

# SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

## UBER LUXURY

### Our local top picks for luxury vehicles in 2018

Luxury cars are not seen often in Bangladesh—with astronomical prices and a prohibitive tax structure, these quiet, comfortable, well-equipped cruisers are in a different league considering the affordability of the average consumer. With Bangladesh's steady economic growth and the emergence of a bigger investor class, however, it's okay to dream big when it comes to buying a car.

#### The entry level mid-size luxury sedan

##### 2018 Toyota Camry Hybrid

The all new Camry is a different kind of beast compared to the slightly drab, slightly humdrum previous generation. It's sleeker, sportier and the interior has the best of materials, making it feel much more upmarket than previous Camrys. The motor has plenty of power and it handles well—just read our full review of it in our special 5 year anniversary magazine. It's a bit pricey for a Toyota, but then it's a fantastic Toyota.

Engine: 2500 cc 4 cylinder hybrid  
Horsepower/torque: 208 HP/163 lb-ft  
Available through: Navana Ltd.  
Price: TK 90,00,000



#### The swoopy, sporty mid-size

##### 2018 Audi A5 Sportback

For a while, the whole "four door coupe" thing seemed to be a gimmick played by the German manufacturers, but the A5's strong sales around the globe has made it as mainstream as any German sport sedan gets. For a relatively bargain price, you get a sleek, slope-y sedan that'll turn

heads anywhere and provide you with enough grunt as you push the turbo motor.

Engine: 1984 cc 4 cylinder turbo  
Horsepower/torque: 252 HP/273 lb-ft  
Available through: Progress Motors Imports Ltd.  
Price: TK 1,17,00,000

#### The smart, big-ish Sports Utility

##### 2018 Volvo Xc60

When Volvo launched their flagship XC90 SUV with a complete design overhaul, we lost our heads because it was a masterpiece of Scandinavian suave-ness. Since then, they've updated their entire model range, with the mid-size XC60 receiving a lot of the style in a more compact package. To say you'd be the

coolest SUV owner in town is an understatement...unless you have the XC90. Don't let the 2 litre motor fool you, it's got plenty of power.

Engine: 1969 cc 4 cylinder turbo  
Horsepower/torque: 256 HP/320 lb-ft  
Available through: Eurocars Ltd.  
Price: TK 1,32,00,000



#### The all-rounder full-size

##### 2018 Mercedes Benz E200

For more than two decades, the Benz E-class was Bangladesh's favourite luxury German car. The dealer sold a whole bunch, gaining a reputation for the solid products and fantastic equipment levels they offered. The latest E-class adds style to that mix, with design cues resembling the more expensive S-class. For anyone wanting a well-rounded performer that delivers driving thrill and comfort, the E-class is virtually unmatched.

Engine: 1991 cc 4 cylinder turbo petrol  
Horsepower/torque: 184 HP/220 lb-ft  
Available through: Rancon Motors Ltd.  
Price: Starting from TK 1,25,00,000

#### The all-out, full-size plug-in hybrid

##### 2018 BMW 740Le PHEV Sedan

The flagship BMW sedan has been a source of innovative tech for more than five decades, culminating in the current generation. With display keys, executive lounges, unmatched comfort levels and a million options to choose from in the BMW Individual catalogue, the 7-series is truly one of the most luxurious cars of our time. Add a plug-in hybrid system to the mix and you get a large sedan that has all the performance, fuel efficiency and equipment you'd ever want.

Engine: 1998 cc 4 cylinder turbo petrol hybrid  
Horsepower/torque: 322 HP/369 lb-ft  
Available through: Executive Motors Ltd.  
Price: TK 2,04,00,000



#### CAR SPOTTING

### Hondas around town



#### AUTO NEWS

### Subaru Crosstrek Hybrid



Flat-earthers rejoice! Everyone's favourite flat-engine manufacturer, Subaru, has launched a new hybrid SUV that you can use to climb rocky protrusions in your flat-earth dreams. This boxer powered SUV has just been launched in the US, but the Crosstrek is slated to get an introduction in other markets as well. Under the hood is 2 litre boxer motor hooked up to a CVT, putting power to the ground via Subaru's patented

Assymetrical All-Wheel Drive system. There's rumours of an official launch of Subaru vehicles in Bangladesh, a second coming for the brand after a less-than successful initial attempt in the late-2000s. The roster apparently includes the Impreza sedan, XV crossover and the Forester SUV. With the Crosstrek sitting in between, there's a slight chance it might come here as well.



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