



The power to do more



eBUY 101

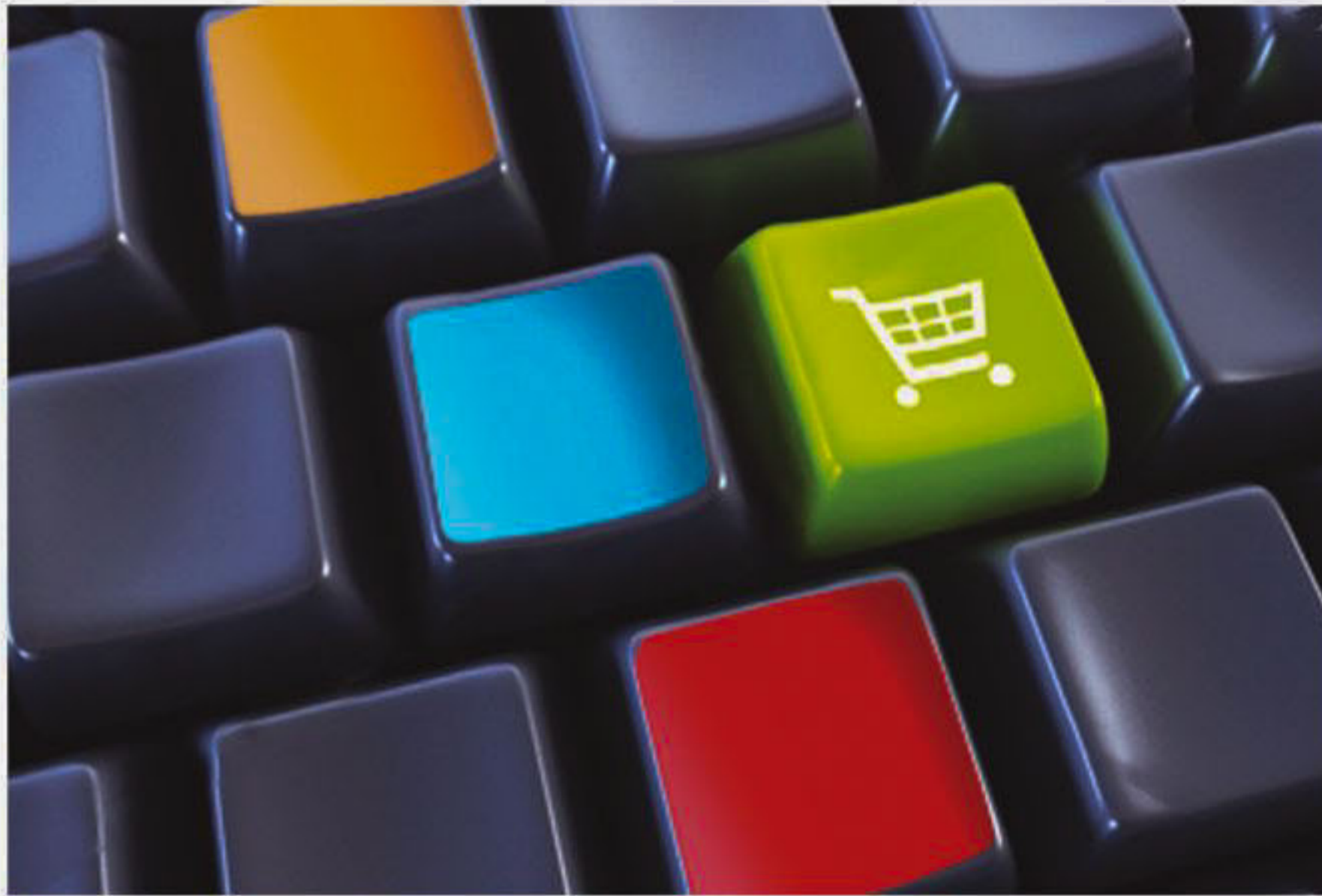
Buying stuff in Bangladesh from sites like ebay and Amazon

Let's start with the Universal Law of Online Shopping: "A product viewed on a monitor screen, in all its shiny online display glory, is going to be at least five times more attractive than it really is. Also, the price you see will not seem like much till you've actually paid for it and the package is already on its way. Despair, wipe off tears, repeat."

Now that you know, and yet you stubbornly stick to your decision that you MUST have that "mint condition", slightly chipped all over Superman action figure (because, face it, you can never have enough action figures, dammit) and you don't know how to buy stuff from eBay, then this article is for you.

It's pretty simple, really. Online purchases require that you have a way of paying for whatever flight of fancy takes its hold of your consumerist side ("I NEEEEEEED the \$300 attachable iPhone camera and flash, my life simply isn't complete without it"). Usually the payment methods are restricted to PayPal, but depending on the eBay seller, certain International Credit Cards may be accepted too. To find out, just head to the "Payment Options" tab on the sale ad, then check if PayPal is accepted.

So how do you get a PayPal account? Well, you can't. PayPal services for Bangladesh is currently suspended, and only accounts with another country's country code can be used to purchase products off eBay. You can open an account, though, but it's a fairly illegal



process and we will not be helping you there.

