



Obituary

Prof. Riazuddin, FPAS



We are grieved to report the sad demise of an eminent scientist of Pakistan and a scientist of great international stature, Professor Riazuddin, has passed away on 9th September 2013 in Islamabad. He was elected Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1976.

Prof. Riazuddin was awarded his BSc in 1951 and MA in Mathematics in 1953 by University of the Punjab, Lahore. In 1959 he was awarded PhD (Theoretical Particle Physics) by Cambridge University, UK. Since 1999, he was Director, National Centre for Physics, Quaid-i-Azam University campus, Islamabad. He was Professor, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, 1982-1998; Visiting Professor, University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA, 1981-1982; Visiting Professor, VPI and State University, Blacksburg, VA, USA, 1980-1981; Visiting Scientist, International Centre for Theoretical Physics, 1979-1980; Member (Technical), Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, 1973-1976; and Principal Research Associate, Daresbury Nuclear Physics Laboratory, UK, 1972.

Dr. Riazuddin was a Visiting Professor, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA, 1970-72; Professor, University of Islamabad (now called Quaid-i-Azam University), 1966-1981; Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1965-1966; Visiting Senior Research Associate, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, 1963-1965; and Reader in Physics, University of the Punjab, Lahore, 1959-1963. In 1968, Dr. Riazuddin was awarded Gold Medal in Physical Sciences for Scientists of less than 40

years of age by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. In 1979, he was awarded Gold Medal jointly with Dr Fayyazuddin by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences for outstanding research work in Physical Sciences.

Professor Riazuddin was founder Director of Institute of Physics (later named as Department of Physics), Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, at the time known as Islamabad University. The Institute was established in 1966 and was located then in Rawalpindi. Prof. Riazuddin, an eminent particle theorist, soon brought fame to the Institute; famous Physicists from abroad started visiting the Institute and making it a world class Institute of Particle Physics, the reputation which this Institute/ Department enjoys till today.

Apart from his first class research and production of high quality students who are occupying eminent scientific positions, Prof. Riazuddin also made a variety of other important contributions to science in Pakistan. He was the Director of Nathiagali Summer College started in 1976, and remained so till his death. Also, his contributions to the nuclear security of Pakistan are very fundamental. He along with his younger colleagues made seminal contributions to the theoretical aspects of nuclear weapons of Pakistan. In recognition of these contributions, he was awarded *Tamgha-i-Imtiaz* in 1979, *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* in 1990 and *Hilal-i-Imtiaz* in 1999 by the Government of Pakistan.

In 2000, Prof. Riazuddin was elected as Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences as well as as Fellow of the Islamic World Academy of

Sciences. During the same year, he won the 13th Khawarizmi International Award (First Prize) and the UNESCO Albert Einstein Gold Medal for Fundamental Science.

Prof. Riazuddin was a very polite person and a man of less word, but of great wisdom. He was extremely helpful to his students. Not only he will be greatly missed by his family and by his twin brother, Professor Riazuddin, with whom he collaborated in research and won twin awards,

but he will also be greatly missed by his students, colleagues and fellow scientists in Pakistan and in the Islamic World.

Prof. Riazuddin's demise has left us with a great gap in Physics of Pakistan which will not be filled for a long time. May God bless his soul with peace and tranquillity in heavens. *Ameen.*

Dr. N. M. Butt

Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences