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INDIAN BUSINESSMEN NOT WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

While Beehive is busy building bridges with the emerging economies of the New World, a New Zealand government department was caught in

“The Chamber is concerned that the (immigration) policy is designed more to keep people out of the country.”

the act of undoing just that. The immigration officials rejected visas to about 20 members of a 30-member delegation of Indian businessmen invited to a Wellington conference. Ironically the conference was to

discuss improving trade relations.

The news of visa denial was widely reported in Indian media, including in the country's one of the largest newspapers—the Indian Express.

National Party's spokesperson for international trade, Tim Groser, called it a "potentially a major blunder."

Immigration Minister David Cunliffe launched an investigation at the request of the trade minister, Phil Goff.

According to a report in India eNews, Groser said, "New Zealand is an exporting country. Forging new links with trading partners is a crucial to our future economic growth."

Immigration New Zealand's New Delhi

branch had rejected the visas.

The trade minister said the Indian government had not complained.

In the meantime, the free-trade agreement between the two countries has made little progress.

The chief executive of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, Charles Finny, told the National Business Review he was embarrassed and outraged by the affair.

"The Chamber is concerned that the (immigration) policy is designed more to keep people out of the country. We need to shift paradigms and be encouraging greater people to people contact, particularly with the business communities of major economies," Finny said.

ANZ TO ENTER ASIAN MARKETS

ANZ Bank (Australia and New Zealand Banking Group) is looking to extend in many emerging markets in Asia.

Chief Executive Mike Smith wants

ANZ to become a regional bank, not only in China but in India, in Southeast Asia, and in places like Korea, Japan,

"Australia has been on the front foot here and has created a bank that is going to stand up and become a regional bank," he told CNBC Asia

television.

Mr Smith's Asia focus can be attributed to his earlier position with HSBC, where he headed the global bank's Hong Kong business.

ANZ reported a 13 percent increase in annual net profit to A\$4.18 billion.

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**IT'S FESTIVE TIME!
NAVARATRI
DIWALI
CHRISTMAS**



Clockwise left to right: Navratri at Mahatma Gandhi Centre, Auckland; Diwali celebrations in Manukau; shops are getting ready for Christmas; One of the Indian houses in Auckland decorated for Diwali. (All images: The Global Indian magazine)

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Bank of New Zealand, one of the largest players in retail banking, has heeded to the cultural diversity of its customer base by introducing multi-lingual ATMs in New Zealand. This follows National Bank's move earlier to introduce similar facilities in Chinese, Korean and Japanese as well as English, a Human Rights Commission newsletter reported. The Bank of New Zealand's 420 ATMs will offer card users the choice of English, Maori, Japanese, German, Korean, French, or Chinese (simplified or traditional). Once customers select their preferred language, all transactions will be conducted in the

selected language. This service will be available to all users of the BNZ's ATMs, not only BNZ card users.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Asian tourist visit New Zealand.

Earlier, Bank of New Zealand and China UnionPay (CUP), the only bank card association in China, entered a strategic initiative whereby CUP cards could be accepted through BNZ's ATMs and via EFTPOS at selected merchants.

China offers one of the biggest potential markets for banking cards in the world.

"The partnership is the first of its kind for New Zealand, and the culmination

of more than a year's work," says Blair Vernon, BNZ General Manager of Strategy and Marketing.

"We're offering greater flexibility and convenience for Chinese cardholders to access their funds and make purchases while in New Zealand.

"This service will appeal to those businesses that cater for Chinese tourists, students and business travellers.

"Average purchases are up as much as 40 percent with this card type" says Vernon.

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Mufti Ishak Ibrahim Koshiya from the West Auckland Islamic Centre in Ranui was taken from the mosque by police and immigration officers in September, arrested as an overstayer and served with a removal order.

He was bailed the next day. He then voluntarily left the country for India with his wife and three kids. He had lived in New Zealand for five years on work permit.

His lawyer, Marcus Beveridge, told the Sunday Star Times Koshiya's application for permanent residency was declined because he failed the International English Language Testing System exam.

Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter made submissions on Koshiya's behalf to Associate Immigration Minister Clayton Cosgrove.

Beveridge said Koshiya was a greatly respected and highly qualified mufti.

"Apparently he was the highest, most learned Islamic scholar New Zealand's ever seen.

"He was fluent in six languages, including Arabic and Hindi, but English was always a bit of a struggle. It's all a bit ironic because he taught all the local West Auckland Christian scholars about the Koran, he spoke for 15 minutes a day in the mosque to English-only speaking church men."

