



The power to do more

The Daily Star
DHAKA, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION

GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

HANDS ON REVIEW

HUAWEI MATE 8



BATTERY:

The 4000mAh battery seems to last through lunch and all the way past dinner. We've averaged 14+ hours on our video tests. Near the end, you can just switch to the excellent power saving mode that shuts down everything but the essentials. What this huge battery does is help you take selfies and Instagram your food from breakfast to dinner and a little beyond. That's saying a lot for a phone this big.

SOFTWARE:

The software is Huawei's take on Android Marshmallow. For a change Huawei is on track this time with the current OS. But Huawei doesn't simply skin it, they restructure everything often leaving a few choice things out of the bundle like an

app drawer. There's none of that here. But it's nice to say 'OK Google' to get things started. The good thing is, having Android 6.0 means, hopefully, Huawei will update this device as Google rolls out updates.

POWER:

Till further updates, this powerhouse will more than suffice. The Mate 8 is one of the first to have the ultra-powerful Cortex-A72 cores. The 64-bit chip has four 2.3GHz and four 1.8GHz cores. That's aided by 3GB of RAM that made sure this device didn't stutter at all no matter what I threw at it. I've run the most graphics intensive games available for Android, Lara Croft: Go and Real Racing 3 among others, without losing any frame rate.

CAMERA:

You get a 16MP rear camera with an f/2.0 aperture aided by optical image stabilization. There's a host of different modes with a fully manual option to allow you to alter focus, shutter speed, ISO, white balance.

You are presented with very nice photos in most light conditions especially with the 8MP front unit. But you'd want to tone down the Beauty app for the selfie shots to be posted on Facebook. No one aside from newborn babies and dolphins have skin that smooth.

Pictures are mostly full of detail but occasionally some daytime shots tend to look overexposed. Tap quickly to adjust lighting and you will get excellent photos. Video recording tops out at 1080p and 720p video at 120fps for slow-mo shots.



WORDS AND PHOTOS:
EHANUR RAZA RONNY

FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

We just got hold of the new Mate 8 before its release in Bangladesh. All new Huawei phones have one thing in common: they look good. You want to take it out and show it around but preferably not while riding a rickshaw at night in Dhaka. The Mate 8 is big, made of metal with edges that slope sharply to create a sparkle. The back is slightly curved making operations easily manageable with one hand, unless your hands are small. Use both then.



DISPLAY:

Big is in now and the Huawei won't disappoint. That massive 6 inch display with narrow bezels seem bright and sharp. Colours are rendered well and viewing angles are good even outside in sunlight. Some might say it could have been a little sharper like Huawei's own Nexus 6P. 1920x1080 pixel resolution vs the Nexus' 2560x1440. But this lower resolution doesn't impact viewing clarity and pays off big dividends in power savings.



