

Dhaka Day by Day

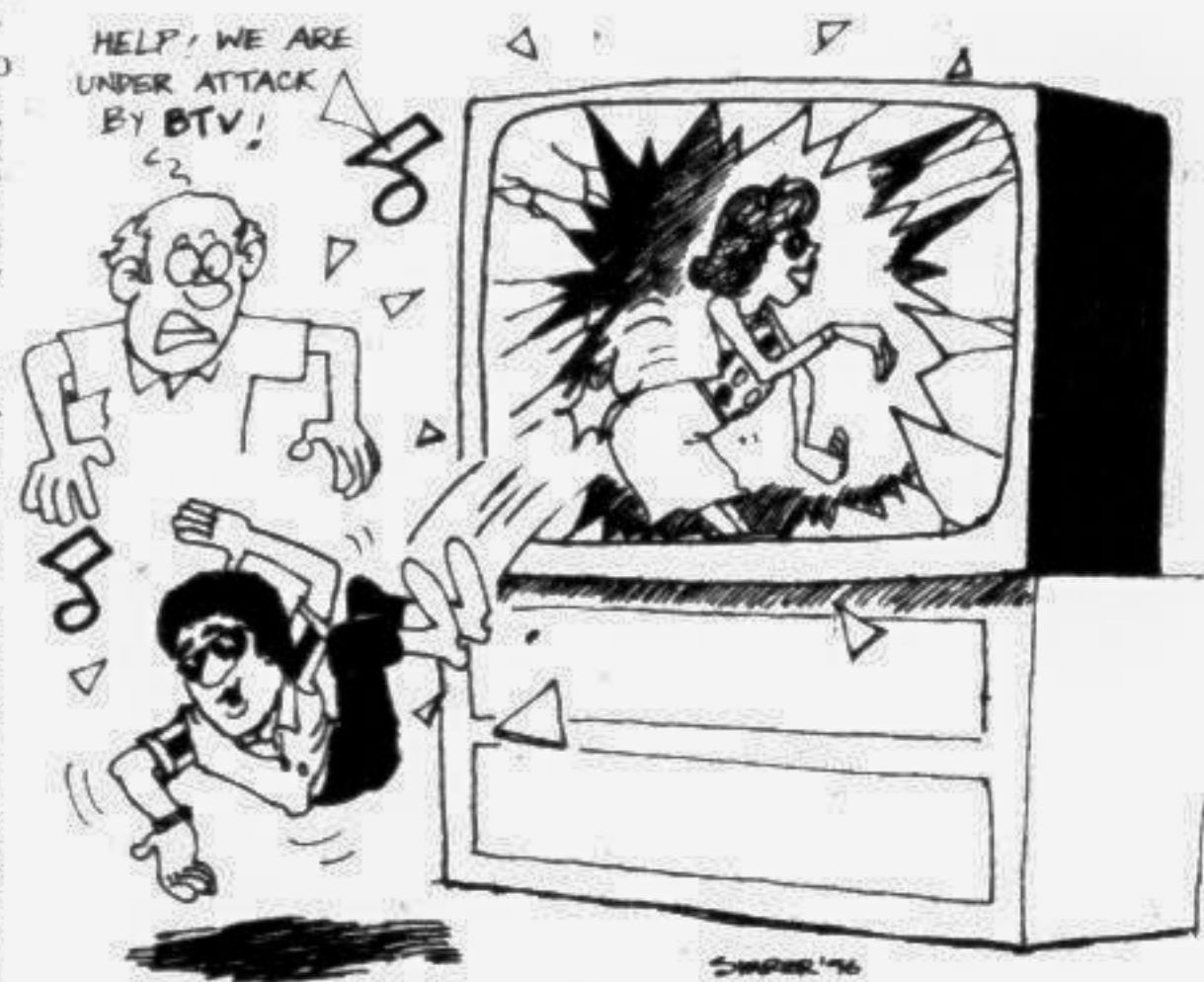
Nayok's Feeble Attempt

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

It's no secret that Dhakaites these days prefer cable channels to our one and only *deshi* one. The reasons are numerous and varied and have been written about many times. So, dear BTV in a desperate effort to win back viewers and to save face is showering us with package programmes almost every week.

And of course 'package' normally means drama. While some are quite bearable, most of them are absolutely hilarious to say the least! Among the more recent productions, 'nayok' shown on June 18, certainly tops the list of the bad ones.

