## PALKI

## An affordable locally assembled Electric Vehicle on its way

changing lanes and embracing electric vehicles (EVs). In the past decade, we have seen a tectonic shift in the automotive industry - we have seen brands like Tesla, Rivian and NIO take off. We have also seen conventional automakers like Volvo, GM, Nissan and Ford fast-track their EV product line. Globally, electric vehicle sales figures have soared to a record high. Countries like Norway, Germany and Netherlands have adopted electric vehicles swiftly. Even in China, the electric car market own consists of 28% now, which is a massive pie compared to just five years back.

In Bangladesh, where the automotive assembly industry is in its infancy, a local startup wants to change the scene. Challenging the status quo, Palki Motors, a homegrown startup, is planning to launch their very own locally assembled electric vehicle.

Palki's flagship product is a four-door

12 of Uttara and are nearly a couple of weeks away from a fully locally assembled prototype. Momin informed that 40% of the parts are made in Bangladesh while the rest of them are being imported from China and Taiwan for local assembly.

When asked how he got the idea of coming up with this venture, Momin, a Grameenphone Accelerator Graduate, explained that it all started when he was looking for a reasonably cheap secondhand car. "Being an electrical engineer and an entrepreneur, I felt this was a huge addressable market. As electric vehicles do not need an engine, which is the most complex bit in any vehicle, it would be much more cost-effective and efficient to assemble an electric vehicle locally" Momin exclaimed. Momin previously worked with the BRAC University in 2013 as a student on their electric car project. After post-graduation in electrical engineering from the US, he came back and started working on CWork, a startup hatched out of Grameenphone's accelerator program. But due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Momin could not make it sustainable and hence had to close it down. Nonetheless, he is optimistic that his locally electric vehicles will be able to take off as Bangladesh has a huge untapped market for cost-efficient electric swappable battery-based vehicles. In this particular business model, electric vehicles, instead of charging, will swap a drained battery, with a new one. Momin and his team believes, with enough active sign-ups, this model will catch on peripheries where improperly engineered vehicles are already running.

Palki comes with a 60V 100Ah lead acid battery which offers a driving range charge. To fully charge its battery array, it takes around 6-8 hours. The service life of the lead acid battery is expected to be around 36,000+ kilometres. Meaning, with the changing of the battery, it will

cost around Tk. 1.73 per kilometre,

claimed Momin. He also said that as in Bangladesh vehicles are heavily taxed and soaring fuel prices are impacting the transportation industry, a good alternative would be

locally assembled electric vehicles. So far Momin and his co-founders have invested around Tk. 26 lakhs in this project and expect to deliver the first



finished product by this year. When asked whether this car would be street-legal. Momin informed that currently, Palki's electric vehicles are undergoing testing at Bangladesh Roads & Transportation Authority (BRTA) and Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology. Palkhi has already met more than 40% of the local standards, according to Momin. As the output of the motor of the electric vehicle is relatively low and the high speed of the vehicle is under 60 km/h regulations are relatively lax.

Once Palki gets the necessary approval, the venture plans to start delivering the first batch by the end of January 2023. The estimated time to deliver a single vehicle after pre-order is around 50-60 days. To pre-order, one must pay 10% of the price. Palki and its team expect their vehicles will be able to make a significant impact in Bangladesh's transportation

MOTORCYCLES with the best mileage

ITMAM BASHAR

The Honda CB Shine SP is built and improved With fuel their peak and cars getting increasingly more

expensive in

If you are looking for

motorcycles with the

efficient motorcycles

available in the local

market

lowest fuel consumption,

here is our list of the most

It is a sporty Bangladesh, people are looking bike daily commuters like buying more motorcycles young job holders and middle-aged users who want a bike that is great-looking, than ever, all thanks fuel-efficient and forgiving to ride. It has to the two-wheeler the reliability of Honda motorcycles with convenience of easy a whopping mileage of 50 km/l and comfortable seating ergonomics for manoeuvring through longer rides. However, the bike has an AC electrical system and slim tyres the jam-packed traffic of compared to its competitors. Dhaka, easy maintenance Price: Tk. 1,30,000 - 1,50,000/and affordability. Fuel Distributor: Bangladesh Honda Private Limited efficiency is a concern CC: 125 Engine: Air-cooled, 4-Stroke SI nowadays as people want

to travel the farthest Mileage: 50 km/l Transmission: 5-Speed Manual distance with the least Suspension: Telescopic (Front), 5-Step amount of fuel consumed. Adjustable Hydraulic shock absorbers

