

## Hridoy gets 2-match ban for ‘unacceptable’ behaviour

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board director Ittekhurul Ahmed Mithu termed Mohammedan captain Towhid Hridoy’s behaviour as unacceptable after the cricketer was sanctioned for a Level 2 offence following continuation of his grievances against umpiring decisions during Saturday’s DPL match against Abahani.

The match referee sanctioned the player with Tk 80,000 and added three demerit points to four already slapped, in effect handing him a two-match suspension which originally was of one match.

Talking with The Daily Star, Mithu said that Hridoy’s overall behaviour was ‘unacceptable’ and that he didn’t know where the cricketer got this attitude from.

Hridoy was slapped with four demerit points and a one-match suspension for his heated exchange with on-field umpires Tanvir Ahmed and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat during the match.

“A notice has been sent to the player and if he accepts the sanctions, there would be no further hearing,” a BCB umpires’ committee official told The Daily Star. However, if Hridoy does not accept the verdict, a further hearing will take place on Monday.

Following his public grievances to the media regarding umpiring after the match, three more demerit points were added, making it seven demerit points in total.

It was learnt that Hridoy misbehaved during the hearing of the initial sentence and the match officials found him to be in breach of section 2.7 and 2.8 of BCB’s Code of Conduct.



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Ten members of the Bangladesh cricket team, including skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, joined a training camp in Sylhet ahead of their opening Test of the two-match series against Zimbabwe, starting on April 20.

## Penalty corner now our main strength: Mimo

ANISUR RAHMAN

Converting penalty corners will be Bangladesh hockey team’s “main strength” during their title defense in the upcoming Men’s AHF Cup in Indonesia, said new captain Pushkor Khisa Mimo yesterday.

Bangladesh have struggled to convert from penalty corners in past, with hardly any penalty corner specialists in the squad.

But the 26-member Bangladesh contingent that will leave for Jakarta in the early hours of Tuesday to take part in the 10-team competition, from which the top two teams will qualify for next Asia Cup, has as many as four penalty corner specialists, a prospect that excited Mimo.

“We have participated in the last four editions of the AHF Cup and have become champions every time. We are going there to defend the title but it is going to be challenging because only two teams instead of four will qualify for the Asia Cup,” Mimo told The Daily Star yesterday.

“I think converting penalty corners is going to be our main strength this time because we have drag-and-flick specialists like [Sohanur Rahman] Sabui, Hujaila [Hossain], Ashrafur [Islam] and Amirul [Islam],” said the 31-year-old forward who is going to captain Bangladesh for the first time since co-captaining the side during the 2017 Asia Cup in Bangladesh.

Under coach Mamun Ur Rashid, the team had a six-week-long preparation camp ahead of the tournament but did not play any practice matches against international sides.

