

The power to do more

INFORMATION

GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY

The Daily Star

DHAKA, MONDAY, 3 JULY, 2017, ASHAR 19, 1424 BS  
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BYTES

HANDS ON REVIEW

# HUAWEI GR3 2017

## WHAT IS IT

The GR3 for 2017 is known by a few other names under the Huawei banner based on where it is sold. Also known as a P8 Lite for 2017 and Honor 8 Lite.

## FIRST IMPRESSION

Over time, a lot of the good stuff of the flagship phones trickle down to the budget devices. Question is: at what time does it happen? Are those tweaks that finally come down relevant any longer? The new GR3 pounces upon some of the more notable current design cues. Hold the phone in the hand and it feels comfortably hefty. The sides on initial glance appear to be metal but they are not. It's a very clever plastic construction that has a brushed metal effect. The front and back are made of 2.5D glass giving it the glamour of a device far above its price range. Being glass, it is also full of smudgy fingerprints in an instant as you stand sweating outside in the Dhaka sun.

## UNDER THE HOOD

Specs are on par with most other entry mid range. It comes out of the box packed with Android 7.0 (Nougat) layered with the Emotion UI 5.0 which recently has been significantly streamlined. There are only the needed apps and no silly bloatware. The UI is smooth with all apps kept to a separate pane on the main screen; very iOS.

Power is provided by Kirin 655 chipset. You get octa-core processing from 2.1 GHz Cortex-A53 and 1.7 GHz Cortex-A53. The GPU is a Mali-T830MP2. This is 3GB RAM, 16GB internal memory version. Antutu scores came out to 57865. App switching is predictably quick with delays being apparent only with heavy, demanding games. Heating is also on the low side. A downside is that the onboard storage is only 16GB in an age where 16GB is like having three 'futckas' for dinner: almost too little. The power is sup-

ported by a 3000mAh battery that provides plenty of juice to power you through the day despite that screen. In power saving mode, at 15 percent remaining, you can easily cover half a day.

## DISPLAY

You would think Huawei would go for a simpler display but they opted for the sharper, better yet slightly more power hungry full HD IPS of 5.2 inches. You get 1920 x 1080 resolution at 424 PPI. Viewing angles are great and the screen legibility is bright even under direct sunlight.

## CAMERA

It comes with a single 12 MP f/2.2 main rear camera. The EMUI offers the usual Huawei camera features including HDR, panorama, time-lapse, document scanning, a pro mode if you want to feel like a pro and slow-mo for videos.

The Pro mode offers the ability to keep shutters open for upto 8 seconds or as quick as 1/4000 of a second. I am pleasantly surprised with the quality of the pictures. It turns on quickly enough and takes decent shots in almost all situations. I've taken photos of pets which frankly are not at all camera friendly. Yet, a few carefully snaps will yield at least one sharp picture highlighting enough detail as apparent from the sharply outlined fur (photo samples posted online). Colours are thankfully not over saturated with greens and reds coming out quite neutral.

Grain or noise is under control in well-lit conditions. In low light indoor situations, the photos still provide enough detail without overdone software sharpening. But evening shots do suffer from a little loss of color, only to be expected.

For selfie aficionados, this is a very basic setup. There is an 8 MP f/2.0 front camera w/ wide angle lens and a screen flash. There is no autofocus so everything shows up in-shot includ-

