

Tsunami devastation

The world responds

HARRY K. THOMAS

It is a small consolation that, in the wake of an epic natural disaster, people and governments can rise to the occasion and demonstrate deep compassion for the plight of their fellow human beings. We saw this in the international response to the great cyclone that ravaged Bangladesh in 1991, and we are seeing it again after last week's devastating tsunamis in the Indian Ocean.

The size and scope of the tsunami disasters have struck a poignant chord in all of us. We understand that stepping forward now to support the shell-shocked survivors is both a moral obligation and a duty as members of the human race.

The incredible outpouring of support from around the world underscores the global impact of this disaster. Donations have poured in from developed and developing nations alike.

Individual American citizens have pledged over 200 million USD of their own money. I was particularly moved by the generosity of the residents of the southern Russian town of Beslan, who, still in mourning for their own loss of 300 people in the terrorist school siege last November, have donated over \$35,000.

The United States Government has pledged \$350 million for relief and reconstruction efforts, and U.S. military forces are providing critically needed aid to survivors in the worst affected areas of Sumatra. While, however, governments can lead, it is individuals and ordinary people who make the ultimate difference.

In an unprecedented demonstration of American resolve, former Presidents Bush and Clinton have embarked on a massive campaign to raise relief

funds from the American people and the American corporate sector. We will continue to work with the international donor community to coordinate relief efforts and are pleased that so many governments have pledged to work together to rebuild the affected countries.

Private relief organisations were among the first to answer the call for help. The American Red Cross has collected more than \$79 million, and a U.S.-based Internet retailer has raised from its customers more than \$12 million. Oxfam America received such a large volume of contributions via the Internet, more than \$7.5 million, that its website was temporarily disabled. Catholic Relief Services has raised almost \$15 million, and Save The Children has added another \$14 million.

Bangladeshis, I believe, should be proud that their country, no stranger to natural disasters, has this time assumed the role of donor by sending relief supplies and personnel to Sri Lanka aboard giant C-130 aircraft provided by the U.S. government to support Bangladesh's contribution to peacekeeping and humanitarian relief missions.

I am confident that Sri Lanka will long remember this practical demonstration of concern and good neighborliness. Similarly, the pledge by the Bangladeshi cricket team to donate towards the relief effort needs to be commended.

The world has already pledged \$2 billion, but much more needs to be done. As Secretary Powell said this week in Bangkok, as he led a Presidential mission to coordinate U.S. relief activities in the region, the road to recovery is long and hard. We have made a great start. The challenge now is to sustain this level of commitment and compassion until the job is done.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this disaster.

Harry K. Thomas is U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh

Positive political development in war-torn Sri Lanka and Indonesia?

MOHAMMAD AMJAD HOSSAIN

THE very velocity high undersea earthquake and devastating tsunami that followed in south-east and south Asia and reaching also east coast of Africa have brought about criticism and blessing in disguise for President Bush, who was then having vacation at his Texas ranch. Bush administration has managed to overcome initial criticism of the Congressmen, media and general Americans, apart from remarks of UN humanitarian relief chief, Jan Egeland, who is

reportedly calling out developed countries not to be 'stingy' in its response. His remark drew wide protest from US officials, even though America was not named as such. As a result of his remarks, US government decided to increase its aid from \$35 million to \$350 million and Pentagon immediately dispatched an aircraft carrier and other military assets to the region to help distribute relief goods. President Bush announced this contribution at a news conference at his Texas ranch on December 31, 2004.

Although disaster areas are Sri

Lanka, Indonesia, India and Thailand, smaller number of deaths were also reported from Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Seychelles, as well as distant east African coastline countries particularly Somalia.

The commitments of aid and logistic support by America for distribution of relief goods and establishing coalition with the governments of Japan and India to conduct relief operation in the affected areas were appreciated by the international community. President Bush's further announcement

of designating George H.W. Bush, 41st President and Bill Clinton, 42nd President to spearhead a nationwide fund-raising drive for these natural disaster victims was well received by Americans irrespective of party affiliations. Apart from this, Bush administration has sent high powered team headed by Colin Powell, Secretary of State, which included brother of the President, who is the Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush to the affected region in Asia to assess the death toll and destruction as well. Many Americans and European tourists are reportedly missing in Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Although belated, the actions taken by Bush administration will in fact go a long way in building its image which has been tarnished in the comity of nations because of wrong doings in Iraq and double standard policy in the Middle East. Unilateral use of military power by Bush administration has caused displeasure and disagreement amongst trusted allies in Europe.

