



Newsletter

Press Wing, Prime Minister's Office

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PM for enhanced BD-Thai cooperation in agriculture



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought enhanced cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand in the agricultural sector.

Sheikh Hasina made the call when visiting Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn met her at her office on 31 May 2018.

The Prime Minister informed the Thai princess of the "One House One Farm Project" and micro-savings model of Bangladesh. Thailand also has a programme similar to the "One House One Farm Project", the Thai princess mentioned.

About Bangladesh's success in the agricultural sector, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladeshi scientists have developed salinity-, flood- and drought-tolerant crops, aiming to boost food production in the country.

She informed the Thai Princess that Bangladesh has become self-sufficient in freshwater fish and is producing huge amount of meat every year.

The Prime Minister showed interest in boosting cooperation between the two countries on mango cultivation, as Thailand is famous for producing the popular fruit round the year.

The Thai Princess said her country has given Bangladesh "Vetiver grass" which is long and thick in size, to plant these

in coastal areas and on river slopes, to prevent erosion. She said Thailand is importing Bangladeshi litchi, which is very popular among Thai people.

Democracy stands on solid ground: Says PM at iftar party for politicians

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the drives against militancy, terrorism and drugs will continue to make Bangladesh free from anti-social elements.

She was speaking at an iftar party hosted in honour of political leaders at the Gono Bhaban on June 6.

Sheikh Hasina said democracy stands on a solid ground in Bangladesh now, with the economy being strong enough. The Prime Minister said Bangladesh has entered the era of a developing country and its progress has to be maintained.



Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League President, said the government would ensure people's improved lifestyle through implementing Vision-2021.

Mentioning that there was scarcity of everything in the country once upon a time, she said the Awami League government through its pragmatic steps put an end to the scarcity.

She said the government would build the country in the spirit of the Liberation War. "We'll make the country free from hunger and poverty as dreamt by the Father of the Nation."

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina went round different tables set for the guests, exchanged pleasantries with them and enquired about their wellbeing. Before the iftar, a munajat was offered seeking peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

PM lambasts BNP

Lambasting BNP for raising questions about the ownership of Bangabandhu-1 by saying that it was sold to owners of two companies, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh government was the owner of Bangabandhu-1.

"Of course, Bangladesh is the owner of this satellite, Bangladesh government is the owner of this satellite like other government entities," she said.

Earlier in a supplementary question, Awami League MP Fazilatun Nesa Bappi, wanted to know who the owner of Bangabandhu satellite-1 was, saying BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir claimed that the ownership of the satellite was given away to two private companies.

In reply, the Prime Minister called Fakhrul an ignorant man for raising such a question.

"With this, the nation has been able to understand they [BNP] don't love the country, they don't have any idea about technology. And that's why the country couldn't make progress during their regime," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said there are 40 transponders of the satellite and Bangladesh can use 20 at most. "The rest of the transponders can be used by SAARC member countries and Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan."

Work started on second satellite:PM tells parliament

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has revealed that the government has already started work to launch the country's second satellite- 'Bangabandhu-2'- so that it could operate before the 15-year expiry time of the 'Bangabandhu-1'.

She also slammed BNP for raising questions about the ownership and effectiveness of "Bangabandhu-1", saying

those who made such comments were nothing but ignorant.

"The government has started the process to launch the second satellite- Bangabandhu-2 - ahead of the expiry of Bangabandhu-1. It takes 5 to 6 years to prepare a satellite. That's why we've already started work to build Bangabandhu-2," she said in the Parliament on 6 June as a response to lawmakers' queries.

Saying that the life of a satellite is 15 years, the Prime Minister added, "When the lifespan of the second satellite will come to an end, we'll go for Bangabandhu-3 and this process will continue."

She said her government would certainly continue research in space technology and make the best efforts to cope with any new technology in the future.



Bangabandhu-1, now in orbit after its successful launching on May 12, marked Bangladesh's debut in the global space society.

In reply to a query of Jatiya Party MP Fakhru Imam on whether the Bangabandhu-1 would be able to take clear images due to its position in orbit, the Prime Minister said the location of the satellite, at the 119.1° East longitude geostationary slot, would not hamper getting clear footage.

To a question about the amount of workers who went abroad in the last 10 years, the Prime Minister informed the House that since 2009 a total of 55.27 lakh workers had gone abroad.

PM attends G7 outreach leaders' meet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the outreach session of the G7 Summit 2018 on 9 June. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau welcomed her at the venue at Manoir Richelieu Hotel in La Malbaie.

Sheikh Hasina attended the special outreach session as Trudeau invited 12 world leaders to take part in it.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister for the third time joined such outreach programme of the G7, the group of seven countries -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the USA -- with advanced economies in the world.



