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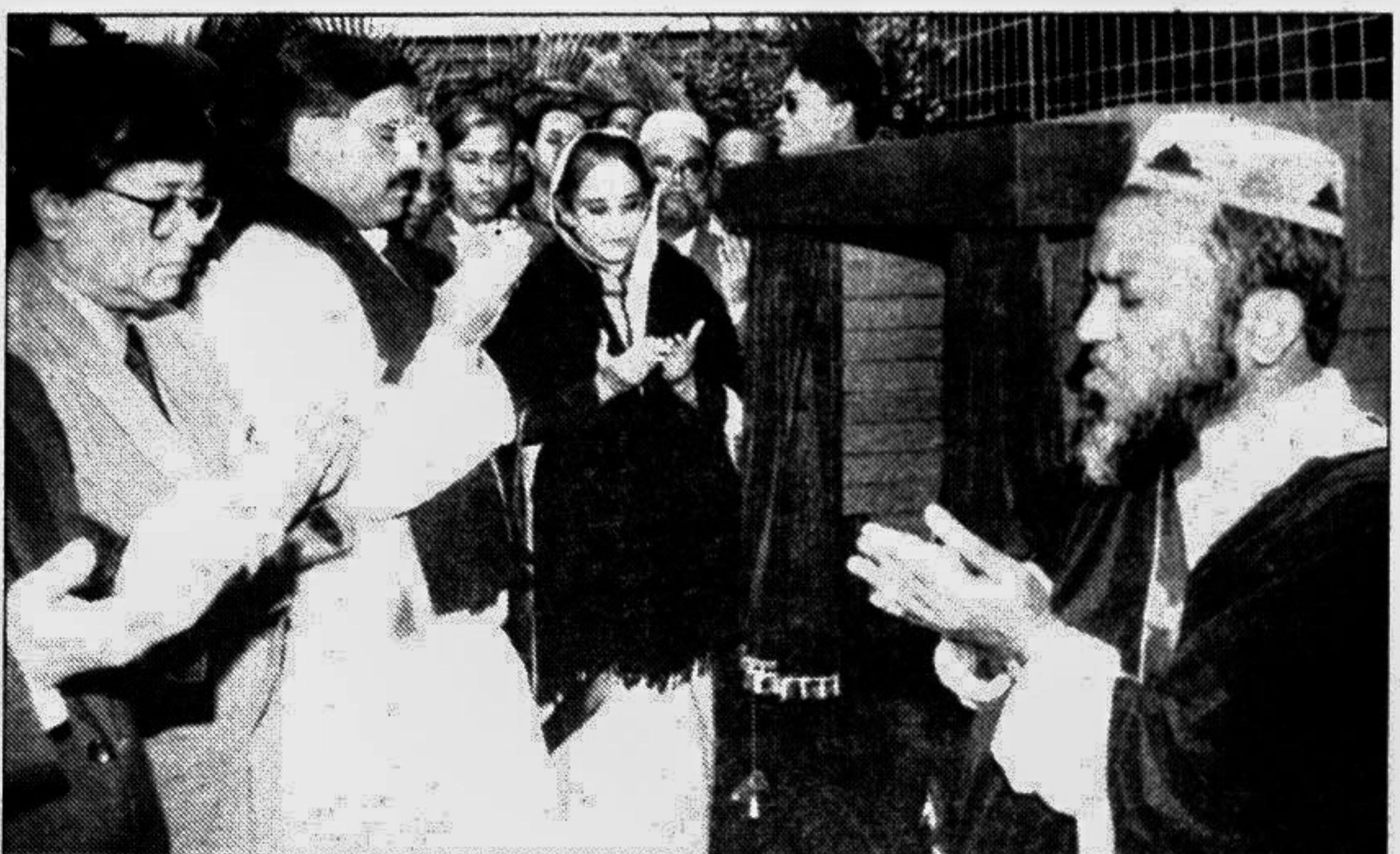
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering *munajat* after laying the foundation stone of Shaheed Matiur Memorial Centre at Nabakumar Institute in the city yesterday.

— 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, respectively.

"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 Lalbagh 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 uprising.

To be built at a cost of Tk 1 crore, the memorial centre will have a library, museum and re-

search 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.

On this day in 1988, the autocratic regime killed many people at Lalbagh Maidan in Chittagong while Sheikh Hasina was on her way there to attend a protest meeting.

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 Mujib and hoped that the country would be able to raise its head with dignity in the coming century.

"You are the future leaders of the country," Hasina told the students of the Nabakumar Institute. She called upon them to build up their character and morality with the spirit and values of liberation war to serve the nation.

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.

## Fishing cat

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Dhaka's Mirpur Zoo as officials from the Environment and Forest Ministry ordered steps to save them.

But the cubs died of malnutrition on December 19. Dr Shahiduzzaman, who tried to save the cubs, said if they could have their mother's milk at least once they could have survived.

The male cat now shares a cage with two other cats at the Zoo. Where the fishing cat population rose to eight with this arrival.