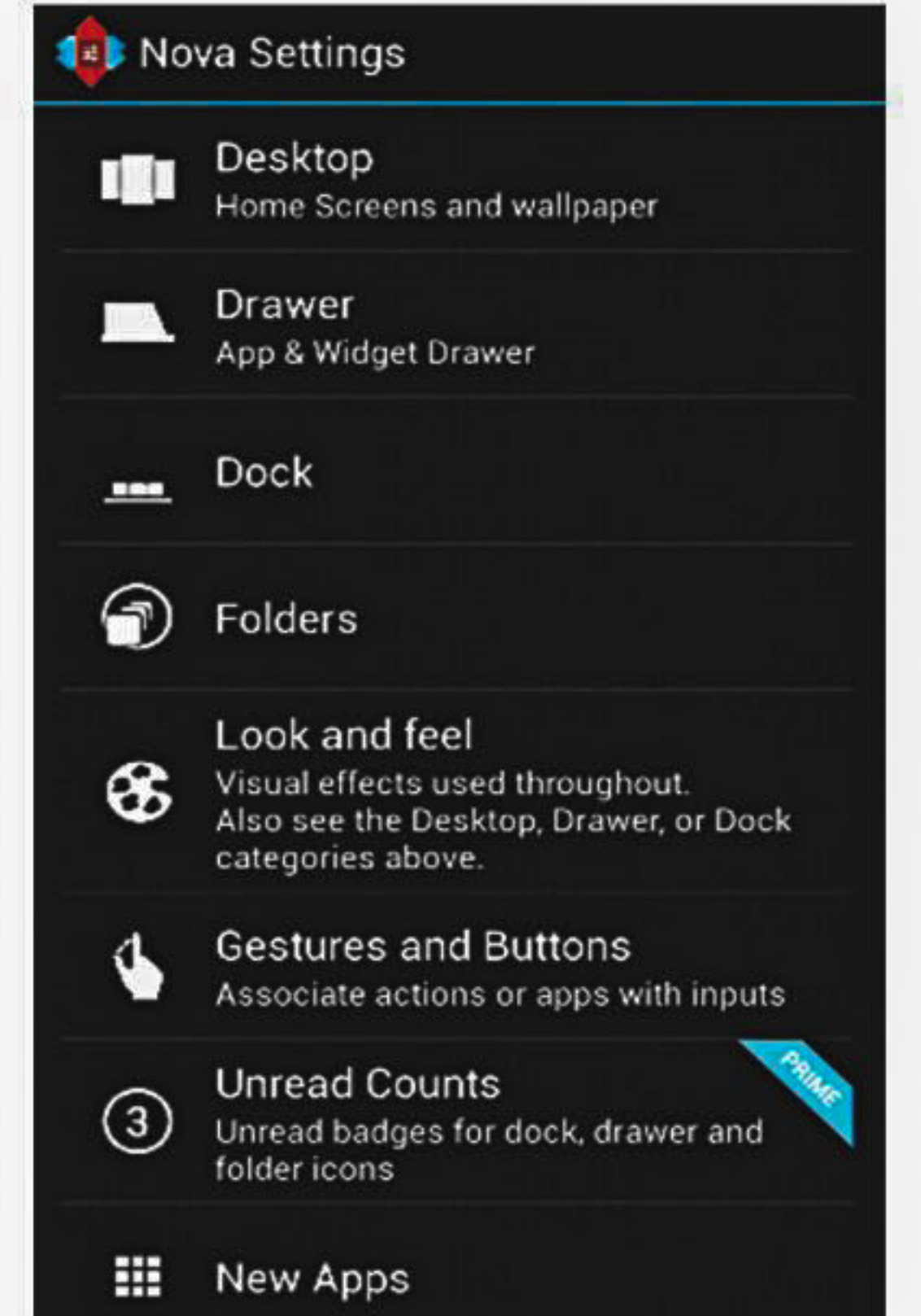
SPECS:

Display: FHD 6 inches, 1920 x 1080 (368 ppi),
CPU: Octa-core (4 x 2.3 GHz A72+ 4 x 1.8 GHz A53) + i5 co-processor
OS: Android OS 6.0
ROM: 32 GB/64 GB
RAM: 3 GB/4 GB
Camera: Rear- 16 MP, f/2.0, OIS; Front- 8 MP
Battery: 4000 mAh
Sensors: Fingerprint Sensor, G-Sensor, Gyroscope sensor, Ambient Light Sensor etc.
Price: Yet to be announced
The phone will be launched globally on 28th January, 2016 and be available in Bangladesh by the 2nd week of February.

VERDICT

It's big. It's also pricey and I wish the OS was closer to stock but the latter can be rectified with a Google Now launcher. It comes with a fingerprint sensor that is one of the best in the business. The device is a capable powerhouse that has showed little signs of wear but then again, it's aided by one of the fastest processors on the market. Add to that a long lasting battery tucked into a slim, sharp looking profile, the Mate 8 seems to be another big step forward for Huawei's entry into the power league of smartphones.

APPS ON THE FLOOR



Name of the App: Nova Launcher
Developer: TeslaCoil Software
Platforms: Android
Size: 5.93 MB
Last Updated: January 8, 2016
Price: Free
Our Rating: 9/10

"Nova Launcher may be the best thing that ever happened for Android" - androidcentral

While being the best at what it does, is not. Nova Launcher is an Android exclusive app that lets you customize your interface as you wish.

