

7 DAYS – 14/7/2009

RUNNING ON EMPTY

This is the meagre meal keeping Dubai's Arctic explorer and his team going after delays hit trek



Slithers of beef jerky, a chocolate bar and a handful of cashew nuts are all that is fuelling a Dubai explorer on his epic Greenland quest as severe delays to the record-breaking trek mean his food will now run out in nine days.

Adrian Hayes (pictured) and his Canadian team-mates, Devon McDiarmid and Derek Crowe, were forced to begin strict rationing this

By Nichola Jones

plummeting energy levels after their historic mission to traverse the world's biggest island was hit by a series of setbacks.

From Greenland's Arctic coast, seasoned explorer Hayes said: "Our food supplies in theory run out on day 65. "So, we've been rationing food for four days to try and extend it beyond

When the trek began in mid-May, the team was consuming 5,000 calories per day but that has now dropped massively as the adventurers change their daily routine to conserve energy and food.

Hayes said: "Food creates conflicting dilemmas. That is the more time spent out in the cold conditions, the more energy expended, which equals more food

The group are using kites and skis to cross the desolate, ice-covered terrain but the elements have been against them as the north winds they need to propel them across the final 400km-leg of the epic journey have been replaced by howling gusts in the wrong direction.

If conditions improve, the team will pick up speed and complete the challenge on time. But if they don't

and more like a big game of chess, with every move having an implication. And right now it feels like we're up against Gary Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue combined."

Fortunately, the team has been carefully rationing water since they set out which means dehydration has not yet become a danger.

The 3,500km hike from the south to the north of the island was