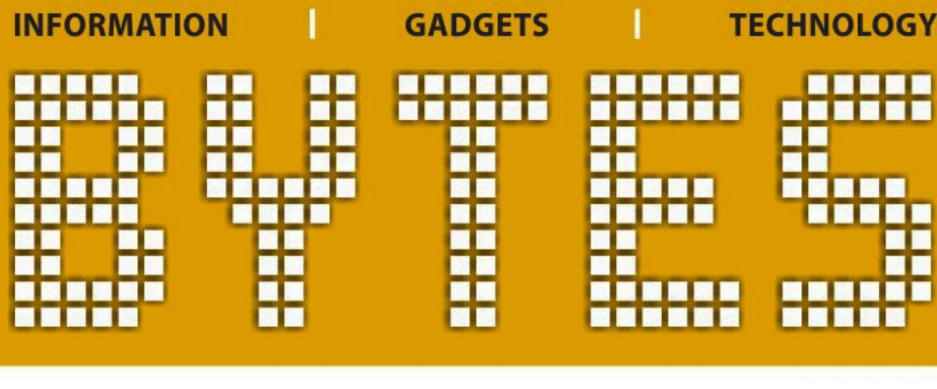
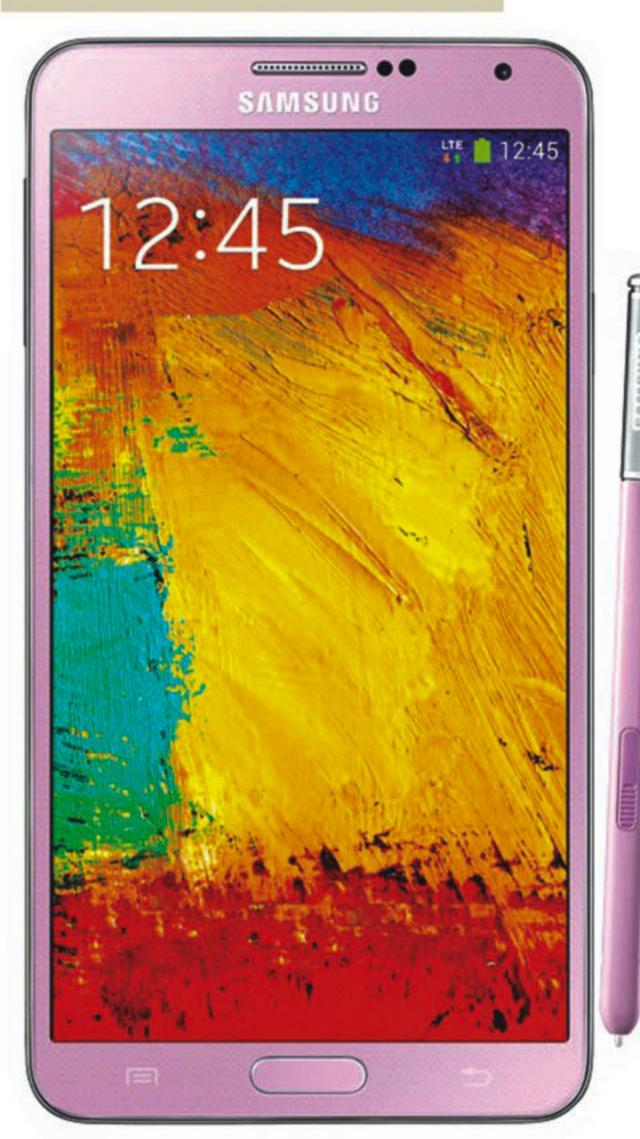


The Daily Star DHAKA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014 e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net





#### HANDS ON REVIEW



# Samsung Galaxy Note 4

# Charming as always

Some people are saying Samsung is in a slump- with so many competitors out there it is falling behind in amusing the customers. I would like to answer those people in three words a number: Samsung Galaxy Note 4. This fourth gen phablet is great to look at, thrilling to hold and exciting to shoot with.

Starting with the dimensions: Samsung has managed to keep the dimensions almost same as before - as a result it's really comfy compared to 6inch Lumia 1520 & iPhone 6 Plus. There is this metal frame running all around the body- certainly makes the phone a lot more classy. The backcover is made of the same rubbery faux leather. It provides a good grip - an attribute no stitch mark which actually makes the phone look a bit elegant. The volume rocker is on the upper left side of the body and the power button on the upper right side of the phone.

