

JAMURKI'S SANDESH

A hidden gem of Tangail



MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

When it comes to sweets, Tangail is mostly known for the famous Porabari Chamcham.

However, the Chamcham isn't the only good thing in Tangail in terms of sweet delicacies, as there are many hidden gems in the district that a person with a sweet tooth would love to know about.

One such hidden gem of the district is the traditional "Sandesh of Jamurki," which has a wonderful taste and mind-blowing aroma. Anyone who eats it once will desire to have it over and over again.

The popularity of this sandesh can be attributed to the use of milk and other pure ingredients to ensure high-quality standards for consumers.

Around 80 kilometres from the capital and 20 kilometres

from the district town of Tangail sits Kalidas Mistanna Bhandar, right next to the Dhaka-Tangail highway.

During the British period, Jamurki and its surrounding areas were inhabited by Zamindars. One Madan Mohan Saha from the village would make sweets and sell them to the Zamindars.

After his death, his son Kalidas Saha took over the family business. Later, he started producing and selling two kinds of sandesh made with milk, sugar, and molasses (patali gur). With the passage of time, the reputation of his sandesh spread throughout the district.

Many eminent figures, including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were impressed by the sandesh of Kalidas. This sandesh was among the dishes served to former President of

India Pranab Mukherjee when he visited Mirzapur.

Even to this day, Jamurki's sandesh is ordered across the district during special occasions like weddings, Eid, Puja, Pahela Baishakh, etc.

After Kalidas passed away, Samar Saha, one of his two sons, carried on the family business.

During a recent visit to Kalidas Mistanna Bhandar, this correspondent saw the owner sitting in the shop and selling sweets along with a few employees. Behind the shop is the factory where the sweets are produced. Around 8-10 employees were busy making sweets in the factory.

Most of the customers visit the shop for its famous sandesh.

Milon Sarkar, a resident of Gazipur's Mouchak, said he first tasted the sweet when a relative brought it for him. Now, whenever

he is in the area, he comes to purchase this special sandesh.

Only a few days ago, each kg of sandesh was sold for Tk 700. However, it is now being sold for Tk 800 per kg, he said.

Samar Saha claimed that rising prices of commodities, including milk, have resulted in an increase in the price of their sandesh.

"We use pure milk and high-quality molasses from Rajshahi. Therefore, if we don't increase the price, the quality will fall," he said.

Samar also shared that there is no other branch of Kalidas Mistanna Bhandar anywhere else.

Since the GI tag for Tangail's famous Chamcham has already received recognition, initiatives are already underway to claim the GI tag for Jamurki's sandesh.

Tangail Deputy Commissioner Kaiserul Islam said the application is currently being processed.

Malibagh restaurant fire injures three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three restaurant staffers suffered burns while working in a kitchen in Dhaka's Malibagh yesterday evening.

The incident occurred at Hazrat Shahjalal Hotel and Restaurant, located on the ground floor of a three-storey building, Ariful Islam, said senior station officer at Khilgaon Fire Station.

The fire was extinguished before the fire engine reached the spot, he added.

The reason behind the blaze could not be known immediately. Maruf, Julhas, and Sabuj, were taken to the burn unit of DMCH, said police.

Husband

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condition throughout the next morning."

"I called the doctor more than 20 times, but she didn't respond. Around 1:00pm, they told me that the patient had a heart attack and that the doctors had nothing else to do," alleged Asif Roy.

"Poly was bleeding profusely following both surgeries, but doctors did not take steps to stop it. She had chest pain, her blood pressure was dropping. There was negligence everywhere; they didn't care." The hospital said proper protocol was followed for both procedures and consent was taken from the patient and relatives at every step.

Following the death, the hospital formed a four-member committee to investigate whether there was any negligence, said Ibn Sina Trust's Senior Assistant General Manager (Administration) Nur-e-Alam Sabuj.

Sharmeen Mahmud, gynaecologist and associate professor at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU), performed both surgeries on Poly.

She told The Daily Star yesterday, "I have talked to Poly's relatives about this matter. The treatment that was given to Poly was according to protocol. An investigation committee has been formed from the hospital. Let them investigate and then I will talk."

