



Hotline - 01709674488, 01709674489

The Daily Star DHAKA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017, ASHAR 28, 1424 BS e-mail: shift@thelaststar.net

SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

PROJECT CARS

A LOVE LETTER TO THE HAWKEYE



The Subaru Impreza is a vehicle that has been elevated to automotive deity status by enthusiasts thanks to Subaru's success in the World Rally Championship, having racked up 47 rally wins from 1993 to 2008 with varying cars. The car also benefitted from one of the best car-drive combos the world of motorsport has ever seen – Colin McRae behind the wheel of any Subie, in any condition, with any rules, was virtually unstoppable back in the day. The death of this rallying god and worsening global economic conditions meant Subaru's distinctive factory colours of blue and gold are not seen tearing up gravel in North Africa or diving headfirst into the muddy jungles of Indonesia, with Subaru's parent company, Fuji Heavy Industries, relying instead on creature comforts to sell cars.

As a result, for the proper automotive enthusiast out there, the line of Subaru Imprezas worth falling head over heels for ends with the second and last facelift of the GD generation. Dubbed the "Hawkeye" Impreza for its distinctive aeronautical inspired front end, this generation of the Impreza, especially in WRX and STI forms, carried all the bells and whistles of past Imprezas and to date the last generation homologated for rally racing.

For both Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution and Subaru Impreza WRX/STI owners, there is a certain pride to be had in owning a car that was built for the sole purpose of competition, only sold to the public for meeting homologation regulations. No matter how great the cars are, the Lancer Evo X and the Impreza GH series some-

how fail to live up to the thrill of knowing you're sitting and driving a homologated rally car for the road.

Is Shahriar Aziz's Subaru Impreza the STI Spec C model that was homologated for rallying? Not really, because his brilliant white Subie is a WRX. However, the motorsport link is there alright – originally built by Saad Mujtaba Zaman (whose Civic we've featured before on Shift), the parts used in this WRX have seen track use in Singapore under Subaru SPT and were built to last and take a thorough beating while delivering the highest levels of performance. The car has an entirely built block – forged pieces replace the connecting rods, bearings, pistons. TopTech provided the intercooler, radiator, oil

cooler and the 6-piston front braking. Adding some all-important carbon fiber bits like the canards, front splitter, grille, roof spoiler, wing supports and rear bumper extensions step up the Subie's contrast and street cred.

Shahriar is studying automotive engineering at Minnesota State University in the United States. For a lifelong car enthusiast known for going a bit mad with the experimentation – he turbocharged a basic 1NZFE powered Toyota Corolla to deliver power and coincidentally, torque steer back when most kids were doubtful of putting air intakes on their cars - his Subaru seems a bit...regular. That's because the engine is currently slightly de-tuned so Shahriar can drive it every day when

he's back on summer breaks – what's the point of having a track tuned beast sitting in your driveway when all that power stops you from using all of the car's potential, every day?

Not that its low on power by any account – Shahriar says this car pushes well beyond 400 HP quite reliably, which is where this Subie is headed in the near future. Shahriar just wants to tinker around with his rally car for the road, and go cruising with his friends in comfort – no better car than a tuned Impreza WRX for that.

WORDS: SHAER REAZ

PHOTOS: TASDID CHOWDHURY



EUROCARS UTTARA | TEJGAON

Volvo Bangladesh +880 17292 86588

AUTO NEWS



Warming up factory SUVs are nothing new to this world – there are aftermarket companies like Hamann and Kahn for which selling sport tune packages for these big, lumbering beasts of the road are a lifeline. Turns out you can expect factory manufacturers to the same as well, as evidenced by Volvo's performance division taking a go at the astonishingly good-looking XC60.

The XC60 Polestar T8 now delivers 421 HP, which at first doesn't sound like much, till you consider that it's the Swedes and all that power will be delivered safely to you on a soft, cushiony cloud of warm, white tyre smoke. Power delivery will be hugely different from the basic XC60, to match the bigger, nittier XC90 Polestar. Will our local Volvo dealers, Eurocars Ltd., bring in the XC60 Polestar? Most likely not, but we can wait and see. Or just grab a regular XC60, which is brilliant enough on its own.

GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED 2017



Where would you get to see a Formula 1 car from last year in action, merely 20 feet away from you, right after a Subaru Impreza with crazy aero and turbo whistle blows past? That too, right after a priceless Ferrari 250GT LM just tore past?

The Goodwood Festival of Speed was a gift to true petrolheads by Charles Gordon-Lennox, Earl of March, at his home in Goodwood Estate in West Sussex, England. The Festival of

Speed has turned into one of the biggest showcases of the motoring calendar for restorers, motorsport sponsors, tuners and manufacturers.

This year, the Goodwood Festival of Speed featured Formula 1 legend Bernie Ecclestone as the central display, with usual highlights of Formula 1 racing spread throughout the paddock. There were drifting displays by everything from a Mazda MX5 and RTR Mustang to a 1200 HP Nissan GTR, while Formula Drift Champion Chris Fosberg crashed in his

Nissan Z. There were historic rally cars as well – a Ford RS200 Cosworth powersteered hard enough into a barrier to undress itself. The typically priceless metal like the Maseratis and Ferraris were outshone by the pre-World War era vehicles with their almost alien-like personas.

Standouts from the manufacturer displays were the mouthwatering new Renault Alpine, which sounds and looks like the 70's but goes like the 2000s – and the hyper-exclusive, 300 units-only Jaguar XE SV Project 8.



Live Inside the Fragrance

For queries & suggestions, call Care Zone **08000888000**



SQUARE TOILETRIES LIMITED

medicom/STL/Rev/0017