



The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

# Why the Nexus 5 is awesome

The Nexus 5 is an awesome phone. And it's steal of a deal at about Tk. 35,000-38,000/- (\$350 plus taxes in US). The top of the line hardware and sleek design aren't the only thing that makes the latest flagship device from Google a great buy.

## Size Matters

Who said size doesn't matter? Okay, we don't like our phones too big actually. I'm told that the note is a nice device but after a certain point bigger is not better. But in the case of the Nexus 5 it's a good size of big. I don't have too big a palm and it manages to fit kind of alright in it. Though sometimes I did feel like I had to slide the phone down or up a little to reach certain things, but it's not that big an inconvenience. Whether you want to spend time going through the Facebook News Feed, or chatting, or browse through imgur, play games, or

watch videos of the teen and adult nature, the big screen with the thin bezel is awesome. It oozes quality and there's no more worry about breaking the glass barrier cause there is none, at least not on the back anymore. It's the smooth, matte, quality plastic - the kind you'd want to hold in your hand without feeling like you got a bad deal. It feels better built and oozes more class than other flagships such as the shiny, plastic cheap feeling Samsung S4. Only thing that can beat it now in terms of 'feels' is the HTC one with its metal unibody.

## Zoom zoom

Thanks to its powerful specs pretty much all operations on the Nexus 5 is super fast and buttery smooth. There is still no app that can cause it any stutter. It's fun just to keep swiping through your apps knowing that the swiping is happening faster than it did on your old phone, even if that phone was a Nexus 4. And if it's a T-Mobile G2X, well you would never want to stop swiping through your apps. Other things such as gaming and web browsing are also smooth and buttery thanks to the powerful hardware but nowhere near as fun as

## WHY YOU SHOULDN'T BUY

It's a sleek sexy phone with a big screen that has really powerful hardware, gets the latest updates and only costs \$350+taxes.

## So let's talk about why you shouldn't get this device:

- You already have a Nexus 5
- You are currently satisfied with your inferior phone
- You prefer iPhones or Windows Phones
- You cannot afford an upgrade
- You don't know what the nice things in life are!

swiping through your apps. Really, try it.

## Serial Updated

Being a Nexus device has many perks such as the subsidized price, a large community of users dedicated to tweaking and customizing the ROM. Speaking of ROMs, the biggest perk

is that the phone will receive Android updates the fastest. You will never be behind the curve.

Okay, I lied. The subsidized price is the biggest perk of being a Nexus device.

## It's not a DSLR

People get really uppity about cameras on phones these days. The expectation often is that you would get DSLR quality photos from a phone camera. It's hard to pull off these expectations in reality though no doubt we can all agree, fanboy or no, that the iPhone has an awesome camera. And the Nexus 5? Initially, on release the N5 came with

Android 4.4 and with it was a really sloppy camera that had a lot of issues. It had potential but it basically sucked. Within a month Google released 4.4.1 solving a lot of the issues on the camera, vastly improving its quality. 4.4.2 came out and fixed more bugs overall. But the camera still feels a little sloppy. There are some issues to work out with focus but despite that, the Nexus 5 is basically one of the best phones you can buy.

For high resolution pics visit our FB page or online version of the page



## SPECS

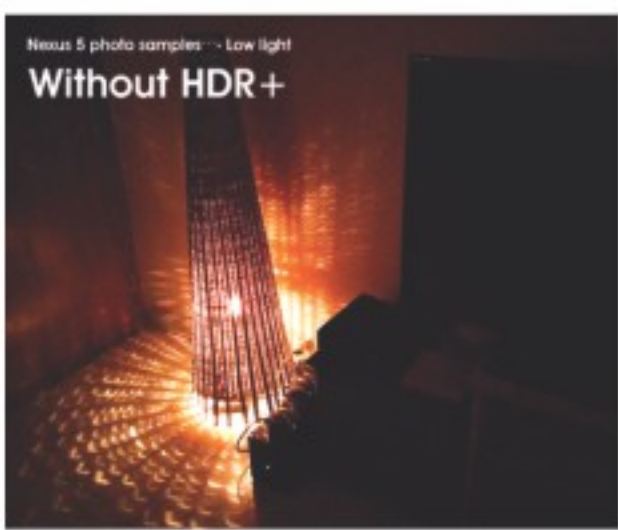
**Display:** 1080 x 1920 pixels, 4.95 inches (445 ppi) True HD IPS+  
**OS:** up to Android 4.4.2 (Kit Kat)  
**CPU:** Quad-core 2.3 GHz Krait 400  
**ROM:** 16/32 GB  
**RAM:** 2GB  
**Connectivity:** Wi-Fi, NFC, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G, LTE etc  
**Camera:** Primary: 8 MP, 3264 x 2448 pix, image stabilization, LED flash + Secondary: 1.3MP  
**Sensors:** Accelerometer, gyro, proximity, compass, barometer  
**Battery:** 2300 mAh  
**Price:** 16 GB: Tk. 35,000-38,000/-

