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HORSEPOWER | TORQUE | WHEELS

SHIFT



The show stoppers, part uno: 2016 Acura NSX

The Honda/Acura NSX was one of the original drivers' supercars, and was the first time a mass market manufacturer made a sports car capable of taking on the big boys from Ferrari and Porsche in terms of driving experience. After a decade long hiatus, the NSX is back, and aside from a few mishaps during development, (google the video of the testing phase NSX catching fire at

Nurburgring) the aspiring exotic looks promising. No numbers yet, but the configuration of the NSX is in: mid-engine turbocharged V6, all wheel drive, hybrid drivetrain with three motors (two front, one rear). It'll have 550 plus horsepower, which will be useful in taking on the McLaren 650S, new Audi R8, Ferrari 458T, and the new Ford GT.



The show stoppers, part deux: 2016 Ford GT

Reaching the road in a production version by late 2016, the Ford GT's launching at the Detroit Motor Show was a show stealer. The ultra-aggressive aero-treatment is a break from the retro styling of the last generation, although we can clearly see a resemblance with the front end of the MKIII Ford GT40 from the late 60's. The La Ferrari-esque rear end is

dominated by the high mounted dual exhaust, and till we get to see (and hear) it on the move, we can only imagine what the exhaust not might be like. Its going to be good, however, as Ford has hinted at 600 plus horsepower from a turbo-charged Ecoboost engine. It looks wild and promises a lot, and we love it.

SHIFT ZONE

The Detroit motor show is the one-stop technology showcase for all the manufacturers. It is one of the biggest shows for petrolheads. Business is good for auto manufacturers. Developing countries are lapping up the hot new products. Too bad we're here watching our country burn because nobody can decide who has the bigger brauns. 2015 started off a little hot with automobile dealers barely making much progress because who would want to buy a new car now? And that makes it a pretty good time for someone to buy something now. Haggle and get your price down because no one is selling much. Although glass importers are making a killing, regular perishable parts like tyres and batteries aren't seeing much movement. Maybe we should go ahead and stock up for the coming apocalypse. Pickup trucks are always the preferred equipment to mow down hoards of screaming marauders. With that gloomy disposition, we move into February.

– Ehsanur Raza Ronny – Editor, Shift

SHIFT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Shift's Facebook fans went gaga over the café-racer styled bike we posted a picture of. Based on a 125 cc Korean bike called "Feijing", its owner Ariful Bashir decided to make the thing stand out from the crowd, and it now has a custom styled tank, seat, headlight, and thick knobby tyres.

Facebook has become a handy tool in spreading news of violence and raising awareness about the political situation in the country, and Durjoy Rahman Joy shared the latest tactic employed by miscreants to damage cars on the road: tripod like spikes, thrown underneath the tyres so that you're forced to come to a stop. It's a few steps from there to a blazing car appearing on the news, so we recommend you watch out for these. Stay safe.



Newest car-killer on the road

THE "REGULARS"



INFINITI Q60 CONCEPT

The Q60 is a drop dead gorgeous car that heralds the replacement of the G37 coupe. Flame surfacing and the raked back front and muscular flanks lends the Q60 a demeanor that will come in handy when battling for sports coupe dominance against the M4 and others from Audi, Lexus and Merc. Exciting times ahead.



2016 LEXUS GS-F

The IS-F was a screamer of a car, and although sales figures in Europe were dismal and the complaints about after sales service were endless, it proved that Lexus has what it takes to build a sport sedan. The GS-F will take on the next gen fight to the Germans, using a 467-hp, 389-lb-ft, 5.0-liter V-8. Oh, and it's a hybrid. Hold your breath, if you please.



2016 HYUNDAI SONATA HYBRID

It's not even close to being as exciting as the rest of the cars (and truck) on this list, but a new, plug-in hybrid Sonata is an exciting prospect. We're all tired of hearing how the Koreans are on the rise, but the Sonata presents a significant milestone as one of the first major Korean models to get a hybrid drivetrain. Don't expect to see one in Bangladesh, because where would you plug it in? We can barely charge our phones in this country.



TOYOTA
BANGLADESH



Tech at the Detroit Motor Show

The biggest motor show in America was a roller-coaster ride that saw the launch of a host of green vehicles, which proved a distinct contrast next to the massive trucks, off-roaders and SUVs presented at the show. It was a sign of the times, as the Americans are still at the tipping point of deciding which of the opposing fields to throw themselves behind: environment friendly cars or the hulking pickup trucks which are such a big part of the American lifestyle.

Considering the sheer amount of green-tech at the show, however, the environment conscious field seems to be gaining ground.

Honda has always been at the forefront of automotive tech, and their solid footing in North America means most of their new tech is brought to the road in their biggest market. The FCV concept shows



Chevrolet Volt: updated hybrid to replace very popular outgoing model.

off a fuel-cell vehicle that has been optimised for the road, and will reach dealerships by 2018. It's a replacement of the FCX Clarity, and is 33 percent smaller, yet more efficient with 60 percent more power density, having an impressive range of 300 miles and astonishingly, can be "refueled" in less than 3 minutes.

The more mainstream green car race saw Chevrolet launch a brand new model, the urban city crossover Bolt, and an updated second coming of the Volt sedan. The Bolt is strictly a concept, but it is rumoured for production sometime around 2017. GM made the bold claim of a price tag of less than 30,000 USD when it does, and that is a fair estimation, as EV

technology becomes cheaper each year, with GM having developed a solid all-rounder hybrid in the form of the Volt already. That technical know-how can help if the giant wants to invest in an all-electric vehicle.

The Chevy Volt is quite an important car for America, the main torch-holder for



Chevrolet Bolt EV: possible production in the future.

hybrid vehicles amongst the mass manufacturers in the US. GM seems to have made a risky decision however, as the second generation Volt is completely new from the ground up, and shares little with the outgoing model. Either they made significant progress since the last model, or they've made a blunder in dumping money into fixing things that weren't

broken, since the last Volt was a remarkably well-rounded car. Whatever the issue, GM can't really play around with development costs, considering how the green car race is heating up. A 1000-mile range between filling up is impressive enough to pull in the buyers.

Tesla, the poster-child for America's

drive towards greener cars, took a huge hit following CEO Elon Musk's comments on the firm's delayed profitability, the firm's stock dropping a huge 9 points immediately afterwards. With the automotive and worldwide press treating Elon Musk as a pseudo-celebrity, his stinging comments about the future of the hydrogen-fuel cell powered car have stirred up Toyota and



Honda FCV: the future of fuel cell vehicles?

others, and they responded in a similar fashion. This sort of taunting competition can be a driving force behind the development of greener cars, but considering the wide open playing field, it's important that the green side doesn't self-destruct from internal squabbling. The bigger picture is what counts.