



The power to do more

INFORMATION

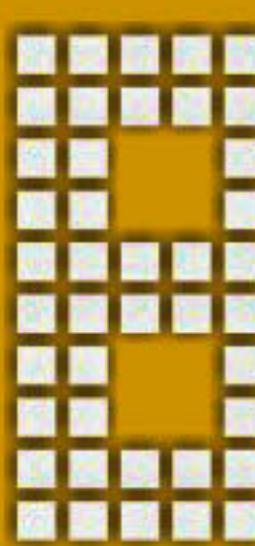
GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY

The Daily Star

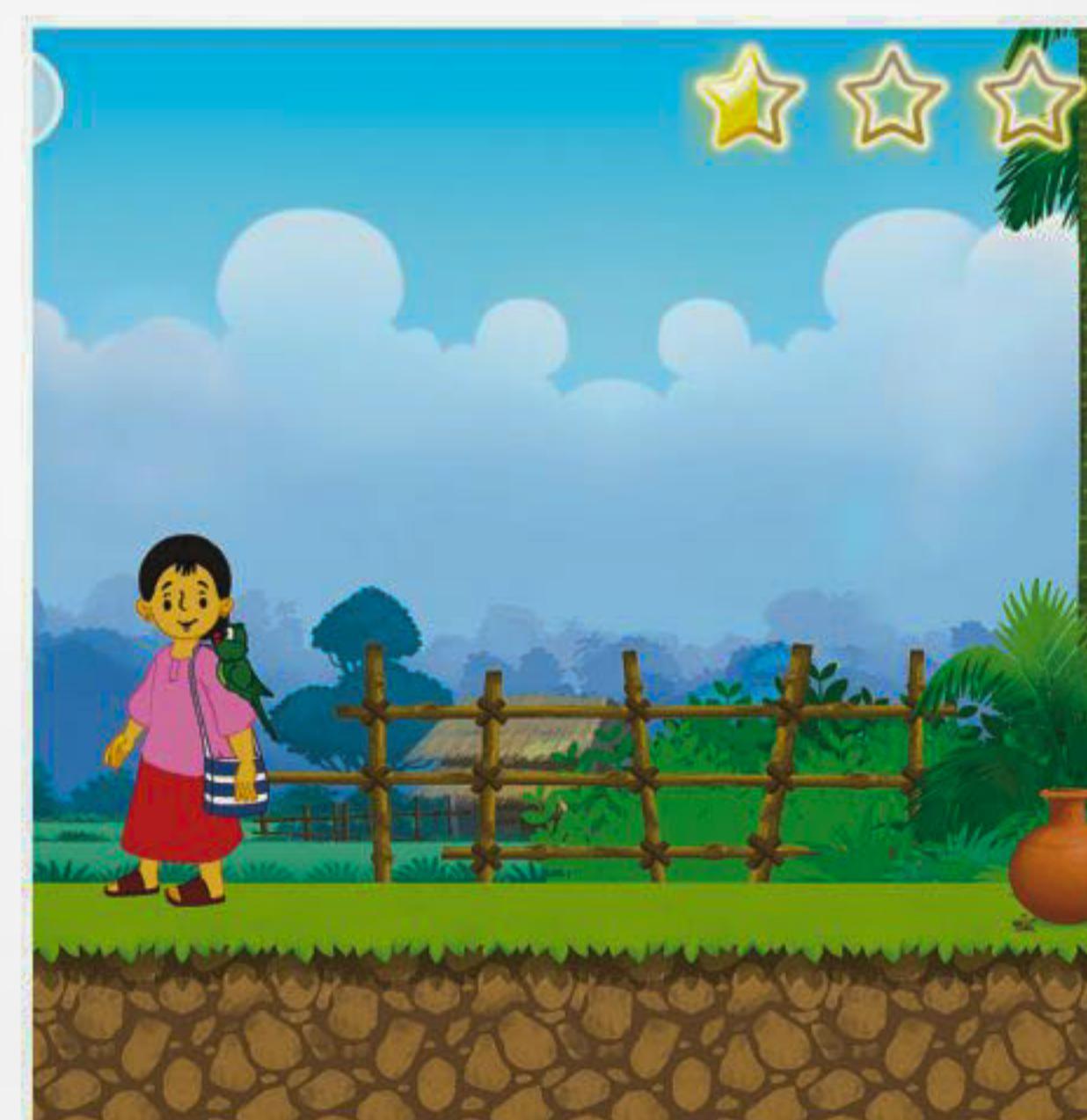
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BYTES

APPS ON THE FLOOR



HANDS ON REVIEW HUAWEI GR5 2017

Midrange phones are always the hottest segment in the market. Most of the top OEMs are fighting to reign in this segment. This war just heated up a notch couple week's back when Huawei launched the GR5 2017 Edition. The USP Huawei is going for is Dual Rear Camera, very similar to the much acclaimed Huawei P9. Is it just a marketing gimmick or does it actually work? You are about to find out.

