

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



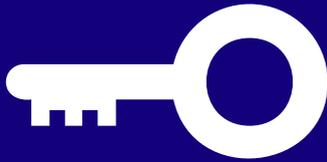
CORR-The Jute Works



CORR-The Jute Works
GUARANTEED
FAIR TRADE

THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF FAIR TRADE

1 Opportunities
for Economically
Marginalised Producers



2 Transparency and
Accountability



3 Fair Trade
Practices



4 Fair Payment



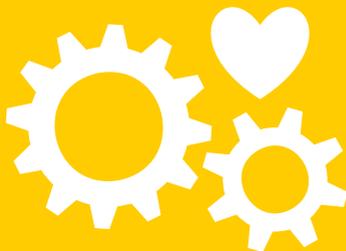
5 No Child Labour,
No Forced Labour



6 No Discrimination,
Gender Equity,
Freedom of Association



7 Good Working
Conditions



8 Capacity Building



9 Promote Fair
Trade



10 Climate Action
and Protection
of the Environment



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Message from the Chairperson



On behalf of the Board of Trustees of CORR–The Jute Works and as Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, I extend my sincere appreciation to our valued artisans, dedicated staff, partners, and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment throughout a year characterized by both significant challenges and notable opportunities.

In November 2024, a newly elected Board of Trustees began its three year mandate with nine members—four of whom are drawn directly from the artisan community, ensuring that those at the heart of our mission play a vital role in steering our future.

We also acknowledge the contributions of Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario, who concluded his service as Director. Concurrently, we extend a warm welcome to Ms. Rita Roselin Costa, whose appointment as the new Director of CORR–The Jute Works, confirmed by the General Body of Caritas Bangladesh, brings a renewed vision and commitment to the leadership team.

We pause to mourn the passing of Sister Mary Lillian, SMRA, a revered pioneer and lifelong Trustee. Her legacy of compassion and leadership is indelibly woven into the fabric of CORR–The Jute Works and will continue to serve as a guiding inspiration.

A significant operational milestone was achieved with the successful establishment of a dyeing unit, integrated with an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), at our Mirer Bazar Centre. This advancement strongly reinforces our commitment to environmental responsibility, regulatory compliance, and long-term sustainable operations

Despite these successes, our operations were affected by a complex set of economic and structural challenges. Export volumes experienced a decline, directly impacting artisan livelihoods. This was compounded by surging raw material costs and escalated living expenses. Furthermore, we navigated challenges in human capital management, including the retirement of seasoned artisans, difficulties in nurturing new talent, and the persistent issue of insufficient orders. These factors collectively mandate an urgent focus on strategic market expansion and comprehensive capacity-building initiatives.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our artisans, team, partners, and supporters for their unwavering spirit and dedication. As we honour the legacy of our pioneers, embrace our new leadership, and address the present challenges, let us commit to working collaboratively toward a future where craft, dignity, and sustainability continue to flourish.

With profound appreciation and resolute determination,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daud Jibon Das'.

Daud Jibon Das
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
CORR–The Jute Works

Message from the Director



As the newly appointed Director of **CORR–The Jute Works**, I am both honored and committed to carrying forward this renowned organization's rich legacy of women empowerment and fair-trade pioneering in Bangladesh.

With gratitude for the trust placed in me by the General Body of Caritas Bangladesh, I, **Ms. Rita Roselin Costa**, step into this role with renewed energy and purpose. I am inspired by our tradition of dignity-driven development and am committed to ensuring our artisans' development stories and craftsmanship continue to shine in both domestic and global markets.

Our Path Forward

- **Building on tradition, embracing innovation:** We will honor the legacy of CORR–The Jute Works by preserving artisanal excellence while embracing modern design, sustainable practices, and expanded market reach.
- **Empowering artisans as stakeholders:** With representatives from the artisan community serving on our Board of Trustees, we commit to making their insights central to our strategic planning and operations. They are our ambassador who proved that business can be led by values and driven by love and commitment.
- **Bridging sustainability and skill:** Initiatives such as our newly established dyeing unit with Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and targeted training programs reflect our dual commitment—to environmental sustainability, social responsibility and artisan capacity-building.
- **Responding to challenges with resilience:** In the face of export fluctuations, rising costs, tax and shifting market demand, climate crisis we will continue strengthening internal systems, diversifying product lines, and securing fair-trade partnerships.

To our artisans, beloved partners, and supporters: Together, we have shaped lives, fostered livelihoods, and honored cultural heritage. As I begin this new chapter, I look forward to advancing our collective mission with optimism, collaboration, and unwavering integrity. With warm regards and shared hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Roselin Costa".

Rita Roselin Costa
Director
CORR–The Jute Works

Vision Statement

CORR – The Jute Works envisions the Empowerment and Dignity of the disadvantaged and marginalized; especially women, people with disability and indigenous people of the society.

Mission Statement

Capacity building of the marginalized; especially women, people with disability and the indigenous people of the society ensuring Trade Justice, market access and improved living standard.

Ethical guideline

- » CJW reflects the compassion and concern of Jesus Christ for the disadvantaged and marginalized people of the society in love, care and faith;
- » Work with dedication, honesty, sincerity and professional approach;
- » Work for the well-being of the artisans irrespective of caste, creed and race;
- » Follow 'Trade not Aid' practice by following 'Standards of Fair Trade';
- » Sharing Fair Trade Premium among the artisan groups;
- » Promote democratic practice and good governance;
- » Ensure artisan participation in all spheres of the organization;
- » Ensure protection of Terra-mater by
 - » producing Eco-friendly, bio-degradable products
 - » using natural and local raw materials in a sustainable way
 - » banning uses of hazardous chemicals and materials
- » strongly work for adaptation and mitigation of climate change;
- » Above all, CJW works for a better humane society free from oppression, threat and injustice.

Objectives

- 1. Artisan cooperatives are functional and main streamed in economy**
 - » Organize/reorganize the groups according to the bye-laws of the group
 - » Capacity building training to raise their leadership, awareness and production skill
 - » Inter exchanges of artisans capacity/experiences
 - » Promote thrift, self-help, democratic practices and good governance among the craft groups in the management of their affairs and to make them self-reliant by group action
 - » Create Market for the crafts of the group at both home and abroad.
 - » Develop crafts according to the artisan capability
 - » Make the artisan competent understanding the market dynamics and challenges through constant awareness and capacity building activity.
- 2. Artisans have access to substantial income and contributes to organizational / cooperative growth**
 - » Ensure work for the artisans round the year
 - » Participate in national and international trade fairs, workshops and seminars
 - » Acquire need based/advanced technical knowledge, update technical know-how and information on market trend, taste and quality.
- 3. Promotion of Fair Trade**
 - » Aware the community on Fair Trade through linkage, communication & advocacy.
 - » Promote the Fair Trade nationally, regionally and globally through campaign, network building.
 - » Inter-exchange among the FTOs
- 4. Expansion & growth of trade**
 - » Continuous product development activity
 - » Capture all possible market segments with appropriate and best crafts.
 - » Develop useable and fashionable design to correspond the market demand
 - » Develop professionalism in all spheres of operation of the organization
 - » Arrange advance skill development trainings for the staffs to make them competent in their positions.
 - » To arrange exposure tour for the staffs to gain practical experience
 - » Review and update the organizational structure and all the policies (Administrative, human resources, pricing, procurement, marketing, promotional...)
 - » Initiate/expand the local market
 - » Integrate indigenous crafts and mainstreaming it
- 5. Response to social development and emergencies**
 - » Initiate/Support development activities such as education, safe water & sanitation, environmental, recreational and health care facilities for better living conditions for the community.
 - » Establish development funds for well being of artisan
 - » Establish emergency response fund.

Organizational Structure of CORR-The Jute Works



Board of Trustees

As a registered Women's Fair Trade Handicraft Trust, CJW operates under a Board of Trustees (BoT) consisting nine members. The four Board members are elected from the women artisan groups by the artisans. Elected Trustees have a three-year term. The other five members of the BoT: Chairman is nominated by Caritas Bangladesh. Director of CJW involves in the BoT as the ex-officio Secretary, three Trustees (from the Social Workers) serving CJW with providing organizational mission, vision and philosophy. Out of the nine, seven are female. Thus, Board of Trustees is ensuring the participation of women and stakeholders in the management and decision making of the organization. The BoT is the ultimate authority to finalize and approve pricing, costing, policy making and profit sharing.



Mr. Daud Jibon Das
Chairperson



Fr. Hemanto Pius Rozario, CSC
Member



Sr. Mala Kubi CSC
Member



Sr. Mary Christina SMRA
Member



Ms. Kajol Rani
Member, Representative of Artisan Group



Ms. Kusum Begum
Member, Representative of Artisan Group



Ms. Smritee Manda
Member, Representative of Artisan Group



Ms. Susuma Gomes
Member, Representative of Artisan Group



Ms. Rita Roselin Costa
Ex-Officio Secretary
(Director of the organization)

CJW Dashboard

Artisan groups	110	
Members	5507	Women-4806, Men-701
District covered	30	
Upazila covered	86	
Importing country	18	
Buyer	59	
Capacity Building Training	71	
Expansion in new areas	1	
Fair Trade monitoring	11	

Artisans Beneficial Data

Particulars	in BDT
Group savings	9,587,422
Producer Security Fund	40,787,781
Education Support Fund	5,596,640
Producer Substitute Income Fund	5,662,937
Welfare Allowance (disbursed among the artisans as PSF & Allowance)	2,896,000

Staff Strength 2024 - 2025

Sl. No.	Description	Men	Women	Total
1	Regular Staff	38	25	63
2	Contractual	11	06	17
3	Temporary/Volunteer	00	02	02
4	Casual	04	122	126
	Total	53	155	208

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Eye Camp Brings Clearer Vision and Care to CJW Artisans at Chandpur



On the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) Chandpur Center organized a Special Eye Screening Camp on 19 March 2025, for its local artisans. A total of 67 artisans and 18 community members received eye care, including prescriptions, medicines, and spectacles, while six individuals were referred for free cataract surgery. The event was made possible by the support of Mazharul Haque BNSB Eye Hospital, Chandpur, with Dr. Md. Tawhidul Islam (Medical Officer), Md. Al Amin (Senior Assist. PO), Mr. Nasir Ahammad (Senior Ophthalmologist Paramedic), and Md. Milon Sarker (Male Helper) delivering their expert services. CJW's artisan representative to the Board of Trustees, Ms. Kazol Rani Mondol was present and the Center Manager, Mr. Martin Gomes, successfully coordinated the camp with the help of all the staff.

CJW Hosts Inclusive Eye Care Program at Jalchatra

On July 10, 2024, CORR – The Jute Works organized a District Inclusive Eye Care Programme at the Jalchatra centre of IDCP, Caritas Mymensingh, in Madhupur, Tangail. Supported by Sightsavers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind) and delivered by Dr. K. Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital, the event provided essential eye care services to 198 producers and their families from the Jalchatra and Mymensingh areas. Distinguished guests attended, including representatives from Sightsavers, Dr. K. Zaman BNSB Eye Hospital, Corpus Christi High School, Caritas Mymensingh, and CORR – The Jute Works. The programme resulted in 80 pairs of prescription glasses being distributed and 14 individuals receiving free cataract surgeries, demonstrating CORR – The Jute Works' commitment to accessible and inclusive healthcare for its producer communities.



“Season of Creation 2024” Campaign



On 03 October 2024, CORR-The Jute Works organized the closing event for the “Season of Creation 2024” campaign. The theme of this year was "To Hope and Act with Creation". The program includes prayer, discussion, tree plantation and jointly reading the oath to care for nature and the environment. Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario, the Director of CORR-The Jute Works shared the importance of the event and explained this year's theme. All staff of CJW participated in this program. Ms. Lipi Mondal, Junior Officer, Dev. & Info. moderated the program.

Sapling Distribution 2025



On June 30, 2025, on the occasion of Laudato Si' Week and World Environment Day, a tree sapling distribution and discussion meeting was organized by CORR-The Jute Works at the Dhakua Adivasi Handicrafts Association, Dhakua Mission, Tarakanda, Mymensingh. The event was held with 22 producers and 4 colleagues under the motto “Be a Seed of Peace and Hope for the World.” Various issues related to fair trade were also discussed. A total of 44 tree saplings (fruit and timber species) were distributed among the producers. The discussion meeting was attended by Ms. Rita Roslin Costa, Director of CORR-The Jute Works; Mr. Bayazid Alom Chowdhury, Senior Manager (Production); Ms. Jennifer Palma; and the priest of Dhakua Mission, Father Sunirmal Mree.