If you don't want to go through the hassle of opening up a PayPal account, just find someone who has a verified account and is willing to make the purchase for you. The verified account bit is quite important, as some sellers on eBay might not be willing to accept a purchase from an unverified account. The address the package will be delivered to will be the address mentioned in the verified account, so make sure you trust the person who's buying it for you, to hand over the package to you when it gets here.

Shipping it here directly has its risks. Customs officials of our dear country are going to rip apart the package the moment they smell electronics (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) or equally valuable objects (jewelry, for example). Buying online is the easy part, but making sure your package gets delivered to you is a nerve racking experience.

For small phones and electronics, its best to find a friend or relative who is coming back from abroad and make them carry your precious cargo. Under the shipping options tab, first check if the seller is going to ship to your or your carrier's location. In most cases, delivery

within the US is free, but priority mail shipping to Bangladesh will cost you quite a bit of money, so check and compare the shipping rates between two sellers before deciding. Places closer to home, like Hong Kong, will sometimes provide free shipping, even if its priority mail.

Why would you want to buy stuff off eBay if it's so much hassle? Usually, phones and tablets are up to 30% cheaper than the local price, even if you factor in the shipping costs, and oftentimes you'll see something on eBay that hasn't even made it to the local market yet, which means you stand the chance to make a little money off of it if you don't want to use the phone yourself.

This is exactly what many people are doing, using their PayPal accounts to buy stuff online, then reselling them here on Facebook. Prices are a little higher, but at least its justified because of all the trouble these pages save you.

Then there is the Facebook group dedicated to buying things on eBay or Amazon. www.fb.com/groups/bd.ebay.amazon or www.fb.com/groups/amazon.co.bd caters to Facebook users who wants to order items from the UK, the US even India, with their own rates and policies in place that makes it relatively easier to buy things online than having a go at it yourself.

SHAER REAZ

OUYA

The gaming console powered by Android

In an ever competitive console market dominated by the big players such as the Xbox 360, PS3 and the Wii U, lone comes this new pint sized competitor that wants to make its mark. The Ouya (pronounced like Booyah without the B), an Android powered open gaming console, first popped up at the crowd funding website Kickstarter as a poll to gauge how many people were actually interested in it and after an overwhelming response, started its money raising campaign on the site which saw the Ouya project set a record as the fastest to raise \$1 million just within eight hours and raised \$3.7 million in three days. The kickback from the investment was that the console will be priced at only \$99. On June 25, 2013, the Ouya was released to the public. It's only a matter of time after that before it makes its way to Bangladesh.

With the steep rise in mobile gaming thanks to the new breed of smartphones, Ouya looks to improve on that by offering 1080p Full HD visuals for its games, with already a hundred of them ready as launch titles. The hardware on the console itself is good enough considering its price, outfitted with the Nvidia Tegra 3 quad-core processor, 1GB of SDRAM and 8GB flash memory, if that doesn't satiate your thirst and if you're specially the kind of person who needs to have the top notch hardware running on your machines, the Ouya allows you to modify it any way you choose with off the shelf hardware. This is where the word *open* comes in. With their minds set on the console being open, the developers have allowed for the Ouya to be completely open to



customization whether it be the hardware or software, even you can create your own games if you have the coding skills. It also comes with apps such as Flixster, Twitch.tv, Tuneln among others that can be downloaded from its online store via its built-in Wi-Fi and Ethernet support. The games themselves don't come in discs and can only be downloaded online for now. Plus, each and every game each will be offered to you free, you only pay if you really like it and want the complete game. The developers claim that you will never be charged for games unless you CHOOSE to make a purchase. Great news indeed!

Now time to look at the trusty sidekick of every console gamer, the controller. Ouya's controller design can easily be said to resemble and probably derive from the Xbox controller but the added touch pad in the middle of the controller is poised to bring a new dimension to the Ouya experience. You can connect up to four of these controllers and play multiplayer with your friends any time you choose. The Ouya's personalized Android interface also looks very similar to the Xbox dashboard.

The Ouya definitely sets out to be the console that wants to bring the games on our phones and more to the comfort of our living rooms. It is a very intriguing project in itself but only time will tell if it has really tapped into something that resonates with gamers. So would you buy an Ouya and do the features make it a viable choice for the casual gamer? Let us know at our Facebook page.

SAFAT ALAM

TECH TIP

Blowing that dirty pc

Nothing is worse than a PC infested with dirt and debris. Dirt is the ever persistent enemy of electronics. Since we do not have access to Compressed Air cans, there aren't any better cleaning alternatives in Bangladesh to the infamous Leaf Blower. Point to note, the ones selling at 500tk in IDB and various places are not actual electronic blowers. Leaf blowers are not certified for cleaning PCs but if properly operated, they can get the job done.

Why Leaf Blowers are not safe

Leaf blowers are basically a high velocity air mover, like all of its kind, it builds up static electricity from friction. This electrostatic discharge is not safe for electronic devices at all. That is why proper distance has to be maintained while using a blower. Simply dragging your pc out in the backyard and blowing at it from a ridiculously close range is not advisable. Chances are, you will completely get away with it. But nothing good really comes out of pushing one's

luck.