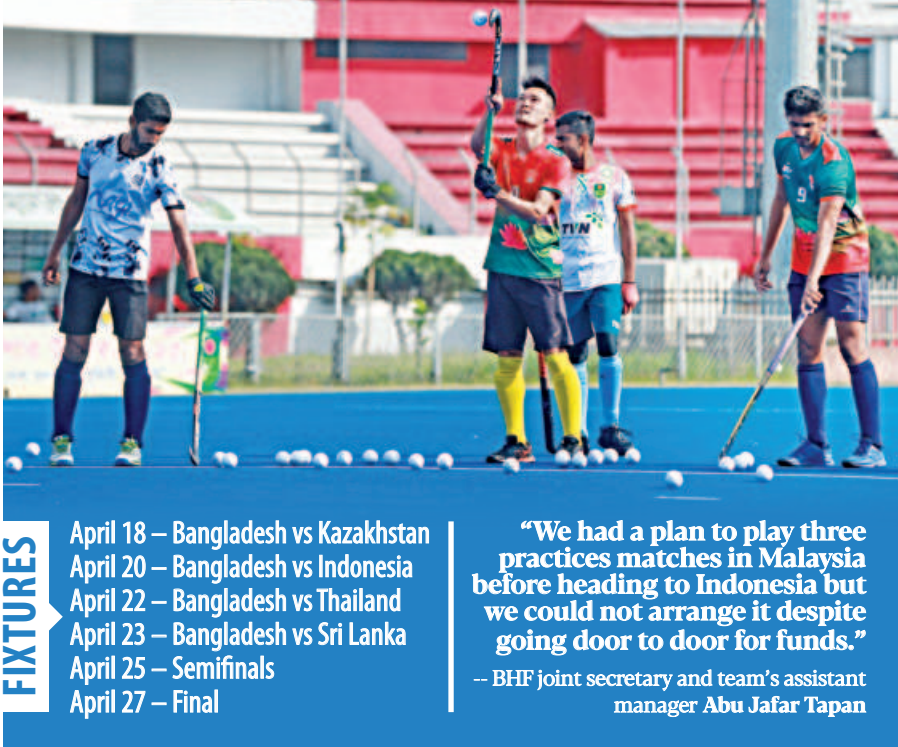
Heading into a tournament without

playing practice matches is nothing new for the team. Expectations were that the newly-formed adhoc committee would break away from this practice and arrange practice matches before the tournament but much like the previous committees, it failed to do so.

“We are happy with the preparation, with the way the boys practiced. They were out of action for a long time, they improved

their fitness by 80 to 90 percent. The only lacking is that we couldn’t evaluate the team’s capacity due to not playing any practice matches,” Bangladesh Hockey Federation joint secretary and team’s assistant manager Abu Jafar Tapan said.

“We had a plan to play three practices matches in Malaysia before heading to Indonesia but we could not arrange it despite going door to door for funds.”



FIXTURES

April 18 – Bangladesh vs Kazakhstan  
April 20 – Bangladesh vs Indonesia  
April 22 – Bangladesh vs Thailand  
April 23 – Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka  
April 25 – Semifinals  
April 27 – Final

“We had a plan to play three practices matches in Malaysia before heading to Indonesia but we could not arrange it despite going door to door for funds.”

– BHF joint secretary and team’s assistant manager Abu Jafar Tapan

PHOTO: STAR



## Alcaraz claims maiden Monte Carlo title

REUTERS

Carlos Alcaraz overcame a slow start to beat Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 in the Monte Carlo Masters final on Sunday, clinching his first title at the prestigious claycourt event and gaining momentum ahead of next month’s French Open.

The Spaniard dropped his opening two service games and struggled to find his range early on, particularly on his usually reliable forehand, as Musetti took full advantage to claim the first set.

But Alcaraz responded with a dominant display in the second, winning five straight games to take control of the match.

His physical power and improved shot selection proved too much for the Italian world number 16, who was seeking his first Masters 1000 title.

Alcaraz broke in the first and third games of the deciding set, maintaining his grip on the contest to seal victory in the first major European claycourt event of the season.

### SHORT CORNER

#### Bangladesh invited in Wheelchair CWC

Bangladesh wheelchair cricket team has been invited to take part in the inaugural Wheelchair Cricket World Cup 2025, set to take place from September 30 to October 9 in Lahore and Faisalabad in Pakistan. A total of eight countries – Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, England, Kenya and UAE -- are set to take part in the event.

#### ‘We have to focus on recovery’

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick is focusing on his side’s recovery ahead of the season’s final stretch. Barcelona extended their advantage in LaLiga with a 1-0 win at Leganes on Saturday, moving seven points clear of second-placed Real Madrid.

#### Bayern fail to make most of Leverkusen slip

Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich were held to a 2-2 home draw with Borussia Dortmund on Saturday, failing to take advantage of Bayer Leverkusen’s slip-up earlier in the day. After defending champions Leverkusen were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Union Berlin, Bayern knew a win would have moved them eight points clear.

*\*\*Read full stories on The Daily Star’s website*

### 2026 SA GAMES

## BOA expects gold in cricket, football

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) officials expressed hope of winning gold medals from cricket and football events in the upcoming South Asian Games following a meeting with officials of eight disciplines – cricket, football, volleyball, handball, basketball, kabaddi, rugby and hockey – at the BOA office on Sunday.

