

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY Implement UNESCO-ILO recommendations

QUAZI FARUQUE AHMED

FIFTY million teachers, almost one per cent of the population of our planet, including half a million educators of Bangladesh are observing 'World Teachers' Day' today (October 5) as a mark of celebration of the adoption by the ILO and UNESCO of the recommendations concerning the status of teachers on this day in 1966 in Paris at a special inter-governmental conference. The 'Recommendation' is immensely important and vital because of its wide ranging significance and implications in regard to education and for those who impart it.

For the teachers of Bangladesh, this year's 'World Teachers' Day' has a different connotation. It has come only a few days after the national polls. For the teachers this election is highly important for a number of reasons. For the first time, education and the educators were included significantly in the agenda and the election manifesto of the two major parties. Both Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Bangladesh Awami League (AL) stressed on computer and IT based education, human resource development and enhancement of 10 per cent government salary to the teachers and employees of the government recognised non-government educational institutions. The AL also proposed to set up a separate Public Service Commission for recruitment of the non-government teachers and to introduce a separate national pay scale for the teachers in response to the demand of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA).

As a matter of fact, these are the positive results of the series of discussion meetings with the national leaders and members of the administration for years together, continuous ventilation in the national press and the organised movements of various teachers' organisations especially by Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) representing both the government and non-government school and

college teachers under the leadership of late principal A K M Shahidullah who acquainted the teaching community of Bangladesh with the provisions of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendations on the status of teachers which include among others, "since education is a service of fundamental importance, it should be recognised as a responsibility of the state."

The 145 paragraph Recommendation states, among other things (a) "Since education is an essential factor in economic growth, educational planning should form an

integral part of total economic and social planning undertaken to improve living conditions."

The BFTA has initiated a campaign and mass awareness programme to eradicate the rampant unfair means and cheating in public examinations and for reforming the existing examination system. The Federation has also asked the government to arrange proper subject-wise training for teachers, especially before bringing any change in the syllabus in any subject or discipline.

part of the national income for the development of education."

(b) "As the achievement of the aims and objectives of education largely depends on the financial means made available to it, high priority should be given in all countries to setting aside within the national budget an adequate proportion of the national income for the development of education."

(c) "In order that teachers may discharge their responsibilities, authorities should establish and regularly use recognised means of consultation with Teachers' Organizations on such matters as educational policy, school organisation and new developments in education service."

(d) "Authorities and teachers should recognise the importance of participation of teachers through their organisations and in other ways, in steps designed to improve the quality of education service in educational research and in the development and dissemination of new improved methods."

(e) "Teachers should be paid on the basis of salary scales in agreement with the Teachers' Organizations."

(f) "Teachers should be protected by social security measures in respect of all the contingencies included in the International Labour Organisation Social Security Convention 1952, namely by medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors' benefit."

(g) "All aspects of preparation and employment of teachers should

be free from any form of discrimination."

(h) "Nonetheless, Authorities should recognise that improvement in the social and economic status of teachers, their living and working conditions, their terms of employment and their career prospects are the best means of overcoming any existing shortage of competent and experienced teachers and of attracting to and retaining in the teaching profession substantial number of fully qualified persons."

International Commission on Education for the 21st Century headed by Jacques Delors has stressed in its report to UNESCO: "Improving the quality of education depends on, first, improving the recruitment, training, social status and conditions of work of teachers; they need the appropriate knowledge and skills, personal characteristics, professional prospects and motivation if they are to meet the expectations placed upon them." In the Bangladesh context, it is needless to point out that our words and deed vary so much that we all are virtually faced with the crisis of both

process, but also in getting the Govt. MPO (monthly pay order). Further they are also indulging in unplanned and unnecessary establishment of educational institutions without any mapping of the need, population and the zonal or area wise consideration. This practice is involving huge wastage of our national revenue. At the same time step-motherly attitude is being meted out to the 90 per cent pupils of poor Bangladesh who have their education from the non-government institutions. As a matter of fact, our words and deed vary so much, and this is high time that all concerned with education -- teachers, guardians, educational planners and national leaders -- should come forward and echo with Christopher Wulf, the German educationist, that education is not that cheap matter to be rated "as such".

