only eating and not preparing

food. Ever since, I refrained

from advising on matters I

know or know not until I got a

half job of an advisor. It was

not my merit, marrow or mus-

cle which have me had this

job. It was my employer's mag-

nanimity who, may God bless

him, vowed not to see me

'retired' from active service.

took this job as one getting

down from a running train,

grounded but running along

muster strength and wisdom

to advance a good piece of ad-

vice. I find my earthly bread

disburser, the boss, already

flatter or advise on personal is-

sues. A small girl in the United

States earned the love of

president Lincoln by advising

him to maintain beard which

could cover his deeply con-

toured cheeks. But my boss has

a lovely photogenic face, lying

somewhere between football

and American basket ball in

shape. He shaves clean and

does not seem to hurt anyone

emotionally by his whiskers. As

a result of his shapely cheeks

and absence of whiskers, it is

useless to advance any advice

either in favour of or against

whiskers. Only one romantic

black spot, called teel in Ben-

gali and perhaps mole in

English adorus his faces I dare

not touch this moled spot and

Like others. I do not like to

knowledgeable about it.

complete.

N Harbin, the capital city of Heilongjiang province in the northeastern part of China, residents used to dread the coming of winter.

Who wouldn't? In this cold est part of the nation, the winter months bring in tempera tures that sink to a bone chilling low of 50 degrees be low zero centigrade. And just how cold is that? Don't ever try to touch metal during any time of day or night in winter. Your flesh will stick to any thing it gets in contact with.

And this extreme inconvenience does not last a mere three or four months like in temperate countries. Harbin residents find themselves literally imprisoned in their houses and almost in a state of hibernation for all of six months.

Nowadays, however, Harbin's ice and snow have become money in the bank. "For generations, we hated wintertime. Now it is different," said Tian Fenghe, a farmer in the outskirts of the capital. "We can't wait for winter to arrive."

Tian and other Harbiners are benefitting tremendously from the ice and snow through a festival which is now being held annually. Since 1985, the festival has drawn millions of tourists from all over the world and from the region itself. Needless to say, this gives much needed boost to local businesses. And much-needed hard currency.

Since it began, the festival has been held from Jan. 5 to Feb. 5 every year. Activities such as the ice lantern and ice carving displays and winter swimming contests draw countless people and businessmen alike," says Zhang Qinghe, director of the Heilongiang Tourist Bureau.

Over the last nine years, millions of Chinese and more than 400,000 foreign visitors have attended the festival. earning its organizers some ten billion yuan (about US\$1.154 billion) through tourism and business transactions related to the festival.

Farmer Tian has been one of the beneficiaries of the annual event. For the last five years. Tian has driven a horse and sleigh during the festivities, showing tourists around his beautiful white world. "The money I make in one month is CISICIAN CICIPY BY ARJUNA

Making Hay while Snow Falls

equivalent to my whole year's earnings from the farm," he.

proudly tells people. The windfall has also been shared by many of Tian's neighbours. "About one-third of the farmers in my village work at the festival," he says, "Mostly they drive horse-drawn sleighs or carts pulled by sheep.

Song Yanwei, another native, is a dog trainer associated with the Harbin zoo. He has earned 10,000 yuan (US\$1,154) over the last five vears by piloting a dogsled for tourists who flock to the festi-

"And they simply find the experience 'out of this world' and never seem to get their fill of the sledding," Mr Song said.

The activities are not confined to fun and frolic. Costume fairs, trade exhibits, conferences and other economic projects are annually planned by the Harbin office of industrial products. Ma Jibo, director of the Harbin Bearing Factory, hosts a large number of his trading partners every festival. "As a result, my products sell well not only in domestic markets but also internationally," says the director. His company is one of the coun try's top three.

China Features, the nation's exclusive features service. helps in publicizing the festival. According to one of its reports, the yearly event showcases the Chinese's fabled hospitality. For instance, perhaps out of gratitude for the benefits to the people, a tea plant director provides free accommodations for three days during the festival to his clients and business associates. His hospitality has borne fruit: he takes 70 per cent of his orders during the festival.

