

## CELEBRATING A CENTURY



As Bangladesh embark on a historic 100th Test, taking on Sri Lanka in Colombo today, memories of the first Test almost 17 years ago still remains as vivid as ever. This Star file photo shows the two captains of that match – Bangladesh's Naimur Rahman and India's Sourav Ganguly – exchanging pleasantries at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on November 10, 2000.

PHOTO FILE:  
ANISUR RAHMAN



### A bumpy yet joyous ride

AL-AMIN

Bangladesh will reach a milestone today when skipper Mushfiqur Rahim strides in for the toss alongside his Sri Lankan counterpart Rangana Herath at the P Sara Oval in Colombo. The flip of the coin will mark Bangladesh's 100th Test, exactly after 16 years, four months and 6 days since their baptism at the Bangabandhu National Stadium against India.

At Colombo, Bangladesh will be fighting to save the two-match series after their heavy defeat at Galle last week. This is something Bangladesh have been striving for ever since their inaugural Test on November 10, 2000. They may have lost too many for comfort, drawn a few and won fewer along the way. But the tenth Test playing nation in that elite group is the burning example to world cricket of how to build on that tag and encapsulate the passion of a nation. Cricket is not only the Numero Uno sport in Bangladesh now; it is the everyday dose of dream and desire of 160 million people in this part of the world. Cricket is now more popular than football was from the 70s to early 90s in Bangladesh. It now sells as prime-time commodity for advertisers and media alike. There is an interesting anecdote of how cricket was treated when Bangladesh played their opening Test. On the second day of the Test Aminul Islam turned his overnight 70 to a brilliant century. But the report did not reach any readers

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