

the shortest time. "The rice cooker has made cooking rice a hassle free and time efficient activity for me," she added.

Reasonably priced rice cookers, costing Tk 1,000-2,000 are manufactured by brands like Singer, Walton, Miyako and Nova. Once again, if you have a bigger budget, you can resort to Philips and Panasonics and avail more upgraded rice cookers.

MEAL IN MINUTES –

MICROWAVE OVEN

The oven is probably the most common kitchen appliance, used to heat different food items as well as to create many appetising dishes including pizzas, oven-baked pastas and multiple confectionery goods. The best part is it is extremely user friendly, and with some basic knowledge everyone starting from 10 year olds to adults can use these with ease. "I usually use the oven to prepare my morning's oatmeal and to reheat meals," claimed Fuad Zaman, a soon-to-be graduate of BRAC University. "It really helps to save my time and lets me avoid going near the stove," he said.

Prices start from as low as Tk 10,000 for brands like Vision, Conion, Midea and Atashii and go as high as Tk 50,000 in case of high-end brands like Philips, Panasonic and Samsung. Other brands include Galanz, LG, Konka, Singer, Walton, Eco+, Whirlpool, Sharp and Siemens.

LIFE OF THE PARTY –

BARBEQUE GRILL

Whether there is a special occasion in the house or not, a barbecue grill is surely a must-have for every chef and home cook out there. The grill helps cook the best meat and enhances the taste, making it twice as good than it would have tasted when cooked on a frying pan. Aklima Khannam, a housewife and former schoolteacher admitted that although it takes her the same time as it would have taken to cook in a normal

frying pan, the barbecue grill needs less oil which is quite healthy, and grills the meat perfectly, resulting in tender and juicy dish.

Delonghi and Weber manufacture portable barbecue grills. Besides these, you can find them in some local household appliances shops also.

FANCY A SANDWICH (MAKER)?

The appliance's title itself is pretty self-explanatory. This device makes morning breakfasts as well as midnight-snacking way easier and helps to make sandwiches very quickly and with minimal fuss. "I just cut up the ingredients and put it on the bread and pop it in. The machine does the rest, from melting the cheese to grilling the bread and sandwiching it together," answered Samama Rahman who is studying Journalism in the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, when asked about his favourite kitchen appliance. "It also automatically stops grilling so nothing ever gets burned," he added gleefully.



Sandwich makers sold by Singer, Conion, Miyako and Vision are ridiculously cheap and can be bought for just about Tk 900-1,500. With a higher budget of Tk 2,000-4,000, you can easily afford brands like Panasonic, Philips and Kenwood.

THE REAL LIFE SAVER - COFFEE MAKER

There is no better way to kick start your drowsy system on a weekday than indulging in a cup of steaming coffee. Upoma Rashid, a recent BRAC University graduate and current employee at Toru, the Idea Tree, strongly agrees. "It actually helps me get through a rough day at work and thanks to this life saver, I don't have to go out to some coffee shop and spend money there everyday," she admitted.

A coffee maker is truly an essential good and you can find one for Tk 2,000-3,000 if you settle for brands like Walton, Ocean and Miyako. Philips, Siemens and Panasonic

coffee makers are pricier and cost around Tk 3,500-5,000.

BONUS: THE FUTURISTIC DEVICE - DISH WASHER

A not-so-common (hence futuristic) kitchen appliance in Bangladeshi homes is the dishwasher. Although vastly used in the western part of the world, this device is yet to gain a foothold in our society.

Using a dishwasher is quite simple. The dishes are required to be placed neatly on a dish rack inside the washer. Next, the detergent has to be put in the soap dispenser and finally you have to choose a wash cycle (light/heavy), depending on the kind of dishes you have inserted in the washer.

Dishwashers are quite expensive and cost around Tk 50,000-70,000. Siemens and LG dishwashers are available in the country.

WHERE TO BUY KITCHEN APPLIANCES FROM?

Kitchen appliances can be found in uncountable shops around the city. In case of shopping malls, you can list down Shah Ali Plaza (Mirpur), Rajdhani Super Market (Tikatuli), Mouchak Market (Mouchak), Rajlakhi Complex (Uttara) and Bashundhara City Shopping Mall (Panthapath).

A larger and more affordable range of goods can be bought from the Bangabandhu Stadium Market (Gulistan), Sher-E-Bangla Stadium Market (Mirpur), Baitul Mukarram Market (Gulistan) and New Market, Dhaka.

Besides these, you can visit branches of electronics shops like Best Electronics and M.K. Electronics. Local 'around the corner' electronics shops also sell a number of common kitchen appliances that can be bought at reasonable prices.

By Nafisa Faruque

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