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# Letter from the publishers

First the bad news, then the really bad news and then more bad news. That is the way a publication charging itself with reporting the affairs of the Muslim world finds itself obliged to proceed.

Yet this is Eid time. And even the most hardened pessimist among journalists finds himself obliged to look around for some good stories to tell the Muslims in the festive season. But as our cover story shows, one has to look real hard and in far off places to find such a story. A remote and very beautiful corner of the Swat valley in Pakistan offers the setting for the soothing reading that we hope the story offers. Another story about the Turkish cinema also offers some encouraging news. For the rest, we are back to our usual task of informing you of the truth of how the umma is still fareing.

Nevertheless, we wish you a very happy Eid to crown the achievements of a blessed and hopefully very fruitful Ramadan for all. We hope your prayers in the blessed month have been exhausted by imploring God Almighty to send us some good news. We badly need some, as things show.

# Arabia

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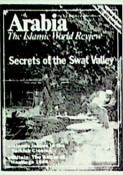
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