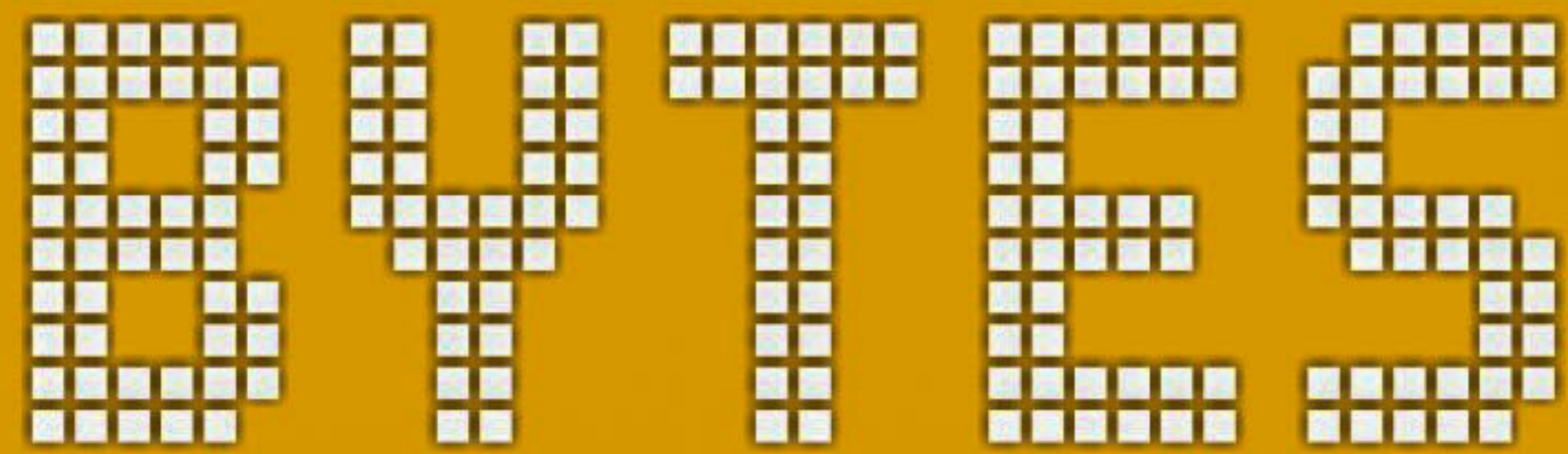




The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW HUAWEI GR5

REVIEW: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN
PHOTOS: RAHIN SADMAN

The battle between local and international manufacturers to dominate the mid-range handset segment is on. And Huawei, which used to be one of the less recognised brands in Bangladesh, is slowly picking up the pace with the launch of exciting devices every quarter. This quarter we saw Huawei launch two devices, with very close price points, in a very short span of time: GR5 and its kid bro GR3. We recently got to review the GR5 (which is also marketed as the Honor 5X in other countries), a metallic mid-ranger, priced around BDT 23K. Here's our take on the hunky device:

We all knew that Huawei's been working to make a mark on consumers' minds by tagging up with different partners and bringing out a full spectrum of uniquely designed smart devices, including wearables. The GR5 is no exception. The brush metal uni-body back structure of the phone is certainly a stunner. The camera and the fingerprint sensors are in the back, while the micro SIM tray and hybrid tray are on the left. The volume rocker and the power button are on the right. The Android navigation buttons are on-screen—something we are not fans of. Also we were only able to use the micro SIM, since the nano SIM tray of the test unit was faulty. Micro SD worked fine though.

GR5 boasts a 5.5-inch IPS screen which, for the price that you pay, is pretty darn good. With a pixel density of 401ppi and 1080X1920 crisp resolution, the GR5 blows the competition out of the water.

