

India opener Virender Sehwag raises his bat after scoring a double hundred on the second day of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai yesterday. He was unbeaten on 284.

Sehwag 284 not out

FROM PAGE 17

missed an attempted sweep. India scored 168 runs from 27 overs in the post-lunch session and 183 more in 34 overs in the final two hours to increase Sri Lanka's misery.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, the world's leading bowler with 788 wickets, conceded 119 runs in 20 wicketless overs, while Herath went for 112 runs in his 22 overs.

Sehwag appeared to carry on from his 131 in the second Test in Kanpur last week, which India won by an innings and 144 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

When he reached 48 by lofting Herath for a six over long-off, Sehwag went past the 6,000-run mark in his 72nd Test.

Sehwag reached his double century with four boundaries in one over from seamer Nuwan Kulasekara after tea.

Earlier, Sri Lanka were dismissed 25 minutes after the start when they resumed their first innings at the overnight total of 366-8.

All-rounder Angelo Mathews was run out on 99 as he attempted a second run to

reach his maiden Test century after playing a shot to deep square-leg.

Sachin Tendulkar swooped on the ball and rifled in a return to wicket-keeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who broke the stumps a split second before Mathews made his ground.

Mathews, who was on 86 overnight, hit two boundaries and a two in Shanthakumaran Sreesanth's first over to race to 96, but fell in trying to reach his century in a hurry.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh was India's most successful bowler with 4-112, while left-arm slow bowler Pragyan Ojha took 3-101.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final Test between India and Sri Lanka at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday:

SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 366-8) Paranavithana c Dravid b Harbhajan 53 Dilshan c Vijay b Harbhajan 109 Sangakkara c Dhoni b Ojha 18 M Jayawardene c Sehwag b Sreesanth 29

Samaraweera c Vijay b Harbhajan 1 Mathews run out P Jayawardene c Harbhajan b Ojha 43 Kulasekara c Dhoni b Zaheer 12 Herath c Dravid b Harbhajan 1 Muralidaran not out 4 Welegedara lbw b Ojha 8 Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-4, w-2) 16 Total: (All out in 94.4 overs) 393 Fall of wickets: 1-93, 2-128, 3-187, 4-188, 5-262, 6-329, 7-359, 8-362, 9-379.

Bowler O M R W Zaheer 19 2 70 1 Sreesanth 16 1 82 1 Harbhajan 32 3 112 4 Ojha 23.4 1 101 3 Yuvraj 4 0 18 0

INDIA: First innings Vijay lbw b Herath 87 Sehwag not out 284 Dravid not out 62 Extras: (lb-3, nb-7) 10 Total: (For one wkt in 79 overs) 443 To bat: Tendulkar, Laxman, Yuvraj, Dhoni, Harbhajan, Ojha, Zaheer, Sreesanth. Fall of wicket: 1-221.

Bowler O M R W Welegedara 16 2 73 0 Kulasekara 12 0 84 0 Herath 22 2 112 1 Muralidaran 20 0 119 0 Mathews 6 0 36 0 Dilshan 3 0 16 0

Henin starts 2nd career

AFP, Charleroi

Former world number one Justin Henin will begin her second career on Saturday on home ground at Charleroi, 18 months after retiring from the women's circuit.

Henin, 27, retired on the eve of the 2008 French Open, a tournament she had won four times along with two US crowns and one Australian Open.

It was the first time in the history of the sport that a reigning number one - male or female - had quit.

But in September she announced she was on the comeback trail saying she had rediscovered her appetite for competition.

"The flame has been rekindled, I thought it had been extinguished," she explained.

In returning Henin followed in the footsteps of compatriot Kim Clijsters, who capped her own return with victory in the US Open.

Henin will face compatriot Kirsten Flipkens as she returns for an exhibition event.

NZ dominate Day One

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The weather took time to clear up and New Zealand took time to wake up, but by the end of a shortened, disrupted first day at what was the Basin Reserve's 50th Test, both had taken firm hold of this match.

Incessant rains over the last few days had forced both sides to practice indoors in the run-in and a wet outfield delayed the start until lunch. Overcast conditions, a pitch only just uncovered and some bounce quickly lulled Daniel Vettori into sending Pakistan in after winning the toss. And after an unusual first bout of Pakistan control, New Zealand struck back to leave Pakistan at 161 for 6, bad light stopping play early.

