



The power to do more

HANDS ON REVIEW

SYMPHONY ZVIII

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

At first glance, the Symphony ZVIII does not seem too remarkable. The colors are safe, the shape is safe; it's a very conservative design compared to last year's cross-hatch textured plastic back cover, but that certainly does not have to be a bad thing. Keep the ZVIII in between two OnePlus 3's and they'll look like a happy awfully-similar-looking family. The display is a 5 inch FHD IPS unit with the 2.5D glass on top offering slightly curved edges for a more comfortable feel. Build is solid as it is always with the Z-series from Symphony, with a glass front and an almost entirely metal, non-removable back.

DISPLAY AND HARDWARE

The 1080p resolution on the 5-inch display makes for a sharp display, boasting over 440ppi. Blacks are quite dark, with colors appearing too saturated at times. Visibility under the sun

is decent, and Symphony have finally fixed their annoying brightness issue that dimmed the screen, yet was still quite bright even at its lowest brightness setting. A minor caveat is that there is a light pink tint on the

mobile data and location services turned on throughout the day with the brightness set all the way up. Considering the relatively heavy usage (I tend to have a lot of math classes), the phone was decent, charge-wise.

flicker of indoor lights. Photos taken in broad daylight come out above average, with colors a bit on the saturated side. Autofocus takes a while to lock in poorly lit conditions, but works well if there's plenty



SPECS

Display: 5" FHD IPS 2.5D  
CPU: 1.4 GHz Octa Core Snapdragon 430  
OS: Android Marshmallow 6.0  
ROM: 16 GB  
RAM: 3 GB  
Camera: Front: 8 MP, Rear: 13 MP  
Battery: 3000 mAh  
Features: Fingerprint, Battery Optimisation, Eco Mode (Super Power Saving) etc  
PRICE: TK. 13,990/-

VERDICT

It looks okay, performs well and is quite handy in this day and age of humongous phones. The design will allow people to get used to quite easily, and will very easily blend in with many other phones in the market. It feels good for a change to be able to pull down the notification tray on a phone without having to jostle the phone half-way down my hand. The fingerprint sensor is a good addition and works very well most of the time. Brightness needs to be set all the way up most of the time, in turn taking a toll on the battery life. The camera does not take breathtaking photos but you can't expect much better than what the Symphony ZVIII has to offer at this price point.

whites on lower brightness settings. The ZVIII is built on a foundation of specs solid enough for everyday use. Power comes from a 1.4 GHz octa-core Snapdragon 430 chipset paired with 3GB of RAM, very similar to what powered its predecessor. Multitasking is smooth, with decent loading times with graphics-intensive apps. Games like GT Racing 2 and Asphalt 8: Airborne ran smooth thanks to the Adreno 505 GPU. Battery backup with the 3000mAh battery is decent. Having used this device as my daily driver for the better part of a week, I had to plug it in at around 8 at night, almost every day. A regular day of smartphone usage for me generally involves a lot of surfing through Instagram, Youtube and Facebook when stuck in traffic or fighting boredom in classes involving mathematics, leaving

SOFTWARE

Symphony's software skin on top of Android Marshmallow is a nice new welcome. The interface is pretty much stock Android minus the app tray, with a somewhat flat icon pack keeping things nice and clean. I didn't detect much lag or stutter in my brief time with the device. The fingerprint scanner is easy to set up and is quite snappy to wake the device up. Double tap to wake and the gestures to perform specific tasks are still present, although it's now a common feature in most phones in this category.

CAMERA

The 13MP unit at the back is equipped with autofocus, a dual-LED flash, smile detection and a nifty anti-flicker mode for reducing

of light. Details are good but you'll need to be very steady if you want sharp pictures indoors. Video on the ZVIII is better than ever before on any Z series phone, frame rates are decent and the camera automatically acts fast to changes in light with smooth transitions. Secondary camera is an 8MP unit with a tiny front-facing flash that will allow you to take selfies in every lighting condition imaginable. If being unable to take selfies at night was a problem in your life, the ZVIII has got your back. I was pleasantly surprised by how sharp the photos from the selfie camera were.

WORDS AND PHOTOS:  
RAHIN SADMAN ISLAM

APPS ON THE FLOOR

UDOY- Bangladesh's first virtual personal assistant at your service

Name of App: UDOY  
Developer: Uday Technologies Pvt. Ltd  
Platforms: Android & iOS (coming soon)  
Genre: Lifestyle

Are you overworked? Do you need someone to do your bills? Book your air tickets? Find a romantic restaurant for a hot date? Bangladesh's first ever virtual mobile assistant app Uday is here to make your life easier.

