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SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

TEST DRIVE



A few hours of fun emptied the tank. Now we need a month to refill our wallets. Need to hire automotive journalists? We make great coffee and gourmet noodles.

A DAY WITH A 2016 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER V8

WHAT?
We have the king of the off-landers at our disposal.

WELL?
The Land Cruiser in all its iterations has been popular with people betting their lives on a car. Whether it is the UN peace keeping missions or the rebels that carry both live chickens and rocket launchers in the back, hardcore people opt for a Land Cruiser.

HOW BIG?
I love the burgers at Grilled situated in Dhanmondi 27. It's a tiny restaurant. You can't park this thing up front. It's way too big. But you can park the entire Grilled burger joint inside the Toyota. It seats about 8 people who have just had multiple burgers. Could probably fit more.

WHAT IS IT LIKE INSIDE?
It feels like a fortress. While they have used a lot of brushed aluminium and wood accents to bring about a high tech space-age feel to the surroundings, it is no Range Rover study in fashion. Buttons are plenty and easily accessible. Individual AC front and rear, left and right means you can laugh at the summer sun and call it disrespectful names.

HOW DOES IT DRIVE?
The lazy V8 pulls in a manner as if to condescendingly ask you, 'What's the rush?' just before it lifts the nose and surges forward. While it starts off lazy, it'll reach 100kmph in under 7 seconds each time much to the annoyance of the photographer who wanted a clear shot. In-gear acceleration is rapid yet effortless thanks to the



460 NM of torque, most of it available below 3000RPM. There are multiple modes for the ride but it all feels like a slight variation of soft. And this is how a proper off-roader should be to soak in the bumps. It does it well despite the massive 20 inch wheels which thump along silently outside the well-insulated cabin. FYI, this is designed to be fitted with 18 inch wheels with tall sidewalls and deep treads to tackle just about any terrain. And that too without any modifications to the suspension or bodywork.

HOW TECH-Y?
That's a long list. I love the camera unit just behind the grill that helps navigate the sea of cars by coming on

whenever other vehicles are close by in city manoeuvres. It shows how far objects are and how soon you will hit them depending on where your wheels are turned. Nifty.

The limited-slip center differential splits torque 40/60 front/rear but is quickly able to send more power to any side as needed. It also has 4-Wheel active height control (AHC) and adaptive variable suspension (AVS).

DOES IT OFF-ROAD?
When it rains, our cities, especially Chittagong, always auditions to be the next Venice. A 700mm (or 27.5 inches) wading depth is the official figure. Add a snorkel and you can dive underwater, almost. Good point for people of Chittagong considering how water levels keep rising.

VERDICT:
We didn't dare contemplate about the fuel consumption for too long. In the city it'll average 5.5 km/l and about 7.6km/l cruising on the highways. This is an old-school style machine with a lot of hidden grunt. Yet, it is civilised while static and in motion. There is no drama or noise, just purposeful movement. It is all about getting you to your destination no questions asked.

Head to our site - www.thedailystar.net/shift - for an extended test drive of this V8 Land Cruiser.

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PHOTOS: RAHIN SADMAN ISLAM



SPECS

4.6V8, 318hp, 460NM torque. 6-speed automatic. 4-wheel AHC & AVS. Adaptive variable suspension. 700mm wading depth. Ventilated disc brakes front and rear. Dual 11.6-inch rear seat entertainment system with Super Live sound system. Ventilated power leather seats. Tilt and slide electric moon roof. LED headlights. Power tailgate.

Price: 3.5-4.4 crore Taka depending on specification.

Available from Rancon Imports.



THE EUROPEAN MUSTANG

1970 FORD MUSTANG MILANO CONCEPT

At the February 1970 Chicago Auto Show, Ford showed a wild looking Mustang concept inspired by European GT cars. Called the Milano (after the Italian city), the low slung muscle car was supposed to invoke images of the glamorous European jet-set lifestyle of the late 1960s.

They never made it, of course. World economy went to the dogs and the global oil crisis killed the Mustang's chance of conquering Europe back then.

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SHIFT GARAGE

The myth of engine oil - simplified

What the rest of the world calls engine oil, in Bangladesh, it's known as mobil with a lower case M. Goes to show which brand has been dominating the scene for decades. So what does it do? Apparently, most car owners, drivers and many service station personnel seem to think it keeps things slippery - similar to pouring a little coconut oil in a padlock to keep it from rusting. Nope.

What does engine oil really do?

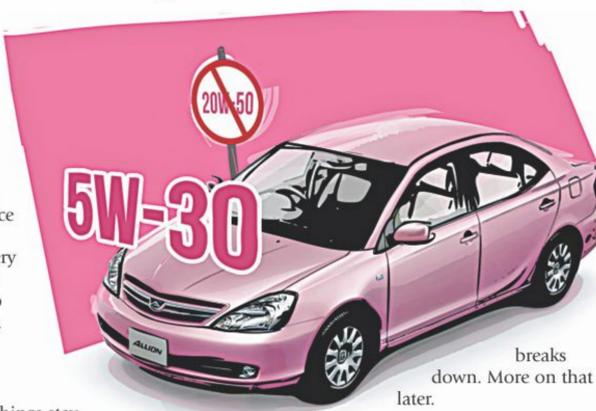
Simply put, it makes sure things stay cool and clean. Engine oil reduces friction between moving parts. Friction creates heat, heat creates things to reach temperatures high enough for engine internals to melt. It also contains cleaning agents that help to keep the insides free of sludge.

What's sludge?

As petrol burns, it leaves behind sticky, icky by products known as sludge. This ends up lining the inside of engines causing clogs and corrosion as you race across Purbachal 300ft trying to impress virtually nobody. The latter part we suggest not to do.

How are we killing our cars?

Using the wrong engine oil grade and not getting it changed at right intervals. Engine oil comes in various types and weights. And over time, it



breaks down. More on that later.

Can I put in any oil?

Different cars require different oils based on temperature and type of car. Most modern engines often require a lighter oil. An older, classic car requires thicker mineral oils. How do you know which is required? Simple. Google it. Look in the owner's manual. And for the most popular car in Bangladesh, the Toyota Allion, it generally requires 5W-30 or 10W-30 oil. Not the 20W-50 most garages end up pouring. Use the right oil. Newer cars don't like thicker oils.

Follow us for more on how to make your car last nearly forever. More details on engine oil coming. Mail to shift@thedailystar.net with your queries.

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