Pakistan made two changes to their batting order after the limpness of their first Test display, bringing in Salman Butt and Misbahul Haq to solidify their spine. But the inherent timidity in their senior players - and the ineptitude of some - surfaced again, as they lost the opportunity of a rare opening platform. A familiar story of uncertain prods outside off, awkward encounters with short balls, airy swishes and brain-dead shots unfolded thereafter, 60 for none dwindling to an inadequate first day total.

On balance New Zealand deserved their reward, if only because they came back so well after Butt and Imran Farhat had made Vettori's decision to bowl first look

misguided early. Whether Vettori himself would have expected to end up with three wickets on a pitch offering as much turn as an ice-rink might to an early 90s Anil Kumble is open to question, but the spark for the revival was provided by the pacemen.

Things had looked difficult more than halfway into the afternoon session. First up, everyone seemed to agree that there would be mischief in the air and pitch. There wasn't. Chris Martin and Daryl Tuffey - looking every inch a man returning to Tests after nearly five years - had been tight, nothing more. Nothing moved off the pitch and the bounce was true and good. Not that it made much of a difference to the openers, as roused as two turtles on Valium.

Carefully, reluctantly, they battled through, the odd boundary signaling growing comfort, but they never broke away decisively. A nervy equilibrium had been reached by the time they put on a second fifty stand in six Tests as a combination; they have a century partnership as well, which in Pakistan's context makes them Haynes-Greendidge-esque. It had taken time - the first hour produced 32 runs and the 50 came up just before the second drinks break in the 24th over - but the situation was quite dory, if not entirely hunky.

It was only after that break, however, that New Zealand finally got with it. Martin, Tuffey and right-arm blogger Iain O'Brien may not match Shane Bond for impact, but they are persevering, under-

rated men. Having bowled either the wrong line or length initially, they returned to more basic plans. Tuffey went short, and O'Brien reaped the benefit, Butt pulling loosely straight up to the skies. Fear - and Vettori - now took hold, as the captain lodged himself at one end, and let the pacemen relish the right lengths at the other.

In one over came two realisations; Farhat remembered first that he is not perhaps, after all, an international batsman of any quality, lazily cutting to slip. And then, that Vettori's arm ball is deadly, as he trapped Mohammad Yousuf. As is the way, the ball suddenly began to swing and cut a little, though perhaps that was because both O'Brien and Tuffey hit proper lengths.

In a move that confirmed many sad things about Pakistan, bluntest among them that none of their senior batsmen had the guts to front up at that spot, Umar Akmal was thrown in at one-down. Reports from New Zealand yesterday suggested that all senior batsmen had refused to move there, so Umar, presumably, was offered for sacrifice. He was a changed man and O'Brien was just about to have him for brunch, leaving him rooted with movement and surprising him too often with bounce, before tearfully intervened.

Umar sped along after tea, like some crazy, brave firefly glowing madly but always in danger of going out. Just when he seemed to be settling, however, Tuffey undid him with a peach that hit off. As the bowlers continued to probe, fear was

replaced by stupidity, as two men supposedly more experienced holed out to shots that should condemn at least one of them. Faisal Iqbal will wonder which God he ever upset if Pakistan continues to think Shoaib Malik worthy of more Test opportunities than him; Malik's slap to mid-off should, ideally, put an end to that farce.

Just before bad light intervened, there was enough time for Misbah to prove again that all the world's MBAs and domestic experience cannot iron out his tendency to getting out at the worst possible time, in the worst possible way. Vettori would have been smiling anyway at the way the day turned, but Misbah's ugly sweep would have left him laughing.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of the second Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Basin Reserve in Wellington on Thursday:

PAKISTAN: First innings Farhat c Taylor b Vettori 32 Butt c Tuffey b O'Brien 29 U Akmal b Tuffey 46 Yousuf lbw b Vettori 0 Misbahul lbw b Vettori 21 Malik c Vettori b Tuffey 9 K Akmal not out 21 Aamer not out 2 Extras: (w-1) 1 Total: (For 6 wts in 58 overs) 161 To bat: Gul, Asif, Kaneria. Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-66, 3-66, 4-119, 5-131, 6-156.

Bowler O M R W Martin 11 2 32 0 Tuffey 16 5 32 2 O'Brien 17 4 55 1 Vettori 14 4 42 3

Mauresmo retires

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Two-time Grand Slam winner Amelie Mauresmo of France announced Thursday she is retiring at the age of 30 following a decision made "after careful consideration."

