

# Best premium bikes you can get your hands on

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*The hottest and most desired bikes are mostly sports bikes. They are as striking to look at while stationary as are when mobile. Although we do not get fully-fledged sports bikes in Bangladesh due to the cc limit, we do love the little brothers that come in the form of R15, GSX R, CBR, and so on. What if you could buy the costliest, fastest and most exotic bike available? That's what we are going to find out.*



## HONDA CBR 150R 2021 INDONESIA

If looks could kill, this bike would be in jail for a massacre. The pointy nose, the angry eyes and the sports decals make it one of the most desired bikes available to Bangladeshi motorheads.

Although this is an entry-level sports bike, compared to its bigger brothers, it packs some serious punch. It has a 149.16 cc single-cylinder liquid-cooled engine producing 17.1 PS at 9000 rpm and 14.4 Nm of torque at 7000 rpm.

It propels the bike up to 136 km/h returning

approximately 35-40 km per litre of fuel. Even though it looks aggressive, it's a fairly comfortable ride with upside-down forks at the front and Swing Arm with Monoshock (Pro-Link) system at the back. It has 276 mm and 220 mm disk brakes on the front and rear wheels with dual-channel ABS as an option. Mind you, it is a road bike with low ground clearance and likes to stay on the road.

Priced at Tk. **5,40,000/-**, it's a bike for people looking for a taste of racing bikes who don't have a budget problem.

## YAMAHA R15M

The most popular poster bike gets a new look with the R15M. The redesigned headlight, the shiny graphics and the muscular fuel tank help it stand out as still a poster bike. This definitive sports bike of the subcontinent has at its heart a 155.1 cc liquid-cooled, fuel-injected engine pumping out 18.35 BHP of power at 10000 rpm and 14.1 Nm torque at 8500 rpm.

The top speed is around 140 km/h, and it's expected to go approximately 40 km per litre of fuel. VVA makes sure your

rise to the top speed is smooth and the all-new traction control system helps you avoid wheelspin. It comes with dual-channel ABS and 282mm and 220mm brake discs. There are adjustable telescopic forks at the front and a mono-shock at the rear, and with the handlebar a little higher than before, it aims at being a better long-rider. The fully digital instrument console connects with your phone through the Y-connect app and shows various notifications and has many useful features.

The new edition of the most popular sports bike in Bangladesh, the R15M, has a price tag of Tk. **505,000/-**



## SUZUKI GSX R 150

If you are looking for a pocket rocket, the GSX R 150 is the one to go with. It has a top speed of 145 km/h as listed by Suzuki, but people have gone over 150 km/h with this bike. The liquid-cooled, fuel-injected engine is one of the most powerful of the 150 cc segment producing 18.9 bhp at 10,500 rpm and 14 Nm of torque at 9000 rpm.

The bike is relatively smaller at 2020 mm length, 700 mm width and 1075 mm height, and lighter at 131 kilograms. As for suspensions, it uses telescopic

forks at the front and mono-shock at the back. The braking system is effective and efficient with dual-channel ABS and a four-piston radial fixed calliper with a 290mm disc brake set up at the front and 189mm disc on the rear wheel. Looks-wise, it is a stunner, retaining the iconic blue and white livery and bold decals. There are a few more colours available.

The bike comes at a base price of Tk. **350,000/-** without ABS, which requires going up to Tk. **3,79,950/-**, and there is a special edition for Tk. **3,95,000/-**

## HONDA CB150R EXMOTION

Looking for a comfortable commuter bike with jaw-dropping looks? The CBR 150 R Exmotion has you covered. With a retro, round and split headlight, exposed scaffolding and muscular stance, it has a solid road presence.

A liquid-cooled, single-cylinder 149 cc engine sits at its heart pushing out 20 bhp and 14.5 Nm of torque. Power delivery is constant and

smooth. You can expect a top speed of 135 km/h and a mileage of 35 km/l. To stop this streetfighter, there is a 296mm floating disc with radial 4-piston callipers that has ABS at the front and another disc on the rear wheel. Weighing only 123 kgs, this is a very lightweight and sporty bike.

This premium bike comes with a premium price tag which is Tk. **550,000/-**, but you get what you pay for.



## KTM RC 125 INDIAN

This one is arguably the most handsome looking bike currently available in Bangladesh. The recipe is from Austria, manufactured by Bajaj in India and doesn't need an introduction. The sheer excitement in its presence is spine-tingling. As for specs, it has a liquid-cooled and fuel-injected 125 cc beating heart.

The single-cylinder, 4 stroke engine produces 14.8 BHP of power at 9500 rpm and 12Nm torque at 8000 rpm, and it catapults the bike to 125 km/h. Bringing it to

a halt is a four-piston radial fixed calliper, 300mm disc on the front wheel and a 230mm disc on the rear wheel; both wheels get ABS. As for comfort, the front wheel has upside-down WP Apex-43 telescopic forks, and the rear wheel gets a preload-adjustable WP mono-shock suspension.

