

# Hill farmers turn to coffee for better earnings

MONG SING HAI MARMA,  
Bandarban

Farmers in the hilly areas under the Chimbuk range in Bandarban are gradually shifting from traditional jhum cultivation to coffee farming, driven by better market prospects and higher returns.

For decades, nearly 90 percent of people from the indigenous communities in the CHT depended on jhum. Declining soil fertility, shrinking land, scarcity of water, low yields, and increasing population pressure have now pushed many towards more profitable options.

Arabica, Robusta, and Chandragiri varieties are being cultivated, with growers saying coffee requires simple management, carries lower disease risk, and is easy to market without syndicate control.

Farmers say the Chandragiri variety offers higher yields and is gaining ground.

A recent visit to Chimbuk hill, about 26 kilometres from Bandarban town and 2,500 feet above sea level, found vast mixed orchards in Babuchhara Para under ward 9 of Taracha Union in Rowangchhari upazila.

Coffee plants were seen growing alongside mango, pomelo, dragon fruit, and litchi, with rows of red and green cherries colouring the



PHOTO: STAR

slopes. Local growers sell ripe cherries to companies in Dhaka at Tk 200 per kilogramme.

Farmers such as Chamlang Mro, Jongsom Mro, Langring Mro, Rumklan Mro, Zangoi Mro, Tumrao Mro, Kaing Oi Mro, Kolai Mro, and Chongkrat Mro -- once dependent on jhum -- said coffee has changed their fortunes.

"Last year, I made Tk 1.5 lakh from coffee alone. This year, I have hired three workers for harvesting ripe cherries," said Chamlang Mro, 40.

Yong Chong Mro said he shifted

from jhum after poor yields. "This year I expect around 1,000 kg yield, which should generate around Tk 2 lakh in earnings," he said.

Taidu Ram Tripura, who has worked with coffee cultivation in the region for 16 years after receiving training abroad, said demand remains high at home and abroad.

As local production is still insufficient, Bangladesh imports coffee from Ethiopia, Brazil, and other countries.

"Local growers here get fair prices because there is no market

syndicate," he said.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension in Bandarban, coffee was cultivated on 544 hectares in the 2024-25 fiscal year, producing 122.06 tonnes.

Abu Naim Mohammad Saifuddin, deputy director of the DAE in Bandarban, said, "We began with just 586 growers under a project. Now, 1,930 people are engaged in coffee cultivation, which continues to expand steadily due to its profitability and because it allows growers to cultivate other fruits alongside it in mixed orchards."

## People no

FROM PAGE 3

the country as signs of persisting fascism.

On the national election, he said, "Some have said if they are elected, they will form a government with all anti-fascist parties except Jamaat-e-Islami. We say to them: if the people elect us, we will not exclude you. We will build the country together with everyone."

He also claimed propaganda was being spread that Jamaat would confine women if it came to power. "We will respond to all such propaganda through our actions, not words. The days of misleading people with lies are over," he said.

"Every citizen has the freedom to practise any religious belief. There will be no coercion. In the next election, some of our candidates will be from minority communities. We want to bring the nation on a platform of unity through this," he said.

Meanwhile, Shafiqur Rahman was sworn in for the third consecutive term [2026-2028] as the Jamaat ameer last evening. ATM Masum, its central executive council member and assistant secretary general, administered the oath at the Al-Falah auditorium in Moghbazar, Dhaka.

## End assaults on Baul

FROM PAGE 3

The protest, titled "Gaaner Artonad," was arranged by Sampriti Jatra in front of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts around 4:30pm yesterday.

Organisers and participants alleged that activists of "July Mancha" carried out the attack.

Sami Abdullah, general secretary of Biplobi Chhatra Maitri's DU unit, said, "Some people from July Mancha attacked our pre-scheduled programme. They gathered beforehand and vandalised our banner."

Cultural activist Abul Hashnat Bhuiyan said the altercation was minor, but participants feared further trouble. "They

became agitated because Abul Sarkar's name was mentioned," he said.

Earlier in the afternoon, July Mancha had held a separate gathering nearby, calling for the "highest punishment for those who hurt religious sentiments" and urging resistance to "cultural conspiracies".

Masum Billah, who attended that event, said, "We told them not to organise anything supporting those who make derogatory comments about religion. But they did not listen."

Shahbagh Police Station OC Mansour Ahmed said police were unaware of the incident, and no formal complaint had been filed.

## TIB slams approval

FROM PAGE 3

proposed to restore public trust in the ACC, which he said has long functioned as a protector of the powerful and a tool to harass opponents. He said it was "regrettable" that the government disregarded a strategic reform that could have made the ACC more accountable, independent, and impartial through half-yearly reviews, public hearings, and consultations.

He said at least seven advisers reportedly opposed the proposal, even though all political parties had agreed to it under the July charter.

