

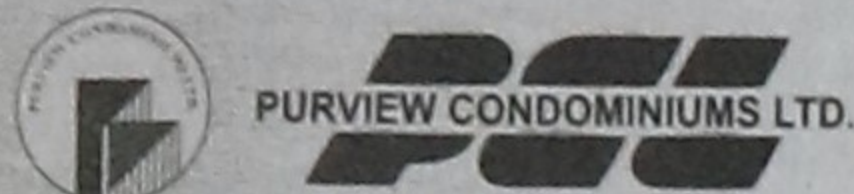
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Meeting held on smooth plying of launches

An inter-ministerial meeting was held yesterday at the Ministry of Shipping to ensure smooth transportation and safety of the homebound passengers ahead of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr, reports BSS.

State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram, presided over the meeting.

The meeting elaborately discussed smooth ferrying of vehicles in the Aricha-Doulatdia, Aricha-Pratappur and Mawa-Charjanajat ferryghats and ensuring safety of the homebound passengers during the coming Eid-ul-Fitr.

It called upon the owners of the launches not to overload their vessels taking the advantage of the Eid for the sake of safety and security of the passengers.

The meeting also gave directive to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), local administrations and other concerned authorities for taking adequate measures for ensuring smooth journey of the passengers during the Eid.

It also called upon the masters of all launches not to ply their launches in a racing posture in mid streams of rivers to avert accident.

Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping Sobel Ahmed, Chair, man of BIWTA Abdul Huq and other concerned officials were present at the meeting.

President hosts reception on Victory Day

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Saturday hosted a reception and *iftar* party on the occasion of 30th Victory Day, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Justice Latifur Rahman, ministers, judges of the Supreme Court and High Court, politicians, MPs, diplomats, academics, journalists, elite and high civil and military officials attended the reception.

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia was conspicuous by her absence from the state function.

The President and the Prime Minister exchanged V-day greetings with the invitees at the lush green north plaza of the president house.

Among the invitees were a good number of freedom fighters and their family members to celebrate the occasion and reminisce on their saga of wresting victory of the liberation war three decades back.

Prime Minister Hasina inquired about the welfare of the freedom fighters. She assured necessary steps when some told her about their problems.

Int'l Migrants Day today

The First International Migrants Day will be observed today aiming to focus on the protection of people living outside their countries of origin, reports UNB.

Calling attention to the need of protecting the rights and dignity of people who migrate from their native lands, the United Nations will observe the day across the world.

The UN hopes the day would help ensure that the presence and contributions of migrants in the advancement of their host countries is recognised, said a press release.

It is estimated that between 120 and 130 million people are currently living outside their own countries. Of them, over 10 million are Bangladeshis, said the World Migration Report 2000.

At present migration is hardly a recent or localised phenomenon as millions of men, women and children have left their homelands in search of a better job or a better life in a different place.

People have also left their own countries because of civil conflicts and insecurity or persecution. However, globalisation has spurred a sharp increase in labour mobility.

Mugger held at Tikatuli

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged mugger was caught during a gunfight between police and a gang of muggers at Nari Shikha Lane in Tikatuli in the city yesterday.

The arrested was identified as Nurun Nabi, 20.

The incident took place when the gang tried to mug some pedestrians at Nari Shikha Lane in Takatuli at about 10.30 am yesterday.

Havilder Sajahan along with his force challenged the men.

The gang exploded crackers and opened fire at the police.

During the exchange, Nabi was shot and caught by the police team and a revolver and a dragger were seized from them. Two others of the gang, however, managed to flee.

