

PAKISTAN

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H/I/77-J.E.

S P O T N E W S

Broadcast in the General Overseas Service of Radio
Pakistan on 2nd February, 1954.

AGA KHAN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE.

The stage is now set to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the Aga Khan, Spiritual Head of the 20 million Ismailia community, at a colourful ceremony in Karachi on Wednesday afternoon (Feb:3).

The ceremony is being attended by delegates from Britain, France, Spain, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, India, Africa, Ceylon, Burma, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaya and Pakistan.

The Aga Khan, accompanied by Begum Aga Khan and Prince Aly Khan, today (Feb:2) inspected the stadium where the ceremony is being held. The stadium will accommodate 50,000 persons. In its centre is a 6 ft. high revolving dais on which the Aga Khan will be symbolically weighed against about 15 ozs of platinum in a specially designed scale.

The ceremony will begin at 11.30 G.M.T. with recitations from the Holy Quran. The Vice President of the Platinum Jubilee Association, Dr. Hoodbhoy, will then read an address of welcome. The Aga Khan will reply to it. This will be followed by the weighing ceremony.

The ceremony will be watched by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, Central and Provincial Ministers, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and 45,000 members of the Ismailia community.

Press representatives and photographers from all over the world have come to cover the ceremony. Several movie pictures will be shot. A representative of the Columbia Broadcasting Syndicate is in Karachi to cover the function for the United States' Television network.

An honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws is to be conferred on the Aga Khan by the Karachi University at a special convocation on Sunday (Feb:7). The Chancellor of the University, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad will preside.

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SPOT NEWS

Broadcast from Radio Pakistan on 3rd February, 1954
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 Columbia 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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