Nat'l youth cricket

Chapainawabganj advanced into the final of the 19th Notional Youth Cricket Championship outplaying Sirajganj by 87 runs at the Joypurhat stadium yesterday, reports UNB. Chapainawabganj scored 226 for nine in 50 overs.

In reply, Sirajganj were bundled out for 139 in 37.5

Bogra will take on Rajshahi in the second semifinal today.

Polster rates himself high

BONN, Mar 16 (Reuters/ Internet): Borussia Moenchengladbach's veteran Austrian striker Toni Polster feels he's far too good to be left on the

"If we are to escape relegation, then I must play," Polster, who has been substituted by coach Rainer Bonhof lately, said on Tuesday.

"I can solve problems because I'm the best active striker in the world," added Polster, looking forward to a place in the first team for Saturday's game at VfB Stuttgart.

Wasim Akram practising to expand upon his cricketing exploits.

(Reuters/ Inter-

net): Title-holders

Real Madrid face

Dynamo Kiev in

Wednesday's Eu-

ropean Cup quarter-final se-

cond leg with their season and

all-out battle after earning a 1-1

draw in the first leg two weeks

Kiev are also braced for an

Both sides have something

Real, 27 times Spanish

champions, languish in sixth

place in their domestic league

and have pinned all their hopes

They will face Kiev with re-

on a successful European cam-

newed confidence after a steady

improvement under their new

Welsh coach John Toshack and

an easing of their injury wor-

Under Toshack, who re-

placed Dutchman Guus Hiddink

in February, Real lost 3-2 to

Real Betis in their first game

but then showed plenty of char-

acter to win their next two

league outings and stay within

seven points of leaders

home to Valladolid, secured in

the final minute through a Raul

Gonzalez strike, while the sec-

ond saw them come from be-

hind to beat Racing Santander

Dynamo warmed up for

JOHANNESBURG.

Mar 16: Ghana

and Nigeria were

named co-hosts of

African Nations'

Cup finals in a surprise move by

the Confederation of African

Football (CAF) announced on

hopes of a reprieve for Zim-

babwe, stripped of the right to

hold the tournament last

month. It was also a blow for

Morocco, favourites to take

competition, scheduled for

January 23-February 13, have

tee meeting in Conakry said its

decision was based on the fact

that both Ghana and Nigeria

had last hosted the competition

almost 20 years ago, while Mo-

tries will each hold 16 matches

but the final will be played in

The two west African coun-

not been shared before.

rocco staged it in 1988.

The finals of the biennial

The CAF executive commit-

The CAF decision ended any

Monday, reports Reuters.

year's

The first was a 3-2 win at

their reputation on the line.

ago in Madrid.

to prove.

Barcelona.

MOSCOW, Mar 16 Wednesday's clash with a com- nando Hierro and Manuel San-

fortable 2-0 win over Metalurg

Mariupol in their first league

game after the three-month

winter break and extended their

lead over second-placed

Ukrainian champions have

met little resistance in their

domestic league over the years,

they have found success in Eu-

rope more elusive and collapsed

at the same stage of this compe-

tition a year ago against Juven-

tus in circumstances much like

in Turin in the first leg but

crashed 4-1 in the return as Fil-

ippo Inzaghi struck a hat-trick

in front of the 100,000-strong

Valery Lobanovsky has done all

he can to avoid a similar deba-

Kiev to European Cup Winners'

Cup triumphs in 1975 and 1986,

persuaded Ukrainian soccer

chiefs to allow Dynamo to

change the dates of league

matches leading up to the Real

CSKA scheduled for March 7

was postponed until June and

the Metalurg game was brought

forward two days to last Thurs-

Real's cause will be helped by

day to give the feam extra rest.

the recovery from injury of

first-choice centre backs Fer-

African Nations' Cup 2000

Ghana, Nigeria co-hosts

Ghana will host the opening

Zimbabwe's appeal for rein-

game, as well as the CAF gen-

statement was rejected. A gov-

ernment-led delegation met

CAF officials earlier this

month in a bid to win back the

right to host the tournament

but the CAF said, "No new ele-

cause of the slow pace of con-

struction of new stadiums as

well as the lack of financial

guarantees from the govern-

lowed to play in the qualifying

competition, to be re-organised

as Ghana and Nigeria now gain

automatic entries to the 16-na-

also exempt from qualifying.

tion finals. Holders Egypt are

two of the four opening round

groups and will share the quar-

ter finals and semifinals.