CJW Stands Against Human Trafficking with Love and Commitment



On Sunday, 9 February 2025, CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) observed “The World Day of Prayer and Awareness against Trafficking” alongside its staff. Reflecting on this year’s theme, “Strengthening Communities, Preventing Trafficking,” CJW members renewed their pledge to speak up for those whose dignity is undermined by human trafficking. Mr. Sebastian Rozario, Chairperson of CJW’s Board of Trustees and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, shared his thoughts on the current context and the collective action needed to bring an end to this injustice. Drawing inspiration from Saint Josephine Bakhita, who was freed after suffering abuse and slavery, CJW promises to work together toward a society filled with love, respect, justice, and freedom for all.

Prayer Day for Protection of Nature and Environment and Laudato Si’ Week Celebration



From 24–31 May 2025, the Development and Information Department of CORR–The Jute Works organized a 7-day long observance of Laudato Si’ Week with all staff members, marked by prayers for the protection of nature and the environment. Under the theme “Be a Seed of Peace and Hope for the World,” the week was celebrated through communal songs, prayers, and special intercessions for the Earth, fostering awareness and spiritual commitment to caring for our common home.

ARTISAN'S DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Jute Tassel Training at CJW Office Premises



A training workshop was held on 16 July 2025 at CJW Office premises for making 'Jute Tassel'. 16 Artisans from Mirpur Camp-1, Purbo Monipur Mohila Samity, Airport Mohila Samity, Razabazar Mohila Samity, Jagoroni Mohila Samity, Panjora Milon Mohila Samity & Bagdi Mohila Samity participated in the event. CJW 'Design' team coordinated the training program and now the producers are fully capable to make the product.

Coir Mat Training at Bakerganj, Barisal



A new group of 11-women producers were trained for making 'Coir Mat' at Bakerganj, Barisal. The training session were held from 27 April 2025 to 03 May 2025. On behalf of 'Design' team, Ms. Aleya Akter and Ms. Tushi Rozario conducted the session. Artisans are now skilled in making Coir Mat and producing good quality products for export as per buyer's requirement

Capacity Building Training At Hobigonj



A training workshop was held from 13 July 2024 to 18 July 2024 to form a new group at Teliapara Tea Garden, Hobiganj, Sylhet. 40 interested women were trained to make different types of jute products. Ms. Aleya Akter and Ms. Hasna Akter conducted the training session on behalf of 'Design' team.

During the reporting period, 58 trainings were conducted to raise the level of awareness and capacity building among the Artisans.

Sl. No.	Particulars	2024-2025	
		Nos.	Participants
1	Capacity Building Training	05	72
2	Product Development Training	40	394
3	Safeguarding Orientation Training	11	300
4	Social Awareness Training	02	176
Total		58	942

STAFF AWARENESS TRAINING

Fire Safety Training



To ensure the safety of CJW staffs, CORR–The Jute Works arranged a fire safety awareness training and practical fire drill on 27 November 2024, at its Gulshan office. All employees gathered together to learn skills to keep themselves and their workplace safe. The importance of preparedness and vigilance were shared. The training was facilitated by Mr. Joy John Gomes, In-Charge of CJW Administration, ensuring that everyone is better equipped to respond effectively in case of a fire emergency.

First Aid & Awareness Workshop



A First Aid and Awareness Workshop was organized on 01 September 2024 at the CJW Office premises in Gulshan. All staffs of the organization attended the workshop. The Director, Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario, delivered an insightful and motivational speech highlighting the importance of first aid knowledge in both professional and personal life. The session was facilitated by Mr. Joy John Gomes, Senior Officer (Administration, CJW). During the workshop, a total of 7 PowerPoint presentations, 3 video documentaries, and 3 practical sessions were conducted to ensure interactive and effective learning.

Basic Safeguarding Training



On May 27, 2025, the Safeguarding Committee of CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) conducted a daylong basic training on safeguarding at its Gulshan office. A total of 16 group members and casual workers participated in the session. The training focused on introducing the participants to the fundamental principles and key guidelines of CJW's safeguarding policy, aiming to ensure a safer and more respectful working environment for all.

Mental Health Awareness Training



Caritas Bangladesh has taken an initiative to improve the mental health of the staff of Caritas and its associated institutions by creating opportunities for them to participate in counseling sessions. These sessions were conducted both online (via phone) and offline (in person). As one of the trusts of Caritas Bangladesh, CORR – The Jute Works arranged for 16 of its staff members to take part in this mental health improvement session. Although the session was a new experience for all participants, they found it very useful and enjoyable. Through different exercises, they learned practical ways to manage stress and reduce mental fatigue. These practices will not only help them personally but also enable them to share the exercises with their family members and neighbors, allowing many others to benefit as well.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATION

Installation of the New CJW Director



On 16 June 2025, CORR—The Jute Works (CJW) organized an installation program to welcome its newly appointed 10th Director, Ms. Rita Roselin Costa. Staff members of CJW warmly greeted her with a bouquet of flowers, marking the start of her leadership journey with the organization. The Chairperson of the CJW Board of Trustees and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, Mr. Sebastian Rozario,

attended the program. Ms. Rita Roselin Costa's appointment was officially confirmed at the 112th Annual General Meeting of the Caritas General Body on 23 May 2025, where the Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) and the Caritas General Body entrusted her with this significant responsibility.



Thanks-giving of Outgoing BoT Chairperson



CORR-The Jute Works honored Mr. Sebastian Rozario, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, CJW & Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, with a Farewell & Thanksgiving Ceremony at its Gulshan Office on June 29, 2025, Sunday. Ms. Rita Roselin Costa, Director of CJW, presided over the occasion and expressed her gratitude to Mr. Sebastian Rozario for

his incredible 33 years of dedicated work. In addition, Mr. Sebastian Rozario gave wise counsel, urging everyone to do their own work properly for the betterment of the organization. Emotional tributes were also given by CJW Staff, who expressed their sincere gratitude to Mr. Sebastian Rozario's enduring contributions to the organization, inspiring leadership, and unshakable dedication.

