



#FOOD & RECIPES

GROCERY essentials for grand Eid feasting!

As soon as the moon announces the day of Eid, celebration begins, and so begins the preparation of a grand feast. Shemai on one stove, firni on the other, while there is a huge bowl of marinated beef on the counter; this is the most common scene in a typical Bengali household on chaand raat. However, things might not go as smooth if you are not stocked up on the right groceries. So, we are here to guide you through your Eid grocery shopping, to make sure you have everything you need for a memorable feasting with your loved ones.

Mains first

First and foremost, grab the items for your main dishes. This includes rice of your choice, beef, chicken (cut for both roast and salads and snacks), fishes like pomfret, bass, hilsa or prawn (of course you are allowed to choose any type but the ones mentioned go well with pulao). Although Eid is the only time when we take a break from veggies and devour meat non-stop, eggplant and pulao complements each other quite well. In addition, some people also like chunks of potatoes in their beef or chicken curry and hence, do not forget to add that as well.

Spices to bring out the true Bengali

After getting your mains checked off from the list, focus on hunting for the best spices to give your dishes a dash of aromatic magic. Powdered, whole or paste, spices in all forms have major contributions in our Eid dishes. These spices are what give the dishes their signature Bengali touch. So, make sure to have them in adequate amount. Besides ginger, onion and garlic pastes, cinnamon, cardamom, cumin, turmeric, *garam masala* are the basic spices you will need. The list is extendable.

Snacks as a teaser trailer

While hosting an Eid party, if your mains are running late, you cannot keep the

guests waiting. In the meantime, you need to serve some delicious savoury snacks.

Chotpoti is a saviour during times like these. Hence, while buying spices, check if you have the necessary ones for making chotpoti, and add dabli to your cart. For a healthier snack option, you can try purchasing either dried fruits like dates, apricots and salted nuts or salad ingredients like cucumber, tomato, cabbage, corn, mushrooms, chicken cubes, cilantro, sour curd or salad dressing and some cashew nuts as well. Although we traditionally do not treat salad as an appetiser and have it with pulao as sides, bending the rules a little never really hurt anyone.

Go unique with dessert

Ingredients for shemai, firni, gajorer halwa are staples and so are mishti and doi. But this Eid, why not try something out of the box? In this intensely hot weather, why not make some cookie dough ice cream for a soul soothing sweetness? Some heavy cream, milk, butter, flour, condensed milk,

brown sugar, vanilla essence and chocolate chips are all you will need.

Beverages for the chill

Our Eid feast is incomplete without the refreshing sips of chilled cola. And of course, the traditional borhani and mattha are timeless classics. So, do not forget to pick up a few bottles of your favourite beverages.

Furthermore, there are many who crave tea after a good feast. For those, stock up on tea as well.

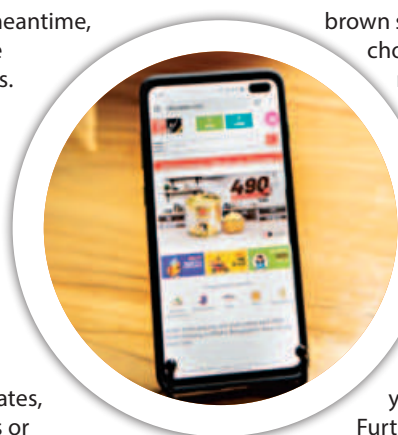
Miscellaneous and more

Milk (both liquid and powdered), ghee, butter oil, soyabean and mustard oil, (after all what is Bengali cuisine without oil and spices), almonds, pistachios, dried grapes, rose water, vinegar, etc., are necessary miscellaneous items. These are all generic items which are used in multiple dishes.

So, this Eid, be organised with your grocery shopping and have a happy meal with your family and friends!

By **Tanzila Kamal Protyasha**

Photo: **LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed**



Getting groceries is now easier than ever. All it takes is 30 minutes!

Online shopping for groceries is rapidly gaining popularity, primarily because of the convenience it comes with. For people who want to avoid a round-trip to supermarkets or wet markets, and allocate their precious time for something else, online grocery shopping is a game changer. Besides that, the benefits include not having to lug bulky items – a bag of rice, vegetables, meat and fish or miscellaneous items which are usually on a weekly grocery list – home on your own.

Having said that, it is now easier than ever to order groceries online and 30 minutes is all it takes to have them delivered to your doorstep. Super-fast delivery services (known as Quick Commerce or q-commerce), such as foodpanda's pandamart offers thousands of items, ranging from daily essentials such as fresh produce to baby food and cleaning supplies. Ever since pandamart launched in 2020, it has been garnering much applause from customers for its reliability and

speedy delivery. Whether you are a busy professional, hustling bachelor, midnight baker or a homemaker, pandamart offers a great deal of convenience for everyone in need of grocery shopping.

So, if you discover that you've run out of ingredients for an item you're preparing or your guests would love some ice-cream following dinner, there's nothing to worry about. With pandamart's swift delivery, you will get what you want or need in just half an hour.



Tahsin Reza, 27, a busy professional, is familiar with the desperation to get groceries. He enjoys cooking for his family and usually does this at night. He says, "I often forget to bring home necessary ingredients for cooking or crave ice-cream at midnight. With foodpanda's

pandamart, I usually have those delivered to me in 20-30 minutes." Nobody prefers to walk around carrying grocery bags and doing so on the way home from work can get very tiring, with the summer heat adding to the difficulty. Thanks to pandamart, shoppers can enjoy the convenience of

online grocery shopping with faster delivery times than traditional grocery delivery services and 24/7 availability across several areas.

Moreover, online grocery shopping provides a nicer experience in comparison to traditional markets for those who avoid bargaining. Instead, different campaigns and discounts are available on pandamart for both new and existing customers. Many customers look for products from recognized brands out of concerns for taste and quality. pandamart has a large array of products from top local and international brands.

So, pandamart can be your grocery destination to buy whatever you need for Ramadan and Eid. Simply open the foodpanda app and select the pandamart button to choose from over 4,000 products, including meat and fish, fresh fruits and vegetables, snacks, beverage, cleaning supplies, pet food, and even baby essentials.