She earlier took part in the outreach meeting of the G7 Summits in Italy in 2001 and in Japan in 2016. This year, the special outreach session focused on healthy oceans and resilient coastal communities.

Bangladesh highlighted issues related to climate change, sustainable use of ocean resources, blue economy and its initiative on women empowerment at the G7 Forum.

Sheikh Hasina stresses need for full implementation of Paris Agreement

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for full implementation of the Paris Agreement as Bangladesh needs greater support for climate change adaptation.

"Full implementation of the Paris Agreement is crucial for Bangladesh. We need greater support for climate change adaptation," she said at an intervention on climate issues at the G7 Outreach Leaders' Summit at Manoir Richelieu Hotel in La Malbaie on 10 June.

The Prime Minister said available climate financing has to be augmented and facilitated for Bangladesh. The countries like Bangladesh also need support to capacity building, technology development and transfer in areas like agriculture, public health and disaster management.

She appreciated Canada's commitment to support the poor and most vulnerable countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, commending Canada's pledge to contribute \$2.65 billion over the next five years to help the developing countries to tackle the climate change issue and \$300 million to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).



Sheikh Hasina also sought both financial and technological assistance from G7 countries to tackle global effects of climate change.

"In Bangladesh, we foresee intense floods and droughts and heavier monsoons. Rainfall is increasingly unpredictable. The intensity and frequencies of flooding, cyclone and storms are rising. Upstream salinity intrusion in rivers has increased. Natural fish stocks inland is depleting. In the next 20 years, five to 10 million people may have to move from our coast. Most of our development efforts and gains are at stake due to climate impacts, affecting the poorest most. Every year, Bangladesh spends about 1 percent of its GDP in combating climate change," she said.

At another intervention on Oceans, the Bangladesh Prime Minister emphasized partnerships between the G7 countries and the vulnerable nations like Bangladesh for sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh has been uniquely supporting millions of fishermen for 65 days when it bans all kinds of fishing in the country's rivers to support natural breeding every year.

This has helped Bangladesh conserve its national fish - hilsa - and doubled its annual harvest in recent years. "We similarly ban hilsa fish fry harvesting for eight months in our coastal waters and the Bay. So, we would like G7 to stress that all the countries should engage in oceans based on principles of mutual trust and respect, and mutual sharing of benefits."

Sheikh Hasina suggested that science - technology, innovation capacity - in G7 could be mobilised for protection, preservation, exploitation of sustainable development of oceanic resources.

She said Climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh need robust innovative finance for 'Blue Economy', not just based on market. "We look forward to creative leadership from G7 countries to lead and make practical difference for our marine life and people. Let's act before it gets late!"

Sheikh Hasina places 4-point plan for solving Rohingya crisis

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has proposed a four-point specific action to resolve the ongoing Rohingya crisis, including persuading Myanmar to implement the bilateral agreements with Bangladesh for safe and sustainable return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

She placed the four-point action seeking more support from the international community, especially from the G7 countries, at a session.

The actions are:
Persuading Myanmar to implement the bilateral agreements with Bangladesh for safe and sustainable return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas; pursuing with Myanmar to implement the recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission immediately and unconditionally, working towards adoption



of resolution at the UN Security Council imposing appropriate and adequate sanctions against the responsible entities and taking action to ensure accountability and justice for the mass atrocity crimes or human rights violations or human rights violations committed against Rohingya.

"To implement the bilateral agreements, Myanmar should take necessary steps to create conducive an environment in Rakhine State. The Myanmar government should take measures for implementing the Kofi Annan Commission's recommendations to address the root causes and stop the recurrence of the Rohingya exodus. In this regard, we need more support from the international community, especially from the G7 countries," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh is currently hosting 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.

'Deport Noor Chowdhury



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a meeting with her Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau at his residence in Quebec.

During the meeting the premier requested Trudeau to take immediate actions on the deportation of Noor Chowdhury, a fugitive killer of Farther of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Expressing his compassion to Sheikh Hasina, Justin Trudeau said, "I understand how painful it is for you. Noor Chowdhury has no citizenship status in Canada...he is not a citizen of Canada."

Pointing at his country's legal system about the deportation of a death row convict, the Canadian Prime Minister said Canadian officials were quietly engaged in dealing with the issue.

Sheikh Hasina thanked the Canadian government for extending support and assistance to her government on the Rohingya crisis.

She said Myanmar signed the agreement with Bangladesh for the repatriation of Rohingyas, but it remained silent when the question of implementation of the agreement came.

