an inseparable part about winter in Bangladesh. Today's Dhaka may not be as involved with the affairs of *Nobanno Utshob* or *Poush Shonkranti*, both festivals that welcome winter with *pitha* and other delicacies. It is, however, not alien to regular *pitha uthshob*s that are held all over the city, from university campuses to any open space. Dhaka University organises one of the biggest *pitha uthshob* on the premises of Institute of Fine Arts, popularly known as Charukola, where anyone with the magic hands needed to make *pitha* can participate. Our streets take on a different look too, as men and women sell freshly made *pitha* sitting in makeshift stalls, while some are armed with only a simple pan and clay stove. The queues that form for this wonderful winter delicacy is hard to miss and more people crowd around to try out for themselves and entice their taste buds. Some taste sweet, dripping in honey, while some are fiercely hot on the tongue, and they are the perfect munchies that warm you up right to the core on a chilly evening. Having *pitha*, whether you are huddled among friends by a makeshift stall or trying out its many variations that your mom made right at home is a social activity that people of all ages enjoy. It is just one of the many ways that winter brings people closer.

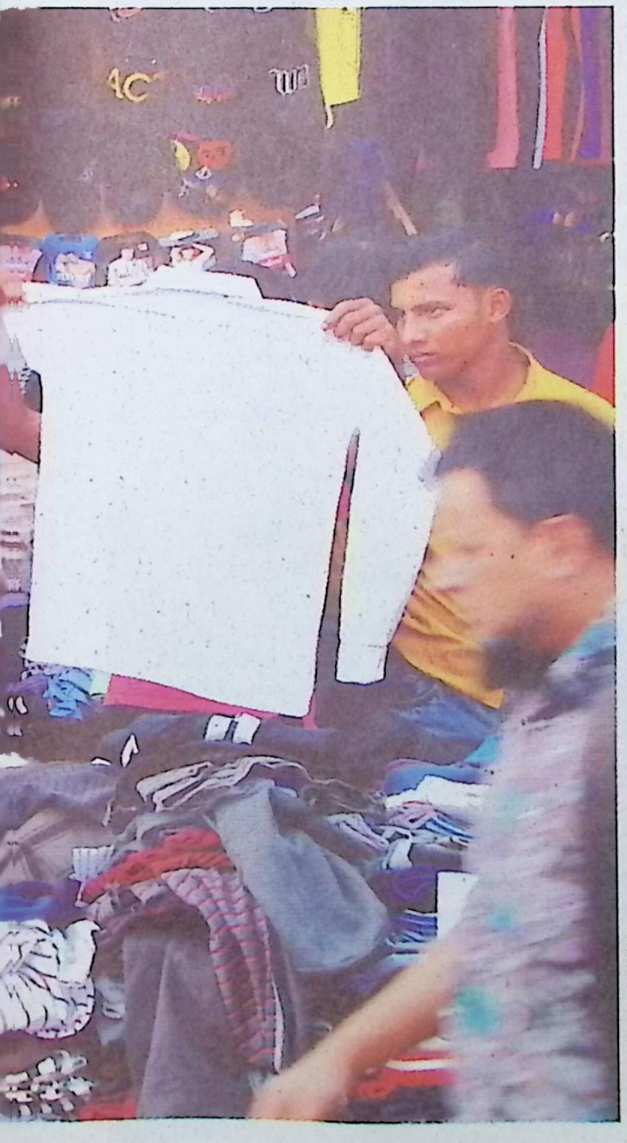


PHOTO: YAMIN TAUSEEF JAHANGIR



PHOTO: SAZZAD IMNE SYED

The enduring beauty of winter find its unmistakable presence in our busy lives.

Badminton, the favourite winter sport returns once more, and it is wonderful how it creates strong camaraderie among the teens and adults of different neighbourhoods. Just when you mourned over the alienation that modern urban life faces, the lights from a badminton court, which that has been chalked out on some dead-end street or the rooftop, lure out faces that were strange just the previous day. The swooshing sounds of rackets as they slice through the air and the squeak of sneakers on the pavement beckon the shyest boy or girl from his or her room. The younger ones patiently wait out their turn as *apu*s and *bhaiyas* battle each other, and soon names are remembered and cheered. Ladies too are seen out on the courts,