

The Chevrolet Chaparral 2XVGT is a concept car you can actually own, albeit in a game. Specially developed for the Playstation exclusive Gran Turismo 6, it can do 240mph and go from 0-60mph in 1.5 seconds (in game, of course).



Four door fun in 2015

SHAER REAZ

The best of the sporty four door fun packs you can expect in the motoring world of 2015



The sporty sedan: 2015 Cadillac CTS-V

Why its awesome: It has long been a (personal) opinion of mine that the Americans simply do not know how to build well-rounded, superbly engineered cars. The CTS-V has proven detractors wrong time and again, with a mountain of power and refinement on par with the European super saloons. Plus, it looks damn cool.
The fun numbers: 640 horsepower(!), 630 lb-ft torque (!), 200 mph top speed. Supercharged 6.2 liter V8.
Will it win a drag race with a BMW M5? Uh, probably. Those numbers would shame most supercars, and the current M5 only has a measly 560 horsepower.

The square jawed crossover: 2015 Audi RS-Q3

Why its awesome: German rivalry makes the world a better place, and Audi's Q3 range topper takes years of expertise and crams them into a smallish four door crossover. Its going to be an expensive ride dropping off the kids at the school, but on the way back, owners are advised to take the twistiest, emptiest roads.
The fun numbers: 340 horsepower, 332 lb-ft torque, 4.8 second 0-60 mph time, 155 mph limited top speed.
When will Audi stop using silver accents on its sporty models? Never. Because silver mirrors and bumper accents add 100 horsepower to an Audi.



The sporty (almost not a) station wagon: 2015 Mercedes-Benz CLA45 AMG Shooting Brake

Why its awesome: It looks like a banana, so you can paint it yellow and sing "Bananaaaa" as your four wheeled Minion hurtles down the Autobahn.
Fun numbers: 360 horsepower and 330 lb-ft torque from a tiny 2.0 liter turbo four cylinder. It's the most powerful four cylinder engine currently in production.
How many bundles of Bangladesh's best-selling Standard lungi can you fit in the trunk of this "station wagon"? Approximately 16 lungis. Distribute to family members accordingly.



The ugly but puzzlingly cool crossover: 2015 BMW X6M

Why its awesome: It's not, really, but it has a certain kind of charm. Doing 150 mph in a car that is halfway between an SUV and a station wagon apparently has some kind of charm to it. The Arabs love it. Yalla habibi.
Fun numbers: 575 horsepower, 553 lb-ft torque, 4.4-litre V8.
Does driving a crossover count as an indicator of your multiple personality disorder, or are you really that devoid of taste? You are definitely devoid of any taste.

The baby-seal killing sporty SUV: 2015 Land Rover Discovery Sport

Why its awesome: The Discovery is the thing to buy if you haven't got the *moolah* for the top dog Range Rover. It will serve faithfully, bound over small hills with ease, and make you look like a cool, hip business executive when you show up to meetings in your incredibly orange SUV.
Fun numbers: 240 horsepower and 250 lb-ft of torque from a 2.0 liter engine. Small numbers, but it's the power delivery that counts.
Is it really that orange, or is it because your favourite weekly automotive publication needs extensive colour corrected images because it is printed on a pink page? You can get it in more muted, classier colours, but then they would all turn orange on our pink page. We like orange.



SHIFT ZONE

As you will see this week, we've started reviewing motorbikes on Shift. Motorbikes are the major means of transport in Bangladesh, and with bike users numbering close to a million, it is a significant market, both on the user and seller ends. With Shift, you'll get reviews of a range of motorbikes, from entry level small displacement ones to the cool, beefy bikes favoured by the younger crowd. Stay tuned for more two-wheeled action in the coming months.

- Shaer Reaz, Sub-editor, Shift

Haojue BIKER CORNER

Pianos, engines and motorbikes



WHAT DO THESE TWO HAVE IN COMMON?

Did you know? Yamaha wasn't and even isn't always a motorcycle manufacturer. Yamaha began life in 1887 as a piano manufacturer but today is a multi-national conglomerate that also produces musical instruments. It designs and builds engines for boats, cars and RVs. The 90s Corvette ZR1 had an amazing-for-the-time engine with its cylinder deactivation feature and multi-valve tech, designed by Yamaha, as is the current Lexus LFA. Yamaha is involved with swimming pools, industrial robots, wheelchairs, electronics, and golf carts. And of course, bikes.

