

415,000!!!! — THE FOODIE FOOTFALL AT BIRYANI & KEBAB FESTIVAL 2014, PRESENTED BY t2 AND CITY CENTRE



"Royal is Royal. Period."
— *Sukeshra Sinha, 55, Thakurpukur*
"I just love Aminia biryani. No one can beat them!"
— *Thyasha, 23, Gariahat*
"I am a vegetarian but I couldn't resist the Chicken Chaamp from New Aliah Hotel. This is heavenly!" — *a 25-year-old girl who didn't want to be named*

The first time, the loyalist, the experimenter, the enthusiast... The Biryani & Kebab Festival 2014, presented by t2 and City Centre, had all kinds of biryani buffets queuing up for a lot more than a morsel at City Centre Salt Lake and New Town from January 31 to February 2.

Twelve popular biryani stops from across town served up biryani, kebab, chaamp and firni as foodies gathered with their friends and families to sample, savour and fight over their favourite dish. The best part of the festival? "You got all kinds of biryani in one place. So we got to try Oudh 1590, Krazy Kebab and Mezban, places that we had heard about but never managed to check out," said Salt Lake resident Swarnali Chaudhuri.

At the end of three days, the two City Centre venues had jointly clocked 415,000 footfalls.

THE DELICIOUS DOZEN



CITY CENTRE SALT LAKE

- India Restaurant Kidderpore
- Lazeez
- Zeeshan
- Mezban
- New Aliah Hotel
- Krazy Kebab
- Aminia
- Oudh 1590
- Shiraz
- Royal Indian Restaurant
- Tamarind
- Dawat

CITY CENTRE NEW TOWN

- India Restaurant Kidderpore
- Lazeez
- Zeeshan
- Mezban
- New Aliah Hotel
- Krazy Kebab
- Aminia
- Oudh 1590
- Shiraz



In her own words, she's a biryani connoisseur and there's no way (right) Rai Sarkar would have missed this festival. "Biryani is my life and Calcuttans are born to eat biryani," said Rai, a student at KPC Medical College and Hospital. With her at City Centre New Town were school buddies Alakananda Maitra and Patralekha Das. "I study medicine in Karnataka and I only get to eat curd rice. There was no way I was going to miss it," said Patralekha (left).



Kachchi Biryani from India Restaurant Kidderpore for her kebabs from Aminia for him. For Siddharth and Nilanjana Roy, who got married last month, the biryani festival turned out to be the best place for some us-time. "We also got discounts for being Club Solitaire members," said Siddharth, at City Centre Salt Lake.

The Chopras and Sehgal of CIT Road booked themselves a biryani lunch date on Sunday after reading about it in The Telegraph. "We all love biryani and hence nothing like spending a Sunday afternoon at City Centre Salt Lake among so many iconic biryani places," said Ashis Chopra (in red tee), taking in a mouthful of biryani from Oudh 1590.



Sushovan Dey (far right) had an evening flight to Bangalore to catch but his foodie buddies made sure he didn't leave without a bite of the biryani festival. (L-R) Sanghamitra, Someswar and Arghya got Sushovan — and his luggage — to City Centre Salt Lake before seeing him off at the airport. "What better way to make him miss the city and plan another visit soon than treating him to our Calcutta biryani?" chorused his friends.

Paromita Sengupta got food packed for home. "I am yet to choose the kebabs but I have got biryani from Shiraz. That's a place everybody speaks about and so it is a safe choice," said the Keshtopur resident.



Mother-daughter duo Sheryl and Ira from Barackpore lapped up Chicki Afghani Kebabs from Krazy Kebab, City Centre New Town. "This is real tasty, you should try it too. In fact you can have anything from any stall. They all taste damn good!" smiled Class III student Ira.



Priyanka Jaiswal stays in South City Pootam lives in Rajarhat. On Sunday the sisters met at City Centre New Town to check out the Biryani & Kebab Festival. Their first stop: Shiraz. "We love the biryani from Shiraz. They make the best biryani town. Period," said Priyanka (in green). For kebabs they went to New Aliah Hotel as they had "heard a lot about this place but never got the chance to try their food". Chicken Tikka Kebab from New Aliah made them happy.



