

No extradition request from India, says Pakistan

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan has not received a formal request from India to hand over a group of suspects in last year's deadly Mumbai terrorist attacks and probably would not do so if it did, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

An Indian court on Tuesday issued arrest warrants for 22 Pakistanis accused of masterminding the attacks, in which teams of armed militants rampaged through India's cultural and commercial capital, leaving 166 people dead after a three-day siege.

Indian prosecutors demanded that Islamabad extradite all the suspects, though Pakistan previously said it would not transfer any Mumbai suspects and instead would try them in its own courts if there is enough evidence.

Pakistan voices alarm over US drone sorties in South Waziristan

Drone strike toll rises to 80

ANI, AP, Islamabad

With the Pakistan Army announcing an all-out war against the Tehrik-e-Taliban chief, Baitullah Mehsud, in the South Waziristan region, US drones are also conducting regular sorties of the region primarily to keep a track of the terrorist's activities, something that has left Pakistan fuming.

At least two US Predator aircraft were seen prowling over the TTP chief's stronghold region on Wednesday, The Daily Times reports.

Local residents said that the militants had fired at the drones after the missile strike

on Monday in which several extremists were reportedly killed.

The drones struck in the region just after Mehsud returned from there after attending a funeral.

Sources said the Taliban has sealed off the site where the attack took place.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has once again expressed its discontent over the continuous drone strikes inside its territory.

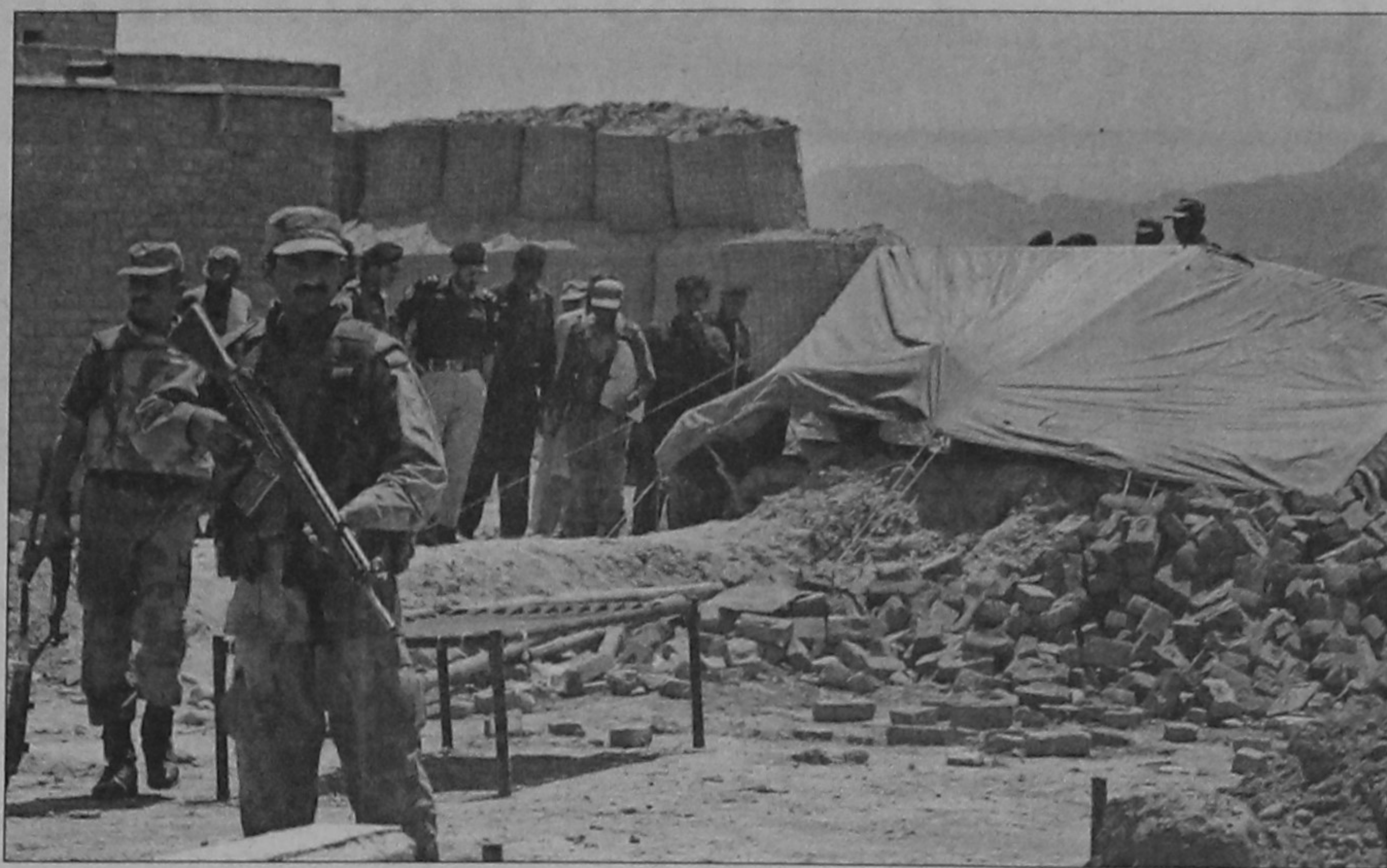
Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit reiterated that the drone strikes were against Pakistan's sovereignty.