ALL AROUND FACEBOOK

This week, our official car-spotter Shadman spied a classic Mercedes Benz W126 S class. The aftermarket rims put off some people, but overall, the reaction to a clean and well-maintained piece of German automotive history was on the positive side.



Shadman also took a snap of the latest vehicle acquisition by the Bangladesh Army: the Dongfeng Brave Soldier. As you can clearly see, it's an almost carbon copy of the Hummer, which was retired from the US military recently. With several variants with a wide range of tactical usage, the new Dongfengs should prove to be a significant addition to the Army's military arsenal.



We've also launched a citizen journalism campaign of sorts. Over the past few months we've had an overwhelming input from our readers and fans, who have sent us images of private cars being turned into makeshift taxis by off-duty chauffeurs. We're also keen on reporting any violation of traffic laws or misconduct on the part of the traffic police, so if you spot anything out of the norm on the roads, be sure to snap a picture and send to us. The power of social media does the rest.



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CORRIGENDUM

On 10 December we ran the test drive story of the 2014 Hyundai Xcent. It was mistakenly stated the car is available from Pacific Motors. The car is actually available from Hyundai Motors Bangladesh Ltd.

THE CHINESE STALWART | 2014 HAOJUE COOL 150CC

TEST RIDE

Bikes offering better mileage and ride comfort are practical for people who spend hours commuting to work negotiating Dhaka traffic everyday. Lower handlebars may have more style but after hours of slouching, you will inevitably end up at the physiotherapist's, draining your wallet to fix the aching lower back. The Haojue Cool 150 we are reviewing here goes above 40 km on a litre of petrol in city traffic. The seat and handlebars are also proportionately placed to allow an upright sitting position so you can use the dilapidated streets of Mouchak with minimal damage to your spine. Its ground clearance is enough to ride over potholes effortlessly, the seat height is lower than most bikes of its class, providing a lower centre of gravity which makes it easier to manoeuvre in the city traffic. Lower centre of gravity facilitates better control, balance and boost confidence of the riders. It also has a nifty anti-theft system which keeps the bike safe. During our test drive, we pushed the 150 CC bike to its limits and pulled it from zero to 90 kmph on a one kilometre stretch of road. The bike remained surprisingly smooth and very little of the engine vibrations were felt at high speeds.

Since the engine delivers most of its torque at a comparatively low RPM range (3,000 onwards), it accelerates surprisingly well. We are convinced that it reaches 40 kmph faster than most Corollas. Equipped with a front disc and rear drum brake, and weighing 136 kg (curb), it stops quickly, if you know how to apply both brakes simultaneously.



However, to avoid hurting some *sensitive* part of your body, you have to brace yourself before braking that hard. But that's the case with most contemporary slant forward bike seats.

Although it seems less bloated than most 150cc bikes, the separate

handlebars, angular headlight and tail cowls and aero-style tank flaps lend it a sharp, if not sporty, appearance. The LCD backlit dashboard shows speed, fuel, battery charge and the gear you are in. It also has a red warning light that flickers when it's time to drain the old engine oil.

It is a good bike with decent power and equipment, and should be a good starting point for new riders.

Specs
Engine: 4 stroke, air-cooled single cylinder 150cc.
Max Power: 11.3 hp(8,000RPM)
Max Torque: 8.3 lb-ft(6,000RPM)
Transmission: 5 Speed
Starter: Electric & kick
Wheelbase: 1280mm
Ground Clearance: 178mm
Tank Capacity: 13.3L
Brakes: Front Disc/drum; rear drum
Tire Size: Front: 2.75-18; Rear: 90/90-18
Available colours: Blue, Black, Orange, Grey, Red

Price: Taka 1,10,000 without registration, with a special 40,000 taka discount on account of 60 years of Karnaphuli. 10 year engine warranty (for manufacturing defaults). For more details on pricing, servicing and warranty, contact Karnaphuli Industries Limited.

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Haojue Cool 150: decent bike for the entry level rider.



Haojue cool 150 CC



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www.facebook.com/HaojueMotorcyclesBD
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.