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BYTES

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HANDS ON REVIEW

One Plus One: Simple Math

Self proclaimed "Flagship Killer" of 2014, it is about time you knew about the OnePlus One if you don't. OnePlus is a chinese manufacturer that did not exist until six months ago, and their One Smartphone follows strictly the company philosophy of never settling for less. It boasts hardware specifications capable of putting the Galaxy S5 and HTC One M8 to shame and then some at a less than half price tag of $350. Except there's one catch, you can't just buy it if you want to.

Having read about it initially on Flipboard, I took to their forums looking for an invite to purchase the one. The incredibly complicated process requires the manufacturer to send you an invite through multiple contests to be able to buy one. Your invite specifies which of the White 16GB or the Sandstone Black 64 GB you get to purchase at $299 and $350 respectively, and despite always having preferred white phones to black ones, I was glad to have received the sandstone unit because such specifications would be a total waste with just 16 gigs. That being said, I still think the white one looks better.

My oneplus arrived a month later in a brilliant red-white packaging that took the unboxing experience to a different level. Everything meticulously detailed and finished, starting from the phone itself to the charger and the box. First impression is always dominated by the sheer size of this thing, with a 5.5 inch screen it stands taller and roughly just as wide as a Samsung Note 3. For average users like me, it does

take getting a bit used to. Typing on the gargantuan screen is difficult for one handers, but you soon realise that the size is essential for a complete overall experience.

Design and construction is simple to the core, with great attention to detail and build quality that Samsung has still not been able to achieve in all of it's years in this market. The sandstone black finish with it's pebble like texture is unlike anything else i have seen on a handheld device and contributes to the grip and feel of it in your hand. Up front, the thin metallic plastic frame surrounding the screen dents quite easily as I was unfortunate to discover on the very first day. I also purchased an orange plastic cover accessory on their website, which albeit decent looking, has started to crack and break bits off within a month or two. If you are to get one, i'd suggest you purchase them from Amazon.
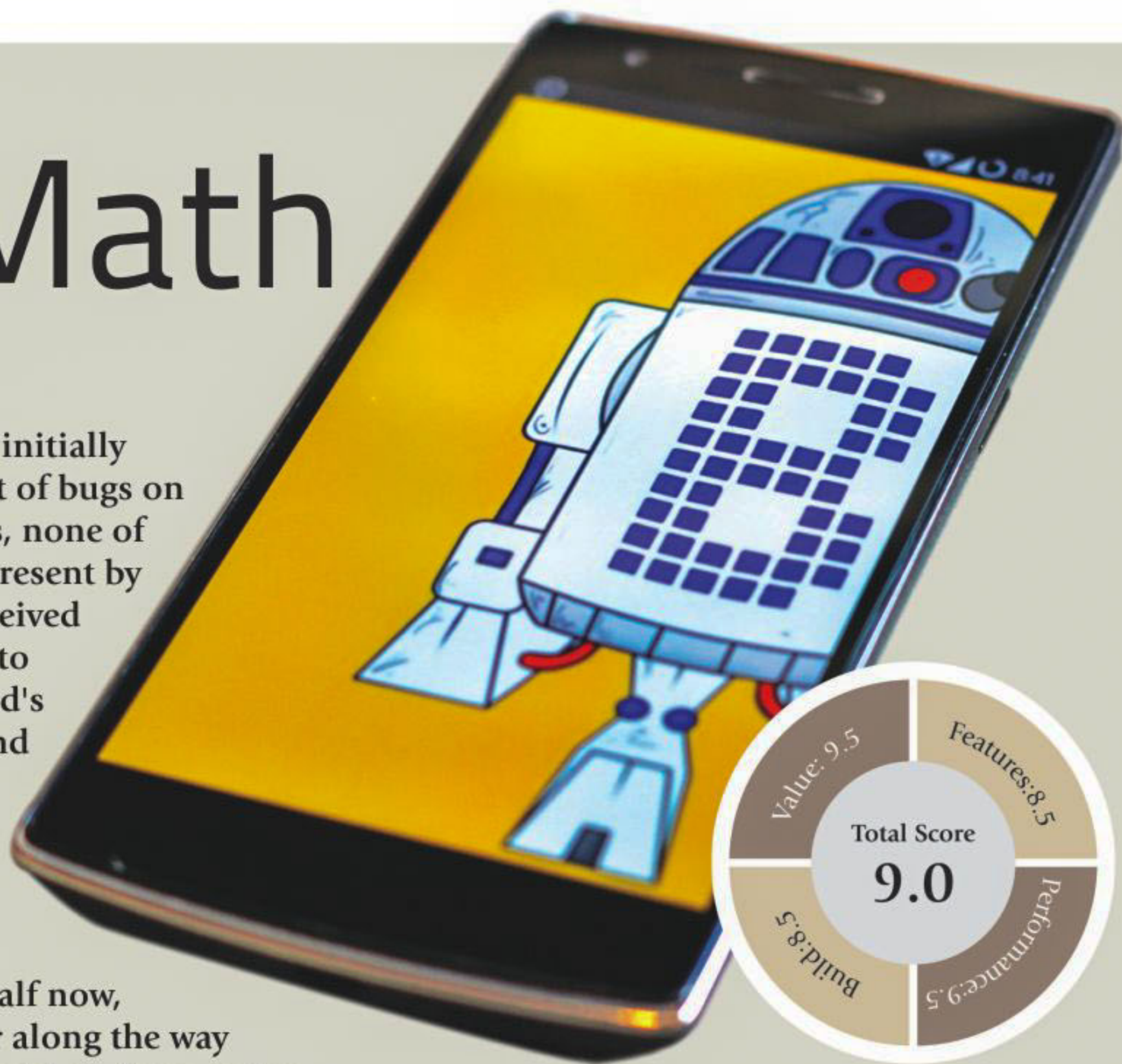
The One runs on an operating system called Cyanogenmod, which is a version of the latest Android OS

