

SPOTLIGHT

Grocery shopping on the internet



A situation where going outside means taking a risk and requires a lot of protective measures is no more just imagination, and regular activities like picking up the groceries have become difficult. And that is the exact problem that online grocery stores are solving for us. Practically all essential grocery items are delivered to one's doorstep in a matter of hours. These are some of the names you can browse to find one that suits your needs the best.

Chaldal and Khaas Food

Chaldal.com is one of the first online grocers in Bangladesh. The online market offers a diverse range of items, including fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, beverages, cooking assistance and home appliances, cleaning products, office items, and so on. The market also keeps pet care items, baby care, and other healthcare necessities to make self-care easier during this lockdown.

Similarly, Khaas Food offers buyers healthy and fresh edible produce, starting from a variety of oils, honey, pure ghee to dry fruits and fish, juice, organic tea, and other daily staples.

Both online grocers make getting groceries delivered much easier with payment options of bKash, credit/debit cards, and cash on delivery.

Aladeiin.com

The newer player on the block is Aladeiin.com, who have broadened their scope and added everyday grocery items in their products basket since the pandemic situation caused a general lockdown. Starting off with initially offering only branded electronics for delivery, the online marketplace has expanded, realising the need of the hour. Taking into

consideration the current situation of the country, the CEO of Aladeiin.com, Shafkat Hossain encourages his customers to stay home, promising the "best product in the fastest possible time."

The online market is slowly scaling up, keeping in mind not to compromise the quality of the product. As of now, dry items, rice, potatoes, lentils, cooking oils and spices, baked goods and other staples are available. The market is holding off on the poultry produce for now, but makes up for it with its diverse range of self-care and personal care items.

Starting from trimmers and hair dryers to daily gadgets like Bluetooth speakers, gaming equipment to smartwatches, Aladeiin.com has everything to keep quarantined life as comfortable as possible. Moreover, the electronics come with warranty and installation services.

With their own team operating under all precautionary and safety guidelines, deliveries are made within hours, offering a discount coupon for customers shopping over Tk 2,500 with both digital and physical options for payment.

Shwapno.com and Meena Click

Being well-known for their physical outlets, the super-shop chains, Shwapno and Meena Bazar both provide a range of daily staples including meat and vegetables, dairy and bakery products, frozen foods and other necessities. It only becomes more convenient when these stores offer the same desirable service online in various parts of the country.

Shwapno has also launched "pandamart," an on-demand grocery and medicine delivery service, with foodpanda to give customers access to a range of daily essentials and medicines, household

necessities, frozen and fresh food being delivered straight to their doorstep. Similarly, Pathao has relaunched its instant grocery delivery service, 'Tong,' partnering with Shwapno. In a matter of minutes, users of these apps can have groceries and snacks ordered easily.

Daraz Grocer Shop and Othoba.com

Daraz has facilitated an online grocery shopping line, Daraz Grocer Shop, keeping up with public demand, providing canned, dry and packaged food, beverages, breakfast items etc.

Both Daraz and othoba.com allow buyers to filter their groceries according to brand and their price range. This not only makes it easier for buyers to find their desired product, but also makes shopping on a budget easier.

DeliveryHobe

The e-commerce website and food delivery service promises to delivering goods within an hour. Starting from groceries, baby products and pet products to electronics, DeliveryHobe has options for anyone looking for supplies in a hurry.

Their lockdown essentials category includes items to make this lockdown period more fruitful. Consoles, playing cards, Pokémon trading cards and other indoor games are easily available on their website.

As the world evolves, so does shopping. With a pandemic at play, grocery stores have adapted to making life a little easier for the rest of us. Any of these e-grocery platforms are sure to keep our houses well-stocked, productive, and running without a glitch.

By Puja Sarkar

Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

LS PLANNER

Prepping for Eid: the final stretch

Eid this year may feel joyless for those who are used to the hustle and bustle of shopping and prepping for the big day. The spirit of Eid does not lie in how much one can buy, but rather in being appreciative of what one has. With just a handful of days left before the grand day, it's time to plan with purpose and intent to make the best of this celebration within limited means.

PRODUCTIVITY

One final sweep and scrub

Your home on Eid Day this year may not have the typical footfall, but that does not mean leaving things as they are. Beside the daily and weekly clean ups, don't forget to get out a new set of curtains, table linen, or living room essentials.

Meal prep

Instead of keeping all meal prep for Eid morning, start early and store them in your refrigerator. When preparing, be sure to do it for the days to follow as well. If you want to try out a new recipe, an early trial is also a good idea. Other than salads and dishes that require fresh fruits and vegetables, protein and carbohydrate rich dishes can all be

prepared beforehand.

Digital organising

For the last month, the smartphones, tablets and computers around the home have become the central hub of work and leisure. Take some time to sort out the digital clutter in them. Without fail, there are bound to be blurry photos, useless screenshots that you have no recollection of why you took them, to apps that you installed on a whim — delete these if you are looking for a simple decluttering solution. For an added step up, let the antivirus software run a check. An hour or two spent on your gadgets can save you tonnes of hardship in the coming days.

FOR THE CHILDREN

To keep up the Eid spirit, encourage children to decorate their rooms to their best capacity. Rather than distracting them, opt to involve the youngsters in whatever activity that you are doing around the house. To keep boredom at bay, when Eid day comes, bring out the best clothes, enjoy a meal with a hearty cheer, do everything that is possible to do. Honestly, this has not been an enjoyable



Ramadan in any way for most children.

However, that does not mean that there is no positive takeaway from this situation. One key lesson from all of this should be that the home belongs to everyone, and so, the responsibilities and chores fall on everyone as well.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

A lot of us dive in this holy month with good intentions and rid ourselves of bad habits. We lessen or quit smoking, we are more careful with our language, we wake up for Fajr, reduce our caffeine intake, and so much more. It should be noted that if we can keep it up for a month, we can surely do it for longer periods of time.

You might stray off sometimes, but try your best to stick to these good habits that you build up through this month because that is where the essence of Ramadan lies.

THE FINAL CHECKPOINT

Despite our best efforts to keep up with the daily work and Ramadan rituals, lethargy, disinterest and overall laziness have invaded our lives in more ways than we can imagine. With Eid day fast approaching, the routine is set to change again. Yet, with the ongoing situation, taking every week as it comes has become the norm for most. This continuous state of being stuck in a loop can wreak havoc on the mind without any external signs. If you feel overwhelmed, speak to family and friends. Also, if you happen to know someone who is dealing with things on their own, make an extra effort to reach out to them.

And finally, adhere to rules and regulations set for the day. With Covid-19 still a legitimate health threat, every precautionary measure is set to not only protect an individual, but the families and communities as well.

By Anisha Hassan and Iris Farina

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed