



The power to do more

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e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



HANDS ON REVIEW

SAMSUNG GALAXY A7 2017

Smartphones are usually a lot better when they have big screens. From sending long messages to your boss explaining how badly you need that leave, to watching videos of a kangaroo terrorising an Australian bloke in a Land Cruiser, you name it, everything is better with a bigger screen. Moreover it's IP68 water and dust resistant. But how good does it perform? Let's find out:

DISPLAY AND HARDWARE:

As with almost every other mid to high end Samsung phone in the market, the A7 also comes with an AMOLED display. It's a 1080p 5.7-inch unit with a pixel density of about 386ppi, providing saturated colours with inky blacks and adequate brightness to be clearly visible under the sun.

In a market where mid-rangers more often than not advertise themselves for having flagship specs, the A7 falls behind on paper. The Octa-Core 1.9GHz Exynos 7880 that it comes with is comparable to Qualcomm's Snapdragon 615 chipset. It is paired with 3GB of RAM, and apart from the little lag and stutters here and there, the

SOFTWARE:

The A7 ships with Android 6.0 Marshmallow. Samsung has done a great job in making their UX look as minimal as possible. The notification and quick shortcuts drop down is cleaner than ever before, and the color palette consists of colors that don't make your eyes pop out. Core apps are polished and much less heavier than they used to be.

CAMERA:

The A7 features similar 16-megapixel units both front and back. Autofocus locks on very quick and photos are mostly well exposed in imperfect lighting conditions.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

The A7 does not make you want to have hands the size of the moon. It's wrapped all around in toughened Gorilla Glass, curving round both the front and rear edges for that extra little bit of grip that decides the fate of



SPECS

Display: 5.7 inches, FHD Super AMOLED Display
Processor: 1.9 GHz Octa Core
Camera: Rear 16MP + Front 16MP
OS: Android 6.0.1 (Marshmallow)
RAM: 3GB
ROM: 32GB
Battery: 3,600mAh
Features: Fingerprint, Battery Optimisation, fast charging etc
PRICE: TK. 44,900/-

VERDICT

The A7 looks brilliant and is quite easy to use in one hand despite the massive screen real estate. Where it falls behind in raw power and sheer number of pixels, it leaps ahead in battery life and ergonomics. The camera is great when in good lighting conditions, but suffers a bit in low light. Build is fantastic; the phone feels very solid in hand with no flex at all in the chassis. The speakers don't seem to have much oomph, but that comes with most water resistant phones though. If your work or passion somehow involves staying away from a power outlet for a day or two while getting drenched in water and dust, this device can serve you well. If you need even more juice from the battery, it will top up from 0 to a 100% in less than 2 hours.



Photos taken indoors have slightly grainy bokeh but that's mostly due to the Samsung software over-sharpening the photos. Both units have a fast aperture of f/1.9 but even still, the low light performance is just slightly above average. Photos taken in well lit environments come out quite detailed and the f/1.9 lens does a very good job of blurring out whatever should not be in focus. Video recording is limited to 1080p at 30fps, with no optical or software stabilization.

WORDS AND PHOTOS:
RAHIN SADMAN ISLAM

your wallet. It follows the same design language as the likes of the premium line of devices from Samsung, resulting in the color-matched metal frame sandwiched between the two sheets of glass.

The speaker grill has been moved from the conventional bottom or rear-firing location, to an unusual place on the upper right corner of the phone, just above the unlock button. The new placement proves to be great when in portrait mode, but can be a pain when watching videos or playing games in landscape mode. Our test unit came in black and from a fair distance, you can easily mistake it for an iPhone, but everything looks like an iPhone these days, even my toaster looks like one, so that's no problem. The fingerprint reader is on the home button, where it should be (not beside the camera hump, S8).

phone fared the daily dose of gaming, YouTube, switching between multiple email clients and the usual social media platforms quite well.

Where it falls behind, it leaps ahead with its brilliant battery life. The 3600mAh battery keeps the phone going on forever, even with the Always On Display feature showing notifications along with the date and time always turned on. A new efficient Exynos chipset, an AMOLED 1080p display and a somewhat large battery seems to be the perfect formula for one of, if not the best battery life in its class. PCMark Battery benchmark tests clocked about 12hrs of battery life, hello two-day battery life.

