



The power to do more

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e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION

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HANDSON REVIEW

# SAMSUNG GALAXY A5

# METAL EDGED AWESOMENESS

The Galaxy Alpha came out as a high end smartphone last year promising much but delivering little. The part-metal build was a tactile joy but the middling hardware and poor battery life meant it was doomed to be a might-have-been like Lindsay Lohan's acting career. This year, Samsung learned the lessons from Alpha and introduced a brand new line of phones: 'The A Series'. The flag-bearer of A series is A5 which we reviewed.

The design was gold so they stuck with it and reworked the rest to become an interesting contender for the mid range segment. It's now deliciously thin at a crispy, diet biscuit measurement of 6.7mm. It follows the typical safe yet dull Samsung design of rounded edges. But this time the shape is a lot sharper similar to the stellar S2. We got the pearl white unit and it is a massive change from the typical cheap creaking plastic or rubbery texture. It's also a non removable back so for a change carrying extra battery packs is a no-go area. At first

glance and feel, it is a well built and sharply designed phone. Some would complain why Samsung still goes for that button in the bottom center of has a speaker at the back. The latter is a problem since the sound is abysmally poor when placed on a flat surface to view movies or listen to music. Samsung, it's time you brought the speaker up front or at the base.

The features stand out with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 410 SoC. This is the first time we got our hands on a 64-bit dual-core device. The GPU is an Adreno 306 which while not a range topper, does brilliantly at rendering 720p applications. So far none of the graphics intensive games I threw at it lagged or stuttered. The A5 showed consistent result on all our benchmarking tests with scores well above the older S4 flagship. Although there were a few surprising numbers in comparison, overall the device fared very well.

### SOFTWARE

As usual the touchwiz is there. The phone doesn't run Android 5.0 which is sad. But it will be getting the Android L update soon, which is great. The app ecosystem is from android, so it needs no introduction.

### BATTERY

The 2300mAh battery lasted me over a day for regular usage. And that's not bad considering the test unit was a DUOS version and I used it to its full capacity. If you just stick to Wi-Fi instead of 3G, the battery will last even longer.



### BUILD

### HARDWARE

### CAMERA

Along with the design, another highlight of this device is the stellar camera. The A5 boasts a 13.1-megapixel Sony Exmor RS IMX135 CMOS sensor. The f/2.0 28mm lens means the shots are bright, sharp and shutter lag is minimal. The front has a selfie friendly 5.0-megapixel unit with a 23mm f/2.2 lens.

### S P E C S

- DISPLAY:** 5.0 inches 720 x 1280 pixels (~294 ppi)
- CAMERA:** 13 MP, 4128 x 3096 pixels, autofocus, s, 5MP secondary
- OS:** Android OS, v4.4.4
- CPU:** Quad-core 1.2 GHz Cortex-A53
- GPU:** Adreno 306
- SENSORS:** Accelerometer, proximity, G-Sensor
- ROM:** 16GB
- RAM:** 2GB
- BATTERY:** 2300 mAh
- PRICE:** TK. 30,900/-

### DISPLAY

That respectable processor shows off all its magic via a 5.0-inch 720p Super AMOLED display. While the 720p isn't a range topping resolution, this is perfect for such a mid range phone. And 720p is more than adequate for rendering imagery and text sharp and clear. The plus side is that the less power hungry display means better battery life.

### VERDICT

Everyone who saw the device liked how it looked and commented how Samsung looks good again. And my friend and his wife and her friends loved the camera. And that's the crux of the whole A5 experience. It's great to hold in your hand, it serves up good specs for not a wallet bending amount of cash and has a camera that will please many a budding photographer.

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

## 3D Projection Mapping: A charismatic illusion



The trick is awfully simple: throw some laser at a façade, use the landscape as a canvas. Yet not everyone could come up with this idea. Just a few years back, this simple trick was impossible to pull off. But now with the advent of technology, synchronized laser lights can create a mystical illusion that not only drops your jaw but also mesmerizes you. This whimsical innovation is called '3D Projection Mapping.'



projection. Then one needs to mask the shapes and positions. After some fine tuning (read, hours in front PCs to shape the codes): Voila! You are all set for 3D projection mapping. Now, all you need to is some expensive hardware that can project laser beams at huge landscapes.

