

DHAKA MOTORSHOW 2019

PHOTOS: AHBAAR MOHAMMAD & FARHAN AHMED

Every year, the Dhaka Motor Show rolls into town for three days and takes over the lives of the country's automotive consumers, enthusiasts and industry professionals. Organised yearly by CEMS Global, this year's show at ICCB saw crowds that created tailbacks all the way to Airport Road. If you're even remotely interested in cars, bikes or parts (or commercial vehicles if you're so inclined) then you know what this is.



New entrants to the local market, Subaru, used loud colours (like this XV SUV) to pull in the crowds.



Subaru BRZ—doesn't make sense as a locked glass display but it's a new sports car! In Bangladesh! Joy!



Volvo's lineup of cars, consisting of the XC60 CUV, XC90 SUV and S90 sedan, are all surprising bargains.



Tangur Racing, a Bangladeshi company, plans on going around the world in this locally made EV Gypsy.



The parking lot had some gems, like this Panda Trueno. Not the more famous AE86 though, this AE9X is FWD.



Gorgeous X70 Mark II with a 1JZGTE and spot on stance. Japanese Yakuza style person(car?)ified.



Speedfire Motorsport came around with a bunch of project cars, like this great RX7 and Chaser.



New Alto gets updated bumpers, lights, paint and more. Still cheap and incredibly practical.

Multiple bikes launched at Dhaka Bike Show



The 5th instalment of the Dhaka Bike Show 2019 concluded Saturday, 16th March, at the International Convention City, Bashundhara. Organised by CEMS Global, the event provides a platform for the local motorcycle industry to showcase their products.

This year's show, despite lacking big names like Kawasaki, Bajaj and Hero, was much bigger in scale—taking over two entire halls, with no less than 26 new bike making their debut. This year's participating brands were Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Runner, TVS, Taro, H-Power, Vespa, Speeder, Lifan, Keeway/Beneli, Roadmaster, Znen, Haojue and Aprilia.

Honda led the show with their new CB

Hornet 160R dual disc with CBS, introduced though a press event on the first day. This new version of the Hornet is equipped with their proprietary Combined Braking System which provides for more efficient braking than its single disc counterpart. It's also produced locally, by Bangladesh Honda Limited at their factory in Gazipur.

Not to be outdone, Yamaha displayed the XTZ150 dirt bike, the robotic MT15 naked sport and the much anticipated FZS Fi V3 with ABS. All of them are in the 150cc segment and are scheduled to be released at Q3 of 2019.

The Chinese brands also introduced a variety of new motorcycles. Lifan brought two

new models, the Motocross 150cc dirt bike and the Razor 100cc scooter. A corroborated version of their KPR 165 sport-bike was also shown. Znen introduced the ZTX 150 FI, a large 150cc fuel injected scooter. Somewhat late, Haojue introduced the DR 160 on the second day, which is a 160cc fuel injected bike with more efficient brakes.

TVS, being the only Indian motorcycle company attending this year, was modest with their offerings—opting to introduce two new commuters, the 110cc Radeon and the 125cc MAX.

In terms of the sheer number of new bikes displayed at the show, the local manufacturers took the spotlight. Sadly however, most of

them were there for display only. Of the six new bikes Runner showcased, only two naked sport-bikes—the 165cc SS3 and 125cc Fireblade—were ready for the market. The same was true for Roadmaster, whose new Scooter, Cafe Racer and Cruiser bike was on display for “market evaluation”. Speeder was an exception to this however, as all three of their new bikes were ready for the mass market.

Aprilia also showed off two new bikes—the Aprilia Terra 150cc dirt bike and Aprilia FX 125cc sport-bike—to celebrate their new partnership with Runner.

Besides upcoming motorcycles, some brands opted to show off bikes that are well

over 165cc limit for display only. Of these, Runner's 250cc Dominator sport-bike and Suzuki's massive 1800cc M190R cruiser grabbed the most attention.

A number of the participants let prospective customers test their products, with TVS, Suzuki, Honda, Haojue and Yamaha setting up dedicated test tracks in the show premises.

Some brands organised special activities as well. Honda organised multiple trial bike demonstrations, performed by World Trial Bike Champion Motoharu Honda. There were also live music events and raffle draws.

WORDS: RAHBAR AL HAQ
 PHOTOS: FARHAN AHMED