INDIA SHOULD BE GIVEN AN AUGMENTED VOICE IN THE UN—CLINTON

Ram Narayanan, the US

In an article in the November/December 2007 issue of Foreign Affairs Magazine, Hillary Clinton, a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, has propounded her foreign policy objectives.

The article entitled, "Security and Opportunity for the Twenty-first Century", summarises her overall position in the following words:

"To build a world that is safe, prosperous, and just, we must get out of Iraq, rediscover the value of statesmanship, and live up to the democratic values that are the deepest source of our strength."

She makes references to both China and India. Following is what she says about China: Our relationship with China will be the most important bilateral relationship in the world in this century.

And this is what Ms Clinton says about India: "As co-chair of the Senate India Caucus, I recognize the tremendous opportunity presented by India's rise and the need to give the country an augmented voice in regional and international institutions, such as the UN. We must find additional ways for Australia, India, Japan, and the United States to cooperate on issues of mutual concern, including combating terrorism, cooperating on global climate control, protecting global energy supplies, and deepening global economic development."

(Ram Narayanan runs a website devoted to improving US-India friendship: <http://www.usindiafriendship.net/>)

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO STAY ON

A significant number of international students are choosing to keep their skills in New Zealand once they have finished their studies, Immigration Minister David Cunliffe said.

"Research has found 27 percent of all international students who began study between 1999 and 2001 gained residence or stayed in New Zealand to work," Mr Cunliffe said.

"Notably, the majority of the people gaining residence did so through the skilled/business immigration stream – which means they are filling those skill gaps in our labour market.

"We know that the international education sector is a major contributor to the economy – worth an estimated \$2 billion every year in foreign exchange. But this is also about the skills we can benefit from once those students have completed their New Zealand qualifications."

The research 'International students:

Studying and staying on in New Zealand' looked at the study paths of students over five years.

"The findings of this report will be valuable in building our knowledge of this important market, and have already contributed to the international student policy" Mr Cunliffe said.

The changes are designed to improve the attractiveness of New Zealand as an education destination.

WORLD VISION APPOINTS ETHNIC AMBASSADOR

World Vision New Zealand has appointed Michael Sheppard as its new ethnic communities ambassador.

This position has been created to formally recognise the importance and value World Vision places on its relationship with the many local communities of people from around the world, including those that originate from the countries it works in.

World Vision is New Zealand's largest humanitarian organisation with more than 70 current projects in over 25 countries. Globally, World Vision serves alongside 100 million people in 97 countries.

"We respect and admire the vitality and hard work of the many people we serve, and look forward to deepening those relationships at a local level in New Zealand," says World Vision New Zealand Marketing Director, Andrew Stott.

"As we are all very much aware, the world grows smaller year by year. We are excited about working with ethnic

communities in New Zealand to see how we can promote policies and practices that will bring about beneficial changes to the lives of the children we serve."

Michael Sheppard already has relationships with people from many of the countries World Vision is working in. He represented World Vision at the New Zealand Diversity Forum Programme and was a member of The Refugee Association and the former President of the combined Ethnic Minority/United Party.

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A CULTURAL WARM UP

Staff correspondent

In an attempt to give an opportunity to New Zealand's Hindu community to experience the Maori culture, a cultural workshop was organised at a Rotorua Marae.

The Rangoli workshop, organised by the Hindu Council of New Zealand Inc. at the Apumoana Marae, was attended by over 150 people.

Rangoli is one of the most popular art forms in India. The term rangoli is derived from the words "rang" which means colour, and "avali" meaning

row of colours, says Dr Meeta Patel, the coordinator of the event. It is usually drawn on the ground in front of a house in the colours of the morning sun, to represent inner awakening.

"The day began with a Powhiri (Maori welcome) performed by the Kaumatua (Maori elder) of the Apumoana Marae," Meeta adds. The elders of the Hindu community reciprocated with a Hindu prayer.

The workshop was conducted by experienced tutors: Shweta Modak (Hamilton) and Kalyani Abhyankar (Auckland). "It was a wonderful day at Rotorua conducting a workshop on Rangoli and showing others the

magic of this wonderful art," says Shweta Modak.

The participants also had an opportunity to create their own design and make a rangoli.

For guests staying at the Marae, a yoga session was conducted by an yoga teacher next morning. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Participants thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "Very interesting to watch, lots of information. Can't wait to try this at my home," says Wendie MacDonald, one of the participants.



Right: Hon. Steve Chadwick (Cabinet Minister for Conservation and Women's Affairs, and the Member of Parliament for Rotorua) and Trevor Maxwell (Deputy Mayor of Rotorua) inaugurated the event.

