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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Samad Azad hospitalised

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Samad Azad was admitted to the Suhrawardi Hospital with heart ailment yesterday at 4 pm. He is under treatment of Prof Jalal at the intensive care unit of the hospital, party sources said, reports UNB.

### Gunbattle leaves 4 dead in Algiers

ALGERS, July 12: A gunbattle near the Italian Embassy left four people dead Tuesday, the latest in a wave of attacks by Muslim fundamentalists insurgents turning up the heat on foreigners to leave the country, reports AP.

## Manmohan Singh meets Prime Minister

## Delhi urged to take sincere steps for solving water issue

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said resolving the Farakka problem is of utmost importance for the people of Bangladesh as it has the worst effect on the country's agriculture, economy and environment, reports UNB.

"We are looking forward to sincerity of the Indian government in giving us due share of the Ganges water," Begum Zia told Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh when he called on her at the PM office yesterday afternoon.

"I hope India will realise the situation and bring about a speedy solution of the long-standing issue," she added.

Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao assured Begum

Zia of taking personal initiative to solve the Farakka problem as early as possible when she visited New Delhi in May 1992.

The Indian Finance Minister assured a solution of the Farakka problem very soon and informed Begum Zia that his Prime Minister had shown keen interest in resolving the issue.

"I was asked by my Prime Minister to convey to you his sincere assurance of resolving the outstanding issues between the two countries," Singh told Begum Zia while handing her over a message from Narasimha Rao.

Referring to other bilateral issues, Begum Zia said it is

very important to reduce the existing trade gap between Bangladesh and India.

Responding, Manmohan Singh said India is very serious and sincere to remove the trade imbalance in a friendly manner.

Singh, regarded as an outstanding economic reformist of India, said, "We are ready to take any step to remove the trade imbalance and intensify joint economic efforts for improving the lot of the people of the two countries."

The Indian Finance Minister, who led his country's delegation in the two-day conference of SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers which concluded here Monday, lauded

Begum Zia's personal initiative in holding the meeting.

He informed Begum Zia that it had been a very fruitful exchange of ideas over the fight against the common enemy — poverty — in the region.

Manmohan Singh commended the "Dal Bhat" approach of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in alleviating poverty in the country and said India would try to follow similar concept to eradicate poverty.

Singh recalled the role of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in introducing the concept of SAARC aimed at untidely alleviating the sufferings of the people of the region and mentioned the important

### Saifur's call to cut duty on export items

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged India to rationalise and reduce duty structure for Bangladesh exportable commodities in order to harmonise the huge trade imbalance between the two countries, reports BSS.

Saifur made this call when the visiting Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh called on him at his secretariat office.

The Finance Minister referred to the liberalised trade policies and opening up the local market for foreign consumer goods in Bangladesh and said: "All we expect that our business community and producers get some treatment in India and other countries."

