

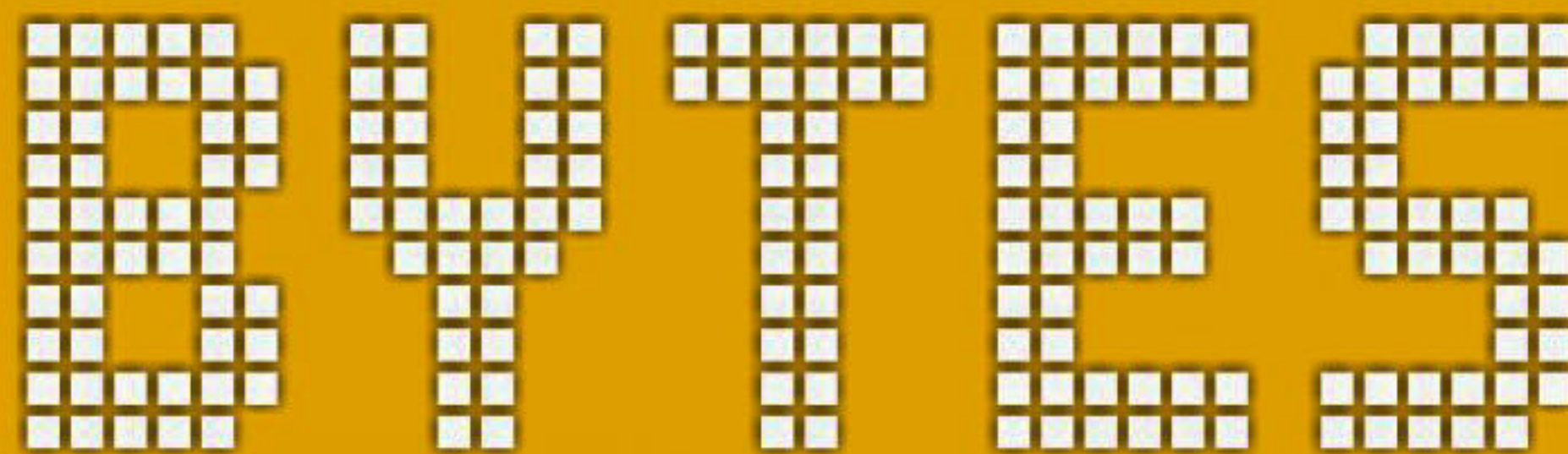


The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW HELIO S20

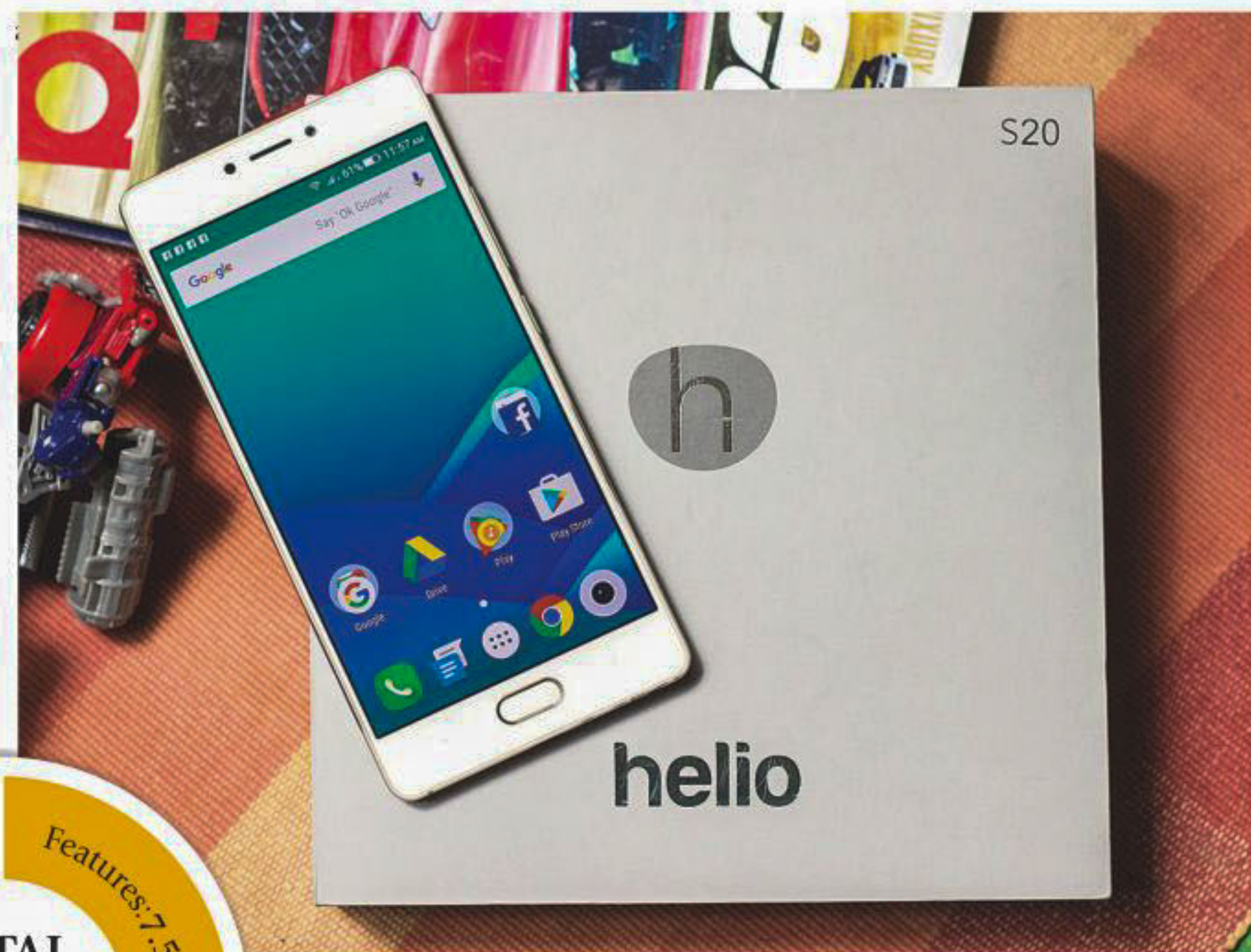
This is the second coming for the Helio brand under the Edison Group, the same company that brings us Symphony. But the Helio line is a separate premium range of devices even though the products are offered on the same web site.

First impressions:

Monochrome packaging is the go-to option for attaining the premium badging. The light gray box with subtle silver lettering looks inviting. Pop the lid and the subtlety theme follows. The device itself is a full metal slab. The gold version has a white bezel on top while the preferable gunmetal gray version has a black bezel. It looks and feels solidly built although the home button/fingerprint scanner has a loose, jiggly, floaty sensation.

Boot it up:

It all looks good but then you boot it up



SPECS

Display: 5.5 inches, 1920 x 1080 pixels (400 ppi)
CPU: Octa-core 1.95 GHz (64-bit)
GPU: Mali-T860 MP2
OS: Android Marshmallow v6.0
RAM: 4 GB
ROM: 64 GB
Camera: 16 MP + 8 MP
Battery: 3000 mAh
Connectivity & feature: 4G, 3G, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth & Fingerprint sensor
PRICE: TK. 25,990/-

VERDICT

The second device for the brand is a well-rounded one. It has an excellent power pack paired to a very good screen. The speaker is loud and clear without distortion. Battery lasts well over a day with a quick charge feature that should give you ample juice for a few minutes of downtime. Best of all, they kept the interface clean to provide a premium experience. It does have a few minor quibbles like that jiggly home button but nothing that is a deal killer. They have done a great job on this and now I am curious to see what comes next.

spoils it. It is a little too colourful and slightly choppy for something that is a flagship model for a brand. But once you get past that, things look up again.

The 5.5 inch FHD AMOLED display with 400ppi is excellent. Set the colour temperature according to your preference and it becomes a perfect viewing screen for movies and fine text.

Power:

Power comes from a 64bit Cortex-A53 1.95GHz octa-core processor. It's a very capable processor supporting very smooth multi-tasking between large apps. It's backed up by 4GB of RAM and Android 6.0, a rare for such products. Another welcoming feature they have added is actually the lack of particular features: bloatware. There is very, very little.

