



The power to do more



Highlights of MWC 2016

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With the Mobile World Congress going on and so many new devices being introduced, last week would have been an amazing time to visit Barcelona. Regret not because we bring you the highlights of MWC 2016.



Xperia Ear:
One of the very first devices of 2016 that introduces a new way to communicate. After the Bragi Dash, this is another smart earbud that's going to make a ripple in the tech market in the coming months. Xperia Ear can recognise voice commands and do everything from calling a friend to texting to pulling any data from your phone and reading it out to you. It can also give you directions to the nearest coffee shop or search the internet for you.

Samsung Gear 360:

MWC wasn't just about phones. The new Gear 360 is a 360° camera which Samsung is promoting alongside the Gear VR. These two are meant to be used together to produce stunning video footages of the entire scenario which anyone can later on explore through VR. It looks like an oversized eyeball on a tiny tripod and according to first impressions; Gear 360 does its job pretty well.



Xiaomi Mi5 Pro:

Over the past few years, Xiaomi phones have proved themselves as decent budget phones. The Mi5 and the Mi5 Pro both have amazing specs for price tags of \$300 and \$413 respectively- 3/4GB of RAM, Snapdragon 820 and 32/64/128GB of storage. The camera is no underperformer either. From 4K video recording to state of the art optical image stabilization, this 16MP camera has it all.



Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge:

Mother of all flagships, the Galaxy S7 Edge is undeniably the best phone of MWC 2016. Both of these phones improve themselves on last year's S6 and S6 Edge and they're better than ever. This year's Edge gets waterproofing right and has slight curves at the back to make the phone more comfortable to hold. Not to mention the always-on display for showing important notifications and the 3,600 mAh battery which is perfect for daylong usage.



LG Rolling Bot:

Quite similar to the BB-8 Droid, the LG Rolling Bot is a rather fun smartphone controlled toy. It's a lot like Sphero except that it can do so much more. You can talk to your pet, distract it with a laser pointer, monitor your kid and even connect all your other devices and use the Rolling Bot to control those through wifi and bluetooth. Do we want to buy this? Yes, we do.

CAT S60:

This particular smartphone steals the spotlight with a unique feature. The Cat S60 has a fully functioning FLIR Thermal Camera that puts thermal imaging in the hands of the users. CAT is targeting construction workers and electricians who can use this to identify faulty circuits within walls. The phone is also exceptionally rugged which ensures that it'll survive no matter how roughly you handle it.



TeCH HaPPENING



Activation ceremony between NCC Bank Limited and SSL Wireless

NCC Bank Limited, has signed an agreement with Software Shop Limited (operating under the brand name "SSL Wireless") to implement 3D Secure Solution for its customers and has activated the service for their customers recently. Due to the activation of this service, the cardholders of NCC Bank will be prompted with a numeric password while performing Card-Not-Present or e-commerce transactions. Golam Hafiz Ahmed (Managing

Director & CEO), Mosleh Uddin Ahmed (Additional Managing Director), Abu Zafore Md. Saleh (Deputy Managing Director) & Md. Fazlur Rahman (Deputy Managing Director) of NCC Bank Limited along with Sayeeful Islam (Managing Director) and Ashish Chakraborty (General Manager) of SSL Wireless, were present during the activation ceremony on behalf of their respective organizations at the Head Office of NCC Bank.

Dutch-Bangla Bank launches virtual card for IT professional



Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd. has launched a virtual card to help upcoming app developers and IT enthusiasts make online payments. Bangladesh Bank had recently directed all banks to issue virtual card for individual app developers and programmers to facilitate online payments. The virtual card was officially launched through a press conference arranged by BASIS and Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd. at The Westin, Dhaka. Sayem Ahmed (Chairman), KS Tabrez (Managing Director) of Dutch-

Bangla Bank Ltd and Suny Md. Ashraf Khan (BASIS Director) spoke at the conference presided by BASIS President and FBCCI Director Shameem Ahsan. Among others Russell T Ahmed (BASIS Senior Vice President), Uttam Kumar Paul (BASIS Secretary General), Mostafizur Rahman Sohel (BASIS Joint Secretary General), Shah Imraul Kaesh (BASIS Treasurer) and associates from Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd were present on the occasion.

