

ready to make

Mistress of spices

Sign up for Anisa Arif's homemade masalas, together with recipes

FOR THE past week, I have more time doing the things I love, thanks to Anisa or the spice goddess as I prefer to call her. Chennai-born Anisa Arif's (35) favourite pastime was to watch the cookery shows on television and try out the recipes with a little help from her grandmother and mother. She soon started researching ancient cooking and the Qureshi clan's *garam* masala, *Lizzat e Taam*.

"Masalas have a commercial taste and some amount of preservatives. I wanted to create a wholesome spice mix that could be added in a minute, marinated and cooked," says Arif who



started selling these masalas two months ago. Friends and family wanted her to supply them regularly and setting up this home business became a reality. Arif decided to call her spice store "Zaiqa" ('tasty' in Urdu). She gets orders through her Facebook page and word of mouth and courier the spices. There's no question of spilling, as

she uses high quality, food grade, vacuum packing to seal them. Some of the masalas she offers include Sindhi Biryani Masala, Chettinadu Masala, Al Faham Chicken, Shahi Gram Masala, Lazeez Pepper Masala and more.

The Sindhi Biryani masala has dried plums and comes with the recipe to make the *biryani*. The Chettinadu masala is spicy with red chili powder, jeera and dhanias, poppy seeds, haldi and pepper. Arifa says that she also adds some dried herbs that are her trade

secret. The shelf life for the spices is about eight months and all orders are processed only after confirmation, so you can be assured of freshness.

Prices start from ₹150 onwards for 100 gms. Details: 9940555657

— Parveen Sikkandar

Sub Central

The world's second-largest sub chain, Quiznos, who opened their first store in the city in Ispahani Centre, have now branched to Express Avenue as well. Besides their soups, salads, toasty subs and thin-crust pizzas, their menu will also feature Q-Desserts — a brand of cold stone ice-creams that allow guests to choose flavours and mash-ups, which will be prepared live. Subs start from ₹120 onwards and desserts from ₹75 a scoop. Details: 28464415



SPY

Shyam's Hospitality have launched their first self-service restaurant, Karaikudi Express, on OMR. We like their main course combos starting from ₹65 onwards. Details: 24580416