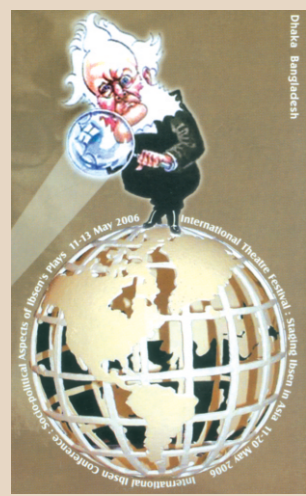


CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival
Title: Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh



Venue: National Theatre Stage

Date: May 18
Play: Bidehee
Troupe: Damama
Time: 5pm

Date: May 18
Play: Bhittiprostor
Troupe: Anya Chetana
Time: 7:15 pm

Date: May 19
Play: Karigor
Troupe: Kanthoshilon
Time: 5pm

Date: May 19
Play: Goppo Coppe Gopangamdas
Troupe: National School of Drama Repertory
Time: 7:15 pm

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage
All shows at this venue at 5pm

Art Exhibition



Title: Dynamic 5
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art
Date: May 17-23
Time: 11am-6pm

Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery
Date: May 5-18
Time: 11am-8pm

Title: Exhibition of Ibsen Commemoration 2006
Organiser: Centre for Asian Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Norwegian Embassy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 10-20
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-7pm

9th Calligraphy Exhibition 2006

Venue: National Museum gallery
Date: May 6-22
Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

Fakir Alamgir's 40 years in music

Organiser: Wrishez Shilpi Ghoshthi
Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University
Date: May 19 at 6:30pm

Musical tribute to a living legend -- Shah Abdul Karim

KARIM WAHEED

THE 90-year old 'Baul' Shah Abdul Karim has written and composed about 1500 songs. Six books of his songs -- *Aftab Sangeet, Gano Sangeet, Kalnir Dheu, Dholmela, Bhatir Chithi* and *Kalnir Kooly* -- have been published. Bangla Academy has translated 10 of his songs in English and he has been honoured with the prestigious national award -- *Ekushey Padak* in 2001.

Shah Abdul Karim's songs such as *Maya lagaisey, Ami koolhara kolonkini* and *Gari choleya na* have attained popularity among music fans of this generation. Quite a few contemporary artists and musicians have shot to fame rendering Abdul Karim's songs -- often re-arranged or remixed. His songs, following the trend of Sufism, stand out for their extraordinary metaphors, message of secularism and depiction of divine love in simple words; a reason why his music has a mass appeal.

As a tribute to the living legend, Sound Machine has released an album titled *Jibonto Kingbondoti: Baul Shah Abdul Karim*. The mixed album features renditions of Abdul Karim's familiar songs by celebrated as well as emerging artists -- Bangla, Momotaz, Dalchhut, Maqsud, Dilruba Khan, Shandipon, Ajob, Oojaan, The London Underground and others.

The opening song *Agey ki shundor din kaitaitham*, re-arranged and performed by



Cover jacket of the album

Oojaan gives the album a luke-warm start. This well-known song, addressing the once thriving harmony among Muslims and Hindus in the rural areas, is not slow paced but her performance in this song should be enough to demonstrate that given opportunities, she can work wonders. Her not so stereotypically melodious, yet powerful voice questions the divine will in the song.

The next song, *Ami tomar kaul-er-gari* however, sweeps one away. The song, re-arranged by Bappa Mazumdar and rendered by

Momotaz, follows the genre of *Dehotatwa*, a sect of *Murshidee*. Much has been said about Momotaz and her "questionable" songs that have fetched her mass popularity but her performance in this song should be enough to demonstrate that given opportunities, she can work wonders. Her not so stereotypically melodious, yet powerful voice questions the divine will in the song.

Pradeep Kumar and The London Underground deliver a very appealing and hum-able version of *Kano piritee barailarey bondhu*. Pradeep's skillful vocals epitomise the eternal yearning for the beloved. The fusion number aptly uses several sounds effects and *alaap*.