Left: Kalyani Abhyankar, a tutor from Auckland, demonstrating Rangoli.

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TAARE ZAMIN PAR

When it comes to Aamir Khan, apparently, less is more.

Known for doing only one film a year, Aamir Khan has expectations of Bollywood movie-patrons after his inspiring performance in Fanaa last year.

Well, he is back, this time not only as an actor but as producer and director of his latest film—Taare Zamin Par. And the nine-time award-winner is expected to deliver ‘movie of the year.’

Film making is not easy, writes Aamir Khan on the film’s official website.

The movie’s journey started with Amol Gupte who had spent seven years with children.

“I came into picture around three years ago when Amol entrusted me with the job of producing the movie,” says Aamir. Aamir has known Amol since their college days. Amol was present on the sets throughout the shooting of the movie. “He has been a big support and a strong guiding force in my debut as a director,”

PREVIEW



Aamir adds.

The music is provided by Shankar, Ehsaan and Loy and the movie is due to be released on the second week of December.

Written by Seema Patel. Seema is a Malaysia-based freelance writer and a movie buff.

EMBRACING INDIA'S EMERGENCE VITAL TO OUR INTERESTS

NewsWorthy

Dr Richard Worth
NATIONAL PARTY MP



Dr Richard Worth

The plight of an Indian trade delegation

It is fashionable (and correct) to identify the significant opportunities of developing trade with India. As a Labour Government Minister recently said:

The scale of India can be hard for Kiwis to grasp. Its tertiary institutions – for example - produce over 100,000 engineering and two million non-engineering graduates a year. That's half of New Zealand's population graduating annually.

Understanding and embracing India's emergence, however, is vital to our interests and future prosperity.

So it was bad news for this country when a delegation sponsored by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had their meeting plans in New Zealand frustrated when Immigration New Zealand declined visa applications for 20 persons who

had applied several weeks earlier.

New Zealand generally has visa free arrangements with other countries – India, China and Philippines are exceptions. It is arguable whether there is a justification for such exceptions but leave that aside.

As the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce pointed out we are wanting to grow bilateral trade, negotiate a free-trade agreement between India and New Zealand, and to access even greater numbers of skilled Indian workers to help our serious skills deficit, yet on the other hand a large number of senior Indian business representatives were told they are not welcome to visit.

The New Zealand Government is unrepentant. Early statements of regret have been replaced by unequivocal assertions of correct procedures.

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NEW PROCEDURE SENSITIVE TO SIKH TURBAN

Overseas correspondent

According to America's new security screening policy, a Sikh traveler's turban will be accommodated during the screening process by providing additional options to satisfy the security requirements.

The Transport Security Administration (TSA) will now include the screening procedures for headwear within the overall category of bulky clothing and will not call it out as a separate category. Removal of all headwear is recommended but the rules accommodate those with religious, medical, or other reasons for whom removing items is not comfortable. Transportation security officers have several options for screening passengers who choose not to remove bulky clothing, including headwear.

The change is a result of collaboration between TSA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials, the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) and other Sikh organisations in response to the concerns of the Sikh American community over a procedure implemented on August 4, 2007.

The August 2007 procedure disproportionately targeted Sikhs for secondary screening due to their turban, an article of faith, like the Jewish kippah (yarmulke) and Muslim hijab. The turban is an integral part of the Sikh faith and identity, and removal of the turban in public is akin to a strip search, a SALDEF release said. The procedure resulted in Sikh travelers being forced to

undergo an invasive pat-down or removal of the turban.

The turban was the only religious article listed as potentially requiring additional screening, the release said. Furthermore, the procedure may have resulted in a misallocation of national security resources due to the heightened focus on Sikh passengers.

"The new policy is encouraging and addresses most of the concerns of the Sikh American community," said Kavneet Singh, SALDEF's managing director. "Our

"Removal of all headwear is recommended but the rules accommodate those with religious, medical, or other reasons for whom removing items is not comfortable. Transportation security officers have several options for screening passengers who choose not to remove bulky clothing, including headwear."

collaboration with TSA has resulted in a solution that strengthens TSA's ability to protect our nation's airports, while also respecting the civil liberties of all travelers of faith."

All 43,000 TSA screeners will undergo Sikh cultural awareness training, which includes tools developed by SALDEF in collaboration with the US Department of Justice.

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INTRODUCING INDIA TO THE YOUNG

It's time to give a glimpse of India to the children of non-resident Indians. The High Commission of India in New Zealand is seeking applications for the Know India Programme which is aimed at associating the younger generation of the Indian Diaspora closely with India.

