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HANDS ON REVIEW

Huawei Honor Holly
Unassuming fighter

The Huawei Honor Holly isn't a name that's easy to throw around. When you look at the specs though, you wouldn't mind throwing those figures around in bragging discussions among friends.

SPECS

Display: 5.0 inches, IPS LED (1280 X 720) ~294 ppi
Camera: 8-MP with Autofocus, 2-MP secondary
OS: Android 4.4.2
CPU: Quad-core 1.3 GHz A7 Cortex, **GPU:** Mali-400
Sensors: Accelerometer, proximity, compass
ROM: 16GB, **RAM:** 1GB, **Battery:** 2000 mAh
Price: Tk. 12,750/-

TOTAL SCORE **6.5**
Value: 6.5
Features: 6.5
Performance: 7.0
Build: 6.0

Design and build:
The Holly goes for a safe design that has worked safely for just about everybody. It has a rounded back and edges and a thin profile similar to the Motog G version 2. In fact, swap in a matt black back cover and it'll look just like the Moto G. Which isn't a bad thing because as we know, the Moto G is a stellar phone. And that's where I will draw some similarities.

The Huawei is a little thinner than the Moto unit we have in the office. The back plate is removable to provide access to the twin SIM slots, replaceable battery and an expandable memory. A small gripe is the glossy back cover provided with our unit. It is a little slippery although it has survived quite a bit of abuse. Aside from that the device is solidly put together without any creaks or squeaks escaping. I've had flagships squeak like a mouse so this being soundless is amazing. One minor complaint would be lack of back-lit buttons for the haptic keys. There are three at the bottom edge and initially you do have to look for them.

The pocket test
The rounded corners make this 5 inch phone easy to slip in and out of the pocket and the thin profile means it doesn't bulge. It's even thinner than the Moto G we love so much. So far, so good.

But do the specs match up?
The display is a soothing, pleasing 5-inch 720p HD resolution with 294ppi pixel density. This I found to be one of the top selling points of this phone when compared to other devices in this price range. I deal with a lot of reading, writing and proofing often on the phone. Small text is clearly legible and the auto brightness feature works well to prevent eye fatigue in dark conditions. The screen colors are quite natural looking and in comparison are a little warmer

than the Moto G unit which incidentally has one of the best screens in this range. Display angles are very good making video sharing a breeze among a few friends.

It comes with Kitkat 4.4.2 and so far no notice of an update. The UI is also the slightly older 2.3 EM UI from Huawei. The rounded icons go with the rounded nature of the phone. Is it too early to make a pun about being 'well rounded'? What I really like is that there is almost no bloatware so the software starts off light and quick.

Power:
It has a Mediatek quad-core 1.3GHz GHz CPU and 1GB of RAM. The gfx is provided by ARM's Mali-400 GPU.

More pictures can be found online

While these are generally good specs to be found in this category, there is the occasional lag when launching apps. I usually do my tests running Real Racing 3 among other games. It's a bit resource hungry so it is quite apt for this. More importantly, I have to stay ahead of my friends on the leader board so it helps to combine work and play. Gameplay was mostly smooth except on a couple of tracks where there were multiple cars going all over the place. Hardware benchmarking tests showed that the scores were just a hair different from the Moto G2 so whatever the cause for the occasional lag is not a hardware issue.

Does it snap?
Here is the other great selling point. The camera is an 8-

megapixel main unit with LED flash and a 2MP front unit. It has a simple layout with features like touch focus and panorama stitching as standard. But if you want more, head to the app store and get a camera app with more controls. Camera operation is very responsive and picture quality is very good in well lit conditions. Colors are mostly accurate so group selfies shouldn't lead to an argument about someone's face looking blue. Images are sharp although a little noise is present. Video quality is up to 1080p Full HD and colors are surprisingly more accurately than I expected. You can get good quality video that you won't find in other inexpensive phones of this range.

Backup:
The juice is provided by a 2000mAh battery. Typical usage with all-time 3G and Wi-Fi lasts about a day. Be a bit more judicious with the Internet usage and you might stretch it to a little over that. That is decent performance considering the size and resolution of the screen. Verdict: It's adequate but more would have been better.

Sound:
Voice calls are sharp with plenty of clarity. The solitary speaker at the back can get muffled when kept flat. It would have been better placed along the bottom or in front. It delivers sharp sound on music and movie playback but there is a little distortion at very high volumes.

Should you buy one?
The specs are excellent for the price tag. You get a powerful processor, plenty of storage space, a very capable camera and a screen that is far superior to others in this range and a little above. I'm hoping it comes with a 5.0 update soon along with an upgraded UI. It's a proper unassuming fighter. It is a solidly built phone that has all the necessities everyone needs at a price you can't beat. With that, I don't see why this phone shouldn't be a worry to bigger marquees in Bangladesh. So the question is why wouldn't you buy one?

REVIEW AND PHOTOS: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

TECH HAPPENING

ICT Division & Gates Foundation to setup e-Libraries

The ICT Division, in collaboration with The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has undertaken an initiative to upgrade and develop the existing libraries of the country into modern and state of the art facilities. A delegation from the British Council sat in a meeting with Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister for ICT Division and discussed the issue in detail. Analyzing the results of a survey conducted by the British Council, Zunaid asked the delegation to take the necessary steps to set up an e-Library in the country.