So, a heart-searching is required and to make education productive and meaningful, all our resources and endeavours should be utilised for and engaged in the greatest good of the greatest number. The statis-

tics provided by BANBEIS, an umbrella of the Education Ministry of Bangladesh, vis a vis the Per Student (capita) Recurring Cost by Management published in 2000, so far the latest, reveal the glaring disparity and discrimination:

In the backdrop of all these anomalies, Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA) recently has put forward concrete proposal to the government as well

Type of institutions	Per student cost (Taka)
Govt. Secondary School	3,356.00
Non-Govt. Secondary School	972.00
Govt. Madrasa	6,254.00
Non-govt. Madrasa	1,183.00
Government College	14,933.00
Non-Govt. College	1,689.00
Cadet College	56,537.00
Teachers' Training College	6,046.00
University	37,201.00

as the national political parties for introduction of a separate national pay scale for teachers from the primary to the university level, both in the public and the private sector, to draw meritorious persons in the teaching profession with a view to improving the existing standard of education. The BFTA has also initiated a campaign and mass awareness programme to eradicate the rampant unfair means and cheating in public examinations and for reforming the existing examination system. The Federation has also asked the government to arrange proper subject-wise training for teachers, especially before bringing any change in the syllabus in any subject or discipline.

On "World Teachers' Day", half a million teachers in Bangladesh look forward to future with high expectation and conviction in the light of the UNESCO-ILO Recommendations.

Professor Quazi Faruque Ahmed is President, Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) and Secretary General, Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Associations (BFTA).

A unique children's organization

MOHAMMAD AMJAD HOSSAIN

THIS is for second time that the Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela, the oldest and biggest national children organization of Bangladesh celebrates its foundation day (5 October) in the absence of its stalwarts Rokanuzzaman Khan, its founder-director, renowned scientist-literateur Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin, founder-advisor and poet Sufia Kamal, founder-advisor. The activities of the organisation, however, have smoothly been going on also after their demise two years back. It proves that they laid a strong foundation for it. The organisation has stood the test of time despite the fact that it passed through many turmoils in its long history of 45 years.

The Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela, which has its own building on a two-high plot at Segunbagicha is catering to the needs of the children aged 4 to 16 years through non-formal education. The present activities include music and dance classes, painting class, and computer training class. Also recitation and speech making classes have recently been introduced.

This juvenile organization is possibly the only such in Bangladesh which has its own auditorium where cultural functions, dramas and meetings are held. The facilities at the auditorium are being used occasionally by other children organizations and drama groups as there is dearth of auditorium for staging plays in Dhaka. These facilities are offered at certain cost which helps the Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela to generate its own fund. This is a plus point for a children organization to organize classes out of the fund and meet expenditures for utility services as well. Presently the building is being expanded. Two more floors are under construction with generous assistance from the Japanese government. On completion of construction of these two more floors the problem of space for organizing seminars and workshops for children will be over. And the library, which suffered the wrath of Pakistan army during the war of liberation, will be re-established on a permanent footing and the children will be immensely benefited by it.

At the initial stage the Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela used to operate in a dilapidated rented house unsuitable for children programmes. The foundation of the present complex was undertaken at a cost of 10 million taka. The NORAD (Norwegian Assistance Development) in fact contributed the entire amount. With the assistance from Norwegian Government the auditorium of the complex was air-conditioned last year (2000). As a result, demand and utilization of the auditorium has increased manifold which results in the increase of income and greatly contributes towards sustainability of this organization.

The Kachi-Kanchar Mela began its journey with more than 300 branches all over the country, but there has been a halt in the growth of its branches due to lack of volunteers to man children organizations because young people are more attracted by NGOs now. Because they prefer financially beneficial organization to a voluntary children organization. In the process branches of children organizations are facing crisis of management. It is high time an assessment is made as to how to project the utility of children organisation in terms of social benefit to the society and country in the long run.

In the corruption and hooliganism ridden society the programmes offered by Kachi-Kanchar Mela enrich the horizon of mental faculty of the children. So the investment in children organization yields positive results in terms of cost-benefit ratio in the long run. Kachi-Kanchar Mela expands with an awareness of the existing social reality. It has developed its programmes centering around five areas, viz, i) Literature, ii) Art and Culture, iii) Scientific technology, iv) Sports, v) Social work.

