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# WHERE IS SHERGAR?



The Aga Khan with Shergar... the horse bred to be a champion: See Centre Pages

## Aga's anguish over kidnap

By Ross Benson

THE racing world was shocked and baffled last night by the audacious kidnaping of wonder horse Shergar.

The armed gang who snatched the £10 million stallion and got away with an eight-hour start left behind one of the great mysteries of the Turf.

There was uncertainty over the motive and the £2 million ransom demand, speculation that he might have been stolen to breed renegade champions — and apparently total bewilderment over his whereabouts.

His distressed part-owner the Aga Khan said: "I am leaving everything to the police."

The Irish police chief leading the hunt watched search helicopters whirling overhead and said: "We have no idea where the horse is."

The Aga Khan, celebrating the completion of his 25th year as head of the Ismaeli sect, is in the middle of a world tour.

He spoke exclusively to Express racing expert Charles Benson, the Scout.

He said: "I am deeply upset by this terrible news. Obviously, you will under-

stand that, in the circumstances, the less I say the better. The safety of the horse is paramount."

Shergar, winner of the 1981 English and Irish Derbies, was spirited away from a stud at Newbridge, County Kildare in the Irish Republic.

The kidnapers, five or six men, swooped just after 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

They forced their way into the home of John Fitzgerald, Shergar's groom, shut his family in a room and then marched him at gunpoint to the stable yard.

There they ordered him to open the horse's stall. Then the bloodstock champion

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## Deadlock again in water talks

By BARRIE DEVNEY,

Industrial Editor

ANOTHER bid to halt the water strike ended in failure last night.

It is complete deadlock, reported Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of conciliators ACAS.

Mr Lowry had called the two sides to his London headquarters in an effort to persuade them to accept a committee of inquiry into the pay row.

The unions indicated they were prepared to do so, but the National Water Council still insisted on binding arbitration.

In a statement Mr Lowry said: "Whatever the rights and wrongs, further argument is sterile and will not impress the public who must be increasingly concerned."

For now, "there is no foreseeable resolution to the dispute either by direct negotiations or through the processes of conciliation or mediation."

The only step, he added, is "by a reference either to arbitration or to some other third party for decision."

A later ACAS statement said bluntly: "Expectations raised by certain statements made to the media by the employers and subsequently dashed have not made the negotiations easier and have prejudiced the prospects of a settlement."

This was taken as a reference to a radio interview in which the Water Council's Mr Len Hill appeared to indicate more money was available.

Mr Ron Keating, of the public employees, denounced the employers: "They have blown it and we are now in for a long, hard strike."

HECTOR  
BREEZE



"Then after the coal industry he could shut down British Rail."