In Bangladesh, this concept is fairly new.

Creto, an innovation driven marketing and communication agency, has showcased 3D projection mapping. Creto, which was founded in 2005, wanted to 'amply your thoughts' according to the CEO Rashid Khan. This young & talented leader of Creto also said: 'We wanted to create an enviable tool for modern marketers. And 3D projection mapping is the best way to cater that.' Last year Creto showed off their 3D projection mapping in 'LUX Channel I Superstar' where it garnered accolades. Rashid proudly stated: 'Creto's full-service studio can fashion 3D animations, VFXs and motion graphics for the any assignment. We can craft our multitude of digital assets into a spectacle of digital scenery. Combined with color and light it can tell an enchanting tale on anything.'

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

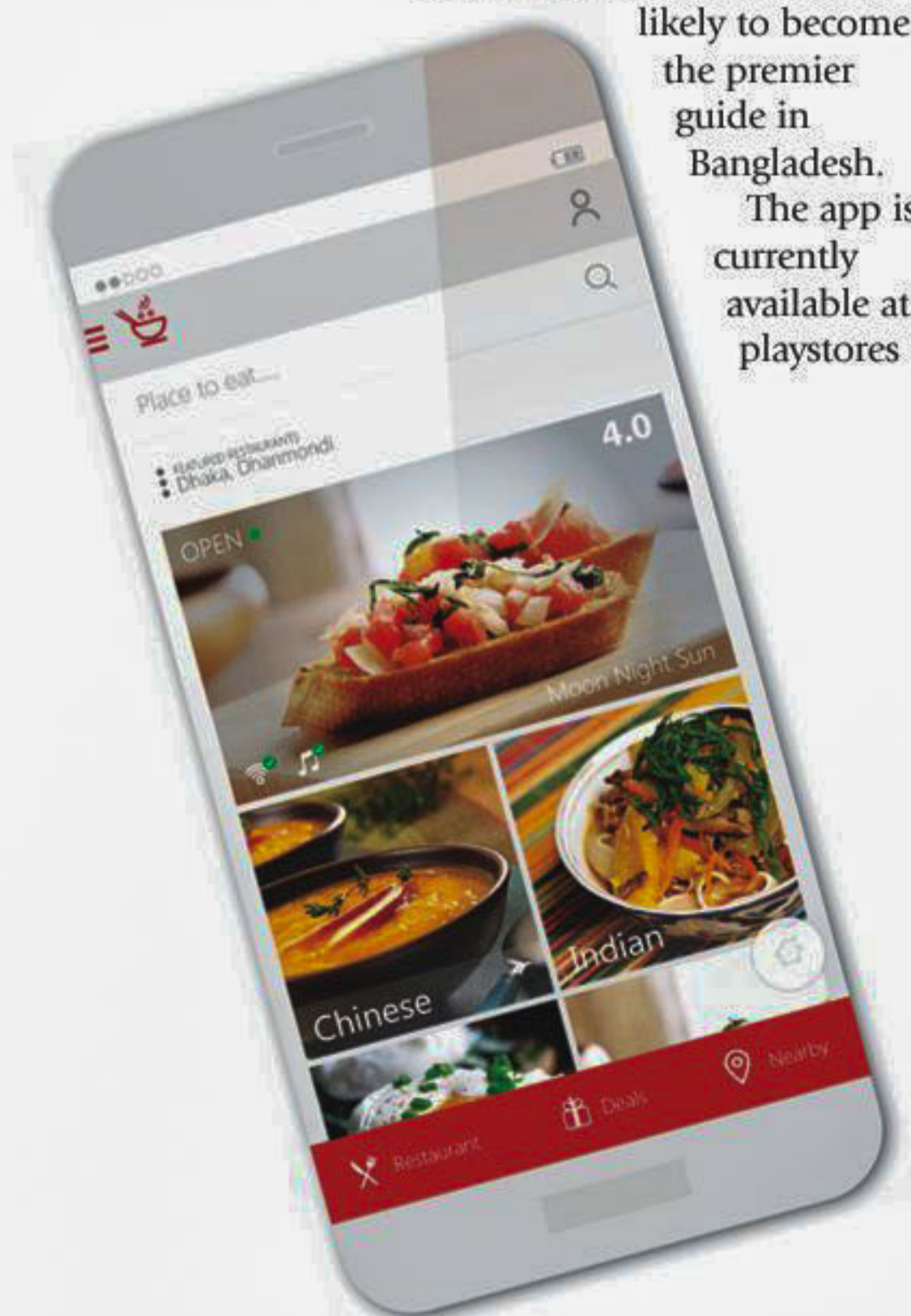
### APPS ON THE FLOOR

## LET'S EAT: Foodie's Guide

Let's Eat, a product by MCC Ltd., of years of hard work and research and its sole purpose is to ease the restaurant selection process for the all the foodies. This app works as a comprehensive guide to restaurants, not only for Dhaka, but across Bangladesh. The Let's Eat app hosts detailed menus from all the restaurants listed, so you can make their menu choices from home. Phone numbers are provided in-app in case more details are required. Other information available includes cuisine specialties, restaurant addresses, business durations, price listings, customer reviews and more. Seasonal deals and offers from restaurants are also listed in the app. The app provides direct communication for those restaurants offering Home Delivery to customers.

The CEO of MCC Ltd, Mr. Ashraf Abir elaborates on the app, "Let's Eat is not just a mobile application; it is a virtual restaurant guide. This guide, first and foremost, prioritizes the user's preferences. At the moment, there are no other restaurant guides available in the market with the depth and detail of Let's Eat. Right now, we are working to improve the usefulness of the app to our users by expanding its scope to the international arena.

Simply put, when it comes to searching out restaurants to try, Let's Eat is likely to become the premier guide in Bangladesh. The app is currently available at playstores



## GDG Bangla volunteers add 3 Lac plus words online

Google Developers Group Bangla (GDG Bangla) created a world record by contributing more than 3 lac words to Google Translate Service. This announcement was made during the closing ceremony of GDG Bangla's translate-a-thon DIU chapter event. Sabur Khan, the Chairman of Daffodil International University attended the event as chief guest. Dr. Khan Md. Anwarus Salam Country Engineering Consultant of Google, Munir Hasan General Secretary of BdOSN, Didarul Alam Sunny CEO of Esho.com, Javed Sultan Pias Community Manager of GDG Bangla & Shafkat Alam Chief Technology Officer of HiFi Public were also present at the event as special guests.



