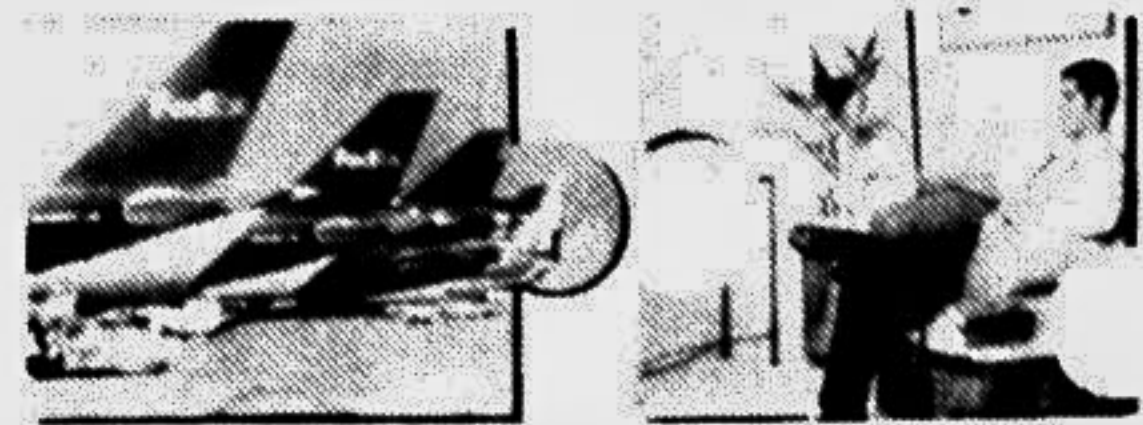


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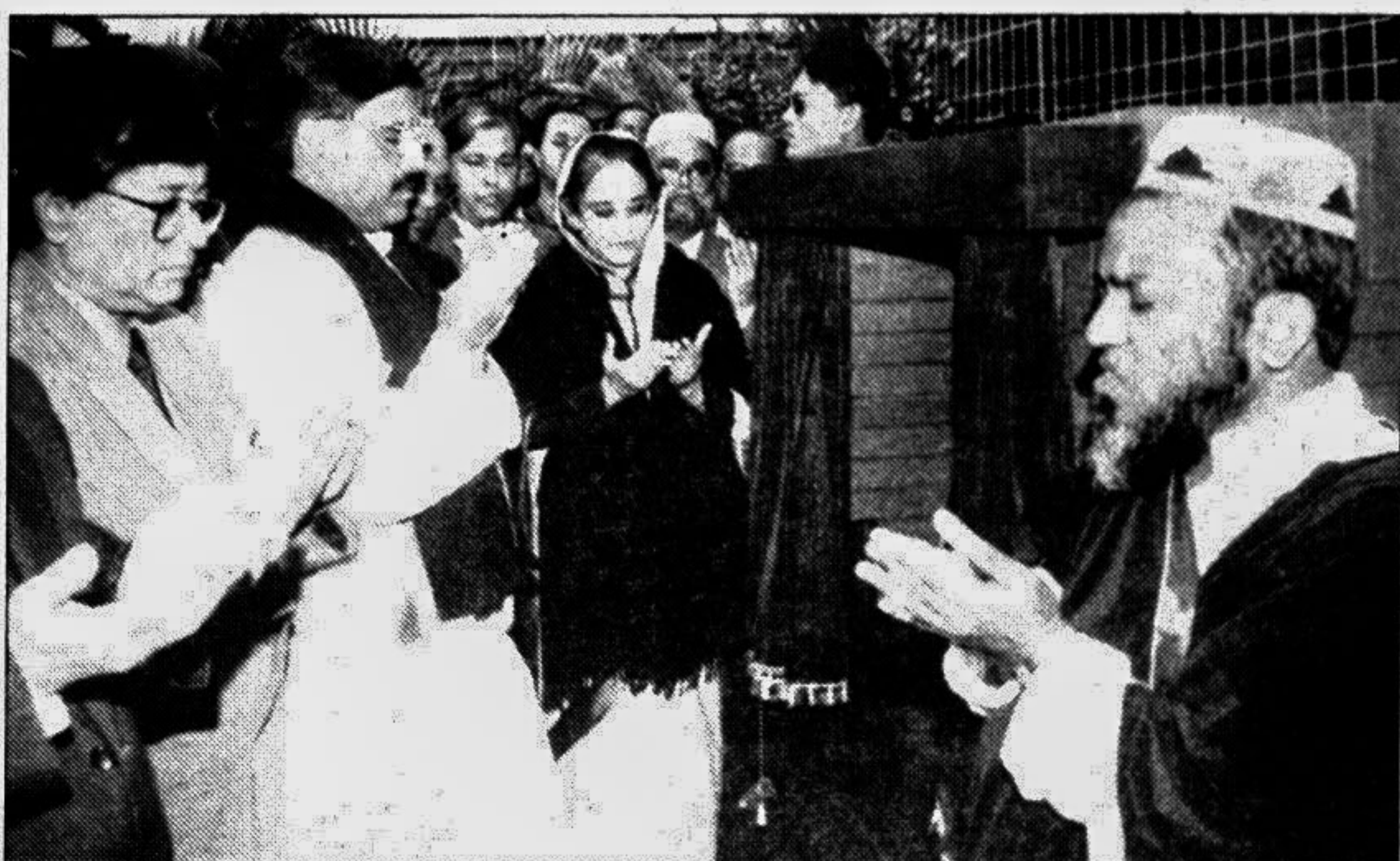
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering munajat after laying the foundation stone of Shaheed Matiur Memorial Centre at Nabakumar Institute in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Foundation of Shaheed Matiur Memorial Centre laid

# All possible steps taken to stop distortion of history: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will build up the nation based on the spirit and values of liberation war, reports UNB.

