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# ELECTION-TIME GOVT AL, BNP refuse to change stance

Mistrust between them widens further, Prof Rehman Sobhan tells roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While some eminent personalities stressed that the two main political parties minimise mistrust and negotiate a polls-time government, two senior leaders of the two parties yesterday reiterated their parties would remain firm on their present positions.

About their rigid stance, noted economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said there was no other country in the world where the two top leaders did not have dialogue on political issues in 23 years of democracy.

Mistrust has widened over the years, he told a roundtable titled "Change of Government through Democracy and

Election," organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office.

At the programme, Prof Rehman asked Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed how his party would earn the trust of the opposition to bring it to the polls under the present government. Rehman asked BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain what would be his party's arguments about the allegations of ballot box hijacking and violation of electoral rules at a time when the media was very watchful.

Both leaders avoided direct replies.

Tofail Ahmed said the AL would not move from its stance as the caretaker

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People crowd a shop at Karwan Bazar in the capital yesterday to buy dates for Ramadan. Having dates at *iftar* to end fasting is prescribed in Islam.

PHOTO: STAR

## SCHOOLS, COLLEGES Ramadan vacation starts Jul 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ramadan vacation for all schools and colleges has been shortened by 17 days to make up for lost time during shutdowns in recent months, said the education ministry in an order issued yesterday.

The start of the Ramadan holidays has been shifted forward from the previous July 11 to July 27, according to the order. All non-government and government school students across the country will enjoy their shortened vacation till August 12, as stipulated in the previous calendar, without change to accommodate the

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## DEFAMATION CASE Mahmudur acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman and two others in a

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PRAYER TIMING July 10	
Azhan	4-10
Jamaat	4-45
Fajr	4-10
Zohr	12-45
Asr	5-00
Maghrib	6-55
Esha	8-17

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Egypt election in six months

Islamists reject call; US, Europe warn over violence

REUTERS, Cairo

Egypt's interim rulers unveiled a quick timetable for elections and won a \$3 billion cash lifeline from the United Arab Emirates yesterday, a day after 55 people were killed when troops fired on a crowd supporting ousted President Mohamed Morsi.

The worst day of violence in more than a year has left

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## New robots act on Bangla commands

RU CORRESPONDENT

Two students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) have made a robot capable of recognising Bangla speech and carrying out commands.

The robot is also

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## Govt not on right track

Says JP research

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 84 percent people of the country now feel that Sheikh Hasina's government is taking the country in the wrong direction. But last year, less than half the people felt that way, according to a Jatiya Party survey.

As per the study conducted by "Jatiya Party Research and Strategy Wing", the Hasina-led government has consistently lost popularity over the years.

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## PADMA BRIDGE Chinese firm proposes to invest \$2.4b

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Chinese firm yesterday proposed to invest \$ 2.4 billion in Padma bridge project, barely two weeks after the government had floated an international tender on June 26.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader

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## The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the national issues played any role in the huge defeat of the ruling Awami League led candidates in Gazipur City Corporation elections?

Yes (92%)  
No (8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 309

TODAY'S POLL  
Do you think despite achieving some targets of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-2015, Bangladesh is still facing challenges in upgrading people's living standards?

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YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

# Let us put our Hands Together

Listen to the call of beloved motherland  
A call for being united  
The unity is essential  
To bring the change we always dream of  
A prosperous Bangladesh  
The blessings of workers' hard work  
The commitment of entrepreneurs  
Support of the Government  
Guidance of teachers and intellectuals  
The pen of a journalist

Holding hand in hand  
Let's take our opportunities  
And draw a happy Bangladesh  
An indomitable desire  
Toward a Prosperous Bangladesh



Leading Bangladesh to Prosperity