

CONCEPT WATCH



The Buick Avenir concept might just be the prettiest looking concept car to come out of America. With svelte surfaces which flow smoothly into each other and the length to go with it, it's quite the looker. Too bad it's a rip off of the BMW 7 series.

The Daily Star

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THE FIRST BUY

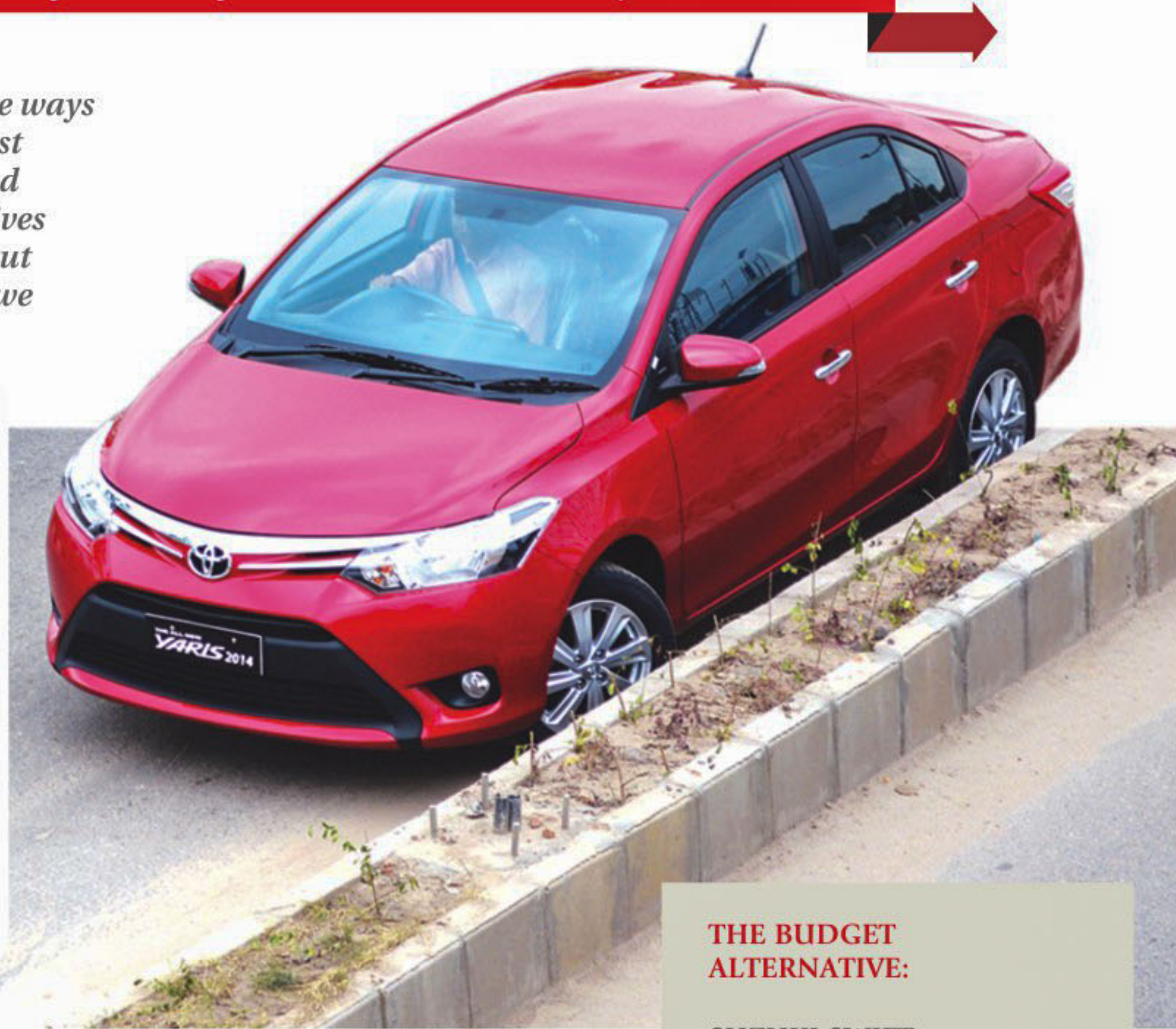
Sedans under 30 lakh taka, perfect for that first brand new car purchase.

