



The power to do more

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HANDS ON REVIEW

Play through rain and shine Galaxy S5 reviewed

Smartphones aren't the fragile creatures they used to be. They still break if you throw it at an annoying colleague but robustness is on the up and up. The most noticeable change with the S5 is the way it looks. While the design isn't a massive upgrade, the new rubberized textured back plate is a welcome change. Personally the previous shiny plastic looked and felt, well, plasticky. Some might say cheap. Now the premium price tag is met by a premium feel. The big 5.1 inch phone now offers more tactile feedback from the grippy back. The rest of the design remains in the safe zone with no significantly radical changes. A less noticeable yet very important change is the water resistance of the new phone. This is where the whole do more part comes in. Apparently it will survive the occasional dunking but swimming with it is probably not the best of ideas. I took it out in the rain for some shooting. Here's the caveat: water droplets will interfere with your finger inputs. So you need to dry the screen before you can get accurate response. Still, if you're the kind of business magnate without a Rolls Royce who gets caught in the rain and needs to close a multimillion dollar deal, this phone will suffice.

The 5.1 inch HD AMOLED display renders colors brilliantly with sharp contrast without resorting to previous process of over saturation. The 432ppi makes sure the smallest text on websites is visible. And the 4.4 Kitkat come preloaded along with a new and streamlined looking TouchWiz UI. The new UI features solid color icons that offer a refreshed look to the customizable layout. The big news is the new camera. Megapixel wars are silly if cameras can't have better



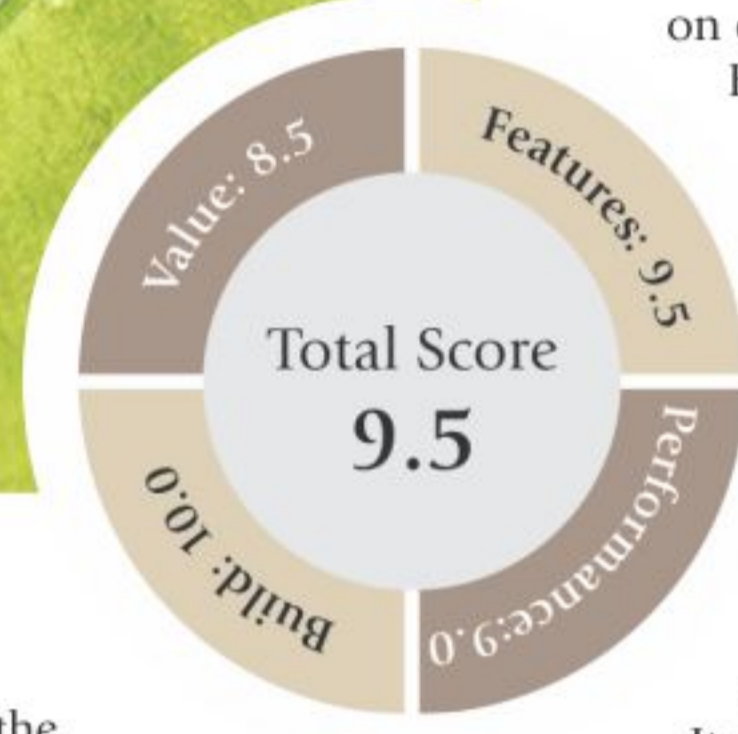
sensors and reduced shutter lags. The new unit on the S5 improves on both counts. The camera fires up real quick and the colours are accurately portrayed although it takes a bit of a hit in low light. But try the HDR function. The results especially in low or unusual light

are magic. The S Health app now comes with a unique heart rate tracker at the back. Not much into health stuff but would prefer to plonk down in front of the TV? Infrared is back for a lot of phones to help control a host of devices like TV and AC or practically anything that receives inputs from IR. Combined with the smoother TouchWiz and the Snapdragon's blazing Quad-

core 2.5GHz 801 processor, the S5 is now a really worthy contender for one of the best phones you can get your hands on. Sure, the design is played safe. Samsung went with the evolutionary route to come up with something they know the consumer will lap up. They didn't go with massive new tech in terms of what this phone



will be used for most: camera shots especially selfies. But it packs a brilliant punch overall. I never liked the way the S3 or the S4 looked or felt. The S4 even had the occasional creak that detracted from its premium positioning. But the S5 is a solid joy to hold, so much so that I'd even ditch my iPhone and get one for everyday use. It's got a great camera, multi-windows for those that can't set their mind on one task and a super fast engine. Battery is up as well with a nifty feature for ultra power-saving that turns your phone into a black and white device with minimal call and messaging functions that will power you through for days. I tried it on from five percent and it lasted me for several hours with multiple calls in between. Best of all, despite being a big phone, it aced the 'man-pocket-test'. It slides into jeans very easily. What's not to like?



