

7 Seater
Dual A/C
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NAVANA
Navana Limited 09666-770077

THE ALL-NEW
AVANZA
.....Because I Love My Family

TEST DRIVE

Hype Machine

2014 KIA Sportage

Specs

2014 KIA Sportage

Engine: 2000cc D-CVVT gasoline engine (152 hp @6000 RPM, 141 lb-ft torque @4000 RPM)

Transmission: 6 speed automatic with triptronic.

Wheels and tyres: 17 inch wheels with 225/60R Kumho tyres.

Brakes: Ventilated disc brakes front, solid disc rear, ABS, EBD.

Features: Projection HID's with Daytime Running Lights; 9 speaker Infinity stereo system with Bluetooth, USB, aux, and steering mounted controls; panoramic roof with tilt and slide option; leather seat trims; air-conditioned glovebox/mini-fridge.

Price: Starts from 50 lakh taka. (Price as tested: 58 lakh taka). For details, contact Meghna Automobiles Ltd.

Today we bring you a highly acclaimed compact crossover, the KIA Sportage. 'Spor-ta-ge' or 'sport-age', however you pronounce it, is a rakish and athletic looking cross over which won't cost you a queen's ransom. The Sportage looks long and wide- a look particularly appealing to most car buyers out there. After the changes in 2010, the new grille, wheel design, functional shark fin antennae and HID projector headlamps (with DRLs!) add a flair and sportiness that every SUV buyer will love.

Moving on to the interior- it's spacious, enough room for almost everything. There is good headroom and space for a standard size occupant to fit very comfortably. I am a pretty big guy and I could sit comfortably with room to spare. The back seats can be reclined and are comfy and firm- but not too firm. If you need more space all you need to do is put down the seats and...voila! more room for luggage. The entire space has no bumps so carry-ons are pretty easy to store.

The roof has a two part panoramic roof, with the front part coming with tilt and slide options. One interesting thing is the glove compartment also has a manually operated AC vent so that your owner's manual and bluebook can



chill with you (or store drinks for long journeys).