Written by Shahidul Haque Khan (a playwright better known for his ludicrous and dull imagination) the *nayok* can be summed up in one sentence as a totally unoriginal and poorly acted play. Lets start with the cast. The male lead role was played by none other than silver screen hero



relationship to the *nayok's* fan. Therefore in the play the brother and sister in law of the actress just introduced themselves to everyone as 'bhalya' and 'bhabi', what's in a name anyway, right folks?

The story progressed in a usual manner. The lady was so crazy about her heartthrob that her life practically centred around him.

She spent half the drama simply staring at his comical posters and day dream in about her idol.

She even established a rapport with the *nayok's* clown of a PA who kept on repeating the word 'super hit' like a broken record. An attempt at humour? Pretty silly.

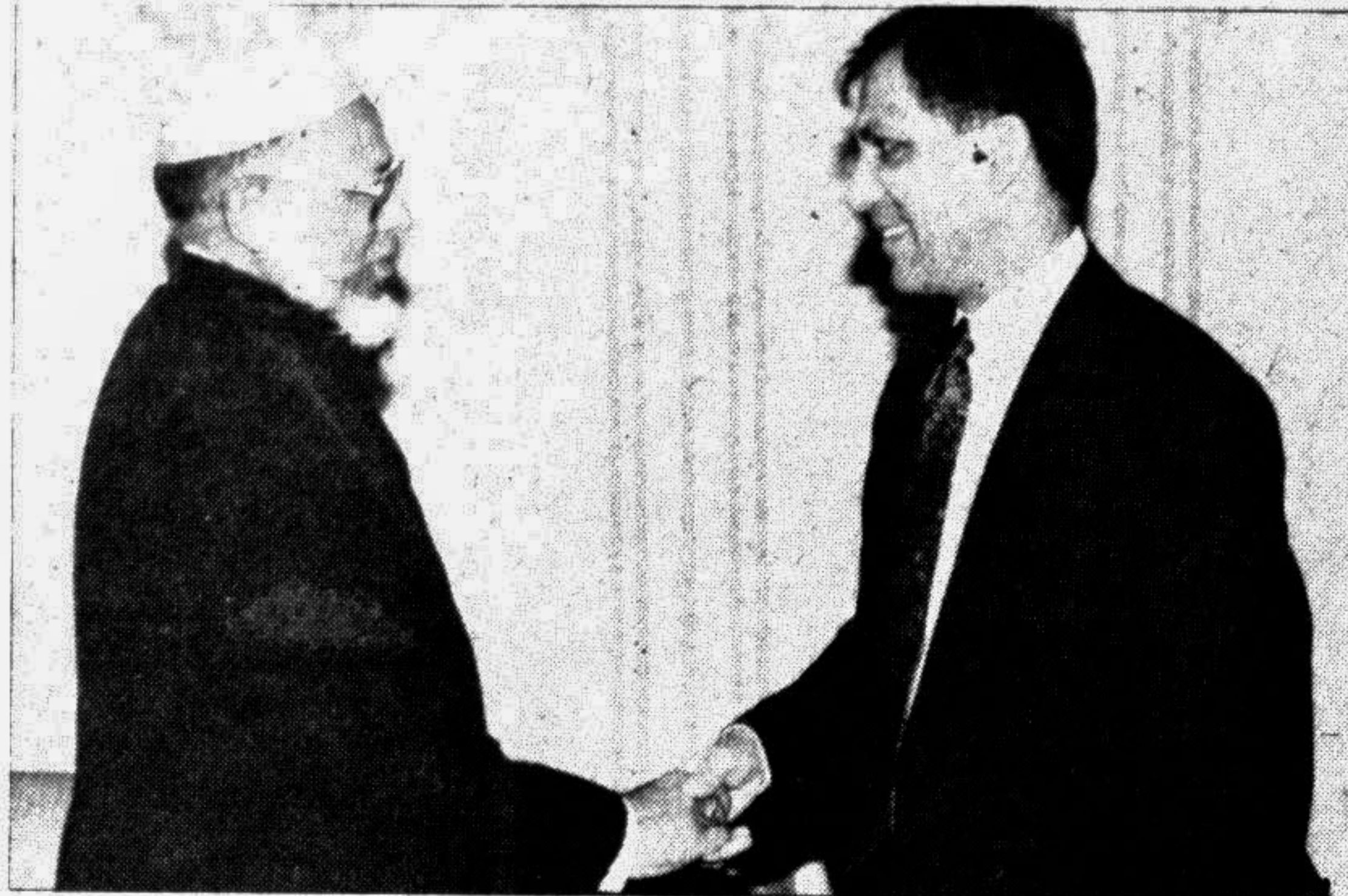
The story took a dramatic turn in the second half. The great *nayok* with his appalling dress sense suffered serious injuries in a road accident and as expected was flown to a foreign land. Fully recovered he

returns home and naturally to his anxious *nayok's* friend. On their way they fell victims to a road accident (number deus). Our hupane *nayok* stunned at the news dutifully hurried to her bedside.

