



## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Hot new wheels for 2016



It is the magic mark right now-1500cc. It is at a sweet spot where dealers and car owners are enjoying a tax slab that feels like one half plate of 'beef tehari': just enough but not too much!

Those days are gone when small engines spelled doom for power hungry petrolheads. Turbo-charging is a common technical sucker-punch these days with small cars offering power outputs of much larger engines. BMW has an entire range of 1.5 litre turbocharged cars that are dominating the luxury market in Bangladesh.

Honda is soon to bring in their first turbo unit in the form of a Civic. Even naturally aspirated engines employing variable valve technology are producing the right amount of power in ranges and driving conditions that you need it most.

The performance is not just the power output number written on paper but how that amount is delivered. Then comes the matter of efficiency. These new cars easily achieve 8-10kmpl on average in city traffic and will last for ages if maintained well with proper oil changes and driving. This indeed is a great technological time for petrolheads.

Here's a rundown of the best brand new cars in the 1500cc range you can buy this year in Bangladesh. We balanced spaciousness, comfort, practicality and reliability. And most of these look good and are super fun to drive.

## THE FAMILY GUY

This is usually someone with a kid or two and a wife. Or two. A car for four people. Options are wide and varied.

The Honda City comes with a 1.5 118bhp engine. It looks like a very sharp wedge ready to slice through the air. You can get one fully kitted with spoilers and side skirts or a little extra but those wheels are horrendous. It makes the smart car look a little like a body builder that refuses to work the legs. But that is not a deal breaker.

The car has a superbly crafted ergonomic interior with sci-fi spaceship gauges. It has excellent leg space at the rear despite not looking that big on the outside. The fully loaded Premium model comes in at 32.50 lakhs while the Executive will cost you 30.50 lakhs, the differences between the two being in the



infotainment system, the wheel size, paddle shifters and higher-grade trim on the Premium.

A very close con-

tender is the Toyota Vios. The redesign especially of the front fascia with the massive grill makes it look deceptively aggressive. The 1.5 gives out 107bhp and 105lb/ft of torque coupled to a four-speed auto transmission.

It is not as smooth and efficient as the Honda CVT but it downshifts quickly when you need to floor it. Prices start at 28.9 lakhs, and for the different grades available, we would pick the middle one (Grade G) as best value for money. There is also the 1.3 litre Toyota Yaris, basically the same car as the Vios with a smaller engine, which starts at 25 lakh taka.

