

26 APR 1999

Azhar-Chronology

AZHAR TO SPEND TWO WEEKS ON THE FALKLANDS

LANGKAWI, April 26 (Bernama) -- Defying all odds, Malaysian mariner Azhar Mansor finally arrived in the Falklands island yesterday after 81 days at sea in his quest to become the first Malaysian to circle the globe solo on a new west-east route.

Azhar headed for the Falklands to get his RM2 million ocean racer "Jalur Gemilang" repaired at Port Stanley following severe damage on April 12 when he sailed into a hailstorm in the Southern Ocean.

The Perlis-born sailor is expected to begin his remaining 11,000 nautical mile voyage on May 15 or 16 which has since been reclassified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council as "solo round the world, assisted with stops, East bound".

Following is the chronology of Azhar's voyage:

Feb 2. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir flags off Azhar's round the world solo sail at the Awana Porto Malai.

Feb 4. - Off Sumatra having covered 276 nautical miles.

Feb 5. - making his first waypoint, turning down the west coast of Sumatra, heading towards Australia.

Feb 8. - crossed the Equator.

Feb 9. - Encountered his first hindrance when one of the three spinnakers onboard fell overboard and had to be set loose. Completes 1,006 nautical miles.

Feb 11. Celebrates 41st birthday in waters off Sumatra.

Feb.12. Cruises between the Christmas and Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Feb 13. Rough weather - unable to e-mail his daily updates - bypassed the two islands. Closer to the next waypoint, Cape Leeuwin.

Feb 14. Bored at sea, tunes to some music. Logged 1,702 nautical miles.

Feb 15.- Logged 1,859 nautical miles, 1,300 nautical miles more to Cape Leeuwin.

Feb.16 - Picks up distress call from South Pacific yacht. Logged 1,992 nautical miles.

Feb 17.- Climbed up 64-foot mast to check broken shackle.

Logged 2,140 nautical miles.

Feb 18. -Zig zags along the Western Australia coast to avoid northwards current.

Feb 19 - Carries out routine daily maintenance work

Feb 20. Worried about underwater mountains. Rough night at sea.

Feb 25. -Established radio contact with Australian-bound ship. Logged 2,865 nautical miles

Feb 26.- fixed clothes line inside Jalur Gemilang. Logged 3,097 nautical miles.

March 3 - Bypasses Cape Leeuwin. Enters notorious Southern Ocean.

March 4. Faces strong winds. Logged 4,019 nautical miles.

March 5. Rough seas forces Azhar to hand-steer

March 6.-Faces dying winds.

March 7.- Azhar records the company of 10 baby sperm whales. Logged 4,705 nautical miles

March 8 - Reaches area off South Australia.

March 10. -Spends some time cleaning up. About 1,000 nautical miles from

Snares Islands

March 14- Bypasses South East Cape of Tasmania. Logged 5,535 nautical miles.

March 18- Battery problem fouls up Jalur Gemilang. Forces Azhar to conserve power usage. Logged 6,293 nautical miles.

March 19. -.Bypasses Snares Island. Heads for Cape Horn.

March.20.- Switches on cabin heater as temperature drops. Logged 6,723 nm.

March 23.- Crosses International Dateline at about 2.30am. Malaysian Standard Time.

March 24.- Completes one third of his journey after logging more than 7,200 nautical miles.

March 28.- Celebrates Hari Raya Aidil Adha at sea

March 29.- Loses wind generator

March 30.- Jalur Gemilang almost capsizes due to winds of up to 65 knots.

April 6. - Depends on radar to go through thick fog. Logged 9,622 nautical miles.

April 7. - Sends quick recovery message to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was hospitalised due to lung infection. Logs 9,872nm

April 8. - Chalks up 10,072 nautical miles.

April 9 - Progresses towards Cape Horn.

April 12 - Jalur Gemilang mast broken due to foul weather.

April 16 - World Sailing Speed Record Council reclassifies Azhar attempt "Round the world single handed" as "Round the world, assisted stops, Eastbound".

April 18 --Azhar becomes the first Malaysian to pass Cape Horn.

April 19 -- Azhar was conferred the "Darjah Paduka Putra Jamalullail" Award which carries the title "Datuk"

April 23 -- Azhar's feat has earned him a historic listing in the Malaysia Book of Records.

April 25 - Arrives in the Falklands.

-- BERNAMA

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