Welcoming Newly Appointed BoT Chairperson



The CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) family members warmly welcomed the newly appointed Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh and the BoT Chairperson of CJW Mr. Daud Jibon Das on 7th July 2025. The Director-CJW, Ms. Rita Roselin Costa, presided over the event where all the employees

expressed their best wishes and heartiest congratulations to him for his new role. He also expressed his expectation to journey together with the CJW family to achieve the vision of CJW as well as Caritas Bangladesh.

Fair Trade Thanks-giving and Packing Opening Ceremony 2025



CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) celebrated its Fair Trade Thanksgiving and Packing Opening Ceremony 2025 on Thursday, 16 January 2025, in a colorful and festive event at its Gulshan office. His Excellency, Bishop Subroto Boniface Gomes, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of Dhaka Archdiocese, graced the ceremony as Chief Guest, while Dr. Fr. Hemanto Pius Rozario, CSC, Principal of Notre Dame College, Dhaka and Member of CJW's Board of Trustees, was present as Special Guest. Mr. Sebastian Rozario,

Chairperson of CJW and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, presided over the event, and Mr. Uzzal Theotonious Corraya, CJW's Deputy Director, warmly welcomed all the distinguished guests. The ceremony recognized CJW's role in promoting Bangladeshi handicrafts, empowering poor and vulnerable women, and strengthening financial independence. The Chairperson also thanked all the partners, producers, trustees, staff, and buyers for their continued support and cooperation. The event was made even more enjoyable by a short cultural program, adding color and happiness to the celebration.



Artisan Representatives Election -2024 for forming CJW Board of Trustees



Following the provision of Deed of Trust of CJW, four Artisan representatives from different areas have been elected for a three years term 2025-27. As per the approval of BoT meeting, a four member Election Commission completed the process on November 7, November 14, and November 21, 2024. The nominated members of different groups attended in the election and cast their vote to select the suitable representatives.

After a spontaneous and peaceful voting, the following representatives were elected as members of the Board of Trustees:

1. Ms. Kazol Rani (Palpara Mohila Samity, Chandpur Center)
2. Ms. Kusum Begum (Airport Hostoshilpo Mohila Samity, Dhaka)
3. Ms. Smritee Manda (Dhakua Adbasi Hostoshilpo Mohila Samity, Mymensingh)
4. Ms. Susuma Gomes (Koran 'GA', Jagoroni Center)



Half-Yearly Staff Meeting



CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) held its Half-Yearly Staff Coordination Meeting and 31st Annual General Meeting of CJW Employees Provident Fund on Sunday, 22 December 2024, at its Gulshan office. Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario, Director of CJW, presided over the meeting and warmly welcomed all team members. During the meeting, section heads presented their achievements, challenges, and plans for the future. At the end, Mr. Uzzal Theotonious Corraya, CJW's Deputy Director, expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone for their continued dedication and cooperation in making CJW's mission a success.

CJW Celebrates World Fair Trade Day 2025



CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) celebrated World Fair Trade Day 2025 with the inspiring theme "Be the Voice of the #BusinessRevolution." All staff members at the CJW Gulshan Office actively participated in the event, sharing their thoughts, hopes, and expectations for the fair-trade movement. The program was presided over by Deputy Director Mr. Uzzal Theotonious Corraya. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to promoting fair-trade principles and driving forward the fair-trade business revolution.

CJW Celebrates Bangla Noboborso-1432 and Easter Reunion-2025



On Thursday, April 17, 2025, CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) joyfully celebrated 'Pohela Baishakh (Bengali New Year's Day)-1432' along with 'Easter Sunday' with all staff members at it's Gulshan office premises. Mr. Sebastian Rozario, CJW BOT Chairperson and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, extended warm wishes and delivered an inspiring speech to the team. Staff members shared their thoughts and experiences, expressing a renewed commitment to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the Bangla New Year 1432 with unity and dedication.

CJW Observes International Day of Families 2025



On Thursday, May 15, 2025, CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) observed the International Day of Families with heartfelt prayers and reflection. Staff members gathered to pray for the eternal peace of the departed Holy Father Pope Francis, honoring his immense contributions. Prayers were also offered for the newly elected Holy Father Pope Leo XIV. The occasion renewed CJW's commitment to building a just and compassionate society rooted in mutual love, respect, and trade justice.

Caritas Sunday and Long Service Awards 2025



CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) celebrated Caritas Sunday and its Long Service Awards 2025 on Sunday, 6 April 2025, at its Gulshan Office as a significant moment in its Lenten Campaign (Teg O Seba Abhijan — TOSA). The theme for this year's celebration was "Let us Journey Together in Faith and Hope" - "এসো, বিশ্বাস ও আশায় একসাথে যাত্রা করি"

His Excellency, Most Rev. Theotonius Gomes, CSC, Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of Dhaka Archdiocese, graced the event as Chief Guest, while Rev. Fr. Milton Denis Corraya, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, was present as the Special Guest. Mr. Sebastian Rozario, Chairperson of CJW's Board of Trustees and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, presided over the ceremony, honoring the dedicated service of CJW team members and reflecting on their collective mission of compassion and solidarity.

International Women's Day-2025



CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) celebrated International Women's Day 2025 on Sunday, 9 March 2025, at its Gulshan office, with the theme "For all Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Empowerment." Ms. Amrita Rejina Rozario, Country Director of Sightsavers Bangladesh, honored the event as Chief Guest. From its very beginning, CJW has been dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged women in rural areas by helping them become self-reliant. During the celebration, all CJW's regular, contractual, and casual employees renewed their pledge to promote dignity, justice, and equality for women, reflecting their collective aim to create a society filled with love, respect, and fairness for all.

Christmas and New Year Celebration



CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) family celebrated the Christmas-2024 and New Year 2025 in a festive and cheerful atmosphere at its Gulshan office on 1 January 2025. Mr. Shishir Anjelo Rozario, Director of CJW, expressed his heartfelt thanks to everyone for their tremendous efforts and contributions over the past year. Employees also shared their experiences, achievements, and hopes as they prepared to face new challenges together. Mr. Uzzal Theotonious Corraya, CJW's Deputy Director, encouraged the team to continue their collective spirit and cooperation to make 2025 another year of success and progress for CJW and its community.