This unprecedented natural disaster has another effect too. Banda Aceh province of Indonesia and northern and eastern portions of Sri Lanka have been the scenes of separatist movement for a long time. Northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka, which are controlled by Tamil tigers, have been worst hit by tsunami. The rebels have separately appealed for aid, but Sri Lanka government has already begun relief operation. In an address to the nation on December 26, 2004, President Kumaratunga said that "the mighty forces of nature have compelled us to learn a lesson that some of us refused for long to learn. We have to act together." The President has formed all party national committee to handle gigantic relief and reconstruction work. She has also invited Tamil Tigers' leader to join the national committee.

Tamil tigers have been fighting with government forces for 20 years for separation from Sri Lanka. Presently there has been cease-fire in the area since 2002 on the basis of Norway brokered truce. It is expected that a good will gesture will prevail upon on the Tamil tigers to make a deal with the government to avoid blood shed in future.

Aceh, on Sumatra Island's northern tip, has been the focus of a long guerrilla war against Army of Indonesia. This disaster, however, compelled the rebels and the military to come closer to put down arms and work together for relief operation. Meanwhile, Free Aceh movement has announced a cease-fire in its struggle for independence. The newly elected President of Indonesia, former General Susilo B. Yudhoyono, visited the tsunami battered Aceh. He needs to win hearts and minds of the affected people there to quell the trend for ever. America has embarked on a massive scale aid effort in close cooperation with Indonesian government. This is the major change of attitude of American administration to show to the Muslim world that they do not have any animosity towards Muslim community as such. It may be recalled that America had suspended many forms of military cooperation with Indonesia since 1992 due to concerns over human rights abuses by the Indonesian armed forces.

Media in America, both print and electronic, have been according wide possible coverage to this disaster, which succeeded in generating sympathy of Americans, who have been responding to the call for help. In an editorial *The New York Times* on December 28, 2004 commented that "no human power could have stopped the wall of water that washed over coasts from Indonesia to East Africa on Sunday. But human foresight could, and should have mitigated resulting tragedy". It said that there are certain to be additional tsunamis in this region in the future, although the historical record suggests that it may be several decades before the next one strikes. "That time should be used to create a reliable warning system that reaches all coastal areas. Washington, which has already offered all appropriate assistance to the affected countries, is uniquely qualified to provide the needed technical and humanitarian help." Similarly, United Nations' call has a positive effect in this respect.

Mohammad Amjad Hossain, a former diplomat, now resides in Virginia.

Why this massive hypocrisy?

DR. FAKHRUDDIN AHMED writes from Princeton

AS the world mourns over 150,000 tsunami deaths in Asia, one has to wonder why the world is so silent about the killing of no less than 100,000 Iraqi civilians in the aftermath of the US-led invasion of Iraq. Tsunami is a natural disaster; no nation or human beings are responsible for it. The invasion of Iraq was premeditated -- nations and individuals who decided to invade Iraq, are responsible for the deaths. While the earthquake-triggered tsunami deaths could not be avoided, the man made disaster and killing in Iraq could have been and should have been avoided through non-invasion. Yet, as the world oozes out its sympathy for the tsunami victims, it turns a cold, deaf ear to the cry of the Iraqis. Why this massive hypocrisy?

Paul Findley, former Republican congressman from Indiana, in a recent article entitled, "What is Bush's Real Goal in Iraq?" questions Mr. Bush's Iraq motives: "Our most urgent challenge in Iraq is convincing the insurgents that we will pack and leave once a directly-elected government is installed. Distrust of U.S. intentions is the root cause of the bloody rebellion that seems to gain strength every month. Is the Bush administration honest in stating that its objective is a stable, democratic Iraq? Or is it just a cover for permanent military bases that will enable the U.S. government to dominate Iraq for the future?"