HANDS ON REVIEW

Symphony Xplorer H175

We were sent the white device which seems to be the in thing for many device manufacturers. The back cover is a crosshatched white plastic with a machined aluminium edge going all round. At first glance, it's a safe design approach that won't offend anyone. The five inch display and the resulting bezel is just the right balance for most people to comfortably hold in their hands for one handed operation.

Pick it up and it has a bit of heft making it feel comfortably well built. The buttons are spaced and placed within easy reach without having to look down. Overall, this is an easy phone to get acquainted with.

DISPLAY:

The 5 inch HD display does 1280x720 resolution at 294 ppi. Keeping it at five inches mean the lower pixel count isn't noticeable with small text being rendered sharply.

BATTERY:

The big update over the previous devices is that this has a 4000mAh battery that we've found to easily last over a day and a half worth of usage with constant Wi-Fi support.

SOFTWARE:

It comes out of the box with Android 5.1 Lollipop. While Symphony has toned down a bit on the bloatware installed, we would prefer a more cleaner version with removable apps.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Gesture control allows you to use taps and swipes on a sleeping screen to activate certain preset features. It's a nifty touch for a phone in this range. You can tap the screen to wake it and swipe to bring up certain features like the music player. The gesture control in sleep mode works well most of the times. Occasionally it takes an added tap get the desired feature to come on.

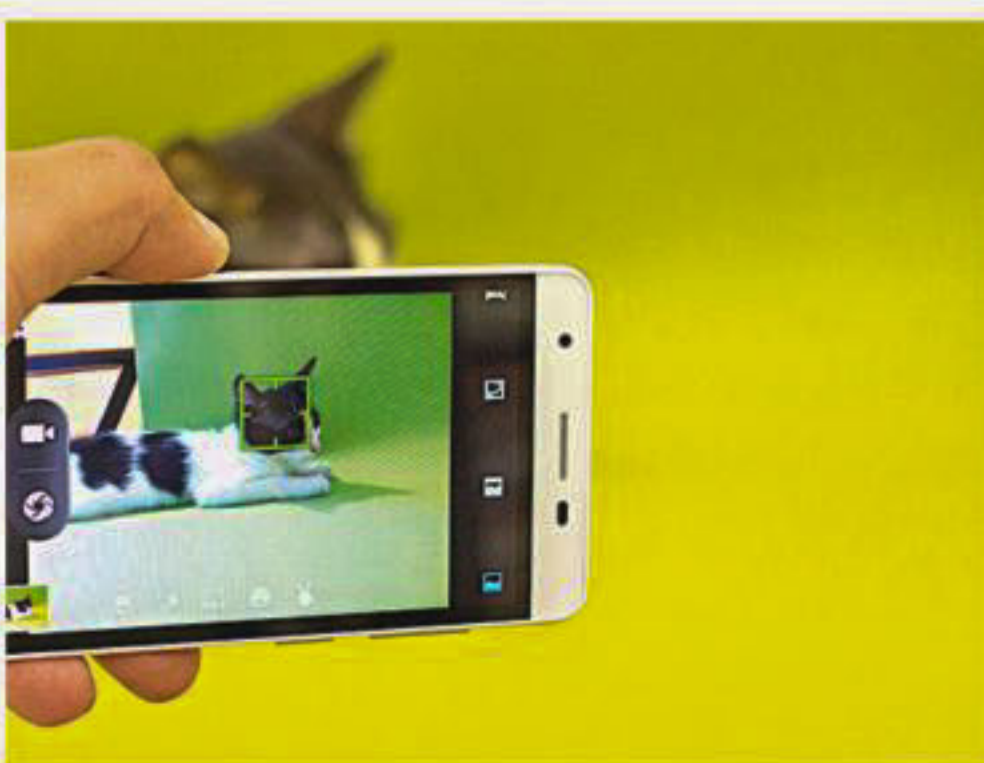
POWER:

Powered by ARM Cortex A53 chipset, the 64 bit 1.3GHz quad core processor is mostly enough to power you through most tasks.