Bangladesh to fight legal battle for 's Deportation: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government will fight in the Canadian court for the deportation of Noor Chowdhury, a self-confessed and convicted killer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

“We want to execute the sentences of the convicted killers as they are curses of Bangladesh,” she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a reception, organised by Canada Awami League, at Metro Toronto Convention Centre on 11 June.

Speaking at the reception on 11 June, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh would become a failed state if the anti-liberation elements and the patrons of killers returned to power.

She said Bangladesh was marching forward and the trend should continue. “The country can't be developed unless there is continuation of a government.”

About her party's election manifesto, she said they did much more than what they wanted to do. “As Bangladesh is making progress, it now gets invitation to join the G7 Outreach Session.”

The Prime Minister said her government was working to ensure the development and welfare of the country's people.

The AL government placed a Tk 464,573 crore national budget for the 2018-19 fiscal, but once the budget size was only Tk 61,000 crore, she told the reception programme.

In the past, the prices of essentials used to go up with the announcement of national budget, But now the prices remain under control as the present government has been able to bring down the inflation to 5.6 percent, she said.



Coming down heavily on BNP, the Prime Minister said they did not see any development of Bangladesh, but they enjoyed the benefits of development.

About Khaleda Zia, she said the BNP chairperson was convicted at the court after the trial had continued for 10 years. “But the leading lawyers failed to prove that Khaleda didn't embezzle orphans' money.”

“A comfortable environment has been arranged for her in jail. I have no right to release Khaleda Zia from jail as it is the jurisdiction of the court. Their [BNP's] leading lawyers should solve it by moving to the court,” Hasina said.



Special-category visas for relief workers

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar Bob Rae, Sheikh Hasina said her government was aware of the intrusion of many foreign nationals into Bangladesh in the guise of relief workers which might lead to trafficking of children and women, sexual abuse, terrorism and many other social problems.

“The government is issuing special-category visas for relief workers to address the problem,” she told Bob when he met her at her hotel suite in Toronto on 11 June.



The Bangladesh Prime Minister urged the Canadian envoy to bring to the government's notice if there was any difficulty in getting visas by foreign relief workers for working in Rohingya shelter camps.

Later, Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan and Minister for Trade and Export Development Gordon Wyant, and Minister for Immigration and Career Training Jeremy Harrison

met Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite.

A business delegation, led by President and CEO of Commercial Corporation of Canada, also made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister. The delegation included some Bangladeshi-origin Canadian businessmen.

Sheikh Hasina urged them to invest in Bangladesh taking the opportunities of the country's very liberal trade regime.

Govt making Anti-drug Law with harsher punishment

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government was formulating an anti-narcotics law keeping a provision of death penalty for the patrons of drug traders, drug syndicates and the godfathers.

She was replying to a question from independent lawmaker M Rustom Ali Fazari during the Prime Minister's question-answer session in parliament on 20 June.

The Prime Minister said the current law stipulates death penalty as the maximum punishment for drug criminals. But there is less scope to take punitive actions against those from whom drugs are not recovered. "So, the masterminds of the drug trade escape easily."

She mentioned that the government was formulating a law, titled Narcotics Control Bill, 2018, aiming to take strong punitive measures against the patrons of drug trade, drug syndicates and the godfathers.

Sheikh Hasina said under the new law the narcotics department officials would be empowered to investigate money laundering to bring the

patrons of drug traders or trading organisations under the purview of the law.

The government has a plan to form a separate court to run the proceedings of cases under the Narcotics Control Act, 1990, she said.

The government always maintained a tough stance against drugs and drugs-related

smuggling syndicates to put up a strong resistance against the aggression of drugs in the society.

Replying to another question from Awami League lawmaker Mostafizur Rahman Chowdhury, the Prime Minister expressed optimism that the government would be able to stop drug smuggling through the ongoing drive.



crimes, the Prime Minister said, adding that the law enforcement agencies took steps against drug smugglers, drug traders, druggies and drug

The leader of the House also said 106,536 cases were filed against 132,883 drug dealers in last year.

Sheikh Hasina warns against infighting within party ahead of JS polls

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has issued a note of warning about intra-party feuds. She the grassroots will be held responsible if people do not vote for the party in the next general election.

She also came down hard on a section of nomination seekers, saying some people have already declared themselves as MP candidates of AL and are seen criticising the incumbent lawmakers and even the party while wooing voters.



"I won't accept if anyone maligns the party ... all have to keep this in mind. They will not get the party nomination," she said, adding that candidates will be selected considering their popularity and services to people and grassroots workers.

Saying that the next general election is very much challenging for the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina asked all leaders and activists to work for the candidates to be selected by the party.

