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Navana Limited 09666-770077

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




TEST DRIVE

**SPECS**

**2014 Toyota Camry Hybrid**

**Engine/Motor:** 2500cc 2AR-FXE gasoline engine; Permanent magnet synchronous motor; total power output of 205.3 hp.

**Transmission:** E-CVT gearbox, front wheel drive.

**Wheels and tyres:** 17 inch wheels with 215/55R Yokohama tyres.

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

**Features:** Tilt and slide sunroof; keyless entry; cruise control; 8 airbags; back camera; integrated stereo system with USB, aux, and steering mounted controls; leather seat trims; 8 available colour options.

**Price:** Starts from 75 lakh taka. For details, contact Navana Automobiles Ltd.

**SHIFT ZONE**

The government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh doesn't want you to buy hybrid cars, as implied in the last national budget where the import tax levied on hybrid cars rose, accompanied by a ridiculous justification from our finance minister. At the same time, the government wants more tax revenue off what little hybrid cars are sold, which is kind of a direct contradiction to the government's pledge of tackling climate change. You can't argue with the fossils in seats of power about the side effects of burning fossil fuels, so leave that be and take a look at the latest hybrid Toyota Camry. It won't disappoint you as much as your elected officials.

- Shaer Reaz, sub-editor, Shift

## Executive planet-saving

It was black on the outside but green at heart. Following a growing demand for more environmentally friendly, low emission, low carbon-footprint and complemented with a-lot-of-other-vegan-words comes the brand new Toyota Camry. And as you've probably already guessed, yes, it is a hybrid.

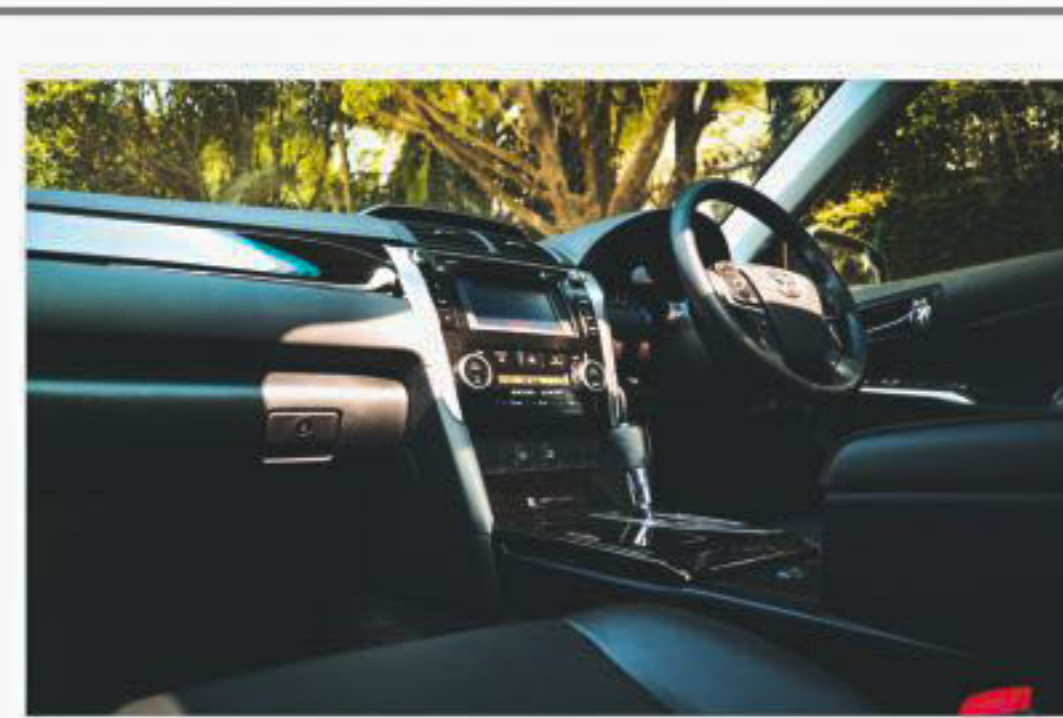
I'll be honest. I was altogether very excited about this assignment. Hybrid cars for me have been almost taboo. I've never really warmed up to the concept. One Friday morning helped change a little bit of that though.

This car comes with Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive system, advanced Nanoe air conditioning system, powerful nickel-metal hydride batteries and tons more. Yes, this car gets as green as you can possibly get in the country.

The new Camry is designed a few decades apart from its immediate predecessor. It's obvious they went back to the drawing board and sculpted this design from scratch. The sharp lines on the body, the geometrical contours and the commanding face-lifted front fascia is a refreshing change to the bland, boring hybrids we commonly expect to see. I do hope they do something about the tail lights with the later models though. But that's just my opinion.

Inside, the car was a well-furnished lounge. I loved how our test car had the black interior. It hides those dirty stains, if you ever get them, and doesn't show the grime that so easily collects on dash boards and seats due to Dhaka city air. If you're placing an order then opt for the black. The leather seats were large and welcoming. Some cars you sit in and feel like maybe you need to lose some weight to feel good sitting in it, but this car accommodates people of all body mass indexes. Take it from us, Tasdid and I loved the front and rear seats. The head-rest was just in the right place and the seats were broad and gave you enough space to spread out, complemented with loads of leg space.

