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SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

PROJECT CARS



SMURF MOBILE

Zafar Mashfee is no stranger to Shift. He was one of the first people in Dhaka to do a 2ZZGE swap into a Toyota, and we featured this clean but ballistic 2ZZ Premio last year. It wouldn't be far fetched to call him a car scene pioneer then, especially after taking a look at his latest project: a full conversion of an Impreza into a fire breathing STI.

By "full conversion" we mean precisely that: Mashfee has left no stone unturned in his pursuit of the perfect STI, and even the carpets, floor lining, door cards and pretty much anything you will find on a Japanese spec STI has been swapped in.

It's highly ironic, then, that Zafar Mashfee has long harboured the dream of owning a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution, and still does. So what is man so obsessed with Lancer Evos, that he has multiple cover photos on Facebook, doing with a painstakingly converted STI? The answer lies with the ease with which a basic econo-box Subaru Impreza can be converted to an STI. Even the most basic of Imprezas come with symmetrical All Wheel Drive, with the STI drive train mounted in the same place, with thicker driveshafts to handle the extra power over the regular Impreza. By contrast, AWD cars in the Lancer range are very rare and require extensive chassis modifications to get the Evolution drive-train fitted, making the converted car less put-together than a converted STI.

On the inside, outside and in the engine bay where the EJ20T sits, this Impreza has a fresh-off-the-showroom feel to it - polished



surfaces, factory finish and an air of cleanliness that shows that the owner cares about his car.

It's easy to fall in love when the object of your affection looks, goes and sounds as amazing as this.

WORDS: SHAER REAZ
PHOTOS: TASDID H. CHOWDHURY

HOW YOU CAN HAVE YOUR VERY OWN STI

WITH GOLD WHEELS, RIDICULOUS HOOD SCOOP, CLOTHES RACK SPOILER, ET AL.

1. BUY A BREAD AND BUTTER IMPREZA. FOUND IN THE USED CAR MARKET FOR AROUND 8-10 LAKH TK.

2. BUY AN STI IN JAPAN, FOUND ON AUCTION SITES FOR \$10,000 -15,000 USD. TUNED /TRACK SPEC CARS ALSO AVAILABLE.

3. BRING THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS TO BANGLADESH. MAKE SURE THE TASTY BITS LIKE COILOVERS/WHEELS MAKE IT AS WELL.

4. SWAP EVERYTHING INTO THE BASIC IMPREZA YOU BOUGHT. M.A. AUTOMOBILES (UTTARA SECTOR 12) ALREADY HAS 2 STI SWAPS UNDER THEIR BELT SO THEY COME RECOMMENDED.



INFOGRAPHIC: SHAER REAZ
MAIN PHOTO: TASDID HOSSAIN

*OWNER OF THIS FINE AUTOMOBILE



IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN BUILDING YOURS, STRAIGHT FROM ZAFAR MASHFEE:

COALS CAN BE TURNED INTO DIAMONDS IF YOU HAVE PROPER KNOWLEDGE, PATIENCE, SUPPORT FROM FAMILY AND VERY HELPFUL FRIENDS AROUND. EVERY CAR IS GOOD ON ITS OWN PLATFORM, IF YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT THAT IS, A CAR CAN BE A SOURCE OF HAPPINESS.

Budget 2016/17 – how does it affect you?

Supplementary duty on: 1500 cc hybrid vehicle: 30% (regular car: 45%)
1501 to 2000cc hybrid: 60% (regular: 100%)
2001 to 2700cc hybrid: 150% (regular: 200%)



MORE HYBRIDS!

Supplementary duty on imported parts for motorbikes lowered.



Previous: 45%
Now: 25%

construction/reconstruction of 118 bridges in the eastern region completion of the feasibility study/design of the proposed 4-lane Dhaka-Sylhet highway

National budget announcement time is extremely stressful for car importers, resellers, buyers and owners. You'd think, considering the amount of sweat dripping down the eyebrows of potential car buyers when faced with the prospect of buying a car after the budget has been announced, that the government was launching an inquisition to rid the country of tax payers once and for all. While it's true that the import duties placed on vehicles are sometimes ridiculous and heart-attack inducing, things are finally looking up for the Bangladesh car market – or so it seems.

Last year, for 2015-16, the import duties on cars remained unchanged from the previous year, with minor adjustments to the clause on commercial vehicles. Back in 2014-15, the import duty on entry-level "luxury" cars (below 2000cc but above 1500cc) was lowered while that on "small" cars (below 1500cc but above 1000cc) was slightly, inexplicably, raised. This year, for 2016-17, the duty structure on regular cars of all displacements remained the same, with the major changes coming in the form of lowered

duties on hybrid vehicles. Regular fuel cars below 1500cc will be subjected to 45 percent supplementary duty, whereas for hybrid cars it will be only 30 percent. The duty on regular fuel cars between 1501cc and 2,000cc is 100 percent, for hybrid cars with similar engine capacity it is 60 percent. For 2001 to 2700cc cars, the duty is 200 percent, while their hybrid counterparts will enjoy 150 percent supplementary duty.

This lower duty on hybrid cars spells out exciting times for car buyers as there are plenty of hybrid versions of current models in the market, and lower duty is likely to make the hybrid models less expensive compared to the regular fuel models, even factoring in how hybrid models are generally more expensive. For the dealers and importers of hybrid vehicles, one major challenge will be providing after-sales service to the hybrid vehicles, if indeed the new duty structure raises demand for hybrids in the country. No doubt the brand new car market will adapt quickly – the abilities of the grey market for reconditioned cars to adapt to changing market conditions is cause for concern.

Finance Minister A.M.A Muhith also stressed on encouraging an emerging motorcycle assembly and manufacturing industry, by lowering the 45 percent supplementary duty on imported parts and components to 20 percent and helping motorcycle assemblers to backward integrate more easily. The budget also mentions protecting the local parts manufacturers by placing special duties on imports of the same kind of parts. Similarly, the budget defined the Human Hauler as a class of vehicle, and import of these vehicles will incur a 25 percent customs duty and 30 percent supplementary duty.

So there you have it. Unless you're interested in buying a hybrid vehicle (should be brilliant for those who are) or want to go into manufacturing motorcycles or importing human haulers, the 2016-17 budget does not affect you much. Oh, and the finance minister hinted that price cut of octane that we saw last month will possibly be cut even further in the coming months as the worldwide oil prices have stabilised.

WORDS & INFOGRAPHIC: SHAER REAZ

COLLECTIBLES

The JDM war is on



The Mazda RX3 started life as a Grand Familia in four-door guise. They called the coupe an RX3, dropped in a tiny yet high output Wankel and a cult classic was born. Except I bet few people in the Bangladeshi model car scene knew about it. Till now. Hothwheels (and the world of collectors) has gone all out bonkers for all things JDM. And to consider this little known icon in their lineup means the battle is on in a much

bigger scale than anticipated. The purple car here is a overfendered beauty featuring in HW's recent Historics lineup. I'd say this is the best of the lot because of the color, the perfect cast and the fact that it is still a bit rare. Lowest price we found was on Amazon at roughly 1000tk with free shipping.

WORDS AND PHOTO: E.R. RONNY



When Honda Civics meet

Honda Civics are a huge part of tuning culture all over the world. Until recently, Dhaka's Civics were not really up to the mark. Now that they are, Civic owners recently gathered for a meet. Full photos and feature online, at www.thedailystar.net/shift. Photos: Tasdid Hossain Chowdhury.