

# Soccer Investor



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## Main News

### First African hosted FIFA Congress meets in Morocco

The 55<sup>th</sup> FIFA Ordinary Congress met over the weekend in Marrakech, Morocco, the first in Africa and its deliberations will continue until the end of today. The FIFA Executive Committee took a number of decisions. Following, a proposal of FIFA president Sepp Blatter made at a meeting in Zurich last week, prior to the Congress, plans have been made to set up a new FIFA Task Force to meet face up to some of the most pressing issues in world football today, such as multiple club ownership, corruption and betting, the quest for autonomy by some leagues and political interference. The purpose of the Task Force, which would report directly to the FIFA Executive Committee, would be to come up with appropriate solutions to fortify the Associations on a long-term basis. On betting the Executive Committee decided to look at setting up an early warning system with major state and private bookmakers and betting syndicates and to lay down contractual norms as soon as possible. The Executive Committee also ratified the memorandum agreed between the European Professional Football League (EPFL) and UEFA, as well as the constitutional terms of the EPFL as an association under Swiss law in accordance with the provisions negotiated with UEFA. The Committee also ratified the decision of the Finance Committee to pay the South African Football Association an advance out of the deficit guarantee for the 2010 FIFA World Cup for the construction of new headquarters in Johannesburg. The offices for the Local Organising Committee and the FIFA Bureau for the 2010 World Cup will be housed in the same premises.

On issues concerning FIFA member associations, the executive concluded that the suspension imposed by the Emergency Committee on 15 August on the Yemen Football Association (Article 14 of the FIFA Statutes) due to persistent government interference was reconfirmed. The suspension imposed on the Barbados Football Association on 29 June 2005 by the Executive Committee has been provisionally lifted due to subsequent improvement in the situation. The Kenya Football Association was given a final deadline of three months to put their house in order in compliance with the FIFA Statutes, regulations and directives, failing which the Association would be suspended. Countries with sports legislation in place that does not comply with the FIFA Statutes and especially where leagues are afforded a status whereby they are not subordinate to the football association (specifically, Greece, Poland and Portugal) shall have until 15 July 2006 to amend the relevant legislation. The permission granted to the Royal League (Denmark, Sweden, Norway) to play in the tournament for the first time in 2004 has been prolonged for a further five years.

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## GENERAL

### **UEFA invites tender for production companies**

UEFA Media Technologies SA is inviting proposals from potential production companies to act as host broadcasting partner for the UEFA EURO 2008 qualifying competition draw, which will take place in Montreux, Switzerland on 27 January 2006. The media and information technology subsidiary issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to invite proposals from interested production companies, and to assist UEFA in selecting the partner that will deliver the television production of the draw in accordance with UEFA's specifications. Companies wishing to submit a proposal are required to meet various requirements including experience in live event coverage and need to prove their technical and organisational capacities. Interested parties should request the appropriate documentation by sending an email to this address: [rfp.umet@uefa.ch](mailto:rfp.umet@uefa.ch).

## ENGLAND

### **Chelsea install new outdoor advertising system**

Premier League Champions Chelsea FC have installed a new advertising system at Stamford Bridge to help partners maximise their brand presence. The system developed by Icon Display has a spring loaded frame construction fitted to the front of the tiers on the North, East and South stands. It provides greater flexibility for changing the signs in place and maximises the sponsors' visible display area, as well as providing a uniform and organised system. This means, for example, that Chelsea's UEFA Champions League commitments can easily be factored as the Club sponsor panels can be switched for the specific matchday branding as and when required. Originally designed for ground level pitch advertising, this is the first time this system has been used in this way. However, following initial surveys the potential was identified and a prototype frame was produced and installed in one space on the North stand. Icon's portfolio includes numerous high-level building wrap and hoarding projects around Europe as well as branding for major international events in cricket, football, rugby, golf and other sports. Clients include UEFA and FIFA. Most recently Icon was responsible for all the brand dressing design, signage production and installation for London's successful 2012 Olympic bid, as 'Official Olympic Brand Dressing Agency.'