"Before violating the charter themselves, why does the government not consider that it is encouraging political parties to do the same? Why were such sacrifices made if reforms will not curb corruption effectively?" he said.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Narail.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.02.6500.000.07.001.20- 1420 Date- 27-11-2025

**e-GP Tender Notice-07/2025-2026**

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of works mentioned below under LGED, District: - Narail.

SL No	Tender ID	Package No	Name of work	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	1183095 (OTM)	Pd/pori. Abashan/ Narail.W 1.42	Construction of 7 Storied (24 unit apartment) Narail Paurashava Cleaners Residential Building including internal electrical works, lift & external electrical connection, electro-mechanical work, sanitary and water supply, boundary wall, internal road, drainage, earth work etc. under Upazila: Sadar, Dist. Narail.	22-12-2025 15:00	23-12-2025 15:00

*Sardar*  
29/11/25

(Sarder Ikramul Kabir)  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Narail.  
Telephone No- 02477773031.  
E-mail No- [xen.narail@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.narail@lged.gov.bd)

GD-2583

## Empowered to stand

FROM PAGE 3

She completed a week-long life-skills course at the Swopno Puro Training Centre in Sherpur, where she learned commercial duck rearing. Using Tk 30,000 saved from her wages, she bought 100 egg-laying ducks; within two years, her flock grew to 500.

"After all expenses, I earn about Tk 1,500 a day -- sometimes more," she said. "People now respect the work I do."

Moni has even hired three women, including 26-year-old Lucky Akter, who had been abandoned by her husband. "This job means I can pay for my children's schooling. For the first time, I feel I can manage on my own," Lucky said.

Elsewhere, the project has opened doors to trades traditionally dominated by men.

In Laksham, Cumilla,

35-year-old Shilpi Rani Robidas wakes up before dawn for her apprenticeship at a local footwear manufacturer.

Married at 15 to a man twice her age, she was widowed by cancer and left to raise two children with almost no income. She repaired shoes door-to-door, earning about Tk 300 a day, while also dealing with family estrangement.

Under SWAPNO, she joined an apprenticeship placement and hopes to open a small shoe-making workshop. "If I can make and sell my own shoes, maybe I can finally bring some peace to my life," she said.

The project also links women to formal sector jobs.

In Cumilla, 33-year-old Shipra Rani Das -- divorced, a mother of a 10-year-old boy, and recently remarried -- has completed a two-month residential Sewing Machine Operation (SMO) training at AID Cumilla.

She is among 2,208 women enrolled in industrial skills training; 483 have completed SMO training, and 171 have secured jobs in garment factories.

Shipra, who survived physical violence and dowry demands in the previous marriage, said the training has given her the chance to earn a stable wage.

"Without this training, I would have had to join as a low-paid helper," she said. "Now, as a machine operator, I can earn more than twice that."

SWAPNO is currently active in 283 Union Parishads across 12 districts, including Sherpur, Cumilla, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, and Patuakhali.

The project also runs a micro-health insurance scheme. So far, 10,371 women have enrolled using smartcards, with 781 claims and 11 death claims processed, according to UNDP Communication Associate Nusrat Mahmud Ananna.

For many beneficiaries, the numbers matter less than the confidence the programme has restored.

As Shipra said, "I don't want to endure violence again or depend on anyone. I've learned that no one can guarantee my safety or income -- only I can."

[Our Jamalpur correspondent contributed to this report]

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Sadar, Noakhali.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.02.7587.000.902.46.25.1530 Dated: 27/11/2025

**Invitation for Tender (Works)**  
**e-Tender Notice No: 08/2025-2026 (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

SI No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)	Tender ID No
01	e-Tender/PEDP4/ NKL/SAD/2025-26/W15A.03032	Construction of Head Teacher's Room with Attached Toilet of 1) Chowrasta Reg. Non Govt. Primary School, 2) East Majchhara Sujamia Reg. Primary School under PEDP4 at Noakhali Sadar Upazila, Noakhali.	11-Dec-2025 12:00	11-Dec-2025 14:00	1179638

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches up to **12.00PM on 11-Dec-2025**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)), or [egpnhelpdesk@lged.gov.bd](mailto:egpnhelpdesk@lged.gov.bd).

*Abul Mansur Ahmed*  
29/11/25  
(Abul Mansur Ahmed)  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Sadar, Noakhali.  
Phone No: 02334433734.  
[ue.noakhali-s@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.noakhali-s@lged.gov.bd)

GD-2585

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (HED)  
NOAKHALI DIVISION  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
MAJDEE COURT NOAKHALI  
[hed.noakhali.gov.bd](http://hed.noakhali.gov.bd)

Memo No. 45.02.2075.261.00.000.25-01 Date : 27/11/2025

**e-Tender Notice (01/2025-2026) (OTM)**

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to Particular date and time specified on the Tender Notice.

