

11TH DHAKA MOTORSHOW

The Dhaka Motorshow is not a glamorous affair filled with glittering new debuts and yet unseen models. What it is, though, is a way for our automotive dealers to display their wares to a buying crowd. Organised by CEMS Global, the Dhaka Motorshow attracted thousands and gave them an automotive feast for three whole days.

The 11th instalment of the Dhaka Motorshow combined with the 2nd Dhaka Bike Show and 3rd Rallycross Championship concluded on the 2nd of April. Held at the International Convention City Bashundhara, the 3 day event featured vehicles from Honda, Toyota, Ford, Great Wall and local assemblers Pragati.

Toyota authorised dealer Navana brought out the brand new 2016 Avanza MPV, alongside the new RAV4, Vios and Yaris. Honda distributor DHS Motors brought out the CRV SUV, City Executive Line sedan and the hot selling HRV compact SUV. Ford's stall had the Fiesta, Ecosport min-SUV, and the Ranger pickup. Chinese manufacturer Great Wall, distributed by Ace Auto, displayed the H5 double cabin pickup and the H6 SUV. The Pragati stall featured a myriad collection of the vehicles they assemble locally – the now familiar Mitsubishi Pajero Sport and ASX, SUVs and pickups by Foday and a SUV by Mahindra.

Across the grounds in the second hall, the Bike Show was a lively affair featuring more than eight stalls with motorbikes on display, from the likes of Suzuki, Keeway, UM Motors, and others. With everything from entry level road-bikes to sport bikes and cruisers, the bass thumping matched the loud colours and audience reception. A marvelous addition was a stall featuring four classic sport bikes from Yamaha and Honda, complete with fact sheets and specs.

Outside in the parking lot, Dhaka's automotive enthusiasts put on a different kind of show. Crazy bodykits, loud exhausts and many horsepower Mitsubishi Evos, Subaru STIs, Toyota Celicas and more filled up the parking lot and rounded up an otherwise excellent event. On the final day, there was a huge spike in the visitor crowd as rally bred machines carved their way around the adjacent rallycross track.

The Dhaka Motorshow will hopefully be back next year, louder, bigger, and better than ever before.

Head to our site, www.thedailystar.net, for further coverage and exclusive shots of the Motorshow.

PHOTOS: FARHAN AHMED



Honda's CRV - facelifted, soon to be replaced.



Ford and its fiery Fiesta. Minus the Ken Block.



Toyota's RAV4 - sleek and smooth. Practical, too.



The Pragati stall - the best of what Bangladesh can do at the moment.



Great Wall had a range of pickups/SUVs. Look for a review of the Haval H6.



Redefining old school precision through this retro JDM KE70 coupe- the right amount of show that's needed with the go.



From an econo autobox to a GT-4 spec watercooled turbo screamer, this Celica overshadows its MR2 sibling.



The 3rd rallycross was seriously deprived of STIs, except a 10 minute display of this 700BHP beast.

3rd Rallycross Championship



Organised by Bangladesh Motorsports and held alongside the 11th Dhaka Motorshow organised by CEMS Global, the 3rd instalment of the Rallycross Championship was held on the 2nd of April on the International Convention City grounds at Bashundhara, Dhaka.

With six groups of participants (A to E and a Novice group) with entrants driving anything from Toyota Proboxes to Toyota Corollas to high horsepower Lancer Evolutions, the single day dirt track event featured some high speed cornering and flying dirt and sand everywhere.

The upgrades to the track from last year include more width, lesser sharp corners and more straights. It was made for faster cars, and the lap-times reflected that.

The entrants were more varied this year, with an international participant from Nepal competing in a Toyota Passo. In the novice group, Affan Sadat entered and won the group with an Isuzu Vehicross (49.407 secs), an SUV not only rare in Bangladesh, but worldwide. The ladies class was won by Syeda Shirhana Haque with a time of 53.648 seconds. Group D winner Karib Ahmed managed a time of 51.040 seconds with a Toyota Vitz, while H.M. Tauhid Anwar Avik won Group C in a Toyota Axio with a time of 46.736 secs.

The performance groups were Group B and A, with non-turbocharged cars entered into Group B and turbocharged vehicles were inducted into Group A. Group B was won by H.M Taufiq Anwar, brother of Avik Anwar, setting a time of 48.283 seconds in his Honda Civic Type R. Jamil Mostofa came in second with a time of 51.296 secs (modified Toyota Corona) and Sarwar Hossain Chowdhury came in third with a time of 51.625 seconds in his modified Honda Civic EF.

Group A was undoubtedly the most competitive, but the audience expectation came true: Avik Anwar, winner of the last two Rallycross championships, completed his treble, posting a time of 43.803 seconds in his Lancer Evo X. Saidi Hossain finished second with his Team RAW Evo X and a time of 45.565 seconds, while Sarwar Hossain Chowdhury finished third with his converted Mitsubishi Lancer Evo and a time of 45.968 seconds.

The only form of motorsport in the country has kept fans coming back for more, and it'll no doubt be back next year.

For a complete analysis of the Rallycross event and the performance of the participants, head to our site at www.thedailystar.net/shift.