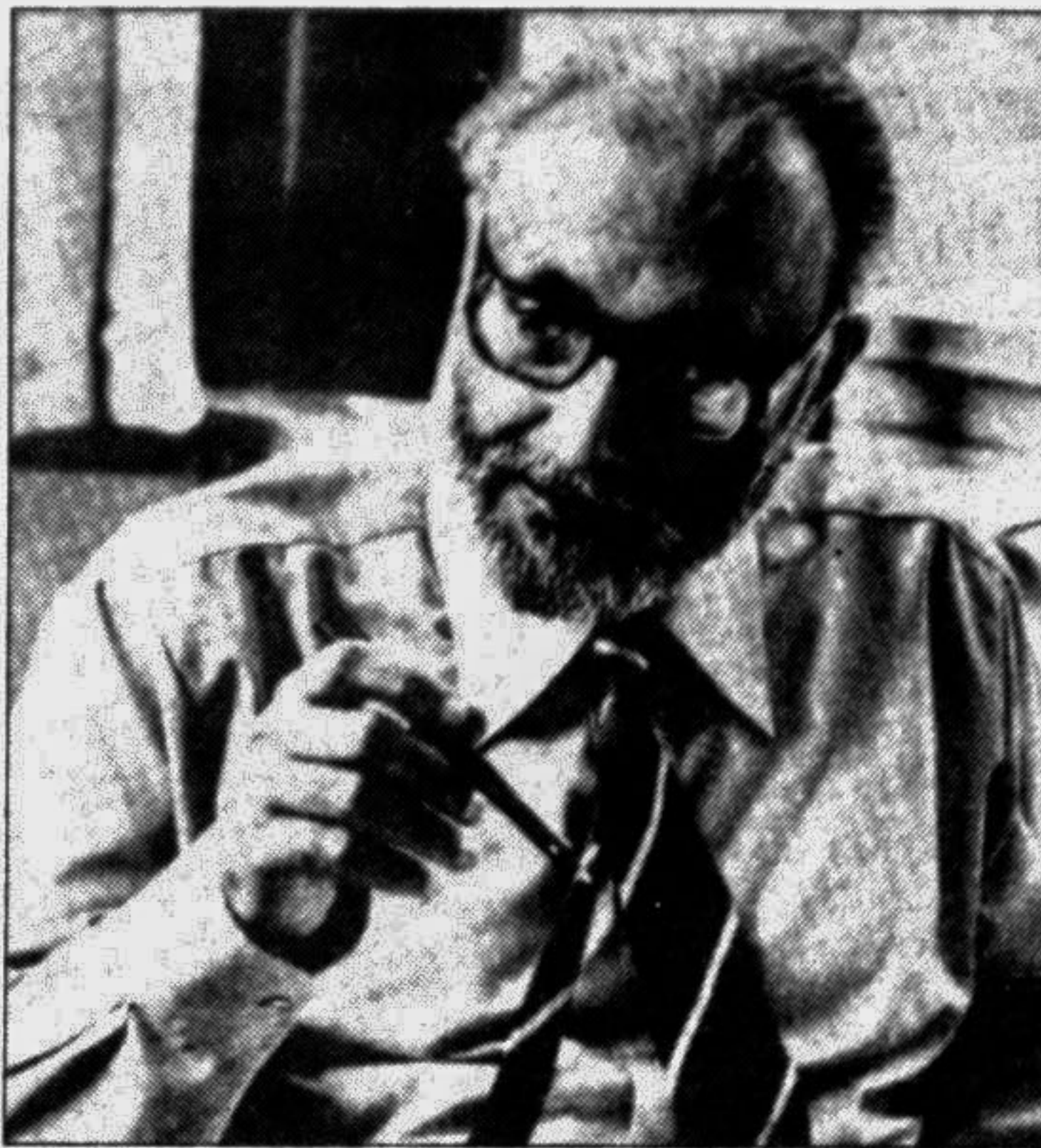


Abdus Salam : Profile of a Nobel Laureate

PROFESSOR ABDUS Salam's death, on November 21, this year in Oxford, the hub of his scientific career, though not premature, must be construed as a tragic loss to the scientific community of the third world countries.

In writing an epitaph for professor Salam, it is relevant to recall what Al-Kindi wrote about 1130 years ago, "It is fitting for us not to be ashamed to acknowledge truth and to assimilate it from whatever source it comes to us. For him who scales the truth there is nothing of higher value than truth itself, it never cheapens nor abases him".

A tribute by Md Asadullah Khan



given a choice of three jobs, for any spare time he might have after teaching duties, Bursar, warden of a hall of residences, or president of the football club Salam chose the football club.

research work in the developing countries like Pakistan. Professor Salam in 1960 conceived the idea of setting up an International Centre for Theoretical Physics mostly for post-Ph D holders with funds from the international community like the UN.

