

11 AUG 1999

Azhar-Sailing

AZHAR EXPECTED IN LANGKAWI AT 10PM

LANGKAWI, August 11 (bernama) -- Malaysian mariner Datuk Azhar Mansor is expected to arrive in Langkawi at about 10pm tonight, several hours later than scheduled.

Azhar, aboard the Jalur Gemilang ocean racer in his bid to become the first Malaysian to sail solo around the globe, was earlier expected to arrive by between 4pm and 5pm today.

The Kangar-born sailor has about 77 nautical miles to go to reach Langkawi while he progresses at an average speed of seven knots per hour.

"I'm still with shipping traffic, so had another sleepless night. Progressing fine and proceeding straight on," Azhar said in his e-mail to shore base at the Awana Porto Malai resort here today.

He said the wind condition stayed light throughout the night.

Azhar is now into his 190th day at sea and he has logged 25,400 nautical miles.

Azhar reported his RM2 million yacht's position at Latitude 06 degrees 16' 69" North, Longitude 098 degrees 25' 52" East.

Meanwhile, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid will take over the duty of Immigration Officer to verify and to stamp Azhar's passport.

A Langkawi Immigration Department spokesman said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will witness the historic moment.

-- BERNAMA

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