It's the beginning of the year, and corporate executives all over Dhaka are considering the ways of spending their year-end bonuses, or at least what is left over from all of the barbecues and buying gifts for weddings. Entry level executives aspire to own larger sedans than ordinary, but abilities to afford usually extend to the cars we have here today. Buy smart.

THE UP-SCALE ASPIRATORS:

TOYOTA YARIS

Price: Starts from 27 lakh taka. The Yaris comes with the traditional Toyota stamp of reliability and resale value. On the road, the Yaris is easy to manoeuvre in tight spaces due to its dimensions and turning radius. The 1.3 liter 2NZFE VVT-i 4 cylinder engine provides decent pickup and will be quite economical, leaving a smaller dent on the wallet. Inside, loads of space for your family, while the exterior is thoroughly modern and hip, befitting the young-executive lifestyle you might want. It'll be a faithful companion on road trips outside the city, and overall, we'd say it lives up to its duties very well.



THE BUDGET ALTERNATIVE:

SUZUKI SWIFT

Price: Starts from 16.5 lakh taka (hatchback), 18.5 lakh (Dzire manual) and 21.5 (Dzire automatic). The Swift is a brilliant little car, with mind boggling fuel economy for the manual versions and, if you can live with the smaller space of a hatchback based sedan (or the hatchback itself), it can be a faithful companion on your daily office and family runs. Handling and performance is up there with the best urban cars, and despite the cheap-ish interior materials, its actually a nice place to be in. The Swift Dzire might not be best looking car out there, but these are mechanically sound cars.



KIA RIO

Price: Expected to start from 26 lakh taka. KIA is close behind its Japanese rivals, offering very smart and well thought out alternatives on almost every level. While KIA has mostly attracted the large executive car/SUV buying crowd in Bangladesh with bargains, the entry level categories are also well stocked. The Rio hatchback is a wonderfully designed car, and its sedan version is very good looking as well. Bargain deals are what the Koreans are good at, it seems. The model is currently out of stock, expect a fresh batch to arrive sometime in March.

Look for a review of the Rio in an upcoming issue of Shift.

SHAHER REAZ



HYUNDAI ACCENT

Price: Starts from 23 lakh taka. The Hyundai Accent is a distinct left-field choice, but its popularity and value for money in Bangladesh are hard to ignore. Korean build quality has leaped forward in recent years, and now they're beating the Japs on pricing and equipment levels. The reliability issue is yet unproven, since the new Accent has been around for just a couple of years and there is no real benchmark to compare. People who bought the Accent are happy with the equipment and driving experience, so that's a good omen. Its 1.4 liter MPI "Blue" engine also has great fuel economy, so there's that.

Look for a review of the Accent in an upcoming issue of Shift.



FORD FIESTA

Price: Expected range 25-30 lakh taka. The Ford Fiesta is a funky looking car, raked back hyper modern design topped off with a tried and tested range of powertrains. The Fiesta won a host of awards in Europe and South Asia, due to its reliability, efficiency and economy. Plagued by relatively slow sales in Dhaka, a slightly revamped model will be available for purchase from March, and if you're worried about parts availability, its not an issue since the dealership provides significant after sales support. This is a serious option to consider if you're tired of the more common choices.

Look for a review of the Fiesta in an upcoming issue of Shift.