Ghana will also host the third

tournament will be held in

September's draw for the

Ghana and Nigeria will stage

But Zimbabwe will be al-

Zimbabwe lost the finals be-

ments had been presented."

ment, CAF decided.

place play-off.

eral assembly.

A match against city rivals

cle this time.

Dynamo's veteran coach

Lobanovsky, who guided

partisan home crowd in Kiev.

They had held Juventus 1-1

those they face against Real.

But while the perennial

Shakhtar Donetsk.

Moenchengladbach, who won five German and two UEFA Cup titles in the 1970s, are last in the Bundesiiga and could be relegated for the first time since joining the top flight in 1965.

The 35-year-old Polster has scored nine goals since joining Moenchengladbach from relegated Cologne at the start of the season.

Celtic pair on the move

GLASGOW, Mar 16 (Reuters/ Internet): Celtic midfielders Phil O'Donnell and Simon Donnelly, will both be moving to English Premiership team Sheffield Wednesday next season, their agent confirmed on Tuesday.

O'Donnell, 26, and Donnelly, 24. both signed pre-contract agreements after travelling to Sheffield on Monday to meet manager Danny Wilson and they will both join Sheffield Wednesday in June without a transfer fee under freedom of contract.

"Both players have signed four-year contracts," said agent Raymond Sparkes.

"They have been given the kind of security for the future that Celtic were unwilling to provide.

The news will disappoint West Ham United, who were interested in the two Scottish internationals.

Donnelly, who came through Celtic's youth system, has 10 3-1. caps and was in Scotland's World Cup Finals squad last year after scoring 16 goals, while O'Donnell was bought from Motherwell in 1994 for 1.75 million pompte

Maiden members

LONDON., Mar 16 (Reuters/ Internet): England's Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) broke with 212 years of tradition on Tuesday by announcing its first women members.

The prestigious cricket club. still responsible for the laws of the game, said it had chosen 10 women as honorary members of the club.

They include former England women's captain Rachel Heyhoe Flint, who has campaigned for women to be admitted to the previously all-male

Last year it took two votes of the club's 25,000 strong membership before women were allowed to become members.

The MCC has responsibility for fostering the game around the world and the first officially-sanctioned MCC women's team will play its first match on May 11.

Moya heads new rankings

MONACO, Mar 16: (Reuters/Internet): Leading rankings (along with points) issued by the ATP Tour on Monday (last)

There is a monday (last) and the control of the control o week's positions in brackets): 1. Moya

3,382

3,115

2,826

2,434

2,376

2,300

2,264

2.145

1,818

1,697

1,614

Kafelnikov 4. Corretja Rafter Henman 7. Krajicek 8. Rios 9. Agassi 10. Martin 11. Philippoussis 12. Kucera

Rusedski Ivanisevic Enqvist

2. Sampras

16. Costa 17. Kuerten 18. Johansson 19 Haas

CAMBRIDGE. England, Mar 16 (Reuters): Blood, sweat, tears and

insults. Standard fare at any boxing match but not, perhaps, at the annual contest between England's two oldest and most

prestigious universities. The 102-year-old Oxford versus Cambridge amateur boxing match last week was

between them the farces often sanctioned by the various World Boxing Organisations.

Six of the eight bouts between the various theologians. economists, geographers and historians ended early as the crowd whistled, brayed, stood on chairs and taunted each other.

The match was decided in the final bout which pitted heavyweight Ollie Slack against Oxford's Mark Mullins. But chants of "Ollie, bom-

the time of the official weighin, which ensures boxers are matched with opponents of the same weight. Cambridge had been on the scales as dusk fell but the US-

born Oxford captain, Nicholas Pierpan, told Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) officials that his team had already weighed in at noon in the pres-ence of a Cambridge official and would not do so again.

ABA members refused to sanction the bout unless Oxford boxers weighed in and a protracted and heated dispute followed involving members of both clubs' boards and the student boxers.

