

SPORT

'Long lay-off an opportunity'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's lack of any international matches over the next couple of months might have been seen by many as a disadvantage for the Tigers, but opener Imrul Kayes has a different opinion.

According to the left-handed opener, the gap in the schedule could prove to be a blessing in disguise as players now have the opportunity to work on their fitness levels, an aspect he considers extremely important in order to develop a cricketer's skill levels.

"A player does not always get such an opportunity. After doing a proper fitness camp, one can play international cricket for at least a year or two. So I think every player will take this camp seriously. They will do so for the sake of their careers," said Imrul, who was present at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, warming up ahead of the national camp that is set to begin tomorrow.

"We may not have a busy schedule now, but we have plenty of matches in line at the end of the year. We have the Champions Trophy, the New Zealand series in December and then we play Ireland as well. So I think this is the best time for us to focus on our fitness," he said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh strength and conditioning coach Mario Villavarayan has delayed his arrival in the country and will not be joining the start of the national preliminary squad's training camp. According to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Villavarayan has cited personal reasons for the delay and he will be joining soon.

Villavarayan is generally the first member of the team management to interact with the players during camps since the camps kick-start with fitness sessions.



IMRUL KAYES

'Lucky to have Mushtaq'

AFP, London

Yasir Shah said he was grateful for the wealth of leg-spin knowledge in the Pakistan camp after his maiden 10-wicket Test haul set up victory over England at Lord's.

Shah's return of 10 for 141, including Sunday's second-innings figures of four for 69, was pivotal to Pakistan's 75-run win over England in the first of a four-Test series at Lord's on Sunday.

Significantly, the 30-year-old leg-spinner bowled Jonny Bairstow for 48 as he ended the England anchorman's more than three hours of resistance.

Bairstow's exit proved the telling blow, with England losing their last four wickets for 12 runs as they were dismissed for 207 in pursuit of a victory target of 283.

Remarkably, this was Shah's first Test outside of Asia and the United Arab Emirates.

But in bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed and tour manager Intikhab Alam, both former Pakistan leg-spinners, he had plenty of experience to call upon.