First thing first, the app is very lightweight and completely hassle-free. All you need to do is download it and set it as the default launcher when it prompts and you're set.

The entire interface is very easy to navigate and doesn't hit you with millions of options. You can customize everything from your dock to app drawers to transition effects, icons and animations. However, it does not let you make changes to the pull-down menu.

The app can be downloaded for free but there's a Prime version that is up for purchase and it adds more options such as custom gestures and icon swipes. One of the best things about Nova is that it doesn't slow down your phone. There's no change in performance yet it's a very powerful app if you want things to look and act exactly how you desire.

CITY IT and ICT Fair 2016 ends together with a blast!

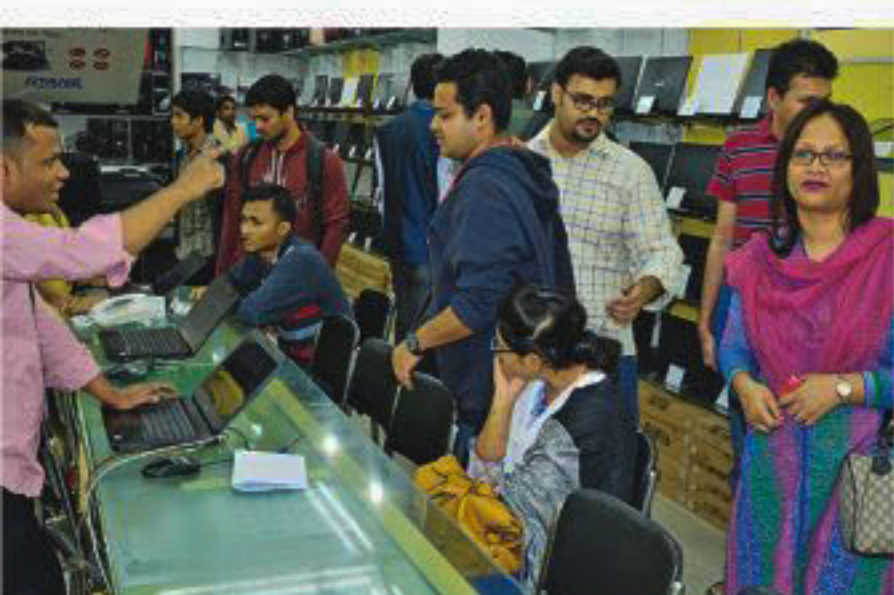
Two major ICT fairs of our country have been going on simultaneously since last week and it has been an exciting few days for tech enthusiasts. "CITY IT 2016" and "ICT Fair 2016" were organized at BCS Computer City and Multiplan Center respectively. CITY IT ended on 24th January and the latter ends today. Both the events featured exclusive offers and discounts for various tech products. Other entertainment sources and fun distractions like free movies and art competitions were also hosted. Sponsored by major brands like HP, Lenovo, Samsung, ASUS, Gigabyte and so on, both these fairs were huge successes and saw a steady stream of intrigued visitors.

CITY IT Fair 2016

BCS Computer City, Agargaon
Duration: 17th - 24th January

Digital ICT Fair 2016

Multiplan Center, Elephant Road
Duration: 20th - 25th January



TECH HAPPENING

SAMSUNG STUDIO TAKES ITS FIRST STEP!

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh has launched "Samsung Studio". Through this, for the first time ever, the product packaging for Samsung phones will be designed in Bangladesh, for Bangladesh. The competition, Samsung Studio, will be conducted among the university students. Participants

will submit their designs through an online portal (24 January - 16 February, 2016) and the winner will be selected by an expert panel of judges.

The final design will be revealed in a Gala event and the winner along with the finalists will be awarded. The winner will be receiving

\$1000 cash as the first prize, two runners up will be receiving two Galaxy J7 and top ten contestants will be receiving certificates from Samsung.

Moreover, the selected design will be used in millions of boxes of Samsung handsets in Bangladesh.

