



SPORTING UTILITY

The sport utility vehicles for sale in Bangladesh.

SUVs are the ultimate statement of luxury and wealth, and as far as a display of social status goes, SUVs are right up at the top of the list with a caviar entre at a five-course meal followed by less than subtle pandering of how important you are in this world. Needless to say, SUV owners are viewed with a certain kind of apprehension reserved for the powerful and wealthy, but setting those aside, SUVs are basically the automotive equivalent of Apple products: you don't really need them, but it feels good to have them anyway.

ENTRY LEVEL SEGMENT



FORD ECOSPORT

The EcoSport is the smallest SUV in this list. So small, in fact, that face to face with one, you'll be hard pressed to categorise it as such. It is a huge bargain. Filling the gap between small hatchback and small SUV, the EcoSport comes in 1.5 liter diesel/petrol variants, and offer great deal of equipment for the price. When we reviewed it, it was enthusiastic, a small terrier that is just extremely willing to do anything to make you happy.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 30 LAKH TAKA (AMBIENT PETROL A/T), 31.5 LAKH TAKA (AMBIENT DIESEL M/T).



HYUNDAI TUCSON

The Tucson is larger in every way than the EcoSport, and has a larger engine (2.0 liter 4 cylinder) and more upscale aspirations, so piling it together in the entry level segment with Ford's smaller offering is a bit of an injustice. However, the Tucson is still a bargain deal, offering the "proper" SUV experience at a much cheaper cost than the rest of the SUVs on sale here. The design is funky and the interior looks great, so if you can't afford the larger Santa Fe, the Tucson should be your Hyundai SUV of choice.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 47 LAKH TAKA



KIA SPORTAGE

We were genuinely surprised when we tested the KIA. It sold very well in Dhaka considering the relative lack of brand familiarity, and the success of the Sportage paved the way for more KIA models entering the market. Zippy handling, a responsive engine and loads of kit for the price makes the small KIA a great starting point for new SUV buyers. The loud colours and funky styling are better suited to a younger crowd, however.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 50 LAKH TAKA.

MID-SIZE SEGMENT



FORD ESCAPE

The latest contender in the mid-size SUV segment, the Escape combines the space and equipment of a full-size SUV with the comfort and dynamics of a soft-roader. The Escape has a gem of an engine under the hood, a 1.6 liter EcoBoost turbocharged four cylinder, and don't let the lack of displacement fool you: the Escape promises kick in the pants acceleration. Combine that with the frankly impressive options list and you have the makings of a possible hot-seller. Watch out for this one.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 75 LAKH TAKA.



HONDA CRV

The CRV has been the soft-roader of the world for a while now, out-selling competitors in almost all parts of the world. Here in Bangladesh, the CRV was a popular seller when first introduced because the latest CRV is an efficient machine with great mileage figures thanks to its i-VTEC engine and it has the space of a full-size SUV. Its not exactly a good looking, but Honda is one of the only manufacturers on the planet who can somehow make awkward proportions look good and fitting.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 66 LAKH TAKA.



SUZUKI GRAND VITARA

Its squarish, handsome and has remained unchanged for a while now. The 2.0 liter petrol engine underneath is sourced from Japan, so put your fears of an Indian-assembled SUV to rest, because the Grand Vitara ensures top-notch quality at a bargain price. The design is the best feature on the Vitara though, because if the same basic shape (facelift in 2013) hasn't aged a minute for five years, it's definitely a good thing.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 60 LAKH TAKA.



HYUNDAI SANTA FE

The Tucson's older, more refined brother has a more brutish front end and is much larger, although you wouldn't be able to say so from a cursory glance. The Santa Fe comes equipped with a 2.4 liter MPI engine and a 6 speed automatic, so cruising highways is a breeze for Hyundai's mid-size SUV. You get options like Cruise Control and a touch screen infotainment system, so you get some pretty good kit as well.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 75 LAKH TAKA.



ONLINE SPECIAL

Veiled aggression (Or not)

PHOTO: TASTID CHOWDHURY

Read the full feature of this Veilside kitted, super aggressive Mazda RX8 Type E on our website: www.thedailystar.net/shift For instant access to exclusive hi-res images (can be used as awesome wallpapers as well) and more content, scan the QR code with your smartphone's code scanner.



