

## National

## Fire arms recovered

COX'S BAZAR, Jan 8: Law-enforcing agencies hauled up 43 firearms from Mo-heshkhali Island yesterday as miscreants abandoned the weapons and went into hiding to escape the current hunt, reports UNB.

District police control room sources said, 16 country-made single-barrel guns, 25 sawed-off rifles and two country-made rifles were netted from Boro Mo-heshkhali, Natun Bazar, Kuthum, Hoyanak Bazar and Gorokhata jetty.

Naval and police personnel conducted a combined drive early morning in the Bay Island, known as a den of pirates.

During the drive, part of the nationwide combing operation for recovering illegal arms ahead of national elections, the law-enforcing agencies also arrested 26 people from seven thanas of the district on various charges during last 24 hours till 8 am yesterday.

Another report adds: Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) in 18 days of its arms-recovery drive seized 44 firearms and huge bombs from the violence-prone city.

In their special operation till 11 am yesterday, KMP men also rounded up 232 people for their alleged involvement in various crimes.

The recovered firearms are sawed-off rifle-1, rifle-3, revolver-3, pistol-3, pipegun-32 and shotgun gun-2.

Some 59 handmade bombs, 566 chocolate bombs, 20 cigarette bombs, four ram-daos, two Chinese axes and two Gupit's were also seized, said police.

The KMP began its arms-recovery drive on December 21 at the Election Commission's directive to clean up the way of national elections.

## Heroin recovered, one held in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Jan 8: Police arrested a young man with 350 grams heroin worth of Tk 35 lakh from a passenger bus at Daulatdia launch ghat on Saturday last, reports UNB.

A police contingent, led by Police Superintendent Mohammad Muzibul Haq, raided the Dhaka-bound bus and recovered the heroin from the passenger Abdul Jabbar, 26, of Birampur village of Jessore district.

Jabbar was sent to jail jail. A case has been registered with the police. Further investigation is on.

## Workshop on "Social Movement for Development of Sanitation" held

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Jan 8: A

day long workshop on "Social

movement for the development

of sanitation" was held

at local district council audi-

torium for local correspon-

dents recently.

Public Health Engineering

Department and UNICEF

jointly patronised the work-

shop while Bangladesh Sang-

bad Sangstha (BSS), Brahm-

anbaria district unit organ-

ised the programme.

BSS, Brahmanbaria dis-

trict unit President Muham-

mad Arzoo presided over the

workshop while Pourashava

Chairman Al Mamunur Sarker

inaugurated the workshop as

a chief guest.

Md Rafiqul Islam, Execu-

tive Engineer of the district

Public Health Engineering

Department conducted a

training and discussion pro-

gramme on sanitation in the

workshop as a special guest.

The workshop was ad-

dressed among others by

Brahmanbaria Press Club

President Muhammad Musa,

Nepal Chandra Shah and Ka-

mkha Ranzon Ghos, while

35 local reporters were pre-

sented in the workshop.

## Carpeting works on Barisal-Pirojpur road undertaken

PATUAKHALI, Jan 8: Barisal Road Division has un-

dertaken a scheme for car-

peting certain portion of

Barisal-Pirojpur road, reports

UNB.

According to Executive

Engineer of RHD, Tk

25,14,502 has been allotted

for the carpeting of three km

portion of the road. The work

will begin soon and is ex-

pected to be completed by

June next.

Another report says: Heavy

foggy climate has been dis-

rupting the waterways be-

tween the greater Patuakhali

and Dhaka for the last few

weeks. All river crafts on

the route are to anchor for hours

in several places.

Over 70 motor vessels

carrying passengers and

cargo from different routes of

Barisal, Barguna, Bhola, Piro-

jpur, Jhalakathi and Patu-

akhali have been facing ob-

struction due to poor visibil-

ity caused by the dense fog.