Little Anubhav was focused on his Mutton Biryani.

FOOD

FROM PAGE 24



Four school friends now studying in different colleges had a lip-smacking reunion at City Centre New Town. "We love biryani and kebab, and we are planning to hog as much as we can! It is a lovely start to our day. It is the first time I tried Oudh 1590 and loved every bit of it," said Pritha Saha (second from left), a third-year student of multimedia at St. Xavier's College.



Sisters Prosidhi (left) and Neha Sarkar from Barasat enjoyed Mutton Biryani from Mezban. "Just the smell of biryani makes us hungry," confessed Prosidhi.



It was their first taste of Shiraz's biryani, of which they had heard a lot. "We have never tasted the Shiraz biryani and thanks to this festival we got the opportunity to try several varieties of biryani," said Dhanwant (right), who dropped in with friends Abhishek and Anubha at City Centre New Town. The sweet ending to the meal was a bowl of firni.



It was a special Sunday for the Sinha Roys — Adrija Prasad and Moumita — which they celebrated with son Anubhav over platefuls of biryani and kebabs at City Centre New Town. "When we heard a biryani festival was going on at City Centre, we decided to come over. This was the best way to spend our wedding anniversary!" smiled Adrija. Their munch menu had Mutton Biryani from Shiraz and Chicken Peshawari Kebab from New Aliah.



City Centre Salt Lake became the reunion ground for South Pointers (clockwise from left) Agniva, Pritha, Bitan and Ankan. The school friends had a blast bonding over biryani and kebabs from Aminia and Krazy Kebab. "This festival rocks! We love biryani. Pritha has polished off her plate and is now eyeing Bitan's," said Agniva.



Ridhima is just nine months old but has already become a fan of Calcutta biryani. "We got Ilish Biryani from Dawat and Ridhima is also enjoying the soft biryani rice," said proud daddy Rajib Mullick.



Their agenda was to try out places they hadn't been to. So, the eat-list of friends (L-R) Kaustavi, Kamalika and Somrita had biryani from Oudh 1590 and Royal, kebabs from Mezban, and firni from Zeeshan. "Thank you t2 for creating such wonderful events! This festival should continue through the year," said Somrita.



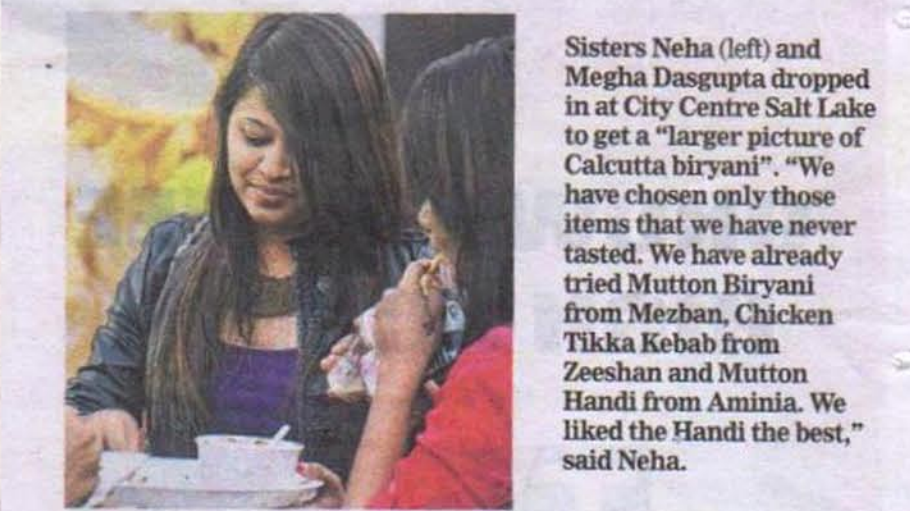
India Restaurant Kidderpore had long been on the must-try list of Mani and Piya and the Park Circus residents finally had their fill at City Centre Salt Lake. "This is awesome! We wish the festival had continued for a few more days," said Piya, who also tried the biryani from New Aliah.



