

OUR TOP PICKS FOR SUVs UNDER TK. 70 LAKH

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In recent times, SUVs have been the more popular category of private commuting vehicles around the world. In Bangladesh, the trend does not fall behind. The subtle height advantage over sedans while having more room in the cabin makes SUVs a premier choice for family vehicles, even supporting the same amount of passengers as a sedan but with more room and boot space. In this week's list, we compiled the top SUVs that we think do more than just being a larger car, offering you a tad bit more in the cabin and outside.



Toyota Harrier (2014-2017) reconditioned

This generation of Harrier (XU30) is the third generation of the Toyota descendant of the Lexus RX series. It was also the most popular midsize SUV in Bangladesh from Toyota until the 4th generation was introduced in 2020. However, the third generation does not fall behind, as the car still looks handsome and relevant to current times compared to the newer

generation, with features such as a complete leather interior, dual climate control, a complete JBL sound system and even Apple CarPlay and AndroidAuto on the refresh which was made available from 2016. This generation of the Harrier is still widely available and you can get one starting from 55 lacs for the earlier models. However, we suggest getting the later models as the infotainment system is miles better, which certainly makes a difference in interaction with the car. There are hybrid options out there as well.

Price: Tk. 60-65 lakh

Honda CR-V (2020-present) new

The Honda CR-V has come a long way from their first iteration in 1995 - a barebones car with major suspension issues. The latest 6th generation rendition renders the CR-V, making it one of the safest options to get in the SUV space. It comes with a 1.5-litre turbo engine, which can also support both 2wd and 4wd. The interior is comfortable from the soft leather and the infotainment system has default Apple CarPlay and AndroidAuto support.

Price: Tk. 60-65 lakh



Audi Q2 (2021 onwards)

The only new German option that could fit on this list. The Audi Q2 is a good midsize SUV despite being in the smaller spectrum of the bunch. The car comes equipped with a 2.0-litre engine and can get around traffic quite seamlessly. Being a car of European descent, cabin comfort is a top priority and the Q2 has one of the best on the list. The infotainment is responsive and supports Apple CarPlay and AndroidAuto.

Price: Tk. 65-70 lakh

Nissan X-Trail (2020 onwards)

The Nissan X-Trail is a great SUV with features that get the job done. However, the intriguing aspect of the X-Trail is the way it drives. The car comes with a 2-litre hybrid or non-hybrid variant paired with great handling and snappy engine response while being reliable at the same time. The SUV also comes in a 5+2 sitting configuration but that takes some real estate from the boot space. The interior does an okay job with faux leather and infotainment that supports Apple CarPlay and AndroidAuto.

Price: Tk. 60 lakh



Peugeot 3008 (2020 onwards)

Recently launched in Bangladesh, Peugeot has been importing a plethora of models, with the 3008 SUV being the most prominent on local roads. The car comes with a 1.6-litre turbocharged engine which does a good job in pushing traffic. Being a French car, some of the interior cues are orthodox, such as having a smaller than usual steering wheel where you see the tach

from above the wheel. Although French cars are notoriously known for having electric mishaps, the 3008 breaks the norm. The car is plenty spacious and the materials used to wrap the interior are soft and of good quality. The base infotainment system is a little laggy but can easily be fixed as the car supports Apple CarPlay and AndroidAuto.

