

# More rooms in DU halls ransacked

By DU Correspondent

Clashes between two groups of the students in Dhaka University continued for the third consecutive day Tuesday.

Five more rooms of Shahidullah Hall and Sir Salimullah Hall belonging to both the groups were ransacked and looted Tuesday morning, campus sources said.

The campus remained restive despite efforts of the Dhaka University authorities and the leaders of All-Party Students' Unity (APSU) to defuse the tension.

The activists of both the student organisations headed for the Madhu's Canteen at about 11:30 am for a show-down carrying weapons openly. However, clashes were averted due to the presence of the police contingent.

Two rooms in Shahidullah Hall were ransacked at about 10 am, allegedly by the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). Immediately after the incident the activists of Awami League-backed Chhatra League ransacked three more rooms in Salimullah Hall.

Both Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out processions in the campus protesting Sunday nights incidents ignor-

India's polls to erupt in a 'river of blood'

AGARTALA, Mar 19: India's May general elections could erupt in a 'river of blood' and the political leaders who forced them should be tried for murder, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal said today as Congress (I) Party closed ranks ahead of polls, report Agencies.

Lal, a maverick peasant leader who is no stranger to political controversy, told a news conference he would not stand for reelection to the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

Instead, Lal said he would wage a personal campaign against party leaders he blamed for thrusting elections, not due until late 1994, on a country torn by caste and religious violence.

ing the advice of APSU leaders. However, the leaders of the two student organisations asked their workers not to chant any provoking slogan in the procession.

Dhaka University Syndicate in an emergency meeting Tuesday apprehended that if the law enforcing agencies failed to arrest persons involved in terrorism in the campus, the situation might worsen.

The Vice Chancellor met the vice presidents and general secretaries of the hall student unions. The overall campus situation was discussed, but the meeting failed to take any decision due to the absence of any representatives from the Zahirul Haque Hall.

The Vice Chancellor will meet them again today.

After the meeting with the leaders of hall students unions, the Vice Chancellor visited the affected halls.

The APSU leaders held a meeting Tuesday afternoon to discuss solutions to the problems but failed to come to any decision.

# Ershad pleads innocence

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Judge delivered his judgement on the objections rejecting the appeal of the defence counsel.

Then the Judge read out the charges against Ershad by the State accusing him of possessing illegal and unauthorised arms.

The Judge then asked Ershad whether he had any defence to say. Ershad stood up and said, "I am fully innocent. I want a fair trial".

The defence counsel Barrister Shahadat Hossain then handed the Judge a letter from a lawyer who he said was ready to defend the accused and sought two months time.

At this stage Attorney General Aminul Haque disputed this saying that the arms case against Ershad was a separate case and could in no way be attached to the Commission's report.

He said legal aspects regarding the beginning of the trial had been dealt with earlier in higher courts and verdict had been given that the Special Tribunal deal with the arms case.

The Judge observed that the FIR of the arms case had been lodged under an independent law and the case was maintainable under the law.

Having heard both sides on the objections raised by Ershad's lawyer, the Judge recessed the Tribunal for about an hour.

When hearing resumed the

Attorney General Aminul Haque, Deputy Attorney General, Amrul Kabir Chowdhury, and Hasan Arif appeared on behalf of State while Barrister Shahadat Hossain, Mafzur Rahman and Sharif Ahmed appeared on behalf of the accused.

The Tribunal, at first, had fixed February 16 for hearing the case but it could not proceed due to the sickness of the former President.

A petition for quashing the trial was preferred by Ershad in a Division Bench of the High Court Division of Supreme Court and a two-week stay order was obtained. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court vacated the order on February 26.

Ershad is facing the charge of keeping 8 unauthorised firearms and some quantity of ammunition in his official residence at the cantonment which were recovered by police in presence of one of his relatives.

He also informed the Tribunal that Advocate Sirajul Haque was to defend the accused and he was informed about it through Home Ministry. He said that the defence might also bring him but he found no reason why Sirajul Haque did not appear in defence of the accused.

The defence counsel then said that Sirajul Haque had declined to defend the accused.

At this stage the Tribunal granted the Defence seven days time and adjourned till March 27.

# The Midnight File

## Hostages to be freed soon

WASHINGTON, Mar 19: ABC news, quoting a source inside Lebanon's Hezbollah (Party of God), said the 12 westerners held hostage in Lebanon might be released very soon. According to this source, there is pressure coming from both Iran and Syria for the release of these hostages, the US television network reported from London, reports Reuter.

