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Canadian on marathon mission

BELIVEAU HAS COVERED 40,000KM ON FOOT

By Riyasbabu
Our staff reporter

DUBAI — He has walked 40,000 kilometres in the past seven years, having covered 49 countries and worn out 35 pairs of shoes. His mission is to complete 70,000km across 70 countries over five continents.

Canadian Jean Beliveau, 52, reached Dubai three days ago in transit from Iran to India as his plan to walk through Pakistan has been stalled.

However, Beliveau believes that perhaps it was in his destiny to pass through this "wonderful city."

Beliveau started his dream journey on August 18, 2000 on his 45th birthday. Turn to Page 42



Jean Beliveau in Dubai. — Photo by Liaqat Hussain

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from his native Montreal in Canada.

"It's not my aim to break any record. My aim is to propagate peace and to mark Unesco's International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence For the Children of the World," says Beliveau, who walks about 30 to 40 kilometres a day.

"I am impressed with this city. I walked around the city after I arrived at Port Rashid in a ship from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas," Beliveau said.

"My aim was to walk from Iran to Balochistan and to go to India through Pakistan. However with the present situation, I felt it difficult to do it. So I decided to come to Dubai and leave for India by air," he said.

"I have six more years to complete my mission. I will start my walk in India from Porbandar, where Mahatma Gandhi was born. Then I will proceed to China, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, and New Zealand before returning to Canada," Beliveau said.

Beliveau has gone through some harsh experiences in the past seven years, including sleeping in a cemetery in New Jersey during a thunderstorm. Beliveau will depart from Dubai in two days.