extensively tweaked to extract the absolute best performance for the hardware present. Cyanogenmod is key to the success and experience of this phone, and would require a lot of explanation so I suggest you do your own youtubing on it. In summary the operating system is completely smooth, free of any bloatware and infinite possibilities for customization. You can set it to match the interface of a Samsung, HTC or any android skin through Cyanogenmod. The large 3100 mAh Battery lasts more than a day up to a day and half through power saving settings. However, it all depends on the brightness of the screen which accounts to 60% of power consumption.

My key reason to purchase the oneplus was the camera. The 13 megapixel, 6 element Sony sensor is capable of competing with the likes of iPhone 5S and HTC One, reaping the benefits of Cyanogen's camera interface that allows different modes of shooting and even RAW image support through a later update. To

VERDICT

The Oneplus initially reported a lot of bugs on the interwebs, none of which were present by the time I received mine thanks to Cyanogenmod's quick fixes and updates. The phone has been working flawlessly for a month and half now, getting better along the way with incremental updates and my impression of it has been similar to as the folks at Engadget put it, "It doesn't make sense that the OnePlus One should be this inexpensive"

Value: 9.5 | Features: 8.5 | Performance: 9.5 | Build: 8.5
Total Score 9.0

stress on the capabilities enough, I have even substituted it for my DSLR to photograph a full review of the Mazda Axela on SHIFT. The resulting images were spectacular. The front facing camera too is a very high end unit sporting 5 megapixels with resulting images putting big shot selfie takers to shame. This phone makes photos in the dark look like child's play.