### **Derby kit sales soar with Joma**

Championship club Derby County's partnership with Spanish equipment supplier Joma, is proving to be a roaring success. Before the start of the season both the club and Joma, the club's Official Kit Supplier, modernised the club shop converting it into a contemporary leisure store. A new brand, shopDCFC, was created to focus for the retail arm of the business. The retail outlet was supported with the further introduction of shopDCFC on-line (internet sales), and shopDCFC direct (mail order). The shopDCFC outlet, opened in July, and provides 3200 square feet of retail space. Sales figures from the new range of Joma shirts have exceeded 9,000 in the last six weeks, compared with 6,700 in the entire 12 months following the launch of the last new kit, two years ago. ShopDCFC also provides a wide range of branded product, including Derby County leisurewear and training apparel, Joma footwear, and a full range of Derby County home and away teamwear. Joma's John Woodfield commented, "We believe that shopDCFC is an ideal platform to showcase what Joma offers Derby County and its fan base. With the co-operation of our football club partners we are committed to developing the Joma brand in the UK market and shopDCFC helps us in that quest." Paul Clouting, Derby County's Operations Director added, "Developing the retail arm of the business is a key priority for us and teaming up with Joma allows us to do this. Our product range has been significantly enhanced and supports us in our quest to target the leisure market." In the UK, Joma is the official kit supplier to Charlton Athletic, Cardiff City and Derby County, but the company also manufacture kits for Deportivo la Coruna and Sevilla of La Liga in Spain.

## SCOTLAND

### Former Dons director raises shareholding

Jim Cummings, a former director of Aberdeen Football club, has increased his equity holding to nearly 13% according to a report on [thisisnorthscotland.com](http://thisisnorthscotland.com). According to the report he acquired 727,272 shares formerly owned by two Murray Johnston Venture Capital Trusts, to add to the 20,000 shares he already owned in the club, making him the third largest shareholder after the Stewart Milne Group and funds managed by Aberdeen Asset Management. The share sale emerged after Murray Johnston, VCT's new manager, Close Venture Management, conducted a review of its investment portfolio and reduced the valuation of its stake in Aberdeen. It had originally invested £1.35million in 12.4% of the club's shares in the late 1990s while Aberdeen was still a listed company. The revaluation was based on a combination of the club's equity and debt, now standing at around £9million. Mr Cummings left the Aberdeen board after an unsuccessful attempt to remove the chairman, Stewart Milne, in March 2001. Alexandria Stalker of Aberdeen Football Club Supporters Trust welcomed the news. "This does not come as a surprise because Jim has always been positive about the club and this can only be a good thing," she said. She said she thought that Mr Cummings and Mr Milne would be "big enough" to put their past differences behind them.

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

### Galway support cancer charity

The management and players of eircom League First Division club Galway United are supporting the registered charity Cancer Care West by participating in the 'Galway Bay 10' this Saturday. Funds raised from the 10 mile run/walk will help with the construction costs of Inish Aoibhinn – a residency, aftercare, counselling and research facility for cancer patients, work on which will start in October. It promises to be a busy weekend for Galway who also play Cobh Ramblers in an important First Division fixture on Friday night.

## GERMANY

### World Cup draw to attract massive audience

The organisers of the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany claim they are ready for a record global TV audience when the draw for the finals is made later this year. The German Organising Committee believe over 300 million TV viewers from around the world are expected to tune in to watch the draw to be made in Leipzig on 9 December, with 136 nations agreeing to broadcast the event live. Committee vice-president Wolfgang Niersbach said: "We're expecting new record viewing figures. The finals draw can almost be compared with a World Cup game. We have a huge challenge in front of us."

### 1860 Munich delighted with ticket requests Bundesliga 2 club

TSV 1860 Munich admit they are stunned by the demand for tickets for their recently opened Allianz-Arena, co-shared with city rivals Bayern Munich. 1860 had originally aimed to increase their average attendance from 20,000 to 30,000 fans by leaving their outdated Gruenwalder-Stadion for the state-of-the-art Arena in northern Munich, but are now hopeful that the new-found euphoria will inspire the squad to win promotion to the Bundesliga next summer. While their home debut in the new stadium against Hansa Rostock attracted 51,000 fans, all 66,000 tickets for the game against Dynamo Dresden have been sold in advance, providing the Bundesliga 2 leaders with a gate income of €900,000. "I've never thought we'd be able to attract a full-house so quickly, what's going on here is absolutely gigantic and now the team is forced to respond with a great game and a win," said club official Roland Kneissl. The 66,000 crowd is the sixth-best attended second-division game in German history, but is still a way short of the all-time record, set by 1860 at the old Olympia Stadion in 1977 when 78,000 fans flocked to see a goalless draw against Stuttgart.