She categorically said the Awami League would again form an alliance with like-minded parties in the next election, and asked her party colleagues to get ready for sacrifice.

Sheikh Hasina also expressed her reservation about "infiltrators" and urged the party lawmakers to exercise caution about the opportunists and criminals who have taken refuge in the AL, saying many such elements have joined the party to make a fortune or avert trial.

Sounding a warning to the party MPs, the AL president said, "People are very much conscious ... if anyone commits corruption, people remember it very well. If you take money for any job, people will say at election time, 'We have given you money for our job, why would we vote for you now?'"

After Sheikh Hasina's formal address, a closed-door meeting with the grassroots was held and eight leaders from eight divisions spoke.

Awami League celebrates 69th founding anniversary



The Awami League and its front organisations have celebrated the party's 69th founding anniversary through different programmes in the city and elsewhere in the country.

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the celebration by hoisting the national and party flags and releasing pigeons and balloons in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi Road-32 on 23 June.

She paid tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at the mural of the leader in front of the historic Dhanmondi-32 house.

She also inaugurated the new headquarters of her party on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Budget meant for welfare: Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the budget for the upcoming fiscal 2018-19 was placed keeping the welfare of the people in mind, something the budgets of non-Awami League governments did not consider.

“The people of Bangladesh had forgotten how to dream. Now they have learned to dream as they have confidence in our economic programme to build up their future,” she said.

“The fate of the common people of Bangladesh has really changed as we have taken steps to give the people at all levels a decent and economically prosperous life,” Sheikh Hasina added at the discussion on budget for 2018-2019 fiscal placed in parliament on 27 June.

Reiterating her stance on the cancellation of quota system in public service recruitment, the Prime Minister said a committee led by the cabinet secretary was working on the matter.

"The system has been there for a long time. I've already said there'll be no quota system. This can't be reformed overnight. The committee has been constituted to find a way to scrap the existing system," she said.

However, she suggested continuation of the existing freedom fighter quota in the civil service.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition Raushon Ershad said the freedom fighter quota must be kept intact.

In this regard, she said it was the freedom fighters who liberated the country. "We got the country for their contributions."

PM gives a set of directives to prevent road accidents

In the wake of scores of deaths on roads, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has issued directives, including drive-time limitations on drivers of long-route vehicles, to prevent accidents and casualties.

She gave the directives at the weekly cabinet meeting soon after learning that five people died in a crash in Tangail on 25 June.

Briefing reporters afterwards, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam said the Prime Minister also asked for keeping reserved drivers on long-route vehicles, restricting them to a maximum of five hours drive time at a stretch, training drivers and helpers, installing service centres or restrooms for drivers at regular intervals on highways, preventing jaywalking, making sure everyone follows traffic signals and fastens seatbelts.

“The Prime Minister also asked the home, road transport and bridges, and the shipping ministers to hold meetings regularly regarding the issue,” the Cabinet Secretary added.

However, leaders of transport owners and workers at a programme said there is a crisis of trained drivers in the country.

On the budget, Sheikh Hasina said it was an excellent one about which “no one could raise any question”.

She congratulated Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith for placing budgets for the 10th consecutive year.

The Prime Minister said the size of the budget had grown by seven times over the last 10 years and the government now had acquired the capacity of implementing 90 percent budget with domestic resources.

Terming the projected economic growth rate of 7.78 percent genuine, she said Bangladesh had been maintaining a steady growth rate over the last few years.

Mentioning her government's various successes, the Prime Minister said the country's foreign currency reserve rose to \$33.41 billion in the 2017-18 from only \$3.48 billion in 2006.

She said the per capita income was only \$543 in 2006, which currently stands at \$1,752.

The poverty rate has now decreased to 22 percent from 41.5 percent in the 2005-06, Sheikh Hasina added.

The Prime Minister said the export volume was only \$10.5 billion in 2006, which now stands at \$34.8 billion.



PM accords reception to women cricketers at Gonobhaban

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her hope that the women cricketers of Bangladesh would continue their success in future as they showed excellence in the Asia Cup T-20 tournament. “I hope that you will not go behind the success that you have showed in the Asia Cup and you have to be steadfast determination to win over any race in days ahead,” she told the cricketers in a reception accorded to them on their winning of the title of the Asia Cup T-20 Tournament.

The women’s team defeated six-times champions India by three wickets in the final match held in Kuala Lumpur on June 10, 2018 to claim their maiden title.