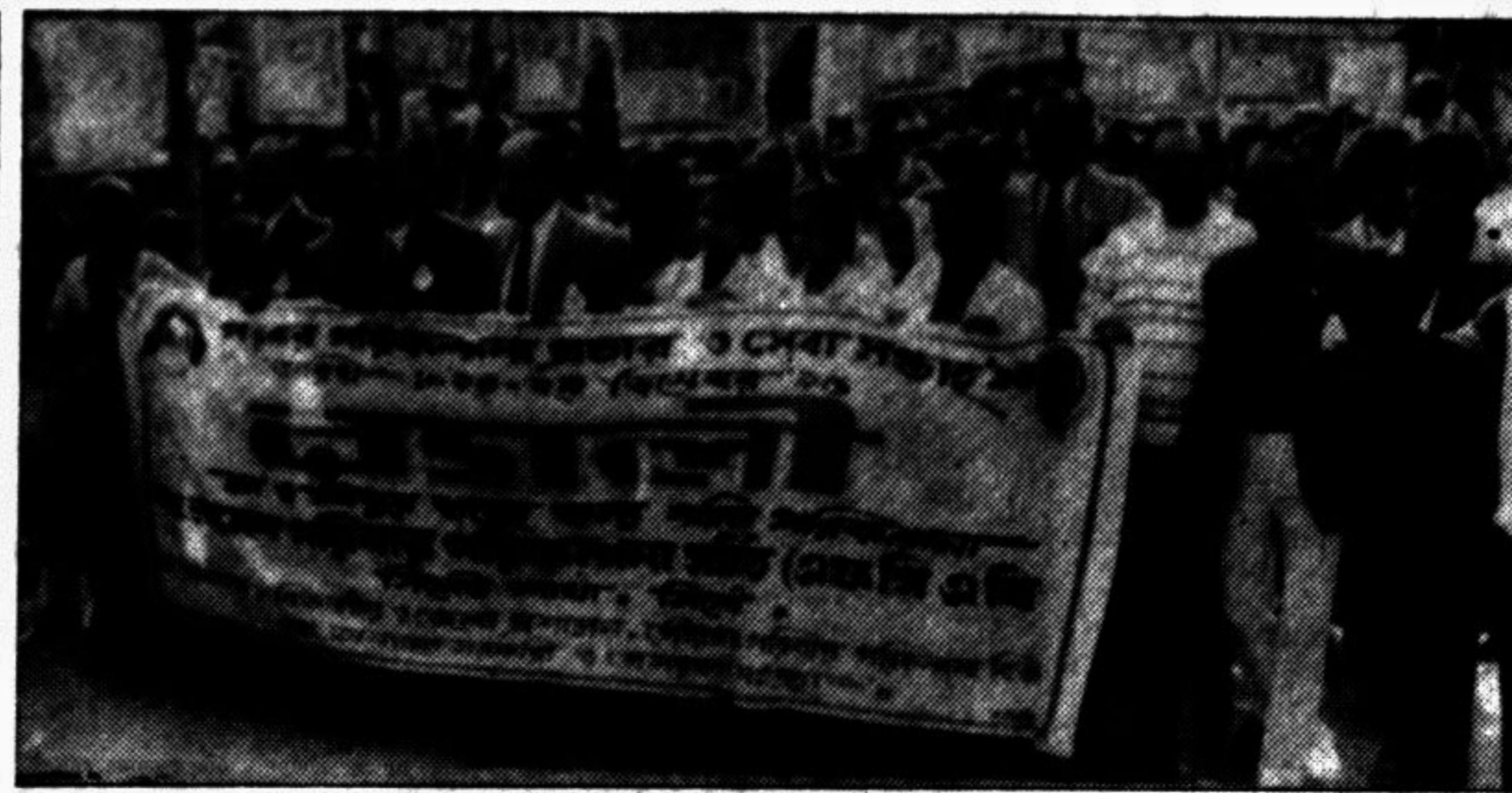
As a result, these vessels

could not reach its destina-

tion in time during the last

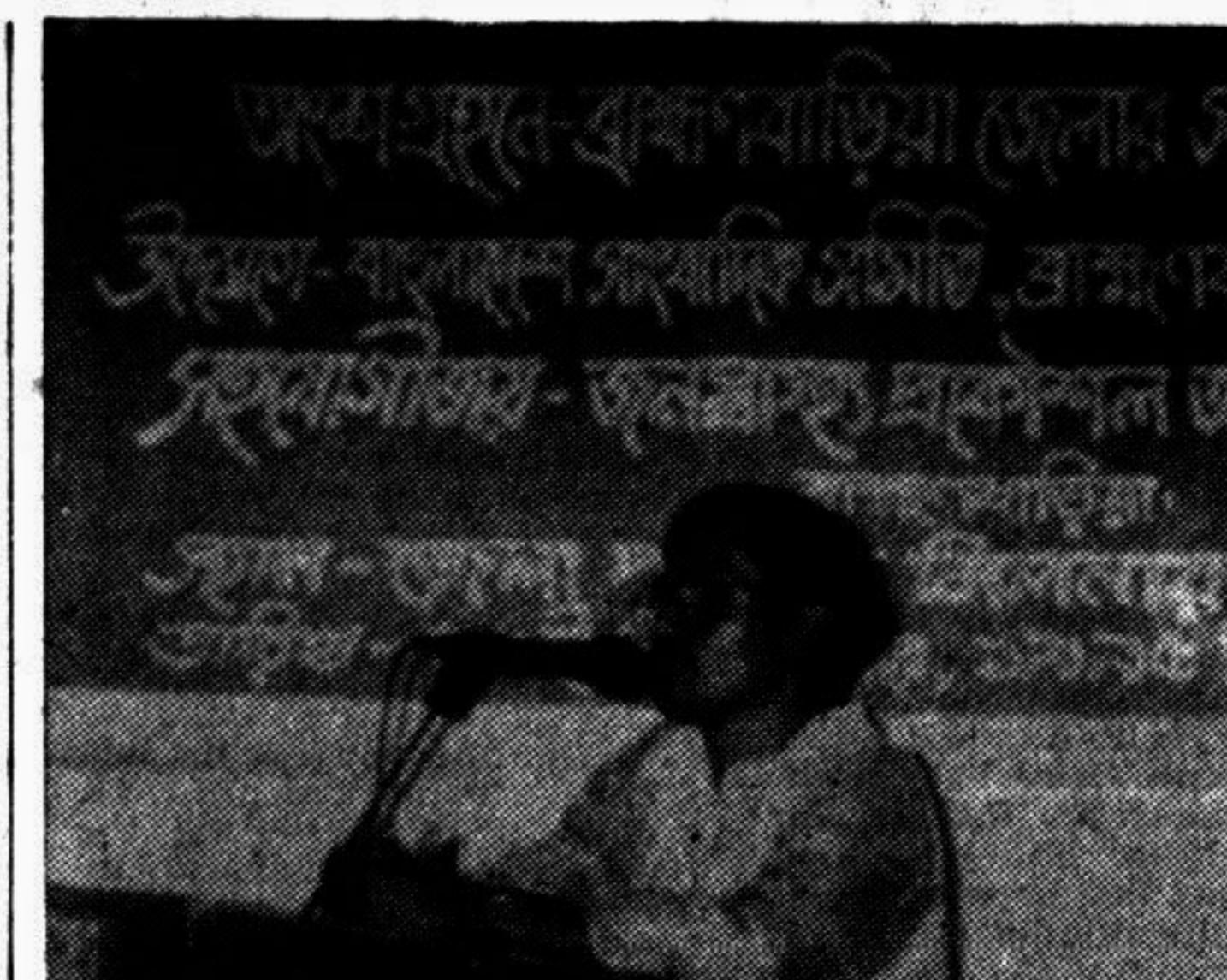
few weeks causing suffering

to the travelling people.



SYLHET: The Sylhet unit of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) brought out a colourful rally in the town on the first-day of its 'Publicity and Service Week' recently.

— Star photo



BRAHMANBARIA: A day long workshop on "social movement for the development of sanitation" was held at District Council auditorium where Pourashava Chairman Al Mamun Sarker addressed as the chief guest. — Star photo

## In Moulvibazar region

## Sonali Bank to give Tk 7 cr loan for various income generating schemes

From Rajat K Goswami

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 8: The Sonali Bank, Moulvibazar region has taken up a plan to disburse 7.21 crore Taka as loan under different programmes in six thanas of Moulvibazar district during the current financial year. According to the bank source, in the last financial year, the bank had distributed an amount of Taka 3 crore 54 lakh 78 thousand as loan through its different branches in the district.

On the other hand, a total of Taka 12 crore 28 lakh 91 thousand remain unpaid from 13 thousand 929 loanees till October 1995.

A total of Taka 66 lakh 23 thousand profit has been earned by the Sonali Bank from Moulvibazar region during the period from January 1995 to June 1995.