The GR5 comes equipped with a 13MP primary shooter, which is powered by the Sony IMX214 sensor. The secondary one is a 5MP front-facing camera. We were pretty impressed with the f/2.0 aperture primary camera. The snaps that we took were zippy, vibrant and full of details. In full daylight, this phone's primary camera can compete with the top dogs. The secondary camera was good too. Taking group selfies seemed easy enough. The bulging size of the phone might be a downside for one-handed selfies, but due to the phone being lightweight, we managed to take



them without any hiccups. The camera UI had some interesting add-ons. We did see them before in Mate 8. Besides the Instagram-like filters, the phone also has beauty mode, good food mode, time lapse mode, etc. Other run-of-the-mill options like HDR, panorama, best-shot, slow-motion videos are also there.

The GR5 also comes with a 3000 mAh battery, which is sealed shut behind the uni-body back. It might seem good enough for day-to-day usage, but not to me. And probably because of two other things: the



UI which hogged a good amount of CPU, and the big, bright screen. It has a Samsung-inspired ultra-saving mode that turns the phone into a black & white feature phone, thus giving you lengthy battery life in case of emergencies.

Under the hood, the GR5 packs an octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 616 processor. The 1.5 GHz CPUs are coupled with an Adreno 405 GPU and 2 GB of RAM. 2GB RAM is OK, but 3GB would have been better considering the fact that more Chinese manufacturers are bringing out 3GB



RAMs in this price range. The Emotion UI (EMUI) 3.1 skin, based on Android 5.1.1, comes out of the box, and we felt the phone was a bit sluggish. We experienced some delay in the touch screen and fingerprint scanner response times. We also tried playing Subway Surfer and Asphalt 8: Airborne. The phone ran smoothly on medium setting, but it got hot within 5 minutes (which is normal, I guess).

SPECS

Display: FHD 5.5 inches, 1080x1920 (~401ppi)
CPU: Qualcomm MSM8939 Octa-core
OS: Android OS v 5.1 + EMUI 3.1
ROM: 16 GB
RAM: 2 GB
CAMERA: 13 MP AF camera + 5 MP FF camera
BATTERY: 3000 mAh
SENSORS: Fingerprint, accelerometer, proximity, compass etc.
PRICE: TK 22,990/-

VERDICT

On paper, GR5 seems like a great device. It comes with a premium metal chassis, vivid display and stout processor. Granted it runs EMUI 3.1, which makes the phone laggy when you start juggling multiple apps on the go, the phone comes with a good camera and an affordable price tag. Certainly a phone you should consider if you want a premium looking smartphone on a budget.

JUST IN



Samsung Brings Galaxy A5 & Galaxy A7 2016 Edition in Bangladesh Market

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh has recently announced the availability of all new designed Galaxy A5 & Galaxy A7 in Bangladesh market. These updated Galaxy A5 & A7 devices are introduced as A 2016 devices. These devices are made of metal & glass along with only 2.7mm bezel. Boasting a slimness of 7.3mm, the new A5 & A7 come with 5.2" & 5.5" display respectively. Moreover, they are also 4G enabled LTE Cat.6. The cameras (13 MP front and 5 MP rear) with f1.9 aperture, include quick launch, brighter photography, wide selfie, palm selfie, OIS and beautifying effects too. The 2016 Edition will come up with 2,900 mAh (A5) & 3,300 mAh (A7) batteries. In addition to that these devices also offer fast charging facilities.

PRICE:
A5- Tk. 39,900/-
A7- Tk. 44,900/-

Lumia 650 now on sale in Bangladesh



Microsoft Corp. today announced retail availability of the Lumia 650 throughout BANGLADESH. Built for business users and Windows fans alike, the Lumia 650 brings the power of Windows 10 to your pocket with beautiful craftsmanship and protection against modern security threats. BANGLADESH customers can buy the Lumia 650 at Bangladesh. "We crafted the Lumia 650 with the finest detail while delivering a consistent and familiar Windows 10 experience," said Sandeep Gupta, General Manager, Microsoft Mobile Devices Sales
PRICE: Tk. 19,500/-

MATCHSTIX HELPS YOU START YOUR STORY

INTERVIEWED BY: ABHIK HASNAIN

Matchstix, product of Mobimedia, is a new location-based mobile app for iOS and Android which was launched targeting the Bangladeshi youths this Valentine's Day! BYTES got in touch with Keeyan Admana, Biz Dev Manager of Mobimedia to find out more about the app:

So do tell, what's Matchstix? Matchstix is a matchmaking app developed by Mobimedia where people can match and chat with each other based on their gender, age and distance preferences. The app has seen its official launch in Bangladesh on 14th February with a successful world record attempt named "Matchstix: World's Biggest Love Story" at Rabindra Sarobar. Who are your main target group? It's for the vibrant young people of Bangladesh who love to connect, have a conversation and eventually want to start a new story in their life.

