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Australia players celebrate with the trophy after beating India in the final of the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Head breaks India hearts

Australia clinch sixth World Cup title

AFP, Ahmedabad

Opener Travis Head hit a sparkling 137 to power Australia to a record-extending sixth World Cup title with a convincing six-wicket win over India in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Chasing a tricky 241 for victory in the final, Australia slipped to 47-3 before the left-handed Head hit his second century of the tournament to steer the team home with seven overs to spare.

Head's knock and his marathon stand of 192 with Marnus Labuschagne, unbeaten on 58, ended India's dominant run of 10 unbeaten matches at the event.

Head fell after his 120-ball knock laced with 15 fours and four sixes before Glenn Maxwell hit the winning runs to trigger wild celebrations in the Aussie camp.

India's chances of ending a global trophy drought since their 2013 Champions Trophy win went up in smoke once Head got going with Labuschagne.

Head's century was the seventh in a World Cup final and third by an Australian after Ricky Ponting (140 not out v India in 2003) and Adam Gilchrist (149 v Sri Lanka in 2007).

The bowlers set up victory for an Australian side that

bounced back after two losses to win nine in a row as Mitchell Starc (3-55) and Pat Cummins (2-34) helped bowl out India for 240.

India hit back when Mohammed Shami shared the new ball with Jasprit Bumrah and struck on his second delivery to get David Warner caught behind for seven.

But it was Bumrah's double strike in quick succession that raised the roof as he had Mitchell Marsh caught behind for 15 and Steve Smith lbw for four.

Head stood firm with Labuschagne for company to thwart the Indian attack despite captain Rohit Sharma rotating his bowlers in a hunt for a breakthrough.

Head, who suffered a fractured hand in South Africa in September, was in danger of missing the World Cup but Australia kept him in the squad until he was fit to play.

He hit a match-winning century against New Zealand in the team's sixth league game and after a few low scores hit an attacking 62 in his team's nervy three-wicket semi-final win over South Africa in Kolkata.

He turned India's nemesis a second time this year after his 163 proved decisive in Australia's World Test Championship triumph at the Oval in June.

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Ice-cool Aussies show character

ASHEFAQ-UL-ALAM

The Australian cricket team's uncanny ability to turn up at their very best when the stakes are the



highest was on full display in the final of the ICC World Cup against India on Sunday.

Bowling first, Pat Cummins and his team looked unfazed by the sea of blue at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, as they chipped away at the

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Clashes, arson mark first day of hartal

BNP procession attacked in Noakhali, police obstruct march in Sunamganj; 14 vehicles, train, classroom burnt

STAR REPORT

At least 20 BNP activists were wounded, 16 of them with shotgun pellets, in Noakhali's Senbagh after a procession was attacked on the first day of the 48-hour nationwide hartal yesterday.

Pickets clashed with police in Sunamganj and arsonists set fire to three carriages of a train in Jamalpur. A classroom of a school in Gazipur was also set ablaze.

Arsonists set fire to 14 buses, trucks, and a CNG autorickshaw between 6:50pm Saturday and 11:00pm yesterday.

Seven of the vehicles were torched in the capital while the rest were in Joypurhat, Cumilla, Bogura, Natore, Rajshahi, Gazipur and Feni.

Hartal supporters took out processions at different places and there were reports of crude bombs going off in several districts.

Traffic was lighter than usual across the country.

A handful of inter-district buses left

the capital amid the strike the BNP and its allies called to protest the Election Commission's announcement of the polls schedule and to demand the resignation of the government and polls under a neutral election-time administration.

This is the second round of hartal called by the BNP since October 28. It enforced five rounds of blockades over the last 20 days.

The BNP claimed that 13,720 party leaders and activists, including 510 yesterday, were arrested since October 28. During this period, 314 cases were filed against party leaders and workers, it added.

Rab said it has arrested 522 people in connection with sabotage since October 28.

Alongside police, Rab deployed over 450 patrol teams across the country, including 150 in the capital. Border Guard Bangladesh used 235 platoons to maintain law and order.

In Noakhali, at least 20 BNP leaders

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Raushan urges the president to initiate talks

Says it'll make polls participatory; JP starts selling nomination forms today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad yesterday urged President Mohammed Shahabuddin to hold dialogues with political parties to make the election more participatory and festive.

A five-member delegation led by Raushan met the president and also requested him to extend the deadline for submission of nomination papers by a day or two.

Jatiya Party's chief patron made the move a day after writing to the Election Commission that the JP would participate in the January 7 election as part of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance.

But the party's Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun yesterday said the JP did not want to be a part of the AL-led alliance.

Chunnun also said Raushan does not have the official power to send letters to the EC.

"She is not well. That's why she does not have the senses. A few people are using her sickness to make personal gains," Chunnun told reporters.

"We have yet to decide whether the Jatiya Party will



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POLLS-TIME GOVT All three technocrat ministers step down

BAHARAM KHAN

All the three technocrat ministers resigned yesterday to make the election-time cabinet smaller.

They are Mustafa Jabbar, telecommunications minister; Yeafesh Osman, technology minister; and Shamsul Alam, state minister for planning.

One of the three ministers confirmed the matter to this newspaper, wishing not to be named.

Mashiur Rahman, the prime minister's economic affairs adviser, also resigned from the position.

"I was asked to step down," he told The Daily Star, adding that he had heard other advisers were also asked to resign. "But I cannot confirm that."

The resignation comes four days after the Election Commission announced that the 12th parliamentary

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For now, no chance for Jamaat to join polls

SC scraps its appeal

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed an appeal filed by Jamaat-e-Islami, challenging a 2013 High Court verdict that declared illegal the party's registration with the Election Commission.

If things stand as they do now, there will be no scope for Jamaat to contest the national election, as the EC had earlier scrapped its registration in compliance with the HC judgment, lawyers concerned said.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, however, told reporters that Jamaat may move an application before the Appellate Division for restoration of its appeal or move a petition before this court, seeking a review of the order.

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Violating the electoral code of conduct on the second day of nomination collection, AL aspirants and their supporters from across the country yesterday came in droves to the party office in Bangabandhu Avenue, held processions, and carried placards and banners. The area remained gridlocked for hours.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT Violations abound on Bangabandhu Avenue

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Violations of the electoral code of conduct ran rampant as MP aspirants and their supporters flocked to the Awami League's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

Those seeking the ruling party's nomination arrived at the party office in droves with "band parties", musical instruments, festoons, and brandishing colourful placards – a clear violation of the code.

Supporters of the aspirants took over streets, blocking roads from Gulistan to GPO intersection and causing gridlocks there and in adjoining areas.

Whereas, the code says political parties and candidates will not be allowed to organise rallies, processions, or any other canvassing activities without the permission of district magistrates, police commissioners, or authorised officials.

The crowd was so large that party's General Secretary Obaidul Quader could not enter the AL headquarters despite three attempts in half an hour.

Quader, who went there to monitor the nomination paper sales, eventually returned to the party chief's political office in Dhanmondi, said Sayem Khan, deputy office secretary of the party.

In a press release issued on Thursday, the AL gave directives that nomination-seekers must collect and submit the application forms themselves or through a representative without public gatherings.

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