



The power to do more

HANDS-ON REVIEW

HELIO S25

What's cool for smartphones right now? Dual cameras and a smooth as silk body. Curves are the bling thing. We were sent the new Helio S25 device before launch along with a few other bigger, louder brand devices. I inevitably reached for the Helio. Why?

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Look at it. It's the first time I am thoroughly impressed by the style sense of a local brand. They caught on well to what the public loves. Black, metal, curves.

The satin effect of the metal provides excellent tactile feel. The device is very easy to hold and manoeuvre without being unwieldy. The front glass is also curved along the edges giving it a uniform, fluid shape. Everything is understated and subtle. Many local brands have an affinity for including a lot more information on the back. Unnecessary. Good that Helio kept it simple.

SO FAR SO GOOD.

It has a 5.5 inch 1080p FHD display with 2.5D Corning Gorilla Glass 3 protection.



Needless to say detail is sharp and colours are a bit on the vibrant side when the brightness is increased.

POWER

It has a Mediatek 64-bit Cortex-A53 Octacore processor running at 1.95 GHz. 4GB RAM and a Mali T860 GPU deliver all you need for your graphical requirements meaning you can play games. You can play pretty much all of them. Really, you can't get stuck with this. I've thrown everything at it and it carried on without a hiccup. But then again, most mid to top end phones have gotten to the place where few software exists to give them much worry.

OTHER HARDWARE GOODIES

There is 64GB built-in memory and you can expand it all the way to an additional 128GB. It has all the usual connectivity options including Bluetooth 4.0 and is built to support the eventual 4G. The specs list will show you it has everything that is considered standard. Except NFC. Why can't a phone still have NFC? Makes life easier to transfer content wirelessly.

SOFTWARE

Comes straight out of the box with Android 6.0 Marshmallow. Power users will like it's neat, clean, clutter free interface. There is very, very little bloatware which is a pleasant surprise. They did not feel inclined to load it up with silly games and apps we will never use. They have added a few necessary and basic apps including a child mode, video editor and an anti-theft app. That's roughly it.

CAMERA

Yep, this where the local brand set itself further up the ladder. Two lenses at the back, one 13MP f/2.0 unit using Sony IMX sensor and a 5MP f/2.2 Samsung sensor. Both are used to bring about a mostly software emulated

bokeh effect. Bokeh is that blurred out lighting effect used by wedding photographers to get rid of annoying ugly backdrops. You can use a slider to adjust the level of bokeh or background blur you want. It mostly works very well and reproduces images with plenty of resolved detail. They have managed to keep the sharpening down several notches meaning photos do not look unnaturally touched up. The camera app comes bundled with a host of tweaks. There is a pro mode allowing you to adjust your settings which frankly almost no one ever will. It's nice to have though in the off chance that someday

VERDICT:

A big chunk of my job consists of reviewing mobile devices. The local ones often offer competitive features at a good value for money. Once in a while they will break the trend and catch on to the rest of the contenders. This time though, the S25 brought together quite the complete package. The OS with their proprietary skin runs smoothly and appears well optimised. The device itself looks great, has excellent contemporary features namely the dual lens camera and it is priced on the right side of 20k. It's an amount that squarely puts it up against almost all the other mid-range contenders. The test unit came to us without a box so I can't tell you how that looks. But the device itself is impressive for a local product.

If they keep this up, the brand could likely become a contender for the premium mid-range market currently dominated by the likes of Xiaomi and Huawei.

SPECS:

- Display: 5.5" FHD IPS Display
- CPU: 1.95 GHz 64-bit Octa Core
- GPU: Mali-T860 MP2
- OS: Android OS 6.0
- ROM: 64 GB
- RAM: 4 GB
- Camera: Rear: 13MP + 5MP Rear Dual
- Camera, Front: 13MP Front Camera with Flash
- Battery: 3000 mAh
- Price: Tk. 21,990/-

you might come upon a supermodel who needs you to take her pictures at that very moment.

The front camera is a 13MP unit with an f/2.2 aperture. It has 80 degree wide field of view to capture more of your friends as you make ridiculous faces while trying food at yet another new restaurant. There is some image smoothing evident here but faces still come out well detailed. Enough to capture at least one friend with food weirdly hanging from the mouth. They have added a front flash which you can keep on. It is basically an LED which is difficult to look at since it is right beside the lens. A screen flash would have been better but if you really must take selfies outside, in the dark, under a tree, this flash will do the job. Then you're blinded for a few seconds.