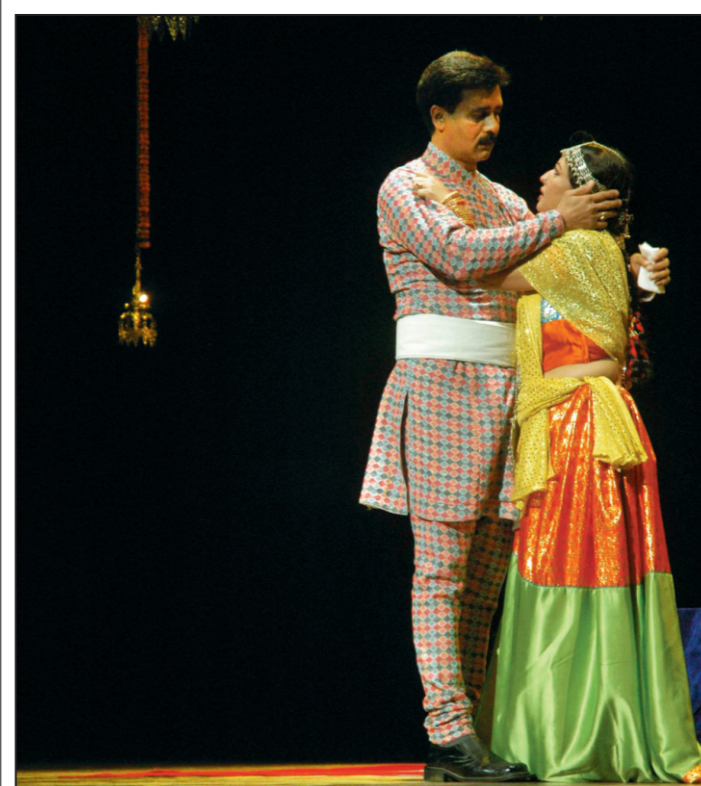
Bangla performs *Shokhi kunjo shajao*. Anusheh's inimitable style and flawless rendition is nothing new to the listeners; only one predicament -- the number sounds more like the songs Bangla usually performs and less like a Shah Abdul Karim song.

Manush hoye talaash korley, re-arranged and rendered by Ajob highlights spirituality. Ajob uses the serene style of Lalon songs, which makes the song interesting and easy to the ear.

Dilruba Khan renders *Ailaye na*. The tune of the song sounds somewhat similar to another number in the album -- *Bashonto batashey*, rendered by Shandipon. Dilruba's breathy vocals and emotive expressions make her version memorable.

The album has 12 tracks in total and can be a treat for music aficionados of all cults. Different artists, groups and musicians add their unique touch to the collection. Kudos to Sound Machine for putting together a quality production. Proceeds from the sales of the album will go to Shah Abdul Karim, who is suffering from age-related ailments.

Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh Putliki Ghar: Tale of a Nepalese 'Nora'



A scene from Putliki Ghar

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

In a male dominated society, women are often objectified. Many women nowadays take the less beaten path and strive to carve a firm niche for themselves in society. Several literary works effectively capture a woman's metamorphosis from a domestic drudge to an emancipated person. One such work is Ibsen's *A Doll's House* where the heroine Nora, tired of an oppressive life, leaves her husband. Recently a Nepalese adaptation of the play, titled *Putliki Ghar* zeroed into Nora Karki's (Nisha Sharma Pokharel) departure from her marital home.

The play was staged by the Nepalese troupe Aarohan at the

National Theatre Stage on May 16. With wonderful performances and unique design, *Putlika Ghar* played to an enthusiastic audience. The show was a part of the ongoing theatre festival, titled 'Staging Ibsen in Asia', a part of the Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh.

Nisha Sharma Pokharel was superb as Nora, who demonstrates the internal conflicts of a woman divided between a ruthless femininity and seductive wiles on one hand, and a need to perform the role of a traditional wife on the other.

Initially she appears almost shallow but becomes three-dimensional -- an agitated, anxious

temptress who has a profound effect on everyone who knows her. Though the dialogue is Nepalese, her eyes, gestures, giggles, sulks, voice modulation and body movement reflect a universal language which is understandable to everyone. Whatever the aesthetic sentiment is -- wrath, anger, anxiety, love, entertainment and others -- Nisha captured all these emotions effectively.

Her sensitive rendering of Nora struck a responsive chord in the audience, particularly the sequence when Shekhor Chapagain (who performed in the role of Hemanta, Nora's husband) accuses her of ruining his happiness. Nisha is also comfortable with her other persona -- as a bold and courageous woman who leaves behind her husband in a quest for freedom and equality.

Shekhor Chapagain as Hemantha, the single-minded ambitious Nora's adoring husband, who is a malignant social climber and hubris-afflicted sexist, was a little faded in comparison to the bold performance of Nisha.

