



Tamim Iqbal's assured knock of 82 laid the platform for Bangladesh's successful run-chase on the fifth day of the second Test in Colombo yesterday. The left-hander was rewarded with the player-of-the-match award, while Shakib Al Hasan's (L) all-round performance in both matches was enough to fetch him the player-of-the-series award.

PHOTOS:  
AFP

## Tigers take ownership of their fate

SAKEB SUBHAN from Colombo



100 may just be a number converted into a landmark by the pattern-seeking human mind, but it does present us with an opportunity to take pause and look back. Before Bangladesh's 100th Test at the P Sara Oval in Colombo, there were a lot of backward glances and evaluations of the progress Bangladesh cricket had made in the 16 years and four months it took to reach the milestone. The journey was dissected in all imaginable ways. Even so, there was a surprise in store, a happy one if you are a Bangladesh fan.

One of the backward glances was at the coaches that played such a



crucial role in the development of the youngest Test nation. There is a huge debt to be paid to the likes of Eddie Barlow and Gordon Greenidge before the elevation to Test status, and coaches like Dav Whatmore, Jamie Siddons, Stuart Law, Shane Jurgensen and now Chandika Hathurusingha. The coach and the support staff take on a large role and

a large profile in the story of a fledgling team, and that has been the case with Bangladesh.

But something changed after the Galle defeat, and it was evident in Colombo. Bangladesh were a team thought to be in turmoil with Mahmudullah Riyad's exclusion and its attendant controversies looming large over the historic match and a gloom descending over the dressing room. But the players tasked with doing something special to take a share of the series away from home against a higher-ranked team for the first time, decided to look inwards rather than seek answers from the more than capable backroom staff they have, also for the first time.

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### WHAT THEY SAID

Yes, yes... after a long time. It was good to hear it

— Courtney Walsh, who said before the match that he wants to hear the victory song after the 100th Test.

As a team, the England one [win in Dhaka in 2016] was very important. And this too, it's the hundredth Test, so this is also very important. How can I decide? After losing the Galle Test, all the seniors decided that we would have a meeting before each and every game from now. I think that was the game changer. The birthday [Tamim turned 28 today] will be with family. Of course, this is the best possible birthday gift.

— Tamim Iqbal

This is feeling very good. Hundredth Test, I didn't think I would be able to play, but I got the opportunity and thankfully played well, and I am happy that the team won. No I have not been able to forget the pain [of being at the crease during the 21-run defeat to England in the Chittagong Test, his debut match]. This win has lessened it a little, but that still hurts.

— Sabbir Rahman

The two are different. That [win against England in Dhaka in 2016] was the first win against a big team and this is also against a big team in their own backyard. All in all I am elated.

— Taijul Islam

When I came in, I made up my mind that I would try and finish the match as soon as possible. I am not thinking about how I played, just playing in the match



# কিনলে

## এলো বাংলাদেশে

### আমাদের আন্তর্জাতিক মানের আলট্রালাইট বোতলে

## কিনলে.

## বিশ্বাস প্রতি বিন্দুতে