## FRANCE

### Goal shortage worries authorities

The French Football authorities are studying options that may reverse a goal drought that is affecting the top of the professional game according to a report on [Uefa.com](http://Uefa.com). The first 50 games of the 2005/06 season

recorded an average of less than two goals a game - one of the lowest scoring rates in Europe. For 2005/06, the average up to last week was 1.9 goals a game with a quarter of all games ending in goalless draws. In the fifth round of fixtures, five of the ten matches were shutouts, with 15 goals scored in the rest including AS Nancy-Lorraine's 6-0 win against Stade Rennais FC. The average goals per game ratio for Ligue 1 last season was only 2.1. A number of explanations have been advanced for the absence of goals. One is the tendency for many talented forwards to leave for wealthier clubs abroad such as Djibril Cissé, Stéphane Guivarc'h and Sylvain Wiltord. However, as Rennes proved in keeping hold of the league's 2004/05 top scorer - Swiss international Alexander Frei - there are quality forwards in Ligue 1 and this problem should not occur after lucrative Canal+ television deal. Others blame the dominance of defensive tactics in France. It is claimed that the defensive tactics that won France the 1998 FIFA World Cup under Aimé Jacquet, has infected a generation of coaches. To this must be added the increased job insecurity of team coaches. Last season more than half of Ligue 1 clubs dismissed their coaches as a result of poor performance providing an incentive to aim for a draw rather than risk defeat. To solve the problem, LFP president Frédéric Thiriez is looking at reintroducing a system used in Ligue 1 in the early 1970s which gave extra points to high-scoring teams. "I asked Michel Hidalgo, who has just joined the LFP, to consider possible bonus points," said Thiriez. Under the rules that were in place in 1973/74, any side scoring three goals in a match was awarded an extra point. The following campaign, the scheme was adjusted to give a bonus point to any team winning a game by three goals or more, but the incentive system was soon abandoned. Hidalgo, who won the 1984 UEFA European Championship as France coach, is studying the options. "I will work with the whole football family and give my report in December," he said. "I think all the coaches in our league fear conceding the first goal. When you're 1-0 behind in France it's very difficult to win."

## **SPAIN**

### **Real Madrid in dock over unauthorised game**

Primera Liga club Real Madrid are being sued for €9.2 million for selling a question and answer game about the club's centenary which has allegedly breached copyright rules and was not authorised by its creator. The case has been brought by José Antonio González, and also involves the Borrás Educa company that organised the centenary celebrations for having sold and edited the game. González told Spanish press agency EFE that the only thing he wants is justice because he is the author of a game "that is on the market without any official authorisation." The game is being sold at €36 each on the Internet, in the Real Madrid shop and in the Corte Ingles department stores. The hearing is set to take place on Friday.

## **RUSSIA**

### **Russian brewery renews Dinamo sponsorship deal**

Brewery Ochakovo has prolonged a sponsorship deal with Russian Premier Division club Dinamo Moscow for another year, according to the company. No further details of the deal have been disclosed but the company, which has a license to promote its products by using the Dinamo emblem, contributed financially to the resurfacing of the club's pitch. Dinamo are owned by Russian businessman Alexei Fedorychev, who spent approximately €100 million on strengthening the squad, bringing in several world class players including Portugal internationals Maniche and Costinha. Dinamo are languishing in 9th spot in Russian Premier League with 28 points from 22 matches and 8 games to go. Russia is the world's fifth-biggest beer market after China, the United States, Germany and Brazil. Ochakovo has been financing Dinamo since 2003. Meanwhile, Russian oil giant Sibneft will pay a US\$2.3 billion dividend for 2004, company shareholders decided at a meeting today. Sibneft ranks among the nation's top five oil producers and its core shareholders include Roman Abramovich, governor of the Chukotka region and owner of English Premier League champions Chelsea. Abramovich's Sibneft assets are held for him by the London-based group Millhouse Capital.

