

The Daily Telegrams

Editorial...
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Time To Ponder

In olden days emperors seemed to show their prowess and supremacy over others through waging wars. History depicts that several such battles were fought in the past and winners used to usurp all that they got from the losers, that too at the cost of the lives of several brave soldiers who had fought for the victory. In the same fashion, two world wars were fought and the price paid for the lack of wisdom on the part of human being.

Today we are in jet age. Here 'we' implies the entire globe. A piece of information on plane page can be facsimiled from one desk to another desk anywhere in the globe within no time. Similarly, we are equipped with such fighter planes and missiles which can enter the desired targeted territory in a few minutes time.

Most of the nations today are in possession of 'Nuke capability' and 'Chemical Bomb'. Some of the nations have advertised it and some are yet to do so. These bombs can bring destruction worldwide and lead to end of the universe and aftermath is that except fire there will be no survival. Hence some of the books have quoted the end of present universe with fire everywhere. But can the arms race adjust itself quickly enough to these vertiginous transformations? or can these race lead human beings to exterminate?

This is a very serious race and it goes deeper if there is celebration and jubilation over equal number of 'Tests' in retaliation. The impact of this ultimate race is nothing less than destruction of whole world and definitely there will be no 'winners' of this race.

As in other game there will be runner & winner but the present race is not going to yield victory to any side. Thus, we have to seriously think over the matter again and again and such burning issues can be resolved in International Courts of Justice without any delay in order to achieve global peace.

Andaman Sea Rally

Fair Winds Bless the Kata Group Andaman Sea Rally as Records Tumble. After two gruelling offshore passage races between Phuket and Port Blair, the 2nd Kata Group Andaman Sea Rally champion was crowned. Competitive racing and a lot of fun were the hallmarks of the event and in the end 'Intrigue of Stormaway' was victorious.

Winds were a consistent 12 plus knots as this year's fleet of 9 jostled for position at the Stage One start line in Kata Bay, Phuket. Careful maneuvering and perfect timing saw 'Rusalka', sailed by husband and wife team Kevin and Sheila Perrins, first over the line, closely followed by the 47ft S&S Ketch 'Emerald Blue', skippered by Nick BAND and 'El Samali', the 49ft Van Der Stadt Sloop, with Philippe Roolant at the helm. The rest of the fleet, including the classic 72ft Van Der Stadt Ketch 'Stormvogel', skippered by Italian

businessman Ermanno Traverso, was not far behind. 'Intrigue of Stormaway', the 59ft Warwick Sloop skippered by Gary Foster, was last over after having problems with the main sail.

The fleet raced in good breezes all the way to Port Blair, with the leading boats chasing the 48-hour record. First over the line was 'Stormvogel' in a time of 48 hours and 52 seconds, a whisker too slow to set a new record. And after time correction 'Stormvogel' finished a disappointing third, behind 'Intrigue of Stormaway', and 'Rusalka' respectively.

After the excitement of what was the first offshore passage race for some, and the first time to the Andaman Islands, all boats headed off to explore the archipelago. An old British Colony, evidence of Port Blair's past is all around - colonial-style buildings, old churches... A group of 572 islands (including the Nicobar group) 420nm from Phuket,

the Andaman Islands is one of Asia's last cruising frontiers with great diving and snorkeling and pristine beaches. Boats lined up off Port Blair for the return race on the 15 January. Two harbourmaster boats and the Lt. Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands oversaw the start. The first 24-hours saw 15 knots plus of consistent wind, only to drop out to almost nothing. The next few hours proved difficult for all and tested tactical skills to the full. 46 hours and 55 minutes after the start, 'Intrigue of Stormaway' crossed the finish line in Kata Bay. The 48-hour mark was smashed, and a new record set. Even with a spell of light winds Gary Foster and crew brought home 'Intrigue of Stormaway' in record time. Despite this, after time correction 'Stormvogel' finished first on Stage Two, with 'Intrigue of Stormaway' second and 'El Samali' a commendable third. Congratulations to 'Intrigue of

Stormaway' were given by all at the party that evening, hosted by Kata Beach Resort, and presided over by the Governor of Phuket. After two passage races covering 420nm, the 2nd Kata Group Andaman Sea Rally champ was crowned. 'Intrigue of Stormaway' took the honours in the sailing class, followed by 'Stormvogel' and 'El Samali'. 'Mozart', skippered by Wolfgang RIESSBACHER took first place overall in the Multihull Class. The Kata Group Andaman Sea Rally is sponsored by Kata Group of hotels and resorts, The Nation newspaper, Beer Chang, Far Away Sail and Dive Expeditions, Radio 100, Simple Computers and Noonsite. The event is supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and the Andaman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event is organised by Yacht Solutions Marine Operations.

