



Farmers taking away half-ripe Boro paddy in a boat on Tuesday after a flash flood inundated a field in Habiganj's Baniachong upazila. The only thing they can do now with the paddy is use it as fodder. Early flash floods have destroyed crops in over one lakh hectares of land in the country's northeastern haor areas. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



Havoc in haor

Early flash floods shock farmers; paddy on more than one lakh hectares of land destroyed

PINAKI ROY with DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MINTU DESHWARA

Farmers in the northeastern backswamp are all too familiar with flash floods. Rice paddies grown just

once a year in this vast haor remain at the mercy of nature.

But thousands of growers in this wetland ecosystem had never experienced flash floods striking this early as in this season, completely destroying

paddies in over one lakh hectares of land.

Experts said flash floods usually wreak havoc here in the haors in April

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RELATED STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

PAHELA BAISHAKH today

It's celebration of Bangalees' cultural ethos
REAZ AHMAD

Taxation systems must have gone through many a reform over the past 400 odd years. But nothing possibly was so phenomenal than the one reform taking place in the year 1585.

In those Akbar days, the very introduction of *Tarikh-e-Elahi* - a solar calendar in place of the lunar one brought much relief to the agrarian communities of then Bengal as well as many other parts of the subcontinent - as it made the calculation of date and months more scientific and in good consistent with harvesting season thereby,

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Halkhata goes digital

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Baishakh has arrived at our doorstep.

Businessmen prepare a new ledger book (Halkhata) for keeping accounts. And as they leaf through records of *Chaitra*, the last month of Bangla calendar, what they essentially do is adjust the past year's dues, credits.

But such book-keeping becomes cumbersome as businesses grow in terms of volume, customer base and credit line. This is where Hishab comes in.

This new mobile-based voice service eliminates the need to be literate as users can keep records through giving verbal instructions, and get reminders of credits or customers' dues.

This eases record keeping for mobile users, over 80 million people in the country.

No machine has to be purchased and software installed for using Hishab. Businessmen also don't need much prior knowledge to use this app.

The app is being used by retailers in some parts of the city on pilot basis. Some big companies have as well started using the service.

HOW DOES IT WORK

To get the service, both customers and traders they deal with must be registered with Hishab.

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The Daily Star wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers a happy Bangla New Year

1424

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh. Therefore, the newspaper will not come out tomorrow.





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