At one point Oxford University coach, Henry Dean, a former professional boxer, left the weighing area with his boxers. "We're going home, we're not

weighing in," he said. Geoff Gestentner, president of the Cambridge Club was obviously disappointed.

Klinsmann dreamt of Madrid!

LONDON, Mar 16 (Reuters/ Internet): Juergen Klinsmann dreamed throughout his career of playing for Real Madrid and came close to signing for the Spanish club, he said on Tues-

Klinsmann, now retired and living in California, told CNN that he held talks twice with Real

"My dream was always to play for Real Madrid. I negotiated with them a couple of times but they always ended up firing the coach I was negotiating with," the former German captain said.

Klinsmann said he had retired from football to spend more time with his family because of the demands made by the game and said he had dropped ideas of becoming involved with an American Major League Soccer (MLS) club.

I just don't want to be involved in a permanent team schedule," he said, adding he had been taking correspondence classes in Spanish, English and computing.

-Star photo by Anisur Rahman

chis, who will attempt to keep

ace striker Andriy Shevchenko

Shevchenko, who put Dy-

namo ahead in the first leg at

the Bernabeu Stadium, led the

charge against Metalurg on a

rain-soaked pitch and scored

his 11th league goal of the sea-

to AC Milan at the end of the

season, has scored at least once

in each of his last four games

and is the league's leading

Soviet coaching methods, has

closed the door to the media

during practice. In Israel before

the first leg he ordered two

Spanish reporters and a pho-

tographer, whom he suspected

of spying on his side, to be re-

moved from the team training

TEAMS

Shovkovsky: Oleh Luzhny,

Olexander Golovko, Vladislav

Vashchyuk, Kakha Kaladze,

Andriy Gusin, Alexander Khat-

skevich, Vasil Kardash, Artyom

Yashkin, Andriy Shevchenko

Christian Panucci, Fernando

Hierro, Manuel Sanchis,

Roberto Carlos; Clarence See-

dorf, Fernando Redondo, Robert

Jarni, Raul Gonzalez, Predrag

Ghana have been withdrawn

from Group One of the prelimi-

nary competition, where they

have a 100 per cent record at the

against Cameroon, Mozam-

bique and Eritrea will no longer

in Group Five, where they have

already drawn qualifiers

against Burkina Faso and

two groups will qualify auto-

matically while the runners up

will go into a three-team play-

off group with Zimbabwe, CAF

on a home and away basis and

the winner of the group quali-

Groups Two, Three, Four, Six

1963 and 1978 while Nigeria

were in charge in 1980. On all

three occasions, the home team

baye" an allusion to the famous

"Ali, bomaye" (Ali, kill him)

chant that lifted Muhammad

Ali to victory over George

Foreman in Zaire, were not

enough to help Slack as he was

whose participants have in-

cluded contenders such as US

actor Kris Kristofferson and

former Scotland rugby captain

Rob Wainwright, would be

called off over a dispute over

Earlier if seemed the match.

stopped in the second.

and Seven also qualify.

won the African title.

The top two finishers in

Ghana hosted the event in

The matches will be played

Senegal and beaten Burundi.

Their previous results

The same holds for Nigeria

Instead, the winners of the

halfway mark.

count. CAF said.

Mijatovic and Davor Suker

Real Madrid: Bodo Illgner;

and Serhiy Rebroy

Dynamo Kiev: Olexander

Lobanovsky, true to his old

marksman.

ground.

Shevchenko, tipped to move

Klinsmann played 108 times Real ready for a tough tie for Germany in a cosmopolitan career which took him to VIB Stuttgart, Inter Milan, Monaco, Tottenham Hotspur and Bayern Munich.

Ribbeck will not talk to Basler

BONN, March 16 (Reuters/ Internet): Germany coach Erich Ribbeck said on Tuesday he would not talk to Bayern Munich midfielder Mario Basler. who wants to return to the national side.

"I don't have to meet demands from players who want to talk to me," Ribbeck told reporters. "It's up to me to decide with whom I want to talk to and how and for how long."

Basler, overlooked since a poor showing in Germany's 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in a friendly last December, said at the weekend he wanted to return to the national team but only after a lengthy talk with Ribbeck.

The Germany coach will on Thursday name his squad for European championship qualifiers against Northern Ireland on March 27 and Finland on March 31.