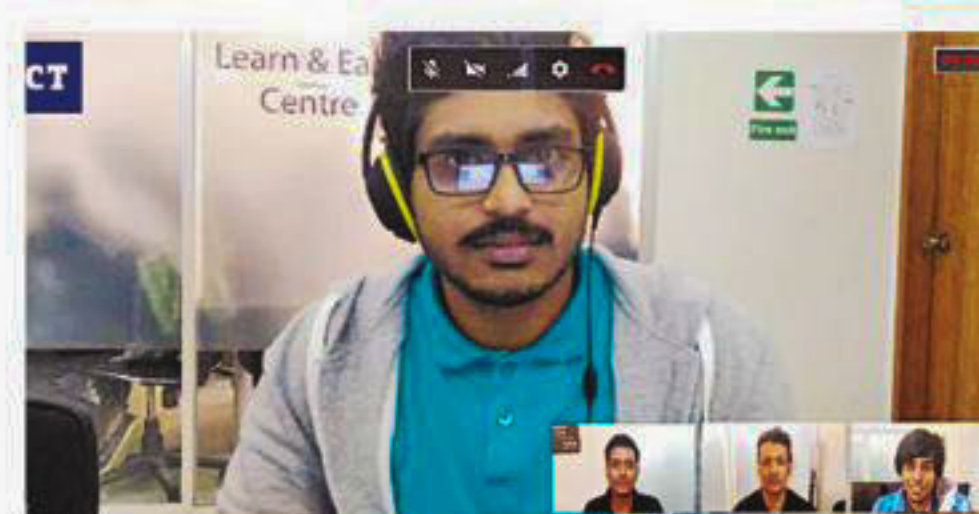
PHILIPS INTRODUCES NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR HOME APPLIANCE

Philips Electronics Bangladesh and IPE Technologies, one of the local authorized companies of Philips Netherlands introduced new technologies for home appliance for the south Asia on Tuesday. The Philips officials from Bangladesh and India discussed the preview of the new year technology at the 'Distributor Meet' organized by IPE Technologies at a city hotel on Tuesday.



The speakers from Philips Bangladesh and India focused on the preview of these new options. Philips India Sub-continent Chief Executive Sanjay Babna, IPE Technologies Chairman Choudhury Fazle Imam spoke, among others, while IPE Technologies Managing Director and Head of Operations ABM Sajedul Hoque welcomed all to the programme.

CODERSTRUST STARTS ONLINE OPERATION FOR FREELANCERS!



The IT company CodersTrust has been training freelancers in Dhaka to upgrade their skills, to enable them to earn. CodersTrust is currently offering live support, live office hours, online classes and video courses to everyone in Bangladesh over the internet. This online feature is the start of a new phase of low-cost courses for the masses without sacrificing the quality of content. They are also offering their

paid programs for free on a trial period.

The self-paced learning style of online video lectures is more tailored to individual needs than the traditional classroom training. CodersTrust's online educational program focuses on applicable skills freelancers need to be employed by international clients, rather than the academic content that is offered by local universities.

WORKSHOP ON GAMES DEVELOPMENT BY BASIS

BASIS has organized a workshop on Games Development titled "Games Development: Opportunity for Future Bangladesh" at the BASIS Auditorium on Saturday. The workshop was supported by BASIS Standing Committee on Mobile Apps, Games, VAS and Mobile Monday. SM Mahabub Alam, CEO, Massivestar Studio Ltd., AKM Masud, CEO, Tapstar Interactive Software. Ltd. and MD Safiur Rahman, Technical Lead, Sky Taper spoke at the workshop. Speakers said, Bangladesh has a vast potential for develop-

ment of Games and Games Application. Gaming industries can develop here with the available manpower and unemployed workforce. Students can build their career in this gaming industry with necessary training. The workshop addressed the prospects of games development industry in Bangladesh, basics of gaming, game development, animation, sound effect, post process and so on. The workshop was designed to give the audience a preliminary idea about games, from the idea inception to its development.



TECH BITS

Google reportedly paid Apple \$1B to be default



Verizon shuts door on reviving unlimited data



Brave browser promises faster web browsing by banning intrusive ads



Google working on its own consumer VR hardware



Apple releases a new app and Microsoft issues recall affecting Surface Pro