WORDS AND PHOTOS:
EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

5 interesting facts about Microsoft Surface Pro 3



- 1. Double Layered screen**
This nifty innovation came after years of experiment that Microsoft was conducting in their labs. What it does is that it minimizes the parallax effect to almost zero. How did Microsoft do that? Simple: Just two layers of glass in the LCD!
- 2. The new charger doubles as a high-speed data port**
To be blunt, the proprietary charger hasn't ever work for surface. This time Microsoft actually came up with the idea to build a charger that actually works a data port and you have to slide the connector in to the magnetize slot. The moment it's docked, the data port gets connected with the Surface pro 3.
- 3. It uses an active capacitive pen**
If you are familiar with the Galaxy Note series by Samsung then this pen of Microsoft is no news to you. What the active part means is that you can hover over the Surface Pro 3 to move the cursor. It also has 256 different levels of pressure sensitivity.
- 4. Both cameras are 5 megapixels**
Probably this is the only tablet in the world that has 5 MP cameras in both: front and back. Interestingly both cameras can grab videos @ 1080p. Great, right?
- 5. The speakers are on the front.**
Unlike most of the tab in the market, Microsoft was wise enough to bring the speaker on the front. These stereo speakers will not make you put the tab top down; which time to time can get a bit annoying.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN



TECH SNAPS

Airtel Bangladesh recently launched "Online Airtel Experience Center". It is the first of its kind virtual customer service center with 3D animated online portal. Customers can avail almost all the regular services virtually. The entire portal was developed by a Bangladeshi firm: Sketch IT.

TECH HAPPENING

ASUS 9 Series Gaming Motherboards Launched in Bangladesh IT Market



Realizing the huge demand of online recreation and gaming, Global Brand (Pvt.) Limited the authorized distributor of ASUS in Bangladesh has released ASUS 9 Series motherboards in the local IT market of Bangladesh. For this circumstance, a press conference was held on 20th May at Head Office of Global Brand. The models are MAXIMUS VII HERO, Z97-K and H97M-E motherboard. Managing Director of Global Brand (Pvt.) Limited Rafiqul Anwar, ASUS Bangladesh National Sales Manager Ziaur Rahman, ASUS Motherboard Product Manager Mahbbul Gani officially unveiled those new models by this program.

Freelance Career Workshop Conducted for Developers



In collaboration with Microsoft, world's leading online marketplace Elance-oDesk organized a freelance career workshop Tuesday, May 21, 2014, exclusively for Windows application developers and ASP.NET developers in Bangladesh. The workshop took place at the Microsoft Bangladesh office in Dhaka, and 60+ attendees were invited to join the session for free. Mr. Tanzim Saqib, Tech. Evangelist of Microsoft inaugurated the session and discussed about Microsoft's activities in Bangladesh. The technical discussion of the workshop was conducted by Mr. Saidur Mamun Khan, Country Manager (Bangladesh) of Elance-oDesk.

Gigabyte Launches 9 Series motherboard in BD



Gigabyte launched a new series of motherboard named as '9 Series' in a press conference held on 21st May 2014. Regional manager of Gigabyte's Asia Pacific region Mr. Alan Szu and General Manager of Smart Technologies (BD) Ltd. Mr. Zafor Ahmed unveiled those new models in front of media people. Gigabyte's Sales & Marketing manager of Bangladesh market Mr. Khaza Md. Anas Khan was the keynote speaker who presented on the new models of 9 series motherboards. Mr. Zafor Ahmed in his speech said, "Gigabyte is always keen to give very special service support to Bangladeshi users. Gigabyte is now World's number one Motherboard in terms of quality and market share also."

JUST IN

Car charger ensures a life at full power

The C320 charger by Apacer for vehicles is equipped with dual USB interface. The charging status is always visible via a LED indicator. The C320 USB charger for vehicles with a considerate design of a large power flow up to 2.4A easily supports your iPad and tablet PCs, enriching your life during travelling or working. **Price: Tk. 900/-** with one year warranty.



Lenovo G410s Multi-touch Screen Laptop

The Lenovo G410s laptop PC computer features 4th generation Intel core i5-4200M processor with 2.50 GHz (up to 3.10 GHz, 3MB cache) CPU speed. It has a 15.6-inch display with 10 multi touch screen feature and 4 GB RAM. For storage, it has 500 GB hard disk. It also has Nvidia GeForce GT720M with 2 GB VRAM, and DVD writer optical disk drive and all other usual options. **Price: Tk. 67,000/-**

New Apacer fast-recharging and large capacity

The B123 power bank with large capacity provides reliable and emergency power backups for smartphones, Bluetooth speakers and other portable electronic products. In the full charge state it can charge a smartphone 3 times for its 7800mAh powerful battery. It also has a torch light to enlighten in darkness. Since it weighs only about 182g, it's compact, portable and easy to carry. **Price: Tk. 2200/-** with one year service facility.



TECH BITS

CEAT Bangladesh Sign agreement with Microsoft for Office 365 Cloud Service



Facebook partners up with F-Secure for online security



Moon now gets high speed broadband internet



Government inks MoU to establish virtual shop in villages



Google becomes the best brand by pushing down Apple