Olympics at a low ebb

GENEVA, Mar 16: The chiefs of the world athletics and football organisations met in Zurich on Monday to work out ways of boosting the popularity of track and field in what they described a "particularly difficult time for the Olympic movement", by combining events with football matches. reports Xinhua.

International Football Federation (FIFA) president Sepp Blatter and International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) president Primo Nebiolo decided to increase cooperation between the two organisations An IAAF statement later said this was of "paramount importance in this particularly difficult time for the Olympic movement, where both of the federations consider it essential to present a common front."

The first such cooperative efforts is planned for May 5 this year, when the new Olympic stadium in the Spanish city of Seville will be inaugurated with a few athletics events taking place during the half-time break of a football match be-

tween Spain and Croatia. The stadium will be the venue for this year's World Athletics Championships slated for August 20-29.

Blatter will continue to meet with Nebiolo to plan further experimental events, according to reports reaching here.

ATP Tour's top earners

MONACO, Mar 16: (Reuters) Internet): Leading prize-money winners (given in US dollars) issued by the ATP Tour on

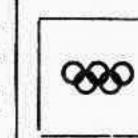
 Kafelnikov 685,025 2. Philippossis 447,667 Enqvist 307,178 Henman 286,409 5. Haas 273,116 259,992 6. Moya 7. Krajicek 214,809 Rusedski 202,816 Golmard 194,256 10. Martin 190,902 11. Kuerten 186,426 Kucera 183,052 13. Santoro 177,272 Black 175,257 15. Kiefer 164,494 164,167 16. Schuttler 17. Stolle 152,651 18. Rosset 151,502 19. Rafter 150,382 20. Lapentti 142,986

Hingis makes the most of tennis

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Mar 16: (Reuters/ Internet): Top 20 money winners (given in US dollars) this year in women's tennis, according to the WTA Tour:

1 Hingis 704,571 2 Williams 359,500 3 Davenport 244,552 4 Mauresmo 237,542 5 Graf 197,099 190,981 6 Novotna 7 Kournikova 173,954 8 Williams 165,261 9 Seles 150,660 138,518 10 Coetzer 107,036 11 Zvereva 103,251 12 Van Roost 13 Likhovtseva 101,570 14 Rubin 96,020 15 Testud 90,970 16 Pierce 87,237 17 Sugiyama 83,062 18 De Swardt 77.005 19 Schett 71,779 20 Schnyder 68,773

Thorny times for USA, IOC



LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Mar 16 (AP): The United States made the Olympics rich, and now the United

States insists the Olympics make sweeping changes. As they prepared Monday for a watershed assembly to deal with the corruption and fallout of Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Games, IOC officials chafed under strong

criticism. Friction between the International Olympic Committee and its most powerful member nation is nothing new. The last two decades have been filled with clashes, from the White House-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games to the trashing of dorm rooms by US hockey players in the 1998 Nagano Games.

But three months of finger pointing primarily by US inter-

ests and a relatively light rebuke for the US Olympic Committee for its role in a scandal in its own back yard has the IOC fed up.

President Juan Antonio Samaranch has told friends and colleagues he is angered by the American onslaught. The IOC's latest internal investigation brought a sixth member expelled, a raft of warnings to others and a slap at the USOC for a lack of oversight in Salt Lake's bid.

And senior IOC officials have been outspoken in recent days about what they see as American interference in the international committee's affairs, especially in a scathing report by former US Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. "We respect the Mitchell

commission's work, but we are not prepared to shape our reforms to such statements or comply with the wishes of the



International Olympic Committee chief Juan Antonio Samaranch arrives at the conference centre in Lausanne, Switzerland on March 16. The 108th session of the IOC is scheduled to begin at this centre today. -AFP photo

international press," executive board member Kevan Gosper of Australia said.

The financial success of the 1984 Los Angeles Games helped save the Olympics and make them a billion-dollar business. Now the flip side of that success, the accountability and responsibility of staging the world's biggest and most influential

sports event, is being felt, and that, too, is born in the USA. Sponsors with 50 million dollar contracts, most of them American based, have led the

call for radical changes. US newspapers and broad-cast networks have criticised the IOC and Samaranch for leading the Olympics down a gift-lined path.

