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World leaders congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the new Government



Prime Minister's oath taking Ceremony

President Md. Abdul Hamid administered oath to the newly appointed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 07 January 2019 at Bangabhaban Darbar Hall, Dhaka. Soon after the 11th parliamentary elections held on 30 December 2018, members of Bangladesh Foreign Service Association (BFSA) congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 02 January 2019 for her victory. World leaders congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her landslide victory in the Election. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Sudanese Prime Minister Mutaz Musa Abdalla,

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Myanmar President Win Myint, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban, Belarusian Prime Minister Sergei Rumas, Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas, Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabić, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini, Head of Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr. Denis Zvizdić and Azerbaijani Prime Minister Novruz Mammadov are among the world leaders who congratulated her.





Japanese Minister Toshimitsu Motegi calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Japanese Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization Toshimitsu Motegi calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office

Japanese Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization Toshimitsu Motegi congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the inauguration of her fourth term as Prime Minister and assured Japan's support in Bangladesh's development efforts during his call on the Prime Minister at her office on 15 January 2019. He also said that Japan is appreciative of Bangladesh's inclusive national election since it was conducted with participation of all major opposition parties. He stated that Japan intends to support Bangladesh's future efforts in development and prosperity so that Bangladesh can achieve the status of a middle income country by 2021. He shared his experience with Prime Minister on his visit to Bangabandhu Memorial Museum saying he was overwhelmed by seeing different memories and documents on the life of the Father of the Nation. He said that Japanese companies are showing strong interest to open business in Bangladesh being attracted by steady economic development of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Prime Minister stated that Bangladesh will welcome more Japanese investment in the IT sector and is prepared to provide land in the IT parks to Japanese companies.

Foreign Minister in his intervention requested that the Japanese travel alert against Bangladesh be withdrawn to facilitate greater business relations as well as people-to-people contacts. In this regard he elaborated on the 'zero tolerance' policy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina against terrorism and measures taken to ensure security situation. He also requested Japanese Minister to recruit trained caregiver from Bangladesh to address the need of Japanese ageing population and domestic labour shortage to meet the demand of home care services for elderly and the disabled. During the meeting Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Principal Secretary Md. Nojibur Rahman and Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rabab Fatima were present on Bangladesh side while Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Hiroyasu Izumi and senior officials from the Japan's Cabinet Office were present on Japanese side.





Foreign Ministry officials and Foreign Diplomats welcome Foreign Minister and State Minister



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP and State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam, MP were welcomed with flower bouquet

Foreign Ministry officials welcomed Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 8 January 2019, his very first day in the Ministry. All the senior officials of the Ministry extended warm reception to the newly elected Foreign Minister and also to the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP for assumption office on the second term.

Soon after the assumption of the responsibilities as Foreign Minister, foreign Ambassadors and High Commissioners congratulated Dr. A K Abdul Momen and later many of them called on him at his office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Fahrenholtz expressed his firm commitment to move forward with bilateral and multilateral engagements on issues of mutual interests when he met with the new Foreign Minister at his office on 17 January 2019. He further emphasized on 'stability, growth and increased welfare for the

common people' under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He also expressed interests in deepening bilateral relations on issues like trade and investment, Rohingya crisis, migration, SMEs and skills development, climate change, and beyond. Terming Germany as 'natural friend', Foreign Minister expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for long-standing and comprehensive support from Germany in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh, since independence.



German Ambassador Peter Fahrenholtz calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh General A W J C De Silva discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka during his courtesy call on the Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 January 2019. Foreign Minister put emphasis on early conclusion of bilateral instruments including Coastal Shipping Agreement, Free Trade Agreement and Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investment Agreement.



Sri Lankan High Commissioner Gen. A W J C De Silva calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

Outgoing Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr. Chop Lal Bhushal appreciated the tremendous growth and progress of Bangladesh during the last ten years under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while he paid a farewell call on the Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 January 2019. Foreign Minister emphasized on Hydropower import from Nepal, establishing connectivity and increasing economic and trade relations between the two countries.



