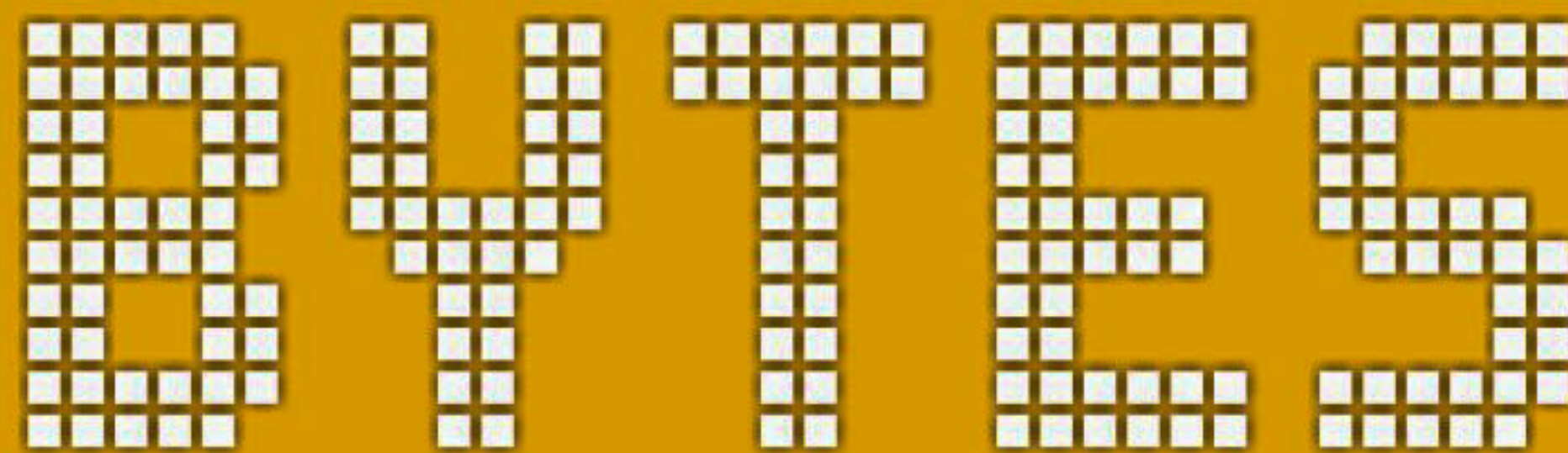




The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW

MYCELL IRON BLUE THE NEW ENTRANT

In the Bangladeshi smartphone market, a trend we have been noticing in the last couple of years is shift of focus from flagship smartphones to mid-range. But now in Q4 of 2015, we are seeing the battle move to the front line of the entry-level segment. Now, not only are the entry-level smartphones aggressively priced, they are also armed with really good hardware (at least on paper!). The device that we are reviewing today is a new entrant in this particular segment. It's Mycell Iron Blue. But can this phone stand up in the crowd? Let's find it out:

As the name suggests, the phone gives off a metallic vibe. Drawing inspiration from the older (read: 'better looking') iPhones, it has a uni-body design with metal bezel encircling the phone. The back is made from sturdy polycarbonate. The phone is heavy, but not the kind that weighs you down. The edges are shiny, smoothed and curved. We wouldn't say it has a minimalistic design, rather it's got a posh look that's rare these days.

Dominating the front is a 5-inch HD (720p) IPS display. The 3.5mm headphone jack is right above the display. The SIM and SD card tray is on the left. The volume rocker and the power button are on the right. Like most Android smartphones, the Mycell Iron Blue also has three touch buttons right below the screen.

The 2.5D gorilla glass-protected 5-inch IPS screen offers vibrant colours and decent brightness. Thanks to the good viewing angles and soft-tone colour reproduction, the phone's outdoor legibility is better than average. It is undoubtedly a fingerprint magnet, but we found that no smudges were left behind. Mycell has also incorporated bluray technology – a technology that reduces the emission of gamma rays, thereby protecting the user's eyes.

The hardware specs of Mycell Iron Blue is a run-of-the-mill ARM Cortex-A7 1.3 GHz quad-core



processor powered MediaTek MT6582 chipset. Paired with 2GB of RAM, the device delivers moderate performance. Truth be told, we didn't find the Iron Blue lagging in any way as long as we were limiting multitasking activity. And this goes for all the budget smartphones. The only delay we found worth mentioning is when booting the phone and turning on the screen from sleep mode. Other than that, everything was as snappy as you can get on a 10k budget.