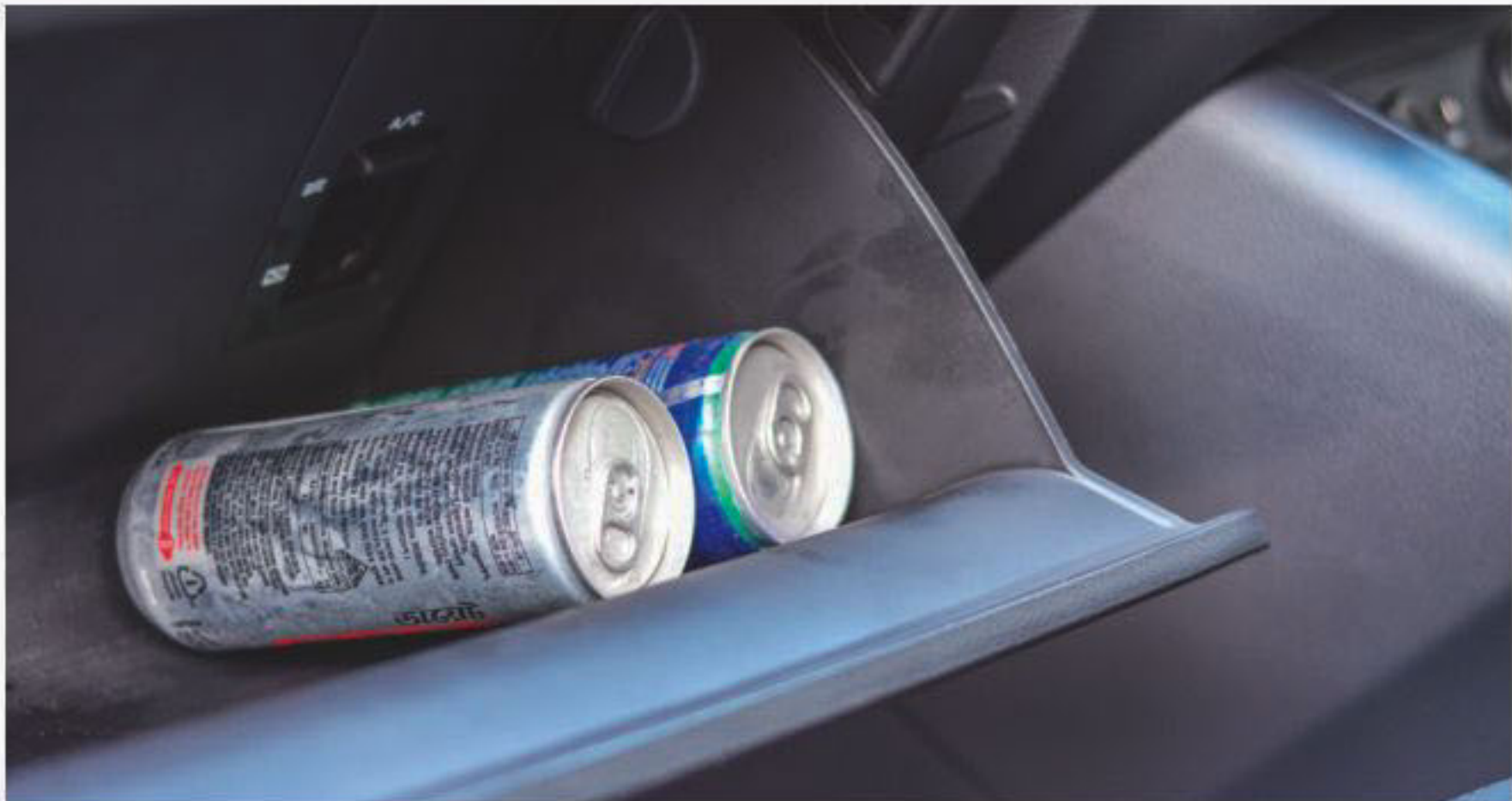
The interior and dashboard were mostly plastic, but build quality is however great. The particular unit that I drove came with a 9 speaker Infinity stereo system with subwoofer, USB plug in ports, Bluetooth and auxiliary control. The steering mounted volume and channel tuner are neat options, allowing you to change songs from your phone without picking up the phone itself. There's also a touch screen with all the control options. The screen also assists you when you put the gear in reverse, by way of the rear mounted camera.

We made a call using the Bluetooth connectivity- found the sound quality pristine and clear. The SUV also comes packed with several standard safety features i.e. a plethora of airbags; electronic stability control, ABS brakes, etc.

Under the hood is a 2.0 liter D-CVVT gasoline engine, putting out 152 hp and 141 lb-ft of torque. The power is available at the higher range of the RPM band, but there's plenty of low end torque to play with. It gets the slightly chubby Sportage up to speed quite well, so the "sport" in the "Sportage" is not entirely redundant.

The driving experience of the Sportage was an absolute delight. When I fired up the ignition, only a slight vibration in the steering wheel lets me know that we are all set to move. Of course the LCD panel and the gauges lit up too. The Sportage does 0-100 km/h in around 10secs, which is not bad for a car of this size. The six speed automatic gear with triptronic transmission allows you to switch between city traffic pushing to highway overtaking with ease. The vehicle while driving initially felt a tad bit heavy but once you get used to it its all fine. It's all about adapting to the car, and that includes the visibility as well. As with all modern cars, you basically have no idea where the front of the car ends, since it is so rounded.

It looks a sleek in a way only a modern SUV can, and that is definitely a good thing. It's funky, hip and cool, a style statement that many are associating with KIA these days. Who would've thought the Korean company that gave us abominations like the old KIA Rio could build cool cars like these?