Outgoing Nepalese Ambassador Dr. Chop Lal Bhushal calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office



Consul of Singapore William Chik calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

Consul of Singapore in Bangladesh William Chik congratulated Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP when he met him on 20 January 2019 and reaffirmed that the government of Singapore stands ready to further strengthen relationship with the new government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Foreign Minister praised Singapore and its dynamic people for the tremendous economic success and requested the Consul to take initiatives for reducing existing large bilateral trade deficits. The Consul of Singapore assured to convey this message to his government for appropriate actions in this regard. Foreign Minister emphasized boosting volume of skilled manpower export to Singapore from Bangladesh.

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh Saed Mohammed Saed Hmaid Almheiri paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister at latter's office on 22 January 2019. During the meeting, they discussed various issues of bilateral relations. Foreign Minister expressed happiness at the enhanced engagement between Bangladesh and the UAE in the recent months and hoped for further expansion of the cooperation in the area of human resources, trade and investment, civil aviation, defence and other potential areas for the





UAE Ambassador Saed Mohammed Saed Hmaid Almheiri calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his office

socio-economic development of the two peoples. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern as well as on cooperation in different multilateral platforms.



Chinese Ambassador Zhang Zuo calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office on 27 January 2019. He expressed his commitment to work with the Government of Bangladesh to implement the decisions reached through consensus between two leaders of China and Bangladesh during President of China Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in October 2016. Foreign Minister emphasized on Economic Diplomacy and

acknowledged tremendous contribution of China in Bangladesh's economic development. Foreign Minister expressed gratitude to China for signing 27 Agreements and MOU, worth billions of dollar investment, during Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 when bilateral relationship was elevated to strategic partnership.



British High Commissioner Allison Blake calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Allison Blake congratulated Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP and reiterated willingness of the UK to work together to make the relationship more solid during her call on held at the Ministry on 27 January 2019. Foreign Minister recalls the invaluable support of the British people and government during our historic Liberation War in 1971. British High Commissioner assured that UK will remain constructively engaged with the new government and continue its support to achieve the goal of Bangladesh to be an Upper Middle Income Country by 2021 and SDGs by 2030. Foreign Minister thanked the UK for extending comprehensive support for the Rohingya crisis and urged the Ambassador to do more so that the Rohingyas could go back to their ancestral homeland in safety and dignity.



US Ambassador Earl Robert Miller calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Robert Miller called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 31 January 2019. He congratulated the newly appointed Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and assured him full cooperation in his new assignment. Foreign Minister thanked US Ambassador and said that there is the scope to take existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and USA to a new height. US Ambassador was highly appreciative of the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for giving shelter to the persecuted Rohingyas. Foreign Minister raised the issue of creating "safe zone" inside Rakhine State for the Rohingyas and informed the US envoy that around one lac Rohingyas are planned to be relocated in Bhashan Char on voluntary basis. He also sought support from the US administration to secure tariff free access for Bangladesh's garments products in the US market.

New UNHCR Country Representative Presents Credentials to Foreign Minister

Newly appointed Country Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangladesh Steven Corliss presented



UNHCR Country Representative Steven Corliss calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his office

his credentials to the Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 21 January 2019. The presentation of the credentials was followed by a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister. Steven Corliss replaces Shinji Kubo as UNHCR Country Representative in Bangladesh. He served as the Special Adviser to the High Commissioner on Internal Displacement at the UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva before assuming the charges in Dhaka.

Foreign Minister welcomed Steven Corliss with warmth. He mentioned about the courageous decision of hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Highlighting on the Prime Minister's three points proposal during the last UN General Assembly and the recommendations of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar and the Kofi Annan Commission, Foreign Minister urged UNHCR Representative to emphasize on addressing the root causes of Rohingya crisis.