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# CONMEBOL

## COLOMBIA

### **Decision on Colombian strike imminent**

Negotiations to avoid a strike in Colombian football are continuing despite the fact that final stage Clausura championship matches kicked off as normal this weekend. The government, league officials and the Association of Professional Footballers are all trying to put off the strike that is scheduled to begin tomorrow, 13 September. A meeting last week with government representatives paved a way for further meetings with club presidents to clarify certain demands made by the players. Footballers are demanding social security payments, a share of profit revenue - possibly the most divisive issue - and also campaigning to own their own rights. Union president Carlos Gonzalez claims he is doing everything within his power to avert the strike. "Within this process that we are moving forward, you can't speak about a strike but about negotiations. That's where we're at and we want to hear the opinion of the clubs, meet with the presidents and the legal representatives to achieve concrete results." Several meetings took place over the weekend and a decision on the future of Colombian football this season should be made later today.

## ARGENTINA

### **Newell's pay debt to retain Paraguay keeper**

Argentine First Division club Newell's Old Boys has paid the US\$625,000 debt owed to Paraguayan top-flight side Libertad for the loan of international goalkeeper Justo Villar. The Paraguayan shot-stopper is now free to stay with the Rosario club until next January. "The money still hasn't arrived at Libertad but it has already been deposited with the Argentine Football Association (AFA) so you can say that our little problem has been resolved and the actual receipt of the funds is only an administrative detail," said Libertad director Juan Carlos Ramirez. Newell's must make another payment in January 2006 in order to renew the deal.

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# CONCACAF

### **Copa Sudamericana accepts CONCACAF teams**

Mexican First Division clubs Pumas UNAM and Club América along with D.C. United of USA will compete at CONMEBOL's 2005 Copa Nissan Sudamericana. The CONCACAF teams, who will take part for the first time in the South American Football Federation event, entered the 34-team tournament in the 'Round-of-16' set to begin this week. The 2005 Mexican Clausura Champions América will face Colombian top-flight team Atlético Nacional (COL) in the home-and-away Series 6 of the Copa Sudamericana scheduled for 21 September in Mexico and 5 October in Colombia, respectively. Pumas UNAM, meanwhile, who finished second in the 2005 CONCACAF Champions' Cup to automatically qualify to the CONMEBOL event, are scheduled to face The Strongest (BOL) in the Series 7 to be played on 20 September in Mexico and then 5 October in Bolivia. The defending USA's Major League Soccer Champion, D.C. United will take on Chile's Universidad Católica (in the Series 5 with the first-leg set for 13 September in the USA and then the return-leg nine days later in Chile).

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## GENERAL

### **AFC Coaches Association to be set up**

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will set up an AFC Referees Association and an AFC Coaches Association. These decisions resulted from a number of amendments and changes discussed and voted upon by the AFC Extraordinary Congress held at Le Meridien Hotel in Marrakech on Saturday during the FIFA Annual Congress. The Congress was opened by President Mohamed Bin Hammam with guests FIFA President Joseph Blatter, General Secretary Urs Linsi and Honorary FIFA President Joao Havelange. Congress also provided for the suspension of any Executive Committee member who remains absent for three consecutive Executive Committee meetings or any six Executive Committee meetings. Reporting to the Congress, Bin Hammam listed the AFC's achievements since the last gathering and said that the 'Vision Asia' team would "continue its hard work in China and turn its attention to Indonesia and India". "These countries alone comprise 70 per cent of our population and the Bangladeshi and Vietnam Federations have also proved to be keen partners and our joint efforts will bear fruits next year," said Bin Hammam. The president also emphasised the importance of grassroots and a youth policy. He said: "Caring for grassroots is caring for the future and everyone needs a solid foundation," said Bin Hammam. "A country without youth development is a country without foundation." The president outlined football's growing strength in Asia mentioning Japan's victory over European Champion's Greece in the Confederations Cup and he congratulated the four World Cup qualifiers – Iran, Japan, Korea Republic and Saudi Arabia. "The 2004 Asian Cup in China was our most commercially successful event to date," said Bin Hammam. "The TV ratings in China for the final between the hosts and Japan exceeded those of the 2002 FIFA World Cup and the 2004 European Championships." On the increasingly controversial question of foreign tours, Bin Hammam welcomed the diversity afforded by European football clubs touring Asia but said the "excessive support" for foreign football was damaging the Asian game. "It is your duty, your responsibility, to put Asian football first. We must be confident in our product, in our future." He also announced the launch of the first AFC Women's Club competition and the first AFC Futsal Club competition next year. Finally, Australia was formally admitted into the AFC (See Oceania).