Graphics is provided by Mali-T860MP2. Gaming performance is ade-

games available now on the play store.

Battery:

The 3000mAh coupled with the new OS means power consumption is fully optimised. Well, it must be because the phone easily lasted beyond a day despite heavy regular usage. I have used it for over a week now and it has been running without a hiccup.

Camera:

The main camera is a 16MP unit with f1.8 aperture apparently. It works very well in low light conditions. You can check the sample shots online where you can see the differences in varying lighting conditions ranging from dusk to bright studio lighting. The pros are vibrant colours, good detail at the centre of focus and a quick shutter and autofocus. You can flip out your phone, fire up the camera, aim and shoot to expect decent shots.

Cons happen to be a little over-sharpening of the images especially around the edges. It is noticeable only

a fuzzy edge. But check our sample shots; you will see small lettering is sharp enough to be legible which is always a plus.

The front is an 8MP unit with similar properties albeit the sharpening is a little more ramped up. Video recording is 1080p at only 30fps.

Special features:

As mentioned earlier, comes with a fingerprint sensor situated up front where I prefer. It's just as fast as the best out there. You press and the screen unlocks.

Does it pocket?

Slips in and out of pocket very easily. And the edges provide enough tactile feel so that you don't drop it easily. AnTuTu scores: 50011
CPU: 17024
RAM 4497
3D: 7815

WORDS & PHOTOS:
EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

A new king for the Iron Throne

BY SUM NEELIM

It's been a while since NVIDIA came up with something new and with the new lineup of both the high (GTX 1080) and mid end (GTX 1060) GPUs they sure have made up for lost time. All of the new GPUs boast the new architecture they have named PASCAL. The only thing that isn't new about this is their naming scheme where they like to name their GPUs after deceased great men of science (remember Maxwell?). This new architecture has a 16nm FINFET design. NVIDIA claims that the GTX 1080 i.e. the highest end of the new release is the highest end ever released and is upto two times better than the titan x which is an absolute beast of a card. With 2560 CUDA cores, 8GB of GDDR5X memory that can reach speeds of 10GBps and a base clock of 1733 MHz that can be boosted to north of 2000 MHz, this monster of a card can crank out some serious FPS in 4k with maxed out settings. And did I mention it will also beat anything else on the market? The GPU also has features that include solutions to prevent warping on multi monitor gaming as well as tweaks for VR gaming. It also gives you a free moving 360 degree camera for capturing your hacking/slaying/crashing prowess from your favorite angle. The mid end release is the GTX 1060, this card also shows decent performance and is better than the GTX 970. Both the 1080 and the 1060 run quiet, cool and are very power efficient while kicking some serious ass. AMD also released a new card the RX 480 featuring their new POLARIS architecture. This card is a dream for 1080p gaming in a budget friendly manner.



TECH HAPPENING

Bangladeshi Tech startup SSD-TECH valued at US\$ 65 million

Systems Solutions & Development Technologies Limited (SSD-TECH), a leading technology company of Bangladesh has been valued at US\$ 65 million (BDT 525 crore) according to a recent valuation by LankaBangla Investments. Mind Initiatives acted as advisor to SSD-TECH during the valuation process. The valuation report was handed over to Mahbulul Matin, President and Chairman of SSD-TECH by Khandakar Kayes Hasan, CEO of LankaBangla Investments in a simple handing over ceremony held at SSD-TECH's Corporate Office in Dhaka. Firoze M. Zahidur Rahman, Managing Director & CEO of SSD-TECH, Mohiuddin Rasti Morshed, CEO of Mind Initiatives, and other officials of the organizations were also present.



The Dark Knight of Gotham gets another notch in his belt of games with the upcoming point and click, episodic series being developed by Telltale Games. Based on Bill Finger and Bob Kane's Batman comic book series, the game, as is expected of the genre, will focus more on storytelling and in-depth character progression instead of the typical hacking and slashing that previous Batman games had. You'll also have to make important choices and the gameplay will be split between playing as Batman and as Bruce Wayne, with the hands on action played out through quick time events. With a stellar past in developing story focused games (The Walking Dead, Game of Thrones), be sure of the fact that Telltale Games will definitely deliver. This is one to be excited about even if you're not a fan of episodic games.

