafi's pioneering live-streamed surgeries in virtual reality and with Snapchat will make healthcare fairer and boost training.

Celebrating its sixth year, the British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration (BBPI) list is a celebration of the success of the UK's Bangladeshi community.

Guests at the event included a wide spectrum of the British Bangladeshi community including leading entrepreneurs, social activists and global philanthropists.

The previous winners of the award are Nadiya Hussain, who rose to fame on the BBC's Great British Bake off and the Honourable Judge Khatun Sapnara, the first British Bangladeshi promoted to a senior judicial position at the Crown Court.

The organisers also announced that applicants can now apply for funding and mentoring support from the BBPI Foundation.

Speaking at the event Shafi Ahmed said:

"I am truly humbled to be named the BBPI Person of Year 2017. I have dedicated my career to teaching and mentoring others and I hope that by developing the use of technology in surgery I can not only inspire others but improve healthcare around the world."

Abdal Ullah, Founder of the British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration said:

"The BBPI 100, celebrates the greatest talents and most inspiring British Bangladeshi people from every walk of life from fashion to finance, from technology to food, from theatre to philanthropists. That is what makes us different"

Ayesha Qureshi, Editor of The British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration said:

"BBPI is a celebration of our success but also an opportunity to protect and nurture our future. Through the work of the BBPI Foundation, we can work together to

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provide this support and encouragement. If you're a young person in need to support to achieve, please go to bbpifoundation.com to find out how we can help you."

The full BBPI 2017 list is available exclusively on www.bbpower-inspiration.com. Please log onto the website for further information.

-Ends

To attend or for more information please contact:

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Note to Editors

1. The British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration ("BBPI") is a celebration of the success of the Bangladeshi community in the UK today. The list of the 100 most influential and inspirational British Bangladeshis acknowledges and celebrates the hard work and efforts of the pioneers, leaders and role models that are changing society's perceptions of the community and helping shape Britain for the better with their ideas, example, talent and success.
2. The 2017 list is the sixth publication of the BBPI.
3. The 2017 launch event is by **invitation only and will not be open to the public**. For media attendance please contact the press office.
4. The BBPI list is updated every year to include relevant categories such as Entrepreneurs, Arts & Culture, Media & Personalities, Community Champions, Academics and and Sport.
5. The Person of the Year award was introduced for the first time in 2015 and is awarded by the judges only in a year where a significant or pioneering achievement has occurred. Previous winners were, Her Honour Judge Khatun Sajnara and Nadiya Hussain.
6. The first list was published in January 2012. Full details on the background to the BBPI can be found at www.bbpower-inspiration.com
7. Abdal Ullah and Ayesha Qureshi MBE are founder and editor of the publication. Abdal has extensive experience of working with London's strategic bodies and communities and Ayesha is a senior finance lawyer in the city.
8. The Judging panel consists of Iqbal Wahhab OBE, a serial entrepreneur, philanthropist and the proprietor of Roast at Borough Market, Syed Nahas Pasha, a highly respected journalist and chief editor of Janomot newspaper and Curry Life Magazine; Ms Nahida Rahman, the first female TV executive in British Bangladeshi television, John Newbiggin, a leading entrepreneur in the cultural and creative industry and Howard Dawber Director at Canary Wharf Group.