Putliki Ghar had a superb supporting cast, including Bashanta Bhatta as Kedar. This character is usually perceived as a socially inept blackmailer, demanding a payoff and a payoff after what Nora did for love. Others who gave a commendable performance were Anju Deuja as Lina, Nora's friend who is a widow, and Rajkumar Pudasaini as Dr Rana, the dependable friend who confesses his love for Nora when he reveals that he is dying.

Translator-director-designer Sunil Pokharel's endeavour is noteworthy. The juxtaposition of his directorial composition, music, simple but aesthetically rich set design and use of effective light made the play unique. The innovative design is evident in the scene depicting Nora's voyage to freedom through a bright beam of light.

Critics pan Da Vinci Code

CNN, Cannes

A mixture of fiction, fact and faith, *The Da Vinci Code* has made its worldwide film debut, opening the Cannes Film Festival -- but while the book was a mega-selling hit, the critics largely panned the cinematic version.

The highly anticipated drama was screened last Tuesday night at the 59th Cannes Film Festival for hundreds of journalists from around the world.

The opening comes as anger over the film escalates with Christian groups from South Korea, Thailand, Greece and India planning boycotts, a hunger strike and other attempts to block or shorten screenings.

Despite requests from Opus Dei, a small but influential group within the Catholic Church, there was no

disclaimer added to the beginning of the movie stating the film is a work of fiction.

After making its print debut in 2003, *The Da Vinci Code* has since sold more than 60.5 million copies and has been translated into 44 languages.

The movie did receive some lukewarm praise, but the majority of the response was highly critical.

The Da Vinci Code storyline proposes Mary Magdalene and Jesus were married, had a child, and that a powerful organisation linked to the Church conspired to commit murder to keep it secret.

"This book is not anti-anything," author of the book *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown writes on his website. "It's a novel. I wrote this story in an effort to explore certain aspects of Christian history that interest me."

Simon Cowell makes his 'Idol' prediction

AP, New York

Simon Cowell predicts that the gray-haired Taylor Hicks will be the next "American Idol."

"I'm going to say he's the favorite, but what do I know?" Cowell told Jay Leno on NBC's *Tonight Show* last Monday.

Cowell had earlier predicted that rocker Chris Daughtry, who was bootied off "Idol" in an upset last week, would be among the show's three remaining finalists.

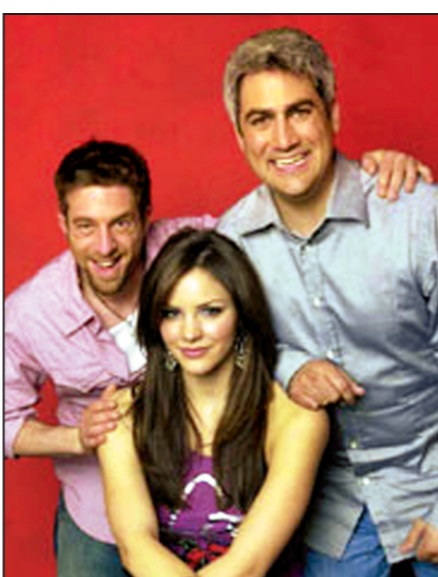
Instead, along with the 29-year-old Hicks, an Alabama native, the remaining contestants on the Fox program are sultry crooner Katharine McPhee and Elliot Yamin.

Cowell expects Yamin to be the next to go, resulting in a Hicks-McPhee finale on May 23-24. Though Cowell thought McPhee, 21, should have been voted off last week, he thinks she'll last one more round.

"Based on last week, absolutely she should have gone," said Cowell. "But, you know, she's got a fighting chance. I think she'll make the final, and I'll tell you why: because I'm choosing one of her songs this week."

The 27-year-old Yamin might not have Cowell's vote, but he has a fan in judge Paula Abdul.

Last week, Abdul told *Teen People* magazine, "I am going to be honest with you -- I want Elliot to win."