### **AFC suspend ref for crucial mistake**

Japanese referee Toshimitsu Yoshida has been suspended indefinitely by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for making a vital error with the penalty law during a FIFA World Cup qualifier last week. Mohamed Bin Hammam, president of the AFC said: "His name has been removed from the elite list of Asian referees and he has been suspended from officiating at any further matches." The incident took place during last Saturday's Asian World Cup qualifying play-off first leg between Uzbekistan and Bahrain in Tashkent. Uzbekistan were 1-0 up and were awarded a penalty after 38 minutes, which was converted. Yoshida however disallowed the goal because he spotted another Uzbekistan player encroaching into the penalty area when the kick was taken. Under Law 14 he should have ordered the kick to be re-taken. Instead he awarded Bahrain a free-kick and as a result of that technical error Uzbekistan's 1-0 win was declared void by FIFA and the match will be replayed next month.

## THE KOREAS

### **DPR and Korea Republic to unite in football**

The Korea Republic and DPR Korea have agreed to send a unified Korean team for the 2006 Doha Asian Games to be held in Qatar. The Korea Sports Council said the two countries have agreed to set up a committee to oversee the progress of pan-Korean team. The meeting also came up with a suggestion to form Korea's unified football team and play two friendlies against Brazil national team in Seoul and Pyongyang before the 2006 World Cup.

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## GENERAL

### Hayatou promises US\$100,000 per national association

The CAF Executive met with its members in Marrakech, prior to the Ordinary General meeting starting the same day, under chairmanship of CAF President Issa Hayatou. Mr Hayatou acknowledged that the bad management of some national football associations is stunting the growth of the game in the continent. "Poor governance of national associations still afflicts African football," he said according to the BBC. "We need to prove that we are capable of managing our affairs in accordance with the FIFA rules. Hayatou admitted that he has often had difficult relations with Fifa over their intervention in the problems of some African national associations but said they had an important role in bringing positive change to African football. This view was backed by FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who told the congress delegates that African national associations must be headed by people with management skills relevant to the demands of the modern game. "A leader of a football association must be supported by a professional infrastructure. This is important for African football to grow." Blatter also reiterated FIFA's plan to improve the state of league football on the continent and ensure the 2010 World Cup is a tournament that has relevance to the entire continent and not just hosts South Africa. There was also the promise of direct financial assistance. Last June, CAF Executive during its meeting decided to launch a final assistance program to all its affiliated national associations. The African football body reaffirmed that every CAF member nation will be entitled to a US\$100,000 grant that will come out of the yearly US\$2.5 million grant that it receives from FIFA. The remaining US\$1.2 million from the Fifa grant will be spent on CAF's training programmes. Thirteen countries will receive the grant every year, ensuring that the entire continent is covered over a four-year period. For the period of 2005-2006, the Executive Committee selected Guinea Bissau, Botswana, Eritrea, Niger, Djibouti, Cape Verde, Gambia, Central Africa, Malawi, Rwanda, Chad, Sao Tome and Togo.

