# Bengali Pitha and Sides

By Mahabuba Akhter

# **CHOTTPOTI**

# **Ingredients**

1 cup dried sweet pea (soaked in water overnight)

1 mashed red potato, with skin

2 hard-boiled eggs, sliced

1 medium onion, chopped

1 tomato, chopped

6 cloves garlic, sliced

½ bunch of green onion

½ bunch cilantro

1 green chili

2 bay leaves (tej patta) ½ tsp cumin powder

A pinch of red chili powder

A pinch of turmeric powder

A pinch of brown sugar

Salt to taste

1 tbsp cooking oil (canola or olive oil)

½ tsp ginger paste

4 tsp of tamarind juice

1 tsp cumin seeds (dry roasted & ground)

# Steps

- 1. Soak the dried sweet peas in water overnight, then boil them with 2 cups of water for 30 mins
- 2. Heat oil in a pan & sauté onion until it is light brown, and then add the sliced garlic and fry until it turns golden and releases a wonderful aroma. Then add bay leaf, ginger paste, and other spices and sauté for a minute.
- 3. Add tomato paste and the rest of the spices and salt. Cook until oil begins to separate.
- 4. Add the mashed potato along with the boiled sweet peas. Boil on a high heat for 3 to 4 mins. Lower heat and simmer for 2-3 mins. Cook until you get the desired gravy consistency.
- 5. Garnish with finely chopped green onion and green chili, cilantro, sliced egg, chopped tomato, and tamarind juice.

# **MANGO LASSHI**

### **Ingredients**

Canned mango pulp\*

Plain yogurt\*

Water\*

A pinch salt

1 tbsp brown sugar

1 lime (juice)

A few leaves of mint

\*Use equal amounts of mango, yogurt, and water. 1-2 cups of each is suggested.

#### Steps

Blend all together to make fresh and delicious mango lasshi

# BENGALI PATISHAPTA PITHA (PIE)

### FOR THE FILLING

# **Ingredients**

1 tub ricotta cheese

1 can sweetened condensed milk

2 tsp sugar

6 tsp rice flour

2 tsp ghee

1 shredded coconut

10 pods of cardamom, freshly ground

# Steps

Fry rice flour in a dry pan until it is light brown. Mix the ingredients all together and put it on stove on medium low heat and stir continuously for an hour until it is semisolid.

When it is sticky and semisolid, it is ready as a filling

# FOR THE WRAPPER

# **Ingredients**

1/2 lb rice flour 1/2 lb all-purpose flour

A pinch of salt

 $1\; \mathrm{tsp}\; \mathrm{sugar}$ 

2 eggs

1/2 liter lukewarm water

1 cup oil or butter

#### Steps

Mix the ingredients together and allow them to sit for 1/2 hour. Heat a nonstick frying pan. Soak a brush with oil or butter and brush the frying pan. Take one big spoon of batter and pour on the hot frying pan. Immediately rotate the pan to spread the batter evenly over the pan. When the bottom layer get brownish it will be done. Then put the filling inside and wrap it.