

AGA KHAN WEIGHING IN PLATINUM.

In Karachi, many of the city's leading citizens come to honour the Aga Khan at a ceremony to mark his 70 years as spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslim sect. Aly Khan, his eldest son, is greeted on his arrival.

With the Begum by his side, the Aga Khan is driven into the great stadium which bears his name and where nearly 50,000 people have gathered to welcome him. Many overseas guests are present, and the Begum has a special word with some of them.

The Aga Khan, who wears the traditional black cap, is in his 77th year. The climax of the ceremony in his honour, takes place on a red and gold stage. Here he is to be weighed against platinum on scales specially made for the occasion. But, first, the circular platform upon which he sits is revolved so that his followers may see him. Although His Highness weighs 215 pounds, only a few ounces of platinum are needed, for the scale tips 14 pounds to every ounce used. This ceremony derives from a fund, called the Platinum Jubilee Association, which was set up four years ago with a target of £3000,000. This money, at the Aga Khan's instructions, will be used for the betterment of the Ismaili community in Pakistan, and by 1960, it is hoped, every Ismaili will have a profession or a business of his own. Already £260,000 has been collected.

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