DESIGN

The form factor of the phone didn't change from the original one. The one we reviewed came in Champaign gold colour. It comes in two other colours as well. The edges are well rounded, the back is metallic. The camera at the back is bumped out a bit. SIM tray on the left and power and volume rockers are on the right. No capacitive menu buttons on the front. The sound grille and charging port is at the bottom. At a glance the phone looks mundane; it doesn't stand out.

HARDWARE

Time to take a peek under the hood. Powered by HiSilicon Kirin 655 Octa-Core processor of which four are clocked at 2.1GHz and rest are clocked at 1.7GHz. In comparison to the GR5 original which packs an octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 616 processor, we can't say the phone made a massive improvement. However we didn't see the performance of GR bog down at all. In fact it is much smoother than its predecessor. The RAM was upgraded to 3GB from the 2GB of the original. It comes with more space as well: 32GB internal memory. To compare we ran 'Real Racing 3' and compared to P9 the phone fared pretty well.

SOFTWARE

Yes, like always the Emotion UI v4.1 is back on top of the Android Marshmallow.



But surprisingly the UI is better than before; at least it felt that way. It doesn't have any app drawer and almost no bloatware. You can access the bare essentials from the lock screen as well i.e. torch light, calculator, camera and music player shortcuts.

CAMERA

This is the third dual camera phone by Huawei in Bangladesh. A path that HTC paved is now adorned and adopted by most of the top brands. P9, which took the world by storm, had Leica Lens in its dual camera which yielded better results. The dual camera of GR5

2017 is no exception. The dynamic range was great, thanks to the 12MP + 2MP rear cameras. The 1.25um large pixels and pro photo modes will surely make you feel like an armature with a DSLR. We saw the camera taking terrific photos with bokeh effect. The selfies were okay as well. It did pick up a bit of noise and made the photos a bit oversaturated. One of the things that most oriental OEMs focus on is the beauty mode. GR 2017 edition has ten of those. Yes, you read right... TEN. Oppo already showed the world auto make up mode so we weren't that shocked to find it on the GR5 2017.

BATTERY

The battery of GR 2017 fared better than

what we expected. The whopping 3,340mAh battery survived nearly 36 hours on dual SIM and 3G. I did use the app manager to kill the background apps from time to time. But if you binge watch funny cat videos on YouTube, please make sure you carry power banks.

VERDICT:

GR5 2017 edition is a quick and responsive device thanks to its well specced hardware. The dual camera on the rear isn't just a marketing gimmick- it actually takes really good photos for the price that you pay. The 3rd gen. finger-print scanner is snappy & the loud speakers are indeed loud. The size is pocket friendly. The display is gorgeous (if you haven't used a FHD before) and the battery will last you an entire day with moderate usage. Not a bad deal if you consider the price tag.

SPECS

Display: 5.5" FHD 1920x1080
CPU: Octa-core (4 x 2.1GHz + 4 x 1.7GHz)
OS: Android 6.0 + Huawei EMUI 4.1
ROM: 32 GB
RAM: 3 GB
Camera: Dual Cameras, 12MP + 2MP Rear + 8MP (Front)
Battery: 3340 mAh
Sensors: i5 Coprocessor Sensor Hub
Technology:
Price: Tk. 21,900/-

WORDS & PHOTOS:
SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Name of App: Meena
 Developer: MCC & Riseup Labs
 Publisher: UNICEF Bangladesh
 Platforms: Android
 Size: 7.5 MB
 Genre: Game
 Rating: 7.8 / 10

UNICEF Bangladesh launched the first 'Meena Game' for all android mobile devices through google play store and at a later stage it will be made available for Apple mobile devices as a 'free' app. For those who don't know, Meena is a cartoon character from South Asia. She is a spirited, nine-year-old girl, who braves all the odds – whether in her efforts to go to school or in fighting the discrimination against children. The Meena figure has achieved remarkable popularity as she tackles the key issues affecting children. The stories revolve around the adventures of Meena, her brother Raju, her pet parrot Mithu, and members of her family and community. Bangladesh was the first country to launch Meena when a film about her struggle to go to school, called Count Your Chickens, was broadcast on national television in 1993. Since then, Meena has starred in 26 films for television, as well as radio programmes, comics and books. This android game creates room for children to learn issues related to their own well-being through entertainment. The multi-level 'Meena' game will help children to address a specific problem or to learn a certain skill related to health, nutrition, education, gender equity, protection and disaster response.