"It has been Pakistan's consistent position that drone attacks are a violation of

Pakistan's sovereignty and must be stopped," Basit said.

"Pakistan's own law enforcement operations are proceeding satisfactorily and the nation's determination to eliminate the scourge of terrorism remains unshakable," he added.

Tuesday's attack killed 80 people, Pakistani officials said, but missed its chief target, Baitullah Mehsud. He is the country's top Taliban leader and its public enemy No. 1, accused of masterminding numerous brutal operations including the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.



Pakistani soldiers and police officials inspect a checkpost after an attack by militants on the outskirts of Peshawar on Wednesday. Three policemen were killed when a group of heavily-armed Taliban militants attacked a checkpost in northwest Pakistan.



Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani (R) speaks with President Barack Obama's top security adviser James Jones (2L) during a meeting at the Prime Minister House in Islamabad yesterday. Jones arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday for talks with Pakistani leaders and military officials.

Zardari, Sharif and Pak Army coming together to fight terrorism

PTI, Washington

The three most powerful elements of Pakistani politics, President Asif Ali Zardari, opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and the Army are "coming together" to fight the "common enemy" of terrorism, the top US envoy to the Pak-Afghan region has said.

They have bridged their initial differences and frictions and are now coming together to fight terrorism, Special US Representative

for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke, told US lawmakers on Wednesday.

Testifying before a Congressional hearing, Holbrooke identified them as the three most powerful political elements of Pakistan on Thursday.

"I am quite convinced that the three most powerful elements in Pakistan political life all share a common enemy, a common problem, and are coming together," Holbrooke said.

US Senate okays sweeping Pakistan aid package

AFP, Washington

The US Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to triple civilian US aid to Pakistan, a bid to cement a long-term partnership and defeat Islamist fighters threatening the nuclear-armed ally's stability.

Lawmakers unanimously approved the plan.

The package provides 7.5 billion dollars in humanitarian and economic aid over five years, recommends that level for another five years, while tying US military aid to progress against extremists.

"This legislation marks an important step toward sus-

tained economic and political cooperation with Pakistan," said Senator Richard Lugar, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The House of Representatives passed its version of the legislation in mid-June, and the two chambers must now work out and approve a compromise bill before President Barack Obama can sign the measure into law.

"Pakistan is facing a critical moment," said Democratic Senator John Kerry, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, after

lawmakers agreed to approve it without dissent.

Kerry crafted the bill with Lugar.

Supporters of the measure say they hope it will convince Pakistanis who are deeply sceptical of US support and goals that Washington stands with them against Islamists over the long haul and has their best interests at heart.

"Today the Senate has made a clear bipartisan commitment to replace an atmosphere of mutual distrust and lack of accountability with a broad-based, durable commitment to Pakistan and its people," said Kerry.

Separatists' strike call paralyses life in Assam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Guwahati

A dawn-to-dusk general strike enforced by two separatist groups yesterday paralysed normal life in India's north-eastern state of Assam.

