



The power to do more

HANDS ON REVIEW

HELIO S2

After laying low for a while, Edison group finally is pacing things up with their premium line of smartphones- Helio. In quick succession, they brought out two phones: S20 & S2. We already reviewed the former one and now it's time to take the latter for a spin. So bear with us! The Helio S2's design elements have strikingly resemblances with its premium predecessor. But in order to make the device wallet-friendly, it did cut some corners; we'll talk more about it as we go. The phone comes into a thin metal unibody construction with a curved metallic edge that engrosses the body. Helio S2 comes with the almost same display as its flagship predecessor S20. It now sports a 5.5-inch IPS panel with a Full HD resolution resulting stunningly high pixel density. If compared with the S20, we might see a slight difference since the S20 comes with an AMOLED display. It doesn't mean S2 isn't good. In fact we found the display rendered colours vibrantly along with a great viewing angle.

Under the hood, the Helio S2 comes with a MediaTek MT6753 Octa Core 64bit Cortex-A53 processor clocking at 1.3GHz. This processor is backed by a Mali-T720MP3 graphics processing unit and 3GB DDR3 RAM. To us, the performance of the phone seemed to be snappy for the most part. It did however struggled a bit loading intense multi-tasking time to time. But then again, it is proved to be quite capable at handling all our regular tasks i.e. messaging, social media surfing, light gaming, binge watching TV shows of 1080p etc. The phone comes with a ROM of 32 GB which should be decent enough for most regular user. If you are an audiophile like me then make sure you plug in a microSD card. Fingerprint is the new black for smartphones and Helio S2 is no



SPECS
Display: 5.5" FHD IPS 1920 X 1080
CPU: 1.3 GHz Octa Core (64bit)
GPU: Mali-T720MP3
OS: Android Marshmallow 6.0
ROM: 32 GB
RAM: 3 GB
Camera: 13MP Rear + 8MP Front
Battery: 3150 mAh
Sensors: Accelerometer, proximity, fingerprint
Price: Tk. 15,990/-



exception. It comes with a snappy fingerprint scanner placed right below the camera (and the flash). Just slide your finger on the scanner and voila! The screen is unlocked. The status bar of the phone slides up from bottom which some iPhone user might find offensive (!). Helio S2 comes loaded with the Android Marshmallow. But like always, Edison embedded a skin which made the phone a bit sluggish and tacky. Helio S2 was my daily driver for the last couple weeks. It comes with a 3,150 mAh battery which contentedly allow for a full day of use, I mostly browsed, IMed and

spent hours on YouTube when I wasn't busy playing Angry Bird Space. Yes, I love that game. One of the best features of the phone is the camera. Helio S2 comes armed with a 13 MP rear camera that sports f/2.0 aperture. The rear camera is powered by a SONY IMX258 sensor which is also the heart of many other great camera phones including the OnePlus X. The images that we took were punchy and effervescent. For the price that you are paying, very few phones offer images of this quality. The usual refinements are there so not going to bore our readers with those. There is also an 8 MP front-facing camera that takes extremely sharp selfies.

VERDICT:

We have a great phone here. The performance of Helio S2 is good enough to be your daily driver, the build quality is good enough to pass it as a high end smartphone yet it doesn't require you to have a deep pocket. The camera, which we loved in particular, is the highlight of the phone. In short this is the perfect phone to flaunt your flashy lifestyle.

