



The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW

ASUS ZENFONE 2 DELUXE

APPS ON THE FLOOR

Asus seems to have a custom Zenfone for everyone. ZenFone One, Two, Max, Go, Selfie, Laser and a couple more upcoming iterations named Zoom and of course the ZenFone Three. Each has tweaks to appeal to certain age groups and user characteristics. We've got one of those today for a review: the current Zenfone Two Deluxe.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The phone has a matte back cover comprising of tessellated triangles in a pearlescent colour. The three dimensional shapes change hues depending on how the light hits it. While I found it to look interestingly different, opinion around the office was divided with the white unit. But the blue variant definitely looks more striking with its subtle purple tonal variations. The textured surface feels good in the hand with the curved surface fitting the palm easily. The device also comes with a set of earphones with multiple covers which is pretty cool.

DISPLAY

A 5.5 inch 1080p screen with 401ppi looks fantastic with great legibility and custom colour adjustment to suit your needs. Love this built-in feature as you can select a warmer tone to reduce eye strain while reading at night. ON the other hand, wish the bezel was thinner so as to reduce the bulk of the phone. Less is more in this case.

SOFTWARE

Comes with Android 5.0 with the ZenUI layered on top featuring plenty of customizability tweaks. Device is slated to get a Marshmallow update sometime now which will replace some Asus apps with Google apps. What I am hoping is it will reduce some of the bloatware. The phone is loaded with many Asus apps some of which can be deleted like the Omlet Messenger while others can be disabled.



While it does not affect the performance, it does require many updates occasionally.

POWER

There are two versions with the same model name - one has a Z3560 chipset (CPU at 1.8GHz) and the other has a Z3580 chipset (CPU at 2.3GHz). We got the latter with 4GB of RAM, something that is becoming more common these days. So far, nothing fazes it. Games like GT Racing 2 loaded fast and the bloatware didn't cause even a flicker. I often favour phone over the laptop for dealing with office communication interspersed with a little play time.

CAMERA

Equipped with a 13MP main camera and a 5MP front camera both with reasonably quick f/2.0 lenses. The app comes chock full of options to play with. Auto Mode is

supplemented by a wide choice of options including Night, Panorama, Selfie and HDR. You can also play around with depth of field shots where two pictures are taken and combined to provide a blurred background. It works better with selfies but you have to hold the phone and your perfected smile super still.

Images come out well exposed with accurate white balance in natural lighting conditions. Colours look very good and neutral on screen. In auto mode the phone increases the contrast and sharpness bringing out more detail but also increasing grain. That is till you zoom into background detail where edges becomes a watercolour mishmash reducing the actual clarity of edges. It will suffice on social media with the right choice of filter.

BATTERY

The 3000mAh non-removable battery lasted well over a day. We ran a video loop that lasted more than eight hours. Web

browsing and Facebook will eat up your power a little quicker. And you will need that backup for the 128GB worth of storage space. That's more than enough for binge watching you HD quality Game of Thrones episodes or Top Gear.

SPECS

Display: 5.5 inches, 1080 x 1920 (~401 ppi), Gorilla Glass 3
CPU: Intel Atom Quad-core 2.3 GHz
GPU: PowerVR G6430
OS: Android OS v 5.0 (upgradable to Marshmallow)
ROM: 128 GB
RAM: 4 GB
Camera: 13 MP + 5 MP (Both f/2.0)
Battery: 3000 mAh
Connectivity: 4G, 3G, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth
PRICE: Tk. 40,500/-

VERDICT

In a sea of mid-range phones, this is a strong work horse. An excellent screen paired with that power pack means you can work all day and squeeze in a little bit of play time without worrying about recharging. It runs smoothly even when you multi task several programs. Where it lacks is the quality of the photos. It does better than most but the resolved detail is low making edges appear jagged. Noticeable when you zoom in. If selfies are important, get the Zenfone selfie which has a better front camera with 13MP. That massive storage space makes it the perfect multimedia device on the go helping us survive traffic jams. Just make sure you get the blue one.

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NAME OF APP: SAWAB
DEVELOPER: MCC LTD
PLATFORMS: Android
SIZE: 11MB
GENRE: Lifestyle

Sawab is a graphically amazing looking app that MCC brought out this Ramadan. This amazing looking app actually helps you to keep track of your namaz and iftar timing during the Ramadan. You also get to read holy Quran, Hadith, prayer & fasting rules, 'Sehri' & 'Iftar' timings, tasbih count and all other necessary information.

If you think this app will only be helpful during the Ramadan period then you are wrong. It comes with a compass to find Kebla, everyday namaz timing calendar. It also contains Islamic ring tones and great wallpapers. The app also has tilawat of quran and the bangle translation. It also comes with a recommendation list of Duas that you should recite. The digital tasbih feature will amuse you.

TECH TALK

DOWNLOAD YOURSELF INTO A SERVER HUAWEI'S FUTURECAST

Interview with Kevin Ho and Clement Wong of Huawei

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY



Clement Wong



Kevin Ho

The plan is to store you on a computer database. Yes, you read that right. Your entire consciousness is to be stored so your future generations can have a conversation with you. Probably to settle who gets grandpa's by-now-classic 2016 Subaru BRZ with the turbo upgrade. This is far into the future, a future that is seen as a bleak, dystopian landscape by Kevin Ho, president of Huawei's handset business and far seeing futurist. Albeit it is a future ripe for tech businesses.