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) called the 12-hour strike to protest the killings of a large number of rebels by security forces, claiming they were 'custodial deaths'.

The strike that began at 5 a.m. was also supported by the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).

Shops and businesses, and financial and educational institutions remained closed, while public transport remained off the roads.

"There are no reports of any untoward incidents so far," a police spokesperson said.

Security forces in the past three months have killed up to 50 militants belonging to the Ulfa, NDFB, and the Dima Haalam Daogah (DHD) in the state.



In this photograph taken on June 23, a friend of murdered kidnapping victim Khyati Shrestha holds a placard urging police action during a protest rally in Kathmandu. The discovery this week of the 17-year-old schoolgirl's decapitated body has sent shockwaves through Nepal, where police say kidnapping for ransom is becoming a "cottage industry".

Spate of kidnappings shocks Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

The discovery this week of the decapitated body of a 17-year-old girl abducted in Kathmandu has sent shockwaves through Nepal, where police say kidnapping for ransom is becoming a "cottage industry".

High school student Khyati Shrestha was snatched on June 5 after an acquaintance lured her to the kidnapper's apartment.

Later that day, her father received a text message to say she had been kidnapped and demand a one-million-rupee (13,000-dollar) ransom for her return, although police now believe she had already been killed.

The incident has dominated newspaper front pages and alarmed residents in Nepal's capital, where kidnappings for ransom have become increasingly common in recent years as political instability and rampant corruption have led to growing insecurity.

It came weeks after a 10-year-old girl was snatched on her way to school in the capital and whisked away by armed

men riding motorbikes, but later rescued by witnesses who chased down her kidnappers.

Police say they are making inroads into tracking down and prosecuting the criminal gangs behind such incidents but they concede that many cases go unreported because families prefer to pay the ransom.

"We are dealing with the problem. More than 90 per cent of the cases filed have been solved and we have been able to free the victim and arrest the kidnappers," said Sher Bahadur Basnet, who deals with kidnapping at the Nepal Police crime division.

"But we can only investigate what is reported to us. Many such cases may have gone unreported."

One Kathmandu businessman told AFP how he was kidnapped at gunpoint while walking home from his office in the capital three months ago, and only released three days later when his family paid a ransom of ten million rupees.

Like many victims, they decided not to inform the police, fearing later reprisals.



Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse (L) shakes hands with Indian Minister of External Affairs SM Krishna (R) as Basil Rajapakse (C), brother and adviser to Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse, looks on in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Nepali govt gives UNMIN 6-month extension

THE KATHMANDU POST/ANN, Kathmandu

The Cabinet on Wednesday decided to extend the tenure of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) by six months after its current mandate expires on July 23.

This is the fourth time the government has decided to extend UNMIN's tenure after its establishment on January 23, 2007.

HC directives ignored

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2006 to April 2009, the department's inspectors visited a total of 951 establishments, 791 of which are industrial units and 160 are hospital, clinics and others. Among the visited industrial units 567 required ETPs while only 138 of them had those. Later 49 more industrial units set up ETPs during the period, and 56 others are in the process of setting up the plants.

During the visits, DoE inspectors found only 105 industrial units with ETPs were operating the plants while 82 kept their switches off.

The government is reluctant to implement the environmental law as in two decades it has not set up a single ETP at its own industrial units under Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). The government is even letting foreign companies pollute the country's environment, as it has not ensured installation of central ETPs at Export Processing Zones (EPZ).

Makers of different famous brands of goods, who have factories in Bangladesh, cannot pollute the environment in their home countries, but

are cavalierly polluting the water bodies of Bangladesh while the government is idly watching.

A survey by the World Bank shows, there are over 300 effluent discharge outlets in Dhaka city and Narayanganj, 19 of which carry major discharges of mixed effluents of industrial and household wastes into the city rivers.

The DoE report mentions that Givency Garments Limited at Monipur of Gazipur did not even take any environmental clearance certificate from the department, and the factory did not have any ETP during a visit by DoE inspectors on April 8 this year. The factory was discharging its untreated multi-coloured effluent directly into the drainage system.

Elegant Washing Plant of the same area, visited on the same day, was found to have an ETP but it was not in operation, while the plant was discharging its untreated effluent into the drainage system, which ultimately dumps the waste into the Turag and Bangshi rivers.