BATTERY

The slim 7.4mm profile contains a 3000mAh Li-Po battery that has been able to deliver over a days usage.

PHOTOS & WORDS: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

TESLA & ITS

Big Plan



BATTERY BACKUP

The factory will see battery prices reduced by 30% making cars much cheaper than now.



DRIVER-ASSISTANCE

Tesla plans to implement driver-assistance system for driverless cars. Already partially it has been implemented.



MODEL 3

Tesla is betting most on Model 3. It's going to be leaps and bounds ahead of the competition according to Tesla.



SUSTAINABLE FACTORY

The entire gigafactory of Tesla is powered by Renewable Energy. It includes wind and solar energy.



REVENUE PLAN

Tesla doesn't plan to make any money for at least next couple of years. It is expected to make profit from 2020.



WORKFORCE

6,500 Workers are going to work at Tesla's gigafactory. It is the second biggest factory by volume in the world.

DESIGNED BY: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

TECH HAPPENING

Doctorola and Telenor Health signs MoU on online healthcare service



Recently digital health provider Telenor Health AS and online doctor appointment service platform Doctorola Ltd. signed a commercial partnership agreement. The partnership will leverage Doctorola's platform to make it easier, cheaper, and faster for members of Telenor Health's "Tonic" offering to access quality medical professionals across Bangladesh. The signing took place at GP House at Bashundhara, Dhaka. The agreement was signed by Mohammad Abdul Matin Emon and Sajid Rahman, Chief Executives Officers of Doctorola Ltd. and Telenor Health AS, respectively.

eGeneration Group announces new executive vice chairman

SM Ashrafur Islam has joined eGeneration Group board as Executive Vice Chairman. SM Ashrafur Islam was an Additional Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh and served as Executive Director, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). After assuming the position at BCC, he led the BCC team with implementing the development of Government-wide Intranet, development of Tier-4 data centre, establishment of National Enterprise Architecture, and development of industry-ready human resources for the IT Industry.

HUAWEI AND BANGLALINK LAUNCHES BUNDLE OFFERS

Huawei teams up with Banglalink to launch bundle offers for customers. Under the offer, Banglalink customers purchasing Huawei GR5 2017 Premium Edition, will get total 36GB internet data for free. Customers will get this data for 3 months. Every month customer will get 12GB data. Based on eligibility, bonus will be disbursed within maximum of 48 hours. Moreover, Huawei will provide lucrative backpack in every unit purchase. Interested customers can avail the offer by purchasing Huawei GR5 2017 Premium Edition worth only BDT 27,900 from all Banglalink Stores and Huawei Experience Centres at Jamuna Future Park and Bashundhara City Shopping Mall as well as other Huawei brand shops across 64 districts of Bangladesh.



Logitech K-120 Bangla keyboard launched

Computer Source and Logitech launches a full-fledged Bangla keyboard for the very first time in Bangladesh market. The unveiling ceremony of the keyboard was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre last week. Mr. A.H.M Mahfuzul Arif, MD of Computer Source, BASIS President Mustafa Jabbar and Maninder Jain of Logitech unveiled the keyboard in front of media and dealers during the event.

JUST IN

Ultralight laptops from I-Life Digital



I-Life Digital Technology recently unveiled its newest consumer laptop from the ZED family, the ZED AIR in Bangladesh. Targeted at first time PC buyers, the new laptop is designed for functionality. The ZED AIR packs everything into a beautiful, clean, and fan-less design of just 17.9mm thin and just 1.25kgs. Sporting gray, silver and gold colours ZED Air Notebook offer USB2.0, HDMI and SD Card ports to eliminate the need for additional adapters, while a full-sized keyboard and large touchpad provides comfortable typing and navigation experience. The notebook is powered by the latest Intel® Atom Quad Core mobile processors, Windows 10, 2GB of DDR3L system memory, feature a HD (1366x768) display and Up to 8 hour battery life.

Price: Tk. 16,499/-

TECH BITS Apple plans to invest \$500 million for new research centres in China



LinkedIn open sources Flashback, a tool for mocking internet traffic



Nintendo could double production of the Switch



Tesla raised \$1.2 billion via share and convertible debt sale



Netflix is replacing five-star ratings with thumbs up or down

