



The power to do more

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e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES



WORLD'S NO.1 ANTI VIRUS TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW

SYMPHONY XPLOREER H250

When it comes to market a smartphone on budget, Symphony is the reigning king. In just three to four years, Symphony has brought out nearly hundreds of cut-price models of smartphones. One of its latest additions to the galore is the latest Xplorer H250. In a market where competition means closing the price gap, quality becomes a key differentiator; Symphony understands that very well. Hence Xplorer H250 is a down-to-earth premium quality smartphone that's devoid of the usual budget-defying specs. Let's find out more about this humble device:

BUILD

Xplorer H250 design is a combination of glass and aluminum. Clearly this phone took some design cues from the Sony Xperia Z series. The anodised aluminum frame running around the edges of the phone has a smooth and almost seamless curve finish. The back-plate is non-removable. Despite having glass screens on front and back, the phone isn't thick—just 6.95mm. So basically it's slimmer than most budget smartphones but not quite as slender as the Oppos and iPhones. The phones narrow frame makes this device ideal for one-handed use (you have to have a big hand though!). The dual SIM/Hybrid tray is on the top left, volume rocker and power button on the right, and the speaker, microphone & charging slot at the bottom.

DISPLAY

Xplorer H250 has a run of the mill 5" IPS HD Display with 1280x720 resolution (294 ppi). The colour rendition is great. Pixels are sharp and images looked vivid. The touch screen is smooth as silk, hence extremely responsive. Only one thing we found odd: even at the lowest brightness the screen is quite bright. So late night browsing might give you sore eyes.

PERFORMANCE

The heart of the phone is a 64 bit Mediatek MT6735 1.3GHz Quad core processor. It's complemented by 2 Gigs of RAM and Mali-T720 MP2 GPU. So as you can see both the GPU and CPU are purely mediocre performers. Meaning; graphic intensive games are a no, but regular apps a person might need are a yes. We ran several benchmarking tools on the phone. AnTuTu Benchmark v6.0.1 scored it 32689 and puts it somewhere between Xiaomi Mi3 and Samsung Galaxy S4. NenaMark2 v2.4 shows it having 62.3 frames per second.

CAMERA

Xplorer H250 comes with a mundane camera, both on the front and back. The primary camera is a 13 MP snapper. The camera is capable of taking decent snaps only in outdoor environments. The details of the image start to deteriorate drastically the moment you take images in a comparatively low light environment. The camera supports HDR,

Panorama, PIP, Smile Shot, Object Tracking, Multi-Angle View Mode etc. The front facing camera is a 5 MP average snapper—good enough for everyday Skype call and selfies.

UI & OS

The OS of the phone is Android Lollipop 5.1. And, me nagging the product managers of Symphony finally paid off. The UI of Xplorer H250 is one of the cleanest UI we ever encountered in a Symphony device. There are very little customizations, but that's something we can live with.

BATTERY

Under the back glass of Xplorer H250, lurks a non-removable 2,350mAh battery. It might not sound like much but our standard run down test found it quite capable. Thanks to the near stock Android Lollipop 5.1 UI, the phone conserves a huge amount of battery. With 4 hours on Wi-Fi, 2 hours of 3G and 4 hours of talk time the phone managed to last at least 12 hours and 35



SPECS:

Display: 5 inch inches, 1280 x 720 (294 ppi),
CPU: 1.3 GHz Quad Core
GPU: Mali-T720 MP2
OS: Android OS 5.1
ROM: 16 GB
RAM: 2 GB
Camera: Rear- 13 MP; Front- 5 MP
Battery: 2350 mAh
Sensors: G-Sensor, Gyroscope sensor, Ambient Light Sensor etc.
Price: TK. 10,990/-

VERDICT

Finally, Symphony is getting the basics right. Now they are focusing on user experience rather than bewildering specs. The Xplorer H250 is the very evidence of that. It comes with a very snappy UI and smooth touch screen. The camera is of mediocre quality. The design and build of the phone is fantastic. For a price of BDT 11k, this is phone is certainly a bargain buy.

WORDS: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN
& PHOTOS: RAHIN SADMAN

Crazy smartphones you can buy

Not all phones out there focus on the specs. Some have insane features tailored for small target groups while some are just plain old weird. Either way, these stand out among the crowd and deserve a round of applause for being so.