## World's plight 'sad & depressing'

LONDON, Mar 19: Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, said today that the plight of the world was "sad and depressing" and called for action to avert more human and environmental tragedies. In a major speech to an international conference on the environment the Prince referred to climate change, destruction of the rain forests, drought in Africa and the burning of the Kuwaiti oil wells, reports Reuter.

## Communist clout in Slovakia

PRAGUE, Mar 19: Czechoslovakia's Interior Minister said in an interview published Tuesday that Communists may be manipulating the current crisis in Slovakia, and warned of nationalist tendencies in the army. Slovakia, the easternmost third of the country, has been campaigning increasingly for more political and economic independence from Prague, even threatening to secede, reports AP.

## Pak PM's adviser resigns

ISLAMABAD, Mar 19: An influential defence adviser to Pakistan's Prime Minister resigned today after newspapers said an inquiry committee found the official partly to blame for faulty construction of an airport. A government statement said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had accepted the resignation of Ijaz Haider Zaidi, who looked after the daily running of the defence ministry which Sharif also heads, reports Reuter.

## Sheikh Hasina

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Joint Declaration stands for establishment of a 'sovereign parliament' and an 'accountable government' which, she said, means restoration of parliamentary democracy.

No individual political party in the present parliament has enough strength to pass an amendment to the Constitution. But if the three alliances stick to the Joint Declaration they can easily make an amendment for restoration of parliamentary democracy, she said.

She said those who want to complicate the situation do not want democracy. Power is their only target. By breaking the pledge made in the Joint Declaration they are betraying the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives in the democratic movement, she said.

She said the spirit of the Joint Declaration was to resolve differences on the basis of mutual understanding. Our stand was that the Acting President will hand over power to a sovereign parliament. Now unity has become a forgotten chapter only to capture power, she said.

She said the majority party showed no signs of bringing about a change in the form of government despite the fact that the parliament has no power under the presidential system. I was in parliament before and I know how parliament functions under such a system, she remarked.

She said her party raised objections to the formation of the Council of Ministers because the Joint Declaration of the three alliances wanted the Acting President to remain non-partisan. He was supposed to head a caretaker government for holding elections, she said.

Asked why the Joint Declaration did not categorically mention establishment of parliamentary democracy, she said the terms 'sovereign parliament' and 'accountable government' used in the declaration were enough to indicate that it stands for a parliamentary system.

Shamsuzzoha, leader of the CPB parliamentary group, said there are differences over the interpretations of the term 'sovereign parliament'. Let the differences be resolved in parliament, he said.

## AL dissidents

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Narsingdi-5 constituency. A former Awami League MP, Khasru resigned from the primary membership of the party on March 14 and joined the Jatiya Party on March 17 for what he said, his political survival.

The extended meeting, which resumed after an adjournment of five days, was adjourned till 10 am today (Wednesday).

AL presidium member Dr Kamal Hossain did not attend Tuesday's session. He has remained absent from the previous sessions due to sickness. He had issued a statement to the President and other central committee members of the party narrating his evaluation on the party activities during the polls and suggestions for the future course of action of the party. No discussion on his statement was held in Tuesday's meeting.

In the past three sessions the extended meeting the district level leaders who lost the polls blamed the central leadership for their electoral alliance with the other components of the 8-party for their defeat.



Awami League (left) and CPB (right) MPs being administered oath by Chief Election Commissioner at the Sangsab Bhaban on Tuesday. — Star photo

## Accept poll verdict: Menon

Rashed Khan Menon, general secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party and leader of the 5-party alliance, Tuesday called upon all to accept the verdict of the people in the elections and engaged themselves unitedly in implementing the commitment of the three alliances on the basis of understanding, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the two-day Central Committee meeting of the party.

Presided over by Polit Bureau member of the party Haider Akbar Khan Rano, the meeting was attended by the candidates of the party who contested the last elections and general secretaries of district committees of the party.

The meeting reviewed the performance of left parties in the last elections.

It also thanked Acting President, Election Commission, Army and all other concerned for holding free and fair elections. The meeting expressed the hope that this process of election would continue in future.

## Walesa off to US visit

WARSAW, Mar 19: Polish President Lech Walesa left here today for a week-long visit to United States where he hopes to drum up political and financial support for reforms in Poland, sources close to him said.

