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Azhar hopes to reach Cape Horn next week

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Progressing more than 200 nautical miles in the last 24 hours, Jalur Gemilang skipper Azhar Mansor hopes to make it to Cape Horn by next week.

The 41-year-old sailor is now on the second leg of his voyage to circumnavigate the world.

So far, Azhar has sailed past two of the southernmost capes in the world - Cape Leeuwin off Australia and the South Cape off New Zealand.

In his e-mail to Langkawi late this evening, Azhar said he expects strong winds from the next cold front to push his sails across South America with his only concern being gale-force winds and hailstorms.

"I am hoping to pass Cape Horn in daylight and good weather so that I can get quite close to it. Now, we'll have to see what happens to the weather first."

Azhar's position today is latitude 52 degrees 51'48" South, longitude 103 degrees 39'42" West. He is steering the yacht at bearing 100 at eight knots.

In Kuala Lumpur, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is recovering from bronchitis at Institut Jantung Negara, thanked Azhar for wishing him a speedy recovery.

"I received his message on the e-mail and hope he will make it all the way in the voyage," said Dr Mahathir.

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