The phablet boasts a QHD 5.7 inch 515ppi 2,560 x 1,440 res. display- by far one of the best displays on a phone worldwide. Saying its crisp and sharp does not actually do justice to the display- yes, it's that good. Plus the display is made of Super AMOLED

panel so reaction speeds are faster and a higher contrast level results in better color reproduction. It has Corning Gorilla Glass 3 so you need not to be scared of scratches. The OS running the show

here is Android 4.4.4. Samsung has already confirmed an update in a couple of months. The Touchwiz interface is a bit clunky but far far better than what it used to be. Thanks to the fewer pre-installed bloatware apps and redesigned icons in the interface now looks a lot smarter.

The fingerprint scanner of the phone is an incremental update to what Galaxy useful if you have sweaty palms. There is S5 had. No more 'five strikes and you're locked out' rule. Instead it lets you go on and on until you get it right. I personally find the iPhone's finger print scanner better. Another feature that Samsung incorporated from Galaxy S5 is the heart rate monitor and the S health. The pedometer and heartbeat monitor now works more accurately. What you need to do is just open the S Health app, select heart rate and place a finger over the sensor. In a matter of seconds result will be ready. The

pedometer works on the background and it really doesn't consume that much battery.

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The camera of the phone is probably one of the best snappers I came across in a long time. 16MP lens equipped with a dual-LED flash along

with auto- and touch-to-focus- it's almost same as Samsung Galaxy S5 except for Optical Image Stabilization (OIS). So, gone are the days of shaky images. Front facing camera now has a 90 degree lens making all the selfies you take dazzling. No dedicated button for camera I am afraid but the lock screen jumps to the camera view finder in seconds. Several modes are there i.e. rear cam, selective focus, panorama etc.

**Total Score** 

9.0

Coming to the performance: it's splendid. All apps that we installed including some graphics heavy games ran perfectly. Multitasking works without putting any dent on the performance. Checkout the benchmark tests we ran available online.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

#### SPECS

Display: Super AMOLED,5.7inches (~515 ppi)

**Processor: Qualcomm Snapdragon 805** RAM: 3GB ROM:32GB

**CAMERA: 16 MP** 

**SENSORS: Almost every sensors** BATTERY: 3220 mAh

PRICE: Tk.80,000/-

#### **VERDICT**

Samsung Galaxy Note 4, in its 4th iteration packed enormous power. 2.56 GHz Quad core processor 3 GB RAM- makes the device smooth as silk in terms of running any app or game. The brilliant display makes every movie and image life like. The camera, probably the best thing it packs, made me want to throw my DSLR away. For the size the phone might feel a bit awkward at first- if this first time in the 5inch plus club. The Spen didn't change that much compared to Note 3. All in all- we loved everything about this phone except for the hideous color of our pink test unit. If you already have a Samsung Note 3 then shifting to Note 4 isn't going to be a massive leap forward. For the rest of you guys who have Tk. 80K to spare, this is a must have.

#### APPS ON THE FLOOR

#### BORNOMALA An app for your kids Remember the days when you had to buy something called 'Adorsho Lipi' (Alphabet Introductory Booklet) for your young ones. That particular booklet would work fine if you wanted to raise your toddler in 2000, not in 2014. Now we have apps- apps that

make your tot learn the very basics of language and numbers. And if you are looking for a good one, then go no further we have just the right app for you: a new startup named Supernova, comprising of two developers have recently launched an app for Windows Phone and the early response they received have been immensely positive. The app called 'Bornomala', the first of its kind, teaches children Bengali alphabets and digits in windows phones. Despite being an Android user myself, I found it difficult to not appreciate this almost impeccably designed windows app.

Supernova comprises of Rezwanur Rahman and Afroza Akter who are Microsoft Student Partner Social Media Lead. In addition to that, Rezwanur is a Microsoft YouthSpark Advocate. The idea behind developing this app was provided by Microsoft's Tech Evangelist, Tanzim Saqib. He spoke to Rezwanur about it and said that it could help children learn easily and provide a new platform.

Bornomala, was developed to teach children Bengali alphabets and digits in a precise and interactive manner that will make learning fun. The user interface could not be



app is very basic and the options are clearly defined to eliminate any confusion while using this app.

As I tried out the app, I couldn't help but applaud Supernova for this wonderfully innovative app. When you first open the app, you are greeted with an avatar of a young girl holding a book and wearing glasses with a thought bubble that says 'Amar Bangla, Amar Bhasha' meaning 'My Bangla, My Language' Once you start, all the Bengali alphabets appear on the screen. Which number the

alphabet is in the list of Bengali alphabets will also be shown. When you go to the menu of the app there are four clearly defined options which are - Pronunciation, Illustration, Math and Write.

