



The power to do more

HANDS ON REVIEW

OPPO F3: SELFIE EXPERT

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Even before stepping out of the box, the Oppo F3 clearly states what it will do for you. It says Selfie Expert right there on the box, without leaving you in confusion. How well does it do the rest though?

I've tried the F3 Plus as well, so comparisons will abound. Straight off, this is a smaller, more compact, albeit a little bit more affordable repackaging of the Plus.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

They've gone the traditional route. In terms of design, it is nearly the same as the F3 Plus. It ticks the boxes of the contemporary cues: rounded corners, rounded 2.5 glass edge, and a capacitive fingerprint sensor up front sans a button. I faced multiple, awkward attempts with the bigger F3 Plus, but this surprisingly worked each and every time.

The sim card tray is situated just above the power button on the right and it contains a dedicated memory card slot along with options for two nano SIMs. On the back, the main camera is placed on the top left corner where it juts out a bit. A thoughtful design element is the slight ring around the lens that prevents it from being scratched when laid flat on it back.

While it is superbly built, it blends in with most other phones out there. Oppo went for the popular design trends making sure it feels good in the hand and in the pocket.

DISPLAY

5.5 inch is the perfect size for most people. The 1080x1920 display is the same as the F3 Plus, but being smaller, the pixels are packed tighter for a sharper display. Where it falls a little short is the display brightness on max output: it is a little dim, especially in bright sunlight.

SOFTWARE

The Oppo F3 runs ColorOS 3.0, based on Android 6.0 Marshmallow. There are plenty of customisation options in this OS that combines the key elements of Android and iOS. The app drawer is non-existent, meaning all the apps get placed smack-dab in the

middle of the home screen. But if you love iOS, you will find more inspired items in the setting menu. Following that is the accurate gesture control that works brilliantly, using the standard V drawn on-screen for flashlight, O for camera, and so on.

POWER

The device is powered by the Mediatek

More test results in our online feature on Tuesday.

CAMERA

Oppo has been focusing quite a lot on mobile photography and has developed a good reputation in its home market. The Selfie Expert wants to take it a few steps further with the Facebook crowd presumably.

considering the price range. Images are quite clear with very low levels of noise in normal light. The colours are rather muted, which is more realistic as an output, but most people may prefer a bit of additional 'punch'. For that that they will need to tweak with a filter.

The HDR mode tries to stay in the background without overpowering the image,

ard selfie. It gently blurs out the background after it detects the people on the frame. Which is good if you're standing in front of a trash can just outside your favourite eating place in Dhaka. Because trash cans are everywhere.

Video recording is 1080p with a decent bit of preserved detail.



MT6750T. It's a significant drop from the Snapdragon 653 of the Oppo F3 Plus. Paired to a Mali-T860MP2 GPU and 4GB of Ram, this has more support than most apps require. We got a score of 53,480 on AnTuTu.

While the rear 13MP Samsung camera is a pretty good choice, I wish they had kept the 16MP Sony unit from the F3 Plus. That's an f2.2 (F3) versus f1.7 (F3 Plus). In spite of that, the photos come out well



which is good as it subtly brings out the detail without creating a ghostly over-processed image. Panorama stitching is done well, with high resolution and very good detail.

The dual lens selfie setup is quite simple. You get a 16MP standard shot, which creates the usual situation where some people get cut out of the frame. That's unhappy people right there. Or you can opt for the 8MP ultra wide 120 degree view where no one is left out and everyone is happy. Image detail between the two is comparable without a noticeable loss of detail.

Unfortunately the dual lens doesn't extend to cool bokeh effects from selective focus. You do get a simulated version on the stan-

SPECS

- SIM:** Dual nano SIMs
- Display:** IPS LCD capacitive touchscreen, 5.5 inches, 1080x1920 pixels
- Corning:** Gorilla Glass 5
- OS:** ColorOS 3.0 based on Android 6.0
- CPU:** Mediatek MT6750T Octa-core 1.5 GHz Cortex-A53
- GPU:** Mali-T860MP2
- Memory:** Up to 256 GB (dedicated slot)
- Internal:** 64 GB, 4 GB RAM
- Camera:** Primary 13 MP, f/2.2, phase detection autofocus, LED flash, 1/3 inch sensor size, 1.12 µm pixel size, geo-tagging, touch focus, face detection, HDR, panorama
- Video:** 1080p@30fps, check quality
- Secondary camera:** Dual 16 MP (1/3.1 inch sensor size, f/2.0) + 8 MP, f/2.4
- Connectivity:** WLAN Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, WiFi Direct, hotspot, Bluetooth 4.1, GPS with A-GPS, MicroUSB 2.0
- Colours:** Gold, Rose Gold
- Price:** BDT 25,990

VERDICT

Solidly built. Excellent fingerprint sensor that jumps into action. Screen is very sharp, but colours are muted and sunlight legibility is a little low. It's not a deal breaker though. The 3200 mAh battery has an endurance score of 68 hours or just about a day of heavy, regular use. Photos are clear and sharp with slightly muted, realistic colours, which you may or may not prefer. Nothing that a filter won't fix. The selfies are excellent and full of detail. It does what it says on the box: it's a proper selfie expert that won't leave anyone out. What you have is a competent, affordable phone that will ensure party moments with friends are forever.