The injured mugger was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

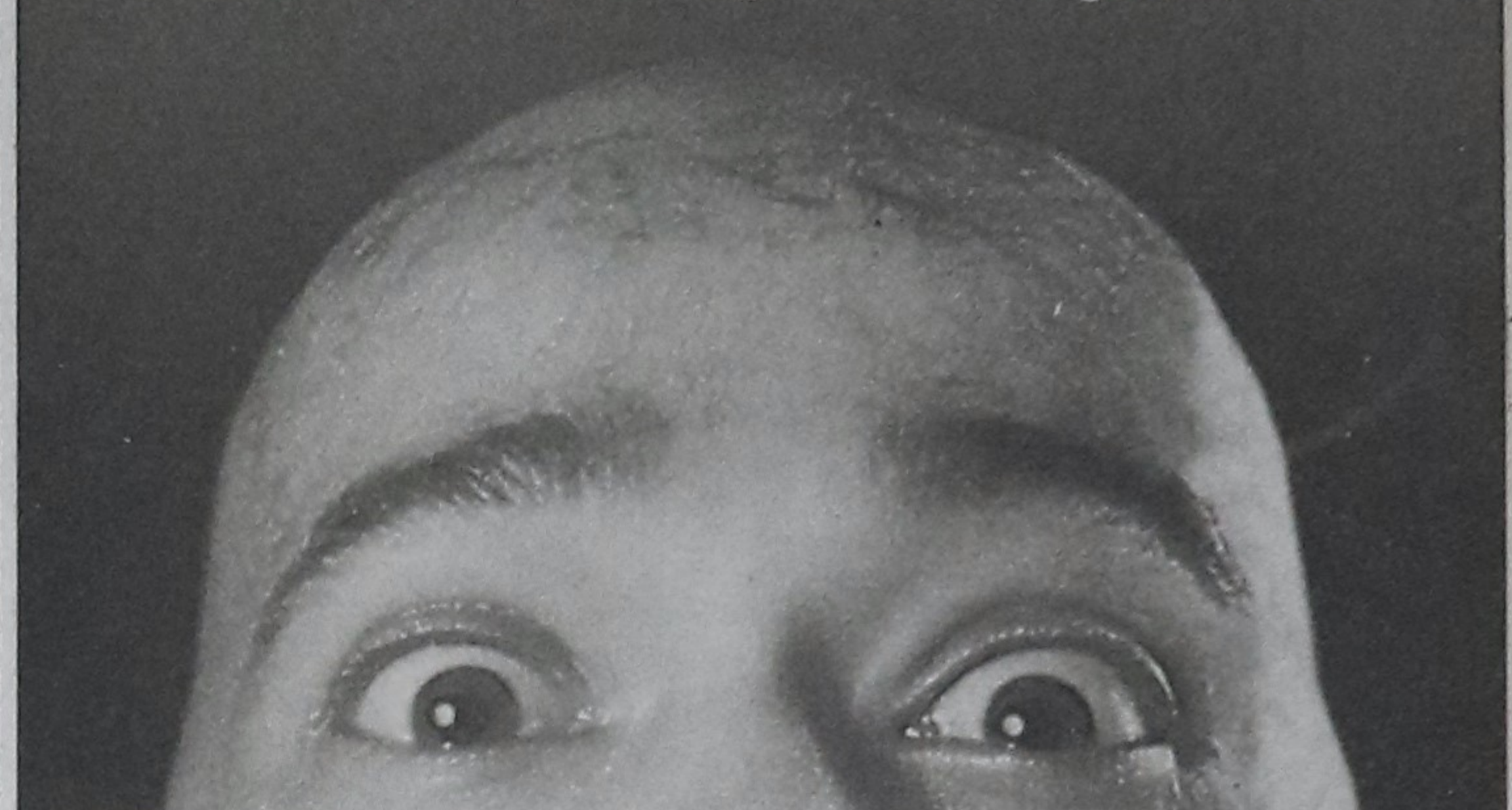
A case was filed with Sutrapur police in this regard.

10-MW power station to be set up in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 17: Chittagong City Corporation will set up a 10-megawatt power station to ease power crisis in the port city, a CCC press release said today, reports BSS.

CCC and Hossain Group of Companies signed a contract to this effect on December 14.