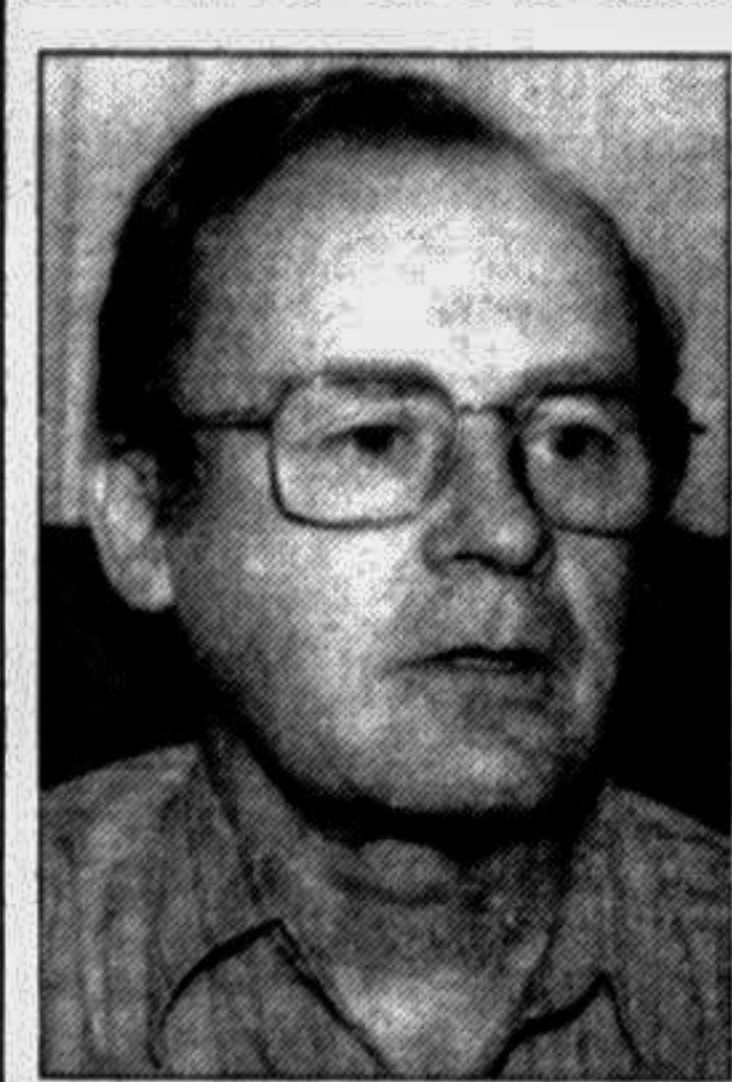
Salam did not drift to Civil Service, the choicest job in those days in Pakistan. He took a mathematics degree from Lahore, won a unique scholarship to Cambridge and while there "drifted into physics".

Salam did not come of an affluent family. The way Salam got the scholarship was to him - "something of a miracle".

Professor Salam's brain-child the ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) has expanded over the years from fundamental physics to physics of the day suited to the needs of the developing countries with emphasis on solid state physics that helps orientation and development in the industrial sector of the developing countries.

Professor Salam receiving his Nobel medal (December 1979).

Motivating the Disabled



"Although there are no country-wide accurate statistics about the level of disability in Bangladesh, from a few recent sample surveys it is estimated that approximately 5 per cent of the total population have moderate or severe disabilities. The way forward to improve the lives of these people is through community development project".

Interview with Julian Francis, a British development activist, by Fayza Haq

Julian Francis has been following the development of Bangladesh for the last 25 years. Tracing his links with Bangladesh, he recalls that in November 1971 he was responsible for a large refugee relief programme in eastern India in the border states between what is now Bangladesh and India, covering about half a million refugees from Bangladesh.

and this includes all disabilities: the right to education, training and work the right to live in your own community and have a say in how your life will be organised. These are part of the human rights that should be available to all people.

Tracing his relations with Bangladesh, Francis continues, "After that initial visit in '71 during which I sensed a feeling of great hope for the future, I visited Bangladesh a number of times from Delhi, where I was working at that time for Oxfam, and gradually saw how things were developing in terms of not only rehabilitation after the very serious situation in '71, but from the point of view of government programmes and the dramatic increase in the number of non-government organisations, many of which Oxfam was associated in their inception. The NGOs such as BRAC and Gono Shastha Kendro were just two of the organisations, which Oxfam supported in the earlier days after liberation. Later on, in my development career, I came to live and work in Bangladesh from '85 to '92 for a Canadian organisation called CUSO, which was involved in assisting small organisations develop with very small land-owners or landless people and also, with some CUSO initiatives, 10 years earlier, the organisation 'Proshika' developed and it is a large organisation today."

Francis continues with his experience, "When I was in Bangladesh in the late eighties and nineties, I came in touch with a number of organisations working on disability issues and encouraged them to come together, speak with one voice, to raise awareness amongst other people who are non-disabled people and get a programme of advocacy explaining to the government that much more work can be done in the field of disability, also campaigning with donor organisations - both government and non-government - to encourage them to include people with disability in their development programmes."

During my stay with CUSO not only was I interested in the agricultural development and also because of the regular disasters, particularly floods, I was interested in innovative schemes with aftermaths of floods and cyclones. I also became deeply interested in the problems of the people who are among the most disadvantaged in the world. These are people with disabilities, who, by and large, not just in Bangladesh, are excluded from the mainstream development programmes. They are often excluded because it is difficult to know how to include them, and difficult to know whether there is any potential for their development and how they might become self-supporting. However, people with disabilities have the same rights as anybody else

Dwelling on the theme of disability and how the disabled can be made more independent and productive, Francis says, "People's attitudes and how they see people with disabilities takes a long time. Disabilities, even now, in my own country, Great Britain, are often seen as a burden on both family and society. But at least in the richer countries there are a number of financial schemes available to assist the families and individuals with disabilities to pursue a career etc. It has taken, many years in the West and things can't change overnight in countries that do not have so many resources. However, in recent years, there have been significant developments in Bangladesh and now the government, through the Ministry of Social Welfare, are taking disability very seriously

Julian Francis was in Dhaka in November to conduct a workshop on disabilities at ICDDR,B.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Advertisement for Garfield and Tom and Jerry featuring cartoon panels and promotional text.