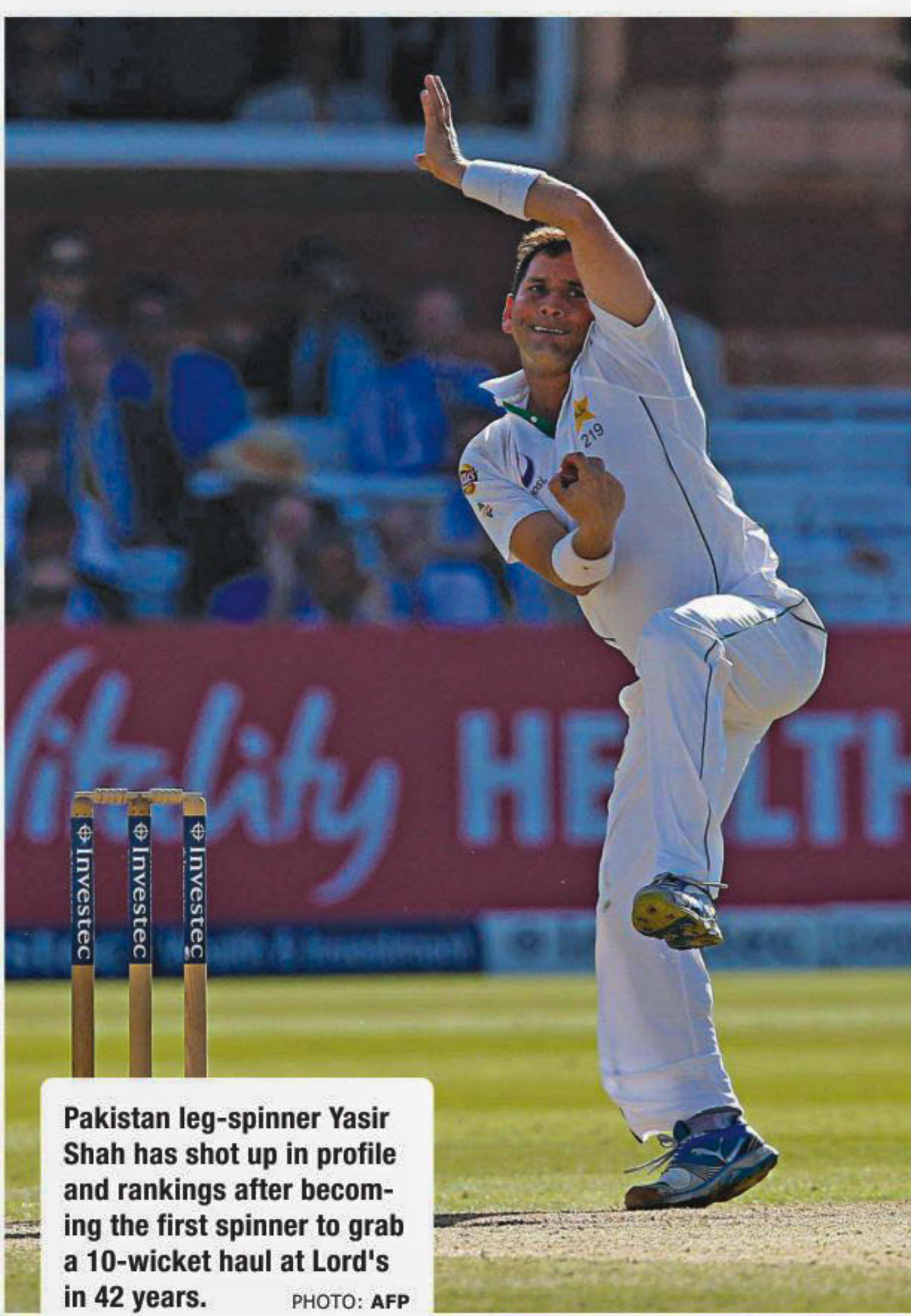
As well as playing Tests in England, the pair also enjoyed county careers, with the 74-year-old Alam representing Surrey for several seasons, while Ahmed enjoyed spells at Somerset, Sussex and Surrey.

On Sunday, Shah was dismissed for his overnight Test-best 30, but then quickly set about building on his six for 72 from England's first innings.

"My effort was to do well with bat, but I could not, so I tried to do it with the ball later on," he said.

"The thing is the spinner is relied upon on the fourth and fifth day.

"I am fortunate that Mushy is here and Intikhab Alam is our manager. They share their experiences and we execute that on the ground."



Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah has shot up in profile and rankings after becoming the first spinner to grab a 10-wicket haul at Lord's in 42 years.

PHOTO: AFP

Meanwhile victorious captain Misbahul Haq, who helped force Pakistan's strong position in the match with a first-innings century in his maiden Test at Lord's, praised his team's resilience.

"I am really proud of the team, the way that they fought and just come out and show really good skills and mentally everyone was strong. It was a really good win for us," he said.

Yasir tops ICC rankings

AFP, London

Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah has knocked England's James Anderson off the top of the International Cricket Council Test rankings in the aftermath of his match-winning heroics at Lord's.

Yasir's maiden 10-wicket haul in the first Test against England helped Pakistan secure a 75-run win and made him the first Pakistani to top the table since his fellow leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed 20 years ago.

The 30-year-old climbs from number four to the top of the ICC bowlers' rankings following his 10 for 141 figures against England, which included Sunday's second-innings figures of four for 69.

Remarkably, Yasir's superb display came in his first Test outside of Asia and the United Arab Emirates.

Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, had reached number one for the first time after his brilliant series against Sri Lanka earlier this year.

But the pace bowler was controversially left out of England's squad for the first Test against Pakistan as the selectors opted for a cautious approach while he recovers from a shoulder injury.

Anderson is expected to be back in the England squad for the second Test on his home ground at Old Trafford this week.