Price: Tk. 61 lakh

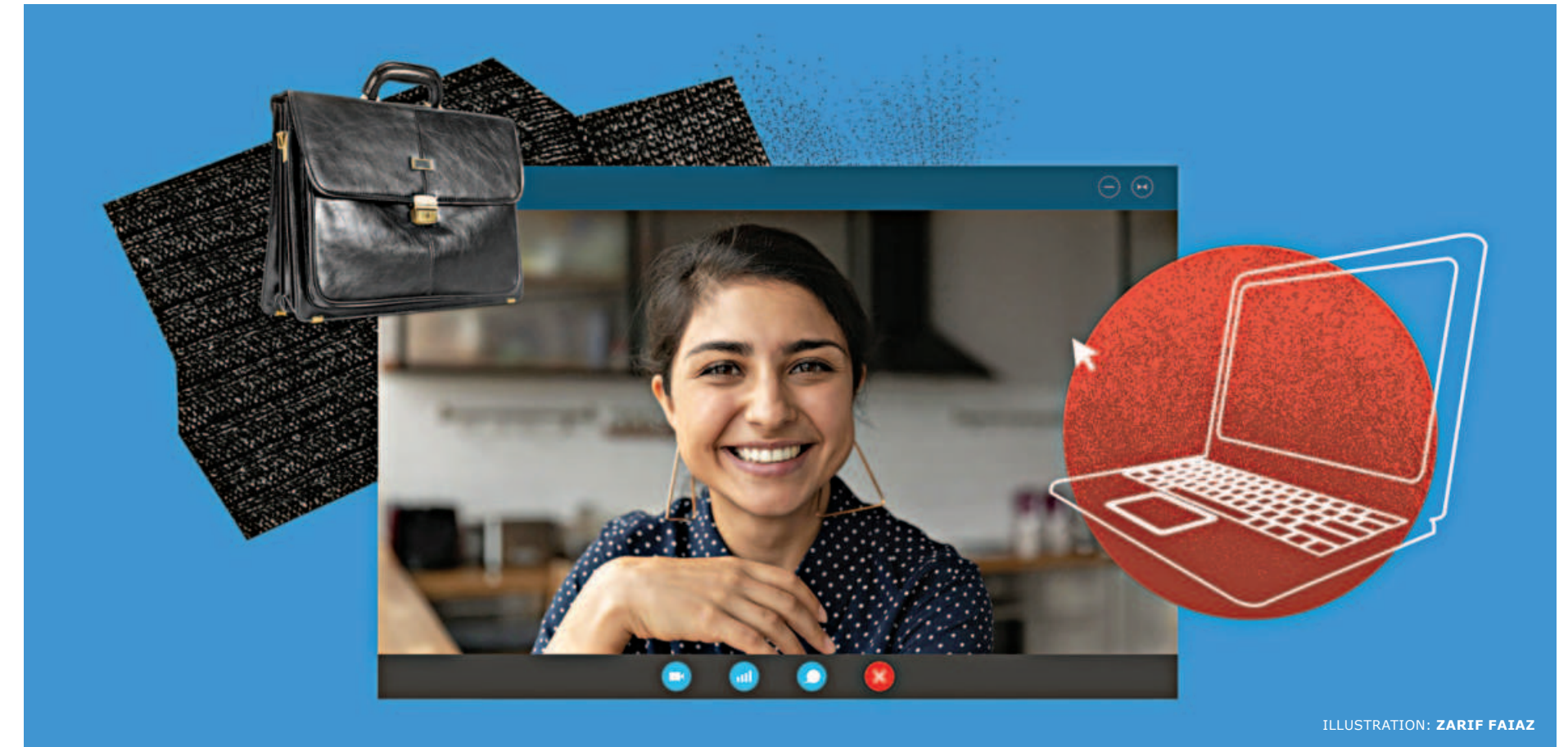


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

9 TIPS TO NAIL YOUR NEXT VIRTUAL INTERVIEW

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If you have recently attended any interview, whether for job hunting or academic purposes, chances are the session took place virtually over Zoom, Skype or HireVue. The pandemic made remote hiring and virtual interviewing the new necessities during lockdowns - which have now turned into the new norms. Remote interviews are usually conducted much the same way as in-person interviews. That said, these interviews require interviewees to add some extra points to their preparation checklist due to the unique challenges that come with the territory of such arrangements. Here is a simple guide to help you overcome such challenges and stand out during your next virtual interview.

Learn about your potential employer
The easiest way to start things off on the right foot is to research your potential employer before the interview. You may want to scope out their website, blogs, social media accounts, recent news coverage and LinkedIn profiles of company leaders and employees. Doing this pre-work will help you to find common grounds to bring into the conversation, showing that you have a genuine interest in what the company does.

Prepare answers to the most frequently asked questions
Some of the commonly asked questions that you can expect are: "Introduce yourself. Walk me through your resume. What is your biggest weakness? What are your strengths? Why do you want to work for us? Why should we hire you?"

What do you know about our company? What experience do you have relevant to this position?" Prepare concise and convincing answers to such questions. Make sure these answers delineate exactly why you want and would be perfect for the role you are aiming for.

Check the hardware and software
The last thing you want during an interview session is technical snags breaking the flow of your conversation. To combat this, download and test the video meeting app with a family member or a friend couple of days in advance to get familiar with the features and settings. Make sure you have a fast and reliable Wi-Fi connection. Buy some internet data on your phone as a backup plan just in case your Wi-Fi gets disconnected.

Additionally, test your microphone speakers, headphones and sound settings to work out any kinks in the system. If your interviewer cannot hear you or you cannot hear them, it will imply that you are disorganised. Have your laptop fully charged or plugged in so that it does not run out of battery during the interview. If, despite taking all precautions, your call drops or video freezes, inform the interviewer, try to stay calm and find a solution quickly.

Set up your space
When determining the space to attend an interview, choose a clean backdrop that is free of distractions. You want the interviewer to concentrate on you, not be distracted by the family photographs hanging on the wall. Also, try to avoid virtual backgrounds as they might seem

unprofessional. If you need one, use backgrounds of office settings.

During the session, keep in mind to light yourself from the front by sitting next to a window or close to a lamp so that your face is illuminated. If the light source is behind you, it will lead to shadowing your face, and the interviewer will not be able to see you. Remember to turn off notifications on your device that may distract you.

Write out some key points
During job interviews, recruiters often ask candidates for examples of the projects they worked on. To brilliantly answer these types of questions, keep notes handy to remind you of the points that you want to elaborate on. Here's a suggestion: create a one-page printout note using two or three bold headers such as accomplishments, awards and research works. Do not appear as though you are reading from a script and do not waste your interviewer's time by flicking through a 50-page document.

Wear professional attire
When you get dressed for a virtual interview, you want to be just as formal as you would be for an in-person interview - at least up top. How you dress for the session says a lot about your intentions. If you look professional and organised, it tells the interviewer that you care about the job, leaving a more favourable impression on the interviewer.

Stay focused and look into the webcam
Though it may feel unnatural at first, look into the webcam instead of distractedly staring at your screen. Making eye contact, even through a

laptop, will give the interviewer the sense that you paying attention to what they are saying. Of course, this takes practice so make sure that you try answering some of the frequently asked interview questions by looking at the webcam to see how you come across on camera.

Relax and be yourself
If you feel unnerved at any point, remind yourself that it is okay to experience stress during a job interview. If needed, communicate with your interviewers that you are nervous because it has been a dream opportunity and ask for a moment to gather yourself.

Remember to sit upright in the chair throughout the virtual interview and use hand gestures. By maintaining good posture and using body language, you will establish a natural rapport with your interviewer and better connect with them even from behind a screen.

Ask questions at the end of your interview

At the end of the session, interviewers are likely to ask if you have any questions for them. Do not dismiss the opportunity to learn more about the company. Show your enthusiasm by asking engaging questions such as: "What is the culture like within the company? How do you monitor remote work? What are the plans for the business over the next few years?" That said, do not end up asking questions about office location or job benefits.

If you have mastered the aforementioned tips, you have all the keys to ace your next virtual interview with confidence. Good luck and happy interviewing!