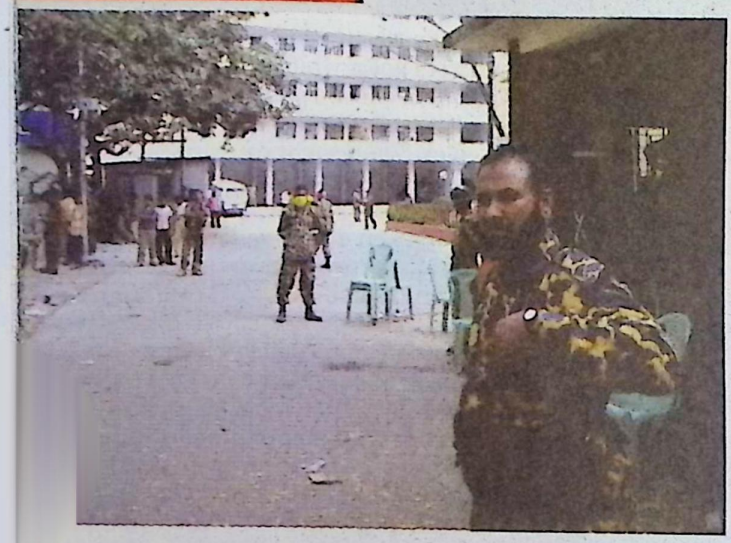
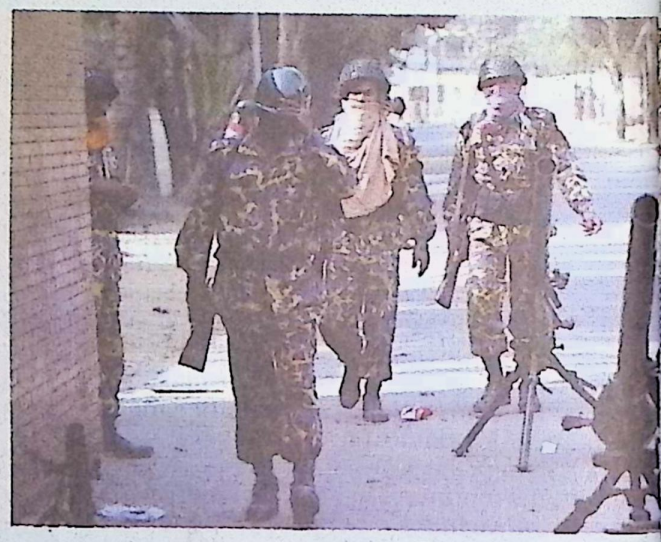




The armoury was looted

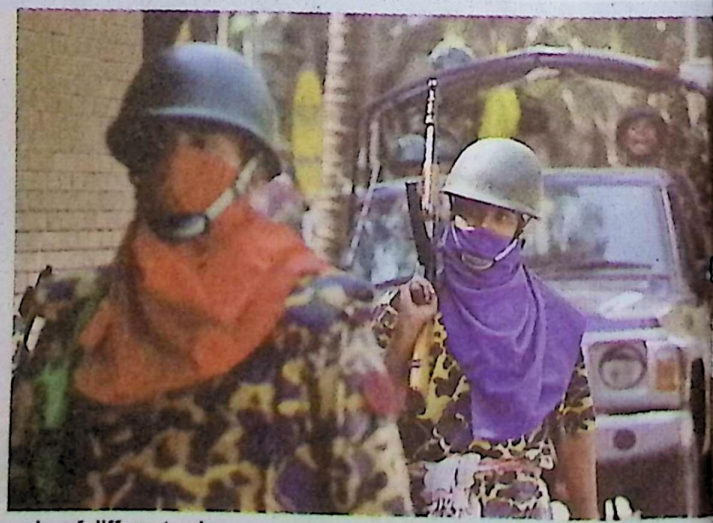
that, our main concern was the safety of the hostages. The standoff was resolved quickly considering the security of the people in general apart from the BDR members."

To avert what it says a humanitarian disaster, the government opted for a political settlement. The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave a speech, which warned the murderers of disastrous consequences if they did not give up arms and freed the hostages. The PM's speech, along with the arrival of the tanks led by 9th Division of the army forced the killers to lay down their arms. Though most BDR members surrendered to the Home Minister, some of the killers have managed to flee. "Most of them crossed the perimeter wall near Hajaribagh, where the road leads to Kamrangirchar while the other path goes to Gabtali and Rayerbazaar," says an officer of the Rapid Action Battalion, which has arrested some BDR-men.

Lieutenant-General (Retired) Harunur Rashid, a valiant freedom fighter and former army chief, says the mutiny was well orchestrated and it had little to do with the working conditions in the barracks. "There is the first soldier who wanted to start the killing; as he failed a second group turned up. There has even been a third batch of killers. The red clothes that they have used is not a part of their uniform, which shows that the killers have planned the event before," Lt Gen Harun says.

In fact, the way some of the murderers have melted into thin air on the night of last Friday supports Lt Gen Harun's observation. "Not only that," says an officer of the Rab who wants to remain anonymous, "Their escape plan has been done meticulously. They have used chairs to climb the wall near Hajaribagh. All of them have followed the same pattern. The three graves that the killers have dug are all evenly squared; so neatly the whole affair of killing and dumping has been done tells us that a





The killer group wore masks of different colour.