CLUB GT CELEBRATES 7 YEARS

Club GT, one of the biggest automotive enthusiast clubs in Dhaka, has recently stepped into its 7th year as a unit. On 21st February, 2015, they celebrated in a big way, with almost all of the club members present with their cars at the railway station beside Radisson Blu Water Garden hotel.

All of the old crew, as well as the newer members, were present. Tareq Ahmed, president of Club GT (whose targa-top Toyota SW20 MR2 we featured on Shift a while back) said, "We are happy to have crossed the milestone of 7 years as a club. I'd like to thank anyone who has been associated with Club GT, and I hope we can continue for many more years to come."

Also present at the meet was Saidus Khaled, better known as "Bassbaba"



Shumon, the famed bassist for Aurthohin. His supercharged Mazda MX5 has been getting a lot of attention because of its loud paintjob and aggressive stance. The regular faces in the Dhaka customisation scene, including Kazi Hamidur Rahman, Saad Mujtaba Zaman, Pavel Rahman, M Raihan Ahmed, Farhan Faiz, Tanvir Hassan,



Vicky Ahmed, Bony Hassan, Munir Chowdhury Sakin and others were present.

Stay tuned for more updates and features on Club GT and the amazing cars and people in their lineup.

WORDS: SHAER REAZ
PHOTOS: TASTID H. CHOWDHURY

Volkswagen introduces Vento

The Volkswagen Vento is a 1500cc turbo-diesel powered family sedan, impressively equipped with 7 speed DSG automatic transmission, ABS, ESP, hill-hold control, dual air-bags, electronic engine immobilizer, Bluetooth and USB, and voice command. With 105 PS of power and 250 Nm of torque on offer, the Vento combines European styling and comfort with German efficiency and performance.

Available in two grades. Comfortline and Highline, priced at 32.50 lakh and 33.50 lakh respectively, the Vento aims to compete in the 1500cc sedan market with high fuel-efficiency, reliability, and typical Volkswagen build-quality.

For more details, contact Multidrive Limited, distributors of Volkswagen vehicles in Bangladesh.

SHIFT ZONE

SUV drivers are cursed at for damaging the environment, taking up too much space, and carry the eternal curse of being labeled a "show-off". To understand the SUV lifestyle properly though, all it takes is a test drive and a ride along, sitting at the back of a leather and wood and button filled interior, lounging as your SUV glides along the road. Let it serve as inspiration to succeed, and the whole idea of the SUV will win you over.

-- SHAER REAZ, SUB-EDITOR, SHIFT.

MID-SIZE HIGH-END SEGMENT



VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN

Its not the cheapest of the Germans, but VW is known for bulletproof build quality and top-shelf materials, and the 2.0 liter TSI engine has the torque to pull around all the weight you can throw at it. Coming in three grades, Trendline, Comfortline and Highline, the Tiguan offers a surprising amount of versatility when it comes to personalising the options and features. It's also a very handsome soft-roader.

PRICE: STARTS FROM 1.20 CRORE TAKA (TRENDLINE).



BMW X1, X3, X4

BMW may have a confusing corporate nomenclature, but product differentiation seems to work for them. The X1, X3 and X4 are all similar cars mechanically, with different body styles and interiors. The cheapest and smallest, the X1, is a relatively bargain deal considering you get the finest German engineering for under a crore. The X3 and X4 offer increasing levels of kit, and are sure to encase you in a luxurious cocoon that you'll find well worth the money. All three come with 2.0 liter diesel engines, which are efficient and torquey.

PRICE: X1 STARTS FROM 95 LAKH TAKA, X3 STARTS FROM 1.35 CRORE TAKA, X4 STARTS FROM 1.48 CRORE TAKA.



MERCEDES BENZ GLA

The pictures are deceiving and make the GLA look like an oversized hatchback, but it's a fully loaded compact SUV in every way, so expect the price to be steep. The GLA is a good-looking car, although its debatable considering it's a hyper-modern Benz. Under the hood is a 2.0 liter inline 4 cylinder, which can get the compact SUV moving at a brisk pace. We'd get it in the loudest colour possible, because the muted colour options render the funky GLA inert.

PRICE: TBD (TO BE DETERMINED).



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