TECH HAPPENING

Survey: Bikroy among GP & Samsung prominent online brands in BD offer data bundle

A recent survey was conducted by Kantar Millward Brown on 1,000 random internet users around the country to ascertain the brand health of all internet sites in Bangladesh. Respondents were asked about their most preferred and frequently visited sites. Facebook was the top most mentioned brand,

followed by Google and YouTube. Bikroy was found to be fourth most mentioned brand, over giants like Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. While Google and YouTube improved their top-of-mind share from last year, Facebook, Bikroy and a few other sites showed a decline.

With the purchase of any top Samsung smartphone or tab, customers can get exclusive Internet bundle offers from Grameenphone. Customers will enjoy 2GB Internet for free (valid for seven days) from Grameenphone.

Samsung customers can enjoy a further 2.5GB for free (valid for seven days) upon purchasing 2.5GB at BDT 427 (valid for 30 days). The offer can be purchased 12 times in four months. List of the devices can be found online.

Brain Station-23 and banking services apps

Kaniz Suleman is in a hurry. She needs to go to the bank to withdraw money for her family expenses, but the severe traffic is throwing a road-block in her plans. Her neighbor suggested she avoid the bank altogether, 'I transfer money and perform all transactions using my mobile phone apps. Why suffer in a queue?'

Mobile phone banking is now the next big thing especially for people of our busy cities. Everything from paying bills and mobile top-up to managing loans and credit payments can be done with your cellphone.

This has resulted in several banks adopting this new shift by developing mobile apps. Prominent banks like City Bank, Mutual Trust Bank, First

Security Islami Bank, Dutch Bangla Bank have developed their own apps. Various software firms including Brain Station-23 are behind the success stories of these app based services. Over a hundred local and foreign organisations including HSBC, City Bank, AB Bank, IFIC Bank, BAT, GrameenPhone are receiving services from Brain Station.

'At present, all organisations in the world are taking their services to the customers' hands through technology. Banks are also not lagging behind,' said Raisul Kabir, Managing Director to Brain Station-23. 'We hope that the remaining banks in our country will get closer to customers through mobile apps very soon.'

UPCOMING E-SPORTS TITLES IN BANGLADESH

Gone are the days when we used to argue with non-gamers about the legitimacy of eSports in this country. The recent success stories of many top-tier local teams in the international competitions have heralded the rise of many potential superstars. While there are strong communities for the mainstream games like CS:GO, Dota 2, FIFA, or LoL, quite a few games that have the prospect of becoming the next big thing in Bangladesh are coming up.

RAINBOW SIX: SIEGE

The latest instalment in the cult-favourite Rainbow Six series returned as a shooter geared towards making splashes in the competitive gaming scene. A lot of disgruntled fans shunned the new direction of the series and



R6: Siege suffered a lot in terms of player count at first. Fast forward to today and it is one of the most-played titles on Steam. Coupled with Uplay players, the game has one of the largest thriving communities currently. In Bangladesh, a lot of gamers have been drawn by the allure of a tactical shooter that emphasises on mixing competitive gameplay with realism.

OVERWATCH



It is no secret that Overwatch is right up there amongst the most popular multiplayer games. Blizzard knows how to make a competitive structure work and it shows because Overwatch, being a relatively new entry to the eSports scene, has garnered a massive following. The reason for this is its simplicity. It's incredibly easy to pick up. Casual gamers who had no competitive fervour have

started playing ranked in order to vie for the top positions. This has brought along more people to the scene and injected new life into the somewhat elitist pro communities. In Bangladesh, the game has been picking up but things need a little bit more time to settle in.

HEROES OF THE STORM

Another title by Blizzard but the story behind this one is different. In an industry saturated by MOBAs and Hero Shooters, Heroes of the Storm struggled to find its place. On one hand, it catered to a casual audience with its exclusion of many core MOBA mechanics such as an item system. On the other, it had a lot of different maps with different objectives that needed to be focused on by a team if they wanted to win. All in all, the casual gamers were upset due to the complexity that they perceived and the pro players were not too keen on the barebones approach. Now, however, it seems the game has steered



more towards the hardcore scene as there are a plethora of heroes that are extremely unique in how they play and feel. Plus, new maps keep getting added and the fact that you have to focus on learning these maps makes it imperative that you spend a lot of time. In Bangladesh, the game's community is not that strong but it's only a matter of time and stroke of luck before it picks up.

The aforementioned games have had their growth rates somewhat stunted due to the fact that they require an internet connection to be played and they lack a dedicated LAN mode. Surely these games, and the whole eSports community as a whole, would benefit from better support by ISPs in gaming tournaments.

SHAHRUKH IKHTEAR

TECHBITS Google, IBM, Lyft launch Istio, an open-source platform for managing and securing microservices



Sony revamps Digital Paper with new screen and interface



Boeing to build DARPA's XS-1 experimental spaceplane



Foursquare data shows international tourism to the U.S. is down



Hackers are hiding malware in subtitle files