Mahmud Hossain, owner of a washing plant with an operating ETP in Gazipur, said his

factory generates 150 cubic metres of wastewater every day.

"We spend 8 to 10 lakh taka a month for lime, poly-electro lime, poly-aluminium chloride and poly-electro chloride to treat the waste," he added.

"We can stay honest and treat the wastewater before discharging, and still can make profit from the business," he noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS According to the Environment Conservation Rule 1997 under ECA, every industry of certain categories must have in-house ETPs, otherwise they would not get environmental clearance from DoE, which is mandatory for getting power and gas supply.

In ECA, 69 kinds of industries are listed under the Red category and another 69 kinds under the Orange B category, for all of which ETPs are a must, as they produce effluents harmful for the environment.

Industries under the Red category are: tanneries, power plants, all mining projects, fuel oil refineries, distilleries, waste incinerators, sewage treatment plants, landfills, ship, metallic boat, and wooden boat manufacturers,

engineering workshops, water treatment plants, motor vehicle workshops, electroplating factories, industrial estates, and industries that produce formaldehyde, urea fertilizer, TSP fertilizer, chemical dyes, artificial rubber, paper and pulp, sugar, fabric dye, caustic soda and other alkalis, iron and steel, raw materials, photo films, explosives, acids and their salts, nitrogen, plastic raw materials, asbestos, fibreglass, pesticides, phosphorus, chlorine, ordnance, nuclear power, wine, non-metallic chemicals, detergent, non-iron basic metals, life saving drugs, animal glue, rodenticides, refractories, industrial gas, battery, tobacco, refrigerator, tyre and tube, board mills, carpets, sewage pipe lines, murate of potash, etc.

The law even determines what kinds of wastewater may be discharged and what should be the level of its stench, and how much smog and noise a factory may produce. For violation of the rules, courts may fine any business establishment up to Tk 10 lakh, and sentence persons responsible for the violation to a maximum of 10 years imprisonment, or both.

DHAKA WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY (Wasa)

In the seven months from November to April, virtually no water but only malodorous mucky liquid flows through the ever narrowing Buriganga. Shitalakkhya, Turag, and Balu rivers, as no government could stop discharge of untreated liquid waste into them.

Dhaka Wasa collect polluted water from the rivers and supply that to city residents after treating it at its treatment plants. Currently, 85 per cent of the total water demand of the city is met through groundwater sources as most of the surface water is contaminated, according to Wasa.

Currently, Dhaka Wasa is producing around 1,200 million litres of water a day for urban supply through about 423 deep tube wells, resulting in an yearly depletion of ground water level by two metres due to over extraction, experts warn.

The pollution that has set in the rivers Buriganga and Shitalakkhya, has made it almost impossible to treat their water. The overall situation suggests it could not be any graver.

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KK Women's and Children's Hospital
SingHealth

A Leader in Women's and Children's Health

KK Women's and Children's Hospital, is the largest medical referral facility in Singapore which provides specialised care for women and children.

With over 830 beds, the hospital offers a full range of tertiary services in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Neonatology and Paediatrics through its 380 medical specialists, combined with some of the most advanced medical technology.

As a major medical facility, KKH plays a pivotal role in training the country's doctors and nurses, consisting of 48 specialised field and facilities that is comprehensive and integrated in obstetrics and gynaecology, neonatology and paediatrics.

KKH achievement as pioneer in the use of new technologies in South-East Asia can be found in 10 sub-specialised centres that provides dedicated and specialised services - patient care, education and research all work hand in hand.

Children Hospital

- Cleft and Craniofacial Centre
- Cardiac Centre
- Children Cancer Centre (CCC)
- Children Surgical Clinic
- ENT Centre
- Endocrine Centre
- Neurology Centre
- Orthopaedic Centre

Women Hospital

- Breast Centre
- Minimally Invasive Surgery Centre
- Gynaecology Oncology Centre (GOC)
- Urogynaecology Centre
- KKIVF Centre (KKIVF)
- Diagnostic imaging-MR Guided Focused Ultrasound Ablation for fibroids without surgery



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