The constitution of this children organization has been amended by three-tier executive committee of the Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela recently after threadbare discussions to meet the need of the modern society and also in line with the law of the country to make it more transparent and accountable. It has no permanent staff. Most of the members of this organization offer their services voluntarily. It is operated and managed, as mentioned earlier, by an Executive Committee comprising of three tiers based on age structures. Elderly persons or who has been associated with the Mela for a long time can become members of the advisory board of 11; the second group is of Associate Members belonging to the age group of 18 to 45 years and the third group is of the working group of members aged below 16 years. The number of members of the last two groups is also 11 each.

The Kachi-Kanchar Mela over 45 years of its existence earned laurel at home and abroad. Apart from painting, music, dance, recitation and speech making classes and literary



Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela complex with its three-tier members in the foreground.

seminars, its computer class draws large number of children. And the lion's share of credit goes to late Rokanuzzaman Khan, who was known as Dada Bhai, to make the Kachi-Kanchar Mela a success. The

Mohammad Amjad Hossain is a retired diplomat.

Section-0 Invitation for Bids



সময়সমত সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন
সরকারকে ফাঁকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা বন্ধ করুন

Tender Enq. No-Pur-124/01 Dated: 09-09-01

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KAFED LOAN # 582 BANGLADESH) towards the cost of Greater Rajshahi Power Distribution Project (Phase-II) and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible bidders for design, manufacture, testing and delivery of equipment and materials for 33 KV lines construction, 11 KV lines construction and other allied related goods for the project works.
- The goods materials and equipment to be supplied hereinafter referred to as the works are as follows design, manufacture, testing and delivery POLE FITTINGS for 11 KV line and below line construction.
- The delivery under this contract shall be completed within 180 (one hundred & eighty) days from the date of receipt by the supplier of irrevocable confirmed letter of credit.
- The Bangladesh Power Development Board hereafter referred to as "The Employer" (the Executing Agency) now invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for supply of goods described in the specification herein for the purposes of the project.
- This invitation to bid is open to all bidders. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on bid from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

**Director
Purchase
Bangladesh Power Development Board
WAPDA Building (9th Floor)
Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000.**

- A complete set of bid documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the Director, Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Bangladesh Taka 6,000.00 (six thousand) only or US Dollar 100.00 (one hundred) only in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of the Director, Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board.
 - All bidders will be expected to be suitably qualified to undertake the supply of goods of this type and size. To be eligible for bid evaluation and subsequent award of contract the bidders is to return with his bid satisfactory evidence of this capability, past experience record, adequacy of resources to carry out contract and reports on the financial standing of the bidder.
 - A one-envelope bidding procedure consists of both "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" will be followed as "Original" Plus 6 (Six) copies to:
- Director
Purchase
Bangladesh Power Development Board
WAPDA Building (9th Floor)
Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000.**
- The proposal received will be examined for responsiveness based solely on the technical aspects and financial aspects submitted.
 - Both Technical proposal and the Financial proposal envelopes will be opened in the presence of the bidders representatives who may choose to attend at the time and date at the address to be advised by the employer.
 - Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, Greater Rajshahi Power Distribution Project, Biddyt Bhaban (4th Floor), Hatemkhan, PDB, Rajshahi (phone no-774716).
 - The bidder shall furnish, as part of its bid, bid security in the amount of a minimum 2% (two percent) of the total bid price. The bid security shall be dominated in US dollar or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, payable in favour of the Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka. The bid shall be rejected due to non-submission of the bid security.
 - Tender document will be available for sale from 27.09.01 in the office of Director, Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh during office hours. No tender document will be sold after 08.11.01. No tender document will be sent by post.
 - The BPDB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids, including costs and expenses related to visit to the sites of installation of the works.
 - The bidder must submit a bid for the main offer. Alternative bids, which do not conform to the specifications but meet the performance prescribed in, or the objectives of, the specifications, may be submitted. However, only the alternative bid of the bidder whose main bid is the lowest evaluated bid will be considered.
 - Tenders submitted late will neither be received nor it will be considered for acceptance.
 - BPDB reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or to annul the tendering process without mentioning any reason whatsoever.
 - The tender will be received up to BST 11.00 AM on 11.11.01 & Technical proposal and Financial proposal will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose the opening of the tender at 11.15 AM BST on the same date at the office of Director Purchase, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

**Director
Purchase**

Biddut, Jan 541 (6) 2001-2002
DFP-24715-30/9
G-1846

Bangladesh Power Development Board
WAPDA Building (9th Floor)
Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000.