Zunaid Ahmed stated, "Developing a Digital Bangladesh is our vision, and an educated

nation is imperative in realizing this vision that our Prime Minister has declared in 2008. Hence, we are indeed pleased to accept this proposal by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation."

The British Council team was lead by Matt Pusey, Deputy Director of British Council. Tomas Doherty, Assitant Director of Business Development and Nabila Rahman, Coordinator, Business Development. Executive Officer of Bangladesh Computer Council Ashraful Islam, Director of National Data Center Tarek Barkatullah and other officials were also present during the meeting.

Samsung brings Special TV Offer

Samsung Electronics Bangladesh has brought a promotion offer for TV to start the Bengali New Year 1422. Now with every Samsung TV purchase, one lucky customer can win the Samsung Galaxy S6 by purchasing any Samsung TV every day. Along with this, customers will receive discount on selected TV models along with other exciting Samsung merchandise. Under discount offer, with every purchase of Samsung TV from the following model of 32EH4003, 32H4100, 40EH5000, and 40H5100 customers will also receive a discount.

UBS brings MBot 3D printers in Bangladesh

IT products importer Unique Business Systems (UBS) Ltd, has announced to market Taiwan's MBot brand 3D printers in Bangladesh. This announcement was made at a press conference on Monday at the Banani head office of the institution in Dhaka. Present at the event were Unique Business Systems Ltd's Director of Planning Hamza Bin Hakim, General Manager Zakir Hossain, Event and Public Relations In-Charge Khan Sayeedi Rahman, among others.

"We are going to market Taiwan's EBot brand 3D printers in the local market for the very first time" said Hamza Bin Hakim.

Initially three different models of 3D printers will be available, which are, MBot Mini, MBot Cube and MBot Grid-2. Watch the live demo of the 3D printer on BYTES Facebook Page.

Price: MBot Grid-2 model Tk. 1,50,000/- and MBot Cube Tk. 75,000/-
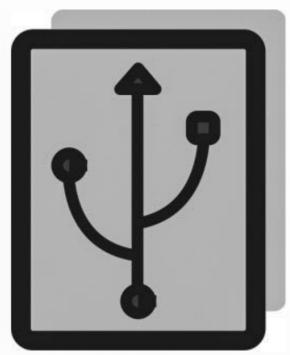

Deep Dive 5 threats affecting hardware (Part-3)

Certain firmware responsible for managing discrete hardware components has been getting increasingly complex and is subject to vulnerabilities and exploits. The worst thing is, that in many cases existing threat detection systems are impotent.

To cast some light onto this alarming trend, let's review one by one the top 5 dangerous hardware vulnerabilities that have recently been found in today's PCs. Today we bring you the third installment:

#3: the USB interface
The third position in our rating is occupied by a vulnerability (a bit outdated yet still notorious) which affects the USB interface. Recent news wiped the dust off this long-familiar bug. As you know, the latest Apple MacBook and Google Pixel laptops are equipped with the universal USB port which is used, among other things, for plugging in a charger.

Nothing is wrong with that, at first sight, and the newest USB revision presents an elegant approach to interface unification. However, connecting just any device through a USB is not always safe. We have already told you about BadUSB, a critical vulnerability discovered last summer.

This bug allows you to inject malicious code into the USB device controller (whether that of a thumbdrive, or a keyboard, or anything else). No antivirus, including the most powerful products, is able to detect it there. Those who are

extremely concerned about their data safety should listen to IT Security experts who recommend that you stop using USB ports all together, in order to mitigate the risks. As for the newest MacBook laptops, this advice is useless: anyway, the device should be charged!

Skeptics might point out that it is impossible to inject a malicious code into the charger (as it contains no data storage). But this 'issue' can be addressed by 'enhancing' the charger (a PoC describing the method of infecting an iPhone through the charger was presented over two years ago).

Having injected the malware into the charger, the only thing an attacker would have to take care of is placing the 'Trojanized' charger in a public area, or otherwise replacing the original charger if the attack is targeted.

JUST IN

Symphony's V60 & H150 with longer lasting batteries

Symphony Mobile is bringing out two smarphones with extreme battery life. Dubbed as V60 and H150, the former (V60) consists of 3000 mAh battery and the latter (H150) has a whopping 4000 mAh powered battery. Among other additional features, the 4.5 inch IPS display featured in V60 has a 5MP back and 2 MP front cameras. On the other hand, H150 packs a 5 inch

IPS display along with auto-focus enabled 8MP back, 2MP front camera and powered by 1.3GHz Quad Core processor and 1GB of RAM. Both of these smartphones have 8GB internal memory. Both handsets will be available in shops from tomorrow.

Price: V60 with 3000mAh- Tk. 6,490/- & H150 with 4000mAh- Tk. 10,590/-

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TECH BITS

NASA's 10-engine electric UAV now flies as well as it hovers

Facebook lets you choose what to share with 3rd party apps

Google+ opens a Twitter account

The HTC One M9 can finally capture uncompressed images

Apple confirms tattoos can mess with the Watch's heart sensor