Honoring for the Dedicated Service: Farewell to Two Colleagues



CORR–The Jute Works (CJW) recently held a heartfelt farewell program to honor Mr. Dilip Dias, Junior Supervisor of the Store (1993–2024), and Mr. Ronnie Gabriel Gomes, Senior Officer of Finance & Accounts (1994–2024). Both colleagues were warmly thanked and appreciated for their many years of dedicated service and valuable contributions to the organization. Their commitment and hard work have left a lasting impact on CJW, and they were wished all the best in their future endeavours.

In Loving Memory of Sr. Mary Lillian, SMRA
'A Lifelong dedication to Empowering Women with Faith and Service'



Sr. Mary Lillian, SMRA, a devout nun and pioneer for women in Bangladesh, was born on October 16, 1930, in Padrishipur, Barisal, to Ramuel and Emilia Gomes, the second of eight children.

Answering God's call, she joined the Companion of Mary (SMRA) in 1948, professed her first vows in 1951, and perpetual vows in 1957. She began her mission as a devoted teacher in Rangamatia, Tumilia, Panjora, and Mary House.

After the war, Sr. Lillian dedicated herself to serving the poor and helpless. Following the independence of Bangladesh, she championed women's empowerment, co-founding jute-based handicrafts at the Jagorani Center with Sr. Michael Francis.

With Rev. Fr. Richard Timm CSC, she helped establish CORR–The Jute Works and served there and at the Jagorani Jute Handicraft Center from 1970 to 2023, dedicating over 53 years to empowering women and communities.

Sister Mary Lillian was a prayerful and exemplary nun who trusted God in every situation. Her extraordinary skill, dedication, prudence, and deep compassion for the poor and helpless earned her a Papal honor from Pope Francis on September 18, 2020. She was humble, gentle, and compassionate, uplifting the poor and disadvantaged through her prayerful life, dedicated service, and love for simple joys like cooking and sewing.

Since July 2023, she resided at Mary House due to age-related illness and retired that December. She passed away on June 24, 2025. As a nun, Sister Mary Lillian devoted her life to uplifting and empowering disadvantaged women.

FAIR PARTICIPATION

Participation at the Ambiente Fair-2025 in Germany



On behalf of CORR-The Jute Works; Deputy Director Mr. Uzzal Theotonious Corraya and Senior Marketing Officer Mr. Vashkor David Costa participated in the Ambiente Fair -2025 from 7-11 February 2025 in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Ambiente Fair is very important for CJW business as many business partners of Europe and USA visit the fair every year. During the fair, CJW made business discussion with few of regular buyers and shared future business possibilities, at the same time introduces CJW to many potential customers.



Christmas Fair 2024



The Christmas Fair 2024 was held at the CJW Head Office in Gulshan from 17 November to 15 December. The fair drew many local visitors, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. On 25 November, a special foreign guest added an international flavor to the celebrations.

The event was a resounding success—bringing joy, festive spirit and exciting shopping opportunities for both local and international guests. CJW arranged special kinds of products from the different artisan group for the fair. The customers were very much delighted to have the opportunity to procure international standard products from the fair.



VISITED BY GUESTS

Vatican Embassy Visits CJW



On Tuesday, 26 November 2024, CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) warmly welcomed the Charge d'Affaires of the Vatican Embassy to Bangladesh, Rev. Fr. Cristian Gabriel Jurado, along with Sr. Swapna Virginia Cruz and Sr. Mary Costa, to its office. During their visit, they observed CJW's various activities and appreciated its Fair Trade initiatives, recognizing their role in improving the lives of poor and vulnerable women. The visit was a meaningful opportunity to share CJW's mission and celebrate its ongoing work toward justice, dignity, and empowerment for all.

Visitors from 'Two mothers'



The buyer, Ms. Linda Halsema and Ms. Inge Obdeijn from The Netherlands visited CORR-The Jute Works on 26 January 2025 and a successful business meeting took place. They shared their opinion and views about the products and express their interest about different kinds of products of CJW.

Visitors from Kayo (Japan)



The buyer, Ms. Hiramatsu Kayo from Japan visited the Artisans of CORR-The Jute Works to observe the impact of their order practically. The artisans were very happy having the visitors among them.

Visitor from Shaplaneer (Japan)



A high official team from Shaplaneer-Japan, Dhaka office visited CORR-The Jute Works. CJW Director welcome the new Country Director Ms. Yumi Yagishita Masuda and goodbye to Ms. Tomoko Uchiyama the former Country Director.

ARTISANS STORY

Threads of Courage: The Inspiring Journey of Shondha Rani Das



Shondha Rani Das, 70 years old, lives in Padrishibpur, Barisal district, with her son and his family. She is the youngest of four siblings, and her father supported the family through his business. Unfortunately, financial difficulties prevented him from pursuing education beyond the third grade.

Shondha married **Kamini Das** at 14 in 1968. Together, they operated a shop and made snacks for a local school to earn extra income. Over the years, Shondha had three daughters and two sons, and she sought additional work to help support her family. During this time, Jagarani organized sewing and handicraft training programs in Padrishibpur, where Shondha received guidance from Sisters Adline and Sister Lillian. She gradually honed her skills in sewing and handicrafts. Later, she learned about **CORR-The Jute Works** and participated in training offered by the **Padrishibpur Jute Handicrafts Samity** to learn how to create jute products.

In 2019, Shondha became a permanent member of the Padrishibpur Jute Handicrafts Samity. Despite her family responsibilities, she worked on jute handicrafts at night. Initially, she earned between 500 and 800 taka per month from this work, which she saved in the samity. She also received training to craft various jute and toy items, including butterflies, horses, stars, key rings, and angels using jute, burlap, and other materials.

Currently, Shondha earns an average of 5,000 to 9,000 taka per month from her work with the samity. This income helps her cover her family's expenses and save a little in the samity. She focuses on providing her children with nutritious food and managing their educational expenses effectively. Shondha successfully married off her three daughters after they completed their higher secondary education, and both of her sons have earned Master's degrees. One son is a school teacher, while the other runs his own shop. Both sons are married and live with her.

Shondha has saved 6,647 taka in the samity and currently has a security allowance of 9,299 taka. She has managed to meet her children's basic needs, including their education. She expresses gratitude to **CORR-The Jute Works** for the support and training they provided during challenging times. Shondha encourages fellow samity members by saying, "To establish self-reliance, you must be honest and dedicated to the samity and your work. Only then will you achieve success."