'Qualified teaches for quality education'

MA BARI

MORE than 100 countries of the world celebrate the 8th anniversary of World Teachers' Day today, the 5th October, 2001 just to remind the people that this day was proclaimed in 1994 by UNESCO to recognise the contributions and achievement of teachers as well as their concerns and priorities. This day the world pays its tribute in a tangible way to the teaching professionals who make contributions to move the world forward despite, sometimes, poor working conditions, limited resources and insufficient remunerations. There cannot be a question that teachers who undergird intellectual development in all fields should be honoured with recognition of their services to the future generation. The date, 5th October, was chosen because of the fact that in 1966 on this date UNESCO adopted some recommendations concerning the status of teachers in a special intergovernmental conference in Paris in cooperation with ILO.

Teaching may be considered as the predecessor of all other profes-

sions and can be called as mother profession. It is essential to the civil society as the chief source of ingredients for intellectual and socio-economic development of human being in every aspect of life. It is the source of human progress and

with the brightest minds, the finest personalities, and the soundest moral and spiritual commitments". Why it is imperative that only the best should teach? He said, "teachers are the curators of all our yesterday and the architects of our

for quality education." Quality education has got an indispensable relation with the qualified teachers. In the educational objective and policies of recommendations concerning the status of teachers adopted by UNESCO and ILO in the

zations who are in the learning process. Students' learning condition is very much linked with teachers' working condition. So pedagogical environment of the institution must be congenial.

To improve quality of teachers they should not be allowed to 'burn out' in the process, rather they should be kept in the network of continuous professional development training programme to be able to bear the responsibility to prepare the next generation to function efficiently in the changing world. But the fact remains in the countries like ours that too often due to lack of political wills and means government becomes very much reluctant to accomplishment of training and pedagogical facilities, providing necessary working condition and good salaries for teachers.

Louis Van Beneden, president and Gaston De La Haye, secretary general of World Confederation of Teachers in their messages on the World Teachers' Day 2001 said that only on three conditions would teachers today even more than yesterday be in a position to take up their responsibility and to fully play their role. First one is to have access to quality initial and in-service training, scientifically and pedagogically relevant and open culture of peace and sustainable development. The second condition is relevant social acknowledgement through setting up decent schools and learning infrastructure, through the social status of teachers and salary that allows a decent living. The third is the participation in the debate of education. In Bangladesh there is seldom even a reluctant practice of initial two conditions and the last one is dominantly controlled by the bureaucratic attitude.

Two themes suggested by UNESCO for this World Teachers' Day are: (1) "Teachers are fundamental to guarantee quality education" (2) "The fundamental role of teachers in helping member states meet the objectives of recent world conferences on education ..." This message stresses the essential role of teachers in the education process and it is an acknowledgement that opens doors of hope for commitment towards teachers. To materialise this theme we call upon all leaders in education, at all levels in all sectors, to give support to the teachers who are the actors and not just operators in the education process so that they can guarantee quality of education.

Prof M A Bari is General Secretary of Bangladesh College-University Teachers' Association.

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survival and well-organised society. Education enhances activity, ability, expertise and understanding of an individual. In today's changing world of jobs and working conditions a society requires to draw special attention upon education, not only in terms of making base of knowledge, but also in terms of skills and aptitude that would allow the learner to adapt to the changes taking place every moment.