The Correct way to do it

Take your PC to an open space; before starting, remove the hard disk drive from the chassis. HDDs are reported to have a higher chance of failure due to static buildup than other devices.

Number one rule of thumb is to keep a minimum distance of two feet from the target. After having removed the right side panel of your chassis, start from the top left and slowly move your way downwards then shift slightly to the right. Rinse and repeat until the results are satisfactory. Make sure not to move the blower too much, just aim and shoot like in your fps games. The sudden movement can cause air to go out of its way leading to further inconveniences.

Remember to follow these guidelines when.....ahem.....blowing your rig. Maintaining safe distance when doing the servicing is mandatory.



Protip: Obstruct the fans inside your PC by jamming a pencil or using tape. The air makes the fans move anti-clockwise which often causes the bearings to break.

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JUST IN

Intel Ivy Bridge Processor with 'Buy 48' hologram

3rd generation Intel Ivy Bridge Processor is now available in the local market. This Intel Celeron G1610 Dual Core Processor enhances the data-processing speed of the device, with a minimum processing speed of 2.6GHz. Its LGA1155 processor interface provides easy connection to any system. With a 55W, it ensures long lasting and cost-efficient CPU operation. Its integrated graphics core and 2M Cache store all valuable data securely. To avoid fake or unwarranted product, check for the 'Buy 48' holographic sticker in the packs. **Price: Tk. 3,900** with 3 year warranty.

Live Record by AVerMedia external TV card

Looking for a live recordable external TV cards? Well now you can record everything with your AVerMedia PVR A229 Model's TV card. AVerMedia AverTV Box PVR (A229), launched recently in BD, records your favorite shows, dramas, matches, sitcoms etc. Users not only can instantly activate recording, but also can schedule a recording via Scheduler by this digital device. Anyone gets to pause live TV, play from exactly where they left off, skipping those annoying ads. **Price: Tk. 11,000** with one year product warranty facility.



ASUS VivoBook S300CA - powerful & stylish touch screen notebook:

ASUS begins shipping in VivoBook S300CA in Bangladesh. The VivoBook S300CA is a powerful and stylish notebook with a 13.3-inch touch-powered display. Attractive, durable, and portable design plus 1.7 GHz 3rd Gen Intel i5 processor; it has a superb combo. It has excellent performance, touch enabled high-definition display, ASUS SonicMaster audio etc. It also has 4 Gigs RAM, 500 GB HDD; integrated graphics Intel HD 4000, HD webcam, Wi-Fi, USB 3.0 port, HDMI port etc. This cuddly looking notebook comes with Windows 8. **Price: Tk. 64,000/-**

ASUS 4th generation processor supported motherboard

ASUS introduced TUF Series High end motherboard based on the Intel® Z87 Express Chipset for 4th Gen processors. The Sabertooth Z87 features proprietary ASUS-developed thermal designs to deliver enhanced cooling, stability, and reliability. They pass demanding military component and server-grade system operation durability tests. Features include 10K Black Metallic capacitors and highly survivable chokes and MOSFETs. The motherboard supports 32GB of RAM through 4 DDR-3 RAM slots, PCI-Express 3.0, 6 SATA 6Gb/s ports, 6 USB 3.0 ports and NVIDIA's SLI and AMD's CrossFire technologies. These beasts come with TUF Fortifier to bolsters boards against bending damage and dusts. **Price: Tk. 25,500/-**



Premier Bank renews Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for technology adoption

Premier Bank Limited recently signed 'Enterprise Agreement' with Microsoft. Tech One Global Pvt. Limited will set up different Microsoft tutorials and software as the Large Account Reseller (LAR) for Microsoft. Mr Moin Iqbal, Vice Chairman of Premier Bank Limited and Mr. Pubudu Basnayake, Chief Operating Officer of Microsoft Bangladesh signed the Agreements on behalf of their respective organizations. High ups from both parties were also present in the signing ceremony. The Enterprise Agreement will help Premier Bank to reduce the costs of their IT infrastructure via the offering of a simple, flexible and affordable way to standardize their business with the latest Microsoft technology.

Lenovo Ideapad Yoga13 convertible ultrabook now in BD

Lenovo's IdeaPad Yoga 13 is an ultraportable notebook that can convert into a tablet. Whether in notebook, stand, tent, or tablet mode, the Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 13 is definitely a head-turner. Its 13.3-inch display can be moved a full 360 degrees and has 10 multi-touch points, letting you get hands-on with the touch-enabled features of Windows 8. And with in-plane switching (IPS) technology, you'll have clear views of the screen no matter what angle you're looking at it from. The Yoga 13 features a third generation Intel i5 1.8GHz, 4GB of RAM, Intel HD Graphics 4000 and a 128 GB SSD memory. It has also webcam, USB ports, an HDMI output, a memory card reader, and a combo jack for audio input and output. **Price: 112,500/-**