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The writer is Editor-in-Chief of online tech news site Techetron. He spends too much of his time updating his gadgets and visiting all the fuchkka stalls when visiting Bangladesh.

HANDS ON REVIEW

SAMPLE SHOTS



## APPS ON THE FLOOR



**Name of App:** gSlate Bangla  
**Developer:** Grameen Intel Social Business Ltd.  
**Platforms:** Android  
**Size:** 12.43 MB  
**Launched:** November 7, 2013  
**Genre:** Education  
**Rating:** 4.6 (Rated by 23 users)  
**No. of Downloads:** 500-1,000

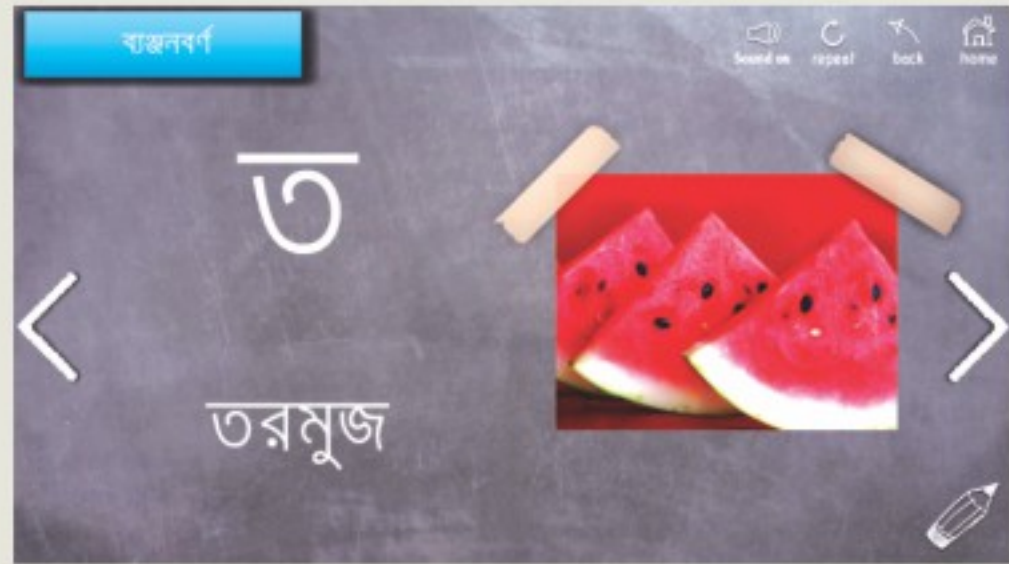
**Our Rating:** 6.5/10

If you are finding hard to make your toddler read and write bangle- then we have just the perfect app for you. gSlate Bangla, gives your kid a e-slate vibe especially when you hear the exact sound effects of a chalk drawn in a board. This coolly design apps menu is simple yet eye-catching. The menu of the app is divided in two major segments: write & learn. In both of the segments you can choose either alphabets or numbers.

Clicking to the 'Write' segment you can allow your tot to write a particular alphabet or number. The writing is done in a step by step process so that your kids don't get overwhelmed. There are some options to undo the move or see a demo or even to pronounce out the name. The color of the chalks can be changed as well. A good thing about this app is you can toggle to the 'learn' or 'write' part after doing any activity.