According to the assistant general manager, regional office of Moulvibazar, of the total loan of Taka 7.21 crore, Taka 3.34 crore will be given under Special Agriculture Credit Programme, Taka 84 lakh under BRDB programme, Taka 2.50 lakh under Rupali Finance Project, Taka 20 lakh under BRDB Irrigation Equipment Programme, Taka 20.50 lakh under farming and off-farming scheme, Taka 40 lakh under Special Investment Scheme, Taka 50 lakh under pond based fishery scheme, Taka 20 lakh for self-reliance credit scheme and Taka 1.50 crore will be given under Agro-Industries Credit Scheme.

Of this, Taka 2.66 crore was given for special agriculture credit programme, Taka 16.69 lakh for BRDB programme, Taka 50 thousand for rural finance scheme, Taka 5.22 lakh for farming and off-farming scheme, Taka 43.20 lakh for special investment scheme, Taka 2.35 lakh for pond based fishery scheme, Taka 4.75 lakh for self-reliance credit scheme and Taka 9.85 lakh for BRDB women's scheme and Taka 5.64 lakh was given for spices type crops loan scheme.

Besides this, the Sonali Bank Moulvibazar region had also distributed loans under cash credit, small loan, loan to professional establishment of physicians and non-government teachers.

On the other hand, a total of Taka 8.64 lakh had been distributed to new-entrepreneurs under Security Free

Credit Guarantee Scheme in the last financial year. Taka 16.34 lakh had been allotted to a dairy-farm under agro-industry credit scheme. Other two separate proposals, of Taka one crore 72 lakh 13 thousand under the same scheme are under active consideration of the bank. Two large-scale dairy farms of the district are the applicants of this credit. Another proposal of Taka 1.50 crore under 'industrial loan programme' is also under process of the bank, which is being advanced by the Shah Mustafa re-rolling industry of the district.