Steven Corliss mentioned that during his visit to Cox's Bazar, the Rohingyas he met all wanted to go back to their country. He emphasized on sustainability of the return of the Rohingyas.





US Ambassador calls on State Minister for Foreign Affairs



US Ambassador Earl Robert Miller calls on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at his office

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Robert Miller called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP on 31 January 2019. They discussed pertinent issues of Bangladesh-US bilateral relations. State Minister pointed out that though Bangladesh's exports to USA under GSP were minimal, some promising business entrepreneurs suffered due to GSP suspension. Referring to the recent passage of EPZ Labour Act, State Minister pointed out that the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is extremely labour friendly. He mentioned that high tariffs coupled with GSP suspension puts Bangladeshi businessmen into a formidable challenge in entering the US market. He emphasized on public diplomacy for expansion of Bangladesh-USA political and business ties.

Bangladesh concludes Agreement on the Establishment of Regular Diplomatic Consultations between Bangladesh and South Africa

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP signed 'Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Regular Diplomatic Consultations between Bangladesh and South Africa' on 17 January 2019 in Dhaka. It was the first agreement signed by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister since his assumption of the office. This is also the first ever any Agreement signed between Bangladesh and South Africa. Bangladesh and South Africa enjoys cordial bilateral relations and maintains a common position in the major international issues. Thousands of Bangladeshis are living and working in South Africa contributing to the economy of that country. South Africa is the leading country in Africa in terms of Bangladesh export. Bangladesh and South Africa is currently in discussion for concluding a number of other Agreements in the areas of visa waiver, police cooperation, agriculture, forest and fisheries, basic education, scholarship and Fellowship, training and governance, transport, trade.

Bangladesh Missions abroad commemorate the Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh Missions abroad commemorate the 'Homecoming Day' of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 10 January 2019 in a befitting manner. The events included offering of special prayer, paying homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reading out messages from the President and Prime Minister, discussion and staging cultural programme.

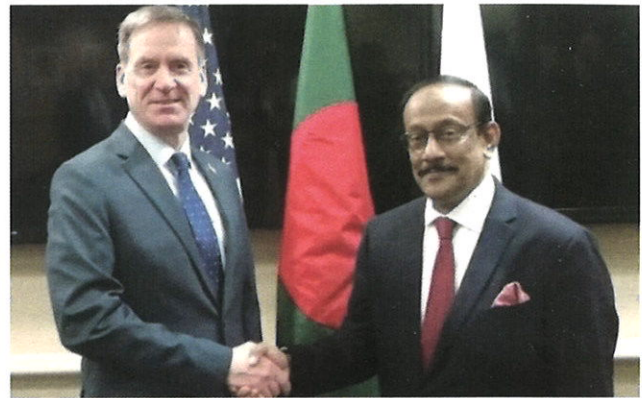


Bangladesh Foreign Secretary meets with senior US politicians and high officials

Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque held talks with USAID Administrator Mark Green and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Ambassador David Hale on 22 January 2019. He sought US support in resolving the Rohingya crisis and stated that, it is the responsibility of the Myanmar authorities to create the right condition for Rohingya repatriation.

The US officials lauded the generosity, tolerance and initiatives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They termed Bangladesh as a crucial partner and assured full support to resolve the Rohingya crisis. Foreign Secretary invited the US investors to invest in the dedicated special economic zones.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA, Mohammad Ziauddin and senior officials from the Ministry



Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque meets with USAID Administrator Mark Green

of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC accompanied the Foreign Secretary during the meetings.

Ministry's welfare activities in January

Welfare Section issued No Objection Certificate in favour of 40 Bangladesh nationals who intended to visit Libya for working purpose in the month of January. In January 53 Bangladeshi Nationals were repatriated from Libya to Bangladesh through commercial flight under the AVR Program. 27 illegal migrants were deported from Germany to Bangladesh under the SOP arrangement with EU through a Chartered Flight. A contract has been signed between the Ministry and a software company to develop a 'mobile app' under a project titled "Development of Android, iOS, Microsoft and Web Application for Consular and Welfare Services at Home and Abroad".