So far the accolades Supernova gathered for 'Bornomala' is astounding. They managed to be one of the finalists of Telenor Best App in Asia contest. Plus they won several interuniversity competitions including the prestigious AIUB CSE FEST.

KUTUB UDDIN KAMAL

#### SITE MUST SEE

First ever online platform to promote Positive Bangladesh

### **ADDRESS BANGLADESH**

For the first time in Bangladesh an online platform has started their operation to feature the development activities in Bangladesh known as Address Bangladesh

(www.addressbangladesh.com). They are willing to work towards a positive Bangladesh, the learning's and the developing sectors of the country. ICT based organization DEN (Digital Equality Network) and DEN Web Canada have launched this portal to promote the positive changes that has happened in terms of local and international initiatives.

This platform is open to any sorts of social welfare not only economic and will be highlighting the so far advancement of Bangladesh. Any issue related to Bangladesh and the society including economics, education, agriculture, garments, real-estate, entertainment, women empowerment etc. along with sports will be discussed on this platform. At the same time various workshops and trainings will be offered for skill development and



capacity building.

The entrepreneur of AddressBangladesh Tarik Alam and Mahmud Tokon said, "DEN is working in the ICT and Development sector since 2003. Through Global House of Advanced Technology (GHAT) they are working successfully at the root level. After working in the development sector for a decade we wish to work more towards capacity building. This will be wonderful platform as we want people to know the success stories. We want them to be inspired by them and work towards a positive

#### **KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE**

## The 3 Most Secure and **Private Messaging Services**

In the age of Internet surveillance, private and secure messaging is a necessity. The Electronic Frontier Foundation recently published a thorough analysis measuring the security and privacy of a long list of mobile and Internet messaging services. We are mentioning here the top 3:

1. Chatsecure is a free and open source encrypted chat application for iPhone and Android. It is developed by the Guardian Project and meets each of the EFF's qualifications, but only when used in conjuncture with the Tor-powered Orbot privacy plugin.

2. CryptoCat is an open source encrypted messaging service available on the Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Opera browsers, as well as the Mac OS X operating system and the iPhone. CryptoCat's developers were seeking funds over the summer to build an Android version and to enable encrypted video chat as well.



3. Textsecure is a secure messaging platform for iOS, and secure calling and texting platform for Android. Each is free and open-source and provides end-to-end encryption and secure storage.



## **TECH HAPPENING**

## Digital World 2015 Expo on the way

ICT division recently announced the date for the 'Digital World Expo' in BCC Bhaban at Agargaon. The upcoming event will be held next February 09-12, 2015. For those of you who don't know: Digital World is the largest digital expo of Bangladesh. ICT divisions will be arranging this event in cooperation of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Service (BASIS).In the press conference chaired by ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak the formal announcement of partners of the event came out. Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), Association of Telecom Operators Bangladesh (AMOTAB), Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB), Bangladesh Call Center & Outsourcing (BACCO), Bangladesh ICT Journalist Forum (BIJF), Bangladesh Women in IT (BWIT), & CTO Forum will be partnering up with ICT division in the upcoming Digital World Expo.

Also present during press meet were: ICT



secretary Shyam Sunder Shikder, BCS Executive Director SM Ashraful Islam, Director of A2i Mr. Kabir Bin Anwar, BASIS Acting President Mr. Russel T Ahmed and other prominent IT figures.

ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, while addressing the press, said: "We want the world to know what we are doing, how we are doing it and what more can be done. And Digital World is a great way to showcase our

achievement. Also we think this is a great way to entice business. So we want to make the event a successful one. Hence we are tying up with all the relevant associations and bodies."

During the question answer session, State Minister revealed that last year's Digital World spendins were around Tk. 9 Crore of which Tk. 7 Crore was provided by the government and Tk. 2 Crore were raised from private entities and sponsors. When asked about the upcoming Digital World's budget, BASIS Acting President refused to share that information on such early stage of the planning- thus heating up the session. Financial involvement of BASIS with ICT Division was also questioned as government policy requires floating a tender for any project of more than Tk. 2 Crore budget. So far no such tender announcement was seen in any of the mainstream media.

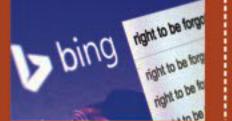
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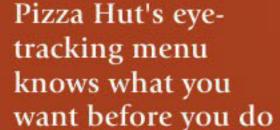


TZOA is a wearable that tells you where to find clean air



**European Union** tells search sites how to handle your 'right to be forgotten'







OnePlus and Cyanogen on brink of breakup after India fight