Source: Internet

Smart Label May Replace Laser Barcodes

The era of laser barcodes, found on most retail goods in the West for almost 50 years, may soon come to an end. A new flexible computer chip, developed by scientists from the Fraunhofer Institute in Munich Germany, offers to revolutionise everything from shopping to doing the laundry. Unlike the barcode system, the flexible chip or 'Smart Label' does not need direct contact with a reading device - instead, it communicates with short-range radio waves. The plan is that supermarket trolleys will be fitted with a receiver that will know exactly what is placed inside.

This means no more waiting in lines at the supermarket - as a customer exits the store, the chip sends the information to a central computer, and payment is authorised. The chips, named 'Smart Label', are 10 micro-millimeters thick (less than a fifth of the thickness of a piece of paper) and can store data such as expiry dates as well as prices.

The chips are so small and flexible that it is possible to build them into paper and clothing. Its developers say the chip could allow clothes to communicate with a washing machine to determine what cleaning cycle to use.

Israel Unveils Bus Security System

A security system unveiled yesterday aims to keep suicide bombers off Israeli buses, countering one of the deadliest forms of Palestinian attacks. The key element of the new system, displayed yesterday at Israel Military Industries (IMI) outside Tel Aviv, is a simple turnstile. The driver monitors passengers boarding his bus, and if anyone arouses suspicions, he presses a button to lock the turnstile, keeping the person off the bus. A bomber could still detonate his explosives outside the bus, but casualties would be much fewer. However, Palestinian bombers have taken to

disguising themselves, some as women, others as Orthodox Jews, to avoid detection. A more sophisticated version of the system includes electronic sensors to detect explosives up to a meter (three feet) away, setting off an alarm near the driver. The system was developed by the Israeli bus manufacturing company Haargaz, Israeli Transportation Ministry and IMI, which also deals with more sophisticated threats, like protecting aircraft from missile attacks. "There's no doubt that we have been forced in recent years to deal with terrorist activity that targets buses," Transport

Earth 'Entering Uncharted Waters'

The Earth has entered a new era, one in which human beings may be the dominant force, say four environmental leaders. In the International Herald Tribune, they say the uncertainty, magnitude and speed of change in many of the Earth's systems is without precedent.

The four, who include Margot Wallstrom, the European environment commissioner, say uncertainty cannot excuse inaction. They believe humanity may cross some critical thresholds unawares, setting off changes which cannot be reversed.

The other authors are Professor Bert Bolin, founding chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Professor Paul Crutzen, winner of the 1995 Nobel prize for chemistry; and Dr Will Steffen, director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). They write: "Our planet is changing fast. Change is a fact of life, but in recent decades many environmental indicators have moved outside the range of variation of the last half million years..."

"It is the magnitude and rate of human-driven change that are most alarming. "The human-driven increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide is Minister Avigdor Lieberman told reporters. Five city buses with the basic version of the system will be on the road next month as part of a pilot project. Officials would not say in which city the buses will run. The buses will also have a turnstile at the rear door to allow passengers to exit, while preventing bombers from climbing aboard from the back.

nearly 100 parts per million and still growing - already equal to the entire range experienced between an ice age and a warm period such as the present.

"And this human-driven increase has occurred at least 10 times faster than any natural increase in the last half million years." They envisage the possibility, beyond 2050, of "rapid regional climate change, as would be caused by changes in ocean circulation in the North Atlantic, and irreversible changes, such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and the concomitant sea-level rise of six metres".

"Records from the geological past indicate that never before has the Earth experienced the current suite of simultaneous changes: we are sailing into planetary terra incognita." They argue for a precautionary approach, partly because natural systems can flip very rapidly from one stable state to another.

The writers say: "We are unsure of just how serious our interference with Earth system dynamics will prove to be, but... there are significant risks of rapid and irreversible changes to which it would be very difficult to adapt."

Dr Steffen told: "It would take about a millennium for the Greenland ice sheet to melt. But we could reach the trigger point that makes the process unstoppable within the next century. "The book makes the point that this is global change - it looks at the range of effects, at how they're happening simultaneously, and at how they're reinforcing each other. "It's a synthesis of the science, the best consensus - and it honestly acknowledges the unknowns."