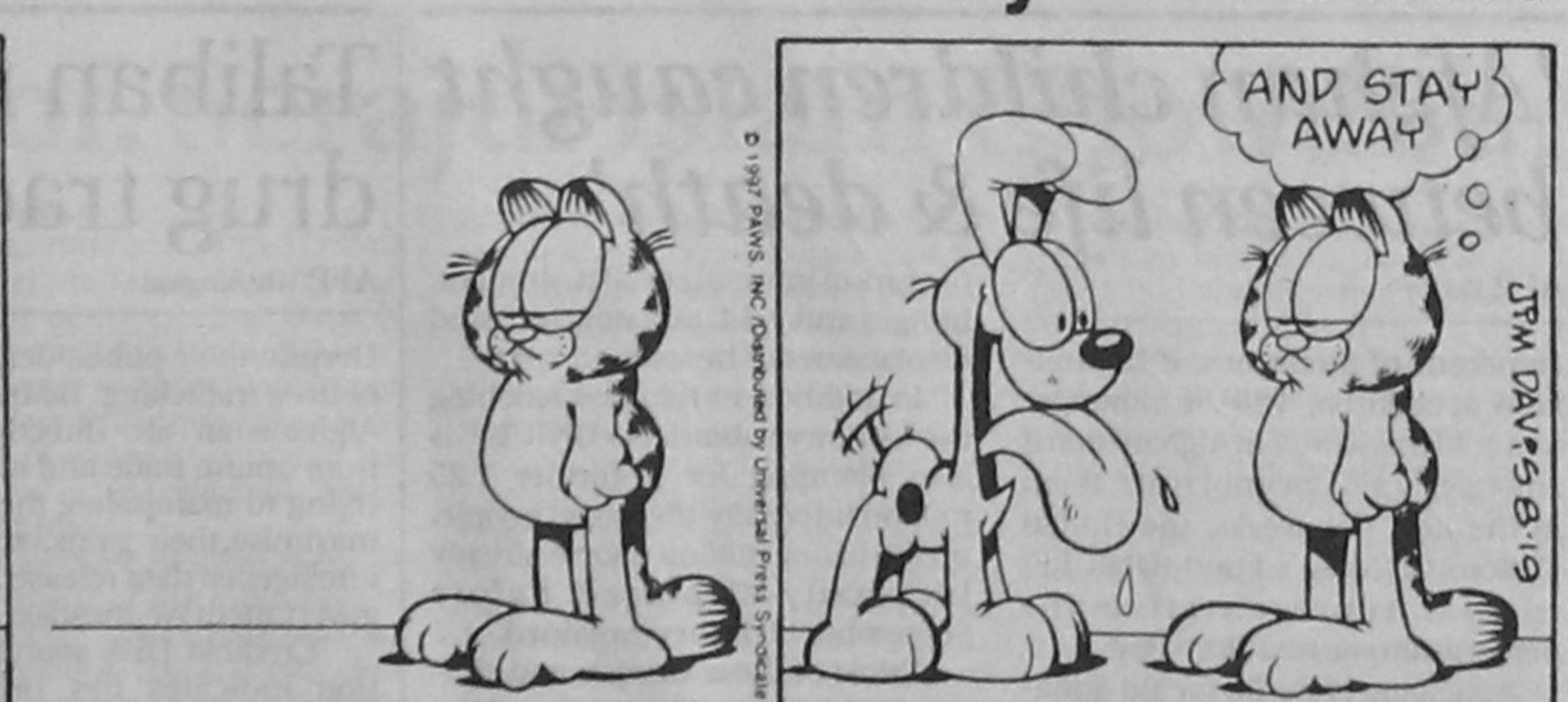
This is a question swirling in the air who should teach? The answer was given by Lindley J. Stiles of University of Wisconsin in the Wisconsin Journal of Education few years back "the best should teach." He said, "teaching beckons to those

tomorrows. Always they accomplish their mission through the minds and talents of others. To do is noteworthy; but to be able to do and to devote one's knowledge and energies to helping others learn is man's noblest work." In the proclamation of "status of teachers" in the Article v-ii, it has been endorsed by stating "Policy governing entry in to the preparation for teaching should rest on the need to provide society with an adequate supply of teachers who possess the necessary moral, intellectual and physical qualities and who have the required professional knowledge and skills."

The slogan for World Teachers' Day of 2001 is "Qualified teachers

Article 10(g), it was clearly said that no state should be satisfied with mere quantity, but should seek also to improve quality of education, and qualified education professionals are very much meaningful to over one billion students in the world today. This year's theme encompasses dual themes of teachers as indispensable for education and are in a position of helping government and nation to meet their international commitment of Jomtein and Dakar Declaration to provide education for all. Keen debate may be raised around to provide quality education. It is only possible through dialogue with education professionals and teachers' organi-

Garfield®



By Hanna-Barbera

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