WORDS AND PHOTOS
SHAHRAR RAHMAN

TECH HAPPENING

10 winners of Huawei's 'Seeds for the Future' to visit China



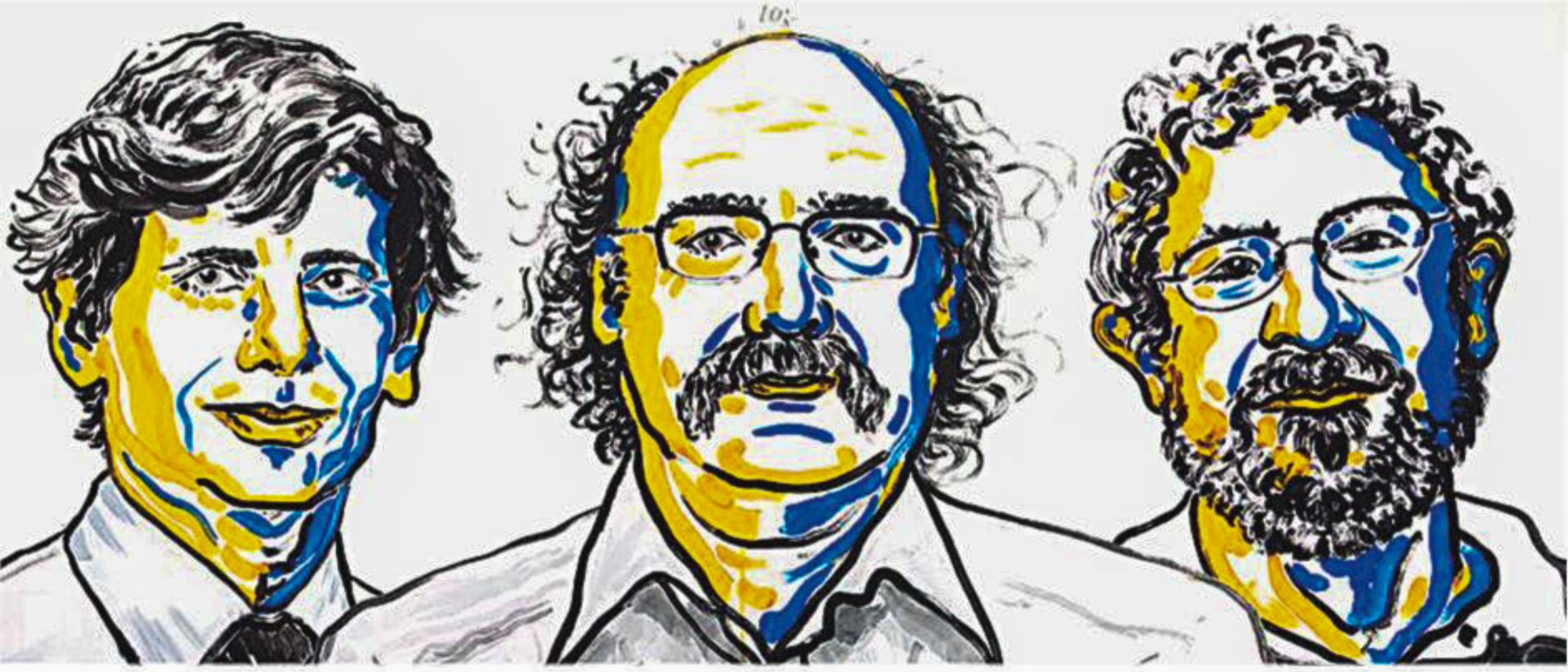
Five teams from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), University of Dhaka (DU), and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET)) have won Huawei's annual talent development program 'Seeds for the Future- 2016'. The winning teams, each comprising of two members, will visit Huawei HQ and its other establishments across China from October 24 to November 4. The trip will give the winners a learning opportunity through exposing them to the latest developments in the ICT sector. The winners are mostly final year students who can prepare themselves better through this technology orientation program. The winning teams are: Sheikh Nasif Imtiaz and Wasif Adnan Khan (BUET); Zafir Shafiee and Tanzin Mubarrat Syed (BUET); Nifat Ara Nipa and Ummul Afia Shammi (DU); Syed Mahir Tazwar and Tasfia Kabir (DU); and Md Rafi Islam and Avra Bhattacharjee (CUET).

Microsoft provides IT training for students

Microsoft Bangladesh has successfully provided 4 training sessions at 4 districts in September. A total number of 200 rural students received training on Microsoft Products and Basic Computing. Upon accomplishing the course, they received Certificates from Microsoft Bangladesh. Young Bangla (YB), the youth platform of the Center for Research and Information (CRI), helped Microsoft Bangladesh deliver soft skill development trainings for the school goers at different district headquarters across the country. The sessions were held in Jamalpur, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Brahmanbaria while four such sessions also took place in the other parts earlier with at least 50 students on each event.

EXOTIC MATTERS

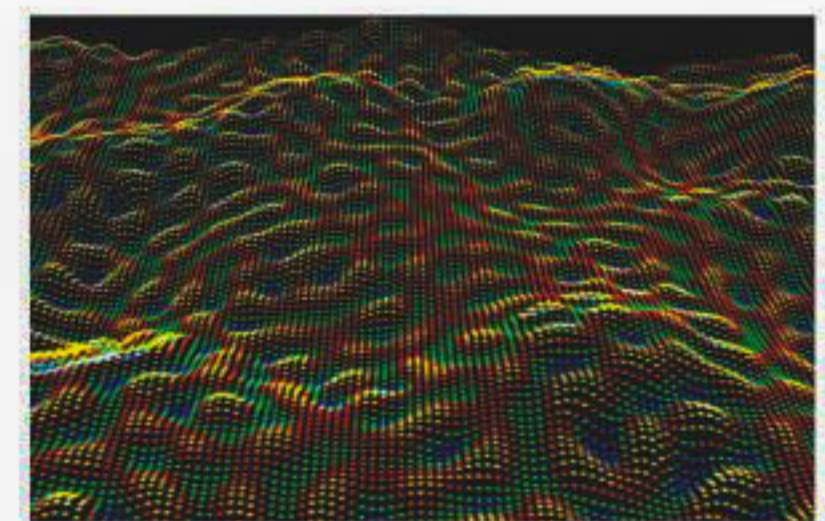
2016 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS



The Nobel Peace prize and that of Economics has recently faced a number of criticisms, plagued by a favouritism for what many feel are less than deserving candidates. Lady Science is rarely disputed, however, as a strict reliance on the scientific method pretty much ensures that the candidates' achievements aren't called into question. This year, three physicists were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, for the work that brought better understanding of exotic matter. Half the prize of the world's highest accolade in Physics was given to David Thouless of the University of Washington, the other half shared between Duncan Haldane of Princeton University and J. Michael Kosterlitz of Brown. All of them are originally citizens of the United Kingdom.