Seven such programmes have been organised till now. The programme will provide a unique forum for students and young professionals of Indian origin to share their views and experience to bond closely with contemporary India. The three-week long programme will begin in the last weeks of December 2007 and will coincide with the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2008 (an annual conference for overseas Indians) to be held from 7 to 9 January next year.

The programme will involve 40 participants in the age group of 18-26 years, visiting New Delhi and Tamil Nadu

40 participants in the age group of 18-26 years, visiting New Delhi and Tamil Nadu to senior dignitaries in government, and visit places of cultural, rural and industrial interest.

to senior dignitaries in government, and visit places of cultural, rural and industrial interest. They will also participate in projects on environment, primary education and rural health.

While the participants will pay for their travel costs from New Zealand to Delhi and back, an amount equivalent to one-way fare will be reimbursed to participants by the High Commission. The Ministry/State Government will bear expenditure on internal travel, boarding and an out-of-pocket allowance.

For nomination forms, please contact the Indian High Commission in New Zealand. Entries close 5 December.



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RESPECTING RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS

TGI correspondent

Our readers may recollect an episode of *South Park*, an adult cartoon series on C4 last year, which generated the highest-ever number of individual complaints to New Zealand's Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA).

The episode, entitled *Bloody Mary*, is about Stan, an eight-year-old boy, and one of the show's main characters, facing the fact that his father, Randy, has a drink problem. The controversial scenes portray a statue of the Virgin Mary appearing to menstruate, thus offending the Catholic community in particular, but also those from other faiths.

After it issued its decision on the complaints, the BSA discussed the broadcast with its newly-appointed community advisory panel.

The panel members come from different ethnicities and parts of New Zealand. They include a retired school principal, an environmental

planner, a student, and a carpenter. There are representatives from the Māori, Samoan, Pākehā, Indian and Chinese communities, and they meet with the BSA three to four times a year.

Bloody Mary elicited a variety of views from the panel, some of whom had also canvassed the reactions of their communities.

Two members thought the episode was 'brilliant satire'. Another was 'sad for those who found the programme offensive.' He said the older generation in his community, which is Samoan, was deeply affected by 'the irreligious nature of the programme', and some younger members of his community had 'got angry' on seeing the programme.

Another panellist of Christian faith said, 'just because you have a small group with low expectations, does that make it (the satire) right?'

Another from the Indian community found it offensive and likened it to 'how she would have felt if it was an icon from her religion.' She felt it could have been screened without the Virgin Mary part.

One panellist, who is Māori, had shown it to a mother's group she attended and 'they weren't worried by it.' She said, 'if anything they looked beyond the imagery to the message which was about willpower. But they did feel compassion for the people who had been upset by it.'

Another had been personally 'a bit shocked by the episode' but thought that the 'plot of the boy with the alcoholic dad was clever stuff.'

This range of views creates a valuable resource for the BSA, giving greater insight into community feeling.

The Authority's decision about the *Bloody Mary* complaints focused on two key issues: firstly whether the programme breached 'current norms of decency and taste in language and behaviour', and secondly whether the programme encouraged the denigration of identifiable groups. In neither case did the BSA uphold the complaints.

In relation to the denigration issue, its decision says that the 'right to satirise institutions within society falls squarely within a broadcaster's freedom of expression'.

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FIRST QUIZ CONTEST

Indians will soon have an opportunity to experience a quiz contest, especially designed for Indians—probably for the first time.

“INDIAQUEST’ will be a comprehensive quiz aimed at the youth of India, says Sriram Iyer. The age group for this contest will be for the youth aged 12-21 years. There will be teams of three participants. “We suggest interested participants to make the best team possible using this age criteria.

“The culture of India is one of the oldest and unique. In India, there is amazing cultural diversity throughout the country.

“India is home to some of the most ancient civilisations, including four major world religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. Indian history is as intriguing and magnificent as the geography of the country. “

This quiz contest will test anything and everything about India. “The aim of this contest is to retain and promote

awareness of our native motherland, India,” Sriram adds. This contest will explore the history, geography, arts, culture, literature of India for all the Indians settled far away from home here in New Zealand.

The top four teams will be chosen from the elimination round and the final quiz will last for two hours in the format of a live quiz show with different rounds. The format and content will be both informative and entertaining.

INDIAQUEST Quiz Contest Venue: Mt Roskill Intermediate School Hall; Date: Saturday, December 1st, 6:00 PM onwards; Tickets: \$10

Written Elimination Round: 3 PM, December 1st, Mt Roskill Intermediate School Hall Entries accepted in Teams of 3. Register via email, your team name and participants’ names (3) before November 15, 2007.