The '94 "Ice and Snow Trade Fair" and "Redistribution Fair of Overstocked Products held during the festival demonstrated products worth ten billion yuan, while an "Infofair" describing the country's latest high-tech research and

recent patents offered participants nearly 20,000 exhibits and documents from all over China. This attracted businesses from Hong Kong, Macao, the United States, Japan, South Korea, Russia and other countries. According to the Municipal Economic Commission of Harbin, the business volume for the ice and snow trade fair alone amounted to 4.5 billion yuan (US\$520 billion) over the last

decade. When Shang Jingde, president of the Hong Kong commercial group, first came to Harbin out of curiosity several years ago, he immediately realized the city's business potential. Since then, he has made deal after deal, including a limited partnership with the Harbin Bearing Factory. He even built a 43-storey "world trade centre" in Harbin's new

development zone. Also focusing renewed attention of the "ice city" are such consortiums as Mitsubishi of Japan, Siemens of Germany and China Resources of Hong Kong. "Since 1984, foreign traders have invested US\$2.4 billion on a contractual basis in Heilongjiang province. Fully one-third of that total was invested in Harbin in 1993," says Zhou Jingvi.

The festival's commercial success far exceeded the expectations of its sponsors and organizers. "Our original intention was primarily to entertain ourselves, to bring some colour and variety to our frigid and grey winters," says Zhang Qinghe, the province's tourism director.

The most popular of the yearly events is the ice lantern part of the festivities. It features finely crafted ice sculptures and structures, lit by multi-coloured electric lights According to tourists who raved over the displays, they have not seen such glittering exhibits of ice craftsmanship anywhere in the world.

But all this started humbly enough as the brainchild of a Harbin resident in 1963. As Mr Zhang describes it, "he first poured water in a bucket which quickly froze. He left a hollow space in the ice for a candle or to hold flowers in place. The bright colours of the candles and the flowers were perfectly complemented by the pure whiteness of the ice surrounding them. This novel idea soon spread, and ice lantern exhibitions on a big scale followed in the local parks."

"I used to regard cities like Hangzhou and Suzhou as the most beautiful places in China, says Anne de L'ain, a French tourist. "Now I tell my friends not to miss the mid-winter show in Harbin. Anyone who has ever seen the ice lanterns here can't help but fall in love with them. They are simply marvelous

To further entertain tourists, such new activities as hunting, skiing and fishing have been added to the wintry itinerary. Harbin is no longer a deserted, bleak place in winter, as the festival gate receipts confirm. "During the '93 festival, we hosted more than two million domestic and for eign tourists, and our city's to tal population is only five million," says Mr Zhang.

He adds that before 1985 at best, only 45 per cent of the 100,000 beds in the city's hotels could be occupied during the winter months, but now the hotels are filled to over flowing for the testival. "After the festival ... h the map, earte " Zinnig. "Ours is the first festival after a new year begins. And our growing reputation has led to new opportunities. That's why people in Harbin now love snow and ice here."

The people of Harbin have indeed turned ice and snow into a fortune. Now when they talk about "snowbanks" in Harbin, they are not only referring to piles of snow, but also to the piles of money the snow can make for them. And their faces light up like — well like ice. lanterns at festival

-Depthneus Asia

ADY Clementine Churc-Distant Drum hill once hurled a dish of spinach at her husband Winston because he M N Mustafa did not accept her advice. My wife did not resort to such gesture of virulence but leave it to his female beloved politely suggested once that I to get elated. Poet Hafiz in his romantic sojourn elevated this should not advise her on beauty spot of his beloved to culinary issues as my job was

> Agar aan turk-t-Siraji Badast ard dil-i-mara Bakhaley hindbaksh baksham Samarkhand ba Bukharara. ('If that Beauty with black

when he said :

the apex of spiritual ecstasy

spot on the cheek touches my heart with her own hand, I shall not only offer her Bukhara, but also Samarkhand'). My unsolicited advice in

this regard to my boss is that

he should commission his the mobile train till I stabilize poetic admirer from among and compromise with stillness the members of other sex and which makes life and living let us see what they exchange for this beauty spot. If he had As an advisor, I may not not exchanged it earlier, he have added to vices, but have might try it now. All beauty or not yet been able to shower things of beauty are created for advices of some effectiveness. sharing. Raja Habu Chandra wanted to Advisors everywhere are a cover the surface of earth to special breed, staying between get rid of dusts. At the advice beasts and birds like bats. They of Gobu he just invented shoes are something like shrimps or or chappals to keep feet free pulatucs, could be used both as from dusts. But I get no such big issue to advise on. When I

curry or cutlets and be used in cooking cucumbers. In ancient and medieval times, powerful potentates and princes induled in the luxury of appointing intelligent and knowledgeable people as their advisers and courtiers. Versiflors were called poet laureates, Milton and Ferdausi were best known adviser-poet lau reates. Raja Krishna Chandra had his Gopal, popularly know as a buffoon, who camouflaged wisdom under the garb of humour and sarcasm. Bengal never had any, more popular and better than him. Chanakya, the doyen of advisors, destroyed Nanda dynasty to please his master Chandragupta Murya whom he rewarded with an European beauty in wedlock — Helen the daughter of Selecus, the Greek general in India. With the death of Selecus, the Muryan ruler took over the Greek possessions in India.

