HANDS ON REVIEW

Oppo N3: Head turning shooter

Oppo is one of those new companies that are worrying the big players. Couple of years ago it was just an upstart of a name, an entry into a fiercely competitive and fickle market. Then it became the first smartphone to whip out a 1080p screen, beating the likes of HTC One and Samsung Galaxy S4. Currently it's churning out flagships that are coming at the opponents with guns blazing. The new N3 is a big deal. It literally big and on paper, it packs quite a punch. We try one out to see if it is the contender it wants to be.

Build: The phone has a sturdy aluminum band round it that forms the tough exoskeleton. Other than that it is a fully plastic affair that feels very well built. Despite the lighter material, the phone has heft without feeling heavy, lending a premium feel as demanded by the price tag.

Design: A unique and quirky design feature is the bridge at the bottom of the device. It' cool in a way that the LED notification lights glow better reflected off the inner side. Also the speaker grill is located in the gap meaning it won't get covered up when inside a pocket.

Display: The N3's screen is a 1920 x 1080 5.5-inch IPS LCD offering 403PPI resolution. Any higher resolution would be quite pointless as this display offers brilliant white and razor sharp text. The icons look slightly more intricate due to the layered Color OS interface on the Android 4.4.4. The Color OS doesn't have an app drawer and all icons are on the home screen. That's a little Apply flavor in there and no one really complains about that.

Security: The fingerprint scanner works brilliantly. Your finger easily rest in the recess as you hold the phone and a simple click wakes and unlocks the phone. Each and every try, it worked the moment I placed my finger on it.

Memory: It's a massive storage device as you get on-board 32GB of space as well as an added microSD card slot. Unfortunately that doubles as a micro SIM slot as well so you get to choose only one.

Audio: The N3 has an excellent audio player that includes the 'Maxx Audio' setup offering multiple presets as well as the option to tailor your own preferences with graphic equaliser sliders.

Power: A 2.3GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 801 processor supported by an Adreno 330 GPU and 2GB of RAM means you're not running out of juice any time soon. Whatever games or apps I threw at

it, nothing fazed it. I am yet to face a single instance of lag in anything.

Backup: The 3000mAh battery allows a good long day worth of heavy usage. The simpler display works to that advantage. If you want to stretch the limits a little more, there is the 'Super Power-saving' mode which turns off the extra features to keep the device running a lot longer. With a little careful usage, I've managed to often run it for close to two days. Facebook and games gobble up the power as usual but regular calls and managing my sites via mobile meant I could easily go into the next day without a power refill.

Camera: This is probably the biggest selling point of the Oppo. There's one single camera to satisfy all your Instagram and selfie requirements. And that single camera is a whopper. The motorized unit is a 16MP device with a Schneider Kreznauch lens. What it does it flip over when you need to take selfies and flips back when you need to shoot the world passing by.

The f/2.2 aperture means you get plenty of light onto the sensor. That translates to sharp and quick snaps even in low light conditions. The interface allows multiple options like Beauty, Panorama, HDR and Ultra HD. The Expert mode provides full control over all the important features such as exposure, ISO, white balance and shutter speed. The photos came out sharp and well rendered even in basic 'Normal' mode.

The focusing is quick and the white balance works perfectly most of the time with accurate detail. Video is 1080p at 30fps or 120fps in 720p allowing for some smooth slow-mo video.

SPECS

Display: 5.5 inches 1080 x 1920 (~403 ppi)
Camera: 16-megapixel Motorized camera
OS: Android OS, v4.4.4
CPU: Quad Core 2.3 GHz Krait 400
GPU: Adreno 330
Sensors: Accelerometer, proximity, G-Sensor, remote control
ROM: 32GB, **RAM:** 2GB
Battery: 3000 mAh
Price: Tk. 54,800/-

VERDICT

The camera itself provides bragging rights for the device The motorized unit may have been a gimmick if it wasn't backed up by the outstanding results of both still and video. You'll love the pictures you take. It is a solidly built phone with very capable hardware. The only gripe would be the odd choice of material for the camera unit casing. Here, Oppo is still a relatively unknown brand with a hefty price tag. But it's a company that has been consistently delivering on quality and innovation. We're curious to see what comes next.

Value: 7.0 | Features: 8.5 | **TOTAL SCORE 8.25** | Performance: 9.0 | Build: 7.5

WORDS AND PHOTOS: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Internet.org & Net Neutrality: What Facebook has to say

Facebook's Internet.org initiative to provide free basic internet access came under fire in the last couple of months for alleged violation of 'Net Neutrality'. On the launching day of Internet.org's service in Bangladesh with telecom operator Robi, Markku Makelainen, Director of Global Operator Partnerships of Facebook sat for a very brief yet exclusive interview with BYTES. On his maiden trip to Bangladesh, Markku talked about Facebook & Internet.org's stance on Net Neutrality.

What's next in the pipeline?
Since we don't actually pre-announce any of our launches I can't reveal which country will be next. But anyone can check all the updates in our webpage. We are pacing up our initiative and Bangladesh is the 10th country that we are launching our initiative. But I will tell you this: we are actively working to launch this initiative in new countries and new operators in existing countries.