Sl. No	Package No	Name of Works	Tender ID	Last Date & Time for Tender Document selling	Last Date & Time for Tender proposal Security Submission	Last Date & Time for Closing/ Opening
1	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/01	Repair, Maintenance of Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works of Kankirhat MCWC at Senbag Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185512	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
2	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/02	Repair, Maintenance of Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works of Upazila Family Planning Office Building at Senbag Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185511	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
3	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/03	Repair, Maintenance of Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works of Upazila Family Planning Office Store Building at Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185510	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
4	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/04	Repair, Maintenance of Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works of Deuti UH&FWC at Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185509	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
5	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/05	Repair, Maintenance of Civil & Sanitary works of Deputy Director office for Family Planning at Sadar Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185508	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
6	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/06	Repair, Maintenance of Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works at Regional Training Centre (Academic & Administrative Building) at Begumgonj Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185507	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
7	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/07	Repair, Maintenance of Civil, Sanitary & Electrical works at Hostel Building at Regional Training Centre at Begumgonj Upazila in Noakhali District.	1185506	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
8	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/08	Repair, Maintenance works of Deputy Director (Family Planning) Office at Sadar Upazila in Laxmipur District.	1185505	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
9	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/09	Repair, Maintenance works of Char Mohona UH&FWC at Raipur Upazila in Laxmipur District.	1185504	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
10	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/10	Repair, Maintenance works of Bamni UH&FWC at Raipur Upazila in Laxmipur District.	1185503	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
11	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/11	Repair, Maintenance works of Char Falcon UH&FWC with remaining Boundary Wall at Kamalnagar Upazila in Laxmipur District.	1185497	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
12	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/12	Repair, Maintenance works of Uttar Charbongsi UH&FWC at Raipur Upazila in Laxmipur District.	1185433	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM
13	HED/GOB/FP/No a/25-26/13	Repair, Maintenance & Renovation Works of MO Quarter (3-5d) at Sadar MCWC under Sadar Upazila in Feni District.	1185022	09/12/2025 11:00 AM	09/12/2025 12:00 PM	09/12/2025 13:00 PM

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System. The Authority may cancel the tender without notice.

*Mid Feroz Uddin*  
(Md Feroz Uddin)  
Executive Engineer (c e)  
HED, Noakhali Division  
e-mail: [hedxennoa@yahoo.com](mailto:hedxennoa@yahoo.com)

GD-2584



BRAC University, one of the leading private universities in Bangladesh, is seeking an outstanding academic leader to serve as "Dean of the School of Pharmacy".

This is a unique opportunity to shape the school's future-focused vision, advancing its teaching, research, and societal impact in alignment with BRAC University's mission and values. The dean will play a pivotal role in positioning the school as a hub of academic excellence, interdisciplinary innovation, and global collaboration, amplifying the voice of the Global South on the international stage.

### ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the pro-vice-chancellor, the dean will provide strategic and academic leadership, ensuring the school achieves the highest standards of excellence in teaching, research, and engagement.

### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Strategic Leadership: Develop and implement a long-term vision for the school, contributing to university-wide policy development and strategic planning as a senior member of leadership.
- Academic Excellence: Oversee curriculum design, program innovation, and delivery of an inclusive and world-class student experience. Ensures that the school prepares skilled, ethical, and innovative pharmacy professionals who can contribute to improved healthcare and the advancement of the pharmaceutical sector.
- Research and Societal Impact: Foster a vibrant academic environment that supports impactful research addressing pressing social, political, and economic challenges in Bangladesh and beyond.
- External Engagement: Build and sustain partnerships with academia, policymakers, industry, and civil society to strengthen the school's global reputation and reach.
- Faculty and Student Development: Support and mentor faculty while nurturing students as confident, ethical, and socially conscious leaders.
- Operational Stewardship: Ensure financial sustainability, manage admissions, alumni relations, fundraising, and external partnerships, while securing research funding.
- Thought Leadership: Maintain a personal academic profile as a scholar of distinction, contributing to intellectual life locally and internationally.

For more information about the job description please visit [career.bracu.ac.bd](http://career.bracu.ac.bd).

### QUALIFICATIONS

- A PhD in Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, or related discipline.
- A distinguished record of teaching and research, with deep knowledge of higher education, internationalization, and impactful scholarship.
- At least 12 years of academic leadership experience, including a minimum of 5 years at the level of associate dean, dean, or equivalent.
- Extensive experience in leading complex academic or research institutions, securing significant research funding, and developing strong external partnerships.
- Proven ability in strategic planning and fostering collaborations that strengthen the school's standing in pharmacy education, practical training, and research.
- Demonstrated ability to manage school-level operations, with international leadership experience preferred.
- Strong understanding of commercial practices and the ability to leverage intellectual property for institutional value creation.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Application should include:
- A cover letter
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Names and contact information of three professional references

Please submit applications via email to [deanrecruitment@bracu.ac.bd](mailto:deanrecruitment@bracu.ac.bd) or through the career portal at [career.bracu.ac.bd](http://career.bracu.ac.bd).

Subject line: Dean, School of Pharmacy

Application deadline: 17 December 2025

Join us in shaping the future of BRAC University and advancing the impact of pharmaceutical education and healthcare in Bangladesh and beyond.