And the dying girl in perfect *filmi* style gushed something corny like how she wouldn't mind meeting her death now that she had seen him. After her fearful adieu from the world (by the way nobody looked mournful enough) the *nayok* delivered a thankfully short but hackneyed speech on street safety and citizens' lives. On the actor's part his involvement in the drama was perhaps quite sincere, considering his personal 'tragedy. His wife died in a road accident, and that was no drama.

Then, how did a *nayok* with a well meaning theme go all wrong? What were the major flaws? Let's see: The weak storyline, terrible acting, the mane dialogues, Kanchan's flamboyant wardrobe, well, just about everything.

The message might not have come across as loud and clear. But the drama was quite entertaining in a way. It provided the handful of patient, bored or plain stupid individuals who actually sat through the whole one hour show, something to laugh about the following day.



Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdu Samad Azad at his office yesterday. — PID photo

Rafsanjani greets Sheikh Hasina

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her assumption of office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

In a message of congratulation, Rafsanjani said: 'I express my cordial congratulations on your excellency's assumption of the office of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.'

I do hope the existing relationship between two countries which has rooted in our common historical cultural bonds, will expand on your excellency's tenure on all spheres of bilateral and international relations more than before.

I invoke Almighty Allah (SWT) good health and success of your excellency and prosperity and well being of the Muslim Nation of Bangladesh.

Severed human leg found near Gulshan bridge

A severed human leg was found near Gulshan bridge in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police recovered the decomposed leg and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. They could not ascertain whether it came from a male or a female.

A police officer at Gulshan thana, however, suspected that the leg was discarded from a hospital.

A general diary was lodged with Gulshan thana in this connection, police said.

Haider calls on Abul Hasan

The visiting Indian Foreign Secretary, Salman Haider, paid a courtesy call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, yesterday, reports BSS.

During discussion, the Indian foreign secretary congratulated the state minister for foreign affairs on his assumption of the office and hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries would further be consolidated and strengthened under the new government's initiative.

Reciprocating the sentiments, the state minister for foreign affairs also hoped that the relationship will further flourish during the period of the new government.

He also expressed his government's desire to forge bilateral economic relations between the two countries.

Large number of tribal refugees returning home from Tripura

A large number of tribal refugees from different camps of the Indian state of Tripura are voluntarily returning to their homesteads in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), reports BSS from Khagrachhari.

Talking to journalists, Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachhari Mohammad Ismail said, on an average 30 tribal families, comprising 150 to 200 members, are voluntarily coming back to their homes in CHT every month.

Besides the formal repatriation in two phases, about 608 families, comprising 2570 members, returned willingly to their homes in CHT through different border points till June 30, he said adding that the returnees had been rehabilitated with all facilities provided by the government.

He said, in two phases, some 5186 of 1027 families had been repatriated and settled at their homesteads in Khagrachhari. Of them, 48 persons were reinstated in their previous jobs.

At present, about 54,000 refugees are awaiting repatriation from different camps of Indian state of Tripura, he added.

Earlier, briefing newsmen, brigade commander of Khagrachhari said, a peaceful situation is prevailing in his area following the current ceasefire in CHT.

The members of security forces are working round the clock to ensure security of lives and properties of the tribal returnees, he added.

A group of journalists who visited different tribal villages of repatriated families at Panchhari thana found that most of the returnees had started their lives in their own homestead with renewed zeal and aspirations. Rita Chakma, 13, a beaming school girl said I am reading in Class Ten in nearby Panchhari Girls High School, and I am happy now.

Her grandmother Jonaki Chakma, 50, said, 'I would be happy to die in my own home.'

Panchanan Chakma of Karbaripara who returned in the first phase of repatriation said, 'I was given all facilities by the local administration.' He regretted that other members of his family are still living in Takumbari camp of Tripura.

