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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

HANDS ON REVIEW

Huawei Ascend P6: Slim isn't everything

Huawei Ascend P6, the flagship smartphone of mystic oriental origin. Is it worthy of the hype that's floating around? We'll come to know in this issue of Bytes.

Let's start with the name. Ascend P6 got its name from its size.... and that's 6mm. When launched, Huawei Ascend P6 was the slimmest phone in tech-town, unfortunately not any more. This ex-skinniest smartphone is still brilliant to look at. Its measurements are 132.7 x 65.5 x 6.2 mm and its pretty light - just 120g. There are rumors that this phone is an iPhone rip-off but we wondered why. This phone is distinctive in its own way and has several refinements that Apple fanboys would want in their phones. The 4.7-inch screen is near-almost pulsating as the Apple iPhone 5. It has 312ppi versus iPhone 5's 326ppi. It looks good, but not when compared with iPhone 5S or HTC One. The length of the screen is quite bigger than iPhone. But an average sized hand can easily accommodate it. The metal that wraps the interior is smooth though your palm will never fall in love with it. Why? Probably because you used an iPhone and metal quality in this one feels cheap. The SIM tray is a pop out in the side, very similar to iPhone and many other devices. Same goes for the memory card slot. What Huawei intuitively added is a detachable pin to make the trays pop out.

Now time to peek under the hood. Competent is the word that describes the phone perfectly. This phone packs a decent processor and memory. 1.5 Quad Core and 2 Gigs RAM sound pretty good. In fact more adept and powerful than the phone's price would suggest. Regrettably the

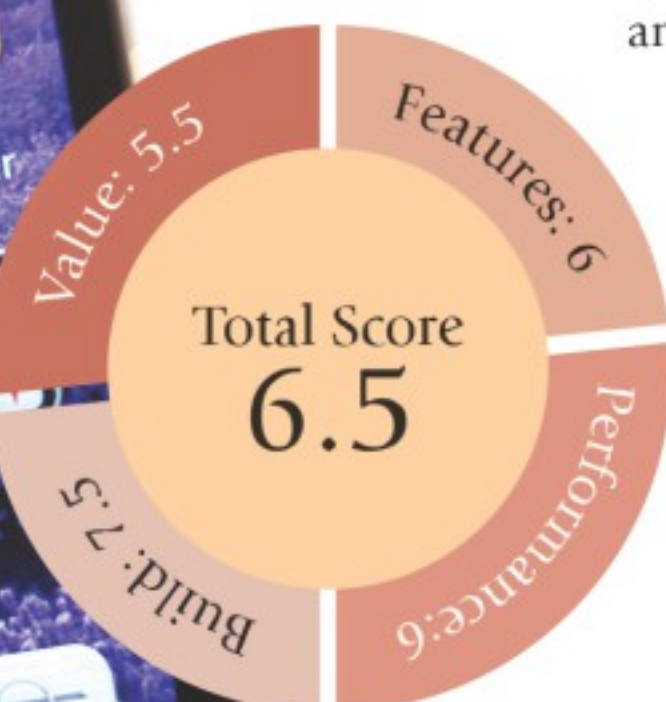


phone not always performs the way these specs would allow to. Emotion UI, a weird (peculiar would be the perfect word) looking user interface that this phone comes with is probably the reason why the phone is a bit slow time to time. We also found some users complaining about instability issues with few apps in tech forums. But good news is with the KitKat update (Yes! It's getting

KitKat update this month), engineers of Huawei has vowed to put an end to this shenanigans. Huawei's take on Android includes a Me tile that can be customized with your favorite on screen apps. It's neat, but not unseen before. The phone also comes with lots of themes to customize the wallpaper, onscreen icons and so on.

The primary camera, which is a salient feature in smartphones, of Huawei Ascend P6 is able to take bold and vibrant pictures. Unfortunately the quality (details) of the snap is not what you might expect from an 8MP. What impressed us most is the Scene Settings feature. It can adapt the settings itself with the changing environment of the snaps. So far, the only handset to come up with a better feature than this was the Nokia Lumia 925.

If you ever have been through the adverts of Huawei Ascend P6, you will surely find them screaming about the 5MP front camera. Why? Because it's worth it! Designed for the ultimate self-portrait- is what Huawei claims.... and we agree with it. No camera in this range offers such spectacular selfies. 2000mAh cell battery of this chunk of metal is pretty good. It will last entire day plus few hours more in a full charge with medium usage including Wi-Fi and 3G. Comparing with the competitors, we will give the edge to Ascend P6 keeping in mind how much skinny the phone is. The unit that we had survived 27 hours 38 minutes in total in a single charge. We browsed nearly 3 hours in Wi-Fi and 45 minutes in 3G.