Shah first since 1974

AFP, London

SPIN KINGS AT LORD'S

Spinners taking 10 wickets in a Test at Lord's.

Player	Figures	Opposition	Year
Johnny Briggs (ENG)	11-74	Australia	1886
Hedley Verity (ENG)	15-104	Australia	1934
Sonny Ramadhin (WI)	11-152	England	1950
Roy Tattersall (ENG)	12-101	South Africa	1951
Derek Underwood (ENG)	11-70	New Zealand	1969
Derek Underwood (ENG)	13-71	Pakistan	1974

Yasir Shah took 10 wickets in a Test for the first time in his career as the leg-spinner bowled Pakistan to a 75-run win over England at Lord's on Sunday.

The 30-year-old Shah, who earlier this year served a three-month drugs ban after saying he had taken his wife's blood pressure medication instead of his own, now has a brilliant Test record.

In just 13 matches, he has taken 86 wickets at an average of just 23 apiece.

His second-innings haul of four for 69 gave man-of-the-match Shah an overall return for this Test of 10 for 141.

That made him the first spinner to take 10 wickets in a Lord's Test since England's Derek Underwood in 1974 and just the sixth in all.

BPL promises big

SPORTS REPORTER

With the commitment to spread football outside the capital, the JB Bangladesh Premier League officially started its journey yesterday through a colourful logo and trophy unveiling ceremony in Dhaka.

This ceremony is expected to be followed up by another grand opening ceremony tomorrow in Chittagong where the ninth edition of the professional football league is set to kick off on July 24.

Yesterday's ceremony seemed to rekindle hopes of a fresh start to professional football in Bangladesh as Saif Global Sports Ltd, the commercial rights holder of the Bangladesh Premier League, presented a simple

yet elegant programme. The captains of all the 12 teams were highlighted during the programme where the jerseys and flags to be used by the participating teams were also displayed. SGS also composed a theme song and a theme video for the upcoming league.

This is however not the first time logo and trophy unveiling has been done on such a grand scale.

The teams participating also promised to give their best to attract spectators.

"It could have been better had we organised the league in seven different venues, but at least it will be held at four. Let's start and stay hopeful. We are getting support from the sponsors and now I want support from the clubs. If we work together, there is no reason we cannot to take our football

to the international level," BFF president Kazi Salahuddin said during the programme.

State-owned television channel, BTv, and private satellite television, Bhoishakhi TV, will provide a live telecast of all the 132 matches of the league.

SGS chairman Tarafder Ruhul Amin is also hopeful of making the league a success.

"We have come forward to bring back the past glory of football. We are going to hold this edition of the league in a different way which will see the matches being played at different venues. However, the national team will not be benefited by the league if we don't develop our club football," Ruhul Amin said, adding that they would design a separate plan for the participating clubs from the next season.



Captains of the 12 participating teams pose with the JB Bangladesh Premier League trophy during the league's logo and trophy unveiling ceremony at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

India SC bars ministers, bureaucrats from BCCI

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's top court has barred ministers and bureaucrats from holding posts in the country's cricket board (BCCI) as part of administrative reforms in the world's richest national cricket body.

The Supreme Court on Monday accepted most of the recommendations of the Lodha Committee, a three-member panel it had appointed to look into the functioning of the BCCI

which is perceived as a cash-rich but opaque body run by politicians and businessmen.

In their report, submitted in January, former chief justice of India RM Lodha and two of his colleagues recommended age and tenure restrictions for top officials and cooling off period between successive terms for top officials among others.

"We allow most of the recommendations of the Justice Lodha panel on administrative changes in the BCCI," a two-judge division bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice of India

Tirath Singh Thakur and Justice F.M.I. Kalifulla, said in their order.

"Nobody above the age of 70 will be office bearer of the BCCI. A person cannot be simultaneously an office-bearer in the state cricket association as well as in the BCCI."

In other recommendations, all of which would have to be implemented within six months by the BCCI, the panel wanted the board to be brought under the Right to Information Act which would allow citizens to access information held by the board.