Geneva-based Mauresmo, a former world number one who currently stands 21 in the rankings, won Wimbledon and the Australian Open in 2006 during a stellar career which saw her land 25 singles titles as well as 15 million dollars in prizemoney.

"I've come here to announce the end of my career. I made this decision after careful consideration," an emotional Mauresmo told a news conference in Paris.

Mauresmo came to prominence at Grand Slam level with a run to the 1999 Australian Open and she reached the semis at the US Open that same year.

Her Wimbledon title success came after three losing semifinal showings.

In 2004 she won Olympic silver.

But she suffered disappointments on home clay at Roland-Garros, where she could only manage two runs to the quarter-finals.

In 2005 she won the Masters end of season event.

Mauresmo last appeared on court on September 2 when she lost in the second round of the US Open against 39th-

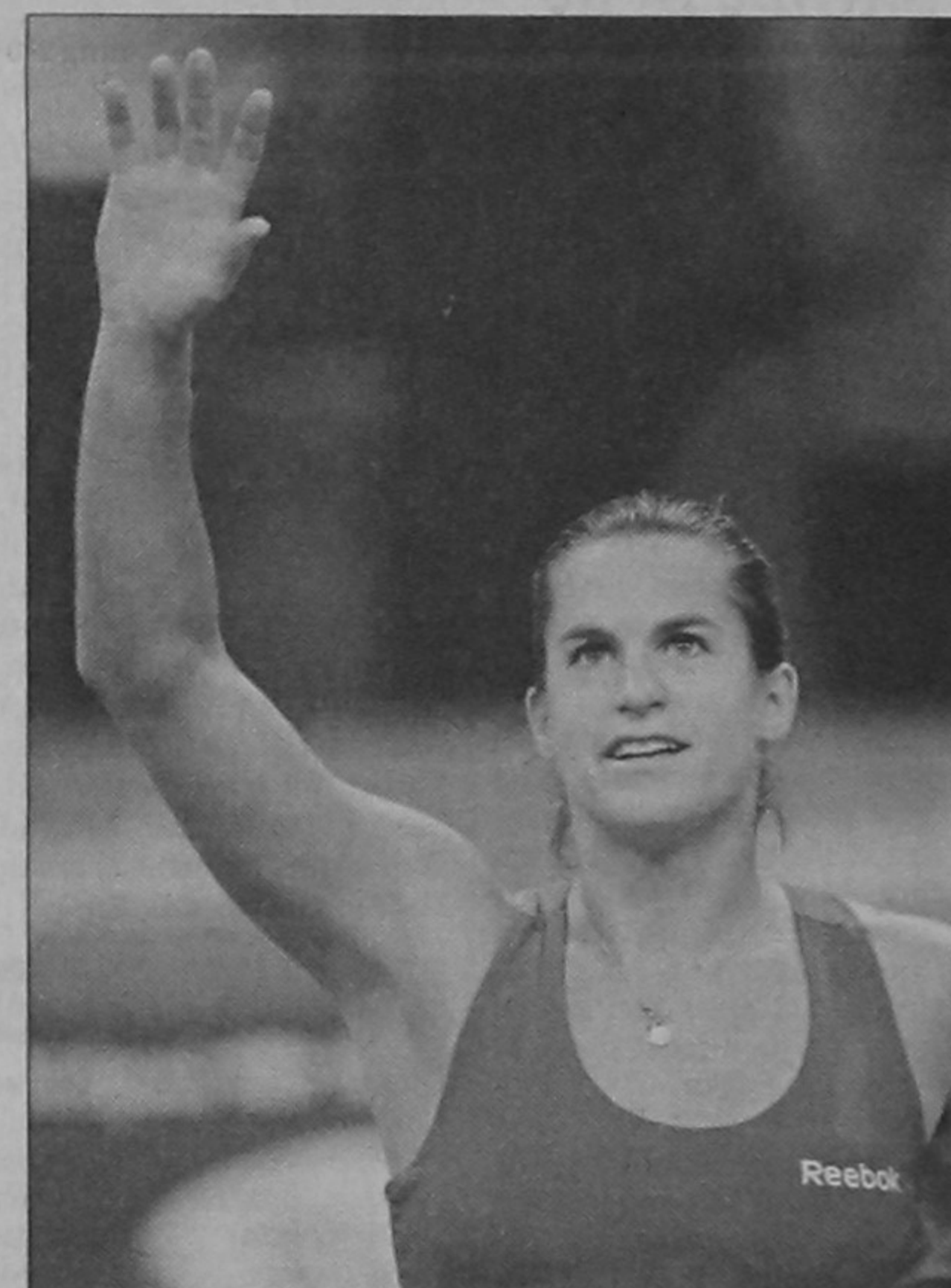
ranked Canadian Aleksandra Wozniak in straight sets.