(L-R) Cousins Chhandosee Ganguly, Kinkini Ghoshal, Nilakhi Mukherjee and Shreyasi Mukherjee had a hearty lunch at their *mamabari* but there can always be room for some biryani-kebab. The gang of girls hit City Centre New Town. "We always have biryani, so today we thought of trying some paratha and Mutton Chaamp from Mezban," said Shreyasi.



"We are having biryani from Aminia and Shiraz, and kebabs from New Aliah. I have had biryani in many cities but Calcutta is the best," said Ritwik (right), who has come visiting from the US along with his parents Nirupam and Kumkum Routh. Family friend and Dum Dum resident Soma (left) brought them to City Centre New Town to feast on biryani and kebabs from some of the best places in town.



Sisters Neha (left) and Megha Dasgupta dropped in at City Centre Salt Lake to get a "larger picture of Calcutta biryani". "We have chosen only those items that we have never tasted. We have already tried Mutton Biryani from Mezban, Chicken Tikka Kebab from Zeeshan and Mutton Handi from Aminia. We liked the Handi the best," said Neha.

Text: Sibendu Das and Samabrta Sen
Pictures: Rashbehari Das, Pabitra Das, Anindya Shankar Ray and Chanchal Ghosh

415,000!!!! — THE FOODIE FOOTFALL AT BIRYANI & KEBAB FESTIVAL 2014, PRESENTED BY t2 AND CITY CENTRE



"Royal is Royal. Period."
— *Sukeshra Sinha, 55, Thakurpukur*
"I just love Aminia biryani. No one can beat them!"
— *Thyasha, 23, Gariahat*
"I am a vegetarian but I couldn't resist the Chicken Chaamp from New Aliah Hotel. This is heavenly!" — *a 25-year-old girl who didn't want to be named*

The first time, the loyalist, the experimenter, the enthusiast... The Biryani & Kebab Festival 2014, presented by t2 and City Centre, had all kinds of biryani buffets queuing up for a lot more than a morsel at City Centre Salt Lake and New Town from January 31 to February 2.

Twelve popular biryani stops from across town served up biryani, kebab, chaamp and firni as foodies gathered with their friends and families to sample, savour and fight over their favourite dish. The best part of the festival? "You got all kinds of biryani in one place. So we got to try Oudh 1590, Krazy Kebab and Mezban, places that we had heard about but never managed to check out," said Salt Lake resident Swarnali Chaudhuri.

At the end of three days, the two City Centre venues had jointly clocked 415,000 footfalls.

THE DELICIOUS DOZEN



CITY CENTRE SALT LAKE

- India Restaurant Kidderpore
- Lazeez
- Zeeshan
- Mezban
- New Aliah Hotel
- Krazy Kebab
- Aminia
- Oudh 1590
- Shiraz
- Royal Indian Restaurant
- Tamarind
- Dawat

CITY CENTRE NEW TOWN

- India Restaurant Kidderpore
- Lazeez
- Zeeshan
- Mezban
- New Aliah Hotel
- Krazy Kebab
- Aminia
- Oudh 1590
- Shiraz



In her own words, she's a biryani connoisseur and there's no way (right) Rai Sarkar would have missed this festival. "Biryani is my life and Calcuttans are born to eat biryani," said Rai, a student at KPC Medical College and Hospital. With her at City Centre New Town were school buddies Alakananda Maitra and Patralekha Das. "I study medicine in Karnataka and I only get to eat curd rice. There was no way I was going to miss it," said Patralekha (left).



Kachchi Biryani from India Restaurant Kidderpore for her kebabs from Aminia for him. For Siddharth and Nilanjana Roy, who got married last month, the biryani festival turned out to be the best place for some us-time. "We also got discounts for being Club Solitaire members," said Siddharth, at City Centre Salt Lake.