JUST IN

Smart lights by AplombTechbd

Bangladeshi company AplombTechbd brought out two different kinds of light bulbs recently: Smart Magic Light and Smart Rainbow Light. Smart Magic Light glow if any person is in the vicinity of the light. To be exact, it can detect person moving within 10 meters then it automatically switches on. It can automatically turn off during the day. Smart Magic Light can illuminate in up to 256 different colours.

Price: Magic Light: Tk. 900/- per piece
 Smart Rainbow Light: Tk. 2,500/- per piece



Infinix, a Chinese brand, launches Note 3 in Bangladesh

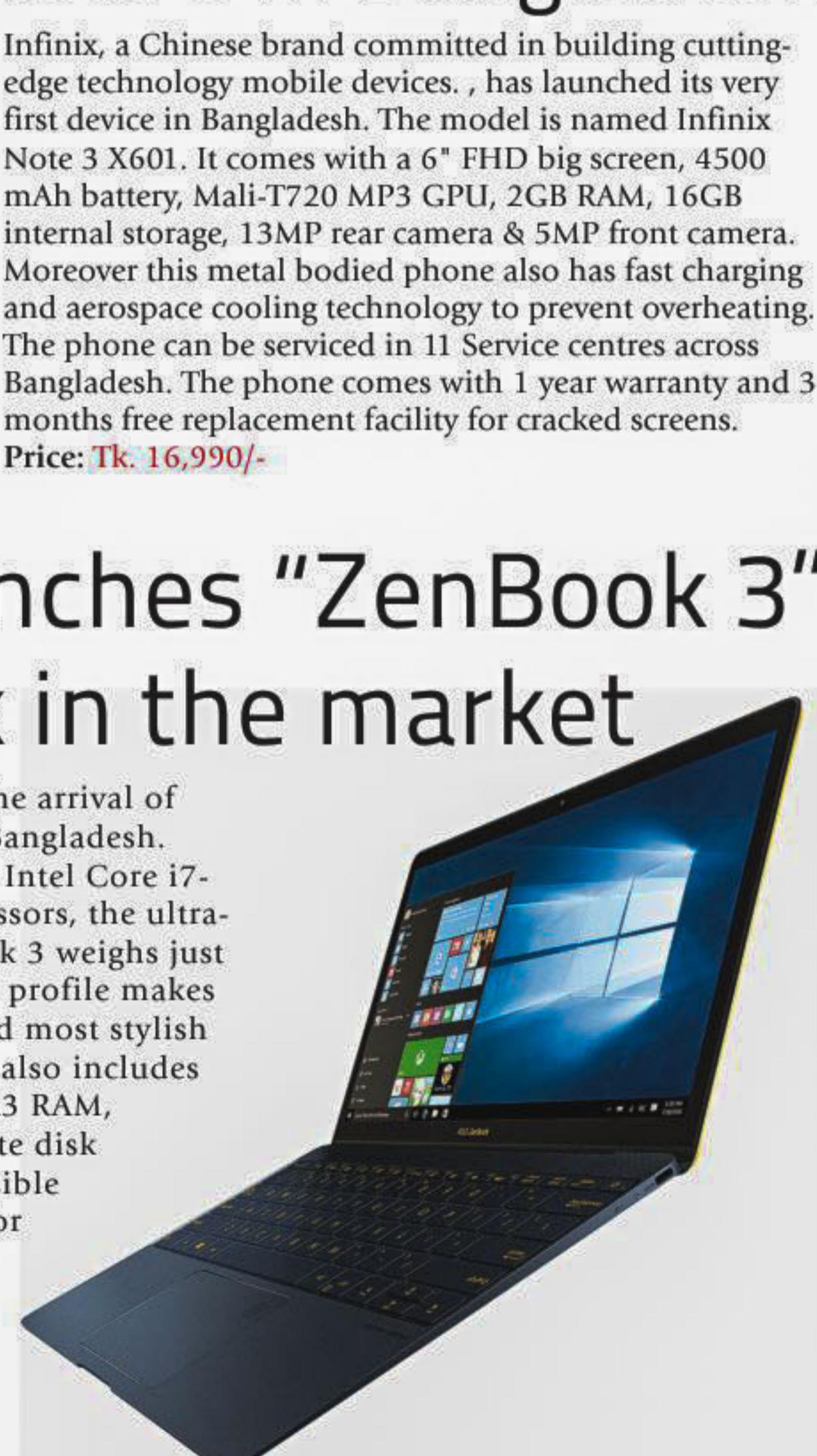
Infinix, a Chinese brand committed in building cutting-edge technology mobile devices, has launched its very first device in Bangladesh. The model is named Infinix Note 3 X601. It comes with a 6" FHD big screen, 4500 mAh battery, Mali-T720 MP3 GPU, 2GB RAM, 16GB internal storage, 13MP rear camera & 5MP front camera. Moreover this metal bodied phone also has fast charging and aerospace cooling technology to prevent overheating. The phone can be serviced in 11 Service centres across Bangladesh. The phone comes with 1 year warranty and 3 months free replacement facility for cracked screens.