The human and artificial intelligence powered personal assistant provides services across a range of categories in one chat based platform. Send a pre-selected query or write a personalised request to get started. An Uday assistant will be at your service, toiling until the job is done.



Arif Akram, CEO of Uday, says: "It is for busy people who don't have time to browse so many options online. The traffic in our cities also causes many disruptions in daily life. Uday plans to solve that by providing an assistant 24/7 who can get things done for you, while you're busy with other things. It's just like your very own personal assistant, making you feel like a CEO!"

While Uday responds to queries using Natural Language processing, an excellent team of customer care experts ensure that the customer gets the best product or service. The platform currently provides services for travel, food, household chores, healthcare, shopping, paying bills, and finding gifts. Uday is available for Android users and is coming soon to iOS. To find out more, visit <https://udoy.co/>

AMIYA HALDER

JUST IN

Samsung Mobile starts pre-booking of its new Galaxy C9 Pro

Samsung Mobile unveiled the latest addition to its smartphone lineup – the Galaxy C9 Pro, adding a new model to its popular Galaxy series. On pre-booking, Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro customers will get an original and exclusive Samsung Scoop Bluetooth speaker for free. Customers can also pre-book this device online and all authorized stores of Samsung till February 21, 2017. Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro will

be available in 2 colors – Black and Gold. Interested customer can pre-book the device online through [www.prebookc9.com](http://www.prebookc9.com) and all authorized Samsung stores till February 21, 2017. On pre-booking Samsung Galaxy C9 Pro customers will get free Samsung Scoop Bluetooth speaker.

PRICE: TK. 49,900/- only, with EMI at 0% interest.



Xiaomi introduces new 'affordable' gadget

Smart phone brand Xiaomi has announced new model of Redmi 4A model in Bangladesh. The five-inches-display phone comes with a Snapdragon 425 quad core processor including 2 Gigabytes RAM, 16 GB of internal memory, 13

megapixel rear camera. The smart device is available at 21 Xiaomi authorised Mi store, Xiaomi-nominated 58 dealers and over 800 retail outlets across the country.

PRICE: TK. 10,000/-

BL brings budget smartphone with bundle offer

Banglalink has recently launched Micromax Q300 with free 9GB Data and 600 Minutes Talk time. Customers can avail 9GB free internet and 600 minutes talk time in three months, where they will get 3GB internet, 100 minute on net and off net talk time in each month. The bonus will be valid for 30 days. The smartphone will be available in all Banglalink stores and its retail stores all over Bangladesh.

PRICE: TK. 2,599/-



Nokia 150 to be launched by HMD Global

HMD Global has announced the launch of its Nokia 150 Dual SIM phone. The launch comes just weeks after HMD entered the market as the new home of Nokia phones. This dual SIM comes with built in FM radio and MP3 player. The large 2.4" screen and familiar user interface and keypad make the affordable Nokia 150 Dual SIM easy-to-use.

PRICE: TK. 2,499/-

Fake currency detection feature in mobile phone

Mobile brand Digo has introduced fake note detection laser in the new 'Digo Detector' model. Using ultraviolet ray the phone can detect the fake currency. Besides, the phone can also

be used as powerbank, thanks to its 3000 mAh battery. Beside all the regular features of a feature phone it also comes with flashlight.

PRICE: TK 1,790/-

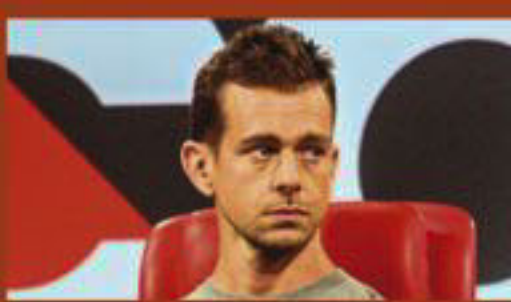


COMPUTER VILLAGE CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Computer Village, a notable computer and ICT product and service provider, celebrated its 20 year of business by offering a promotion package titled 'Festival 20' for customers of Dhaka and Chittagong.

During this campaign, customers can win laptops, air tickets, tablet PC, notebook, 24" colour TV, smart phone, bicycle and many other attractive gifts. The offer lasts till 3rd March.

TECH BITS  
Twitter's ad business may be becoming another one of its biggest problems



Nokia to buy Comptel for \$370M as it pushes deeper into carrier software



Facebook can now replace your weather app



Facebook updates its ad policies and tools to protect against discriminatory practices



SpaceX targets February 18 for Dragon resupply mission to ISS