He also said that some of the tribal leaders in the camps were obstructing the refugees' return.

Chandrasen, a headman of Shuknagari Baburapara said, a large number of tribal refugees are eager to return home as they are currently living in the camps amid untold sufferings and inhuman conditions.

Most of the tribal returnees expressed their hope that the protracted problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts should come to an end with the installation of new government in the country. Every one in CHT expects that the new government will make a constructive approach to CHT problem for an early solution.

Patenga-Fouzdarhat polder reconstructed

Patenga-Fouzdarhat polder reconstructed

CHITTAGONG July 6 The port city is now safe from the sea as the town-protection polder, which was washed away by a devastating tidal surge in 1991 has been rebuilt, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Water Development Board has completed the reconstruction of the 21-kilometre embankment stretching from Patenga to Fouzdarhat at a cost of Tk 114 crore over a three-year period.

People of the port city are still haunted by the wrath of the cyclonic storm. Many lives perished and industrial and military installations were severely affected as the tidal surge either washed away or damaged the protection embankment.

'Rest assured that the port city will remain largely unharmed if another cyclone similar to that of 1991 hits again,' said Engr Abu Taher Khondker of BWDB, talking to a group of journalists at the project site on Wednesday (July 3).

Japan and the World Bank provided the construction cost while European Commission

(EC) funded the Tk 15 crore technical study.

Khondker, the project director, said up-to-date sea protection techniques were applied in the reconstruction of the polder making it firmer than the previous one.

Earth compaction has been done mechanically and extra-protection provided alongside the 9-kilometre 'vulnerable' belt where waves and winds hit with maximum strength.

Concrete seawall has been constructed on vulnerable points and large size stone boulders and big concrete blocks were put in columns.

'This is real sea defence. Such type of protection is unique in Bangladesh,' said the project director pointing at the 1.4 kilometre concrete seawall alongside the Chittagong Naval base area at South Patenga did confront the harshest blow in the 1991 catastrophic cyclone.

The polder is seven metre on an average, in height. There are sluice gates to flush out water if stagnate inside the embankment.

Weather

Moderate rainfall likely

Moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at most places over Khulna, Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said places of Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions may experience moderately heavy to heavy falls during the period.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 32.6 degrees Celsius at Srimangal and the lowest 22.9 degrees at Kutubdia.

The sun sets today at 6:50 pm and rises on Monday at 5:17 am.

What's on today

Padma Setu Bastabayan Parishad: A convening committee meeting of the Faridpur Bibhag O Padma Bastabayan Samanaya Parishad, Dhaka will be held. Venue: House 98, Road 9/A, Dhamondi. Time: 7 pm.

. and tomorrow

Musical soiree: Surer Dhara, a cultural organisation, presents *Bangla Ganer Dhara*, marking the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7:30 pm.

OBITUARY

Mr. Abdul-Amin, reservation officer, Gulf Air, Bangladesh expired at 1:30 P.M. on Thursday, 04 July 1996. ('Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilahe Raje Un'). He was 45. He left behind his wife, a Daughter, a son, host of friends, well wishers and colleagues to mourn his death.

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Biswas condoles Khan's death

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the sad demise of Advocate Abdur Rahman Khan, a former justice minister of the erstwhile East Pakistan, reports UNB.

In a condolence message on Friday, President Biswas said the late Khan was a dedicated political leader and a devoted social worker, said an official handout.

Neelima Sen Smriti Parishad formed

A memorial meeting on Neelima Sen was held under the auspices of Chhayanaut, a leading cultural organisation, in the city Thursday, says a press release.

A Neelima Sen Smriti Parishad, with Papia Sarwar as convener, was formed during the meet, which was presided over by Begum Sofia Kamal, the release added.

Meanwhile, a musical soiree in tribute to the noted Tagore artiste will be held July 11, at 7pm, at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Leading cultural organisations of the country are scheduled to participate in the soiree.

Customs officers' assoc polls held

Mahmudul Haq and A K M Jahangir Khan were elected president and general secretary respectively of Dhaka Customs, Excise and VAT Executive Officers' Association for the year 1996-97 in an election held Friday, reports BSS.

Besides, nine office-bearers and 21 members of the executive committee of the association were also elected, a press release said.

Result for the post of vice president was withheld as the candidates, Zahid Hossain and Amrunnessa, polled equal votes.

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