(L-R) Elliot Yamin, Katharine McPhee and Taylor Hicks



Tom Hanks and co-actor in The Da Vinci Code

Ichchha Mrityu: A translation of Rosmersholm

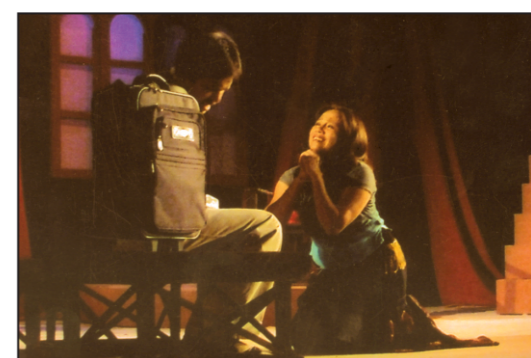
The freethinker, critic and novelist Rebecca West is the passionate strong-willed leading lady of Henrik Ibsen's *Rosmersholm*. Following her fortunes after a brief and unsuccessful career on stage, the play was the last of his dramatic explorations of social themes and the first of the psychologically grounded plays that earned him the tag of 'The Freud of the theatre'. This sobriquet is apt when one considers that psychologists have had a field day using Ibsen's characters to propound their theories of human behavior.

Ibsen's Death Centenary Celebration Committee (IDCCC), Chittagong, staged *Ichchha Mrityu*, a translation of *Rosmersholm*, at the Experimental Theatre Stage on May 17.

Rebecca came to the family estate after the death of her guardian as a combination housekeeper and companion to John Rosmer's neurotic wife Beata. She took charge of Rosmersholm's management and supported Rosmer's resignation from his post as pastor (after he lost his faith). In the year and a half since Beata threw herself off a bridge, Rebecca has strengthened her position as John's soulmate in a partnership dedicated to working for the burgeoning movement for a freer, more enabling society. The play features the smart women-foolish choices syndrome, as well as self-deception, guilt and self-righteous defenders of traditional values.

As the director of the play, Kuntal Barua's approach is realistic and in most of his composition, the conflicts are not adequately created. That is why the audience missed the taste of Ibsen's play.

Pijush Dastidar has created a realistic ambience of a



A scene from the play Ichchha Mrityu

drawing room on the stage.

Nasirul Haque Khokon's approach to the play is different from his usual style. In the play he has basically emphasised on 'light-shadow' effect. And there are no light effects on the cyclorama and not much use of symbolic colour effects, which are evident in his other designs.

Though Shubhra Biswas as Rebecca at the initial stage was not in peak form, she gave a commendable performance in the scene when she confessed her passion for John and considered all her previous activities as crimes. The other actors need to refine their acting skills.

BY ERSHAD KAMOL

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

* News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News (English) (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV

09:05 Musical Programme
09:25 *Sashwato Jibon*
09:35 Open University
10:00 Satellite Broadcast
12:15 *Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke*
12:30 *Shawstho Tatthya*
02:15 *Tatthyo O Projukti*
04:00 *Moner Kotha*
04:30 Campus
05:05 Cartoon
05:30 Musical Programme
06:10 *Shapto Dingga*
06:35 *Jiboner Alo*
07:30 *Agley Cholar Pathey*
08:35 *Protidin Bangladesh*
08:45 *Weekly Drama*
10:25 *Teknar Thekey Tetulia*
10:30 *Apar Shawsthya (Live)*

ATN

08:45 *Mukto Shanglap*
09:15 Drama Serial: *Andharer Jatri*
10:30 *Anoydrishti*
11:05 *ATN Taroka*
12:20 Bangla Feature Film
03:45 *ATN Rannagar*
04:20 *Shundor Jiboner Jonyo*
04:45 *Isphani Pure Snax Quiz Time*
05:10 *Amader Joto Kotha*
05:45 *Islami Sawaal O Jobab (Live)*
06:20 *Rock Link*
08:30 Drama Serial:

09:00 *Ferari Siren*
Drama Serial: *Brotto*
09:30 *Hortoner Bibi*
10:35 *Char Deyalar Kabayo*
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 *Grameen Phone Tritiyoumatra*
12:30 *Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarokakothon*
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan Bangladesh*
01:30 Public Reaction
02:30 *Jamuna Bank Asian Hockey Tournament 2006*
03:05 *Hridaye Mati O Manusher Daak*
04:05 Special Programme
05:30 X-Music
06:00 *Musik Plus*
06:30 *Amar Chhobi*
07:50 Drama Serial: *Akashi Ronger Rumal*
08:20 Drama Serial: *Shutoy Badha Projapoti*
09:35 Drama Serial: *Sompurno Rongine*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Bhalobashay Boshobash*
09:10 *Ajker Shokal Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*
09:30 *Ki Kotha Tahar Shatheey*
10:05 *Chalochchitro Kotha*
11:30 Bangla Feature Film
01:05 *Muktangan*
02:35 Drama Serial: *Labonyoprobha*
03:15 Drama Serial: *Ronger*