She announced the following month she would not play again this season citing a slump in her motivation to keep competing at the top level.

Her final title came appropriately enough at the Paris Open earlier this year when she defeated Elena Dementieva.

She first appeared aged just 16 at Roland-Garros after receiving a wild card entry, then the following year she was crowned junior world champion.

Her first major breakthrough came with her run to the Australian Open final in January 1999, when she lost in straight sets to Martina Hingis.



AMELIE MAURESMO

Mauresmo then reached the 2002 Wimbledon semis as she showed she could mix serve and volley with the best on grass even though she struggled to find her best form on the Roland Garros clay, where home expectations appeared to weigh even more heavily following her rise to prominence on other surfaces.

After further runs to the last four in 2004 and 2005, she finally secured the Wimbledon title in 2006 at the expense of Justine Henin, who ironically after retiring 18 months ago is now returning to the circuit.

In November 2003 Mauresmo added a Fed Cup win to her honours collection and in September the following year, despite a US Open quarter-finals defeat, she sat atop the rankings, the first French tennis star to achieve the feat.

Although she only held the ranking for five weeks she returned to the number one slot in 2006 shortly after she beat compatriot Mary Pierce in the Masters Final in Los Angeles.

There followed her Grand Slam title breakthrough - though the taste of success was somewhat marred in being achieved after trophy match rival Henin had to retire through injury early in the second set.

Semifinal opponent Kim Clijsters had also retired through injury to benefit Mauresmo.

Ispahani

FROM PAGE 17

nine matches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur which will start with today's match between Abahani and Mohammedan.

He also informed that they are planning to arrange some day-night matches at Mirpur so that more fans come to watch the match.

The champions will get Tk 10 lakhs while runners-up team Tk 9 lakhs as prize money while man-of-the-match will receive Tk 10,000 in the super-league match by courtesy of sponsor Ispahani.

MA Khan, senior manager of sponsor MM Ispahani, also spoke on the occasion.



Did U Know?

The last French person to win at Roland Garros was Mary Pierce in 2000.



Rafa Marquez

(Mexican defender) "I'm very happy to renew with a club where I've felt very wanted, where I've enjoyed myself and where I've suffered. I have to enjoy these moments, they pass very quickly." After extending his contract with Barcelona until 2012 on Monday.

KNOW THE CONTENDERS

FROM PAGE 17

Duminda Wasanthaka, Hettiarachche, Rohana Dinesh Ruwanthilaka, Tharusha Rangana, Sanoj Sameera Perera, Sajaya Pradeep Kumara, Kasun Nadika, Mohamad Fasal, Sadihshkumar, Nipuna Dewinda Bandara, Chathura Maduranga Weerasinghe, Kolitha Chathuranga Kumara, Rajitha Jayawilal, Thilanka Nalinda Kumara. Coach: Sampath Perera.

Last tournament: Semifinal Sri Lanka are a solid side and although their track record over the last decade is not exceptional they are targeting a spot in the final in this edition of the tournament.

Team: Pakistan FIFA Ranking: 168 Squad: Jaffar Khan, Amir Gul, Sammar Ishaq, Haji Muhammad, Muhammad Essa, Nasrullah Khan, Saifullah Khan, Abdul Aziz, Jaded Khan Pathan, Arif

Mehmood, Mohammad Shahid, Zeshan Rehman, Adnan Farooq Ahmed, Amjad Iqbal, Atif Bashir Qureshi, Shabir Khan, Mahmood Ali, Orangezb, Muddassar Saeed and Ris Ashraf. Coach: George Adalbert Kottan.

Last tournament: Group Stage Sri Lanka are a solid side and although their track record over the last decade is not exceptional they are targeting a spot in the final in this edition of the tournament.