Advisors or courtiers et

the perpetrator have been op-

posed by more than 65 per

cent of respondents. Such op-

position is more registered

ervwhere were know as the rulers' kitchen urchins who knew what awaited cooking or actually cooked. By dint of wit and wisdom many of them made best of both the worlds. But some suffered in their abortive bids to gain premature or undeserving glory. Let us see how Birbal, the courtieradvisor in Emperor Akbar's nine-jewel-studded court faired.

Birbal's reputation lay in his

humour and sarcasm, jest and jokes. Once explaining the psychological background of dreams he disclosed that he dreamt of the ancestors of the emperor having long hairs and whiskers, not shaven or trimmed for years. The Emperor anxiously asked reasons for such long hairs and whether he could do something from the living world. Birbal hesitantly suggested that at best he could send an earthly barber with hereditary experience in hair cutting and also with some musical background because music during hair cut has some soothing effect. The Emperor understood that Birbal's joke was aimed at Tansen whose father. Makaranda Misra, was a barber and both Tansen and Birbal were at dagger's drawn.

As always happened with most advisors, Birbal wanted to go down in history not as a court jester but with glory as one sword-brandishing gen eral. At his request, the Emperor appointed Birbal as general and sent him to fight in a battle. But here Birbal's sword proved weaker than his tongue and he fell unamused at the enemy's hand. By changing the trade, tool and tactics unwittingly, the advisor who once amused his listeners had left the world with his foes laughing and amusing.

King Frederick the Great of Austro-German empire hired Voltaire, the French historianlitterateur to advise him on literary issues including help to improve the Emperor's

French. Voltaire was provided bread and board free. The advisor failed to demarcate the inner and outer limits of his advice. Once, while correcting the Emperor's French poem, Voltaire unwittingly changed some words which annoyed the Emperor. For laying commoner's hand on royal verse, Voltaire's services were dispensed with and he was asked to leave the palace. On way to Paris, the advisor was arrested on charge of stealing royal materials which included some unpublished poems of the

I am happy that my boss does not compose poem and I am not required or able to correct them.

During the Polish revolution few years ago, the government and the trade union leaders used to sit across a big table to negotiate. Its diameter was 20 feet. Asked as to why the table was so big, it was said that the world record of distance of spitting was 18 feet. If the negotiators spit at each other in anger, they could at best reach up to 18 feet, leaving at least 2 feet safe zone.

I like to flourish in the safer two feet zone as an advisor, seeking no unwanted glory like Birbal or humiliation like that of Voltaire. As regards my claim as be-

ing the half advisor, allow me to quote Poet Ghalib who was taken to custody by one Colonel Brown during the Sepoy Mutiny. Asked whether he was a Muslim, Ghalib replied in the affirmative, asserting that it was only half. Asked as to how, he said that as a true Muslim he did not eat pork. but he drank wine which reduced him to a half Muslim. As regards my being half advisor. when I look around I find others double my size which reduces me to half. I do neither grieve nor make bid to acquire the other half. Throughout life I always lived in government quarters which were one or two types below my entitlement. And my spouse claimed that the trend only reversed in her case she was two types above my entitlement.

How Much is a Word Worth?

Co inned from page 8 ing and viewers hearing without listening. Who bothers to hear long declamatory speeches of Senecan Tragedy on TV in the 90s!

Let's lay down some trivia on brevity on their table (if they take care in the PMs coverage henceforth).

* The Lord's Prayer contains only 56 words.

* Abraham Lincoln made

his memorable address at Gettysburg in 268 words. ★ It took only 1322 words

in the Declaration of Independence to get the Whole America started.

★ George Washington delivered the shortest inaugural address of any President only 135 words to state his aims for the new nation. The undistinguished William Henry Harrison was the wordiest

LE QUATUOR LUDWIG

The Quatuor Ludwig's performance at the American School, Baridhara on 31st January was

The Quatuor Ludwig, since its creation in 1958, has deliberately chosen to devote itself exclusively

to string quartet. This has led them to work with members of some of the greatest international

arranged by the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and the Embassy of France

quartets (Amadeus, Berg. Kolish, La Salle).

Pir-o-Murshad's Divine Advice

his Pir-o-Murshad, for guida-

nce, and consolation, knowing

that he is to die after 40 days

at the hands of the genie -

since he had innocently killed

the new born baby of the genie

by throwing a seed of dried

date in the well - the

o-Murshad gives him a

philosophy of death and life

and makes him realize that

one is born to die - as one can

all his duties before death, -

pay all his debts to his business

creditors - be honest to his

wife, children and blind

of distribution of wealth in the

right proportion - first to your

family, then to your neigh-

bours, friends and community.

