

Truth and Accountability Commission

Saturday, 11 October 2008

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Tac set timeline for the ill-gotten wealth owners to confess to their corruption and seek mercy will expire on October 30. TAC Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan on Wednesday said 266 applicants including 22 women have made confession to their corruption and expressed their willingness to surrender the illegal properties to the public exchequer but no politician has applied yet. Asked as to why the politicians involved in corruption are not coming to the TAC, he said they are not coming to the Commission as the country's political scenario has started changing. Meanwhile, TAC completed its hearing on 126 cases and applicants admitted their ill-gotten wealth worth around Tk 18,10,33,833 while the commission asked the absolution seekers to deposit their illegal properties within three weeks. Among the applicants, 229 persons are government officials, 22 women who are accomplices of their dishonest spouses, eight businessmen and seven others. On the very first day of its functioning on August 3, the TAC had issued a public notification asking people concerned to voluntarily admit corruption, deposit their ill-gotten wealth and assets to the state exchequer and be forgiven in return. Launched for a five-month term The TAC, has been empowered to allow corrupt suspects to seek mercy by voluntarily confessing to their graft, and by depositing their ill-gotten wealth. But the TAC chairman, Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, had expressed his frustration last month that no big fish has appeared before the commission to confess to their graft and seek clemency to avoid criminal proceedings against them. As the number of people approaching the TAC is scanty in comparison with that of the people who are believed to have indulged in corruption, people have genuine reasons to be frustrated. Because, people had thought during the early days of the anti-corruption drive after 1/11 that corrupt people would be brought to justice, but now they see their hopes fading. In the interest of justice corrupt suspects from all sections including politicians should be treated in the same way.