PHOTO & STORY
AADNAN ZAMAN

SPECS
Display: LTPS LCD, 1080 x 1920, 5.5" (~401ppi)
Processor: Quad-core 2.5 GHz Krait 400
OS: Android 4.4.2 (CyanogenMod 11S)
RAM: 3 GB, ROM: 16/64 GB
Camera: Primary- 13 MP dual-LED flash & Secondary- 5 MP, 1080p@30fps
Sensors: Motion sensors: Accelerometer, Proximity etc
Battery: Li-Po 3100 mAh
Price: 32GB Tk. 30,000-32,000/-

New GPUs unveiled by NVIDIA: Insight

In a world where gaming is not just entertainment rather an obsession, we're always excited about new GPUs. And this week we want your undivided attention on NVidia's latest releases: The GTX 980 and the GTX 970. Do they feature revolutionary GPU technology with a huge performance boost? No. Are they better than ever? Definitely.
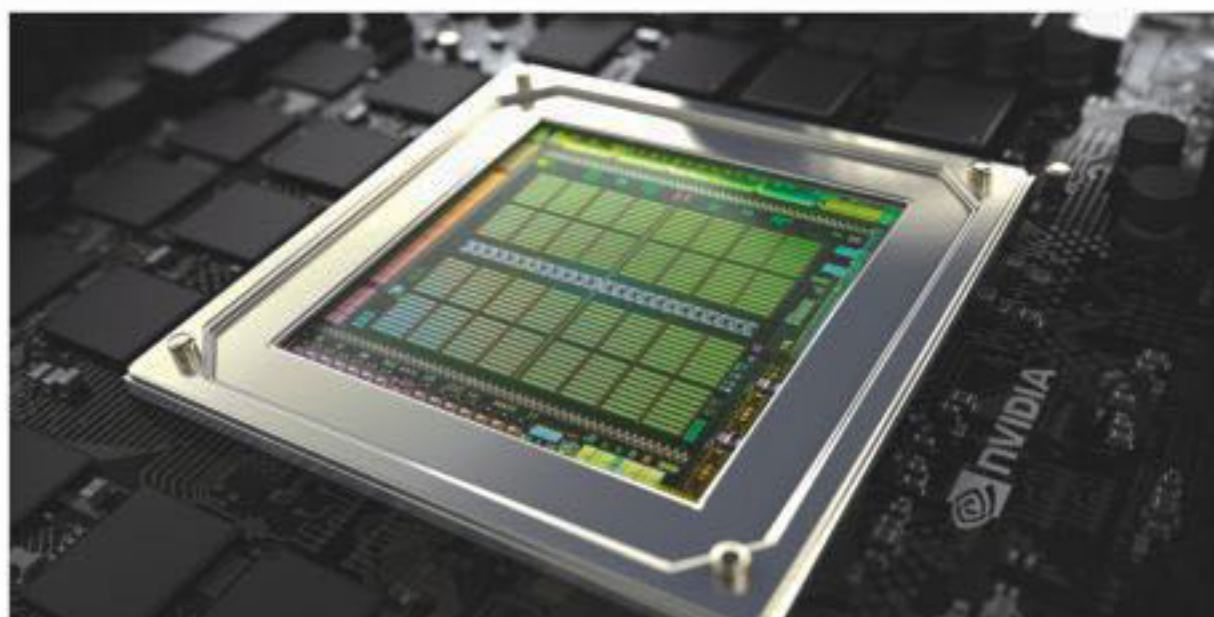
Overview: New Maxwell chips which result in lower-power consumption. Better structure suitable for small, compact systems (living room PCs for instant), better display for 4k monitors, better graphics (obviously) and better gaming experience.

Features:
DSR: Dynamic Super Resolution was quite the amazing feat. It's not entirely new but what changes things hugely is that with the new GPUs, this is available for any game even

if there isn't a built-in option for it. DSR enables you to run games at 4k resolution on a 1080p display.
MFAA: Multi Frame-Sampled Anti-Aliasing is the "mantra" behind achieving more with less. "This lets the game to be played at 4x MSAA at with the performance cost of 2x MSAA. Being particularly great for comparatively low-end PCs, where you'll able to achieve 4x MSAA with the power of 2x MSAA and enjoy better visual effects.
DirectX 12: The GTX 980 and GTX 970 is Nvidia's peek at the future. For details check our Sept. 8, 2014 issue of BYTES/
VXGI: Voxel Global Illumination, simply put, is a new illumination algorithm that results in photo-realistic graphics. Nvidia showed off this feature by recreating the famous moon landing scene which debunked the "myth" of a fake lunar voyage. Look it up, you'll see how mind-

blowingly realistic that photo is.
VR Direct: Targeted towards making the VR experience perfect, Nvidia focused on the latency problem we've been facing. HMDs till now never really eliminated this entirely.