PICK OF THE DAY

Kachher Manush
On ntv at 08:25pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Subarna, Humayun Faridee, Alamgir

Hortoner Bibi
On ATN Bangla at 9:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shahed, Mim

04:25 *Manush*
05:15 *Shapla Kuri*
05:20 *Dindarpan*
06:20 *Smritir Janalay*
06:50 *Shubho Shondhya*
08:25 *Right Click*
09:10 *Ha Du Du*
09:30 *Itihasheer Path Dhore*
10:00 *Shudhu Gaan*
10:30 *Deshor Pathoy*
11:25 *Ichhey Ghuri*
12:00 *Get Set Fit*
01:00 *Shambhabonar Bangladesh*
02:00 *Kachher Manush*
03:00 *Alochon*
03:30 *Top News*
04:00 *Shombhabonar Bangladesh*
05:00 *Concert*
05:30 *Kanoney Kushum Koli*
06:00 *The One*
06:30 *Expressions*
08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*
10:00 *Cartoon*
10:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
01:30 *Olpo Sholpo Golpo*

CHANNEL 1
08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*
10:00 *Cartoon*
10:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
01:30 *Olpo Sholpo Golpo*

BANGLAVISIO N
02:00 *Sports Star*
03:00 *Concert*
03:30 *Drama Serial: Rahim Badsha*
04:00 *Drama Serial: Rodey Jabo*
04:30 *Ha Du Du*
06:00 *Itihasheer Path Dhore*
06:30 *Top News*
07:00 *Shombhabonar Bangladesh*
08:15 *Concert*
09:00 *Drama Serial: Kanoney Kushum Koli*
09:30 *The One*
11:00 *Expressions*

03:10 *Neighbor*
05:00 *Beautiful Creatures*
05:00 *Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unf*
07:10 *Stuck On You*
09:30 *Woman On Top*
11:25 *Dr. Dolittle (Mega*
STAR WORLD
08:00 *Kardio Knockout*
08:30 *Asian X-Games Qualifiers*
09:00 *Football Focus*
10:00 *Fifa World Cup Preview*
10:30 *Hitz*
11:00 *Team India Programming*
12:30 *Champions Tour Golf*
03:30 *Uefa Champions League*
05:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
06:30 *Asian X-Games Qualifiers*
07:30 *Born To Play: Masters Of Football*
08:30 *Sportscenter*
09:00 *Sportscenter*
09:30 *Motorsport Asia*
10:00 *Nba Action*
10:30 *Fifa World Cup Programming*
11:30 *Fifa World Cup Programming*
DISCOVERY
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*
10:30 *On The Run*
11:30 *Junkyard Wars*
12:00 *Amazing Baby*
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*
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09:30 *I Shouldn't Be Alive*
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11:30 *Junkyard Wars*
12:00 *Amazing Baby*

07:00 *African Adventures*
07:30 *Wild Discovery*
08:30 *Story Of Evolution*
09:30 *Wild Asia*
10:30 *Mean Machines*
11:00 *One Step Beyond*
11:30 *Crime Night*
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:00 *Telebrands*
08:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
08:45 *Nat Geo Junior*
09:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
09:30 *Wildlife Diary*
10:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
10:30 *Nat Geo Reveals*
11:30 *Nat Geo Reveals*
12:30 *Nat Geo Reveals*
01:30 *Lost Film of Dian Fossey*
02:30 *Nat Geo Investigates*
03:30 *Nat Geo Wild*
04:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
04:45 *Nat Geo Junior*
05:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
06:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
06:30 *Top Cat*
07:30 *Storm Stories*
08:00 *Storm Stories*
08:30 *Sunday Night Specials*
10:30 *Nat Geo Investigates*
11:30 *Night On The Wild*
08:30 *Kardio Knockout*
08:30 *Asian X-Games Qualifiers*
09:00 *Football Focus*
10:00 *Fifa World Cup Preview*
10:30 *Hitz*
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STAR SPORTS
08:30 *Tna Impact*
09:30 *Cricket Classics*
10:30 *Guinness Premiership*
12:30 *Spanish Football League*
01:30 *Max Power*
02:30 *Samsung Nations Cup*
03:30 *laaf Track & Field Highlight Pro*
04:30 *Tna Xplosion*
05:30 *Cricket Classics*
06:30 *Tna Xplosion*
07:30 *Super Centuries*
08:00 *Cricket Classics*
08:30 *Australia Tour Of South Africa*
10:00 *Fifa World Cup Preview*
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