The learn segment is interesting too. You

could hear the alphabet and an associated word with it. Very old school like! The app has some bugs though. For example, you can draw up anything as long as you touch up all the points in the alphabets. Also we found the app to hang quite a few times. And each time you have to restart the entire device. Still we consider it a brilliant initiative from Grameen Intel Social Business Ltd. and hope to see a similar app for English as well.



## TECH HAPPENINGS



## Dhaka Crime maps launched

For the first time in Bangladesh an app was developed to plot crimes on a map. The app Crimes Map Dhaka was developed by Tech. Evangelist at Microsoft Bangladesh, TanzimSaqib to serve just that need. By using this app, an user will be able to see the crimes reported during July to October 2013 around her vicinity. The location of the user is detected automatically, then the data obtained from Dhaka Metropolitan Police related to crimes reported include but not limited to murder, kidnapping, hijacking are displayed in a Dhaka city map. This will help citizens of Dhaka to take extra precautions and plan their travels to the areas that are known for crimes. It's a Bangla app and available at the Windows Phone Store now.

## Samsung organizes photography exhibition "Victory through My Lens"

Samsung Electronics Bangladesh organized a photography exhibition, "Victory through My Lens" at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi last week. The exhibition started from December 10, 2013 and ended on December 11, 2013. With the 42nd year of victory and aiming towards a prosperous 43rd year, 43 brilliant photographs have been portrayed in the exhibition for public. Through an online photography contest on Samsung Camera facebook fan page, 14 contestants were selected and taken to various locations of Bangladesh, where they took photographs of our liberation war and victory monuments using Samsung Smart Cameras. The best 43 photographs have been showcased in the exhibition.

## JUST IN

### Samsung's new handset Lakota

Samsung has introduced in the market a new entry level handset, Lakota VE. The handset boasts a 5.6 cm (2.2") display that enables comfortable viewing. Lakota is equipped with a 2 MP Camera that allows great photography, FM Radio with recorder, built-in MP3 Player, MicroSD Facility up to 32GB, Bluetooth, USB port, ChatON and a long lasting 1,000 mAh battery. Moreover it offers Dual SIM to balance you professional and personal life more easily.

**Price:** Tk. 4500/-



### ADATA XPG SX900 solid state drive

ADATA Technology recently has announced the launch of XPG SX900 solid state drive. The XPG (Xtreme Performance Gear) SX900 solid state drive is an expanded capacity SSD which uses new optimized firmware to utilize greater storage capacity of the NAND Flash components. The drive breaks new ground in storage capacity for SSDs utilizing the SandForce 2281 controller, reaching 512GB, a 7% increase over common SSDs in the market that use a SandForce controller.

**Price:** 128 GB Tk. 10,000/-



### Spark IT offering special rates for website developments in the month of victory

On the occasion of Victory Day, Christmas and New Years Eve, Spark IT is offering discounted rates for web development. Non-commercial and SME users can avail a domain name, a fully fledged hosting service and site design for just Tk. 5000/- only. Moreover Enterprise package will cost Tk. 8000/- and corporate package will cost Tk. 10,000/- . For Tk. 15,000/- and Tk. 20,000/- one can develop a e-commerce and online newspaper site respectively.



### Lenovo A3000, 3G voice calling 7-inch tablet PC

The Lenovo A3000 bristles with specifications typically found in a much larger device, all packed into a 7-inch form factor that is thin and light. Powered by a 1.2GHz quad-core processor, the tablet which sports an IPS 1024x600 screen, 2G & 3G voice calling and data supported, weights in at less than 340g and is only 11mm thick, but can still hold a wealth of content with an extensive 16GB memory, which can be extended to 64GB with the external micro-SD card. It runs Android 4.2 Jelly Bean. It comes with dual webcam with a 5-mega pixel rear camera, 1GB RAM, wireless LAN, Bluetooth 4.0, 3G supported and includes 16 GB of internal storage which is expandable via microSD card.

**Price:** Tk. 21,500/-

TECH BITS

Instagram has dipped its toes into private-photo and video messaging waters

The new 'Viber Out' service lets users call or text non-Viber lines anywhere on the planet for fee



A USD 5.2 Mil supercomputer, one of the most powerful in the UK, has been installed at the University of Southampton



Apple on last Friday released a second version of its iOS 7.1 beta to registered developers

Google buys Boston Dynamics, maker of spectacular and terrifying robots