Coming to photography. The phone is equipped with a 16MP camera. The camera app UI is plain and easy to use. It has some of the common modes, i.e. colour effect, panorama, face beauty etc. We were baffled not to see any manual mode to play around with. The images captured by the camera were bright and detailed when used outdoors with good colour accuracy. There was a hint of graininess though. This graininess (or noise) amplifies when you take pictures indoors or in low light environment. The full HD videos were surprisingly better. The 8MP front camera was good and selfies came out better thanks to the front LED.

The phone runs on Android Kitkat 4.4.4 with custom ROM. The built-in theme has a retro-vibe. If this doesn't suit you, then you can download a third party theme generator from app store.

The phone has some unique features, like the pedometer, heart-beat monitor, air gestures, and an eyeball tracker. All the works pretty well. We compared the pedometer and heart-beat monitor with the Galaxy S5's. The results are almost the same.

One area that the future iteration of Iron series needs to improve is the battery life. It comes with a non-removable 2,200 mAh battery. With energy saving apps, the phone can last up to a day on regular usage. If you are a heavy user, then be prepared to carry a battery bank. Less than one hour of phone calls, hourly social media updates, 15 minutes of gfx-intensive game (Asphalt), real-time synced seven email accounts, two hours on Wi-Fi and an hour on 3G – gave us a backup of 17 hours.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

SPECS:

DISPLAY: IPS 5 inches, 720 x 1280 & Gorilla Glass
CPU: Quad-core 1.3GHz
OS: Android OS v 4.4.4 (KitKat)
ROM: 16 GB
RAM: 2 GB
CAMERA: Rear-16 MP, Front-8 MP
BATTERY: 2200 mAh
SENSORS: Heartbeats sensor, Light, Proximity etc.
PRICE: Tk 10,999/-

VERDICT:

Priced at Tk. 10,999/-, the Mycell Iron Blue boasts of great build quality with good features. I loved the front camera & quality of the display. While the rear camera manages to pass of as average, the overall performance is decent. The custom rom might take some time to get accustomed to but once you get used to, you will start enjoying it. Well, I did. I used this phone as my secondary phone for a while now. Other than the battery and occasional performance glitches, I liked the phone.

Policymakers should see the internet in action

Mr. Paul Wilson, the Director General of Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) recently shared his views about the present and future of Internet as well as issues related to Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Here is a brief account of his interview:

What is your observation about the overall Internet infrastructure in Bangladesh? How do you view the Internet Operational Community of Bangladesh?

Paul Wilson: I think it's growing very fast; I will be very interested to see the status and how things are going with the meeting that we have next year. APNIC is taking different measures for tracking Internet growth and penetration in the country including important issues like the IPV6 growth and penetration. Another important issue is the security and stability of the domain name system. I think it is increasing in both cases. Bangladesh is a country with a huge amount of growth potential and it also has a diverse internet industry. BdNOG is a fantastic community. This community allows the operators to come together and share the experiences and also make the connections between networks that is very important to ensure the stability of Bangladesh's Internet. Interestingly, not every country has a NOG. Bangladesh has NOG and it's really quite active. So, I think Bangladesh will do very well in near future.



How do you view the 'Zero Internet' initiative?

Paul Wilson: It is hard to make comment from APNIC regarding this. But I think our mission is very clear in terms of an open, stable, secure and global internet. It is important to understand that, by nature Internet is neutral.

APNIC 42 is happening next year in Bangladesh. What's your expectation from this? What will Bangladeshi Policy makers and internet communities gain from the conference?

Paul Wilson: As lots of expert from other countries will participate in the APNIC 42 event, Bangladeshi Internet community will be benefited from expert communities from other parts of the world.

I think it's important for the policy-makers to see the Internet in action. It's the community, companies and individuals who have to come together to build the Internet better, faster, cheaper, more efficient, more stable and so on. It's important for the regulators and government to understand that the Internet is a bottom up process. We welcome policy makers to the event to share and discuss about the issues related to Bangladesh.

What is the future direction of IGF globally? How the Internet communities in Bangladesh including the government can be more involved and active in IGF?

Paul Wilson: We are now in the 10th IGF meeting and that's the last IGF meeting of the current mandate of United Nations. So the decision needs to be made in December by the UN about the future of IGF. That is very important because the Internet is growing very rapidly, many new policy issues are coming up. IGF should come with the idea like whether there is problem and whether there is solution. IGF is not a decision making forum but decision makers participate here and they can make better decision by being involved with the process.

If the mandate of IGF is extended then what should be the priorities for next the couple of years?

Paul Wilson: All of the different issues of the security and stability of the Internet is very important. This is not only one issue, one security issue - many different aspects like unsolicited communications, cyber-attacks, technical robustness of Internet; human capacity building etc. will need to be taken account. If you want a secure internet, you need very well trained capable people.

What is your opinion about the participation of non-technical persons (policy makers, journalists, civil society) in the technical program like APNIC/ICANN conferences? How can we increase their participation?