> Brakes: Single Disc (Front), Drum Brake (Rear) (CBS Braking System)

Yamaha Saluto 125

The Yamaha Saluto is known for its ridiculous mileage where users have claimed that it can go all the way up to 70-74 km/l. However, Yamaha officially claims a

mileage of 45 km/l and the Saluto user claim of 60 km/l. Nonetheless, this is an economical and practical family

designed for great mileage, infused with performance and style. The Saluto has a top speed of 100 km/h with a maximum torque of 4500 RPM which helps reduce fuel consumption. It is the perfect motorcycle with a mix of performance, style and comfort for an entry-level commuter and is highly recommended for people that want to save money.

Price: Tk. 1,30,000 - 1,50,000/-Distributor: ACI Motors Limited

Engine: Air-cooled, 4-Stroke SI engine

upon the old Honda CB Shine with new

looks and better

performance by

adding a 5-speed

makes it more

controllable.

faster and

better to

manoeuvre.

Mileage: 60 km/l Transmission: 4-Speed

Suspension: Telescopic (Front), Dual Spring (Rear) Brakes: Single Disc (Front), Drum Brake (Rear) ABS: None

TVS Metro Plus

The TVS Metro Plus is a stylish and nimble bike for intercity travel with incredible comfortability. It has been quite popular in the local market due to its affordability, reliability and the fact that it is made in Bangladesh. It has a lengthy 12-litre fuel tank with an incredible 65-70

km/l mileage

users, but an official mileage of 55 km/l. However, the drum brakes in the front and rear followed by thin tires make it hard to control during braking and high speed. Overall, considering the price and the mileage, it is a great bike

Price: Tk. 95,000 - 1,15,000 Distributor: TVS Auto Bangladesh

Engine: Air cooled, 4-Stroke, SI Engine Mileage: 55 km/l Transmission: 4-Speed Manual

Suspension: Telescopic Oil Damped (Front), 5-Step Adjustable Hydraulic Shocks with swing arm (Rear)

Brakes: Drum (Front), Drum (Rear)

ABS: None

Honda Livo 110

The Honda Livo is quite known for being one of the best beginner motorcycles as it is very forgiving to ride while being dynamic and stylish. The engine performance delivery is amazing with the right frame, transmission and suspension set-up. Its low fuel consumption of 60 km/l and Honda's after sales services add up to the buyer-friendly features. It may have thinner tires than its competitors and is a bit costlier than some bikes in

Price: Tk 60 000-80.000/

at times. Still, the

to overlook

the bike's

Distributor: Runner Automobiles

Price: Tk. 1,05,000 - 1,25,000/-

Distributor: Bangladesh Honda Private

Engine: Air-cooled, 4-Stroke BS-IV

Suspension: Telescopic (Front), Spring

Brakes: Drum Brake (Front), Drum

The Runner AD-80s is one of the most

budget-friendly bikes in Bangladesh.

being quite nimble and powerful for

an 80cc bike. The main reason for its

affordability is that almost all the parts

also very comfortable for long rides and

has a 9-litre fuel tank and an astonishing

consumers even said that it can do up

to 65-68 km/l. Unfortunately, the bike

set up, leading to unwanted vibrations

doesn't have good brakes and suspension

flaws are easy

because of

official mileage of 60 km/l. Most

are manufactured in Bangladesh. It is

Transmission: 4-Speed Manual

Brake (Rear) (CBS Braking System)

engine

Mileage: 60 km/l

Loaded Hydraulic (Rear)

Engine: Air-cooled, 4-stroke Petrol Engine

Mileage: 60 km/l Transmission: 4-Speed Manual

Suspension: Hydraulic Telescopic (Front), Coil Spring Hydraulic (Rear) Brakes: Drum Brake (Front), Drum



& four-wheel battery-swappable electric vehicle. The startup is on the verge of accepting pre-orders for their vehicles. Starting at a price Tk. 4.99 lakh, Palki has already generated quite a buzz amongst people seeking an affordable mode of transportation especially out of the

According to Mustafa Al Momin, Co-

Palki is right now undergoing assembly of their prototype vehicles which are based and modelled after generic Chinese electric vehicles. Palki Motors have already established an assembly shed in Sector

founder & CEO of Palki Motors, Palki has already gotten 600+ signups for their first

of up to 150 kilometres on a single

