

PAKISTAN

3rd February, 1954.

Done for Mr. Stagg
(Money get story)
H/I/78/ES.

SPOT NEWS

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in the General Overseas Service

AGA KHAN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Aga Khan was weighed symbolically against platinum at a colourful ceremony in Karachi this afternoon on the occasion of his Platinum Jubilee marking 70 years of his Imamate of the Ismaili community. The ceremony began with recitations from the Holy Quran. This was followed by the presentation of an address of welcome to the Aga Khan by the Vice-President of the Platinum Jubilee Association Dr. Hoodhboy.

Replying, the Aga Khan advised his community to give their utmost loyalty and devotion to the welfare of the country. He said Ismailis of Pakistan should particularly interpret their patriotism in active and productive service to their country. From the religious point of view his followers should stick to the tenets of Islam and from the financial point of view they should make their contribution, however humble, towards the building up of their State.

The Aga Khan said that if the people of a nation were united and self-sacrificing, no amount of difficulties or overwhelming misfortunes could deter them. They had seen how Turkey came out stronger than ever after 100 years of misfortune and how recently both Germany and Japan, after their defeat in the Second World War, had acquired an honoured place in the world through unity, hard work and devotion. He said he would consider that one aim of his mission was complete if every Ismaili in Pakistan, however humble he might be, worked for his country with a spirit of devotion. He thanked the Pakistan Government for the help and patronage given by them for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. He also thanked the Belgium King and the French President for their messages of congratulations and the Governor of Tanganyika for his invitation for Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Dar-es-Salaam. The Aga Khan said that he was proud of the fact that he was born in Karachi where the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam, was also born. He greatly missed the Quaid-i-Azam at this occasion.

He ended his speech with prayers for the security, peace and prosperity of the people of Pakistan

The weighing ceremony was held on a specially designed revolving base which gave everybody an opportunity to have a look at the Aga Khan who was smilingly acknowledging the spontaneous greetings by waving to the crowd. The actual weighing was done on a specially designed scale on which the platinum was placed ounce by ounce. The Aga Khan weighed 215 lbs.

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The historic ceremony was watched by over 50,000 persons including the Prime Minister, the Sind Governor, Central and Provincial Ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps and about 45,000 Ismailis from Pakistan and abroad.

Ismaili delegates from foreign countries had come from Britain, France, Spain, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Central Asia, India, Africa, Ceylon, Burma, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaya.

The ceremony had attracted newsmen and photographers from all over the world. Several movie pictures were also shot. A representative of the Colombia Broadcasting Syndicate covered the function for the United States Television Network. All the Karachi papers brought out special supplements today. Radio Pakistan broadcast a running commentary in its National Hook-up.

STRIKE CALLED OFF

Workers of the Karachi Port Trust have decided to call off their 9-day old strike. The decision was taken at a meeting of the General Body of the Karachi Port Trust Labour Union this afternoon. The workers will resume work from tomorrow morning (4th February, 1954).

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2. 58 PM.

AGA KHAN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

KARACHI, WEDNESDAY.

THE AGA KHAN, SPIRITUAL HEAD OF THE ISMAILIS, WAS WEIGHED AGAINST PLATINUM AT A CEREMONY HERE THIS AFTERNOON WATCHED BY A CROWD OF MORE THAN 50,000.

HE WAS WEIGHED AGAINST GOLD IN 1936 AND DIAMONDS IN 1945.

THERE WAS FREQUENT CHEERING AND CRIES OF "LONG LIVE THE AGA KHAN" AND "LONG LIVE THE PLATINUM JUBILEE"

AT THE AGA KHAN'S WISH IT WAS A TOKEN WEIGHING IN PLATINUM. THE SCALES TIPPED 14LB TO EVERY OUNCE OF PLATINUM USED. THE AGA KHAN WEIGHED 215 LB AND 15 OUNCES OF PLATINUM WERE REQUIRED.

THE AGA KHAN ADVISED HIS FOLLOWERS TO DEVOTE THEIR ENERGIES TO BUILDING PAKISTAN INTO A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY. HE ASKED ISMAILIS IN THE COUNTRY TO INTERPRET THEIR PATRIOTISM IN AN ACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MANNER, AND SPOKE OF THE RISE OF JAPAN AND GERMANY AFTER "THE WORST DEFEAT IN HISTORY."

HE REITERATED HIS DESIRE THAT THE TWO AND A HALF MILLION RUPEES COLLECTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FESTIVAL SHOULD BE UTILISED IN SETTING UP A FINANCE CORPORATION ENSURING THAT EVERY ISMAILI IN PAKISTAN HAD A BUSINESS OR PROFESSION BY 1960.

M. Stagg (May get the story)

Mr. Slagg

5.26 PM. ADD AGA KHAN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE.
KARACHI, WEDNESDAY:

PRINCE ALY KHAN WAS PRESENT. THE PREMIER MOHAMMAD ALI AND THE BEGUM MOHAMMAD ALI ALSO ATTENDED.

AFTER THE CEREMONY THE AGA KHAN READ "IRSHAD" -- RELIGIOUS ADVICE -- TO HIS FOLLOWERS.

HIS CAR, ADORNED WITH FLOWERS ENTERED THE STADIUM BY THE AGA KHAN GATE, PRECEDED BY SEVEN BANDS.

ISMAILI VOLUNTEERS AND BOY SCOUTS LINED THE ROUTE. THE CHAIRMAN AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE ASSOCIATION RECEIVED THE AGA KHAN

FOLLOWERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WERE PRESENT IN GAILY-COLOURED ROBES.

DRESSED IN A FAWN ROBE AND WEARING A BLACK KARAKULI CAP THE AGA KHAN WAS SEATED ON A RED VELVET SOFA IN THE CENTRE OF A REVOLVING PLATFORM 25 FT IN DIAMETER. HE SALUTED THE PEOPLE AS THE PLATFORM REVOLVED.

THE SCALE WAS ON A HIGH, SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED ROSTRUM. RADIO PAKISTAN RELAYED A COMMENTARY.

5.29 PM. LONDON METALS -- AFTERNOON SESSION PRICES