Paul Wilson: We should encourage non-technical persons to participate in these events. We can design some sessions for targeting the people from government, law enforcement agency and civil society etc.

INTERVIEWED BY- MD. KAWSAR UDDIN

JUST IN

CSL introduced new MSI gaming mother boards in BD market



Total 11 new gaming mother boards under 3 series-Enthusiast, Performance and Arsenal of MSI have been launched in Bangladesh market by Computer Source in presence of some business partners held on Wednesday (09 Dec 15) night at BCS Innovation center. In this inaugural session Mr. A. U Khan Jewel, director, Computer Source and Ken Sung, sales specialist (APAC) of MSI were unfold the packet of these Intel 6th gen motherboard for the computer gamers. Mehedi Zaman Tanim SBU, Mr. Tarik-Ul-Hasan Khan, Marketing manager and Mr. Humayun Kabir, Asst. product manager of Computer Source were also present at this time.

Lenovo Yoga 3 Pro touch ultrabook now in Bangladesh



Lenovo recently introduced Yoga 3 Pro Touch Ultrabook in Bangladesh IT market. The new YOGA 3 Pro is thin and light framed with new watchband hinge design and only 1.9 kg weight. Yoga 3 Pro is equipped with Intel Core M 5Y71 Processor (1.20 GHz up to 2.90 GHz), 8 GB DDR3L RAM, 256GB SSHD Hard Disk which allows internal data transfer quickly, Intel® HD Graphics 5300 Graphics, 13.3" (3200X1800) QHD+ LED Glossy Multi-touch Display, JBL Speakers, Lenovo Harmony Software, 4 Cell Li-Polymer and genuine Win10 for operating system.
Price: Tk. 1,30,000/- with 1 year International warranty.

TECH HAPPENING

NS Hut launches national e-Commerce directory

NS Hut, an online marketing e-Commerce Directory, for the first time in the country has been launched to bring relief to the consumers who make online shopping. The directory will provide information about online market places and list of e-Commerce portals on the basis of categories of products, details of the related websites, contact addresses, website addresses, feed backs of the customers, online chat service. Besides, there will be some special features in the directory, said a press release. The directory has been launched keeping in mind that the buyers do not know where they can buy their required items. They take the decision depending on information obtained from different advertisements and individuals.



Payza partners up with e-CAB to empower e-Commerce businesses

Payza Bangladesh in partnership with e-CAB (e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh) will collectively make a very big impact on Bangladesh's e-commerce ecosystem. This commitment was reiterated in an event titled "Empowering e-Commerce through Online Payment Services in Bangladesh" on December 6th, 2015 at Mohakhali. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister of ICT Division, Payza Global CMO Mr. Amar S. Magon, Payza High Officials, e-CAB High Officials were present at the event. In addition to that, 280 e-CAB Members, Banking Partners and Payza merchants also took part in this event.

Samsung offers chance to win sedan car

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh has recently announced an offer in Bangladesh, where consumers can now choose their preferred Samsung Galaxy device and get a chance to win a sedan car, Samsung 32" LED TVs daily and enjoy cash discounts of up to 5,000 Taka. Consumers can choose their favourite Samsung Galaxy device from Galaxy Ace Next 2, J1 Ace, Core Prime, J2, Grand prime, J5 & J7 and get cash discounts ranging from Tk. 500 to Tk. 5,000. Lucky customers can also win 32" Samsung LED TVs daily, throughout the month of December. At the end of the campaign, consumers can also win a mega prize – a sedan car.



Intel Security more effective on Intel processor

Famous Tech reviewing portal Tom's guide lately found out that- Intel security is more effective in Intel based laptop than any other security software. In their words- "Not surprisingly, LiveSafe software boosted our Intel-based laptop's performance better than any of the other software we reviewed." It must be mentioned that McAfee is a world's biggest security software brand that Intel Corp. bought in 2011. And after 2014 Intel is marketing this product as name of Intel Security.

TECH BITS

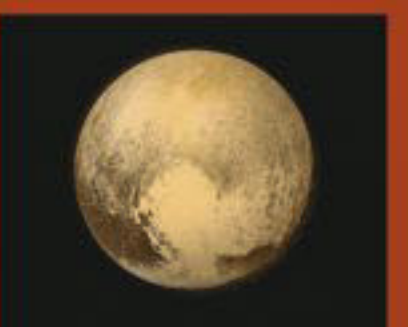
Moscow's prominent cemeteries will get free WiFi



Twitter warns users targeted by state-sponsored attacks



NASA releases an even closer look at Pluto's heart



Google CEO speaks up against 'intolerant discourse'



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3 PCs - 1 Year Subscription

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