SPECS

DISPLAY: 480 720 x 1280 pixels, 4.7 inches (~312 ppi pixel density) IPS+ LCD capacitive touchscreen
PLATFORM: Android OS, v4.2.2 (Jelly Bean), planned upgrade to v4.4 (KitKat)
PROCESSOR: Quad-core 1.5 GHz
ROM: 8/16 GB
RAM: 2 GB RAM
SENSORS: Accelerometer, gyro, proximity, compass, temperature
CAMERA: Primary: 8 MP, 3264x2448 pixels, autofocus, LED flash Secondary: 5 MP, 720p
BATTERY: Li-Po 2000 mAh battery

PRICE: Tk. 34,900/-

THE VERDICT

Ascend P6 is a brilliant phone, no doubt about that. It's slim, and light weight, good looking and more than an average smartphone. Its screen is top-notch, the construction is solid, and the battery-life is just lovely. The primary camera is OK and there's no better phone out there for taking selfy- if that's what you're into. However, the phone failed attempting to raise itself above the 'mid-range' shelf despite having '2GB RAM' and 'quad-core CPU'. The software instability and quirky looking UI is another reason to say 'eeh' when using the phone.

We finish our review asking one simple questions: "Come on Huawei Engineers! Would it kill you to market a phone with Vanilla Android?"

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

TECH HAPPENING

Office 365: Partner readiness session by Microsoft

Microsoft organized a day long workshop on "Office 365 partner readiness" at its new office. The sessions held on 29 January 2014, were participated by Microsoft LSPs, Managed Partners and top ISPs of the country. Microsoft has introduced Office

365 in Bangladesh, the first ever cloud service from Microsoft in Bangladesh which will be providing mailing, audio-video conferencing and collaboration facility on the cloud along with traditional Microsoft office productivity like word, excel,

PowerPoint. From Microsoft Bangladesh Mr. Pubudu Basnayake, Rumesa Hussain and ASM Rasheduzzaman were presented in the session. The key speakers were Bharat Mirchandani and Cynthia Yung from Microsoft APAC headquarter.

JUST IN



HP Notebook for Graphics Designer

A brand new Notebook of HP 1000-1416TX now available in the local market for graphical work and playing game frequently by Computer Source Limited. It comes with Intel Core i5-3230M processor which ensured working speed of 2.6 GHz. This 14 inch wide screen Notebook contains 4 GB DDR3, 500 GB HDD and 1 GB dedicated GFX.

Price: 47,000/-

Kaspersky Lab launches protection solution for small offices in Bangladesh

Kaspersky Lab launches the latest version of "Kaspersky Small Office Security" in Bangladesh. This award winning protection solution for business aims at protection for small offices having one Server and 5 or 10 workstations in a Windows Server network environment. Features of this package are: easy to deploy and manage, no extra IT skills required and can be managed from a single PC. The new version also provides security for Android smart phones and tablets. Now Kaspersky Small Office Security is readily available off-the-shelf in most tech stores in Bangladesh.



Samsung Monitor for crystal clear picture

Samsung S19C300B LED Monitor is a budget and energy friendly monitor for those who do graphics work in PC and want to watch HD Movie or TV. This Mega Dynamic Contrast ratio oriented LED monitor is compatible with Windows-8 operating system. Its screen viewable image is 18.5 inch. This rectangular shaped monitor comes in the ratio of 16:9, and its brightness is 250 candelas per square feet. It can save up to 15 watt of electricity. Even from 160 degree angle, one can view the image perfectly. Its reddish black exterior gives it a unique look. This monitor can be plugged by both VGA and DVI ports. Made in Vietnam, this monitor is engineered to be environment friendly.

Price: Tk. 8,500/-

APPS ON THE FLOOR



In this month we commemorate the International Mother Language with an app. Using this app anyone and everyone with an android smartphone can write bangla and share it as well. The app allows users to write in Bangla using phonetics with a simple user interface. It does not require the users to be connected in internet. Also users can share Bangla statues on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. The app allows the user to copy Bangla text and paste it for use in other applications as well.

Name of App: Bangla Likhi
Developer: MCC Ltd.
Platforms: Android
Size: 1.43 MB
Launched: February 2, 2014
Genre: Education
Rating: 4.3 (Rated by 19 users)
No. of Downloads: 500-1,000
Our Rating: 5.5/10

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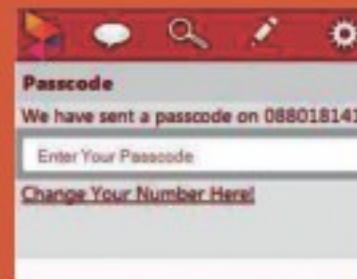
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TECH BITS

BCS ICT world starts from 27th February



Robi launches Bangla instant messenger



Bill Gate to return Microsoft as the Technology Adviser



Flappy Bird faces imminent extinction



More Secured and Social Firefox 27 launched this week



Windows 8.1 update may be delayed until April