End plights of migrant

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advocated for resolving the problems through bilateral discussions with Malaysia, highlighting the positive stance of the newly-elected Malaysian government led by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

The statement emphasised the need for continued diplomatic efforts and regular communication with Malaysian authorities to improve the situation for Bangladeshi workers and ensure their labour rights are protected.

BCSM expressed concern about the situation of Bangladeshi workers who migrated to Malaysia for employment in 2022. The group claims that "extra migration costs" and widespread joblessness have intensified the problems faced by these workers.

Citing government data, BCSM said over 4,00,000 Bangladeshi workers have migrated to Malaysia since 2022 through a "syndicate

system" operated by recruiting agencies.

Media reports, according to BCSM, suggest that between 1,00,000 and 2,00,000 Bangladeshi workers are currently facing difficulties, including joblessness, in Malaysia.

The statement concluded by urging the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur to be more vigilant in verifying and approving demand letters from Malaysian companies.

Crown Princess

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She also visited Hatiya, a climate-vulnerable island in the Bay of Bengal.

Accompanying the princess were Ulrika Modéer, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of External Relations and Advocacy at UNDP, and Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Johan Forssell.

34 office assistants

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given the recruitment notice in response to the demand of the ministry," he added.

However, Kanon Alam said the 2018 rules are applicable for this recruitment, not the 2019 rules.

A candidate for the recruitment test, wishing anonymity, said, "I'm concerned about the recruitment process. The circular says it will be a permanent recruitment,

whereas the rules say the appointment has to be done through outsourcing."

"This might create complications after retirement in receiving pensions for those who will get recruited in the posts," the candidate added.

Md Azizur Rahman, secretary of the Health Education and Family Welfare Department, could not be reached for comments despite repeated phone calls.

Parents alone in fight

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distinct facial features such as slanted eyes, a flat nose, and a small chin.

According to the Population and Housing Census 2022, out of a total of 23,61,604 persons with disabilities, 1.08 percent or 25,505 are diagnosed with Down syndrome. However, there are no statistics on the number of children with this condition.

Parents of children with Down syndrome all have different struggles.

"When the doctor informed us about the condition of our son Ramim", his father struggled to accept the reality," said Ruksana Amin*.

"And one day, he left us. From then on, I raised Ramim alone, despite all the odds," she said.

"Over time, as Ramim excelled in his academic and personal life, his father realised his mistake," Ruksana added.

Raisul Alam*, a factory worker in Mohammadpur, is extremely worried about how to raise his daughter, Fatima*.

"It is hard for me to take care of her with my salary. She always stays at home because it's unsafe outside. Out of fear, we did not admit her to school either," he said.

"What worries me most is who will marry her? Will she find someone who loves her as much as we do?" Alam added.

Stressing that social

stigma still exists regarding disability in the country, Prof Tahmina Akhter of Institute of Social Welfare and Research at Dhaka University said, "The first obstacle comes from family. Parents sometimes see the child as an outcome of some sin. The rest of society bullies children with disabilities and their parents, while also not allowing these children to grow up like other kids."

"The government provides a disability allowance. To avail this, a form has to be submitted through the civil surgeon. But many disabled persons are deprived of the allowance as their caregivers are not aware of it," she said.

Prof Tahmina also said children with Down syndrome are very talented and will have employment opportunities if they are given skills-based training.

"We have laws to secure the rights of people with disabilities. If these are successfully enforced, social inclusion will increase. At present, families are more aware. Earlier, the families used to hide their children with special needs, now they are coming out of the house and letting the world know," she added.

Mahmudul Hasan, assistant director of SWID Bangladesh, said generally, children diagnosed with Down syndrome have mild levels of autism.

"They may develop their own expertise in different professional fields and function well in workplaces if they are given vocational training and cultural support," he also said.

He recommended developing the overall curriculum and infrastructure of educational institutions, considering the needs of children with disabilities.

"Names have been changed to protect the identity of individuals."

Authorities

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many patients were told at the initial stage that they could be treated at home instead of being hospitalised. Later on, the patients' condition worsened. As a result, when they were later admitted, they could not be given proper treatment. Due to this, the death rate is high," Taposh said.