But with Asynchronous Ward, Nvidia brought this down to a "very little to no" ratio.

Now, at the core of everything mentioned above, is the new Maxwell chip- GM204. This is indeed a leap from the previous Kepler architecture. The new chip boasts of better clocks, increased transistor density, increased max resolution and HDMI 2.0 for 4K at 60 Hz. Priced at Tk. 28,000/- and Tk. 44,000/- (Appx.) respectively, the GTX 970 and the GTX 980 both feature 4 gigabytes of VRAM. If we take "performance for value" into consideration then these are pretty good deals and so we don't see the point of hesitating.

Happy shopping people!

ABHIK HASNAIN

KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

How to avoid phishing?

First of all, use common sense. Keep calm and do not fall victim to provocations that are acting as an agent for online scams and 'vishing'. Take a thorough look at the links and websites that they direct you to. If you receive a suspicious link from a friend or colleague, make sure that they are indeed the ones on the other side of the connection before clicking on the link. When facing a 'vishing' attack, remember that no bank employee would ever urgently require your credit card details. Ideally, do not go to a website through links; input the address manually. It goes without saying that all websites should be accessed with robust protections and networks in place. Do not forget to regularly update your antivirus software, especially if it offers anti-phishing capabilities. For instance, a built-in anti-phishing module in Kaspersky Internet Security can run website checks against a list of known scam websites, as well as

detect potentially dangerous pages having evaluated them through a list of over 200 criteria.

KEEP CALM AND CHECK TWICE

KASPERSKY lab THINK SECURITY

TECH HAPPENING

ICT State Minister holds session with Microsoft delegates

State Minister of the ICT division Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak expressed government's upcoming plans and policies while holding a private meeting with a team of representatives from Microsoft Corporation this Tuesday. During this meeting, G Cloud, digitization of educational institutions, human resource development, e-Governance and various other technology related issues were discussed. Mr. Zunaid lauded Microsoft for spreading the