Team: Bhutan FIFA Ranking: 196 Squad: Passang Tshering, Pema, Nawang Dendup, Kinley Dorji, Sangay Khandu, Tandin Tshering, Karun Gung, Kinley Wangchuk, Sonam Tenzin, Tenzin, Leki, Tshering Dendup, Nim Sangay, Gyetshen, Chihimi Dorji, Dawa Gyetshen, Kelzang Dorji, Chenchho, Kinga Thinley.

Coach: Koji Gytoku Last tournament: Semifinal

Star turn: Prema Aspiration: Bhutan are the lowest-ranked side in the piece, but they have been semifinalists in the last edition, only losing to India in stoppage time. They are not expected to be as strong this time around.

Pak players cleared for IPL

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan's players have been cleared to participate in the 2010 season of the IPL after receiving the final government clearance they needed, from their country's interior ministry.

Earlier on Wednesday, Pakistan's foreign ministry cleared the players' involvement in the Indian league and the interior ministry's clearance means the PCB can now issue the no-objection certificates (NOCs) that would allow them to play in the tournament. "The sports and foreign ministries had already given their clearance ... we were awaiting security clearance from the interior ministry, which we have got now," PCB media manager Nadeem Sarwar told Reuters. "We have been told we can issue NOCs to the players now."

The deadline for the submission of the NOCs to the IPL was extended to December 9. Eleven Pakistani players - including Shahid Afridi and Umar Gul, the stars of Pakistan's 2009 World Twenty20 campaign - were recruited by the Kolkata, Rajasthan, Delhi, Hyderabad and Bangalore franchises before the inaugural IPL.

However, Pakistan's players were absent from the second IPL, held earlier this year in South Africa, after their government did not allow them to travel to India - where the tournament was originally to be held - for security reasons. The franchises then opted to retain the contracts of only four of them - Kamran Akmal and Sohail Tanvir (Rajasthan), Misbah-ul-Haq (Bangalore) and Gul (Kolkata).

League back

FROM PAGE 17

advantage for us as Razzaq is not hundred per cent fit. I will try my best for my team," said Rana.

The scenario has however changed following the Tigers' step up to the international stage and that's why the focus was not only on the foreign recruits rather both quarters were looking forward to their local players.

And that's why in the Mohammedan tent the question was whether dashing opener Tamim Iqbal could play his first match after recovering from an injury he had suffered during the last one-day game against Zimbabwe at Chittagong.

Mohammedan got a letter yesterday from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) where it was suggested that the left-hander is yet to be fully fit, but the Motijheel outfit has considered it a routine work and they will decide on the issue before the match starts. Tamim however said that he is not fully fit as still there is swelling on the

top of his hand.

"We hope he (Tamim) will be available for tomorrow's match. Our main focus is to maintain our unbeaten record and to do that we have to perform our best in the match. We are not too much focused on the foreign recruitment rather I think everything would be dependant on our local players," said Moham median skipper Khaled Mashud.

Shakib said that the team which can make a good start would be able to make the difference in the crucial game. "The start would be important and everybody should play their best," said Shakib, who also rated Mashud as a shrewd tactician.

Whether it would be a problem for the players to get back their rhythm after the long break, the smiling Shakib however pointed to his head in response to the question. "The important thing is how you can use your brain in this kind of a crucial game."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Arbiter	1 Phoned
4 Suitable	2 Satan's
7 "I Remember"	field
11 Acknowledge	Miniver
13 Hawaiian	Miniver
14 Raw	Miniver
15 Pleasant	Miniver
16 Felon's	Miniver
17 Approach	Miniver
18 Slight	Miniver
20 Rickey	Miniver
22 Pitch	Miniver
24 Wood	Miniver
28 California	Miniver
32 Range	Miniver
33 PC	Miniver
34 Mesh	Miniver
36 Admitting	Miniver
37 Obliterate	Miniver
39 Variance	Miniver
41 Tooth-related	Miniver
43 Siesta	Miniver
44 Destruction	Miniver
46 Cart	Miniver
50 Sandwich	Miniver
53 Unruly	Miniver
55 Portrayal	Miniver
56 Uncontrollable	Miniver
57 Purchase	Miniver
58 A Great	Miniver
59 Put one	Miniver
60 Indivisible	Miniver
61 Conclusion	Miniver
62 Pitch	Miniver
63 Wood	Miniver
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