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# Justice Habibur made Chairman Truth Commission ready to function

The much-talked-about Truth and Accountability Commission has been constituted with the appointments of its chairman and two members on Wednesday in a major development in the ongoing purge against corruption in high places, reports UNB.

Justice Habibur Rahmani Khan was appointed chairman of the

Truth Commission constituted by the caretaker government to deal with the clemency matter of high-profile graft suspects.

Former Comptroller and Accountant General Asif Ali and Major General (ret'd) Manzur Rashid Chowdhury, have been named members of the three-man commission, official sources said.

"President Professor Dr Iajuddin Ahmed gave the appointments," Secretary of President's Office Sirajul Islam said.

On May 25, the Council of Advisers approved the Right to Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance 2008, paving the way for forming the Truth and Accountability Commission.

President Professor Iajuddin Ahmed promulgated the ordinance at the beginning of June. On July 6, some amendments to the ordinance were proposed by the Council of Advisers.

As per provision of the ordinance, the Truth Commission will run for five months after its formation. The president will appoint one of the three members as chairman of the commission.

Meanwhile, the government has taken all the preparations for the functioning of the Truth Commission, which is to supplement the workload of the Anti-Corruption Commission by way of exonerat-

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## Truth

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ing the deserving ones of the so many graft suspects being hunted out under a

countrywide purge in the interim period for prosecuting. Following the promulgation of the ordinance, the government set up its office in three houses—Totinnee, Tonmoy and Uttarayan—which were used as residences of the ministers during the elected governments' tenures.

The government has already appointed a number of officials on deputation for manning the Truth Commission.

The office of the Truth Commission is ready and "all preparations have been taken so that right after the formation the Commission could start working", some officials on deputation said.

The Right to Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance 2008 defines corruption and corrupt activities as in the schedules of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1947, the Customs Act 1969, the Income Tax Ordinance 1984, the Vat Law 1991, and the Anti-Corruption Act 2004. These also include violation of any rules of the Bank Company Law 1991 or evasion of stamp duty, registration fees or any other charges or revenues imposed by any law or rules of the country. Along with those who will make voluntary disclosure about their corruption, the commission will also deal with persons referred by the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on serious crime and corruption, the Anti-Corruption Commission and by any court dealing with their cases.