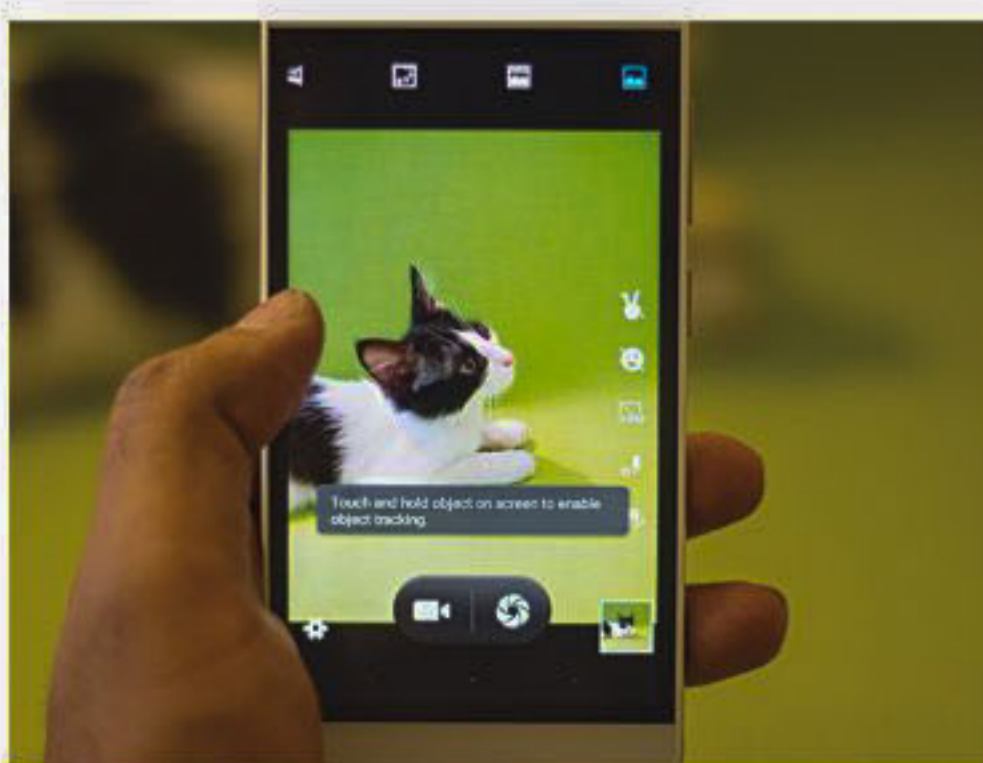
2GB of RAM is the standard right now and any lower is unthinkable. The Mali 720 GPU was able to run most games we threw at it. A couple of marathon sessions of Asphalt Nitro stressed out the set a bit but the game didn't slow down. Frame rates were consistent although some of the graphics was turned down a little by default.

CAMERA:

The 13MP rear camera has a few nifty features like motion tracking and an ability to lock onto particular set focus points so you can try to get sharp images even when it or the camera moves around. We tried it on the resident kitten and it works most of the time. At times the focus point moves to the tail instead of the face so you need a tap again to get things right. A few manual features are there to adjust the output of your images such as the ability to change color saturation, brightness and contrast with simple low, medium and high options. You can play around to get decent images but make sure lighting is



bright to get optimum results. There is a slight shutter lag so you have to try a few times to get a sharp shot of a moving object. Despite the lag, images come out with good detail and color reproduction. We've got a few sample shots



online for you to check the image quality.

PHOTO AND WORDS
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SpECS:

Display: HD IPS 5 inches, 720 x 1280 & Gorilla Glass
CPU: Quad-core 1.3GHz
OS: Android OS v5.1 (Lollipop)
ROM: 16 GB
RAM: 2 GB
Camera: Rear- 13 MP, Front- 5 MP
Battery: 4000 mAh
Sensors: Accelerometer, Light, Proximity sensor etc.
Price: Tk 10,490/-

VeRDICT

Two things we'd want to see in upcoming devices from Symphony is a cleaner OS and perhaps new colors. It's time to look into other hues like gunmetal grey, mica blue and bronze. IN phones of this range, style is often more important than the mid-range specs. As for the rest, Symphony took the safe approach to creating a device that doesn't offend or turn off anyone. They went for a device with adequate power, a size that is pleasant for most people and features that are easy to use. We've had a few graphics intensive games run well so it can manage your boredom. What this has going for it is the big power pack. For the price, this phone does most of what you will need it to do.

TECH BITS Scientists built a book-sized, protein-powered biocomputer



Google is reportedly working with Vizio on Cast-ready TVs



Evs will cost the same as gas-powered cars by 2025



Google Inbox adds two time-saving snooze options



MIT builds an early warning system for sailors