Afusi to replace 'sacked' Manik

SPORTS REPORTER

In light of their woeful results in the last three assignments, Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club have parted ways with head coach Shafiqul Islam Manik to make way for the return of Joseph Afusi.

During his tenure Afusi helped the club to success in the last Premier League and Bhutan's Kings Cup in 2015 as well as a runners-up finish in the IFA Shield in 2014.

Manik was appointed head coach in February this year ahead of the club's AFC Cup campaign, where they managed only three points from their six matches. The Dhanmondi based outfit were also eliminated from the knock-out stages of both the Independence Cup and the Federation Cup.

"The decision to terminate the contract with Manik was taken two days ago and Joseph Afusi is coming here within a few days to take charge. The disappointing results in the Independence Cup and the Federation Cup were taken into consideration while deciding Manik's termination," said a high official of the club who preferred to remain anonymous.

However, Manik claimed that he knew nothing about the termination and hence he conducted training and gym sessions yesterday morning.

Anderson, Stokes & Rashid called up

AFP, London

England added premier pace bowler James Anderson, all-rounder Ben Stokes and leg-spinner Adil Rashid into an expanded 14-man squad announced Monday for Friday's second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford.

Squad: Alastair Cook, Alex Hales, Joe Root, James Vince, Gary Ballance, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad, James Anderson, Adil Rashid, Steven Finn, Jake Ball.

His consistency is amazing: Jubair

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh leg-spinner Jubair Hossain wants to garner inspiration from his Pakistani counterpart Yasir Shah's splendid performance against England in the first Test at Lord's.

The Pakistan spinner scalped a 10-wicket haul and leapt to the top of the ICC Test bowler rankings. The rhythm with which Shah bowled delighted the 21-year-old Jubair, who said that he watched most of Shah's spells from his hometown in Jamalpur.

"The first thought that immediately came to my mind was the conversation that I had with him when Pakistan had come to Bangladesh last year. We both were bowling in parallel nets together one afternoon.

"He suddenly stopped bowling and came to my net and observed me. We spoke for a while and I learnt a lot of things from him. Honestly speaking, he is a veteran in this art and the rhythm and consistency with which he bowls is amazing," said Jubair.

"As a young leg-spinner I have plenty to work on. I need to work on my consistency. I need to make sure that my mind is free and it doesn't take much pressure, because that is one aspect that I am guilty of. I take too much pressure. I had discussed all this with him, and he had told me that all I needed was experience.

"After watching his performance in the Test, I feel really inspired. He has done it today. Maybe I can put in a good performance in the future one day," he added.

While Jubair had begun the Dhaka Premier League on a good note, bagging a six-wicket haul for Abahani, he was not included in the team towards the end of the tournament. He has however been included in the national squad that will be taking part in a camp set to begin from tomorrow at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.



Teen equals fastest 200

AFP, Colwyn Bay

Glamorgan teenager Aneurin Donald equalled the record for the fastest double-century in first-class cricket with a stunning innings against Derbyshire on Sunday.

Donald's knock included 15 sixes, with his 200 from just 123 balls equalling the mark set by former India international Ravi Shastri in his home country in 1985.

The 19-year-old came to the crease at Colwyn Bay with his side 96-3 in the County Championship encounter, and immediately went on the attack before reaching his maiden Championship ton with a six.

It took the former England Under-19 captain Donald just 43 balls to move from 100 to 200.

"I was pleased because it has put the team in a strong position, and after a lean patch recently, I am delighted to get a big one," he said.

"I had no idea of the records that went, but it was especially pleasing to equal Ravi Shastri's previous record, as he is a former Glamorgan player."

Donald also brought up both his 150 and 200 with sixes, before holing out to long-off after racking up 234 from only 136 deliveries.

Glamorgan ended the first day on 491-8.



19-year-old Glamorgan batsman Aneurin Donald smashed the joint-fastest first-class double-hundred -- off 123 balls -- against Derbyshire on Sunday.

PHOTO: ESPNCRICINFO