



Nirob, Actor
"I am delighted to be here, it is a great idea to host such a festival. This event reminds me of when I go to my village; my mother makes special *Pithas* for me. I grew up with the *Pithas* my mother made, that's why I only prefer to eat homemade ones. Since I have a sweet tooth, I love all kinds of *Pithas*! If I had to pick three of my most favorite, they would be *Bhapa Pitha*, *Taler Pitha* and *Patishapta Pitha*. I am enjoying every moment here!"

Somnur Monir Konal, Singer
"I loved the *Pitha* festival as it brought back memories of my mother's homemade *Pithas*. Furthermore, it showcased our culture really well, which is very important as the younger generation is becoming more and more distant from it. The festival, I believe, was a source of infotainment, as it portrayed a large part of our culture in a very enjoyable manner. I hope to see more of such festivals in the future."



Sumaiya Shimu, Actor & model
"I enjoyed the *Pitha* fest very much, as I have always been a fan of *Pithas*. I would ask my mother to make *Pithas* for me when I was younger. I remember waiting for winter eagerly, as I would get to eat *Pithas* at different functions. I like all varieties of *Pithas*, but my favourites are the ones that my mother used to make when I was a child. One that I really loved, was *Pakan Pitha*. This festival really brought back all those memories."

Zakiya Sultana Kornia, Singer
"I would always pester my grandmother to make *Pithas* for me. So, I really enjoyed the *Pitha* festival. It was quite different from the other ones I attended. There was music for people to listen to and a separate corner for children to play. The environment was really pleasant and the families seemed to enjoy it immensely. When I was younger, my grandmother would always make *Dudh Chitui* for me, so the festival really brought back many memories."



Sadika Parvin Popy, Actor
"The *Pitha* festival was not merely a festival, but a celebration of our culture. I enjoyed the festival immensely and it was an amazing break from my monotonous daily routine. *Pithas* are an important part of our heritage and so, this event is a way of celebrating our culture. I believe that presenting our traditions in this manner will keep our heritage alive. As a Bengali, I do hope our customs are not lost over time."



Nabila, Actor
"I am very delighted to be here. I love having *Kola Pitha* and even today, I got the opportunity to have it. I cannot make *Pithas* on my own but I really enjoy having *Pithas* made by my grandmother. *Pitha* represents our culture and heritage. We find *Pithas* in villages, but it is very hard to get them in the city. This fest has given us the chance to connect to our tradition and I thank the organizers for coming up with this initiative."

Doyal, Actor & model,
"The entire festival is nothing like I have seen before. Honestly, we are not related with *Pithas* nowadays, not



even in winter. I really liked the kids' zone. I think for this addition, both parents and children can enjoy the fest properly. We want this fest to happen every year."

Naila Azad Nupur, Actor
"I am really enjoying this fest. I think it is a really great event for spending your leisure time in the evening on a weekend. I love the presence of people at the fest. The environment is so entertaining and the entire combination of *Pithas*, stage performances, lifestyle stalls and kids' zone is lifting the festive vibes. Actually, it is really different to have so many things in one place, in a busy town like Dhaka."



Ziaul Roshan, Actor
"I will forever be in love with *Pithas*. During my childhood, *Pitha* was a big part of my life. I used to impatiently await the arrival of winter, as it meant we could go to my village and dwell upon my different types of *Pithas*. However, since shifting to Dhaka, you do not get that anticipation or joy of having *Pithas* like we did back in our village. And I barely get to visit my village, further why such an event was long overdue for us city people to rekindle our bond and heritage we have with *Pithas*. I enjoy all types of *Pithas*, and enjoyed the initiative taken by *The Daily Star*."

Kishore, Singer
"I am delighted to attend such a fruitful festival, as *Pitha* represents a part of our culture and tradition. In fact, I am thrilled by any event that aids in promoting the culture and heritage of Bangladesh. This reminds me of back when my cousins and I used to get together and eat numerous types of *Pithas*. To be honest, *Pithas* are still very popular in the village areas during winter. I feel that it still has a place within us city-dwellers, as we do see them being sold in shops here and there, maybe it does not have that same feel it used to when making them at home."



Heera, Model
"It feels great to be here. Overall, the atmosphere is exciting. Listening to music and enjoying the delicious *Pithas* is giving me the festive vibes. I think this is a great fest to spend time with your friends and family."

By Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub, Shreya Shomoyeeta, Zaheen Araf Taseer & Farhan Sakib