Anisuzzaman Khan said the fishing cats are among the eight species of cat, including Royal Bengal Tiger and the Leopard, still surviving in Bangladesh.

The others are toddy cat, golden cat, palm civet, large civet and jungle cat, also known as *khatash*.

Khan said the cats are facing increasing danger from people who are ignorant about their protected status. There should be more campaign to create awareness among the people about protecting the animals, he felt.

The leopard that was brought to Mirpur Zoo from Sylhet on Thursday is a rare species. Such cats must be saved and allowed to survive in the wilds. If they are caught, they should be treated and released in the wild, Khan said.

Zoo officials reported yesterday that the leopard has chances of survival despite the severe torture it underwent for three days since capture by villagers at Zaintia in Sylhet on Sunday.

It did not touch any food yesterday as it still was in a trauma. The officials were hopeful that eventually it would take food and survived.

## Peace talks

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touched on the issue when they met for bilateral talks in Dhaka on January 15 during a three-nation business summit.

The foreign ministry secretaries of the two countries also met in Dhaka during the summit.

"In the series of those exchanges, we received some proposals from the Indian side," the Pakistani spokesman said.

"We are considering those proposals. They deserve full examination and consideration and thereafter we will propose a response to those proposals."

The spokesman said the possibility of a resumption of the dialogue "will depend on our examination of the proposals made by India," though he seemed to rule out further meetings before the Indian general elections from February 16 to March 7, saying the other side "is very preoccupied."

"If we find that the Indians have come back to the June situation ... then we will resume discussion on the operationalisation of the mechanism (for the talks) and try and reach an agreement," the Pakistani spokesman said.

# Anesthesia units

From page 1

He further said, "Anesthesia machine is a vital equipment used in operation. We have to consider safety even if it costs a little more because if any machine fails to operate, the patient will die."

However, the purchase committee decided to purchase the machines ignoring the recommendations of the TC, the sources said.

The CMSD in a letter dated issued on November 10 last year asked the procurement, disbursement and audit unit of the local office of the World Bank (WB) to release funds for purchase of the machines.

Meanwhile, in the face of alleged irregularities, the Parliamentary Committee on Public Estimates has taken up the matter.

Asked if the committee has detected any violation of rule in the matter, one of the members of the committee said, "Actually, we have not been able to sit with the members of the technical committee and the purchase committee and others but preliminary investigation shows that there are gross irregularities in the matter."

When his attention was drawn to CMSD's decision to purchase the devices he said, "The government can not purchase the devices now because the issue has already been included in the agenda of the committee. Any change will be considered as violation."

He said, "I can not tell you the things that are happening in CMSD."

**Partnership**  
From page 1

blocks 9 and 11. But on the next meeting, the government offered Petronas-Mobil only Block 11 along with Tullow.

In between those two meetings, Chevron-Texaco expressed their interest to talk with Tullow over Block 9.

On January 12, a pre-scheduled meeting between Petronas-Mobil and Tullow became meaningless as Tullow representatives were not present and there was no other agenda.

However, the government reiterated its last proposal to Petronas-Mobil saying that it would not offer more than one block to one company/joint venture.

Meanwhile, oil giant Shell and its British partner Cairn sent a letter to the government on January 15 saying that they were available for partnership negotiations over Block 9 with Mobil-Petronas and BAPEX.

Shell and Cairn have earlier been offered two blocks-5 and 10 against their proposals for six blocks.

Shell-Cairn's proposal has now created a new polarisation in the block negotiation politics, observes a source, adding, "but the government is strongly backing up Tullow till now. Therefore it is not clear whether this polarisation would affect the government negotiators' decision again."

"If we find that the Indians have come back to the June situation ... then we will resume discussion on the operationalisation of the mechanism (for the talks) and try and reach an agreement," the Pakistani spokesman said.

## Schoolgirl commits suicide in city

A student of Narinda Girls High School allegedly committed suicide yesterday by hanging herself from the shower of bath room at Ward, reports BSS. Police quoting family sources said, Mahmuda Akhter Liza, 15, daughter of one Mohammad Ali, of Rangpur Street, Ward committed suicide following an altercation with her mother. The body of Liza was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

"All the tickets have been grabbed by the black marketeers. But they charge two or three times higher than the

## 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 Laldighi 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 Hasina placed wreaths at the monument this morning.

Acting mayor of the city corporation Jalauddin Iqbal, leaders of Sammilito Peshabji Parishad, Chittagong District Bar Association, Bangabandhu Parishad, Bangladesh Mohila Awami League, Mukti Joddha Chhatra Command, National Awami Party and Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote also placed wreaths at the memorial.

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

Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan, Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engr. Mosharraf Hasina, Abdul Kalam Master MP, Commerce and Industry Secretary of Awami League Central Committee Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (Babu), President of Chittagong District Bar Association Advocate Abdul Kalam Azad, Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Babu, AL leaders M A Salam, Musleminuddin Ahmed, Enamul Haq Danu, Kalpit Biswas, daughter of the martyred Swapna 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.

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