Regarding the formation of the South Asian Preferential

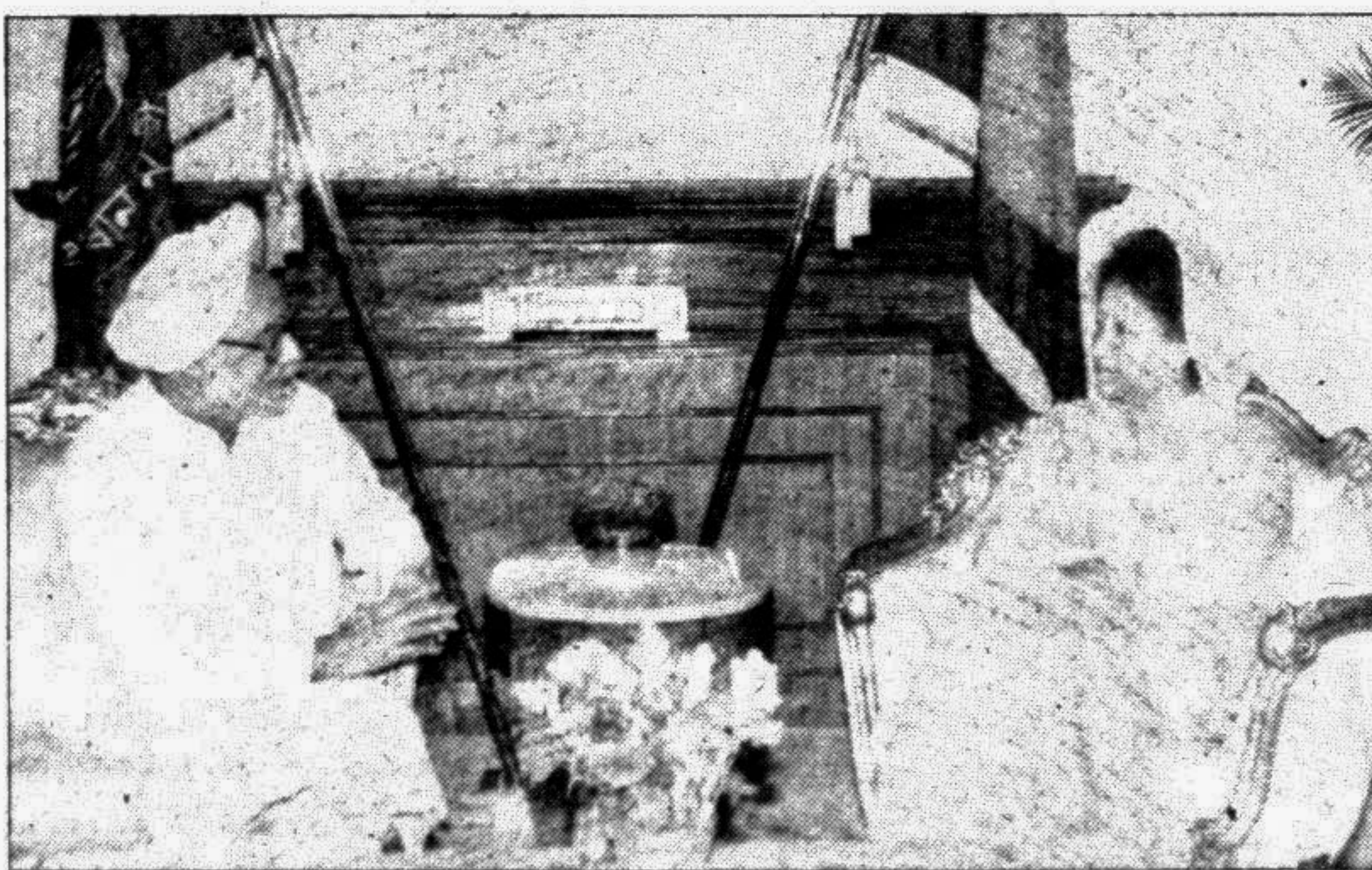
### Singh praises introduction of VAT

Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh yesterday praised the introduction of value added tax (VAT) in Bangladesh and indicated that his country would also go for the tax mode in near future, reports UNB.

Singh told a discussion on "Progress of Economic Reforms in India" here that already they had an Indian-style of value added tax, and were now considering introduction of VAT within next two to three years.

The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), organised the discussion at its conference room which was attended by ministers, politicians, economists, diplomats, officials, researchers and representatives of business community and NGOs.

Finance Minister M Saifur



Indian Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

## Indian Finance Minister tells FBCCI Dialogue on cooperation and constraints is necessary

By Staff Correspondent

Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said a new pattern of economic relations between India and Bangladesh needed to be developed soon in the interest of both the countries.

"Our common future lies in increased cooperation among ourselves," he said and added that India would not be benefited through subordination of Bangladesh interest.

Manmohan Singh was addressing a meeting organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Hotel Sonargon.

The Indian Finance Minister said a dialogue should start immediately between the two countries for identifying the

fields of cooperation as well as removing the constraints.

He said Bangladesh's trade deficit with India can be reduced by initiating bilateral talks.

There are certain fields of cooperation from which both the countries can be benefited, he said, referring to the Indian proposal for transit facility through Bangladesh for the north-eastern provinces of India.

The Indian minister said both the railway and the private sector transport agencies in Bangladesh would be benefited if transit facility was given to India's north-eastern provinces. The Chittagong seaport would also gain momentum from increased trade ac-

tivities, he added.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and Industries Minister M Zahiruddin Khan attended the meeting, while a number of businessmen and economists took part in the discussion with FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman in chair.

Responding to allegations of high tariff rate on Bangladeshi products, Manmohan Singh said if cooperation between the two countries continued, Indian tariff structure would ultimately go in favour of the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs. The Indian market would virtually be open for Bangladesh products through implementation of the South Asian Pre-

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## WC semis today

Sports Reporter

Italy and favourites Brazil will both aim to take another step towards a record fourth World Cup title in tonight's semifinals in the United States.