The Chopras and Sehgal of CIT Road booked themselves a biryani lunch date on Sunday after reading about it in The Telegraph. "We all love biryani and hence nothing like spending a Sunday afternoon at City Centre Salt Lake among so many iconic biryani places," said Ashis Chopra (in red tee), taking in a mouthful of biryani from Oudh 1590.



Sushovan Dey (far right) had an evening flight to Bangalore to catch but his foodie buddies made sure he didn't leave without a bite of the biryani festival. (L-R) Sanghamitra, Someswar and Arghya got Sushovan — and his luggage — to City Centre Salt Lake before seeing him off at the airport. "What better way to make him miss the city and plan another visit soon than treating him to our Calcutta biryani?" chorused his friends.

Paromita Sengupta got food packed for home. "I am yet to choose the kebabs but I have got biryani from Shiraz. That's a place everybody speaks about and so it is a safe choice," said the Keshtopur resident.



Mother-daughter duo Sheryl and Ira from Barackpore lapped up Chicki Afghani Kebabs from Krazy Kebab, City Centre New Town. "This is real tasty, you should try it too. In fact you can have anything from any stall. They all taste damn good!" smiled Class III student Ira.



Priyanka Jaiswal stays in South City Pootam lives in Rajarhat. On Sunday the sisters met at City Centre New Town to check out the Biryani & Kebab Festival. Their first stop: Shiraz. "We love the biryani from Shiraz. They make the best biryani town. Period," said Priyanka (in green). For kebabs they went to New Aliah Hotel as they had "heard a lot about this place but never got the chance to try their food". Chicken Tikka Kebab from New Aliah made them happy.



Little Anubhav was focused on his Mutton Biryani.

FOOD

FROM PAGE 24



Four school friends now studying in different colleges had a lip-smacking reunion at City Centre New Town. "We love biryani and kebab, and we are planning to hog as much as we can! It is a lovely start to our day. It is the first time I tried Oudh 1590 and loved every bit of it," said Pritha Saha (second from left), a third-year student of multimedia at St. Xavier's College.



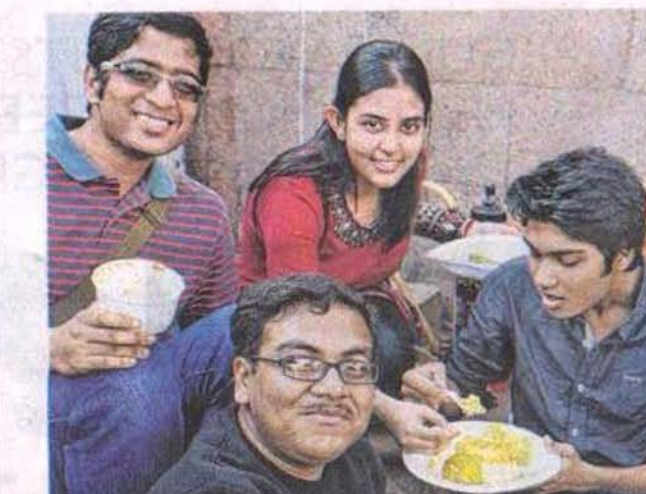
Sisters Prosidhi (left) and Neha Sarkar from Barasat enjoyed Mutton Biryani from Mezban. "Just the smell of biryani makes us hungry," confessed Prosidhi.



It was their first taste of Shiraz's biryani, of which they had heard a lot. "We have never tasted the Shiraz biryani and thanks to this festival we got the opportunity to try several varieties of biryani," said Dhanwant (right), who dropped in with friends Abhishek and Anubha at City Centre New Town. The sweet ending to the meal was a bowl of firni.



It was a special Sunday for the Sinha Roys — Adrija Prasad and Moumita — which they celebrated with son Anubhav over platefuls of biryani and kebabs at City Centre New Town. "When we heard a biryani festival was going on at City Centre, we decided to come over. This was the best way to spend our wedding anniversary!" smiled Adrija. Their munch menu had Mutton Biryani from Shiraz and Chicken Peshawari Kebab from New Aliah.