Trader Releases his Wife from

atic outbursts the children, the

blind mother and the loving

wife are told of the impending

death by the honest trader.

much to their sorrow and

In an emotional and dram-

He gives him a philosophy

mother.

Marriage Bonds

disbelief.

He guides him to complete

see in all the graves, around.

Sitting in a graveyard - Pir-

residence of the genie.

The honest trader goes to

President of the United States. His inaugural speech contained more than 9000 words Standing in the rain during this lengthy harangue, Harrison caught pneumonia and died soon after.

So listen to what the modern teacher says: Be brief and you can claim to be like the father of your country; get too windy, and it may be the death of you, in one way or another.

Because we all, more or less (like it or not), are in the busi-

Religious Attitudes and Religiosity to fast 30 days and 40 per cent hands or throwing stones to

Communed from page 8 women, the men in a large scale supported it. About 72 per cent of the respondents answered affirmatively. The nature of occupation is found to influence the extent of positive response in statistical terms. Respondents from the categories of white collar professions favour it while respondents from the categories of workers, religious professions and others oppose it. However more than 80 per cent respondents supported women's taking part in the job market. No statistically significant relation is found between the dependent and independent variables considered here. Coeducation has been supported by more than 70 per cent respondents, more positively responded by the white collar professionals and relatively opposed by the religious preachers.

Saying prayers is a ritual mandatory in Islam. Five times prayers have been stipulated for the Muslims. The ritual in varying extent is found to be largely observed. Only 27 per cent of the respondents were found not to offer prayers even for once a day. On the other hand, more than 25 per cent of the respondents were found to offer it five times a day. The relation between age and offering prayers is statistically significant and the younger people are relatively more inclined to it.

Fasting in the month of Ramzan is widely practiced More than 80 per cent of the respondents do it in a varying extent. 47 per cent were found

with intermittent gaps. Among different independent variables chosen here occupation's relation to observe fasting is statistically significant. It is less prevalent among the students than other professional categories. The ritual of zakaat is also quite popular among the respondents. More than 70 per cent practice it or like to practice it.

Attitude towards women's leadership in politics is mixed. While 54 percent like it, the rest express disliking. The variable, occupation is related significantly in statistical terms to this response. Among the students and housewives it has been welcome and opposite among the white rollar professionals, working class and the religious preachers.

The history of our Constitution shows that one of its founding principles - secularism - was abrogated and Islam has been incorporated as the state religion. However, there was large controversy that took place on this change. More than 60 per cent of the respondents have favoured its reincorporation. The positive response is found more statistically significant among the respondents with white collar profession or those involved in business. When asked whether religion should be brought into the arena of politics, the major response is negative. About 68 per cent said, no. And likewise, the above respondents pursuing white collar professions fell into this category.

As modes of punishment for crimes, practices like sawing

will take care of his blind

mother, educate his children

among those pursuing white collar professions. The body of religious belief incorporates wide range. It

encompasses both the life in this world and the one believed to exist beyond this. When the respondents were asked about their submission to the belief in fate more than 69 per cent said, yes. It is noted that the response does not significantly vary across different categories of occupation, education, sex and age.

lief in fate to the notion of orientalism in broader sense. About 40 per cent respondents

One may like to relate the be-

visit Mazaar either occasionally or regularly. Among the less educated visiting Mazaar is more frequent and the statisti cal relation is significant. 60 per cent respondents said 'no or showed indifference to the question whether the Kadiani should be proclaimed non-Muslim. Respondents' strong religious inclination is notable because 85 per cent said that religion is indispensable for life. Likewise 69 per cent said that there should not be any change made in the Holy Quran.

Recently the activities of

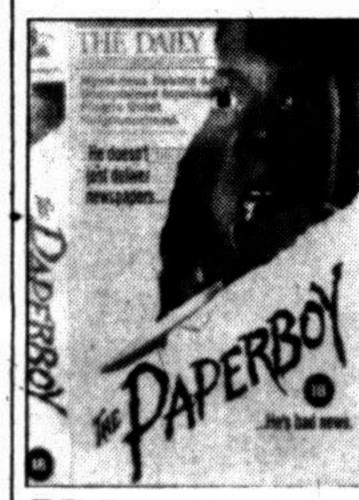
in different villages. A number of school sheds run by NGOs and trees planted with the support of NGOs were set ablaze or uprooted on different occasions. Allegedly, these were provoked by the fundamentalist forces. The respondents of this survey were asked whether they consider the activities of NGOs anti-religious. 59 per cent said 'no' and 20 per cent said that there are a few NGOs whose activities are against religion or biased to certain religion.

few NGOs came under attack

Montrul I Khan is Associate Professor, Department of Sociology. DU and Rezaul Karim is a graduate student of the same department.