Above: Sportage sports a mini-fridge in the glovebox. If you don't want to turn your vehicle's documents into wet, sodden mush, remember to manually close the vent.

Below: Interior is modern and well put together. Rise of the Koreans? Seems like it. .



VERDICT

The first impression of the Sportage will last a long time. The aesthetics and faint ruggedness of this vehicle is a mix that is hard to come by in this price range. Despite being a compact crossover, it can accommodate cargo easily without compromising the cabin space. The engine and the wheelbase can handle urban streets and rural potholed streets fine. If you are looking for a sporty looking vehicle with great performance then the KIAS portage definitely should be on your shopping list.

WORDS: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN
PHOTOS: RAHIN SADMAN ISLAM

SHIFT ZONE

What's the most ideal vehicle for our roads? First consider our roads. They are usually pointlessly narrow. So bikes would be good? No. How about a small hatchback called Platzypus? Small cars would be a smart move but then everyone would have one, and they would all drive into potholes the size of houses. Last time I was in Gulshan, it felt like the entire neighbourhood was one big pothole. I still can't find my friend who drove into a pothole in Road 24. Then big SUVs perhaps? Those suffer from high tax rates and need two people to steer. So not everyone can have one, or more importantly, park one. So that brings us back to bikes. Except bikes keep getting in everyone's way. They get on footpaths and on other cars. They're fast, economical and often beautiful. But then the bikers themselves often feel the fastness and economy makes them invincible. Then they end up under buses. How about buses? Well, those always end up facing the wrong way into a divider. So what is the ideal vehicle for our roads? We already have it: rickshaws. Clean, efficient and highly customizable. Just pick any shade of plastic you want. On second or third thoughts, I think the exhaust fumes may have finally gotten to me.

- Ehsanur Raza Ronny, Editor, Shift

Haojue Bikes

now in Bangladesh

Haojue motorbikes are now available in Bangladesh. Manufactured by Haojue Holdings, the motorcycle producer is the biggest partner of Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation. Haojue produces both Haojue and Suzuki brands, and their products are sold in 70 countries, including Japan.

Haojue Bikes have been in number one position in production and sales for last 12 years in China, and ranks first in customer satisfaction, cost, brand image, product reliability and service.

Haojue Cool has a 150cc single cylinder, air-cooled engine which pumps out 11.2 BHP and 11.3 NM of torque.90% of its max torque is available at 3000 RPM, equipped with a 5 speed transmission and CDI Ignition, the bike weighing 136 kg with a 13.3 liter fuel tank. The riders should get a mileage of 50 km/L which is good competition with other brands of 150cc bikes. It has a. Karnaphuli, the distributors for Haojue bikes, is offering interested buyers a test ride with the Cool 150 cc. There's also a very lucrative 10 year warranty.

Yamaha's electrics

While the car world is upping its game at environment friendly vehicles, the two wheeler world isn't far behind. Yamaha, the giant in the motor-bike world, is getting ready to bring the PES1 and PED1 to production. The Japanese manufacturer says the pared back, incredibly cool looking two wheelers will reach the masses by 2016.

PES1 is a sportbike designed primarily for zipping in between slow moving city traffic, promising instant torque from brushless DC motors powered by a pack of lithium-ion batteries. Powered by the same motor, the PED1 is for dirt and mud, so you can kick up some earth while saving it simultaneously.

It's a bold step towards more modern products for Yamaha, which in recent years has been accused by some of being a bit of a dinosaur when it comes to the actual innovation which defined its early years.

10 YEARS WARRANTY

Nationwide Service Network

50km Per Liter

150 CC

- Haojue and SUZUKI branded bikes are being produced in state of the art facilities in China by a Joint Venture between Haojue Holdings and Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation.
- Haojue bikes are being exported to 70 countries including Japan.
- Haojue has been consistently ranked number one in sales and customer satisfaction for past twelve years in China.

SINCE 1984

Karnaphuli

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