Here are a few reasons why the Iraqis distrust U.S. intentions:

1) "Necons" in the Defence Department long ago urged an invasion of Iraq as a step toward U.S. control of the Middle East. Retired U.S. General Anthony Zinni, former chief of the U.S. Central Command, publicly stated recently that "EVERYONE IN WASHINGTON KNOWS THAT OIL AND ISRAEL ARE THE REAL REASONS FOR THE WAR."

2) Headlines and newscasts are replete with forecasts by administration officials that U.S. troops will be needed in Iraq for years.

3) Beginning with the thunderous, devastating "shock and awe" opening rounds, U.S. military assaults have left over 100,000 Iraqi civilians dead, with other thousands wounded and/or homeless, and vast areas, including the great historic city of Fallujah, in ruins.

4) No serious shake up or reprimand in high places followed the disclosure of US torture and humiliation of detainees.

5) Administration handpicked the interim Iraqi government in its entirety. The prime minister Ayad Allawi, resided for a long time in the United States, had close links with the CIA, and earlier was a close colleague of Saddam Hussein, once serving as the dictator's hatchet man in Europe.

6) At the end of 1991 Gulf War, the U.S. government urged the Iraqis to overthrow Saddam. This prompted a

strong uprising but the US government refused to provide support in any form. This refusal prompted Saddam to use helicopter gun-ships to slaughter dissidents by the hundreds.

7) For a decade after the Gulf War, U.S. fighter planes enforced severe sanctions that led to the immense civilian suffering, including the death of at least half a million Iraqi infants.

8) In the 1980s -- the height of Saddam's cruel treatment of Kurds and other Iraqi citizens -- the U.S. government served as the dictator's silent, uncompensated partner, helping him battle Iran.

9) Before invading Iraq in 2003,

Whatever his original motives, Bush must take prompt, rigorous steps to erase Iraqi fear of American colonialism. Otherwise, his page in history will be bleaker than President Lyndon Johnson's legacy from the Vietnam War.

In Iraq, trust -- not military manpower -- is the greatest and gravest shortage. More troops will inspire more insurgency, not less," Congressman Findley concludes.

Excellent advice, but very unlikely that President Bush will pay heed to it. After all, in Mr. Bush's "we make no mistake" administration, incompetence gets rewarded, sane advice gets discarded. Last month, Mr. Bush

non-Arab divisions in Islam should be exploited by America to promote U.S. policy objectives in the Muslim world! One of the authors of the report is Christine Fair, who now works for the notorious Daniel Pipes, one of the most virulent anti-Muslim Jewish Zionists, whom President Bush appointed to head the U.S. Institute of Peace as a recess appointee over the objections of Senators like Kennedy and Harkin and the public. The new U.S. Intelligence Law that President Bush signed into law recently targets the Muslim world. It seeks to magnetise the new generation of Muslim youths and recruit them to gather vital information for America.

President Bush's solution for America's disastrous standing in the Muslim world seems to be more propaganda and more mischief. That America can solve most of its major problems in the Muslim world by simply being fair and just to the Muslims, does not seem to interest him. Of course, if he is to be fair to the Palestinians, for instance, he has to rein in Sharon, which he is unable or unwilling to do. President Bush cannot fight a war against terrorism while sponsoring the number one terrorist nation on earth, Israel. In the last U.S. Presidential election, Mr. Bush demonstrated a stunning capacity to destroy his opponent's proven virtues through negative television commercials. But Mr. Bush cannot explain away over 100,000 Iraqi civilian deaths through television commercials and propaganda. Mr. Bush has misled America into believing they are living in a cocoon of eternal safety. Those who wish America well are worried. Mr. Bush's belligerent and unjust policies are making too many enemies for America worldwide.

LETTER FROM AMERICA

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the Bush administration ignored offers of reconciliation from Saddam emissaries.

10) President Bush has failed to make any moves to redress what is seen as America's anti-Arab/Muslim bias. Bush's attacks of independence for Palestinians but continues to support without complaints Israel's brutal treatment of them.

Distrust of the U.S. government is virulent throughout the Arab world and beyond, not just in Iraq, and our government does almost nothing to dispel it.

If the administration fails to establish credibility, the rebellion will intensify. The best first is to convince the Iraqis that we will leave the minute the new directly elected government wants us out. President Bush must pledge, without qualification, that the timing and extent of our withdrawal will be controlled by Iraq.