Email: india_quiz@yahoo.co.nz

AGE LIMIT: 12-21; Entry Fee per Team (3 members in One team): \$15

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QUIT SMOKING PROJECT FOR ASIANS WINS ACCOLADE

A project helping Asian smokers on Auckland's North Shore to quit has been highly commended in the 2007 New Zealand Health Innovation Awards. The awards, run by the Ministry of Health and ACC, recognise excellence in innovative projects that improve health services to New Zealanders.

"The Asian Smokefree Communities (ASC) programme reflects everything positive the Primary Health Care Strategy sets out to do," says Clinical Services Manager of Harbour Health PHO, Janice van Mil.

Central to the strategy was that healthcare should not be about treating illness, only. The changes in the health system showed people how to improve their own health, supported them in staying healthy and offered help to those with ongoing problems.

A research conducted in 2005 in the Waitemata District's Asian community showed 10 percent of its

population were smokers and did not have equitable access to smoking cessation programmes or resources.

Asian smokers told researchers they did not feel comfortable using standard smoking cessation services, like the Quitline, mainly because of the language barrier.



They also felt the available resources did not meet their needs in either language or content.

So, in a first for New Zealand, three health organisations combined to do something about it.

Waitemata District Health Board, Harbour Health PHO (one of the largest in the country) and Auckland Regional Public Health collaborated under the Primary Health Care Strategy to co-fund a programme to help Asian smokers to become

smokefree.

The community was asked what the new programme should look like. From this came the idea of home visits by female coordinators to support both the households and smokers to become smokefree.

"Helping to make a home or car smokefree gives us a connection with the smoker who may then look at trying to quit altogether," says Mrs van Mil.

"For instance, we had a non-smoking woman approach us for help because she had five smokers in her household and she was constantly ill. Five months after we initially visited that home to help them make it smokefree, four of the five smokers had quit.

"Our coordinators are invited to visit homes or workplaces, to discuss creating smokefree environments.

"The ASC programme has culturally-appropriate, translated resources to support both smoking cessation and smokefree environments".

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IF DOG WAS TEACHER

If a dog was the teacher, we would learn stuff like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout! run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.

Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle

them gently.

DON'T TRUST KIDS

A woman wanted to reach her husband. She instructed her son to use his own phone to pass across an urgent message to his daddy. After junior had called, he got back to mummy to inform her that there was a lady that picked up daddy's phone the three times.

She waited impatiently for her husband to return from work and upon seeing him in the driveway, she rushed out and gave him a tight slap, and she slapped him again, for good measure. The woman asked junior to tell what the lady said to him when he called. Junior said "The subscriber you have dialed is not available at present."

Contributed by Brian DeSilva, Auckland



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YOUR ARTICLES NOT CHALLENGING

The October issue is, like previous ones, easy on the eye because of its colourful format.

But, if I may say, the articles were rather pedestrian in content, not really thought provoking or challenging. I think you prefer to steer clear of controversy.

I'll restrict my comments to one issue - India. You tend to take a benign and benevolent view about India and ignore the many glaring policy deficits that come in the way of a more rounded development of the country. Sometimes, in my view, a more critically constructive commentary on an issue (and related issues) might help bring about change.

For example, you are happy to report

that Indians recently won three world championships - in Twenty20 Cricket, in billiards and chess. But their overall cricket performance since their win has hardly been laudable. Given the resources that go into cricket, why can't India maintain a consistently high quality of play?

Competitive billiards as far as I know is shunned by several countries (including Britain). Snooker is far more popular - how good is India in snooker?

The chess win was highly commendable - Anand is the first Asian to dislodge the traditional Russian champion.

But why stop there? What about track and field? Why is India a disaster in athletics, swimming, football etc? These questions clamour for an answer but the Indian media just turn a blind eye. Does the government have any medium term strategy for

sports? Given India's size, the comparison should be with China - why is China so far ahead in sports and for that matter in virtually everything else? The People's Republic of China is just 58 years old - younger than India.

May I propose that your e-mag launch a series of comprehensive articles on India's standing in a range of areas from diplomacy to sports and compare the record with China. Please do not invite the same tired, old Indian politicians to write but more dynamic writers like Shashi Tharoor, Vijay Prashad or Praful Bidwai. You will no doubt know several others.

Eddie D'Sa, the UK

Editor responds: Thank you for your valuable comments. It is our endeavour to constantly improve our contents, and your feedback and suggestions will help us to set the tone for this publication.

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