Journey of Hope of Teresa Gomes



Teresa Gomes, 38, comes from Kalidaspur village in Paikgacha, Khulna. She grew up in a very poor family. Her father was a day laborer, they had to go without food for many days. Because of financial problems, Teresa had to leave school after class eight and was married at a young age. Her husband, a barber, earned only 7,000–8,000 taka a month, which was not enough for the family and their children’s education. They could not afford nutritious food, even it was difficult for them to manage for three regular meals a day.

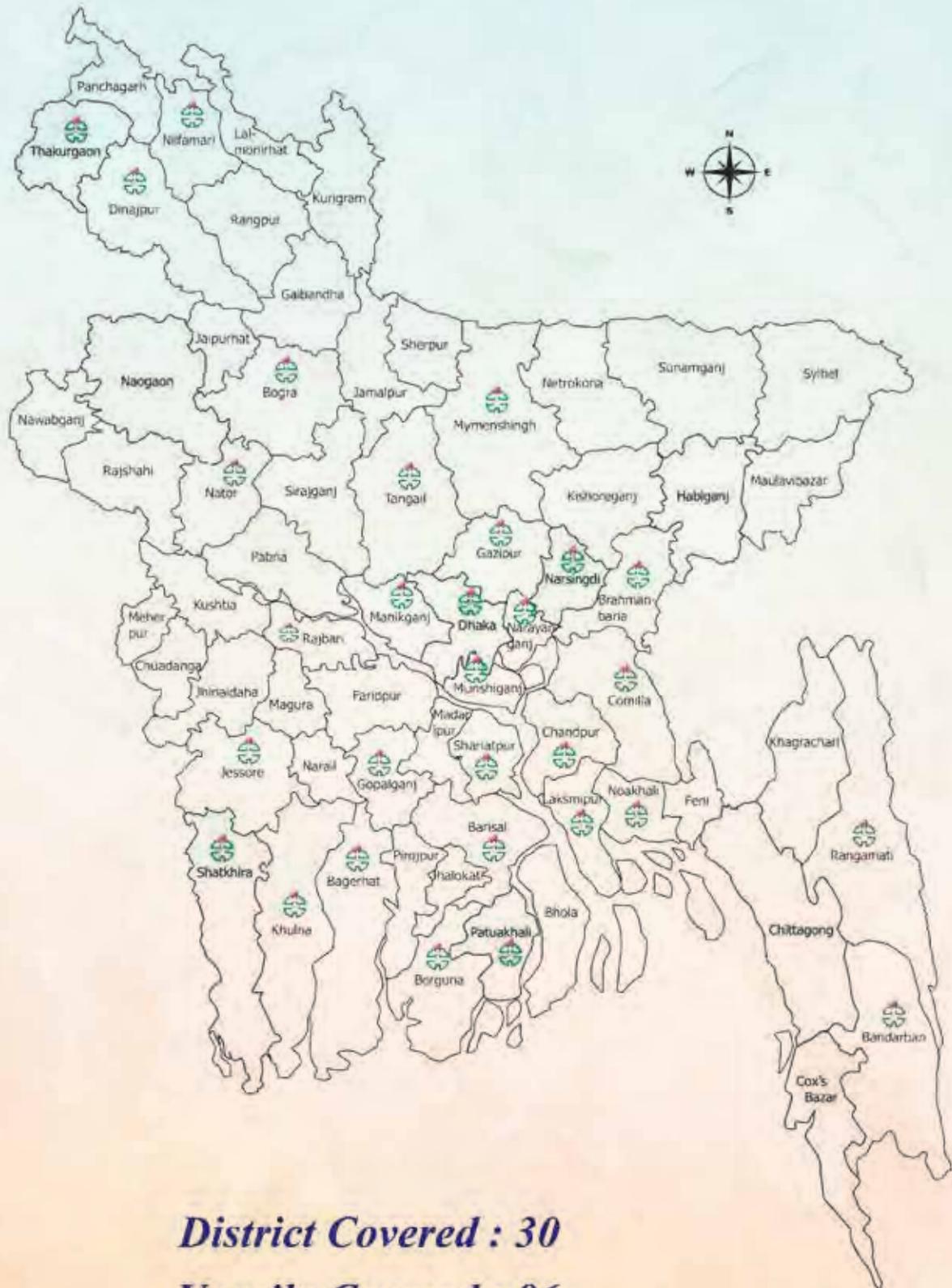
A turning point came when Teresa met the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. They introduced her to the Jagoroni Handicraft program, where she learned to make jute products. For the last 12 years, she has worked with the Borodal Jagoroni Women’s Handicraft Somity with support from **CORR–The Jute Works**. She has become a skilled producer and now helping other producers or interested women to learn the task.

Through her hard work, Teresa now helps pay for her children’s schooling and family expenses. She has bought necessary furniture and even supported her husband in setting up his own barber shop. Collectively, they have overcome past difficulties and now hold a position of respect and assurance within the community.

Life is still not without challenges, but Teresa feels proud that she can dream of a better future. She says: “Every woman should not depend only on her husband’s income. Even small efforts can improve the family.”

Teresa’s story shows how courage and opportunity can change lives.