To make this promise believable, Bush must state clearly that our government will withdraw all U.S. military forces and all U.S. contractors and dismantle U.S. military bases within a few weeks after the new government takes office. The only exception should be military units or contractors the new Iraqi government may wish to remain. Such units will remain only as long as the new government wishes.

Our government must also promise unequivocally that once the new Iraqi government takes office, the U.S. diplomatic mission, now bursting with 2,000 persons, the largest in recorded history -- will quickly be reduced to a standard level.

outdid himself by bestowing the nation's highest civilian awards on three proven incompetents: former CIA Director, George Tenet, who had insisted that the CIA's intelligence about Iraq's WMDs were a "slam dunk" (in the same basketball jargon it turned out to be a "brick"); former administrator of Iraq, Paul Bremer, whose decision to disband the Iraqi army resulted in initial chaos and looting and General Tommy Franks, whose refusal to ask for more troops is generally blamed for lawlessness in Iraq.

President Bush will probably adopt a new Rand Corporation study that suggests that Sunni and Shia, Arab and



National Sports Council
62/3 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000

No. NSC/F.2-1962/P&D/07

Dated: 1-1-2005

Amendment Notice

The last time of selling tender for the work invited vide National Sports Council Memo No. NSC/F.2-1962/P&D/ 913/4212; dated 14-12-2004, is fixed on 30-01-2005 instead of 19-01-2005 and the date of receiving tender on 31-01-2005 instead of 20-01-2005 (divided in 7 groups). The said works were inadvertently stated as divided in 5 groups instead of 7 groups.

Other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged.

Nurul Huq Proddhan
Director (P&D)
National Sports Council
Dhaka

DFF-204-4/1
G-35



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Advertisement No. 1053 / 2005

Date : 06.01.2005

Health Personnel for Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Health Ministry will recruit following categories of health personnel for appointment in all over the Saudi Arabia under different regions:-

A.A. CONSULTANT & SPECIALIST FIELDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1) Obs. & Gynaecology, 2) General Surgery, 3) Neurosurgery, 4) Orthopedic Surgery, 5) Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, 6) Chest Surgery, 7) Chest Medicine, 8) Urology, 9) Nephrology, 10) Anaesthesiology, 11) Internal Medicine, 12) Cardiology, 13) Neurology, 14) Diabetology, 15) Paediatric Surgery, 16) Paediatric 17) Emergency Medicine, 18) Intensive Care Unit (ICU), 19) Family/Community Medicine, 20) Haematology, 21) Histopathology, 22) Microbiology, 23) Radiology, 24) Physiotherapy, 25) Dental Surgery, 26) Prosthodontics, 27) Orthodontics, 28) Endodontics,

Qualification & Experience:

- For the posts of Consultant, candidates should have minimum 10 (ten) years experience after FCPS or equivalent.
- For the posts of Specialist, candidates should have 3 (three) years experience after Master's Degree or equivalent.

Note:

- Diploma after MBBS will be accepted only for Female Obstetrics / Gynaecology candidates.
- All Consultants/Specialists candidates for the Laboratory (Sl. No. 20-22) must have their MBBS before their highest educational qualification.
- All Consultants/Specialists candidates for the Dental (Sl. No. 25-28) must have their BDS before their highest educational qualification.

B.B. General Physician (G.P.)

Qualification & Experience: Candidates should have MBBS Degree with 3 (three) years experience after internship.

SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS :-

- For Consultants:** Basic salary is SR. 5,500/- per month plus SR. 300/- for each year of experience subject to maximum of SR. 1500/- for 05 (five) years of experience and conveyance allowance.
- For Specialists:** Basic salary is SR. 5,500/- per month plus SR. 250/- per year of experience after FCPS, Ph.D or equivalent at a maximum of 05 (five) years.
- For Specialists:** Basic salary is SR. 4,600/- per month plus SR. 250/- for each year of experience subject to the maximum of SR. 1,250/- for 05 (five) years of experience and conveyance allowance.
- Western Degree:** Like FRCS, MRCP, MRCOG and M.D. from USA etc, will get special allowance.
- Special Allowance for Female Obs./Gynecology:** For Specialists, (20% enhancement for Diploma holders and 25% for Master Degree holders). 50% for Ph.D./ FRCOG Degree holders)
- For General Physician (G.P.):** Basic Salary is SR. 4,000/- per month plus SR. 200/- for each year of experience subject to the maximum of SR. 1,000/- for 5 years of government hospitals experience and SR. 300/- for conveyance. Experience in private clinics / hospitals will not be counted.
- House Rent:** 3 (three) months basic salary per year for all categories.
- Both way air-ticket:** Free for all categories. Family air ticket (with two children) will be allowed for Consultants, Specialists & G.P.s. Service contract is initially for 1 (one) year & renewable. Other allowances as per Saudi Government rules.