Viewing Video

by Lenin Gani



I HAT is the connect ion between a seemingly innocent boy who just delivers newspapers and a series of mysterious deaths. Well, these are the ingredients of The Paperboy a thriller starring Alexandra Paul (Baywatch same) and Brigid Tierney.

Tierney is the local paperboy of a typical American neighbourhood. There is nothing wrong with that except he too commits a number of unexplained murders. One of the victims being Alexandra's elderly mother.

On hearing the tragic news of her death, Alexandra leaves her teaching post in the city to return home and attend the funeral

Tierney seems like a bright. caring person who will do anything to please Alexandra and her daughter.

What starts off as a friendly visit, rapidly becomes an obsession, with Tierney calling on Alexandra and in particular. her daughter any time he

Tierney was a disruptive child constantly beaten by his mother but one day having suffered enough torture he killed her, so the rumour

Now, feeling a sense of guilt and missing the tender love of a mother he is desperately seeking to win Alexandra's affection. Even it means eavesdropping on her and resorting to scare tactics against her boyfriend. When he kidnaps her daughter that is the last straw

and Alexandra has to take a stand.

CAST

Phillips

Woodbine

Dangerous

C Thomas

Severance

Bergman

Stephane

White

CAST

Indiscretion

Lou Diamond

Allan Payne/Jack

Pinkett/Bokeem

Howell/Malcolm

McDowell/John

Michael Nouri/

Swopy/Sandahl

Tracy Brooks

Billy Warlock/

Devin Devasquez/

Evan Richards/

Ben Meyerson

Ferrara/Isabel

Russinova/Daisy

Yul Bryner/Gina

Lollobrigida

Yul Bryner

Salman Khan/

Mithun/Atul

Agnihotri/Priya

/Kiran Kumar

Faroq Seikh/

Arora/Pooja Bhatt

Shahrukh Khan

Sioux City Jason's Lyric

Society

(Rom)

(Rom)

(Scift/Horror)

Carnosaur-II (Scifi) Balkan Runner (Action)

(Act/Thriller) CIA Trackdown (Historic)

The Magnificent Seven

NAME

Dir: Rakesh Roshan Mus:

Gunehgar

Ab Insaf Hoga Dir: Harish Shah

Pro: Vinod Shah Mus: Anand Milind Dal Pati

(Action) Dir: Mani Ratnam Pro: Rajam Lal

Mus: Illaya Raja Kanoon Aur Saza Dir: Raj Bharat Shabnam

(Action) (Romantic)

Television Story of the Trader and the Genie



The loyal trader in a high pitch human drama and greaher the 'Mehar' (dower) with tness releases his wife of the an assurance that she can marriage contract and gives marry again after his death.

The faithful wife in tears. refuses to accept any of the above. As a true woman with

grit and determination she decides to fight her fate and assures her husband that she

for one day more so that she can complete the next night the story of the trader and let him know as what the genie does when the trader comes back honestly for his death after 40 days.

The Sultan's appetite for the

story remains unfulfilled.

Thus life smiles on princess Shehrazade for one more day.

Friday, at 8:30 pm.

to be honest and intelligent like their father. Even if she has to do manual labour for the rest of her life, she will fulfil all his dreams, duties and unfulfilled

there can be acceptance of only one man. Sultan Impressed by Trader's Princes Shehrazade stops narrating the story hearing the Elan of "Allah-o-Akbar" with

the first rays of the morning

debts of life but she will never

remarry anybody else. In life

The Sultan cannot believe that such a great woman can

Sultan Spares Shehrazade for One More Night The soldiers arrive to take Shehrazade to the executioner.

He spares Shehrazade's life chooses.

Episode No 4: Date of transmission on BTV is 3.2.95,

english NAME TYPE (Drama)

3. Dangerous Indiscretion

Natural Born Killer (Murder/ Thriller)

Solomon And Sheba (Western) Return Of The Seven

HINDI

TYPE (Rom/Action) Karun Arjun

(Action)

Dir: Raman Kumar Pro: Gulshan Kumar Mus: Anu Malik

Mithun/ Rekha / Prem Chopra Rajnikant/ Mamooty/Sonu Walia/ Amrish Puri Chiranjeevi/Silk Smita Radha Sanjay Mitra/ Kanchan

Face To Face

(Magazine)

Source: Film Fair Video and other clubs.

(Social)