



The power to do more

HANDS ON  
REVIEW



## SYMPHONY XPLOER W140

# Sensibly fast yet wallet friendly

Xplorer W140 is the second phone from the makers of Symphony Z II that we would be reviewing. Though the Z II is the spiritual ancestor of W140 but still the latter has some refined distinctions. Those points will come up later on. Let's start with the review

then:

The first thing that comes to notice is the smooth and swab 5 inch IPS display with full HD resolution. The IPS display was efficiently touch-sensitive. Though it does not come with a gorilla glass protection but still I don't think you should be bothered. Just use a decent screen protector. That will work just fine. The dimensions are good for one handed operations but it might at some point feel a bit heavy; which it is actually. The thickness is just 8.8mm. Great, right?

Like the Symphony Z II, it also comes with a Quad core 1.2 GHz processor. This processor ensures you have smooth gaming experience. Games like Need for Speed or Asphalt 8 runs good as well. But may be that has something to do with the

awesome GPU that this phone comes with. SGX 544 MP, a 5 series gfx rendering hardware by PowerVR, provides nearly flawless graphics experience. The RAM of this phone is 1GB which means user accessible is only 950 MB tops. Many might consider it OK, but we still think Symphony could afford to put another 512 MB RAM in this device. Most applications run perfectly but if you don't restart the phone in a week you might find it quite laggy. Also make sure you have apps like Android Assistance or Cleanup Pro installed for cleaning up the RAMs and cache memories occasionally.

The OS of this gizmo is Android 4.2.1 Jellybean. And most likely you won't be getting any update in the near future. The UI is better. No more cartoonish icons in the menu. The primary camera, an 8 MP BSI ( Backside Illumination Sensor), is surprisingly better than Z II. Definitely it was better than the cameras of other local smartphones in this range, but the fancy BSI spec still failed to capture decent snaps in low light

### The Verdict

W140 is symphony's new handset to compete with other local branded midrange and foreign branded entry level smartphone. Considering the specs and price tag it's certainly a great deal. The processor runs good, games run fine too. Touch-sensitivity is OK. The aesthetics are of first-class. But we cannot guarantee you about the longevity of this handset since Symphony users tend to sell out their phones in second hand market due to poor touch sensitivity or screen problems generally after 9-12 months. The customer support is good and wide spread so it won't be a issue in the long run. But unlike Walton, Symphony usually does not provide any firmware update. Lastly the built in storage is terrible. So be prepared to buy a pricey microSD for uninterrupted performance.



environment. The secondary camera was good. Not just good, in fact very good.

Now comes, the most frustrating thing in this handset. It's the memory/ storage. Only 2.65 GB in total! For a smartphone running on Android this spec is simply not acceptable. Even there are some feature phones that have 2GB of memory in built. Of course there is an option to add external memory with micro SD cards, but that have some problem of its own. Frequent hang, lag in running apps etc are just the top

of the iceberg that comes with external memory. But with this phone you actually don't have any option other than to install most of your apps in the external memory. Talking about apps: it has some built in too.

The battery is decent. You could easily manage work and play in a single charge for the entire day. Adding some third party apps like juice defender might even make it last a bit longer. The Wi-Fi and the GPS are ok. Although does not comes with GLONASS (Russian military version of GPS) which works far better than GPS in this subcontinent.



SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

### SITES MUST SEE

## Take tours in Bangladesh VIRTUALLY

In today's issue of 'Bytes' we will be featuring a brilliant looking site: bangladesh360.net .Bangladesh360 is a site that offers 360 degree panoramic view of the spectacular heritage sites of Bangladesh. Upon entering the site you will see a banner rotating few of the sites cover by bangladesh360. The menu tab contains: homepage, panoramas, virtual tour, maps, gallery, all in one, FAQs and contact buttons. The landing page shows the new panoramas, the virtual tours, most popular sites, the tag collage and a custom search option. The first thing we did when looking into the site is go to the panoramas. There nearly 15 sites now in the websites. Just click the one



like and press play. In computer screen you will find a slow paced rotating view of that particular location. The cursors and the options allow you to move left and right and top and bottom of the scene. You could also zoom in to look for tiny details and zoom out after seeing it. There is home button to align the picture in the starting view. Moreover you could also go for full-screen. The most interesting thing about this site is it allows you to download the panoramas as a picture or as a screensaver. You will find the download buttons just near the down right corner of the panorama. Clicking those will lead to a mediafire download page where you can download the view without waiting. The virtual tour part is even more interesting. You get to have the panoramas from different places of that very same structure. So you will be getting more views. Just click in the pointers in the view to change the angle of viewing. Lastly before leaving the website you must go through the gallery. It contains some vibrant and powerful snapshots. The only way to describe the snaps is 'Spectacular'. Suppose you loved every panorama. What do you do then? Go one by one and download all? The creators of the website kept that in mind too. Click to the all in one tab of the main menu. You will find a complete collection of the panoramas ready for you to download. The site does not have any advertsises yet which make it look clean and faster to load. The language of the site is by default in Bangla which can easily be toggled to English. FYI this website is a venture of ONNOROKOM GROUP, the mind behind the popular e-shopping site: rokumari.com