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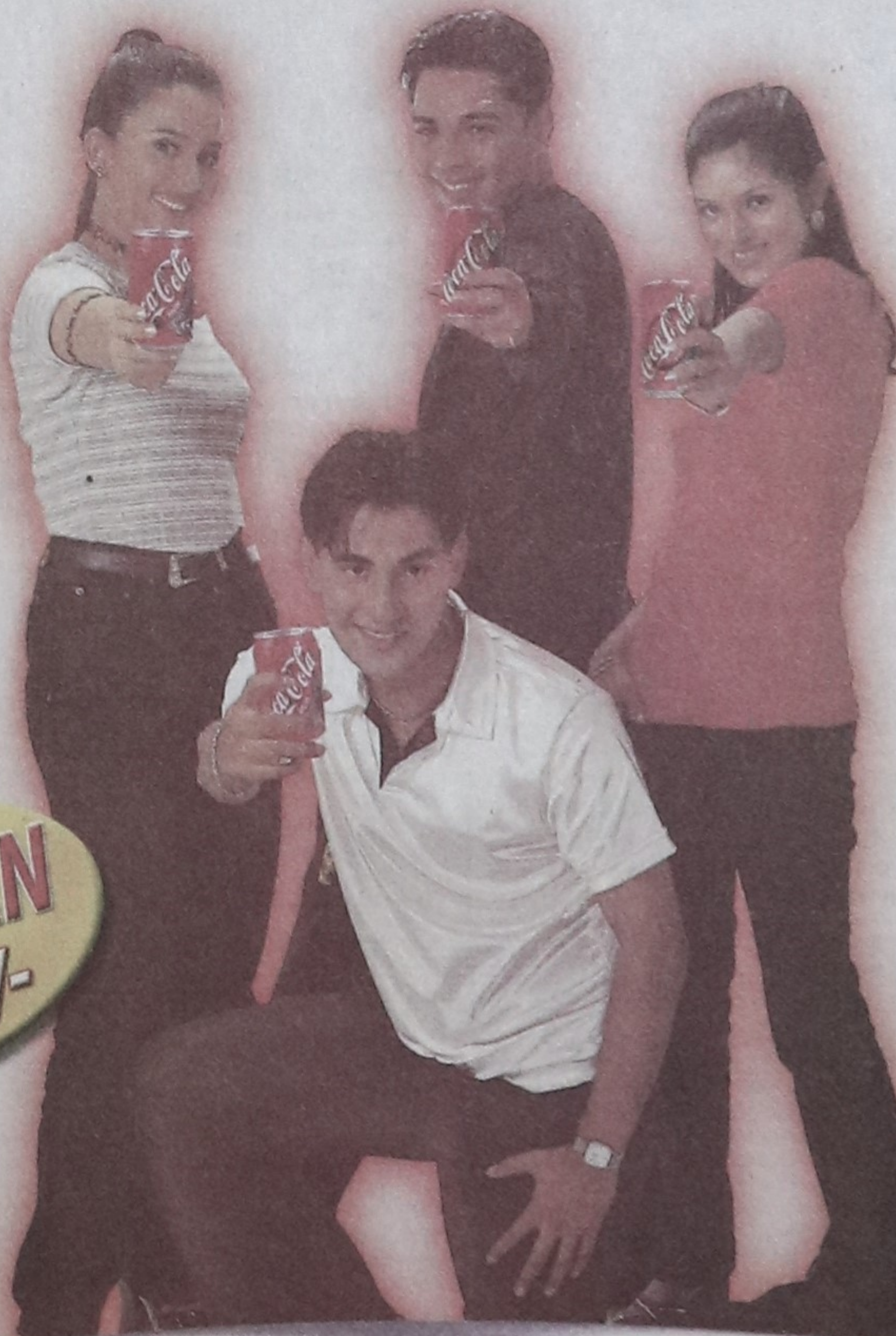


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