SHIFT ZONE

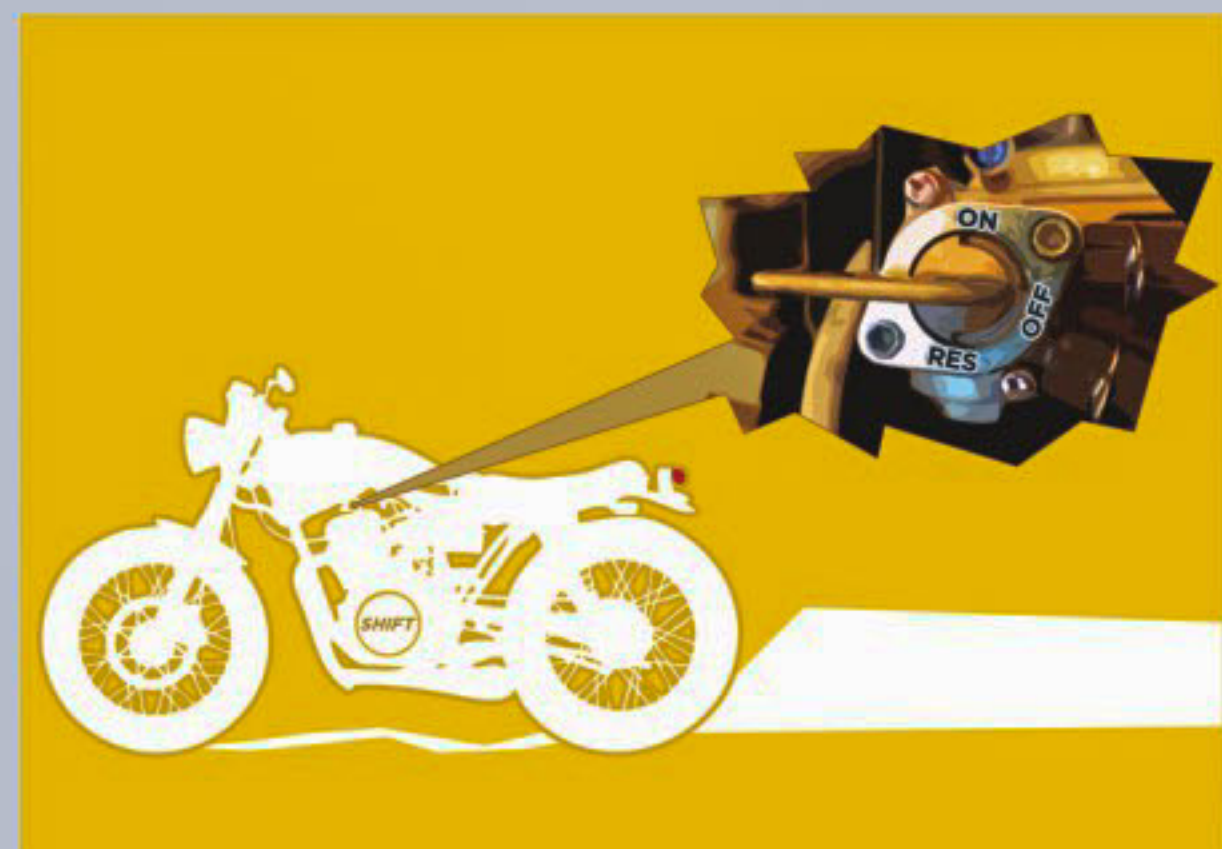
The new year, 15 days in, looks promising for the automotive market in Bangladesh. With a host of new models being released worldwide and a few reaching our shores in the subsequent ripple effect, we can only move forward now. This week, we deal with a question that is on the minds of a lot of people, especially those with new positions and a heavier bonus at the end of last year. When the time comes to upgrade to a newer model, the number of choices may seem overwhelming, which is why we're here to help. The reconditioned market alternatives will follow suit soon enough. For now, have fun picking that perfect brand new car as a first buy.

SHAHER REAZ - SUB-EDITOR, SHIFT

Haojue BIKER TIPS

KNOW YOUR RESERVE SWITCH

NUTBOLTU
IMAGE: E R RONNY



Almost all the sub-155cc bikes in Bangladesh are carbureted. Some new fuel injected ones are coming in though. In most cases the bike has a fuel petcock valve. Usually these have three positions: ON, OFF, and RES.

What it does: It controls fuel flow from the tank to the engine.

