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Uncertainty lingers on as parties dig in

Amid a deepening impasse, major political parties yesterday hardened their stances on the timing of a referendum on the reforms, the implementation order for the July charter, and the fate of dissenting notes. With the seven-day deadline for the parties to reach a consensus having expired on Monday, the government said it would announce its decision on the issues on Thursday. As the clock ticks down, the nation watches -- unsure whether a resolution or rupture lies ahead.

Won't accept anything past signed charter

Decides BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has urged the interim government to act cautiously amid the political deadlock, saying the parties that signed the July charter are under no obligation to accept any decision beyond what the charter stipulates.

It also warned that the interim government "will bear full

No polls unless charter granted legal status

Jamaat, allies warn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Andolon, and six other like-minded parties yesterday warned that no election can be held in February without legal recognition of the July charter.

They also reiterated their demand for a referendum before the upcoming national polls.

The interim government will bear full responsibility for any decision made outside the July charter.

BNP Standing Committee

There is no election in 2026 for those who would not accept the July uprising.

Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur

responsibility" for any decision made outside the charter, and the signatory parties will not be held accountable for it.

"We urge the government to take cautious and responsible steps in this regard," BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said at a press briefing at the party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday.

The briefing was held to convey the outcomes of the party's Standing Committee meeting, chaired by acting chairman Tarique Rahman on Monday night. The meeting discussed the legal framework for implementing the charter.

At the meeting, party leaders said that if the government took any decision in favour of Jamaat-e-Islami under pressure, the BNP would not accept it. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved in the proceedings.

On November 3, amid the ongoing dispute over the referendum and the July charter's implementation order, the interim

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2 shooters held over gang hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have detained the gunmen who on Monday, in full view of the public, shot dead top-listed criminal Tariq Saif Mamun, 55, in front of the Dhaka National Medical Institute Hospital.

Based on intelligence, a team from the Detective Branch (DB) of police conducted raids yesterday and apprehended five suspects, including the shooter duo believed to be directly involved with the killing, according to DB sources.

A senior DB official present during the raid said the shooter duo have been primarily identified as Faruk and Robin.

After the killing, the two gunmen first fled to Sylhet, then to Moulivibazar in an attempt to cross the border -- but both efforts failed. Detectives later tracked them down and detained them in the region.

The two pistols used to

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Thousands of activists began gathering in the capital's Purana Paltan area around 1:00pm yesterday for a joint rally of eight like-minded parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, demanding legal recognition of the July charter, a referendum on reforms before the next election, and the introduction of a proportional representation system in parliament.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A police official stops a battery-run rickshaw for a security check near the High Court premises in Dhaka yesterday. Security has been beefed up across the city following multiple incidents of cocktail explosions and arson attacks recently.

Surveillance at entries to Dhaka ramped up

Bus driver burnt alive in Mymensingh; airports on high alert

RESTRICTIONS

Vehicles can't be left unattended on streets

Unauthorised sale of fuel along roadsides temporarily banned

Security tightened at metro, rail stations, courts, other key points

Border surveillance intensified to prevent infiltration

Law enforcers to be deployed at entries to Dhaka



TOUSIF KAIUM AND MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government has rolled out extensive security measures to thwart any act of sabotage ahead of the Awami League's "Dhaka Lockdown" programme tomorrow, an event announced despite a ban on the party's activities.

Officials from the home ministry and law enforcement agencies said security forces have been placed on high alert and will show zero-tolerance against any attempt to create unrest

in or destabilise the capital.

Surveillance across Dhaka and its entry points was ramped up early yesterday. No gatherings or demonstrations will be allowed at the city's entrances tomorrow.

During visits last night, police patrols were visible at major entry points including Gabtoli, Jatrabari, Abdullaahpur, and Tongi, where additional checkpoints have been set up to screen incoming vehicles.

Authorities have also tightened border

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4 SENSATIONAL MURDERS Ctg police yet to make headway

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

A recent spate of shootings and murders has shaken the port city, yet there has been little visible action from the Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

In the majority of these cases, police have yet to apprehend any of the main gunmen or recover the murder weapons, confirm police sources.

As of yet, there has been no real headway in at least four major public shootings.

Several police officials, requesting anonymity, admitted that in two of these incidents, the victims were listed criminals themselves -- leading to a lack of interest from law enforcement.

AKBAR MURDER CASE

On May 25, Md Akbar, alias "Dhakaiya Akbar", a known criminal from the port city's Bayezid area, was shot in broad daylight at Patenga in front of bystanders. He died a day later at Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Police said he had 10 cases against him, including murder, arms, and extortion charges.

Akbar reportedly had a long standing feud with another notorious Bayezid-based criminal, Sazzad Hossain, alias "Chhoto Sazzad". Before his death, Akbar had posted several videos on Facebook from his account while criticising Sazzad Ali alias "Boro Sazzad" -- a fugitive accused in the sensational "Eight-Murder Case" -- and his



There's no sense of security here. We're living in fear after losing him.

Alamgir, brother of Sarwar who was killed last week

close accomplice, Chhoto Sazzad.

Police suspect the killing was a result of internal gang rivalry.

Akbar's family filed a case with Patenga Police Station against 11 individuals. Following the incident, Rab apprehended two relatives of Boro Sazzad -- his nephew Alvin and his brother Osman Ali -- and handed them over to the police. However, progress on the investigation appears to have since slowed.

Investigating Officer Amitab Das, sub-inspector of Patenga Police Station, said, "Four accused have been arrested so far; two are currently out on bail. The weapon used has not been recovered."

Akbar was shot twice at close range with a pistol, the IO said, adding that the police believe the murder stemmed from a turf war.

When asked why the gunmen had not been identified, he replied, "There's no CCTV footage of the shooting. We've recorded eyewitness statements and are continuing efforts to catch the remaining accused."

SARWAR MURDER CASE

It has been almost a week, and yet the police are in the dark about the murder of high-profile gangster Sarwar Hossain, alias Babla, on November 5. He was shot dead in the city's Chalitali area while accompanying BNP-nominated candidate Ershad Ullah during election campaigning for the Chattogram-8 constituency.

Investigators have yet to find any clue about who carried out the attack or how they escaped.

Sarwar's father, Abdul Kader, filed a case with Bayezid Bostami Police Station naming 22 people as accused. Police have arrested four of them so far, but the key suspects -- including Mohammad Raihan and Mobarak Hossain -- remain at large, and the weapon used has not been recovered.

The victim's brother, Alamgir, told The Daily Star "I saw my brother being shot right in front of my eyes. The attackers fired multiple rounds and fled openly without any resistance from law enforcement."

"There's no sense of security here. We're living in fear after losing him," said a visibly shaken Alamgir.

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