The bike is fairly heavy, weighing 154.2 kg, but it helps the RC stay stable at high speeds. The bike oozes quality and has soon become the dream of many. A dream, which can be realised for Tk. **430,000/-**

# TECH INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

TASNUVA KINNORI

After another year in the pandemic, the tech industry saw its fair share of ups and downs and jaw-dropping innovation. With a new year right around the corner, here's a roundup of the tech highlights in 2021.

## LAUNCH OF THE NEXT-GEN CONSOLES

The year started off with the video game industry officially stepping into the next generation with the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X, both packing quite the punch with advanced SSDs, 4k resolution at 120fps and ray tracing technologies.

## ANDROID FLAGSHIPS KEEP GETTING BETTER AND BETTER

Like every year, the Android phone scene in 2021 has been dynamic with powerful new flagships from Samsung, Google, Huawei and more. With the launch of powerhouses such as the Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra and the Google Pixel 6 Pro, Android users have had plenty to look forward to throughout the year.

## RISE OF THE 'FOLDABLES'

While Samsung most notably started the foldable phone trend in 2019, in two years companies like Oppo, Huawei, Motorola and even Microsoft have launched their own variants. In 2021, with the launch of the Samsung Galaxy Fold 3 or the Oppo Find N, mobile companies and users alike have shown foldable phones enough love to make them a popular trend.

## THE NEW WINDOWS 11

In June this year, Microsoft announced the latest version of their OS - Windows 11. Currently free to download for Windows 10 users, the new operating system promises an optimized taskbar, smaller updates, better security and multi-tasking features.

## NINTENDO SWITCH OLED - NEW CONSOLE ON THE BLOCK

With the supply crisis that hit the PS5 and Xbox Series X, Nintendo Switch held out on its own pretty well, even in 2021, five years since its release. In October, Nintendo released the updated

Nintendo Switch OLED to join the already well-received lineup of Switch consoles.

## LATEST AND THE GREATEST FROM APPLE

Besides the annual lineup of new iPhones, Apple debuted an updated version of the iPad Pro, new Macbooks, iOS 15, Apple Watch Series 7 and most notably the most powerful chips the company has built to date - the M1 Pro and M1 Max.

## FACEBOOK GOING META

In one of the most surprising rebranding events of 2021, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced Facebook's name change to Meta Platforms Inc. More than just a renaming, the company also announced their plans to deliver an advanced social experience through its future project titled the Metaverse.

## TIKTOK VS. TWITCH

TikTok recently announced its own desktop streaming platform called TikTok Live Studio that may rival Twitch. As previously reported, the program will allow streaming from desktops, while also interacting with viewers with a new chat feature. The program will reportedly allow streaming from video game consoles and mobile phones as well.

## THE SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP SHORTAGE

From consoles to phones, computers and even cars, the tech industry suffered another year in the pandemic from a severe shortage of semiconductor chips. But as the year comes to a close, tech giants IBM and Samsung have announced a new semiconductor design with vertically stacked transistors that can lead to cell phone batteries lasting a week without being charged.

## A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR CYBERCRIME

With damages estimated to hit US\$6 trillion this year, 2021 was a record-setting year for cybersecurity attacks. Most notably, ransomware like REvil, HelloKitty and Babuk breached government databases, renowned companies and retailers, social media platforms like Facebook and LinkedIn, as well as game developers like CD Projekt Red.

## TOUCHING THE SUN AND MORE

From Jeff Bezos' all-civilian crew space visit to the James Webb Space Telescope expanding our observational reach into the universe, humanity's foray into space saw some interesting events in 2021. Space exploration couldn't have ended on a higher note than the Parker Solar probe bringing mankind the closest we've ever been to the Sun.

## THE TESLA PHONE

Making a phone isn't exactly rocket science, but when there's SpaceX, Starlink and Elon Musk involved, it's easy to expect some out-of-the-box results. After dominating the automobile industry, Tesla recently set their sights on mobile phones with their 'Model Pi/P' phone', a gadget theorized to bring features such as solar charging, satellite internet, vehicle control, crypto mining and more all within a single handset.

## IPHONE 13 CUTTING DOWN PRODUCTION

For the first time in a decade, component shortages might be driving Apple to cut down on their iPhone production. Reports suggest that about 10 million units of iPhone 13 were scrapped because of prolonged shortages of chips and processors in the current post-pandemic market.

## TECHNOLOGY ADVANCING HEALTHCARE

With the pandemic still not completely behind us, health tech in 2021 made some impressive advancements in terms of 3D printed prosthetics, Stanford University's credit card-sized portable 'lab on a chip', or the DxtER tricorder capable of diagnosing 34 different health conditions including pneumonia, tuberculosis and diabetes, right at home.

## AI TECHNOLOGIES GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Perhaps one of the most significant tech trends in 2021 has been the promising advancement in AI technology: being used to create hybrid workforces, increase data privacy, support computer vision and machine learning or automate chatbots and repetitive processes.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