The world of Physics has long wondered about the strange phenomenon shown by materials at extreme temperatures, such as cold materials conducting electricity without any resistance. Two of the three physicists, David Thouless and Michael Kosterlitz, dem-

onstrated in the late 70's that superconductivity can occur at low temperatures and explained the mechanism through which this works - phase transition - that makes superconductivity disappear at higher temperatures. Duncan Haldane followed up that initial research almost a decade later, where he studied matter that could



form threads so thin that they could be considered one dimensional. The outcome of these studies could prove to be revolutionary for the electronics industry and change the way everything from phones to cars work. The next generations of conductors are supposed to be "topological insulators", which can con-

duct electricity solely on the surface. One such insulator is known as Stanene, which is made up of tin that is only as thick as one atom layer, and can potentially conduct electricity at high temperatures with little resistance. This may replace copper as the chief conducting material in computer components in the future.

The winning Physics study went head to head with the detection of gravitational waves at LIGO, ultimately winning because the gravity-waves discovery announcement by LIGO missed the Nobel committee's deadline.

It often takes years for theoretical physics to make it to viable engineering in the real world, but the world of electronics and superconductors is tied closely with the tech industry, where you either innovate or you die out. With that kind of high stakes, we might see these new type of superconductors make it to the market sooner than believable.

SHAER REAZ

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOOGLE'S PIXELS

After spending months and months on the rumour mill, the Google Pixel and its XL variant has finally stepped into the realm of reality. This phone is a big deal and a huge shift in strategy for Google. Cause this phone hammers the final coffin nail for the Nexus brand, Google's previous pure Android device. But before you hit that pre-order button though, here are some quick things to know about the Pixel and the Pixel XL:

TOTALLY LEFT FIELD

The materials used for the device has gone towards the left of the periodic table as the Pixel is an aluminum unibody phone with a slab of glass on the upper section of the rear panel. Also gone are the boring and robotic sounding names like "arctic silver" or "matte black". There are three colours for these devices, amusingly named "Very Silver", "Quite Black", and "Really Blue".

SNAPTASTIC

Hardware bragging, surprisingly has taken a back seat during its release. Not to fret though as they haven't really skimped on anything. It's powered by the latest Snapdragon 821, an AMOLED screen, 4GB RAM and 32/128GB storage. The one bit of hardware that caused quite the fanfare though was the camera, 12MP unit with higher pixel sizes. Oh and guess what? The headphone jack is present and up top. Not all revolutions are good after all.

GOOGLE IS KING

This year, Google took full control of the hardware, and made sure to optimize the software properly with the new hardware as well as adding many innovative software features, which are a definite step up from the barebones Android releases in past Nexus devices. Things like Google Assistant is a perfect example. It scours the screen for search terms, responds to users' questions and queries with conversation-like candour, and is way more contextually aware than Google Now.

ALL ARE NOT EQUAL

Three main differences: the Pixel has a 5" Full HD display and a piddling 2770mAh battery. The Pixel XL, on the other hand, has a 5.5" Quad HD display and a much more reasonable 3450mAh battery.

DAYDREAMING

VR was already quite the big thing for the whole of 2015 and 16, but thanks to Google, its set to get even bigger with their new Daydream VR platform and headset, announced alongside the Pixels.

PRETTY PENNY

As Google is taking the flight to the all the Samsungs and Apples of the world, they have built it and priced it as such. Prices are currently hovering around the Tk 60,000 to Tk 70,000, far far above what the Nexus was usually priced at.

Overall, Google has brought out the device that they hope will populate the Android user landscape with its refocused attention to user experience rather than the simple hardware game, and a killer camera setup.



SM INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

JUST IN

HP INTRODUCES FOUR NEW MODELS OF LAPTOPS IN BANGLADESH



HP has introduced four new models of Laptop for the Bangladeshi market. All these laptops comes with Intel 5th Gen i3

processor, 4 GB RAM, 1 TB HDD, 14.1 and 15.5 inch diagonal display and a super multi DVD etc. The models are: HP-14-

am007tu, HP 15-ay031tu, HP 240 G4 and HP 250 G4. Price: Tk. 33,000/- to 33,500/-

SHAER REAZ

TECH BITS
Maserati is targeting 2020 for a production EV



Google shuts down Panoramio



Snapchat launches post-roll ads, Story Playlist that loads favorites in bulk



U.S. officially attributes DNC hack to Russia



GitHub is raising a secondary round

