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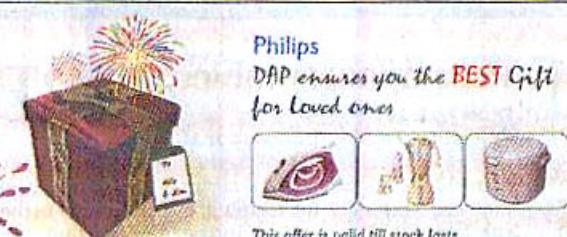
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ASA world's top microcredit organisation

7 Bangladeshi MFIs on *Forbes' list*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven Bangladeshi microfinance institutions (MFIs) have made it to the *Forbes Magazine's* list of top 50 MFIs with ASA securing the first place.

ASA, which provides microcredit to poor people, has topped the famous US-based magazine's first-ever list of 50 top MFIs scoring 14, 83, 56 and 40 points in "scale", "efficiency", "risk" and "returns" categories.

The six other Bangladeshi MFIs are Jagorani Chakra Foundation (ranked 16), Grameen Bank (ranked 17), Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (Brac) (ranked 21), Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women (ranked 35), Integrated Development Foundation (ranked 38) and BURO, formerly BURO Tangail, (ranked 48).

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Ex-MP Lalu sued for tax evasion

STAR REPORT

Former BNP lawmaker Helaluzzaman Talukder Lalu was sued yesterday for tax evasion and providing false information in his asset statement.

Mirza Ashiq Rana, assistant tax commissioner of National Board of Revenue under Circle 1, Bogra filed the case with the court of senior special judge, reports our staff correspondent in Bogra.

In the case statement Mirza said that the former MP evaded a huge amount of tax by concealing information of his wealth worth Tk 48,96,117.

Public Prosecutor AM Abul Kalam Azad said Lalu evaded Tk 12 lakh in tax and the case against him was filed under income tax law and Emergency Power Rules. A total of 11 individuals including a bank manager and several government officials were made witnesses in the case, he added.

Helaluzzaman Talukder Lalu was earlier awarded imprisonment in various terms in connection with illegal use of wireless communication equipment and illegal acquisition of government properties.

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Polls unacceptable if war criminals allowed to contest

Says left alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Gonocongrik Bam Morcha yesterday said the upcoming election will not be free, fair and acceptable if war criminals are allowed to participate in the polls.

Blaming the present caretaker government for trying to avoid the issue of the war criminals like the previous political governments, the leaders of the left parties asked people to be alert.

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Civil-military cooperation a must for democracy

Observes Iftekhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said effective civil-military cooperation in times of war and peace is a must for a functioning democracy.

He said the armed forces can be important for stability in times of national crisis.

Iftekhar was addressing at a book launching ceremony at the BILIA Auditorium in the city yester-

day. The book "Role of the Armed Forces in Strengthening Democracy" was published by Bangladesh Heritage Foundation and was edited by its convener Waliur Rahman.

Former adviser to a caretaker government Mahbubul Alam, former army chief Lt Gen (retired) Mahbubul Rahman, Commandant National Defence College Abu Tayeb Muhammad Zahirul Alam,

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