Both Bangladesh men’s and women’s cricket teams delivered gold medals in the last SA Games in Nepal six years ago while the men’s football team won a bronze medal. However, the women’s team failed to win any medal.

The 14th edition of the regional multi-sports games is scheduled to take place from January 23 to January 31 across three cities of Pakistan.

“After a meeting with individual disciplines, today we sat with team disciplines to know about their current states, requirements and expectations. The officials of all eight disciplines have promised to deliver medals. We believe cricket and football can deliver gold medals due to their standard,” BOA’s training committee secretary AK Sarkar told The Daily Star after the meeting.

“We will help other federations, especially those that have possibility to deliver good results, to appoint foreign coaches even though everything depends on the availability of funds. The budget will be placed before the sports ministry on April 23,” added Sarkar.

BOA also asked the federations to start preparation partially now before starting it in full swing after the Eid-ul-Azha as well as the fund allocation.

### DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE

## Wasi shines as Gazi secure third Super League spot

SPORTS REPORTER

An 18-year-old Wasi Sddiquee, who first grabbed the spotlight during the ACC U-19s Asia Cup in 2023, is coming up through the ranks as the leg-spinner claimed six wickets to help Gazi Group notch up a 51-run win over Brothers Union in a Dhaka Premier League (DPL) game at BKSP 4 yesterday.

Gazi’s win saw them secure third position in the DPL Super League standings, with eight wins in 11 games. Wasi’s six wickets saw him equal Rishad Hossain in the top wicket-takers’ list with 11 wickets. Wasi, however, has a better average and economy rate than Rishad, who is now away to play in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

Shamsur Rahman Shuvo struck a 90-ball 84 while Mohammad Salhan’s rapid 27-ball unbeaten 51 saw Gazi post 301 all out as Brothers’ Sumon Khan bagged four for 64.

Brothers got off to a rapid start with a

110-run stand off 97 deliveries between Mahfijul Islam and Zahiduzzaman Khan. Wasi came into the attack in his second spell and had an immediate effect. First, Mahfijul holed one out at long-off, unable to clear a flighted delivery before Wasi.

Wasi castled Aich Mollah in the next delivery with a googly that came in sharply to bamboozle the batter. On a hat-trick, Wasi produced another googly that rapped Mushukur Rahman’s pads, but the batter survived as the impact was outside the line.

Wasi would account for Myshukur Rahman later in the 31st over, and when Zahiduzzaman departed in the 33rd over to Wasi after a dazzling 122 off 92, the momentum shifted towards Gazi as Wasi picked up the final wicket in the 44th over.

Agrani Bank, meanwhile, secured fifth position as Shadman Islam starred with 87 in their 89-run win over Legends of Rugganj at Mirpur’s Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket

Stadium. Apart from Shadman, there were fifties from Imranuzzaman and Amite Hasan while veteran Marshall Ayub came up with a handy 36-ball 48 to help Agrani to 306 for six.

In reply, the majority of the star-studded Legends of Rugganj batters got starts but could not counter Agrani. Tanzid Tamim managed 27 while Soumya Sarkar, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, and Afif Hossain scored 27, 32, and 29, respectively.

Medium pacer Robiul Haque bagged four for 39 for Agrani. As the league phase ended today, Shadman and Joy joined the national team in Sylhet for the Tigers’ camp ahead of their two-Test series against Zimbabwe this month.

At BKSP 3, Partex Sporting clinched a two-wicket win over Dhanmondi Sports Club despite a 90-run knock from Yasir Ali. Yasir’s 90 and Moin Khan’s 80 saw Dhanmondi reach 229 all out while Ahran Amin’s unbeaten 85 saw Partex secure their third win in the tournament.

Partex, Brothers, and Shinepukur Cricket Club will now play the relegation league.



PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool extended their lead to 13 points at the top of the Premier League with a hard-earned 2-1 win over West Ham at home yesterday. Luis Dias scored the opener in the 18th minute, a lead which Liverpool managed to hold till the 85th minute. Left-back Andre Robertson scored an own goal which levelled the scoreline but captain Virgil Van Dijk found the net three minutes later to clinch the game for The Reds.