"We want to make the independence meaningful, we want to build up the nation in the light of the liberation war removing all distortions of history," she said while inaugurating the Shaheed Matiur Rahman Memorial Centre in Lalbag of the city.

The centre will be built on the Nabakumar Institute premises to preserve the memory of Shaheed Matiur, who was a student of the institute.

Matiur was killed in police firing on this day in 1969 during the mass upsurge.

To be built at a cost of Tk 1 crore, the memorial centre will have a library, museum and research centre that also aims at upholding the history of independence struggle.

The Prime Minister said the government has taken all possible steps to stop distortion of the history of country's independence.

She said the process of distorting the history of the liberation war started with the brutal killing of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The present government, she said, has undertaken the mission to stop distortion of history and project the truth to the present and future generation.

Hasina said the struggle for independence got a momentum with the six-point demand placed by Bangabandhu and reached a climax in 1969 with the mass upsurge against the Pakistani autocratic rulers.

The 6-point demand was the charter of freedom for the people, she said adding that the then autocratic government was forced to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy case against Bangabandhu following the mass upsurge.

She said on the same day (January 24) in 1988, another heinous incident took place in the history of independent Bangladesh.

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Paying tributes to the martyrs of 1969 and 1988, Hasina said the people's movement aimed at establishing the people's rights cannot be stopped through repression or killing.

The nation that shed blood for its liberation, language and democratic rights cannot be suppressed by anyone, she added.

She said the government is striving hard to build up a happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) as dreamt by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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## Ctg Mass Killing Day observed

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: The Chittagong Mass Killing Day was observed here today paying glowing tributes to those who were martyred on this day in 1988, reports BSS.

On this day, as many as 24 people were killed and over 200 others injured when police opened fire on a mammoth public meeting of the then chief of the 15-party alliance Sheikh Hasina at Lalbagh Maidan.

Different organisations observed the day through elaborate programmes which included placing of wreaths at the monument at the court building memorial meeting and photographic exhibition.

Leaders of Bangladesh Awami League, city Chittagong district north and south chapters led by Labour and Manpower Minister MA Mannan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Eng Mosharraf Hossain placed wreaths at the monument this morning.

Acting mayor of the city corporation Jalaudhin Iqbal, leaders of Sammilite Peshajibi Parishad, Chittagong District Bar Association, Bangabandhu Parishad, Bangladesh Mohila Awami League, Muktiyoddha Chhatra Command, National Awami Party and Bangabandhu Sangkritik Jote also placed wreaths at the memorial.

Later, a memorial meeting was held on the premises of the monument with veteran Awami League leader Abul Kalam Sawdagar in the chair.

Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engr. Mosharraf Hossain, Abul Kashem Master MP, Commerce and Industry Secretary of Awami League Central Committee Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (Babu), President of Chittagong District Bar Association Advocate Abul Kalam Azad, Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babul, AL leaders M A Salam, Muslemuddin Ahmed, Enamul Haq Danu, Kalpita Biswas, daughter of the martyred Swapan Biswas were, among others, took part in the meeting.

Labour Minister MA Mannan paid rich tributes to those who were killed and said the massacre further intensified the movement to topple the Ershad regime.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Haji Selim MP, Institute's Governing Body Chairman Advocate Qamrul Islam and the father of Shaheed Matiur, Azhar Ali Mallik, also addressed the meeting organised by the Cultural Affairs Ministry.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Shaheed Matiur Memorial Centre at the Institute premises.

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## Body to probe financial crimes planned Toll collection, corruption eat up 10 pc of GDP: Rafiq

By Staff Correspondent

Formation of Security Investigation Commission has been planned to deal with financial crimes in the country, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam said here yesterday.

"This has become a necessity as, right at the moment, the police department has no expertise to check financial crimes and to study and analyse financial market," the minister said while addressing a seminar as chief guest.

The seminar on 'Role of Journalists: Protecting Society from Crime', held at The Jatiya Press Club, was jointly organized by the Dhaka Reporters' Unit (DRU) and the Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC). The seminar was followed by a certificate giving ceremony. The home minister gave certificates to 36 reporters who participated in two training programmes on crime reporting recently.

Referring to the Security Investigation Commission (SIC) in the United States, Rafiqul Islam said, that the finance minister had also suggested him to form such a commission in the country to curb criminal activities in the financial sector.

The home minister said Bangladesh, India and Pakistan would reach an understanding soon to assist each other in checking transboundary trafficking of children and women. A separate cell has been set up at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in that respect, he added.

Home Minister said he would meet the press next month to present a detailed outline of his thoughts on overall crime situation in the country. "As home minister for over the last one and half years, I keenly observed some issues and did some home-work, which I want to share with you," he told newsmen in the audience.

He held the legacy of 'lobbying culture' responsible for erosion of values in the society and added, "lobbying for jobs and promotions diminishes chances of putting the right persons in right places. If the raw material is poor, end-product can never be up to the mark."

Rafiqul Islam estimated that

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