UNDERDOG FOUR

<p>UBUNTU</p> <p>First Released : 20th October 2004 Developed By : Canonical limited Features : Libreoffice, Thunderbird, Telegram, Chromium Devices : Fairphone, Nexus special edition Active Devices : 6 Million</p>	<p>TIZEN</p> <p>First Released : 1st January, 2012 Developed By : Linux Foundation Features : HTML5, Open Source, TouchWiz Devices : Samsung Galaxy Gears Active Devices : 3-4 Million</p>
<p>SAILFISH OS</p> <p>First Released : 21st November, 2012 Developed By : Jolla Features : Grid interface, buttonless Multitasking, Unified Messaging Devices : Acer Iconia, Fairphone 2, Google nexus, HTC Desire Active Devices : 45 thousand</p>	<p>BLACKBERRY</p> <p>First Released : January 19, 1999 Developed By : BlackBerry Limited Features : Wobbly volume keys, BlackBerry HUB, Retina Resolution Devices : Blackberry 9720, Z10, Bold series, Storm Series Active Devices : 23 Million</p>

RESEARCHED BY: ATM HAYAT MOHAMMAD
DESIGNED BY: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

JUST IN

Walton brings Primo S5 with split screen option

Walton's latest smartphone Primo S5 comes with the option to do multi-tasking by splitting the screen. The phone comes with a 5.5 inches of HD IPS display and 2.5D curved screen and is protected by a 4th gen gorilla glass display. It also comes with 64 bit 1.5 GHz Quad Core Process, 3 GB RAM, Mali T720 GPU and 32GB ROM. The phone also has a 13 MP rear camera (f2.2), 8MP (f2.2) front facing camera and 3150mAh battery.
PRICE: TK. 14,990/-



TECH HAPPENING



a2i and BRAC to jointly promote technical and vocational education

Last week, Access to Information (a2i) Programme of Prime Minister's Office and BRAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at SSF briefing room of Prime Minister's Office. The aim of the MoU is to coordinate technical and vocational training with general education. Kabir Bin Anwar, Director General (Administration) and Project Director of a2i Programme and Asif Saleh, Senior Director (Strategy, Communication and Empowerment) of BRAC signed the MoU on behalf of

their respective organisations. Under this MoU signing, a2i Program and BRAC will jointly work to increase efficiency of mediocre students of class nine-ten and will assist these students to specialize in one particular trade. Under this initiative, students will receive expertise certificate from technical Board alongside SSC certificate. If a student fails SSC examination, he or she will be able to engage in employment opportunities by submitting National Skill Certificate.

Onnorokom Bigganbaksho arrives in Chittagong

After getting huge response from children in Dhaka, first ever science education kit 'Onnorokom Bigganbaksho (OB)' participated in the Chittagong International Trade Fair to inspire science education among kids of the port city. In a media release, on Thursday, the learning tool developer Onnorokom Electronics informed that the children get change to 'enjoy' experimental science projects at the 127 number stand of the on-going trade expo at polo ground area in the city.



IETF Outreach Programme starts journey in Bangladesh

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Outreach Programme officially starts journey in Bangladesh by organising a workshop titled 'IETF Outreach Program' on March 28, 2017 held at Virtual Class Room of University of Dhaka. Internet Society (ISOC) Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter organized the workshop in collaboration with Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Dhaka. President of Internet Society (ISOC) Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter Professor Dr. Shabbir Ahmed, Vice-President Md. Jahangir Hossain, General Secretary Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, Treasurer Md. Abdul Awal and Professor of Department of CSE of University of Dhaka Dr. Md. Mamun-Or-Rashid spoke at the workshop. Along with others Professor Dr. Md. Haider Ali and students from Department of CSE, University of Dhaka participated at the workshop.

Samsung hands over brand new car to the winner of Wedding Campaign

Samsung Electronics has handed over its mega gift- a brand new sedan of 'Wedding Campaign' to the winner, S.M.A Mafi Shubho received a brand new sedan car buying a Microwave Oven from Samsung's authorized distributor Transcom's showroom of Mirpur, Dhaka.

TECHBITS
Embattled Oculus co-founder Palmer Luckey leaves Facebook



SpaceX's reused Falcon 9 rocket nails the landing for a second time



Roboteam is building a 10,000-strong robot army for your home



Clinton and Rubio allegedly targeted by Russian hackers



Google bets on AI in Canada with Google Brain Toronto and Vector Institute investment

