

BNNRC Chief Executive Officer appointed to Central Monitoring Committee on Community Radio in Bangladesh

The Government has formed three committees namely National Regulatory Committee, Central Monitoring Committee and Technical Sub-committee to take necessary steps in sorting out, selection, approval and monitoring of the applications and community radio operations.

In the category of expert representative, Government by the Presidential order nominated AHM Bazlur Rahman-S21BR, Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh NGOs' Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) as a member of the central monitoring committee headed by Director General of Bangladesh Betar (Radio), Other members of the committee are Director General of Mass Communication Department, Deputy Secretary (Radio) of the Ministry of Information, Deputy Director General (News) of Bangladesh Betar, Chief Engineer of Bangladesh Betar, representative of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), and Deputy Director General (Program) of Bangladesh Betar.

Technical sub-committee will sort out the applications for community radio. After sorting out the applications, recommendations will be sent to the National Regulatory Committee. After approval of the recommendations of the regulatory committee in a high-level body, broadcasting permission for community radio will be given. The Central Monitoring Committee will monitor the broadcast and program of the community radio after starting their operation.

Moreover, Central Monitoring Committee will observe whether conditions mentioned under 6 and 7 article of Community Radio Installation, Broadcasting and Operation Policy-2008 are properly followed and maintained. It will monitor if any violation of the clauses stated in article 5 of the policy regarding technical structure of Community Radio stations occurs. This committee will send an overall monitoring report, one in every three months, to the Ministry of Information under the provision of article 8.7 of the policy.

About 400 Government and non-government development organizations took application form from the Ministry of Information for the permission of setting up community radio for the development of the rural and marginalized people in Bangladesh. 178 applications have been submitted by the last date 30 April.