## ANGOLA

### Angola want to host 2010 Nations Cup

Angola has expressed its interest in hosting the 2010 African Cup of Nations. The country secured its qualification to the next tournament on the weekend and could qualify for next summer's FIFA World Cup in Germany. Angola have previously played in two Nations Cup tournaments - in 1996 and 1998, but have never played in the World Cup finals. According to the BBC, Justino Fernandes, the president of the Angolan Football Federation (FAF), has said a dossier will be prepared and sent to CAF in the next few days. Fernandes said that Faf will now seek the necessary government support to back the bid. Angola leads Group Four of the World Cup qualifiers ahead of Nigeria.

## KENYA

### Rival delegations turn up in Morocco

Two rival Kenyan football delegations turned up for the FIFA Congress in Marrakech. One group was led by Moni Wekesa, recognised by Fifa as the official general secretary of the Kenyan Football Federation (KFF), while the other faction is headed by Titus Kasuve, who has been acting as general secretary. FIFA officials have made it clear to *BBC Sport* that only Wekesa and Alfred Sambu, the KFF chairman, have the authority to represent Kenya. The unofficial caucus recently held a meeting to remove Sambu as chairman, which FIFA declared to be illegal. Nicolas Musonye, the general secretary of the Confederation of Central and East African Football (CECAFA), said the warring factions must resolve their differences for the interest of the country's football. "FIFA will not bend their laws to suit one party or another," Musonye, a Kenyan, told *BBC Sport* in Marrakech. "As Kenyans, we have to compromise for the good of our football and sort out the mess, if a heavy ban is not to be imposed on us. The rival factions have been in a bitter fight for the control of the KFF's secretariat since last year amid claims of violence. One of the decisions of FIFA at the Congress has been to give the Kenya Football Association a final deadline of three months to put their house in order in compliance with the FIFA Statutes, regulations and directives, failing which it would be suspended.

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# OCEANIA

## AUSTRALIA

### Australia's entry into Asia is ratified

Australia has now been officially granted entry as a future member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). The country's entry resulted from a vote held at the AFC Extraordinary Congress which met at Le Merdien Hotel in Marakesh, Morocco on Saturday. AFC Executive Committee member and president of the All Indian Football Federation (AIFF), Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi proposed Australia's inclusion as the 46th member and the motion was unanimously carried by a voice vote. AFC President, Mohamed Bin Hammam said that Australia's shift to Asia would benefit football in the continent. "Australia's huge sports facilities will be at the disposal of Asian football and our standards will increase," he said. Football Federation Australia (FFA) Chairman Frank Lowy expressed his gratitude and delight at the tremendous support for his country's inclusion in the AFC. The Australian flag was handed over to Bin Hammam by Lowy and both raised it together, to the tune of the Australian national anthem. Australia will formally belong to the AFC from January 1, 2006.

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## Industry Moves

Bill Power, the former chairman of English Championship club QPR, has resigned as a board director. He was removed as chairman by current chairman, Gianni Paldini, one of his former allies and while initially resisting attempts to resign from the board, he has now decided to tender his resignation and put his shares in the club up for sale.

Brian Tinnion has resigned as manager of English League One club Bristol City. The move follows discussions with chairman Steve Lansdown following a 7-1 defeat by Swansea. Assistant manager, Keith Millen, has taken charge while a replacement is found.

The Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea has appointed Cho Dong-sup as the head coach of its national under-17 team.

Russian Valeri Vdovin has finally arrived to manage the Laos national under-23 team. The Laos Football Federation (LFF) had been waiting for him for six months while a delay in processing his documents delayed his arrival. LFF vice-president Phouvane Vongsouthi said: "We don't expect any problem because of the Russian coach's late arrival." "We have already discussed about how we can help Vdovin to do a good job with the U-23 team. Laos coach Saysana Savathdy will work with the Russian coach."

The Gabon Football Federation (Fegafoot) has dismissed Brazilian Jairzinho as national team coach. This follows the team's 3-0 defeat by Angola in a 2006 World Cup Qualifier. Leon Ababe, president of Fegafoot, said the coach was being dismissed for "unsatisfactory performance."

Rajesh Gunesh has been dismissed as coach of Mauritius. He was appointed joint coach in December 2003 with Elvis Antoine, who later emigrated to Canada in February leaving Gunesh in sole charge. Vinod Persenoo, president of the Mauritius FA, said the association wanted to reinvigorate the game on the island.

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