While Italy, champions in 1982, take on giant killers Bulgaria in the first semifinal at the Giants Stadium in New York, Brazil, the lone South



American side to reach this year's quarter-finals and who last won the trophy in 1970, will meet Sweden in a repeat of their first round Group B tie at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Los Angeles.

BTV will show both matches live, the first kicking off at 02:00 am tonight and the other at 05:30 Thursday morning.

Meanwhile, agency reports said the mood in the camps of all four semifinalists was upbeat, with players and officials of every team believing they can win to reach next Sunday's final at the Rose Bowl.

Agencies add: Italy aim to learn from Germany's mistakes as they prepare for their match against surprise team Bulgaria.

Germany and Italy are similar in that they are

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## FICCI resents NBR move against Ciba-Geigy

Star Report

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently ordered freezing of the bank accounts of a top multinational company and withdrew an amount of Tk 3.2 crore against a corporate income tax claim of Tk 6.39 crore, disputed by the company, according to information received yesterday.

On June 4, the Deputy Commissioner of Taxes (DCT) Circle-2, Dhaka, notified the bankers of Ciba-Geigy (Bangladesh) Ltd to freeze all bank accounts of the company and transfer any credit balance and deposits to the government's account upto an amount of Tk 6.39,32,110 against a tax claim for three assessment years between 1988-89, while an appeal against the claim remained

pending with the Taxes Appellate Tribunal.

Ciba-Geigy subsequently filed a suit seeking an injunction against the DCT notification with the 3rd Sub-Judge's Court, Dhaka, which was later shifted to the 5th Sub-Judge's Court.

After hearing the case on June 22, the court refused to issue an injunction citing jurisdictional reasons. The company then filed an appeal with the High Court and the hearing was set for July 4.

But on July 2, the tax authorities asked one of Ciba-Geigy's bankers to deposit Tk 3.2 crore, from the company account, with the national exchequer and immediately withdrew the earlier notification.

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## Seized equipment of Sea Resources being damaged

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 12: Most of the navigational equipment seized by police from Sea Resources Ltd, a leading fishing company, are reportedly being damaged in Customs godowns due to lack of proper care.

Police removed the equipment worth about Tk two crore to Customs godown on May 18 and the goods already damaged there included turbo charger, zinc anode, weight roller, kupling traside pump, anticorrosive zinc plate bearing, various types of meters and needles etc, sources said.

Besides, pilferage of many other seized goods from the godown has been alleged, according to sources.

Meanwhile, all the 14 trawlers of Sea Resources Ltd, a joint venture of Bangladesh and Thailand, remained inoperative due to lack of navigational equipment, company officials said.

Consequently, supply of about 800 metric tons of sea fish to the internal markets stopped causing a price hike, they said. Besides, it had affected the country's shrimp

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### WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS ON BTV THURSDAY

Bulgaria vs Italy at 02:00 (BST)  
Sweden vs Brazil at 05:30 (BST)

### JEC meet begins Agreed minutes with Pakistan tomorrow

A three-day meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) began in Dhaka yesterday morning, reports UNB.

A Joint Working Group was constituted at the opening session to formulate draft agreed minutes on expansion of bilateral cooperation in various sectors. The agreed-minute is expected to be signed at the concluding session tomorrow. The Working Group will also identify new areas of cooperation.

Advisor to Pakistan Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs V A Jaffrey, who

### India, Pakistan expel each other's diplomats

NEW DELHI, July 12: India and Pakistan issued expulsion orders Tuesday against diplomats from each other's embassies, accusing them of receiving classified documents, reports AP.

It was the first case in more than a year of tit-for-tat expulsions and marked a continuing decline in relations between two countries that are virtually in a state of low-level war.

Indian federal agents arrested an official of Pakistan's high commission Monday in a fashionable shopping district after he had taken 117 pages of documents from an unidentified local contact, who fled, police said.

The Pakistan High Commission complained that Mohammad Afzal Bhatti was shoved into a car and beaten.

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### JP announces agitation programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party yesterday announced a month-long agitation programme to press home its demands for a caretaker government and release of the party chief Ershad.

Announcing that the programme will start from July 21, the party's acting chief, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, said the people would not leave the streets unless their demands were accepted.