wonders of technology across the globe and helping to improve the living standards of people. He also invited the Chairman and other high up officials of Microsoft to visit Bangladesh. The representative team from Microsoft was led by Microsoft's General Manager Mr. Michele Simmons, Microsoft Bangladesh's Country Director Ms. Sonia Kabir and personal assistant to the Country Manager Mr. Kawshik Sarkar.
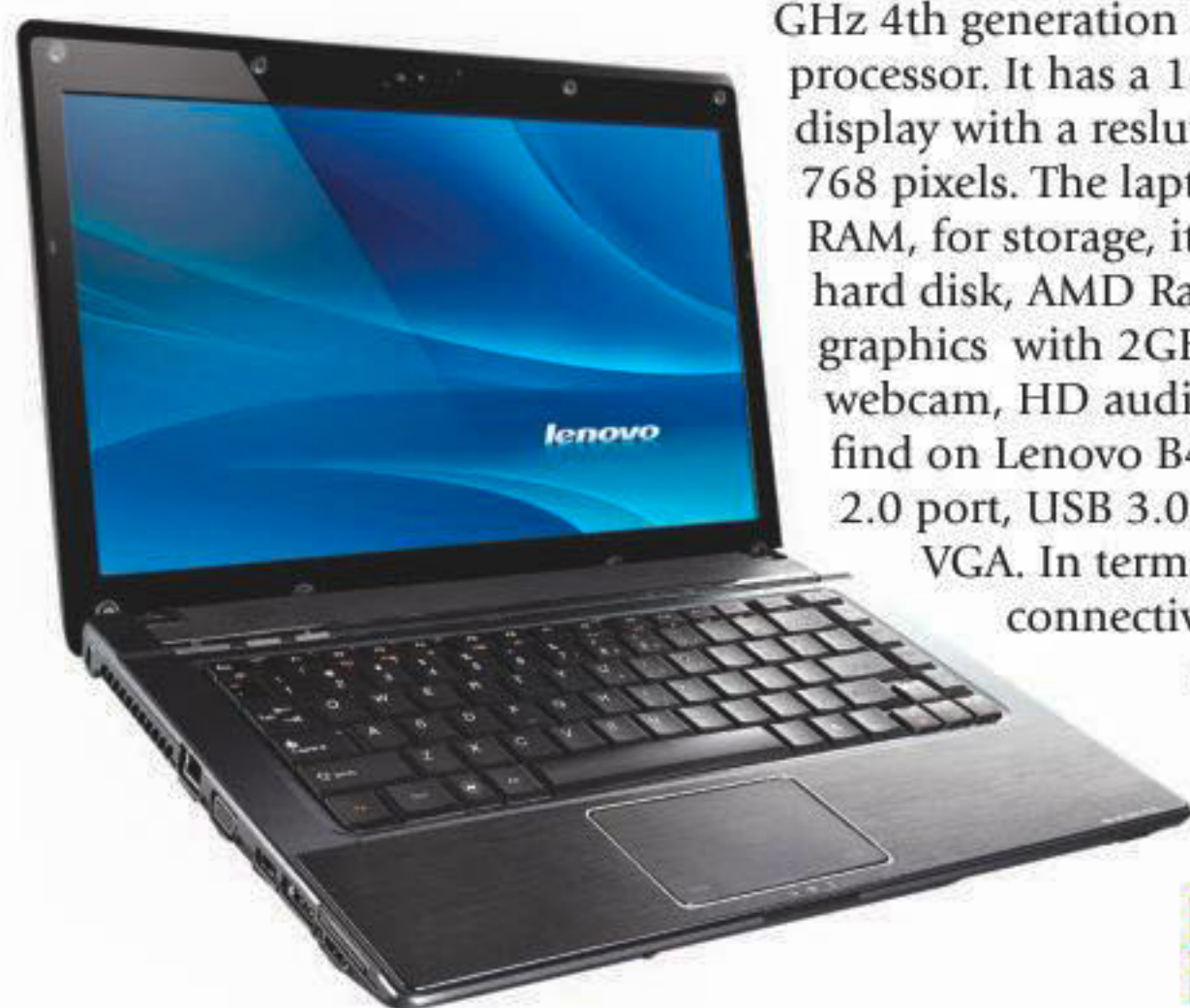
JUST IN

ASUS k551ln-extra-slim notebook:

Whether you are using it for work or for fun, ASUS K551LN is an ideal machine for both productive computing and entertainment. Stylish and durable design is combined with 2.0 GHz 4th Generation Intel Core i7 processor, built-in Nvidia Geforce 2 GB graphics, 15.6-inch display, 8 GB RAM, 1 TB hard drive, DVD writer, HD webcam, wireless LAN, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 3.0 ports, HDMI port etc.
Price: Tk. 68,500/-

Lenovo Ideapad B4070 Core-i5 Laptop With Built-in Graphics

Lenovo Ideapad B4070 offers a great blend of professional style, performance, security, and value. The laptop powered by 1.6 GHz 4th generation Intel Core-i5 processor. It has a 14.1-inch display with a reslution of 1366 x 768 pixels. The laptop has 4GB RAM, for storage, it has 500 GB hard disk, AMD Radeon™ graphics with 2GB VRAM, HD webcam, HD audio. Ports you'll find on Lenovo B4070 are USB 2.0 port, USB 3.0 ports, HDMI, VGA. In terms of connectivity, it features gigabit LAN, 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth.
Price: Tk. 53,500/-

TECH BITS

Scientists want to fight the Ebola outbreak using robots

Air Force's mysterious space drone returns after two years in orbit

Disney rendered its new animated film on a 55,000-core supercomputer

Google freezes Nexus Player orders while it waits for US approval

Facebook now actively seeks password leaks to protect its users