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BAISHAKH 1, 1424 BS

www.thedailystar.net Your Right to Know

Bangalees' cultural ethos:

Taxation systems must have

gone through many a

reform over the past 400

possibly was so phenome-

In those Akbar days, the

odd years. But nothing

nal than the one reform

taking place in the year

place of the lunar one

then Bengal as well as

many other parts of the

in good consistent with

subcontinent - as it made

the calculation of date and

months more scientific and

harvesting season thereby,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 ·

brought much relief to the

agrarian communities of

REAZ AHMAD

1585.

PLUS 8 PAGES TABLOID SIZE PAHELA BAISHAKH SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

RAJAB 16, 1438 HIJRI

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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 paddies in over one lakh hectares of 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

Experts said flash floods usually wreak havoc here in the haors in April SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

RELATED STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 6



PAHELA Halkhata BAISHAKH goes digital today It's celebration of

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 very introduction of Tarikh- · instructions, and get reminders of credits or customers' dues.

e-Elahi - a solar calendar in . 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.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



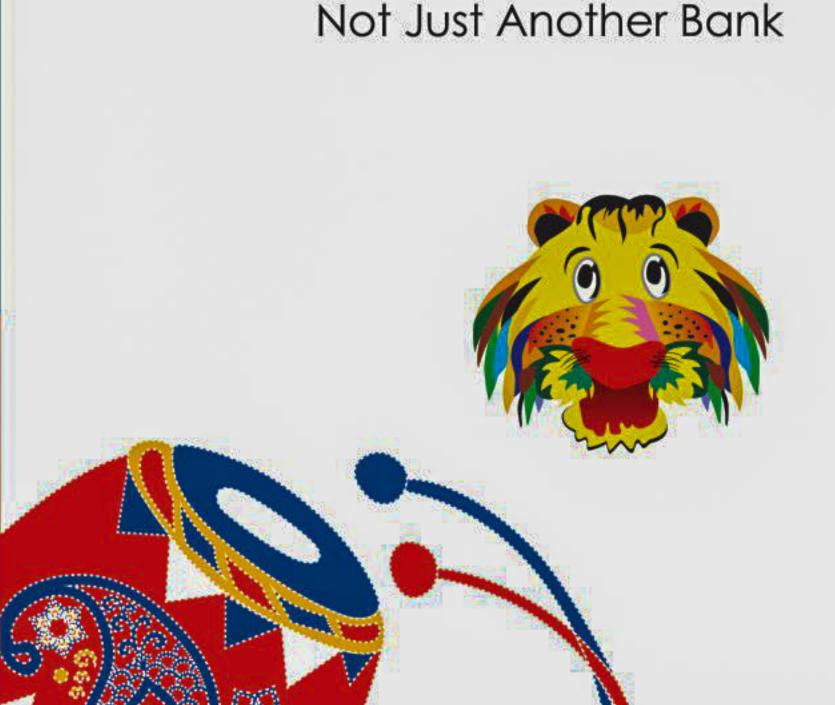
The Paily Star wishes its valued readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers a happy Bangla New Year

1424

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



Head Office: 252 Elephant Road, Al-Baraka Tower, Dhaka-1205 Hotline: 02-9612562



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