Chaired by the city unit chief, Colonel (Retd) M A Malek, the meeting at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram

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## A sickening stench of garbage

By Masud Hasan Khan



Stench, stench and stench — the lives of thousands of people living in Sayedabad, Gopibagh, Kamalapur, Mugdipara and Motijheel government staff quarters in the capital have become unbearable because of stench spread from a garbage dump yard at Kamalapur.

Many people in these areas are falling sick, mainly due to air pollution and the sickening smell from the putrid garbage being dumped and left open by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) cleaning trucks.

Fever, headache, nausea and different air-borne diseases have become rampant in the neighbourhood, local people alleged, spread by the flies and different pests from the yard located beside the Biswa Road at Kamalapur.

DCC officials said they could do little for the alleviation of the sufferings of the people until the yard was filled up with garbage.

Local people said the yard will be used as a playground. The DCC is not following the normal filling rules of dumping one layer of soil or sand on one layer of garbage, many people alleged.

Mountains of garbage rot in the regular heat and rains in the open air dump yard at Kamalapur where DCC dred-

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## বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন

### অবগতির জন্য নোটিশ

- ১.০ পুরাতন মেমো বইয়ের বদলে জোন ভিত্তিক নির্দিষ্ট রংয়ের নতুন বইয়ে জুলাই '৯৪ হতে ঋণের মাসিক কিস্তি জমা দেয়ার জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেয়া হয়েছিল। কিন্তু প্রেস থেকে যথাসময়ে নতুন মেমো বই না পাওয়ার কারণে কর্পোরেশন সকল এহীতাপণকে বই সরবরাহ করতে পারছে না বলে দুঃখিত। তবে গ্রাহকদের অসুবিধা দূরীকরণের জন্য এই মর্মে সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হয়েছে যে আগামী সেপ্টেম্বর '৯৪ মাস পর্যন্ত পুরাতন মেমো বইতে শুধুমাত্র জোন নম্বর (নতুন) উল্লেখ করে সোনালী ব্যাংকের নির্ধারিত যে কোন শাখায় কিস্তি জমা দেয়া যাবে। ব্যাংক শাখাসমূহে এ মর্মে উপদেশ পাঠানো হয়েছে।
- ২.০ কর্পোরেশন আরো জানাচ্ছে যে, এপ্রিল '৯৪ মাস পর্যন্ত যারা রিসিডিউলিং-এর (৪টি কিস্তি জমা করে) সমাপ্তি দাখিল করেছেন কিন্তু এখনো পর্যন্ত উপদেশপত্র পান নি (ডাক বিভাগ বা ঠিকানা পরিবর্তনের কারণে) তাদেরকে সমাপ্তি জোনের জোনাল প্রধানের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।
- ২.১ যে ৩ জুন '৯৪ মাসে যারা (৪টি কিস্তি জমা করে) রিসিডিউলিং এর জন্য সমাপ্তি দাখিল করেছেন, তাদের উপদেশপত্র পর্যালোচনা পাঠানো হচ্ছে। আগস্ট '৯৪ মাস পর্যন্ত উপদেশপত্র না পেলে সমাপ্তি জোনাল প্রধানের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া হল।
- ৩.০ কর্পোরেশন ইতিমধ্যে ঋণের সুদের হার কমিয়েছে। খেলাপী এহীতাপণকে হ্রাসকৃত সুদের হারের সুবিধা দেয়া হবে না। সুতরাং হ্রাসকৃত হারের সুবিধা পেতে চাইলে হিসাব নিয়মিত করুন (রিসিডিউলিং সুবিধা গ্রহণ করে অথবা পুরো বকেয়া পরিশোধ করে)।
- ৪.০ ইতিমধ্যে ঘোষিত বিভিন্ন ইনসেনসিট সুবিধা এবং রিবেট সুবিধা বলবৎ আছে। নিয়মিত কিস্তি পরিশোধ করলে ঘোষিত সুবিধা পাওয়া যাবে।

সময়মত কিস্তি পরিশোধ করে নিজে লাভবান হোন  
অপরকেও ঋণ পাবার সুযোগ দিন

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### Inaugural function of Shubha Kraiya of Green Jute

"Shubha Kraiya" function of Green Jute will be held at the compound of Raipura R. K. R. M High School in the District of Narshingdi on Thursday, the 14th of July, 1994 (30th Ashar 1401)

Hon'ble State Minister for Planning,  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
**Dr. A. Mayeen Khan MP**  
has kindly consented to grace the occasion as Chief Guest and  
**inaugurate the function.**

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