Why bother with it? If you keep it in the off position, you don't get any fuel. As you ride along and the tank comes close to empty, your engine will start to choke. What's important is to know exactly where it is and how you can reach down quickly if needed and switch it to RES (reserve). It's suggested you pull to a side before doing so. But you can also just reach down without taking your eyes off the road.

What next? Head to a pump, refuel and twist it back to 'ON'. A lot of bikes like the older first gen Yamaha Fazer 125 didn't have fuel gauges. The shuddering before hitting reserve gave a good indication of how much further you could go.

ALL AROUND FACEBOOK



The Shift Facebook page was filled with American metal this week. Our car spotter Shadman snapped a pic of Lincoln's behemoth gas guzzler, the Navigator, while a routine stop at Car Haat had our photographer Rahin rolling around on the dirt in laughter because of what we saw there: a 2006 Cadillac CTS, up for sale, complete with an atrocious price tag. Like us on Facebook to be a part of a growing community of car enthusiasts, and join in on all the fun.



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2015 Dakar Rally updates

The original Paris-Dakar rally raid event ran from France to Senegal. Since 2009, however, the grueling off road endurance event moved to South America, running from Argentina to Chile. Teams of hundreds of people compete against each other in the worst conditions and over all kinds of terrain, on two wheels and four, and they're lucky if they finish each segment ("Raid") of the event.

The 2015 Dakar rally has seen incredible resilience on the part of the teams, and at the end of stage seven, the competition is still wide open. The past few years have seen the Mini ALL4 Racing team dominate the four-wheel results sheet, winning the Dakar rally every year since 2012. On the two-wheeled front, KTM was the clear dominator, winning everything since 2001. The trucks entered into Dakar have less predicable results, however, Kamaz seems to be a hot contender this year, having earned consecutive top spots for the last two years.

At the end of stage five, Vladimir Vasilyev and co-driver Konstantin Zhiltsov were declared stage winners, driving the Mini ALL4 Racing car and easing out overall leader Nasser-al-Attiyah. The two Russians moved up four places in the overall classification, coming in at a strong seventh position



overall. The 458 kilometre long route over the unforgivable Atacama Desert in Chile saw six MINI ALL4 Racing cars within the top ten, proving, yet again, why experience and technical know-how matters so much in Dakar. The same applied to the motorcycle category, hotly contested by Marc Coma (KTM) and Joan Barreda (Honda). Barreda has had several Dakar heartbreaks over the past years, but this year, his fantastic performance has kept him on the path to a win, although veteran rider Marc Coma seemed to be challenging Barreda's claim

to the throne. The sixth stage saw Australian Toby Price (backed by KTM) confirm people's belief that he would be Dakar's next rising star, Price blazing to a well won victory over the 318 kilometre stage in Chile from Antofagasta to Iquique, that too on his debut in Dakar. In the car category, Nasser Al-Attiyah extended his overall lead with his third stage win of the event. He now leads second-placed Giniel de Villiers by over 11 minutes. The seventh stage four-wheel winner was Dakar newcomer Yazeed Al Rajhi,

who excelled to take his first Dakar stage win. Barreda crashed heavily just past the halfway point of the stage, breaking his motorcycle's handlebars in two, allowing Marc Coma to surge forward. Barreda finished 12th on the stage, riding over 200 kilometres with just his right handle intact. Toby Price rounded off a solid top five finish.

Stage eight saw Marc Coma move up to the lead position overall in the motorcycle category, while Toby Price kept putting on a good show. Joan Barreda saw his dreams of a Dakar win dashed yet again, due to appalling weather conditions and a major setback in the previous stage. Female rider Lala Sanz finished strongly in the top five to move up to a ninth overall place.

The cars got a well-deserved rest from the rally action on the 8th day, and will join the rest of the field on the ninth stage as the Dakar rally moves to the grueling 450 kilometre run across the Atacama Desert.

Whatever the Dakar rally has in store for the competitors, at the end of the day, simply finishing is a heroic enough achievement. If you can survive the Dakar, you can pretty much survive anything.

THE GREEN STIG



Nationwide Service Network



Haojue

cool 150 CC

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.

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