YOTAPHONE 2: The YotaPhone comes on our list for a very unique feature. There's a e-ink display on the back of the phone that can either mirror the front screen or show personalized content. It fills up the need to turn on a power hungry display every time you have to glance at notifications, make a call, send a quick text or even read a book.
Price: TK 64,000/-



MONOHM RUNCIBLE: You probably won't identify it as a phone at first sight but it can do almost everything you expect one to do. We don't know what would be more uncomfortable—bringing out this oval, semi-spherical device out of your pocket or putting it up to your ears to talk. The Runcible, however, has been produced for anyone who wants to be distraction free in the post-smartphone era.
Price: NOT ANNOUNCED YET



LG AKA: The LG Aka has a sliding cover that works on both sides and takes up a little more than half of the screen, vertically. What puts it here, though, are eyes that blink and change on top of the screen when the cover's on. Each of the four models of Aka apparently have different "personalities" and character stories that will attract teenage buyers.
Price: TK 22,000/-



VERTU SIGNATURE TOUCH: Paired with a display made of sapphire, the body contains titanium plating and the back has the nicest leather out there. On the right side, there's a button made of sapphire that lets you access a 24/7 concierge service with just a press. Every Vertu Touch has the maker's signature engraved inside and comes with the luxurious services that are available for the owner.
Price: Tk 715,000/-

TURING PHONE: If you're obsessed with digital security, this is the phone you should be checking out. The Turing looks like a mashup of several sci-fi materials and it's plated with a material called Liquidmorphium. You'll find two factor authentication and a rather unique take on Android. Also, it doesn't have a headphone port or a wired data transfer method. These have been left out for security purposes.
Price: TK 58,550/-



STUART HUGHES IPHONE 5 BLACK DIAMOND: While iPhone's aren't exactly crazy, this particular one, is. Coated with real diamonds on the sides, back and the front, you'll definitely be dazzled by so much bling in one phone. Whether or not that's worth the outrageous price tag is up to you. We're going to take a wild guess and say it's not.
Price: TK 115,00,00,000/-

OUKITEL K10000: We all wanted to throw our phone out the window at some point because the battery wasn't enough. Oukitel probably wanted to avoid that part of the entire experience because their giant 10,000 mAh battery will last multiple days. According to them, it can charge the iPhone 6S Plus three times and still have 10% battery left. Wow.
Price: TK 16,000/-



BY ABHIK HASNAIN

TECH HAPPENING

Tech Summit 2016 on March

Recently, Tapan Kanti Sarkar, the president of CTO Forum Bangladesh, announced to organize the event Tech Summit 2016 in a press conference at CTO forum secretariat, Panthapath, Dhaka and also described details about the event. Associate Vice President, ICT Division, Anandabazar Group of India and the Organizing Secretary of INFOCOM, Mr. Kali Krishna Mahapatra, Dr. Ijazul Haque, Secretary General, S.A.R Md. Muinul Islam, Treasurer, EC Member of CTO Forum, Shyama Prasad Bepari and Md. Lutfur Rahman and Soumillo Das from INFOCOM also attended the press conference among others. The President of CTO Forum, Mr. Tapan Kanti Sarkar informed that CTO Forum is organizing meetings, seminars, symposia etc. to develop the ICT sector in the country. Eight seminars on several technological issues were organized in the summit.



Mehdi, Head of Mobile, Samsung Bangladesh stated, 'With a view to deliver the best offers with their desired Samsung handsets, Samsung Mobile Bangladesh is introducing the 1 year warranty facility for the batteries of Samsung handsets'. He added, 'We feel the responsibility of letting our customers experience the next level of service and this is a step towards that goal'. This new warranty offer will be applicable for each and every Samsung handset bought from the authorized Samsung stores countrywide.

Zotac debuts in Bangladesh

Recently UCC arranged a program to announce the launching of the brand, Zotac in local market. Sarwar Mahmud Khan (CEO of UCC), Dipak Gupta (Zotac Intl' Country Manager), Atul Mona (representative of Nvidia Graphics) were present at the program. Representatives from more than hundred computer shops working with UCC were also present there. At the very beginning of the program, Sarwar Mahmud Khan told about possibilities and future of Zotac graphics card. Mr. Dipak Gupta represented a scenario of Zotac's extending of business in different countries. He also describe different features of Zotac graphics cards. Atul Mona presented a report on graphics card after that. At last, product manager of UCC Mr. Zynus Salekin Fahad came to the stage and introduced gaming team 'Red Vipers' to the guests.



MyCell brings out new tablet

MyCell has launched a 7-inch tablet, Neotack Pro, this week in the local market. It has a configuration of 1.3 GHz quad-core processor, 1GB RAM, 8GB ROM and 2G and 3G External networks. 1.3 Mega Pixel Camera in front side and back side has 2MP Camera. It has a 3200 mAh battery.
Price: TK 4,000/-



Samsung extends warranty on battery

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh announced the warranty offer on its handset batteries. With this latest warranty offer, Samsung extended its warranty period from 6 months to 1 year. Mr. Hasan



Apple is developing long distance wireless charging for iPad and iPhones

GoPro integrates with Periscope



Snapchat makes adding people easier with profile URL



Microsoft announces first technical preview of Azure Stack



Snapchat challenges Twitter and Facebook for sports talk



TECH BITS