

UNDERDOGS...AGAIN!

On the heels of that success, the Toyota GT86 is now the national sportscar considering how many came in. It is priced much cheaper at under 45lakhs depending on the specs. Two doors, 200hp or so and two seats for a very well mannered, fun car. Not a lot of power but it rewards drivers who can find a good road and stay within their limits.

Most children will whine about the power output, but I have found it to be the most fun car to drive in and around a city. It does not ask much and it feels strangely satisfyingly mechanical. A supercharged, wide body version known as a Rocketbunny is available under 60 lakhs. There are more than 50 units out prowling the streets already. It's the first good looking Toyota after many, many years.

If you want to go top down though, nothing beats the Mazda MX5 for fun and lively handling. A 1.5 litre, 130-ish BHP delivers lively driving fun without breaking the bank.

OFFROAD MAYHEM ... MOSTLY IN THE CITY

We have seen a demand for small SUVs increasing in the country for two reasons. One is the practical reason of wanting to navigate our terrible roads that have potholes the size of election promises. Normal cars often literally scrape through for a living. The other reason being an SUV adds at least 50 points to your social standing among peers.

We have seen a whole lot of 1 crore taka plus Land Rover Range Rovers sold over the last couple of years. They have mostly disappeared partly due to their wonky reliability.

The other standard is the Toyota Land Cruiser 'this and that' models. They have strange names like 'Bison', 'Invader' and

'Tremble At My Mention'. They start at north of one crore and go all the way up to 4 crores for the V8 version. Only NGOs and MPs buy the latter and frankly, they are not that exciting.

Nope, 2017 is about the Porsche. While it did not sell in huge numbers, double digits of the lovely Porsche Macan came in at around 1.9 crores. Released in 2014, this sleek, crossover SUV has a base engine of 2 litres with 250bhp and 273lb/ft of torque. It looks like a Porsche and in a good way. Among the sea of boxy off roaders, this

You will be pampered to no end and even be able to stand up a bit. And it is a hybrid to boot.

It is supremely comfortable to drive and is surprisingly stable. I drove one on a test track of a demo on a rainy day and obviously I pushed it beyond its limits. It skidded all over while remaining planted on the ground. It was fun but an activity not recommended on public roads.

A 2017 model will cost around 1.8 crore while an older one will dip around the 1 crore mark. It makes for great mobile



PHOTO: SHADMAN AL SAMEE



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PHOTO: FARHAN AHMED

truly stands out. The Volvo XC90 gets an honourable mention for being the prettiest new SUV. Just look at those headlights.

LUXURY CARPOOL

I am from Sylhet and we cannot talk about cars without mentioning a van. It's the only way we carry two or three entire families to one place. The Toyota Veilfire is not quite that. It is the top of the line luxury van with massive, cushioned armchairs for a limited number of passengers. It is literally a very cosy living room on wheels.

meetings as we spend so much of the time sitting in traffic.

And there you have it! The choices available for the 1 Crore Club is quite large. Missing that, you can always join the Budget Club and still feel the same. After all, we will all mostly be sitting in traffic staring out the window.

By Ehsanur Raza Ronny

Certain prices and information on market availability is provided by our friends at CarHouse.

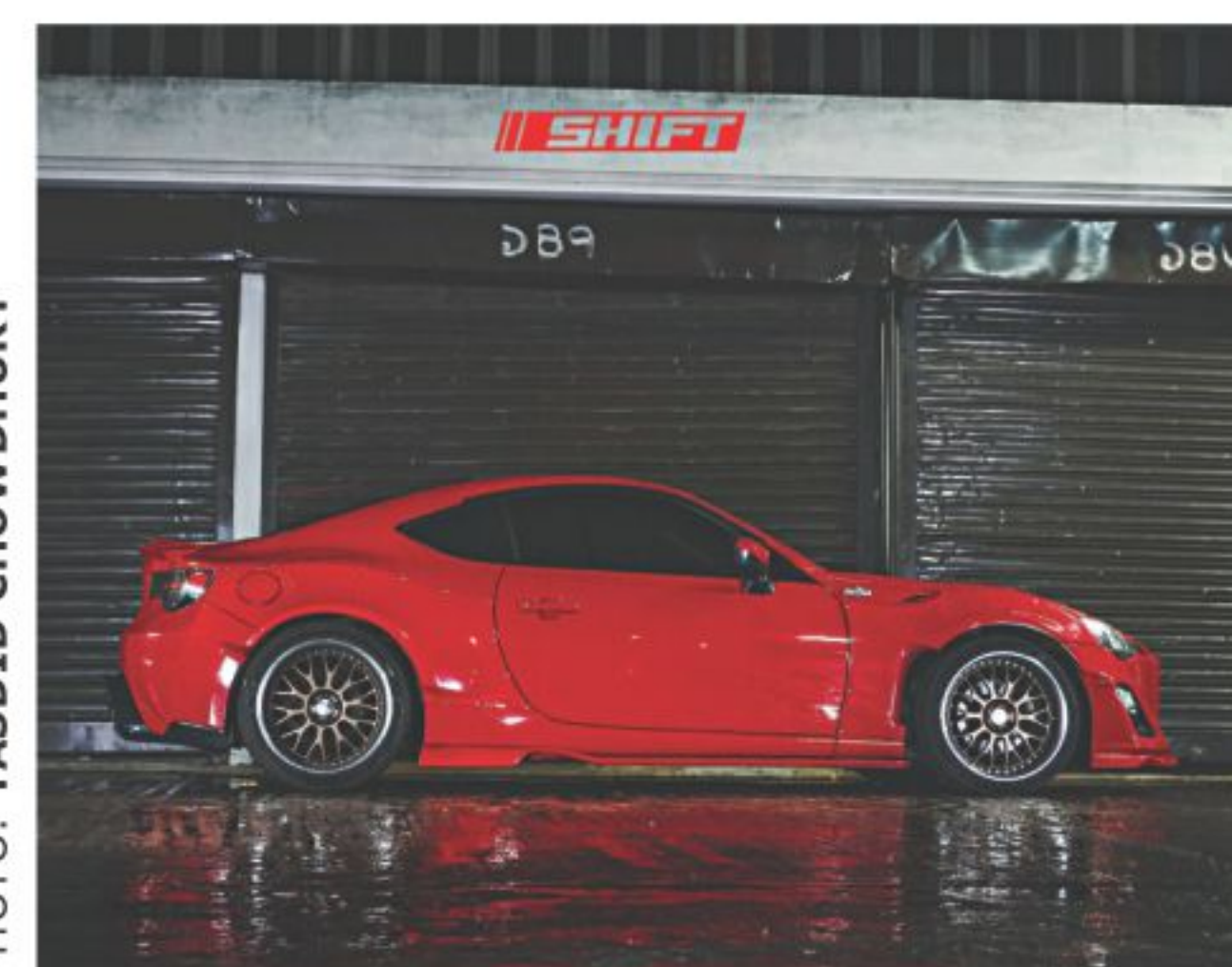


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up to
12 hours
of **fresh**
breath*
more confidence

#getcloseup

*Upto 12 hours lasting fresh breath is based on in-vivo study with regular use over 4 weeks.

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