



2020 Mahindra XUV 300 W6

RAHBAR AL HAQ

What is it?
A subcompact 2+3 front-wheel-drive crossover from Mahindra which shares its underpinning with the SsangYong Tivoli. A contender in the same class as Haval H2, MG ZS, and Tata Nexon.

Not your typical Mahindra
Remember how the Tivoli was the first “normal” car made by SsangYong? When the XUV 300 is somewhat similar, being the first Mahindra in Bangladesh that does not look like a dressed-up work truck.

The designers did a decent job at hiding its Korean heritage, with the new front and rear facia giving the car its own distinct look. The car’s Tivoli lineage becomes more obvious from the side and can be seen even over the giant vinyl sticker. The painted A and C pillar gives the car a nice floating roofline and while the boxy front makes it look rather handsome.

Officially, the W6 trim comes with steel 16-inch wheels but the nice folks at Mahinda will swap them out for alloys free of cost. What is less nice is the car’s build quality, as the provided press car had poorly applied wraps on the window frame while the passenger side rubber door seal was cracked in several places. It should be noted the issues seems to be limited to cosmetics only, as the car’s 5 stars Global NCAP safety rating makes it one of the most the safest vehicle in its segment.

Plenty of headroom
In our TUV 300 review, we praised the car’s ample rear headroom. The XUV retains that, with an interior that is mostly identical to the Trivoli. This isn’t a bad



thing, as the two-tone interior is a nice upgrade over the hard plastic of the TUV. The storage situation is quite good, but the cupholder situation is absolutely off the charts, with the car having 10 of them.

For those who like music, the XUV’s Bluetooth pairing is one of the best we experienced in this price range and the car’s four speakers are a nice upgrade over the typical two found in budget

reconditioned JDM’s. That said, the absence of tweeters in the W6 model does make songs with bass a bit wanting.

For navigation, the car’s trip computer comes pre-loaded with local maps with voice support, meaning you can find your distant relative’s house without having to call them 15 times.

In terms of boot space, the small rear deck and high trunk lip make hauling large items a bit challenging, though the former can be addressed by rolling down the rear seats.

How does it drive?
A common problem with small displacement Indian diesel is they feel underpowered. Not this one. Flooring



the pedal will result in wheelspin, followed by rapid acceleration. The

turbo kicks in at 2500 rpm, after which hitting triple-digit is possible within 8 seconds.

The steering has 3 settings, comfort, normal, and sport, with each mode having a noticeable change in wheel feedback. On the topic of driving, the car’s unusually high ground clearance and sophisticated suspension allow it to traverse Dhaka roads with ease. During our road testing at 300 feet, we were unable to scrape the car’s underbody in any of the under-construction section, despite being reputedly encouraged by the Mahindra staff to do so. One issue with the car is its lack of a low/crawl gear in the AMT gearbox, which makes climbing step ranks a little bit difficult.

Verdict
If you are looking for a well-equipped, safe, family car on a budget that is good on fuel and can be driven on Dhaka’s road with relative impunity, consider this. The car is surprisingly fun for what it is.
Specs
Engine: 1.5-liter Turbo Diesel (85.8 kW, 300 Nm)
Transmission: Six-Speed-AMT, FWD
Safety: ABS, EBD, Dual SRS Airbags, ISOFIX child seat anchor, rear parking camera and sensor.
Features: Automatic door locks, multi-function steering wheel, 17.78cm infotainment system, front USB Charging port, LED tail lamps, climate control, roof rails.
Price: 25,50,000 Lakh
Photos: Akif Hamid
For details, contact Rancon Autos Ltd.

Back to the future: 90’s tech making a comeback

OROBI BAKHTIAR

Remember when you got home to play GameBoy or just laid back and listened to your good old boom box? Your dad’s computer desk was filled with floppy disks from work. Bomber jackets were the coolest trend. That was 20 years ago and all the 90’s kids just got hit with a wave of nostalgia. Fashion experts claim, “Every twenty years a look comes back.” This applies to both fashion trends as well as some glorious pieces of technology that we treasured back in the day.



Snap, shake and share - Polaroids
Back then, dropping off canisters of films at the local photo shop and waiting for them to be developed was always thrilling. Even in this era of high definition photography and videography, polaroid cameras are gaining popularity. With Fujifilm’s new Instax line of cameras, you are getting a more refined and accessible model with the satisfaction of shaking your photos in an attempt to develop it faster.



Round and round it goes - Cassettes and Vinyl Records
One of the biggest reasons cassettes have become trendy again is because of Guardians of the Galaxy’s Star-Lord carrying his Sony Walkman to listen to his music. Another hit of nostalgia was from Stranger Things releasing their soundtrack on cassettes. With a 112% rise in sales in the first half of 2019, it seems quite obvious that cassettes have never been more popular. How people listen to music has definitely changed, mostly due to the increasing popularity of streaming music. Yet, having a nice set of speakers with just the right turntable to go with your favourite vinyl record can get all the traditional music lovers to sit back and relax after a rough day, even in this decade.

Beat that score one last time - Nintendo
The ‘90s was the golden era when Nintendo released their games, Super Mario World, The Legend of Zelda, Final Fantasy and many more. 1996 was considered a huge year for Nintendo with the launch of Nintendo 64, the world’s first 64-bit home video game system. Throughout these years, the company revolutionized through the electronic gaming industry and came back with the extremely popular Nintendo DS in 2005. If that wasn’t enough to grab your attention, the fact that Nintendo took the world by storm with its Pokémon Go 2016 and its Nintendo Switch in 2017.



Flippin’ cool - phones
Remember when Motorola Razr was everyone’s dream present on their birthday? How you hung up on a call by dramatically flipping it shut. Guess what? Flip phones are making a comeback and all the major smartphone companies, including Samsung, Sony, Motorola and many more, are competing with each other for the best features. Users will get to experience a seamless interface along with a maximum surface area for functionality while still enjoying the same nostalgic flip phone aesthetic.
Why are these nostalgic styles coming back? They point to the good feeling that comes with looking back on a simpler time. They balance tugs on the heartstrings without abandoning functionality and relevance for modern consumers.