## Khulna jail

From Page 1 Col 8

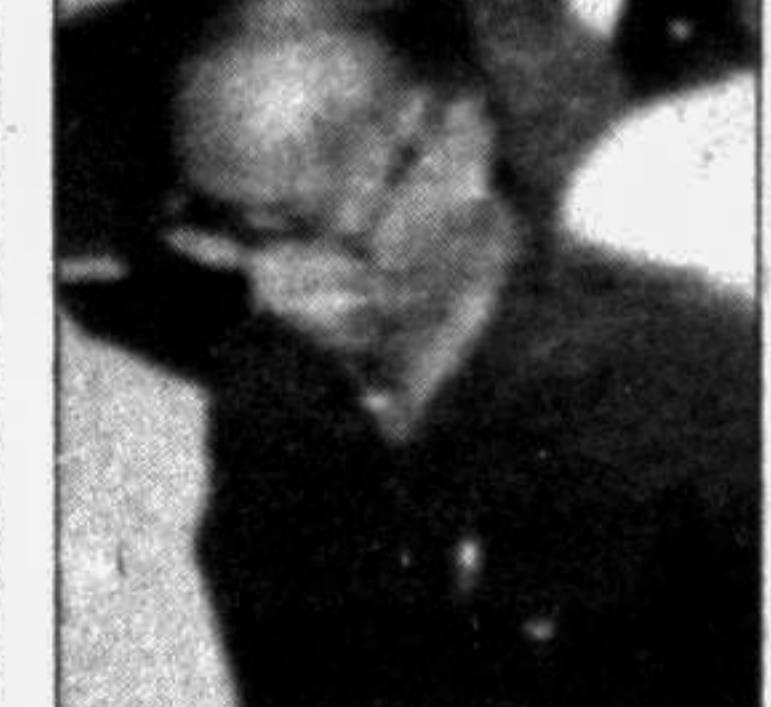
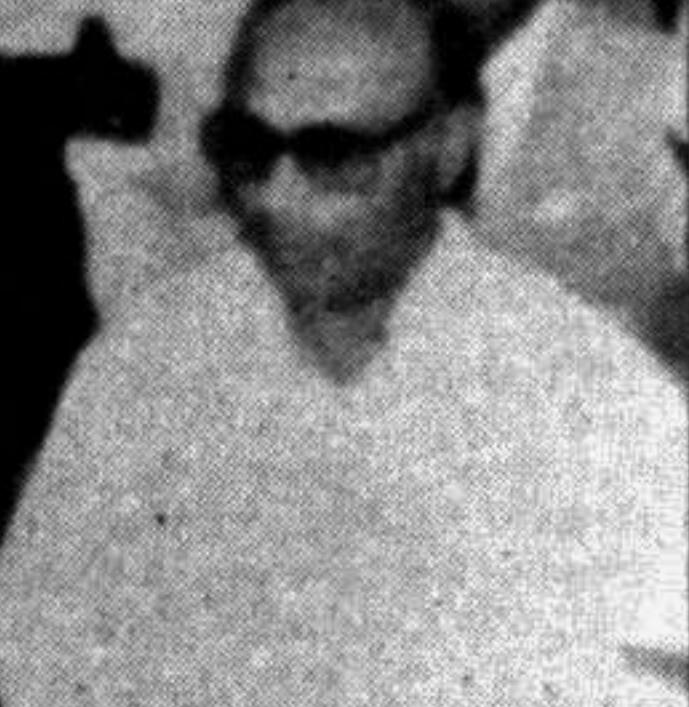
prisoners", he added.

However, former Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Colonel (Retd.) M. A. Gaffar was safe in his cell, the source said.

There are 885 prisoners including 43 women in the jail which has the capacity to accommodate 259 prisoners.

Beside jail wardens a contingent of Khulna Metropolitan Police was deployed around the jail, the source added.

Tara Mian, a convict sentenced for 27 years who was recently transferred from Dhaka Jail and Rabul, an under trial prisoner of Khulna Jail reportedly led the revolt.



## Israel refuses to swap Golan

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for peace with Arabs, adding an unexpected voice to a mounting domestic dispute over territorial concessions.

The United States is pursuing an Arab-Israeli settlement based on territory for peace. Besides the Golan, Israel occupies the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

Army Chief of Staff,

Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, told Israeli military reporters that the value of territory changed when countries passed from war to peace.

I want to say that a political arrangement, when it exists, is far more than (just) territory. It is linked to limiting weapons, supervision of one country over (another) country. It involves many things, he said.

Thus if you are talking about countries at war, without a doubt territory has very great significance. But when you talk about other types of arrangements, it is clear that these include various elements which diminish the threat and offer the possibility, for exam-

ple, of long-range early warning."