We spoke to him couple months ago at the CES China where he expounded upon the future of tech being centred on ginormous quantities of data consumption. All this means Huawei is heavily investing into 5G, a step that will provide a thousand times more connection what can be provided by typical 3G. Basically an 8GB movie can be downloaded in 5 seconds. "Research is on to develop ways to transmit zettabytes of data, something that will open up new avenues for education, health and telecom" he said. He added that the company has already developed VR products that will probably be launched this year. At the same time they are collaborating with Audi to develop car based connectivity, something Huawei considers to be the next big communication devices after smartphones and wearables.

Kevin stressed on developing AI but also refuted concerns regarding AI becoming too smart to handle. For that there needs to be work done on entity authentication, protection and remote defence systems. In other words, benefits of advanced AI without Matrix happening in real life. At the same time we spoke to Clement Wong, VP, Global Product Marketing at Huawei Device. He spoke more about how the consumer market is shaping. Style is as important to the tech being offered. People want more and Huawei is making continual upgrades to meet and surpass that demand. "The camera is one of the most important factors in purchasing a cellphone. We've designed the P9 in collaboration with Leica to be the best camera out there." Currently Huawei stands at number three in device sales after Samsung and Apple respectively. They claim they can overtake Apple for the second place spot in three years and Samsung by 2021. Not surprising considering the massive R&D expenditure they have taken on. Huawei has recently entered the Bangladeshi market with their mobile devices and wearables. Perhaps in Bangladesh we have closed in on the dystopian future sitting in cars we can't drive for traffic and places we can't go to. But we will be sitting around at least communicating with ease.

TECH HAPPENING

JETRO WILL WORK FOR BASIS MEMBERS' BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) will enhance their activities towards business development of BASIS members in Japanese market. Initiatives like organising more business-to-business (B2B) meetings in presence of investors in Japan and Bangladesh, organising seminars will be taken in the coming days. A meeting between JETRO and BASIS delegation was held on Tuesday where these decisions were made. The BASIS delegation was led by Shameem Ahsan, President of BASIS, whereas the JETRO delegation was led by Kei Kawano, Country Representative of JETRO Dhaka. The meeting was also attended by Russell T Ahmed, Senior Vice President of BASIS; Uttam Kumar Paul, Secretary General of BASIS; Liton C. Sarker, Director of JETRO Dhaka and S.M. Shariful Alam, Manager of JETRO Dhaka.



WE launches new smart solutions with Airtel's eid package offer

WE has introduced a brand new Smart Solution model in the market. The WE A1 will also come with Airtel's Eid Package Bundle. An understanding between officials of Airtel and WE was reached today regarding the launch. Present at the meeting were Indradip Majumder, Chief Financial Officer, Airtel; Satyajet VP Balekundri, Head of Marketing, Airtel; Intekhab Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer, WE; Morshed Alam, Chief Operating Officer, WE; and Muntasir Ahmed, Head of Brand

& Communications, WE. Customers purchasing the WE A1 will receive Airtel Bundle worth Tk. 1894 for free. Moreover, Airtel Bundle offers accompanying WE L1, WE R1, WE B1, and WE V1 are worth Tk. 2,860, Tk. 3,826, Tk. 5,356, and Tk. 6,122 respectively. Moreover, with every WE X1, customers will get Bluetooth headphone and a power bank for free. The WE A1, priced at Tk. 2,790 only, is poised to be the best entry level smartphone in the market right now.



Huawei brings bundle offer with mobile operators

Huawei is continuing its handset bundle offer with Grameenphone, Robi and Banglalink. Every customer, buying Huawei's latest flagship device P9 with Robi connection, will get 27 GB data and 2997 minutes call time during the first three months. This offer is appli-

cable from June 7 to August 7, 2016. Every month, they will get 9 GB data and 999 minute call time. After buying P9, customers have to make a call to any number to activate the offer. Customers can also buy the smartphone with 24 months EMI facility.

Mango Mobile- new handset coming in market

Mango Digital Ltd is bringing the new 'Mango Mobile'. At present, customers want a well featured phone in an affordable price. The target of Mango Mobile is to never compromise with the quality and provide users with fantastic devices. The price of the mobile phones will be in reach of the common people. Md. Owahab Khan, CEO of Mango Digital Ltd, said that, "Mango Mobile is coming to

ensure world class handset experiences among the users of the country. We will export mobile to the SARRC countries after full filling demand of our country. By controlling design, manufacturing, distribution and sales of our device, we will provide a high quality product in an affordable price to our customers. Mango Mobile is committed to its customers, employees, society and environment".

TECH BITS

Box Shuttle helps ferry legacy file stores to cloud



Acer's Aspire S 13 is a decent little ultrabook



XYZprinting's new 3D printer is designed for the classroom



Google-backed undersea cable between US and Japan goes online tonight



The Twitris sentiment analysis tool by Cognovi Labs predicted the Brexit hours earlier than polls