What's the procedure of using the app? After downloading and installing the app, users have to provide their mobile number. A 4-digit pincode number will be sent for verification. Then he or she will need to provide a Facebook ID. Users' basic information like gender and age are taken from their Facebook profile. Based on the gender, age and distance settings of the user, other users will be shown. He or she can either pass or like a profile. A user can chat with someone only if he or she is liked back by that person. How is Matchstix different from other apps like tinder and line?

Matchstix takes security seriously. So, a person needs to have a Facebook account before he/she can install Matchstix and login through Facebook. The other option of security is through phone number verification where a person needs to verify a PIN number that is sent to their phone. This ensures that a person using Matchstix is real and not a fake account. How has the response been so far? It's fantastic. Till the first week of March there has been about 3,700 successful matches with more matches happening everyday.



TECH HAPPENING



Bangladesh will be home to agency like NASA someday

BASIS President and FBCCI Director Shameem Ahsan said, Bangladesh has shown tremendous growth in information technology, engineering and science. Youth are now conquering the world with their knowledge and expertise in

these subjects. With such continuous progresses someday the likes of NASA will be developed in Bangladesh. He spoke as the Chief Guest at the Data Boot Camp of NASA Space Apps Challenge in Daffodil International University

on Monday. The event was presided over by Professor Dr. Yusuf M. Islam, Vice Chancellor of Daffodil International University. BASIS Senior Vice President Russell T Ahmed was present as the Special Guest.

"New Products for the New Year" Facebook Contest from Bikroy.com

This Pohela Boishakh, Bikroy.com is launching an exciting Facebook contest with great prizes to celebrate the start of the New Year. To participate: 1. Share the photo of your desired product on your own timeline as a public post from the "NotunBochoreNotunPonno, Bikroy-e AajShobarJonno" album on Bikroy.com's Facebook page. (https://www.facebook.com/bikroy). Note: if the post is not marked as public, we will not be able to

see it, and your entry will not be counted. 2. Get all your friends to like your post. You will be judged on the basis of number of likes on your shared post. The contestants with the highest number of genuine likes will win their selected products. Contestants who use auto-likers will be disqualified immediately. 3. The contest will begin on April 1st and end on the 16th of April, after which time winners will be contacted through Facebook.



Facebook assists in National Hackathon

ICT division is going to arrange National Hackathon for the second time. National Hackathon 2016 will be held from 6th April-7th April at Mirpur PSC Convention Hall. Facebook will give each of the ten winning teams \$80,000 as prize money. Facebook is doing this to promote mobile based initiatives at a global scale. The ICT division will also help the winners with mentorship. More can be found about the event at <http://hackathon.ictd.gov.bd/>

Foster Payments achieves prestigious PCI DSS certification

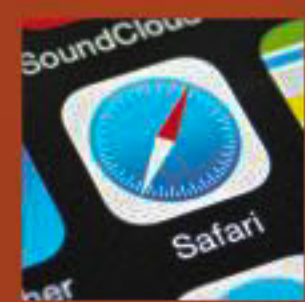
Recently, Foster Payments (the flagship brand of Foster Corporation Limited) has achieved the prestigious PCI DSS certification. It is the first payment processor brand in Bangladesh to achieve this certificate. The certification qualifies Foster Payments to collect credit card info directly and store them. This will bring convenience with security and will help the local e-commerce and payment industry grow together.

TECH BITS

Palaround lets anyone build their own Tinder-like app



Apple releases iOS 9.3.1 with fix for bug that causes tapping links to crash iPhones



Flipd app forces you to put your iPhone away so you can get some work done



Branch.co raises \$9.2 million to bring financial services where banks don't go



Google Fiber's latest innovation is a landline