The remarks were bound to infuriate the right-wing. Shomron retires from his post this month after a four-year term dominated by a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of 1.75 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The stand poses a new obstacle to Middle East peace efforts. The Arabs who met Baker in Jerusalem last week

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MPs invited to oath-taking ceremony

The oath of the office of the Prime Minister and other Ministers and State Ministers will be administered today (Wednesday) at 3 pm in Bangabhaban. All MPs have been requested to attend the oath-taking ceremony, says a PID handout.

When he was formally charged and stood to plead not guilty, he seemed to be suffering from a nervous breakdown and his voice was a bit lower than it was when he was in power.

As the station wagon was entering the Court compound he waved to the press photographers who were standing outside the gate and on his return, he did the same.

One of his security men said that it was for the first time after his internment 72 days ago that he was taken out of the residence which was declared a sub-jail in the posh Gulshan area.

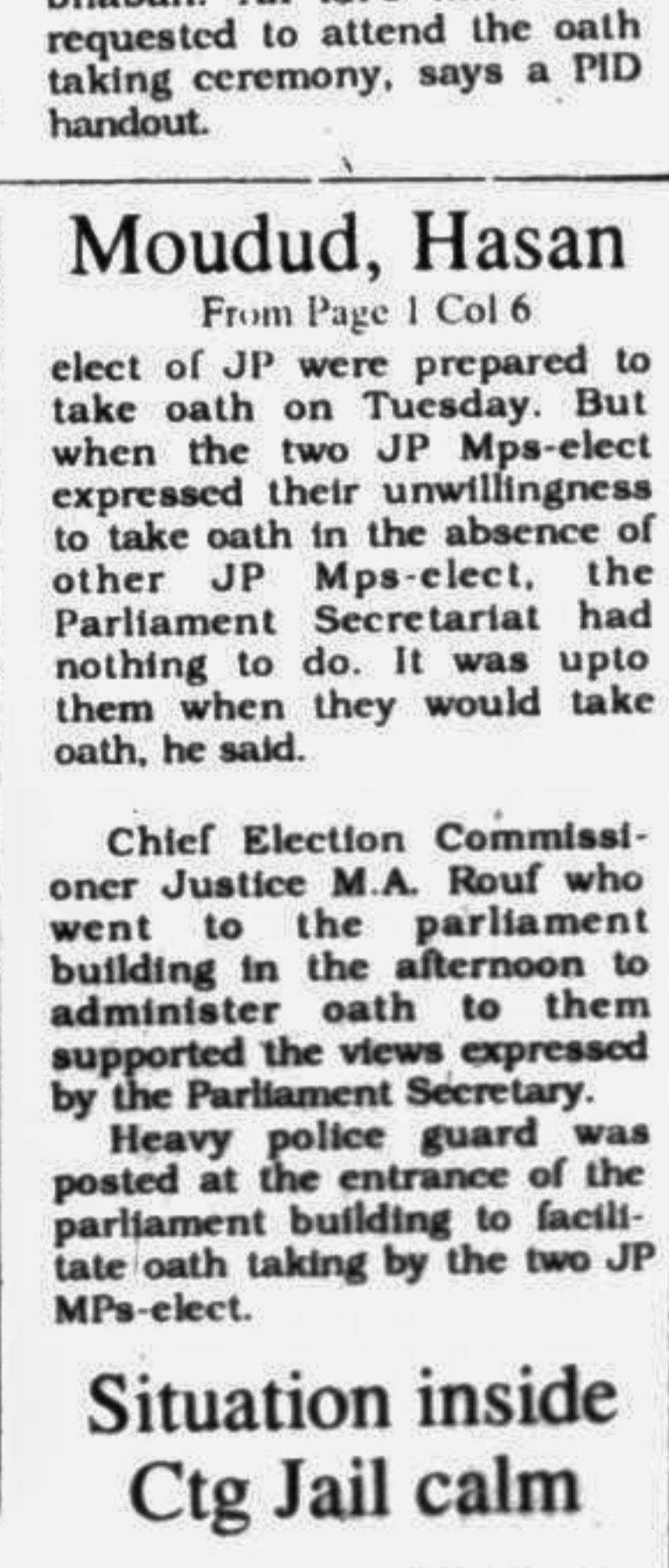
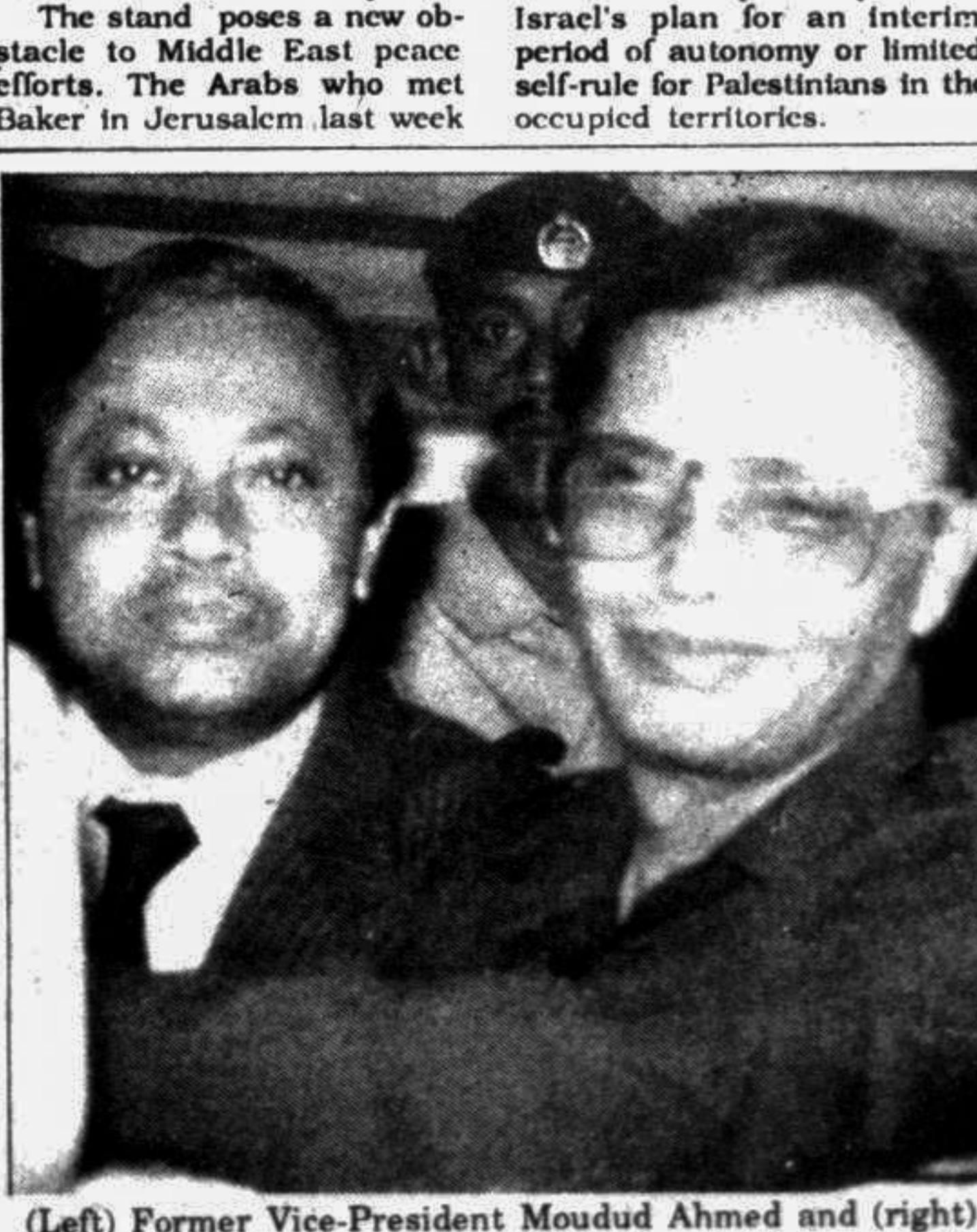
Chief Election Commissioner Justice M.A. Rouf who went to the parliament building in the afternoon to administer oath to them supported the views expressed by the Parliament Secretary.

Heavy police guard was posted at the entrance of the parliament building to facilitate oath taking by the two JP MPs-elect.

CAIRO, Mar 19: A Boeing 747 taking about 400 US troops back home from the Gulf war made an emergency landing at Cairo airport today after the crew reported a technical fault. Egypt's national Middle East news agency said. The troops disembarked safely and experts checked the chartered airliner, MENA said, reports Reuter.

Situation inside Ctg Jail calm

CHITTAGONG, Feb 20: The situation inside Chittagong Jail is "quite calm" today, jail sources said, reports BSS.



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