Seminar titled 'Bangladesh: An Emerging Economy Offering Opportunities' held in Istanbul



Participants at a seminar held in Istanbul

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Ankara with support of Deniz Bulkur, Honorary Consul-designate of Bangladesh in Konya and Ikitelli Organized Industrial Zone (IOSB)-organized a seminar titled 'Bangladesh: An Emerging Economy Offering Opportunities' in Istanbul on 25 January 2019. The program was attended by the representatives of 54 companies. They are involved in the sectors such as energy, construction, ICT, etc. to export import businesses. This Industrial Zone is one of the biggest Industrial zones of Europe where nearly 4,00,000 employees are employed in more than 30,000 companies.





■ Bangladeshi Pitha Utsab held in Islamabad and Lisbon



Display of traditional pithas at Islamabad

Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon organized "Bangladesh Pitha Utsab 2019" to showcase the rich culinary tradition of Bangladesh at the Bangladesh House in Lisbon on 30 January 2019. Over 50 guests, mostly women including members of Association of the Portuguese Diplomatic Family (AFDP), members of the Portuguese civil society, spouses of the Ambassadors and other diplomats attended the festival.

Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad organized a day-long 'Pitha Utsab' on 13 January, 2019 at its Chancery premises. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan Tarik Ahsan inaugurated the festival. The event became quite colourful with the array of pithas artistically displayed in the sprawling green lawn of the Chancery in a sunny winter morning. The visitors which included members of the High Commission, Bangladesh expatriates and their family members were in a festive mood as they relished various kinds of pitha.



Display of traditional pithas at Lisbon

Bangladesh High Commissioner calls on UK Minister of State and Commonwealth Secretary General

"UK attaches high importance to Bangladesh and a major focus of UK's relations with Bangladesh in the coming days will be to strengthen trade, economic and security cooperation", said Rt. Hon Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office while receiving Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem at the FCO office in London on 10 January 2019. Commending Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for including younger generation of politicians in her new Cabinet following the 30th December general elections, the UK FCO Minister hoped to see Bangladesh move forward towards greater growth and prosperity under her leadership.

"Commonwealth under its Innovation Hub has placed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's social innovation initiative of designing and creating 'the SDG-Tracker' for as a best practice for realizing Agenda 2030", said the Rt. Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Commonwealth Secretary General while receiving Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Bangladesh High Commissioner was briefing the Secretary General about the social innovation initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the last ten years that have placed Bangladesh in the top brackets of social indicators in South Asia.



Netherlands to provide about One Million Euros for “Potato Impact Cluster” in Bangladesh

The government of the Netherlands and Dutch businesses inked an agreement to undertake a “potato impact cluster” project in Bangladesh. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and a consortium of Dutch businesses have joined hands to share their experience and best practices with potato farmers of Bangladesh to improve the supply chain in potato sector of Bangladesh. An amount of Euro 900,000 has been allocated for this project having a duration of three-year. Concept of this project was discussed in details in a seminar organized by the Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague titled “Agriculture Sector in Bangladesh: Lessons from the Netherlands” on 15 January 2019. Errol van Groenewoud, Director, Omnivent Storage Solutions; Alex Verbruggen, Founder of Verbruggen Group; Hans Griffioen, President of Eurojute; and Maarten Verbruggen, Managing Director of Deltadesh and Export Manager of Verbruggen Group joined the seminar.

Chief Election Commissioner visited New Delhi

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), K M Nurul Huda paid a visit to New Delhi to attend an international conference entitled “Making Our Elections Inclusive and Accessible”. While addressing the conference, the CEC said that the recently held 11th Parliamentary Elections were inclusive with all registered political parties taking part. The elections were held in a free, fair and peaceful manner with 25,000 local (from 81 organisations) and 160 international observers freely monitoring the voting. The CEC revealed Bangladesh Election Commission’s plan to introduce a voter registration system for Bangladeshi expatriates. In order to implement this, offices will be set up in Singapore, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, UK, USA, Italy, Australia and Canada. During the visit, he also took part in the celebration marking National Voters’ Day of India. Both events were organised by the Election Commission of India.

