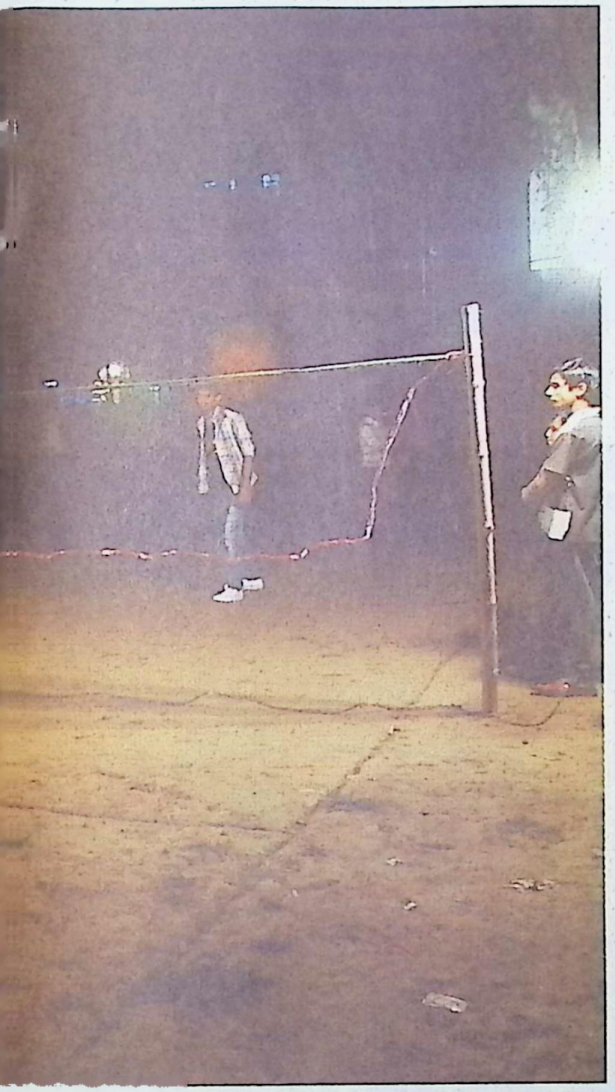


PHOTO: YAMIN TAUSEEF JAHANGIR

crunching under your feet triggers a sense of nostalgia as one looks back and begins to stack memories into neat piles. There is also a rush of renewal, a rush of something new about to happen. Right now, the year-end feeling is everywhere you look. And it will keep us Dhakaites on our feet as we try to catch hold of this elusive season as best as we can.

One of the many attractions of winter lies in its power to bring people together. Schools are out and big plans fall into place. What with all the activities that are special to winter only, families and friends come together to wrap up the year in their own ways. In a culture where it is all about belonging to each other, gatherings and re-unions, big and small are most looked forwarded to during the festive season. The biggest of them all are of course, weddings. Fairy lights of blue, red and gold wrap entire buildings and sometimes the entire length of a street, ushering in the glamour and glitz of the wedding season. Electricity woes are forgotten during the cool weather, allowing decorators to take full advantage of the lights that glitter away deep into the night. The month of December sees packed wedding dates and illuminated buildings around every street of a residential area. Out come the social butterflies while the reclusive ones shirk away, looking down upon what is thought to be an unnecessary affair of noise and chaos. The best friend and the special cousin flies home to be part of the celebration where more new matches for the eligible singles will be made. So packed are the weddings that it is a miracle that one finds the venue of choice free on a desired date. Raihan Mahmud, a banker soon to lose his bachelorhood, shares the mad chase for the venue of his choice. "We have always wanted a winter wedding at Shenakunja. We have been looking for an empty slot since the beginning of this year but they kept telling us they were booked for the entire season. Apparently, we were late for the bookings."

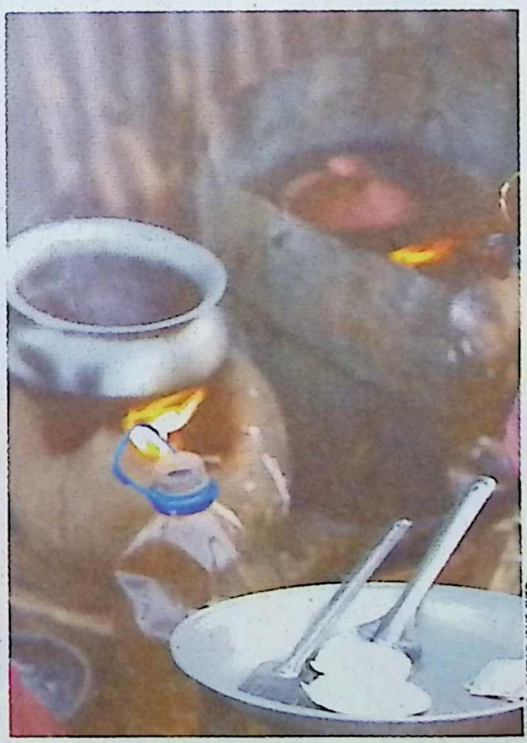


PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SYED

Hot plates of *pitha* by the roadside is hard to say no to.