It took only 9 days for the volunteers to add 3 lacs plus words in Bangla, a feat that broke the world record which was previously set by Sri Lankan students. To put it in the words of Khan Md. Anwarus Salam, "This is only the beginning. GDG Bangla will keep working to enrich Bangla language as well as promote Bangla on the internet."

### KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

## Four promising IT security trends of MWC 2015

The Mobile World Congress often gladdens our heart with lots of visitors and participants who care about security. This year was no exception with security being one of the main themes at the MWC 2015. Let's see what trends Kaspersky Lab identified at the event.

**Trend #1: Security in the IoT**  
On Kaspersky Daily we've regularly written about how unexpectedly vulnerable connected devices can be because too many things are going to be connected: from refrigerators, coffee machines, TVs and microwaves to fitness bands and other wearable devices, and even drones. This flood of connected appliances can lead to unexpected consequences. Unfortunately, the majority of manufacturers and developers have very little experience in the field of IoT security.

**Trend #2: Cryptophones**  
In the last two years we had

numerous data leaks and other 'breaking' information about global eavesdropping conducted by officials, hackers, or even the kid living next door. All of this news has generated a profound demand for secured and private communication.

**Trend #3: Biometrics**  
Qualcomm, the world's largest smartphone chip manufacturer, unveiled the main biometric innovation at MWC 2015. Its fingerprint recognition is no longer based on optical nor capacitive sensors. Instead, Qualcomm has adopted a new technology that uses ultrasonic waves to scan a 3D image of your finger surface.

**Trend #4: Tracking kids location**  
Many companies presented solutions for kids' security, including child-tracking devices. There were both software solutions and stand-alone trackers that help the parents monitor the location of their children.



TECH BITS

BlackBerry's first tablet in years is a secure Galaxy Tab S



This Windows Phone Pebble app isn't available for long



The '1,000mph' Bloodhound car is so fast it needs to be bulletproof



Lockheed is getting into the reusable spacecraft business



Animated GIFs make their way to Google Messenger