Our Score: 8.0/10.0

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### TECH HAPPENINGS

## Microsoft Bangladesh announces the selectees of 'Expert Educators and Mentor Schools Program'

Recently Microsoft Bangladesh declared that an educator and a school in Bangladesh have been selected to take part in its Expert Educator and Mentor Schools programs. Members of both programs will become part of an exclusive one-year initiative that recognizes pioneer educators and school leaders using technology to transform education. Every year, the Expert Educator Program selects 250 educators to be part of an exclusive global community of educational leaders who use technology to positively impact learning and student outcomes.. The selected educator and the school will be receiving a wide range of benefits and exposure i.e. an invitation to attend the Microsoft in Education Global Forum-Barcelona taking place in March 2014, free Surface devices for their schools, insider access to Microsoft strategy and technologies, professional and career development opportunities and certifications including peer coaching. This year, Hafez Allama Mohammad Mohiul Hoque and his institute 'Naziria Naymia Mahmudia Madrasha' has been selected to participate in this program.

## Intel launches 'It's Personal' Campaign'

Intel brings a promotional campaign targeting the end customer. Under this campaign a customer gets a chance to win a fabulous Tablet when he/she buys a PC with 4th Generation Intel Core Processor and takes part in the contest. A number of selected Intel Technology Provider Program members are participating in this campaign. A customer can participate in this contest by taking a photo of his new PC and upload it to the contest website using his/her Facebook id and try to get as many likes as possible to win a Tablet. The contest will run till 31st December and 4 Tablets are to be won in these 4 weeks. Details can be found: [www.intel.com/Bangladesh/itspersonal](http://www.intel.com/Bangladesh/itspersonal).



### JUST IN

#### 20% Cash discount for Logitech products

Computer Source Limited is offering up to 20% cash discount for all Logitech products. This offer is applicable at its Brand Shop in Dhanmondi 27 along with Basundhara, Uttara, Gulshan and Shantinagar branches at Dhaka and GEC and Agrabad outlet at Chittagong. An end user has to like at Logitech bangladesh fan page from Facebook to achieve this offer.



#### ASUS BM6820 commercial desktop PC

ASUS BM6820 desktop PC Powered by top-grade components and technologies helps you easily multi-task your office work. This desktop PC is e with 100% solid state capacitors, utmost durability, improved longevity and enhanced thermal performance. With 3.2 GHz 3rd Generation Intel Core i5 processor, Intel H61 chipset, 4 GB of DDR3 the PC is providing smooth, stable operation and performance. The PC is also equipped with 500 GB hard disk, DVD writer, 18.5-inch LED monitor, gigabit LAN, 8-channel audio, 6 SATA ports, 8 USB 2.0, supports DVI and VGA ports to provide rich connecting capability.

Price: Tk. 45,000/- plus 3 years warranty



#### ASUS X201E Ultra-slim and light notebook sparkles with color

The X201E ultra-light and extra-thin notebook comes with style and comfort. The 11.6" widescreen display is backlit with LED lamps, which has a 16:9 aspect ratio and the 1366 x 768 native resolutions is supported by integrated Intel HD graphics. The system is powered by a 1.8 GHz Intel Pentium Dual Core processor. It also has 4 GB of RAM, a 500 GB hard drive, media card reader, 10/100 Mbps Fast Ethernet, 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi, an integrated webcam and microphone. There are also built-in stereo speakers. The notebook is available in blue, red and white lids.

Price: Tk. 30,500/-

#### HP 1418TU with affordable price and up to date configuration

HP 1418TU with affordable price and up to date configuration is now in market. It comes with 2.4 GHz Intel Core i3, 4 GB DDR3 RAM, Intel HD Graphics 4000 and 500 GB 5400 rpm SATA Hard Drive. This 14" notebook contains a touchpad with on/off button and multi-touch gesture support to avoided or manage having switched off the multi gesture option.

Price: Tk. 37,750/- with 12 months of warranty