Price: Tk. 16,990/-

ASUS launches "ZenBook 3" ultrabook in the market

ASUS recently announced the arrival of ZenBook 3 (UX390UA) in Bangladesh. Featuring the latest 7th-gen Intel Core i7-7500U and i5-7200U processors, the ultra-thin and ultra-light ZenBook 3 weighs just 910g. Its razor-thin 11.9mm profile makes ZenBook 3 the slimmest and most stylish ZenBook. The specification also includes 16GB of high-speed LPDDR3 RAM, and 512 GB 3.0 x4 solid-state disk (SSD). There is also a reversible USB Type-C (USB-C) port for any-way-up connections, with support for display output and power delivery as well as high-speed data transfers.

Price: Tk. 1,39,000/-



Barracuda Networks in Bangladesh

Barracuda Networks of USA, recently organised a product and portfolio presentation session for the B2B segment in Dhaka recently. The event was hosted by the Bangladesh Distributor – Technics Computers Pvt. Ltd at The Lake Shore hotel. Mr. Murali Urs, Country Manager of Barracuda Networks for India Plus regions was present, while more than 200 guests from the corporate sector of Bangladesh joined the event.



tour.com.bd gets a new domain

Online travel agency Tour.com.bd gets a new domain called bd.tours. Now travellers can access this website to get access to travel related news and packages easily. According to the CEO of Tour.com.bd Lion Mohammad Imran, tour.com.bd plans to go bigger this year. This upgraded domain is the very example of that, said Mr. Imran.



With 'Jolpie', getting healthcare services online just got easier

To provide healthcare services, a new online based platform called 'Jolpie' started its operation in Bangladesh. The app was launched today at the Bishaw Shaittoh Kendro auditorium, Bangla Motor at the capital. The app was inaugurated by Secretary of ICF Division Mr. Shyam Sundar Shikder. As special guest were present Prof. Dr. Neaz T. Parveen, Prof. Dr. Hamidur Rahman, and the founder & CEO of Jolpie Mr. Abu Sina Kamal. It was informed

during the launching that through the platform anyone can find a doctor. Not only that, one can sort doctors according to their specialisation, experience, educational background, location, visiting hours and fees. One can also avail the expert opinion of the specialist doctors at the comfort of their home via video chat. In addition to that, patients can use this platform to get to know about doctors, hospitals, special packages and fees.

TECH HAPPENING



Chalo and BCC to work together for a better transportation sector

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) and Chalo will work together to roll out technology-based solution in transport sector across 64 district by 2020. Regarding the initiative, BCC and Chalo Technologies have signed an agreement recently. BCC Director (Training) Mohammad Enamul Kabir and Chalo Chief Executive Officer Dewan Shuvo signed representing organisations. According to the agreement, Chalo and BCC will work hand on hand to improve the situation in transportation sector.

Techshohor.com Laptop fair sees huge turnout

Eighteen edition of the national level laptop expo titled three day long 'Techshohor.com Laptop Fair 2016' came to an end this Saturday. The fair kicked off at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) at Agargaon in the capital on Thursday. The expo arena was opened for all on 10 AM and Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu inaugurated the fair