And even the USOC, the IOC's branch office in the United States, has turned to the attack. It's independent ethics panel placed most of the blame for the scandal on the IOC, and last week USOC president Bill Hybl said he hoped that "the IOC will match our commitment and action when it votes on reforms."

Samaranch is incensed by the American line. According to colleagues of the IOC leader who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Samaranch told friends that the United States had caused trou-

ble throughout his more than 18 years in power. He cited the Moscow boycott, the conflict-of-interest scandal involving former IOC member and USOC president Robert Helmick and the fact that Salt Lake produced the biggest corruption case yet, the sources

The IOC also remains troubled by the 1996 Atlanta Games, where a bombing in Centennial Olympic Park killed one per-

In addition, US drug policy director Barry McCaifrey was among the most outspoken critics of the IOC at an international drug summit last month, saying the Salt Lake scandal had compromised the committee's leadership in the doping fight.

Meanwhile, the USOC's leadership has taken shots at Samaranch. In addition to Hybl's statement, executive director Dick Schultz said he was uncertain the IOC was prepared to make the changes it should. Other IOC officials have been

upset by the lack of heat directed at the USOC for the Salt Take scar . 'e high-r ing member said the USOC should change its initials to TNOC, for "Teflon National Olympic Committee. Nothing

Coles' clear-cut denial



Australian IOC member-Phil Coles on Tuesday denied charges that

he accepted excessive hospitality from Olympic Games bidders in Salt Lake City or valuable jewellery from Athens, report AFP.

Coles, who resigned from the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) last week admitting he had been "careless," said reports that he received 40,000 US dollars in travel and accommodation from Salt Lake City were "a myth.

He denied a report that he breached its rules by accepting 6,000 US dollars worth of jewellery from a wealthy Greek businessman connected to Athens' failed bid for the 1996 Games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said it will investigate the report, published by the Australian Financial Review, if it receives details of the allegation by unnamed sources linked to Melbourne's unsuccessful bid for the 1996 "I did not meet a wealthy

Greek businessman," Coles told a commercial radio station here. "I did not received gold cufflinks. I did not receive gold expensive jewellery. The IOC meets in Lausanne

this week and Coles has been recommended to get a "most serious warning" for accepting four or five ski holidays with his family from Salt Lake City, but is not among members facing expulsion.

He does face mounting pres-

sure to quit his position as vice president of the Sydney Organrising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), which was criticised in an independent report this week for winning bid for the 2000 Games.

But he cannot as an IOC member be sacked from the committee, under the terms of Sydney's contract with the IOC. Sydney Olympics Minister Michael Knight, political leaders across the spectrum and most of the media have demanded his immediate resignation from SOCOG where Coles is seen as an embarrassment to its continuing efforts to

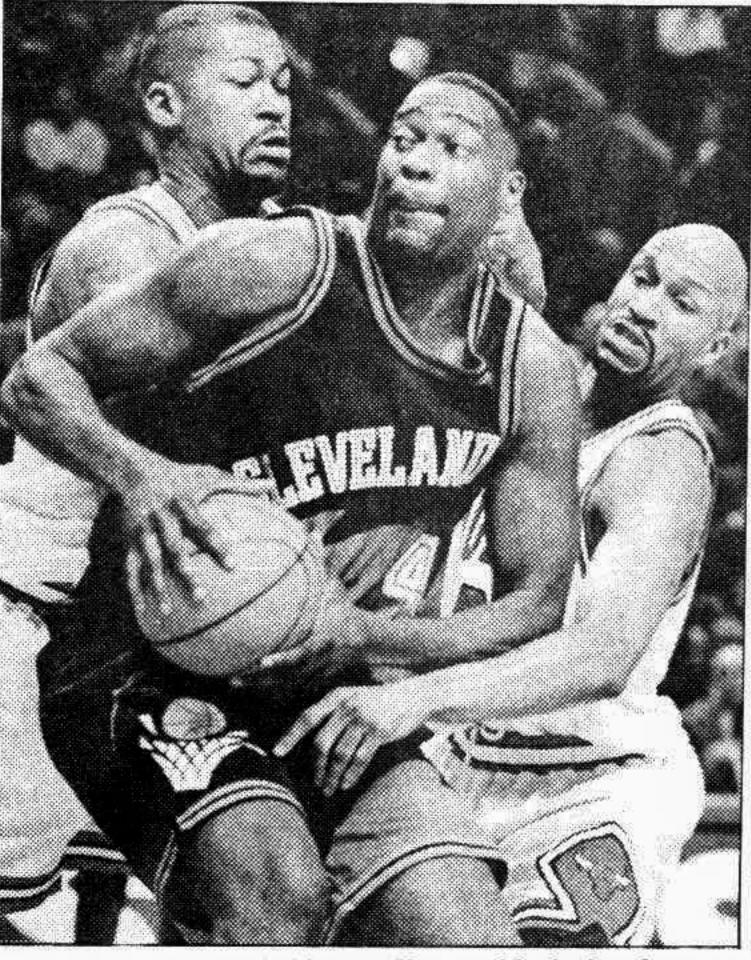
raise corporate funding. Coles said the IOC report fully explained his position.

