

## Rancour runs high over HC judge appointment



Members of the Supreme Court Bar Association demonstrate on the High Court premises yesterday against the government's refusal to confirm appointment of six judges.

### Bar association terms it a political act

**ZAYADUL AHSAN**  
 Discontent is brewing in the higher tier of the judiciary after the government declined to confirm appointments of six additional judges of the High Court on Thursday.  
 The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday said the government action was politically driven. Its members yesterday refrained from work and demanded confirmation of the six judges by in line with the chief justice's recommendations.  
 They said they would go for a hunger strike and boycott the Supreme Court on March 1 if the government did not meet their demand by February 27.  
 The chief justice had recom



### Shoaib breaks 100mph mark

**INTERNET, Cape Town**  
 Shoaib Akhtar has stamped his mark as the world's fastest bowler by delivering a ball at more than 100mph at the World Cup.  
 The Pakistan paceman, who was facing England's Nick Knight, turned to salute the cheering crowd after they saw the figures of 100.23mph flash up on the giant scoreboard.  
 But Rodney Hartman, World Cup communications director, said it would not be designated as official.  
 "The ICC has always said there is not enough uniformity in the various speed guns



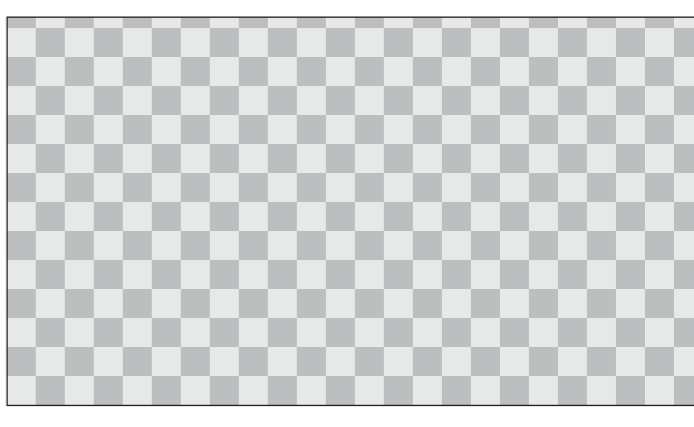
South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher watches Bangladesh batsman Khaled Mahmud play a defensive stroke in yesterday's World Cup pool B match at the Bloemfontein cricket ground.

PHOTO: AFP

## Bangladesh battered

### Hosts waltz to ten-wicket win, stay in race

**AL-AMIN, Bloemfontein**  
 In another woeful display of batting, Bangladesh crashed to a ten-wicket defeat against South Africa in their Pool B World Cup match yesterday.  
 Khaled Mashud's team never recovered after paceman Makhaya Ntini's haul of four for 24 and was bowled out for their lowest World Cup total -- 108 in 35.1 overs -- a target the hosts overhauled in just 12 overs.  
 It was also Bangladesh's lowest total against the South Africans beating the previous 133 in the first



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## UN gives Iraq a week to destroy banned missiles

**AFP, United Nations**  
 Chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix has set Iraq a timetable for disarming with an order to start destroying the stock of banned missiles within a week.  
 By imposing a deadline of March 1 for Baghdad to begin the demolition of its Al-Samud 2 missiles and warheads, Blix has thrown down the gauntlet for Iraq to provide rapid proof of its good faith and willingness to comply with UN demands on disarmament.  
 The ultimatum is being viewed as a key test of the assertion by diplomatic sources in Baghdad that "the Iraqis are ready to respond to all of Blix's demands".  
 But it leaves Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein facing a dilemma, observers said. Getting rid of the missiles would deprive Iraq of a key arm in its defence against a US-led attack, while failure to destroy could be used by Washington and London as a justification for war.  
 The United States and Britain are planning to submit a new draft resolution to the UN Security Council, probably as early as tomorrow, to give them the authority to attack if Iraq is not complying with UN demands.  
 Blix's order came in a four-page letter "concerning the destruction of the Al-Samud 2 missiles and associated equipment" which was delivered to the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammed al-Douri. A copy was sent to the Security Council, spokesman Ewen Buchanan said.  
 Earlier this week, the head of one of Iraq's missile factories said 50 Al-Samuds had been delivered to the Iraqi army and another 50 were on the assembly line.  
 Blix told the UN Security Council on February 14 that two declared variants of the Al-Samud were banned under Council Resolution 687, which imposed a 150-kilometre limit on the range of Iraqi ballistic missiles.  
 The resolution, which defined the terms of the Gulf War ceasefire in April 1991, required Iraq to scrap missiles beyond that range -- along with its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons -- under international supervision.  
 US President George W Bush was holding talks with Spanish P r i m e

### PM leaves for Malaysia today

**UNB, Dhaka**  
 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia leaves for Malaysia today to attend the 13th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) beginning Monday at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) in Kuala Lumpur, official sources said.  
 On the sidelines of the two-day summit of the broad-based forum of developing countries, the prime minister is likely to have a number of bilateral meetings with heads of state or government of Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal and Pakistan.  
 On February 26, Khaleda Zia will also attend an informal discussion among leaders of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) coun

