

7 DAYS – 22/4/09



Entering a melting pot

Fared Rahman speaks to a Dubai explorer who is trekking to raise awareness of global warming

A Dubai-based explorer is set to wrap up a trekking expedition in the sub-zero snow of the Arctic region after a gruelling 100-day journey across the continent to raise awareness about global warming.

Adrian Hayes is undertaking the trek from the south to north of Greenland with two Canadian explorers Derek Melham and David Ormer.

The trio will look at how global warming is contributing to melting the ice cap on the world's largest island during the trek which starts in Umanak in the south and ends in Upernivik in the north.

"The unique expedition route has never been attempted before and goes from the Atlantic Ocean on the South Coast to the Arctic Ocean on the North Coast," said Hayes.

"This is the longest and most arduous journey in history. It's going to be a long 120 days and we are carrying enough supplies to last the whole way.

Hayes explained that the trek will give him a first-hand experience of the impact of global warming. He has to be able to see a glacier in the Arctic in the middle of the year and see it melt away over the 3,000km walk.

Hayes, who has already led a trek to the Chinese coast of 'North Korea' by walking the South Pole and North Pole routes, said that the expedition will be a first for him as he will be carrying with him 120kg of supplies for the trek.

"The only way that this journey will be successful is if we are carrying with us 120kg of supplies," said Hayes.

During the expedition the team will undertake scientific observations on the desert ice that has slowly been melting in the Arctic and on the way by recording the temperature of the water. The aim is to provide a picture of the impact of global warming on the Arctic region.

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IN TRAINING. Hayes pulls one of his sleds through the desert snow. Hayes is trekking to raise awareness of global warming.

Hayes has been preparing for the trek for the past 18 months with intense training involving ice climbing and dragging 120kg sleds through the desert and snow. Hayes is trekking to raise awareness of global warming.