

26 MAR 1999

Azhar-Mariner

AZHAR WISHES ALL MALAYSIANS "SELAMAT HARI RAYA AIDIL ADHA"

LANGKAWI, March 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysian mariner Azhar Mansor, who is out to set two world circumnavigation records, wishes all Malaysians "Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Adha" which falls on Sunday.

"I got news from the shore base that there has been lots of e-mails from well-wishers coming in via the website. I am touched and would like to express my sincere gratitude to all for the interest and support", he said in his e-mail to the base at the Awana Porto Malai, here, today.

Azhar had received numerous goodwill e-mail messages and words of encouragement sent by 2,000 people throughout the world since he began his voyage on Feb 2.

Among the latest messages was one from Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, the wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I hope one day to personally reply all these messages but for now my duties and responsibilities come first. I take this opportunity to wish Malaysians "Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Adha" for the coming muslim festival", Azhar said.

Azhar made better progress towards Cape Horn compared with yesterday, with the wind gusting slightly stronger up to 20 knots and propelling the yacht to register 150 nautical miles in 24 hours.

Cape Horn, where two major oceans -- the Pacific and the Atlantic -- meet, would be very tough and challenging because of adverse sailing conditions.

"The conditions have been quite favourable with fair breeze to push me along this long lonely stretch. I'm deep into the ocean now and land is far away", Azhar added.

Into his 52nd day at sea, Azhar has logged 7,591 nautical miles with some 15,431 nautical miles to go.

He reported his yacht's position at Latitude 51 degrees 47' 55" South, Longitude 166 degrees 35' 62" West.

Azhar is out to set two world circumnavigation records of non-stop solo circumnavigation of the world on a new west-east route verified by the World Sailing Speed record Council in Britain, and the fastest non-stop solo circumnavigation for 15m/18m yacht.

-- BERNAMA

NH JK