Only interested candidates who are ready to work any part of K.S.A. are requested to submit 2 (two) copies of bio-data mentioning telephone numbers, 2 (two) passport size photographs, copies of M.B.B.S., Post Graduate Diploma/Degree and experience certificates to this office by 15/01/2005 during office hours. Age of General Physician should be less than 50 (fifty) years. Serial No., Name of the post etc. should clearly be written on the top of the bio-data and envelope. All documents should be in English. Candidates should apply for one post.

Candidates serving under Government or Autonomous bodies should apply through proper channel. However, candidates may submit advance copy alongwith required documents to this office within the aforesaid date. Short listed candidates will have to produce N.O.C from their employer for interview.

Those Consultants / Specialists / General Physicians were selected previously but did not join Saudi Health Ministry their application will not be considered.

Managing Director



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International Leasing, a multi products financial institution is one of the leading Financial Institutions of the country. International Leasing corporate character is reflected in its distinguished shareholders and its overseas technical partner.

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Job Position : A senior corporate governance position having full responsibility for developing the company's business and looking after existing account with a clear objective of attaining targeted results.

Required Skill : Incumbent should be result oriented, aggressive marketing professional, a natural leader with motivating skill to lead a high caliber team of professionals and a strong analytical, inter personal and communicating skill. The incumbent should be equipped in analyzing the risks associated with the investment and in preparing the strategic policy.

The ideal candidate should have minimum of 4-5 years of experience in the financial sector and in his late Thirties with Masters in Business Administration with major in Finance/Marketing/ Masters in Economics from reputable educational institution.

Manager/Assistant Manager-Treasury (One)

At least 2-4 years relevant experience in treasury operation, forex, dealing room operations, selling/marketing of treasury products and capital market related management in any reputable bank/ financial institution/ Merchant Bank and financial intermediaries. The incumbent should be in his late Twenties with Master in Business Administration/Finance/Economics/Accounting from reputable educational institutions..

Executive-Operations (Four)

The job description of the position includes project appraisal, marketing, documentation, monitoring and relationship. The incumbent should be in their late Twenties with Bachelor/Master in Business Administration/Finance/Economics/Law from reputable educational institutions

Executive-Accounts (One)

At least 1 year relevant experience in book keeping, accounting and financial analysis in any reputed bank/financial institution. Experience in accounting of lease/other types of financing with good command on computer packages will be an added advantage. The ideal candidate should be of his late Twenties having Chartered Accountancy Intermediate examination qualified/Masters in Business Administration with major in Finance/ Masters in Accounting from any reputable educational institution.

Executive-IT (One)

At least 1 year relevant experience in software, hardware, trouble shooting and back up management of financial software in any financial institutions/bank. Theoretical and practical experience in writing software will be treated as an added advantage. The incumbent should be of his late twenties with B.Sc in Computer Engineering/Bachelor/Masters in Business Administration with Major in Information Technology from any reputed institution.

Junior Executive-Accounts (One)

The ideal candidate should be of his late Twenties having Chartered Accountancy course completed/ Bachelor in Business Administration with Major in Finance/Masters in Accounting from reputable educational institutions.

Applications for all positions will be treated with strict confidentiality

Closing Date : Application along with curricula vitae and a recent passport size photograph reach on or before **January 25, 2005** to the under noted address:

INTERNATIONAL LEASING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Printers Building (14th Floor), 5 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka 1000
E-mail: ifsl@bangla.net, web address: www.ifsl.org

Please mark the position applied for on the top of the envelope.