Net Neutrality is a big issue and internet dot org is accused of violating net neutrality. What would be your comment on that?
Firstly let me just say that net neutrality is a broad concept. And as of the allegation, its completely false. We are very

much pro net neutrality. Net neutrality is all about access and having non-discriminating access. We support that fully. We have another issue, which is even a bigger issue in my opinion which is internet connectivity for the rest of the population; we call it 'Universal Connectivity'. These

two concepts can and must co-exist. Meaning more people goes online but there cannot be discrimination between different services. So how do we get more people online? The key barrier that we need to address is the affordability of the data. Most people in the world cannot afford to subscribe at current data prices. And this is where we come in.

We are also opening up this to all developers; we are opening up to more consumer choice. Anybody now can participate in this program. We basically we are promoting the full and entire internet. And once you buy data plan you can get access to internet with the premium experience. So we try to promote people to online & understand the benefit of internet and so forth. Net neutrality is of course a very important issue. But we think it's even more important to have people join internet because it kind of bridges the digital divide.

Can anyone enlist their website at internet.org app?
The rules or principles are already available online at the website of internet.org. Out of all, we have three key sets of principles: firstly, the partner and their content should promote the exploration of full internet. We don't want to

create a walled garden where you can use only a subset of services. Wikipedia is a great example here. They have a wealth of information. But they have external clickable links which is basically promoting the entire internet; not just our products or our partners' products rather the entire internet. It's a great way of educating people what else is out there. 2nd principle we follow is the service has to be data efficient. Our partner operators donate the bandwidth and nobody else is giving any money for it. So the services that we bring onboard to our partner-networks has to be very data efficient. And lastly, there are a set of technical specifications that the developers has to go about.

Are ads visible through the internet.org app?
If you are using Facebook via the app, you won't be able to see any advertisements. So we aren't monetizing this service. However our partners can put up ads on their site which will be visible through the app. We (Facebook) don't want to make any money from this service; all we want is more people to go online.

INTERVIEWED BY: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

TECH HAPPENING

A2I inks deal with 'Better Than Cash'

Government of Bangladesh recently has announced that it will accelerate its transition from cash to digital payments, marked by a new partnership with the 'Better Than Cash' Alliance. Government plans to digitize all forms of social safety payments to citizens, and all forms of fees that citizens make to the government for services. This deal with Better Than Cash will enable the digitization of domestic and international remittances and financial transactions for e-commerce.

Everjobs Bangladesh: Rocket Internet's latest venture kicks off

Everjobs, the latest venture of Rocket Internet, formally announced its operations in Bangladesh on June 1st, 2015 in a press conference. Gijs Verheijke Managing Director of Everjobs Bangladesh emphasized the immense potential of the market in the press conference. "We believe with our simple interface and mobile-friendly site we can help to increase the transparency of the job market in this country and provide higher quality service to job seekers and companies" he said. He also informed that Everjobs Bangladesh kicked off with an more than 1000 employers & over 2000 career opportunities overall.

Goldberg mobile hits market

Bangladeshi mobile brand Goldberg has officially launched its operation in local market. Industry Minister Amir Hossein Amu announced the launching of Goldberg mobile as chief guestl on Friday. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon, Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu, Chief Whip ASM Feroz, Goldberg Mobile Chief Executive Officer Abrar Rahman Khan were present among others while Khansons Group Chairman AKM Azizur Rahman Khan presided over the opening ceremony. Ion, Discovery, Volt, Xcel etc are some of the product lines that Goldberg launched.

JUST IN

HP USB HD Webcam in market

HP has brought Model:2300 USB HD webcam in market. With a configuration of 720P this webcam is very useful for professional video conference. It is also a very good solution for Skype and other video calling software users.
Price: Tk. 1,500/- with 1 year warranty

Samsung's triangle air conditioner

Samsung Electronics has recently launched its Triangle Air Conditioner in Bangladesh. These AC's has wider outlet and a bigger fan to ensure that air is cooled and expelled faster, further and wider with 54% larger side of supply area. Triangle AC comes in 3 different capacities: 1 Ton, 1.5 Ton and 2 Ton
Price: 1.0 Ton Tk. 61,900/- ; 1.5 Ton Tk. 81,900/- ; 2.0 Ton Tk. 92,900/- with 5 years warranty.

KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

5 Best quotes from Tim Cook's recent speech on privacy and security

Recently, Apple's CEO Tim Cook delivered a speech on privacy and security during EPIC's Champions of Freedom event held in Washington, DC. We want to share with you the 5 best quotes from this speech.

1. "Our privacy is being attacked on multiple fronts."

2. "I'm speaking to you from Silicon Valley, where some of the most prominent and successful companies have built their businesses by lulling their customers into complacency about their personal information. They're gobbling up everything they can learn about you and trying to monetize it. We think that's wrong. And it's not the kind of company that Apple wants to be."

3. "If you put a key under the mat for the cops, a burglar can find it, too. Criminals are using every technology tool at their disposal to hack into people's accounts. If they know there's a key hidden

somewhere, they won't stop until they find it."

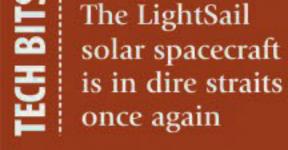4. There's another attack on our civil liberties that we see heating up every day — it's the battle over encryption. Some in Washington are hoping to undermine the ability of ordinary citizens to encrypt their data."
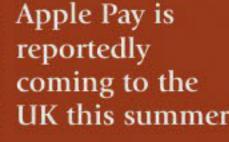

5. "Removing encryption tools from our products altogether, as some in Washington would like us to do, would only hurt law-abiding citizens who rely on us to protect their data. The bad guys will still encrypt, it's easy to do and readily available."