Bangladesh participates in BIMSTEC Working Group meeting held in New Delhi

A 3-member Bangladesh delegation attended the 19th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Rules of Origin (WG-ROO) held in New Delhi on 21-22 January 2019. Crucial discussions on finalizing the draft texts of the “Rules for determination of Origin of Goods for Agreement on BIMSTEC Free Trade Area (FTA)” and the “Operational Certification Procedures for the Rules of Origin for the BIMSTEC-FTA” were held. After holding intense negotiation, the Working Group updated the draft texts and agreed that the Member States will convey their comments and observations on those updated draft texts within one month to the Secretariat.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Maldives calls on High dignitaries

Bangladesh Ambassador to Maldives, Rear Admiral Akhtar Habib called on Abdulla Ameen, Health Minister of Maldives on 2 January 2019. At the outset, Ambassador congratulated Abdulla Ameen for his recent appointment as the Minister of Health of the Republic of Maldives. During the call on a number of bilateral issues of common interests between the two countries were discussed.





Bangladesh High Commissioner inaugurated Global Female Folk Dance Competition



Bangladesh High Commissioner is seen with the participants

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Syed Muazzem Ali inaugurated the 19th Global Female Folk Dance Competition and Carnival held on 05 January 2019 at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. It was organized by Charu Castle Foundation of India, in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Culture, UNESCO, New Delhi Office and Sangeet Natak Academy of India. The competition was attended by the female folk dancers from Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand.

Graphic Nobel 'Mujib' launches in Japanese version

"Mujib", the Japanese version of the graphic novel on the life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was launched on 26 November 2018 at the Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo.

Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo organizes seminar on prospects of Bangladesh's IT sector

A seminar focusing on the prospects of Bangladesh's IT sector was held on 25 January 2019 in Tokyo jointly organized by Bangladesh Embassy and Fujitsu Research Institute. Over 100 representatives from different Japanese companies attended the seminar. The seminar highlighted the transformative development of Bangladesh

focusing on potentials of Bangladesh's IT sector. It is expected that the Japanese investors will be attracted from the seminar to invest in IT sector of Bangladesh and recruit Bangladeshi skilled IT professionals in Japan. A video documentary showcasing Bangladesh's recent development was screened at the end of the seminar.

Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah celebrates Textbook Day 2019

Bangladesh Consul General in Jeddah inaugurated the Book Festival 'Textbook Day 2019' on 01 January 2019 and distributed new books among the students of Bangladesh International School (National Curriculum) conforming to the festival in Bangladesh. Other officials of the Consulate General and community leaders were present in the Book Festival.



Text book distribution ceremony in Jeddah



Seminar held in Korea for Bangladeshi Workers

Embassy of Bangladesh in Seoul along with the HRD Korea and the Incheon Support Center for Foreign Workers organized a Seminar on the "Do's and Don'ts while staying in Korea" on 27 January 2019. 'Happy Return Program' focusing on the workers' pre-departure plans for Bangladesh including a presentation on the 'Entrepreneurship' encouraged the workers to have self-confidence including a vision for future supported by a realistic plan.



Participants at a seminar held in Incheon City, Korea

Diaspora Diplomacy

Bangladesh Consulate General in New York honoured two Bangladesh origin American police officers for their success in the police service of New York City on 25 January 2019. The police officers are Capt. Khandkar Abdullah and Syed Ali. Capt. Khandkar Abdullah is the first police officer of Bangladesh origin who has been promoted to

this prestigious post. Syed Ali was honoured for his bravery in saving one citizen from robbery at a subway station. Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Consul General of Bangladesh and New York City Deputy Police Chief of Patrol were present at the programme.

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