ARTISAN'S WORKING AREA



District Covered : 30

Upazila Covered : 86

CRAFTS LINE

Product Range	Product Details	Materials
Bags	Shopping Bag, Campaign Bag, Shoulder bag, Back pack, Laptop bag, Tool bag, Wine bag, Tote bag, Gift bag	Jute,
Baskets	Bread basket, Fruit basket, Flower basket, Pet basket, Laundry basket, Waste basket, Tray, Bowl, Box, Cutleries box, Recycle saree basket.	Cotton, Cane,
Interior Decor	Lampshade, Curtain/screen, Cushion, Tassel, Mobile, Chime, Wall hanging, Embroidery and Needlework.	Kaisa, Hogla,
Exterior & Garden Decor	Door mat, Hammock, Baby Cradle, Rope ladder, Planter, Plant hanger (sika) Bird feeder, Bird house, burner, Incense burner, Vas, Pitcher, Water can, Garden marker, Pet accessories, Mosquito coil.	Leaf, Candle,
Festive Decor	Ball, Christ décor, Wall hanging, Nativity set, Christmas Ornament, Tree ornament, Easter ornament.	Handmade
Candle Aroma	Candle & Tealight, Tealight holder, Lamp pot, Festival candle, Candle holder, Incense burner, Incense holder & Aroma Clay pot.	Paper, Recycle sharee,
Kitchen & Tableware house keeping	Bowl, Coaster, Place mat, Table runner, Napkin holder, Ring, Coaster, Bread Warmer, Garlic Pot, Spice pot, Sweet Pot, Wine cooler.	Bamboo, Fabric,
Personal Accessory	Organizer, Wall hanging, Folder Portfolio, Paper case, Book Marker, Eyeglass case, Card holder.	Date/Palm leaf, Cair,
Bath & Footwear	Shoes, Slippers, Back scratcher, Soap case, Foot scrubber.	Papers,
Greetings Card	Christmas card, Greetings card.	
Gift & Wrapping	Key ring, Note book, Note pad, Letter pad, Gift box, Paper box, Ribbon, Gift wrapper.	Recycle Glass,
Games & Toys	Animal, Doll, Stuffed toy	Silk,
Apparels	Scarf (silk & Cotton), Cushion cover (Silk & Cotton), Hand towel, Curtain, Fashion garments (Silk, Cotton & Viscose), Fabric (Silk, Cotton, Viscose & Jutton).	Clay, Viscose

CJW Mirerbazar Center



In 1995, CORR-The Jute Works took a bold step by purchasing land with its own funds to establish the Mirerbazar Center—a clear testament to its commitment and vision. Previously, screen printing on jute was outsourced, but recognizing the potential for growth, CORR-The Jute Works invested in state-of-the-art machinery and brought these operations in-house, marking a significant milestone. The Center soon expanded, adding a sewing section that now empowers around 12 women with sustainable employment. Today, Mirerbazar Center stands as a vibrant hub, providing regular work and fostering opportunities for local communities.



With a dedicated team—three full-time staff, three on contract, and twelve skilled manufacturers—the center seamlessly integrates cutting, sewing, and printing sections. A spacious warehouse ensures efficient storage and management of raw materials, supporting the center's growing operations.

Dyeing unit is capable to produce 60-kgs of jute or yarn daily in their gas-powered unit.

The eagerly anticipated ETP plant, a pivotal addition, has now been established at Mirerbazar Center and is poised to launch operations soon, promising to elevate production capacity and create even more job opportunities.



CJW Chandpur Center



After the Bangladesh Liberation War, Rev. Peter MacNee visited Mahamaya in Chandpur in 1972. Mahamaya was a village of 55 very poor families who had been refugees since the partition of Bangladesh in 1947. They considered themselves refugees even in 1972. Sister Michael Francis CSC and Sister Mary Lillian SMRA received an order from a person in Canada to make 1,000 yards of jute braid to be used for Christmas decorations.

For women who braided their hair every day, making jute braids was probably an easy task. Therefore, the women of Mahamaya quickly completed the order and Rev. Peter Macnee handed them the wages. A few days later, the two women started working on the jute handicrafts. They came to Jagarani Center in Dhaka from their village for training. In just a few days, they learned to make everything they could, returned to the village and taught it to others, and with that, they started production at the Chandpur Center.



By 1973, workers at the Chandpur center were producing more products, which were sold through shops. New Zealand Prime Minister Norman Eric Rick visited Bangladesh that same year and visited the Mahamaya, Chandpur Center. At that time, on behalf of New Zealand Baptist Mission, the overall management of the Chandpur Center was supervised by late Sadhan Chandra Bose, who also served as a member of the CORR-The Jute Works' Board of Trustees until his death. Later in 2009 New Zealand Baptist Mission handed over the center to CORR-The Jute Works.

Currently, the Chandpur Center supports 20 artisan groups. One artisan from the 20-groups represents the Board of Trustees (BoT). Many skilled producers have been producing products for this center for a long time. CJW also providing full support considering this center as a special one. The center is staffed by two regular employees and five contractual staff members. It also features facilities for Storage, Dyeing and Quality Control to assist the artisans.



Caritas Silk - Jalchatra Factory



In 1992, Caritas Bangladesh started the 'Employment Creation Through Sericulture (ECTS)' project with the aim of creating employment for rural women through sericulture, cocoons and yarn production, cloth manufacturing and marketing. Through this project, employment arrangements were made for the members of the teams formed under other projects of Caritas such as DEEDS, GDP, ICDP and IHDP projects. With the financial support of the donor organization MISEREOR, Germany, Caritas started this program in Dhaka, Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Rajshahi regions. The donor organization provided financial support until June 30, 2005. From July 2005, the project activities continued with the plan to achieve self-reliance. At present, only Jalchhatra (Madhupur) is running and there is a factory in Jalchhatra to make clothes using the yarn produced by this project.

On 19 May 2006, a decision was taken at a meeting of Caritas to dissolve the ECTS project and transfer all its assets to CORR-The Jute Works (CJW) and form a feasibility study committee to merge it with CJW. The committee submitted its report in favour of merging the ECTS project with CORR-The Jute Works. The Board of Trustees of CORR-The Jute Works on 2 October 2009, after detailed discussions, unanimously decided to merge the ECTS project with CORR-The Jute Works. Later, two more meetings were held to reach a definitive decision. Another committee was formed comprising representatives of CORR-The Jute Works and ECTS project.



Therefore, the Caritas Management Authority Committee reviewed the report and abolished the ECTS project. All movable assets were transferred to CORR-The Jute Works on June 30, 2010 and from July 1, 2010 CORR-The Jute Works Jalchatra Silk Factory is conducting all the activities. The factory is currently engaged in producing Scarf (Silk & Cotton), Cushion cover (Silk & Cotton, Hand towel, Bag, Table cloth, Table runner, Napkin, Curtain, Fashion garments (Silk, Cotton & Viscose) & Fabric. The factory has huge capacity of weaving & dyeing Cotton & Silk fabric. It has separate sewing and printing unit also.