The footnotes on pages one and the dot points on four and five, pages six and so forth, they were all there pointing out the misleading accounting practices which contributed to the inflated expenses which were put up against my name," he said. "As I said, the 60,000

(Australian dollars) is an absolute myth. Coles also said he had "retired" from the AOC because "it

was just too much for me." He received some support from his senior Australian IOC colleague Kevan Gosper who said that while Coles had shown poor judgement in matters relating to Salt Lake City, he was not expelled from the

"In those circumstances he has every right to serve on the



Cleveland Cavaliers' Shawn Kemp (M) looks for an opening to the basket as Chicago Bulls defenders try to stop him during their NBL fixture at Chicago on March 15. The Bulls lost 85-89. —AFP photo

SOCOG board," Gosper told ABC. But Gosper said the IOC would look at any further information on any members like Coles who received a warning, if it proved there were more allebreaching guidelines in its gations that could be substan-

"If it turns out to be the case

that the matters relating to jewellery can be substantiated then that would be very serious indeed," he said. Gosper said Coles had been

under a lot of pressure but needed to face the public to give his side of the story.

Young stands by Olympic

movement ATLANTA, Mar 16: Andrew Young, co-chairman of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics committee, praises the Olympic movement's progress under Juan Antonio Samaranch and portrays this week's showdown as part of a power struggle, reports AP.

"Now, the counterrevolution begins," Young, the former US ambassador to the United Nations, wrote in an op-ed column for Sunday's Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "The old guard fights back — but the issue is not corruption; it is control.

"Any intelligent analyst must realise that excesses by the delegates from Finland. Kenya, Sudan, Libya, Congo and Mongolia are not capable of corrupting the Olympic move-

There has been a series of resignations and disciplinary actions since vote-buying allegations were made in connection with Salt Lake City's successful bid for the 2002 Winter

Games. The full IOC will meet in Lausanne, Switzerland, in an extraordinary general assembly Wednesday and Thursday. The members will be asked to endorse IOC president Samaranch, uphold expulsions, approve a new bidding and site-selection process, and set up a panel to study long-term re-

Drug banned

SOFIA, Mar 16: A drug pre-scribed by a Bulgarian doctor and taken by two Bulgarian athletes was found to contain substance banned by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), it was known here on Monday, reports Xinhua.

Gabriel Dole, chief of the IAAF's anti-doping commission, personally notified the Bulgarian Athletic Federation (BAF) of the finding. The drug named ginkor fort prescribed by Doctor Angel Lozanov and taken by athletes Rostislav Dimitrov and Tereza Marinova contains IAAF-banned simulator heptaminol. Dole undertook to represent

the Bulgarian side during the analysis of the second urine sample. If the initial results are confirmed in the second test. Dimitrov will be disqualified and stripped of his silver medal won at the recent World Indoor Championships in Japan.

almost abandoned during a 20. Mantilla 1,589 weigh-in circus that imitated

JOINING THE GRAMEEN CLUB: Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram (R) and Sri Lankan captain Aravinda de Silva (2nd from R) visited the Grameen Phone (GP) Info Centre at the city's Mohakhali area on Monday. Both of them were using the GP services during their stay in Bangladesh.