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Advertisement for Samsung Galaxy S at Tk. 2,606* with financing options from Transcom Digital. Includes logos for 0% interest, 12 months, 18 months, and Transcom Digital.

NEWS flakes

9 firearms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole Police and Rapid Action Battalion arrested a robber and recovered nine firearms, 17 bullets and one kilogram of heroin from Jessore yesterday. The arrestee was identified as Kamal Daka from Shankarpasha village under Abhoynagar SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Credit card fraud held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Detectives on Thursday night arrested a youth in the capital on charges of using other people's bank account through fake debit and credit cards. The arrestee was identified as Nur-e-Alam alias Babu, 26, of Thakurgaon district. Law enforcers also recovered 15 debit and credit cards of different private banks -- none SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

2 held over triple murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah Police yesterday arrested two persons in connection with Thursday's triple murder incident in the town. The arrestees are Selim Hossain, 28, and Pervej, 32, of Kanchannagar village under Sadar upazila. SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Dropout worries remain after JSC

Educationists fear many of five lakh unsuccessful or absentee examinees may stop study for poverty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Many of some five lakh students who either failed in or were absent from the Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations will give up their studies due to poverty, educationists say. Of over 15 lakh students registered, 1,13,248 did not turn up for the examinations while 3,76,552 failed, according to the results published on Thursday. A huge number of these students live in rural areas and many will not take the exam twice because of their poor financial condition, educationists observed. Instead of sitting for the exam, they will rather support their families, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid. "We will hold a meeting soon to decide how to keep these unsuccessful students in academic life," he told reporters at the secretariat on Thursday. To reduce the number of dropout, those who failed in one or two subjects can be given another chance to take the JSC exams, chairmen of SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

DIPLOMACY IN NEW YEAR Dhaka looks for better ties with friendly nations

REZAUL KARIM The year 2011 is likely to be packed with diplomatic activities for Bangladesh aiming at strengthening diplomatic ties after a hectic 2010. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit a number of countries in the year 2011 and she will start by visiting United Arab Emirates from January 16-18. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will be visiting about half a dozen countries in first three months, while Bangladesh will be rolling out red carpets to prime ministers and foreign ministers of several countries including India and USA, during the same period. Bangladesh will roll red carpet first in 2011 for SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

ONLINE POLL: Do you think the government should take initiative to try former military dictator HM Ershad for sedition? Yes (78.34%), No (18.95%), No Comments (2.71%). TOTAL VOTES: 628. TODAY'S POLL: Do you think judges should follow the footsteps of chief justice and submit their wealth statements to president? PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING January 1. Azan: 5:30, Jamaat: 6:05. Fajr: 5:30-6:05, Zohr: 12:45-1:15, Asr: 4:00-4:15, Maghrib: 5:30-5:35, Esha: 7:00-7:30.



Dhakabashi, an organisation of Old Dhaka residents, arranges a horse-carriage race on Manik Mia Avenue to celebrate 400 years of the city yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RMG boost in US market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Bangladesh has edged past Mexico and Indonesia taking the third position in exporting apparels to the US market. Until August 2010, the country was ranked fifth, trailing behind China, Vietnam, Indonesia and Mexico. In September, the country exported apparel products worth \$358 million, overtaking Mexico with \$325 million in garment exports, said Bangladesh Embassy in Washington in a statement on Thursday. SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

ICC Cricket World Cup Bangladesh 2011 advertisement featuring a player in a green uniform. Text: 'With your support this jump can be even higher!'. Includes logos for commercial partners like Reliance, LG, Pepsi, Honda, Emirates, Yahoo, Reebok, and Control.

Large advertisement for Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited. Features a collage of newspaper clippings about CSR activities, donations, and social initiatives. Text: 'Happy New Year Bangladesh', 'Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER', 'www.dutchbanglabank.com'. Includes a logo with a stylized 'D' and 'B'.