The gauges were interesting. It has one dial that shows you when the car is charging its battery and when it's delivering that power. The thing about the interior was



The battery pack eats up some of the boot space, but the Camry will hold a significant amount of boot space.

that it didn't suffer from redundancy. Everything belonged, and helped you drive better instead of cluttering your vision. There is a slight issue with the quality of the switchgear, however. While the rest of the cabin feels plush and pampering, the air-con and audio controls feel plasticky and a little too cheap for an executive car.

The Hybrid Synergy Drive gives the car a unique, almost hard to believe driving feel. It's designed to operate on the battery for speeds below 55 km/h and the petrol engine kicks in after that speed. I expected a lazy pick up and then maybe some proper power at higher speeds. But oh my, was I wrong. The pick-up from zero to 60 was swift and very impressive. The E-CVT gearbox makes zero effort to let the 2.5 liter petrol-electric hybrid powertrain do its work. Together the car can deliver upto 205 bhp. Those numbers are expected from a car in the class of the Camry. The suspension is very well designed for Dhaka city roads, tweaked to let the car ride safely over pothole ridden Dhaka city roads, and even then you have zero to none body roll. Something we all loved was the small turning radius, which was genuinely surprising considering the length of the car. Interior noise when the car starts doesn't even exist because the car operates at standstill on electric power. On a car like this you can't beat fuel efficiency. The wasted energy during the braking gets converted into back up battery power for later use.

As for the other specs, I'll let the specs list do its job, but we have to end it here with one question: should you buy it? It's a hard choice really. You have to really love the environment and also have great taste if you want to buy a car built for luxury but one that runs green. The car does not come cheap, priced at 75 lakh taka. But having paid that amount I can assure you, you'll sleep well at night knowing one more baby seal lived to see the light of day thanks to your purchase.

WORDS: MOHAMMAD AKIB NAWAZ  
PHOTOS: TASDID HOSSAIN

**Haojue** **BIKER TIPS**

### Safety importance of grab handles



A motorcycle is a complex, top-heavy device always trying to succumb to gravity. A passenger on a two-wheeler further raises the odds in gravity's favour. An uncomfortable, twitchy passenger ensures gravity helps you all the way to the hospital bed.

A grab rail or handle at the back of a bike helps a passenger hold on securely. Sounds obvious but why is it life threateningly important? An unsupported, uncomfortable passenger will slam into you when you brake hard or grab at your face, eyes, hair when you accelerate. Help them sit properly, have them make proper use of the grab rail. Inform your rider that they need to hold onto the grab rail. It's not just for their comfort but also for their safety.

In Bangladesh, pedestrians usually own the road or at least act like it. Buses, rickshaws, and other bikers will swerve into your path. As long as the passenger is comfortably and securely seated, you can concentrate on maneuvering.

Note: Some bikers remove the grab handle to create a sleek look. Don't! If you must, then change it to a sleeker design like the split grab handles found on new Pulsars and Yamahas.

WORDS AND IMAGE: E R RONNY

## Guangzhou Auto Show highlights

### The brilliant, the good and the knockoff

SHAER REAZ

**Ferrari 458 Speciale A - The brilliant**  
The 458 has been around for a while, although it may not feel like it. As with all the modern "entry" level Ferraris, the life cycle of each one follows something like this: hardtop basic, roadster basic, hardtop warm version, roadster warm version, super-hyper hot version, and then a bunch of Italian names stuck to that super-hyper-hot version, not to mention go-faster stripes. The Speciale A is just that. Super-hyper-hot. In extra blazing yellow with white and blue stripes.



**Ford Mustang GT - The good**

Enough has been said about the hyped up (and with good reason) and trumped up new Ford Mustang GT. As China is slowly teased out of its shell of planned economies and closed off communist ideals, Ford is trying to sell it the American Dream. What better way to do that than to sell the Mustang there? It's as American as you can try and be.

**Jaguar XE- The potentially great**

Jag's sleek looking BMW 3 series rival is hitting China slightly before the rest of the world. Perpetuating the brand image Jaguar has in other parts of the world, China is has one of the largest markets for Jaguar-Land Rover, although they seem to be facing some heavy competition from lookalikes...



**Mercedes Maybach-S class - Potentially brilliant**

China has a ton of new-money. Car-makers, in an effort to capitalize on this huge influx of wealth in the Chinese market, are coming up with longer and more luxurious cars to suit the appetites of the ex-communists-turned-filthy-rich in China. Which is why Mercedes Benz decided to launch the rebooted Maybach series in China, showing off an S-class that has gained Maybach levels of weight, length, width, and luxury kit. It looks stupid in my opinion, but will it hold its own next to Rolls Royce, the other heavyweight nurtured by BMW?



**Land Wind X7 - The knockoff to beat all knockoffs in the history of knockoffs**

This is what you get when a Range Rover Evoque passes wind. Fart jokes aside, the Land Wind is a near carbon copy of Land Rover's highest selling model in recent years, and the hilariously unashamed copy poses a serious threat because the Land Wind X7 undercuts the actual Evoque by almost £25,000. Land Rover is seriously mad, enough to have announced that they will be taking legal action against the copycat. This is much more significant than faked i-Phones and pirated DVDs.





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Web: en.haojue.com

■ Haojue has been consistently ranked number one in sales and customer satisfaction for past twelve years in China.

■ Haojue bikes are being exported to 70 countries including Japan.