

# SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

## Car meets, the global way

Car meets are important. We have a bunch of meets on and off in Bangladesh all the time, and they help define the local car culture and bring together a community of like-minded people. But how do they do it abroad? With perhaps access to a lot more, these grassroots car meets have been growing larger every year and deserve to be seen to be believed. We thought we'd do a roundup of what we think are the best experiences you can have as a petrolhead travelling abroad. Do check these out if you ever get the chance.



### H20i

H20 International is an annual car meet held in Ocean City, Maryland, USA that's known for the world's most ridiculously built tuner show cars.



### Cars and Coffee

Popularised in the USA, a Cars and Coffee meet is essentially a small, unofficial gathering on a weekend morning where USA's local petrolheads get to showcase their classic beaters and ultra-rare supercars.



### Gatebil

If you like everything turned up to 11—11 being drifting mayhem, loud music, great food and ladies—this is the place in Norway for you.



### Daikoku Parking

All the diversity of Japanese car culture in one parking lot in Kanagawa, Yokohama—everything from souped up Lamborghinis to vans, drift cars, kei cars and more.



### Worthersee

This Austrian automotive event is like no other. Held in one of the most beautiful places in Europe, Worthersee is home to cars of all shapes (VW/Audi/Porsche preferred) and sizes as well as the hottest new wheel designs.



### Woodward Dream Cruise

The Woodward Dream Cruise event is an American classic event held annually in Detroit, Michigan featuring cars of unparalleled diversity. Upside down vans, wireframe buggies, rarest of pony cars, they have them all.

## Automotive reality TV you have to catch on Netflix



### HYPERDRIVE

Take the noble art of gymkhana (popularised by the likes of Ken Block on YouTube), a big budget, a disused industrial park in the middle of New York, 28 drivers, a rapidly growing learning curve and lump them all together. That's Hyperdrive.

If you don't know what gymkhana is, here's a fresher—you have a set of challenges around a track that involves a complete mastery of car control and

you have to go around it in the fastest possible time. The challenges can be as simple as doing five complete 360 degree donuts around a barrel, or as crazy and whacky as the show's producers can dream up. And dream they did—featuring ridiculous props and insanely over-the-top stunts, Hyperdrive is gymkhana as you've never seen it, such as a swinging bridge that ends in a six storey drop unless you can level the bridge by driving back



and forth.

The 28 drivers competing are as diverse as their cars. Featuring everyone from a J-pop singer/model to a drift sensei to an elderly SCCA champion, Hyperdrive truly went beyond age, gender and nationality in their roster of drivers. The cars are crazy as well—there's a 2JZ Toyota Crown drift car dressed up as a Japanese cop car, proper Nissan Silvia/240SX drift missiles, drag spec Camaros and drifting Chargers and Mustangs. There's also an Austin panelvan with 800 horsepower.

The action is over the top and the initial adrenaline rush from seeing all of these crazy cars sliding around a neon lit track never goes away. There's never a dull moment and very little manufactured drama, and the brief

but well-made insights into the drivers' backgrounds is a peek at car and tuner culture worldwide. For something to binge on, Hyperdrive is easily at the top of the list. For something to take an interest in, the show is a refreshing take on the Wipeout style competition that'll appeal to both gearheads and civilians alike.

### RUST VALLEY RESTORERS

Rust Valley Restorers follows Canadian car collector (read: 'hoarder')



Mike Hall and his son Conner as they invest all their savings into a restoration shop that attempts to work on their 400+ vintage cars that Mike has gathered over the span of 40 odd years.

The series follows the shop crew as they attempt to get rust buckets that have been exposed to the elements in the remote town in British Columbia with the scarcely believable name—Rust Valley. Mike's yard contains

significant parts of the American muscle car era like the Dodge Charger, Super Bee and Ford Mustang, as well as the lesser known cars/trucks like the Plymouth Satellite and International Harvester.

While Rust Valley Restorers was originally a History Channel show and contains largely the same structure and story-telling as every other restoration/hot-rod American show, the crew of the Rust Bros garage and their eccentric, knotted haired owner Mike are good enough reasons to watch it. It's a rare treat, watching the crew take a complete rust bucket and scrounging Mike's hoard for parts and trim and turn it into a concours worthy machine. It helps that Mike Hall has enough charisma to carry the show on his own.

## MG all set to launch in Bangladesh



Morris Garages, popularly known as MG, is perhaps one of the most iconic names in British motoring heritage. That's a big feat, considering Britain boasts names like Rolls Royce, Bentley, Lotus, Aston Martin, McLaren and Jaguar-Land Rover in its list of brands you'd easily give a kidney to own a car from.

In the 40s, 50s and 60s, MG was known as a pioneer of sports cars and touring cars,

and despite the best efforts of British Leyland management at massacring the brand's identity, MG soldiered on and made a name for itself as a maker of fine British sports cars. It had a series of ownership issues in the early 2000s, and is currently under Chinese ownership and direction.

On the path back to profitability, this historic marque has been producing SUVs and

is all set to officially enter Bangladesh very soon. With models like the 1.5 ZS crossover and 1.5 turbo GS SUV priced competitively and equipped well, not to mention attached with the warranties and service schedules of brand new cars, MG might make a big splash in the SUV crazed local market.

We'll have more details once the launching ceremony is over.

### COLLECTIBLES

## DCBD convention held

March 2015 was the very first time collectors in Dhaka of all ages met up for a common interest: scale model cars and bikes. That spawned many groups, meets and official conventions with the latest arranged by Die-cast Collectors of BD (DCBD). In fact, DCBD had formed even before the first meet but wasn't initially that active. They certainly picked up pace over the last year and recently held their first convention at the Grand Oriental Hotel

in Gulshan 1 on Friday, 30th August 2019. Members from the group displayed the gems from their collection, coming in all shapes and sizes—from finely detailed 1/64s to high-end 1/18s as well as hand-crafted dioramas, everything shared space on the tables.

PHOTOS: FARHAN AHMED

