



LIKE THEY DO IT UNDERGROUNDS

ITAM BASHAR

Car meets are a special place for automobile enthusiasts to get together, talk about cars, check each other's rides and often learn a thing or two. Due to the raging pandemic, the car scene of Dhaka has been dormant for about two years. As the world opens up, for the sake of the car community, Sami Zaman and Riza Mostafa stepped up to organise a car meet of their own in Mirpur with the help of the Mirpur DOHS car community.



They were inspired to create a safe space for the enthusiasts at the Mirpur DOHS Shopping Complex basement parking lot since, for auto festivals, underground parking lots are always preferred. The event 'DOHS Underground Meet' took place on 25 March 2022 from 3 pm to 6 pm. It was a private event where most of the locally known drivers and cars were present. They were able to control the environment professionally and avoided reckless drivers doing stunts that endanger people around them.

This is the third Mirpur DOHS underground meet and is the biggest one yet. The first two events were exclusive to the DOHS car enthusiasts but this third iteration was open to all. This meet may have been small compared to the usual Dhaka Motor Show, but it was more wholesome and controlled with all the known people since it was completely exclusive.

According to Sami Zaman and Riza Mostafa, the main purpose of the event was "to have a chill, fun and thrilling car meet that everyone has been missing for two years since the pandemic. We decided to build a space for the enthusiasts, to escape from the harsh reality and enjoy a

small event with a common love for cars. This event had a positive impact on the automotive scene and the Mirpur DOHS car community."

In the opinion of one of the head organisers, Sami said, "The best parts of the event were when tons of exciting different cars were modified to fit the owner's preference and the diversity of the



cars that showed up. It felt amazing to see all petrol heads gathered under one roof and appreciating their fellow enthusiast's build." Riza, the other head organiser, said, "The entire event was pretty special to me, and if I had to pick the best moment, it would be when all the 90s JDMs gathered in one corner and a lot of people were admiring the cars. That scene

felt surreal to me because I am a JDM classic enthusiast as well."

The planning and organising took weeks of effort, but the team managed to pull off the event with great success, making attendants and fans look forward to DOHS Underground Meet 4.0. An event like this will indefinitely inspire others to hold private car meets of

their own with local friends and fellow enthusiasts, sharing their love for vehicles with stories of the builds they are working on or the history of their cars. In the end, the bonding of car communities coming together in Dhaka gives us hope for a better future and amazing shows to look forward to.

PHOTO: OMAR ALI RAHMAN



THE CLASSICS' DAY OUT

AHBAAR MILKY

Last Friday saw Dhaka's classic cars and vintage bikes meet at the Italian embassy in Dhaka, organised by Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation, in collaboration with penthouse livings, to celebrate the occasion of 50 years of friendship between Italy and Bangladesh. The early hours of the one-day-only event saw DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam paying a visit with his faction of the cacophonous press in tow, hence the decision to visit in the later hours proved to be a wise one.

Members from all sorts of automotive clubs, such as Mercedes-Benz Classic Car Club Bangladesh, VW Fan Club Bangladesh and Vintage and Classic Car Club of Bangladesh took part in the



grandiose display of over 45 classic and real steel. The oldest participating car was a 1920s Austin, while the newest car was a Toyota MR2. All sorts of classics, including bikes, were on display for the public from the morning till late afternoon.

The off-road vehicle section saw a pair of Land Rover Series 3, amongst other gems such as a perfectly maintained SWB owned by John Cooper (you probably might have bought something from his



bakery) and a Wagon (rescued from the fire service department) mechanically restored and owned by Afraz Hussain with patina for days. John Cooper's immaculate J60 Land Cruiser almost made me drop dead.

But perhaps what garnered the most attention was the only Italian sports car on the roster; Akbar A. Sattar's beautiful Fiat X1/9. Saad Mujtaba Zaman's



impressive restoration of his 1968 Triumph Spitfire MKIII in British racing green also held the attention of the crowd. Durjoy Rahman's immaculately restored Chevrolet 210 Wagon had quite a story to tell being part of the presidential fleet and supposedly chauffeuring around both Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman. Over at the BMW corner, Abrar Musa's restomod 2002 sat alongside a 2000 Tilux.

Although in my humble opinion, what stole the show for me was a humble white workhorse corolla E11 Kombi (wagon) belonging to the Italian embassy, stashed quite coyly inside their premises. A close second for me would be the three W123 Benz trio in silvergreen, black and red.

And the group of Beetles. Gotta love the love bug.

PHOTOS: AHBAAR MILKY

