

Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI)

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**Press Release**

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Honoring Dr. Firdausi Qadri

BDI Lifetime Achievement Award - 2026



The Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI), a non-partisan research and advocacy group of independent scholars based in the United States, is pleased to announce that Dr. Firdausi Qadri is the recipient of the 2026 *BDI Lifetime Achievement Award*.

Established in 2012, this prestigious award is designed to honor outstanding individuals or organizations who, through their scholarly and/or policy and civic engagements, have contributed significantly to understanding the challenges, and the ideals that have led to the development of Bangladesh and have improved the quality of life for its citizens. Through the award, BDI recognizes and celebrates the work of a scholar or institution of high reputation and integrity whose work has inspired others to develop and implement ideas for the betterment of the people of Bangladesh.

This year, BDI has recognized that throughout her long and distinguished career, Dr. Firdausi Qadri has embodied the ideals of BDI by employing her scientific knowledge, talents, and skills to save lives and improve public health in Bangladesh by preventing the spread of infectious diseases through research and advocacy. Her recent research has focused on infections and vaccinations against cholera, typhoid, COVID-19, and human papillomavirus (HPV). Her life-long research has yielded more than 650 articles in esteemed peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Dr. Qadri serves as a Senior Scientist in the Infectious Disease Division and heads the Mucosal Immunology and Vaccinology Unit at icddr,b. She is the founder of the Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives (ideSHi). Her research spans fundamental and applied immunology of infectious diseases, as well as clinical trials and comprehensive field studies on vaccines.

Dr. Qadri is a prominent fellow and participant in various scientific organizations, including ASM, AAM, TWAS, IDSA, BAS, INSA, and NITAG. She serves on a number of advisory boards, including the Islamic Development Bank Science Board. She also serves on the UN High-Level Panel, which advises on the proposed Technology Bank designed to assist the world's least developed countries in overcoming poverty through biotechnology and scientific innovations.

In recognition of her pathbreaking work and pivotal contributions to infectious disease management, immunology, vaccine innovation, and clinical research, clinical microbiology, Dr. Qadri has received multiple prestigious awards. These honors include the Gold Medal in Biological Sciences from the Bangladesh Academy of Science, the *Moselio Schaechter Award* from the American Society for Microbiology, the *Christophe & Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation Prize* from the French Academy of Sciences, and the *Prof. C.N.R. Rao Prize* from the World Academy of Sciences. In 2020, she received the *L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award* for her work in understanding and preventing infectious diseases among children in developing nations, as well as for advocating early diagnosis and vaccination for a global health impact.

Dr. Qadri was awarded the *Ramon Magsaysay Award* in 2021, often dubbed Asia's Nobel Prize. For her lifelong commitment and devotion to the field of science and public health, she received the Independence Award (*Swadhinata Padak*), Bangladesh's highest award in 2023. In 2024, she was honored with the *Clara Southmayd Ludlow Medal* from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the *VinFuture Prize* from Vietnam for her outstanding contributions. These prestigious recognitions reflect her significant achievements as a practitioner-scientist and serve as a motivating force for the younger generation of scientists, especially women scientists, in Bangladesh.

The 2026 *BDI Lifetime Achievement Award* will be formally presented at the next international conference organized by BDI. As the recipient of this prestigious award, Dr. Firdausi Qadri will be invited to deliver a keynote lecture on a subject of her choice.

For additional information on *Bangladesh Development Initiative* (BDI), please visit www.bdiusa.org or contact Dr. Munir Quddus, President, BDI (muquddus@pvamu.edu)