HEADLANDER

Headlander puts you in control of a decapitated head inside of a bowl, with the point of the game being simple enough: battle robots to get a body, use your newfound arms to shoot lasers, explore, collect points. Addictive, retro, Tron-like fun.



Pokemon Go developers have said they will be making changes to the game in order to respect real locations, like the Holocaust Museum, which earlier asked PG players to stop playing there.



With lackluster sales and a plummeting market share, Nintendo is trying to up its game with the upcoming NX portable console. It'll use cartridges and detachable controllers, although, honestly, the hardware was never an issue with Nintendo. It's safe to say they're the Nokia of gaming.



Apparently if you don't sign in to an Xbox frequently enough you'll lose your Gamertag permanently. So if you plan on going to prison or on an extended holiday, be prepared to lose all your achievements.

Logitech G402 Hyperion Fury
Gaming mouse
- Tk 3,200

Intel 500 series SSD
Solid state drive (120 GB)
- Tk 4,500

Intel Core-i7 6800K
Processor
- Tk 36,500

COMPONENTS

Infographic: Shaer Reaz

JUST IN

Intel's pendrive PC hits the market



Computer Source has introduced a most 'mini' Windows 10 PC, looks like a Dongle or a pen drive; shrunk down to the size of a tiny plastic rectangle, in the local market which is easily carry into pocket and bearer can use it at office, hotel room or home plugging it into an HDMI slot, and it turns nearly any TV or other display. There are 2/3 USB 3.0 ports and Wi-Fi & Bluetooth option to connect Mouse and keyboard even with internet. 2GB of RAM is enough to light to medium level users. PRICE: Starting from TK. 11,000/-



HP launches ultra-slim Spectre laptop series in Bangladesh

HP has launched the latest iteration of Spectre series in Bangladesh: HP Spectre 13-v017tu & HP Spectre 13-v018tu. These laptops are powered by Intel Core i7-6500U & Core i5-6200U with Intel HD Graphics 520 (2.5 GHz, up to 3.1 GHz, 4 MB cache, 2 cores), 8GB system memory for advanced multitasking and photo- and video-editing applications. The laptops also come with

512GB & 256GB solid state drive SSD respectively and 13.3" Full HD display 1920 x 1080 resolution with HP BrightView glossy screen. Both of the laptops are equipped with WiFi, Bluetooth 4.0 combo & 9 hours of battery backup. PRICE: Core i7 with 512GB SSD TK. 149,000/-
Core i5 with 256GB SSD TK. 129,000/-

UBS brings MSI Apache Pro gaming laptop

Unique Business System (UBS) recently brought a powerful gaming laptop in Bangladesh: MSI GE 62 Apache Pro. This gaming laptop is powered by 6th Gen Intel Core i7 processor, Genuine Windows 10 Pro, GeForce GTX 960M graphics card. The 15.6 inch screen of the laptop has a 170 degree viewing angle. PRICE: TK. 98,000/- with 1 year warranty.



Samsung Mobile Bangladesh announces discounts on popular devices

Samsung Mobile Bangladesh has announced attractive promotional price for its Galaxy A5 (2016), J5 (2016), J3 devices and new prices of Galaxy J7, J5, J2, J1 Ace. Customers can save up to 10,000 Taka with the promotional prices. Galaxy A5 (2016) is available at 29,900

Taka. J5 (2016) is available at 18,900 Taka and J3 is available at 13,990 Taka. Attractive new prices announced for 4 popular models from Galaxy J series: Galaxy J7 at 17,900 Taka, Galaxy J5 at 15,490 Taka, Galaxy J2 at 10,490 Taka, Galaxy J1 ace at 8,490 Taka.

TECH BITS

Research shows deleted WhatsApp messages aren't actually deleted



Clinton campaign breached by hackers



Pokemon Go's paying user base has reached a plateau



Facebook tries a new way to release open-source projects



New Microsoft Pix app is smarter than the stock iOS Camera app