The AGM said that a special investment programme has been launched by the bank in the region through its selected three branches. Main view of the programme is to create self-employment and income-generating activities in rural areas of the district. All the 23 branches of the bank in Moulvibazar district have been instructed to advance loans as per requirement of the genuine applicants so that productive activities cannot be hampered for want of credit.

The AGM also informed that, in the last financial year (1994-95), an amount of Taka three crore 54 lakh 78 thousand had been distributed through different branches in the district as loan under different programmes and schemes.

According to the source, there are 23 branches of Sonali Bank, including two branches of agriculture and one branch of foreign exchange in Moulvibazar district. A total of 75 officers and 149 employees are working in these 23 branches.

The source disclosed that, foreign exchange of Taka 10 lakh 44 thousand 376 has been deposited in the banks account from the people of Moulvibazar district, who are living abroad during the last fiscal year.

The source added that, after its establishment the foreign exchange branch, it has been operating only foreign currency account. But from the last fiscal year, the branch has started to operate its activities over international trade like export, import, letter of credit, processing of export bills, endorsement of foreign currency in passports, issuing travellers cheques and wage-earners development bond.

## Fertilizer crisis disrupts rabi cultivation in 16 N-dist

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 8: Acute scarcity and abnormal price hike of chemical fertilizer in 16 northern districts is disrupting cultivation of rabi crops during current season, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that a section of unscrupulous businessmen hoarded a huge quantity of TSP (Triple Super Phosphate) creating artificial crisis in the local market.

Farmers said, at present they have to procure TSP fertilizer at very high rate, which is being sold here upto Tk 1000 per bag.

This season a target of 3,000 hectares of land in nine thanas of the Sirajganj district have been fixed for cultivating various rabi crops like wheat, mustard, potato and pulses.

Meanwhile, in many hats and bazaars in northern districts a 50-kg bag of urea fertilizer is being sold between Tk 260 and Tk 295 while locally produced SSP (Single Super Phosphate) fertilizer is being sold between Tk 300 and Tk 325.

On the other hand, District Agriculture Extension Department under its agriculture Rehabilitation Programme failed to supply sufficient fertilizer and seeds among the farmers.

Moreover, the farmers are facing problems in cultivating IRRI and boro as a large number of seed beds have been damaged due to heavy downpour. As a result, many acres of land remained uncultivated in the region.

## RUTA polls Jan 15

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 8: Nationalist and progressive teachers in a joint panel have submitted nomination papers this evening for contesting the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) elections to be held on January 15.

The two other panels who submitted nomination papers today on the last day of nomination filing are Jamaat Balked teachers' group and moderate teachers' group.

From the joint panel, Prof Md Younis and Prof Rafiqul Islam — both of Economics Department — will contest for the post of president and general secretary respectively.

Other contenders for the posts of President and Secretary are Prof M Mukhlesur Rahman and Prof A T M Obaidullah from Jamaat backed panel and Prof M Ali Akbar and Prof Azhar Ali from moderate group.

Election Commissioner Dr Abdulla Ansary said some 617 teachers will elect their leaders.

## Businessmen join AL in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 8: Two well known businessmen of Sirajganj district have joined Awami League in Beluchi thana recently.

It is learnt that Golam Moulam Bablu and Zahurul Islam Mukul, two leading businessmen have joined Bangladesh Awami League after meeting Md Nasim, Organising Secretary of the Party recently.

## Country's first govt veterinary degree college inaugurated

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 8: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurated the academic session of the country's first government veterinary degree college at a simple function here yesterday, reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Rahman said, revolutionary progress had been achieved in the country's fisheries and livestock sector since 1991. He said to supplement the private entrepreneurs in this sector, the government had taken programme to establish 63 new veterinary hospitals across the country.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman, Vice Chancellor of Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology Professor MU Ahmed and Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet, Mohammad Habibur Rahman.

The Finance Minister said the country presently had 10 lakh metric tons of buffer stock of cereals. In this connection, he was critical about the repeated hartals called by the opposition parties and said despite the hartals and blockades, the export-import trade of the country was being conducted.

Abdullah Al-Noman said that the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had accelerated the economic development of the country.

Other information regarding the tender can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

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## Recovery of arms not yet satisfactory, says police officials

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 8: Army have been deployed in all the nine thanas of district to conduct illegal arms recovery operation as a part of country-wide programme.

It is learnt that following the decision of the Election Commission to conduct joint operation for recovering illegal arms and ammunitions, one platoon Army have been deployed in each of the eight

thanas and five platoons in the district headquarters of Sirajganj.

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