

Of Pocket Tyrants and Rasputins

By treating the Russian Tsar's haemophilic son and heir, Rasputin became indispensable to the Russian royal family.

Rasputins have a bad habit of emerging from kitchen cabinets, as history will attest Rasputins also have a bad (and recurring) habit of bringing Tsars down.

power. Any hint of non-compliance of instructions (all verbal) and their careers are damaged, if not shortened altogether.

had it right when he said almost two centuries ago that "the tyrants of the legislators is at present, and will be for many years, our most formidable danger."

consequences, 2) that their own personal and selfish interests can only be enhanced by terrorising the bureaucracy to a position of compliance to their own bidding;

the most crooked, 2) of financial experts, consisting again of the best and the brightest with an inherent knowledge of ways and means of milking the coffers of the State.

cult to assemble in this day and age such a vast array of rascals dedicated to the single prime purpose of pondering to their mentor and the secondary consideration of their own greed

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

The most known pocket tyrants in recent history were US President Richard Nixon's trusted aides Haldeman and Ehrlichman, "the Germans" as they were nicknamed.

whom they serve, since they are almost never directly elected to office on their own steam except by shortest, they consider themselves above any form of accountability and subject to no self-restraint.

Pakistan has had its share of pocket tyrants in every government but probably none so blatant or widespread as in the last regime. Benazir's government had two faces, where real power was exercised by Asif Zardari, through an army of inclusions, even monarchs did not have such absolute authority.

The Zardari influence pervaded into every sphere of government and cross-controlled even those who were essentially the Benazir's appointees initially, these eventually fell into line as they discovered who exercised real power.

Dhaka Day by Day Word Power Ayesha Fariha. Includes cartoon of a man holding a pizza and a sign that says 'HEY GET ME OUT OF THIS PIZZA HOLE!'.

Isn't it strange how words, just like fashion, can become the rage? Remember the late seventies. The word "Disco" went beyond the realm of the dance floor and was used to describe anything fancy or out of the ordinary.

Anti-poverty Scheme Aims for Small-family Happiness

WHEN mother-of-six Dang Gaiyang learned her youngest daughter-in-law was pregnant with a second child, she urged her to have an abortion.

People powers Most populous countries: China (1.2bn), India (913m), US (265m), Indonesia (190m), Brazil (159m), Russia (148m). Includes a world map graphic.

Concerned both about poverty and over-population, China has come up with a scheme that helps and rewards poor mothers who practise family planning. A Gemini News Service correspondent Xiong Lei reports from Beijing on Programme Happiness.

brought hope to my life," says Li. Now restored to health, Li has planted 300 pear and 60 kiwi-fruit trees with the loan, and is learning to read and write at night school.

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Entertainment Guide content including: Thursday 24th April, CHANNEL V, BTB, BBC, STAR PLUS, STAR SPORTS, STAR MOVIES, Highlights, BBC Coverage of the UK Election, Garfield, and various TV channel listings.

Garfield by Jim Davis. A comic strip panel showing Garfield reading a newspaper and saying 'I'M HAVING A BAD DAY'.