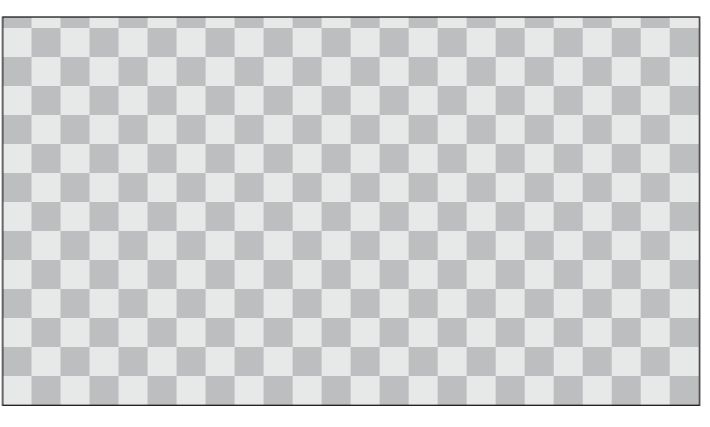


### Warne banned for a year

**REUTERS, Melbourne**  
 Australia's leading wicket-taker Shane Warne has been suspended from cricket for 12 months after the player tested positive for a banned diuretic.  
 Warne immediately called himself a victim of "anti-doping hysteria" and said he planned to appeal.  
 The 33-year-old leg spinner appeared before an Australian Cricket Board (ACB) anti-doping committee on Friday and the three-person committee took statements from seven witnesses in an eight-hour hearing before adjourning overnight.

### Barge blast near NY kills two

**REUTERS, New York**  
 Two people were killed and one seriously burned when a gasoline barge exploded off New York's Staten Island on Friday, sending flames and huge, black clouds of smoke into the air, but officials in a city jittery over security said it was an accident.  
 The blast occurred at 10:10 in the morning at an oil storage terminal 25 km southwest of Manhattan, where residents have been on edge and police on the highest security alert since the Sept 11, 2001 hijacked plane attacks destroyed the World Trade Center.  
**Details on Page-9.**



side batting first in day-night matches.  
 Shoaib bowled a delivery timed at 161.3 kmh (100.2mph), the fastest recorded since speed guns were introduced, but he was Pakistan's most expensive bowler, conceding 63 runs in nine overs.  
 He took the wicket of Vaughan, who was caught low down at backward point after scoring a stylish 52 off 64 balls.  
 Vaughan was caught off a no-ball before he had scored when he topped a pull against Wasim to square-leg.  
 It prevented Wasim from becoming the first bowler to take 500 one-

day international wickets.  
 The left-arm seamer, who went into the match with 498 wickets, took his 499th when England opener Marcus Trescothick was caught behind for one in the third over.  
 No partnership lasted more than 10 overs but England's batting depth proved useful, with Collingwood (66 not out) shepherding the lower order to a respectable total.  
 England captain Nasser Hussain returned to his side after missing the match against Namibia because of a sore neck, but made only eight

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## US nightclub fire kills 96

**AFP, Rhode Island, United States**  
 The death toll rose to nearly 100 Saturday after an inferno engulfed a packed nightclub sparked by a fireworks display during a rock concert that went tragically wrong.  
 Special effects used by the band sparked the blaze inside The Station concert hall late Thursday, killing at least 96 people and injuring nearly 200 others.  
 The walls caught fire, forcing the club's more than 300 patrons to rush the exits and kick in windows.  
 Many patrons mistakenly believed the fire was an intentional special effect being used by the band, the 1980s hard rock group Great White.  
 Survivors said the blaze spread so fast that the entire club was engulfed in flames within three minutes, with panicked revelers crushing each other in a desperate bid to escape.  
 Some victims were burned to death or died of smoke inhalation. Others were trampled underfoot or killed as the building collapsed, firemen said.  
 The capacity of club was 300, but Rhode Island governor Donald Carcieri estimated there were close to 350 people inside.  
 "If you were not out of that building in 30 seconds you didn't have a prayer," Carcieri said.  
 An investigation into the cause of the fire was underway, but officials said their first priority was finding and identifying the bodies, many of which had been burned beyond recognition.  
 When it became obvious that the club itself was on fire, clubbers panicked and headed for the doors.  
 "I was knocked on the ground and people were stamping on my back and on my head. I was holding

my head up and thinking I'm going to die here," said survivor Lisa Shea.  
 "People were hurt very bad, but you couldn't see in front of you. Everything was black smoke and you could feel bodies on the floor."  
 Once outside, many clubbers plunged their burning flesh into mounds of snow left from a heavy storm that hit this part of the northeastern United States earlier in the week.  
 The injured were taken to area hospitals and as far away as Boston, Massachusetts, 50 miles for treatment for first-degree burns and smoke inhalation, cuts and bruises.  
 Doctors at the main trauma centre said they had 38 seriously injured, 18 of them on ventilators.  
 "Our expectation is that with the appropriate care, we can get the

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