Mirerbazar Dyeing Unit Started Production



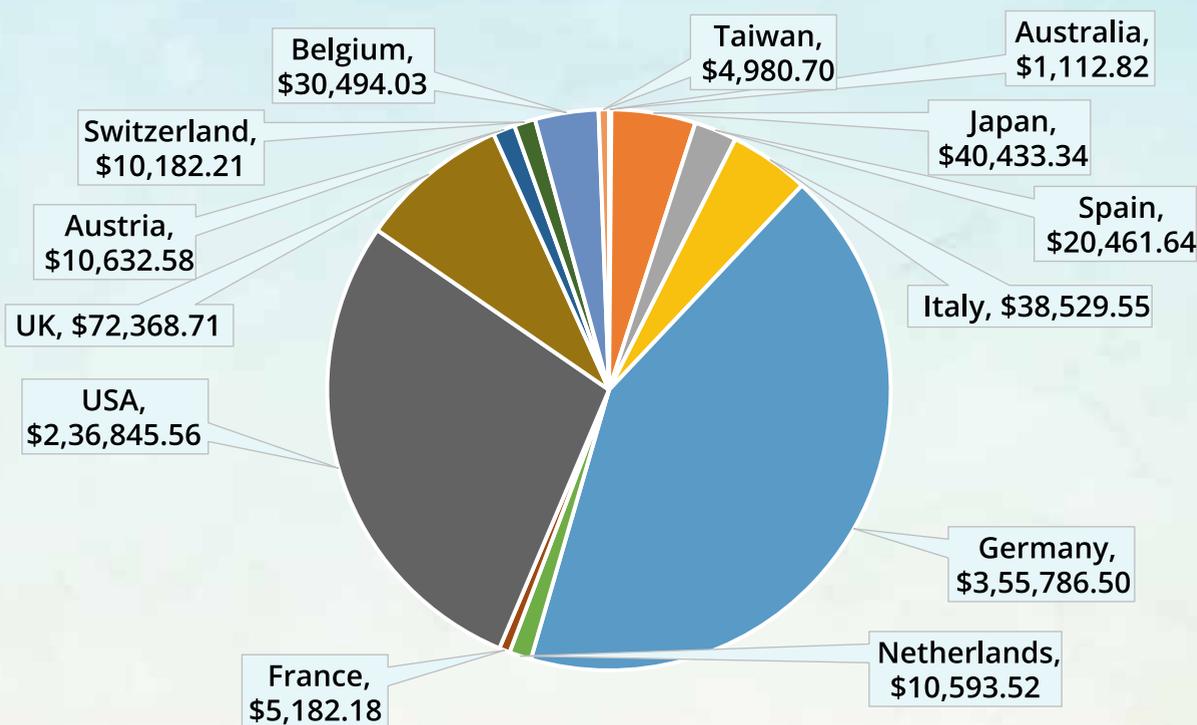
Jute and yarn have to be dyed in various colors to make various products according to the needs of the buyers. Earlier, dyeing was done manually in the old method at Chandpur Center and Jalchatra Factory. As a result of this dyeing, the color of jute and yarn was not 100% accurate. To minimize the complicity, CJW recently installed modern dyeing facility at Mirerbazar.

After this establishment; completely controlled and standardized dyeing will be possible. Each color will have its own dyeing station, due to which it will be possible to dye yarn and jute of the same quality and color when the order comes later. In this way, it will be possible to maintain the quality of all these yarn and jute products and export the same quality products.



The work of renewing the government license in this regard is underway. Very soon, it will be possible to conduct all kinds of activities subject to obtaining the license. Currently, 60-kgs of jute or yarn can be dyed daily in this gas-powered unit.

TOTAL SALES 24-25: US\$837603.35



FINANCIAL STATUS

FY: 2024-25

Particulars	Figures in BDT
Property & Assets:	
Non Current Assets:	114,680,083
Current Assets:	316,893,606
Total Property & Assets:	431,573,689
Fund and Liabilities	
Fund	416,354,972
Current Liabilities	15,218,717
Total Fund and Liabilities	431,573,689
Income	
Operating Income	119,010,089
Non-Operating Income	27,917,155
Total Income	146,927,244
Expenditure	
Cost of Revenue	71,158,971
Selling and Distribution Cost	26,853,173
Administrative Cost	21,128,628
Product Development, Design and Marketing Cost	8,808,754
Education and Social Development Cost	1,572,529
Non-Operating Expenses	8,785,295
Income Tax Expenses	6,719,282
Total Expenditure	145,026,632

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
of CORR-The Jute Works
Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **CORR-The Jute Works** which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at June 30, 2025 and the Income and Expenditure Accounts, Statement of Income Appropriation and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation as at June 30, 2025 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the organisation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) Bye Laws. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements:

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the IFRSs, the rules of NGO affairs bureau and the other applicable laws and regulations and for such internal control(s) as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement(s), whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as and where applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or has no other realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organisation's overall financial reporting process.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement whenever it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we are required to exercise professional judgments and to maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We have also:

- Identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement(s) of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, and have obtained audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control(s).
- Obtained an understanding of the internal control(s) relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control system.
- Evaluated the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates and the related disclosures made by the organisation's management.
- Concluded on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to the events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosure(s) in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluated the overall presentation, structure and contents of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that gives a true and fair view about the organisation's financial performance.

We have communicated with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and about the significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control system that we have identified during the course of our audit.

Report on other Legal and Regulatory Requirements:

We also report the following:

- a) we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- b) in our opinion, proper books of accounts as required by law have been maintained by the organisation so far as it appeared from our examination of these books;
- c) the statements of financial position and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of accounts, and
- d) all the expenditures were incurred solely for the purposes of the organisation.

Date : 24 November, 2025
Place : Dhaka



Evana Hoque, FCA
Partner
FAMES & R

Chartered Accountants
ICAB Enrollment No. 1459
DVC # 2511241459AS956109





**GUARANTEED
FAIR TRADE**

The World Fair Trade Organization recognises

as a Guaranteed Fair Trade Enterprise.

This organisation has demonstrated compliance with the WFTO Fair Trade Standard, confirming they are a mission-led enterprise, putting people and planet first. WFTO hereby extends the right to use the "WFTO Guaranteed Fair Trade Members Label".

Registration no.	Guaranteed since	Valid until
		31-03-2026

This Certificate and Authorisation remain valid based on continued fulfillment of membership obligations.

Leida Rijnhout
WFTO Chief Executive

Sophie Tack
WFTO President

ANNUAL REPORT (2024-25) PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

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CORR-The Jute Works

a Trust of Caritas Bangladesh

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CORR-The Jute Works
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