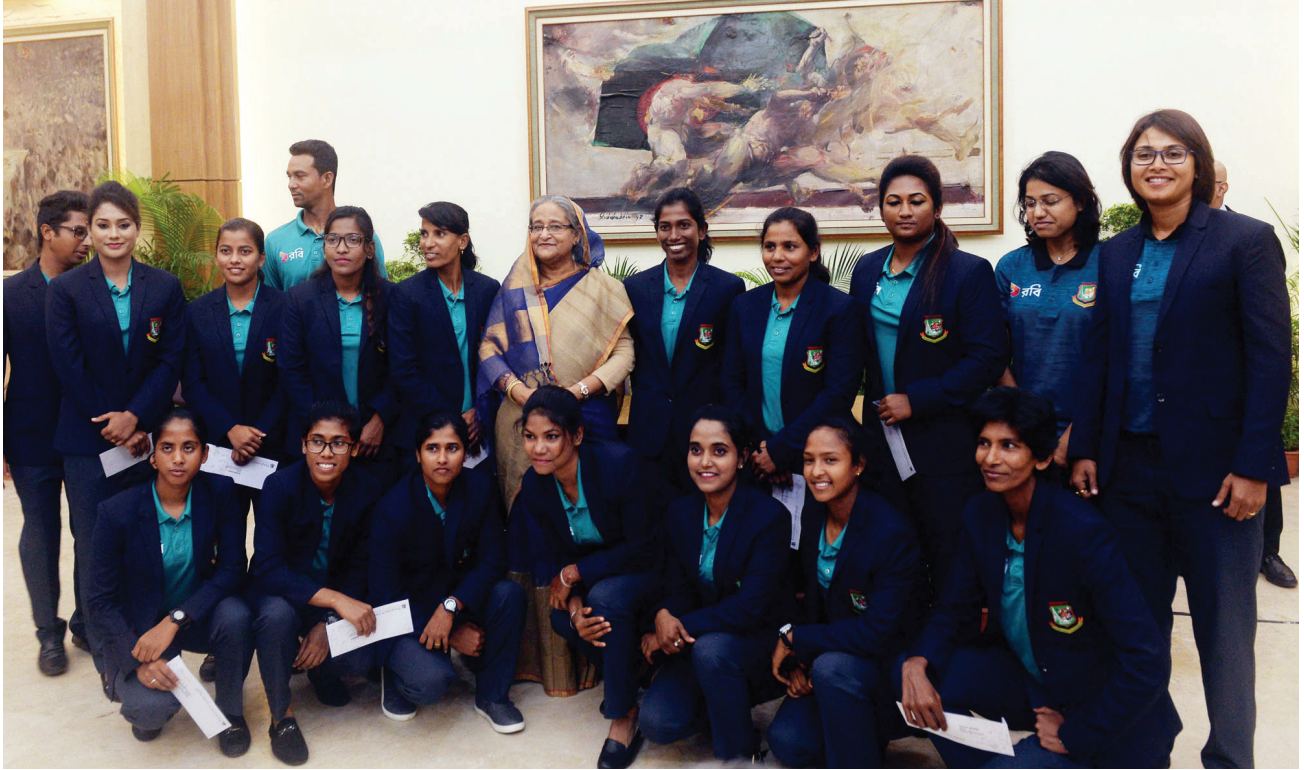
Expressing her firm commitment to remain beside the women cricketers, the Prime Minister said the government has taken plan to introduce cricket tournaments in all districts as like as football.

Hoping that more players would be encouraged by the Asia Cup success of the Bangladesh team, she said players should be enthusiastic in their wins, but should not be disheartened in their defeats.

Sheikh Hasina said her government wants the country's young folks to go ahead successfully in all spectrum including sports and cultural arenas.

State Minister for Sports Biren Sikder, President of Bangladesh Cricket Board Nazmul Hasan Papan and Captain of the cricket team Salma Khatun spoke, among others, on the occasion.

The prime minister gave a reward of Taka two crore to the players, coaches, manager and physiotherapist of the team.



The Prime Minister said once it was a difficult time for women of Bangladesh to take part in sports as they could not play football in Rajshahi in 2004.

After coming to power the present government has introduced gold-cup football tournament in the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bongamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, she said.

Pointing out the steps taken by her government for empowerment of women in different sectors, the Prime Minister said her government had to work hard to promote women in different important positions of the government offices as it was very unusual in the country.

The Prime Minister hoped that girls would be able to do better in the global arena than boys and they have proved in the cricket that they can.

Sheikh Hasina urged the players to continue their hard practice hoping that the success of the women cricketers would encourage others to come to sports.

Chief Editor: Ihsanul Karim, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister
Editor: Md Nazrul Islam, Additional Press Secretary to the Prime Minister
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Phone: 8151309/9133511, Fax: 9113328, E-mail: presssecy@pmo.gov.bd
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