

THE NEWS 24 NOV 19

Pakistan's lone Nobel laureate Prof Salam dies

By our correspondents

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's most illustrious son world-renowned scientist Nobel laureate Professor Abdus Salam breathed his last at his residence in Oxford on Thursday morning (at 8.15 Pakistan Standard Time) after protracted illness. He was 70. He was suffering from Parkinson's disease.

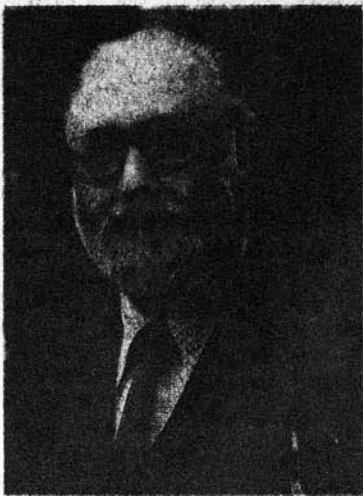
He is survived by his wife, two sons and four daughters.

Salam was one of the most celebrated scientists of this century who influenced our understanding of nature in a very profound way.

Abdus Salam was born on January 29, 1926 in Jhang. He had a meteoric rise in his life and became instantly famous in the world of Physics with his Ph D work at Cambridge, England. After serving for three years at the Government College Lahore and the Punjab University, he became Lecturer at Cambridge in 1954 at the age of 28. At the age of 31, he became full professor at the Imperial College London in 1957. He was the youngest Fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 33.

Dr G Murtaza, Professor of Physics and Dean Faculty of Natural Sciences, Quaid-e-Azam University, says Professor Abdus Salam received several prestigious awards and honors including the Nobel Prize of the year 1979. For his contributions towards peace and promotion of international science collaboration, he received the Atoms for Peace Medal and Award. He became Fellow/Member of more than 30 academies/societies and was awarded D Sc Honoris Causa by more than 40 universities of the world.

Abdus Salam worked with great zeal and enthusiasm for the development of science in the Third World. For that, he extensively



Punjab University produced four Nobel Laureates!

By Dr S.M. Ismail

There was a news the other day that the plaque commemorating that Nobel Laureate Professor L C Compton in the Physical Chemistry Department of the Punjab University, has disappeared from the wall of the Old University campus.

The fact of the matter is that Professor Compton worked in 1927 in the Physical Chemistry Department of the

Continued on page 5

travelled the world over, pleaded to the political leaders to make adequate investment for education and for science and technology, emphasising that "Science is as important for the development of a country as the army is for its defence."

Continued on page 8

Pakistan's lone Nobel laureate Prof Salam dies

Continued from page 1

He appealed to the developing nations to set up centres on the pattern of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics and to the

oil-rich Arab countries for the establishment of an Islamic Commonwealth of Science.

He had a great love for his country. Several countries offered him citizenship but he always refused saying "my love is only for Pakistan and I don't want anyone to share it."

In an interview a year back he said, "I have always wanted to come back to Pakistan...I am an old man and I would like to die here (Pakistan). My biggest regret was that I have never been able to be of any service to my country rather unfortunately I have not been given the opportunity."

In the end, with tears in his eyes Salam said: "Returning to Pakistan has been very important to me and I am ready to give up anything for that."

But, it is pity that Pakistan did not take advantage of what Dr Salam could do for this country and for that matter all the developing nations.

It is a pity that Pakistan did not take full advantage of what Abdus Salam could do for this country and for that matter all the developing nations.

Dr Abdus Salam has an impressive record of 275 publications in international journals to his credit, each of which is of such high calibre that any scientist will be proud to be the author of even one of them.

Salam is famous for his work in the field of Particle Physics. Particle Physics deals with the study of elementary (or fundamental) particles and their behaviour. By elementary particles, ie the tiniest particles which are not composed of anything further smaller hence they are invisible.

To Abdus Salam's credit is every major advance which has been made in the field of Particle Physics since 1950.

He narrowly missed sharing the Nobel Prize in 1957 for his theory of parity violation in weak interaction. His work on the symmetries in late 50s and early 60s has also won him great fame.

Abdus Salam was appointed chief scientific adviser to the President of Pakistan in 1961. In this capacity, he was largely responsible for creating a network of scientific bodies and institutions in Pakistan. Besides, he was instrumental in launching a massive training programme for scientists and in setting up Pinstech and Suparco.

In his opinion, the nations like Sweden, Finland and Switzerland are able to provide their people with the highest living standards prevailing anywhere without waging wars on others because they cultivated sciences and used them for general economic and social development.

He was perplexed and shocked at the enormous amount of resources which the present-day world spends on armed forces.

Abdus Salam challenged, along with many other respected physicists, the fallacy of the very idea be-

hind the Strategic Defense Initiative which was to cost almost \$1500 billion till the year 2000.

His influence continued albeit to a lesser extent in the Yahya and early Z A Bhutto years.

Agencies add: Theoretical physicist Abdus Salam was Pakistan's only Nobel prize winner.

His relatives said that his body would be brought back to Pakistan on Saturday for burial in Rabwa.

He founded the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, and served as its director from 1964 to 1993.

He was member of IAEA, Vienna, from 1962 to 1963. He was member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Science Technology for some years.

Abdus Salam was chairman of Unesco Advisory panel on science and technology.

The Pakistan government awarded him Sitara-e-Pakistan, Pride of Performance and Nishan-e-Imtiaz.

He had been member of the Education Commission and Scientific Commission of Pakistan. He was also member of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission during 1958 to 1974.

Scientists, educationists, government leaders and people from all walks of life have expressed deep sense of sorrow over the sad demise of Dr Abdus Salam.

Those who condoled the death included the president, the prime minister and federal ministers. They prayed for peace to the departed soul.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan

Leghari eulogised the services of Dr Abdus Salam for Pakistan and termed his demise an irreparable loss. The vacuum created by his death cannot be filled for a long time to come, the president added.

The president said he was Pakistan's ambassador-at-large and as the only Nobel Laureate of Pakistan he brought fame and recognition to his motherland in the scientific community of the world and put Pakistan firmly on the world's science map.

Caretaker Prime Minister Malik Meraj Khalid paid glowing tributes to the invaluable services rendered by Prof Abdus Salam in the field of science.

He said his efforts not only won Nobel Prize for him but also earned pride and recognition for Pakistan in international circles.

Former chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Munir Ahmad Khan, said Abdus Salam, was a great scientist produced by the Muslim world in the 20th century. He said he was a true patriot who had dedicated himself to serve the scientific field in Pakistan and the third world.

Munir said he helped thousands of researchers from the developing countries to achieve excellence in science particularly in the subject of physics.

He said Prof Abdus Salam made most valuable contributions to the national endeavour in atomic energy. Above all, he was a humble man who led a simple life despite having the highest honours and distinction bestowed upon him all over the world, he said.