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actionaid
Tender Notice
ActionAid Bangladesh invites sealed quotations from qualified vendors/suppliers for the purchase of Dignity Kit materials for the Women Empowerment Project. These materials will be distributed in various Rohingya camps located in Cox's Bazar. The details are as follows-

SL#	Name of Items	Quantity
1	Dignity Kit Materials	1 Job

The Tender Schedule will be available for collect at ActionAid Cox's Bazar Office (House No-752, Ward-11, Jhawtola, Masjid Road, Cox's Bazar- 4700) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm during office hour of 21-26 March 2024 (Working Day). Alternatively, interested suppliers/vendors can obtain the schedule from the following website.

Website
Dignity Kit Materials | <https://actionaidbd.org/tender-notice>

Quotation needs to be submitted in sealed envelope on or before 27th March 2024 by 11:00 AM at specified locations. The authority of ActionAid Bangladesh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

SKS Foundation
College Road, Uttar Horin Singha, Gaibandha
Tender Notice
SKS Foundation is inviting tender from a real supplier/vendor for purchasing goods for the Solar Home System of "Lighting the Poor and Disadvantaged Families Living in Char Areas Project", "Expanded Livelihoods for 2000 Poor Households and Increased Resilience to Flooding in Lalmonirhat District" and "Expanding Livelihoods and Increasing Resilience to Flooding and River Erosion of 5000 Poor Island Households in Gaibandha District" supported by Andheri- Hilfe Bonn, Germany. Detail Terms and conditions, particulars, and quantity will be mentioned in the schedule. A schedule will be collected from SKS Head Office, College Road, Uttar Harin Singha, Gaibandha (Admin Department) from 21/03/2024 to 04/04/2024 (Last time-12:00 pm on 04/04/2024). Rate of schedule: 500/- (Not returnable). It is requested to drop the schedule in the tender box on mentioned dates and the tender will open at 1:00 pm on 04/04/2024 in the presence of the bidder (if anybody is present). Authority reserves the right to accept or cancel fully/partially all the schedules without assigning any reasons.

Convener-Procurement Committee
SKS Foundation, Gaibandha.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com, Web: www.pksf.org.bd
Memo No: 53.23.0000.001.03.028.24.1728
Date: 20 March 2024

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

Country: The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Name of the project: Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)
Credit No.: IDA-7300
Assignment Title: Selection of Firm for the Baseline Study
Reference No. PKSF/SMART/S-02

1. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

2. The consulting services ("the Services") include (but not limited to) reviewing the existing literature (policies, rules & regulations, reports, etc.) and sources of financing of microenterprises and finding out ways for widening the financing sources, collecting relevant baseline data for project indicators with definition, measurement, and calculation plan and also, state the possible counterfactual that might affect the project impact for each indicator in the future, identifying the present socio-economic, business and environmental conditions of microenterprises in different sectors and/or sub-sectors etc.

The assignment will require an estimated of 28 professional staff-months as per the assignment requirement mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The assignment will require work for 06 (six) months over a period of 01 (one) year. The assignment is expected to be started from October 2024.

3. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from the PKSF website (www.pksf.org.bd/tender).

4. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: General experience, Experience in similar assignments, Experience in conducting similar studies under multilateral development partner (The World Bank/ UN agencies) funded projects, and Experience of conducting baseline study for Microenterprise-development related projects.

Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- Up-to-date relevant registration papers of the firm(s);
- JV agreement/ letter of intent along with the proposed JV agreement (if applicable);
- Firm's brochure including staffing;
- Relevant experience record of Last five (05) years (including name of the assignment, scope, contract amount, name of the client, total input in terms of man-month, period of contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location of the services, name of the development partner (as applicable) etc.)
- Audited financial reports for the last three (03) completed financial years (Balance sheet, Statement of cash flows, Profit & loss statement etc.);
- All other items necessary to substantiate satisfaction of the shortlisting criteria listed above; However, Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage;

5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" September 2023 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

6. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint-venture or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. In case of an association, all members of such "association" must have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and in such "association" it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of 02 (Two). Notably, the qualifications of sub-consultants will not be considered in the EOI evaluation and shortlisting process.

7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.

8. Further information can be obtained at the address below either by e-mail or in person during office hours: 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

9. Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form (Hard copy along with a soft copy through flash-drive) to the address of the undersigned (in person, or by courier mail) by 08 April 2024 on or before 13:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

10. The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(AQM Golam Mawla)
Deputy Managing Director
Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com