City Centre Salt Lake became the reunion ground for South Pointers (clockwise from left) Agniva, Pritha, Bitan and Ankan. The school friends had a blast bonding over biryani and kebabs from Aminia and Krazy Kebab. "This festival rocks! We love biryani. Pritha has polished off her plate and is now eyeing Bitan's," said Agniva.



Ridhima is just nine months old but has already become a fan of Calcutta biryani. "We got Ilish Biryani from Dawat and Ridhima is also enjoying the soft biryani rice," said proud daddy Rajib Mullick.



Their agenda was to try out places they hadn't been to. So, the eat-list of friends (L-R) Kaustavi, Kamalika and Somrita had biryani from Oudh 1590 and Royal, kebabs from Mezban, and firni from Zeeshan. "Thank you t2 for creating such wonderful events! This festival should continue through the year," said Somrita.



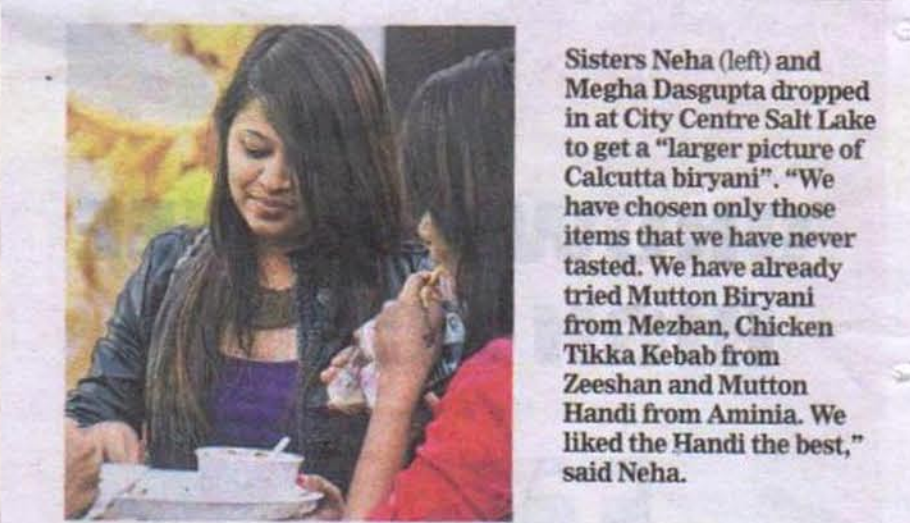
India Restaurant Kidderpore had long been on the must-try list of Mani and Piya and the Park Circus residents finally had their fill at City Centre Salt Lake. "This is awesome! We wish the festival had continued for a few more days," said Piya, who also tried the biryani from New Aliah.



(L-R) Cousins Chhandosee Ganguly, Kinkini Ghoshal, Nilakhi Mukherjee and Shreyasi Mukherjee had a hearty lunch at their *mamabari* but there can always be room for some biryani-kebab. The gang of girls hit City Centre New Town. "We always have biryani, so today we thought of trying some paratha and Mutton Chaamp from Mezban," said Shreyasi.



"We are having biryani from Aminia and Shiraz, and kebabs from New Aliah. I have had biryani in many cities but Calcutta is the best," said Ritwik (right), who has come visiting from the US along with his parents Nirupam and Kumkum Routh. Family friend and Dum Dum resident Soma (left) brought them to City Centre New Town to feast on biryani and kebabs from some of the best places in town.



Sisters Neha (left) and Megha Dasgupta dropped in at City Centre Salt Lake to get a "larger picture of Calcutta biryani". "We have chosen only those items that we have never tasted. We have already tried Mutton Biryani from Mezban, Chicken Tikka Kebab from Zeeshan and Mutton Handi from Aminia. We liked the Handi the best," said Neha.

Text: Sibendu Das and Samabrta Sen
Pictures: Rashbehari Das, Pabitra Das, Anindya Shankar Ray and Chanchal Ghosh