

I-am-bad in Islamabad-again - Week 3, 15 July 2012

Fawly Towers? Keystone Cops? If you've worked here, you must feel your host colleagues were trained by Fawly Towers or the Keystone Cops. Every day, it's idiotic Laurel and Hardy incidents! It's culture and education, tradition and decades of dummifying down, and marrying first cousins and siblings where kids have same dad but different moms, locally they are not considered brother-and-sister. Several thousand pro-Taliban/ pro-Al Qaeda Pakis protest US drones; jihadists, Taliban and others openly recruit, warlords killed scores of migrants in Islamabad. President Obama sent Congress a bill to give Pakistan billions of dollars in more bribes or tribute. Saw a distinguished lady professor of mine at breakfast but could not send her Champaign or brutes: it's *haram*. No electricity, no air conditioning, air temp 115⁰ F. I found a 26 X 52-yd outdoor pool at 66⁰ F to cool off! I've asked the hotel staff about the air conditioning, the pool, a top sheet instead of a quilt, reduce the pillow from four to two, and get responses like, "Orange juice, sir?" or "Very good, sir?" I continue in locked-down. When milking a bull, you get no milk and it pisses off the animal!



Next year will legally need to draw down tax-sheltered funds. I understand that at 70 ½ next year, if I get there, I will be required to draw on tax-sheltered funds. A story from the San Francisco Economist Club: *An inheritance attorney saw a young woman working as a prostitute in the Tenderloin District and noted she was a wealthy client. He asked, "Why are you doing this? You inherited a fortune last year?" She said, "It's been a tough year, and I certainly don't want to use principal!"* <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/richest-400-people-america-got-201519751.html>

How can anyone support President Barak Hussein Obama? Amazingly, racial pride and utopian dreams trumps executive tyranny, the Constitution, broken promises, high unemployment (about 15%, even higher for women, Latinos, Blacks and HS dropouts), increasing taxes (including Obamacare) and debt, more and larger government with more regulations, class warfare, buying undocumented Latinos and gay voters, foreclosures, bankruptcies, failed foreign policy, throwing allies and Israel under the bus, using drones killing more civilians than U.S. lives lost in Afghanistan-Iraq-Pakistan, etc. Will we become the United Socialist States of America? Yep, Obama's private sector is doing fine! Who knew?

Learning from the Pakistani newspapers. High-level Paki government officials indicted for corruption (Not Israel); Paki Minister falsely tell PM exports rose while Bureau of Statistics say they fell nearly 5% (Shade of Obama's "The private sector is doing fine"); Paki Army chopper crash victims embrace martyrdom (Fox-hole redemption?); Paki police tear down minarets from religious group deemed non-Islamic; Leh water treatment plant closes as drinking water is polluted because ADB pulls it funds (Project *interruptus*?); IMF pulls back; Paki neighbors killing each other for revenge (Not Oakland, Chicago or NE DC); Paki women commit suicide because of family disputes; Paki Muslim League leader back-tracks on support promise to U.S. Ambassador (Disconnect between private and public statements like Obama's commitment to Russian President Putin).

Per T in Manila. George Bush, Queen Elizabeth, and Vladimir Putin all die and went to hell. While there, they saw a red phone and ask what the phone is for. The devil tells them it is for calling back to Earth. Putin asks to call Russia and talks for 5 minutes. When he is finished the devil informs him that the cost is a million dollars, so Putin writes him a check. Next Queen Elizabeth calls England and talks for 30 minutes. When she is finished the devil informs her that the cost is 6 million dollars, so she writes him a check. Finally George Bush gets his turn and talks for 4 hours. When he is finished the devil informs him that the cost is \$5.00. When Putin hears this he goes ballistic and asks the devil why Bush got to call the USA so cheaply. The devil smiles and replies, "Since Obama took over, the country has gone to Hell, so it's a local call."

Pakistan TV. Best English station: Aljazeera. Most TV commercials: skin whiteners, soft and shiny hair, soft drinks, TV stations/ programs.

Odd meeting. A representative of an international consulting firm contacted me to meet at my hotel. He cancel twice and came 30 minutes late to our rescheduled meeting. He had given me references, whom I contacted. One reference was very positive, but from a guy I know for years who is dubious if not certifiable. Another reference was very negative from a guy I recent met. The third reference deferred to the other two. So finally, I get to meet with this guy who makes all sorts of claims, trashes my current client, brags about his international contracts but in fact he is on a long list of IQCers but there is no revenue, no accruals, no task orders or work assignments, and moreover, he has only one office which is him wherever he is, in Islamabad. Meanwhile, as we are meeting in the glamorous classy hotel lobby, several passersby stop to chat with him in Urdu; I suspect it is a rehearsed ploy to imply to me he is a person of status. Oh, he tells me about his very successful NGO and all their good work. Yikes, I politely get the hell out there as soon as possible. Obviously a phony-baloney.

Lock down in the garrison city, Islamabad. I've locked down at my hotel since I arrived in this failed state! However, Internet service is good, so are the room, grounds, food, pool, TV and newspapers. Internet gets me old time radio shows, movies, and lectures. How many Amos 'n Andy, Dragnet, Gunsmoke and Johnny Dollar episodes are there? In four days, I'll be Dubai with pals at Le Meridien Dubai! Then, on to Tucson and LSW, Buster Brown and our backyard pool. Life is good.



Have fun, be happy, and don't worry! It doesn't help! It's really more fun in the Philippines! And Tucson!