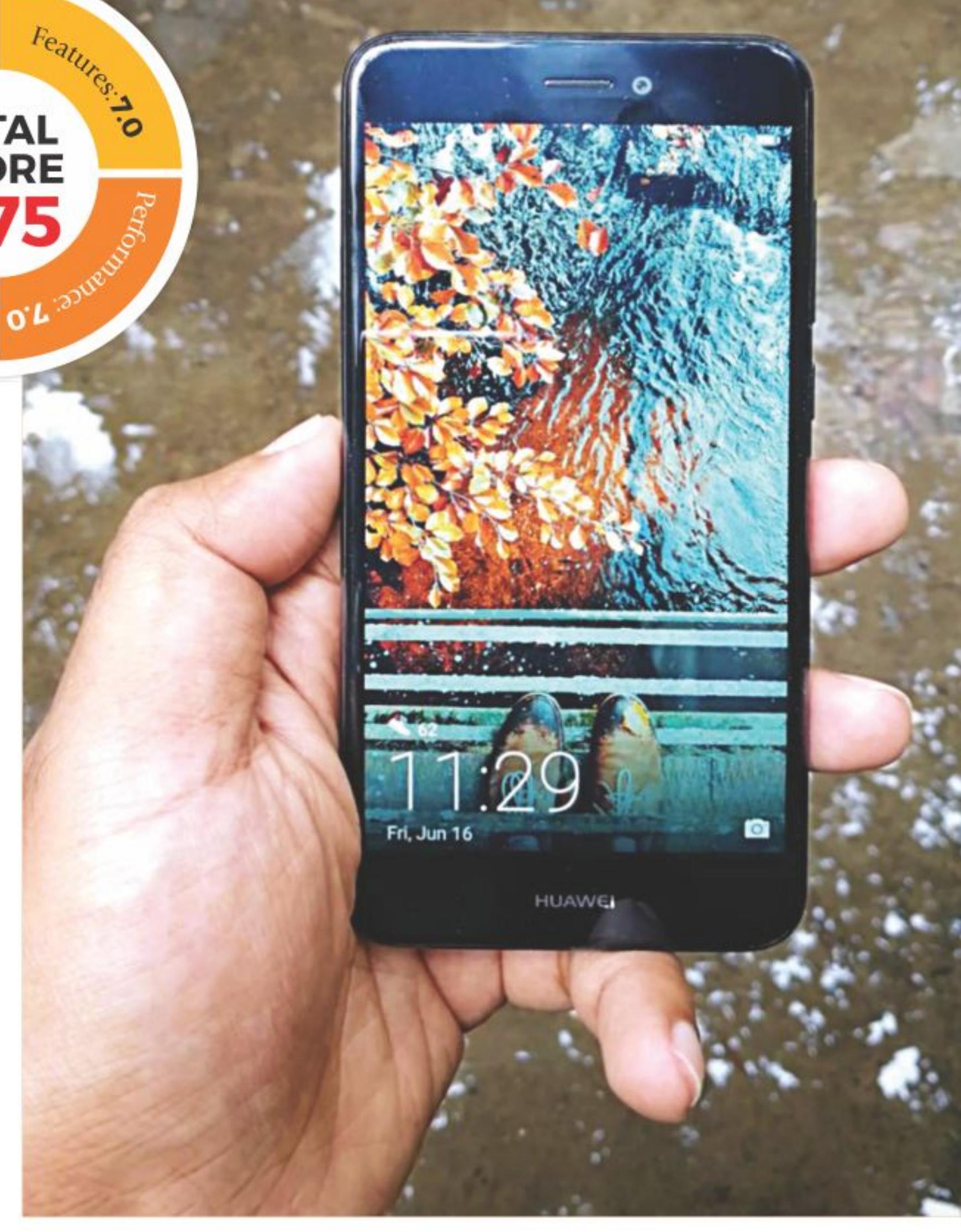
ing the aesthetically unpleasant dustbin in the background. You can't have the camera blur is out naturally. It has basic beauty modes with up to 10 levels of adjustments so you can look like a completely different person as per social media dictates. It does a good job in daylight but will struggle a bit in low light such as inside restaurants where you want to show the V sign with a pair of chicken wings but can't. Colours end up almost always being a little muted especially in bright sunlight followed by plenty of sharpening going on.

## VERDICT

It has the standard, average specs of its segment, a very sharp display and form design that is stepping into the premium range. You will love the ergonomics and the subtle weight. Also slips easily into pockets. Buttons are easily accessible for one handed operation. While the rear camera is very good, the front is just barely average but will still get your Facebook needs fulfilled if supplemented with a decent photo app. But that 16GB of storage space won't last.

Wrapping up, what you get is an affordable phone with superb styling and a balanced set of features.

**Price:** Tk 19,900/-



## TECH-ROUNDUP

This week we have flagship killer and a smart bus



128GB/8GB RAM is \$539. Compare that to an unlocked S8 at more than \$650.

### Daimler making buses that try to prevent crashing

Buses in Bangladesh are a vehicle of our nightmares considering the regular crash tests they perform on unwilling road users. Daimler makes buses (surprise?) and starting next year, their buses will be equipped with Active Brake Assist 4 (ABA 4) for its Mercedes-Benz (we have those) and Setra buses. It uses long and short range radar to detect pedestrians and other vehicles.

### Ransomware protection from Microsoft

This year the biggest growing threat to your data security is ransomware where your data is literally held hostage till you pay. Come September, Microsoft is planning to add new security updates to Windows 10. It features a new option where you can control the access to your folders by apps. This way you can prevent selected apps from accessing your personal files.

### The numbers this week

June 29, 2007 saw the release of the first iPhone.

Steve Jobs considered it to be a device 5 years ahead of its time. Ten years later, Apple has sold more than 1.2 billion iPhones.

Social media is now primarily accessed through mobile devices and the shift is continuing. According to Facebook, roughly 84 percent of its \$6.82 billion in ad revenue came from mobile ads.

Facebook now has over 2 billion monthly active users up from 1.94 billion in May.

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NEVER SETTLE

Even a \$2.2 billion investment couldn't solve LeEco's money problems



Mysterious stealth gaming startup Wonder announces \$14 million in funding

## Where are we headed?

The global data and mobile technology trends

In the last couple of decades we have seen a leap in mobile technology and this has directly and indirectly changed the course of human history. From era of bits and bytes now we are creating content and consuming content at an unprecedented rate. In Bangladesh, the trend is showing an upward trajectory- a steady stream of data creation and consumption which is increasing exponentially every month.



**2.1 GB**

Data consumed per mobile user worldwide in 2016

**12GB**

Data expected to be consumed per mobile user worldwide in 2022

## OUTLOOK 2022

**5G**

5G subscriptions will exceed half a billion by the end of 2022

**LTE**

5 billion LTE subscriptions by the end of 2022



In 2022, there will be 9 billion mobile subscriptions

8.3 billion mobile broadband subscriptions

6.2 billion unique mobile subscribers



Waymo's self-driving van hits the desert to see if it can stand the heat

Tinder's new subscription, Tinder Gold, lets you see who already likes you



Coca-Cola has built a commercialization 'Bridge' to startups worldwide



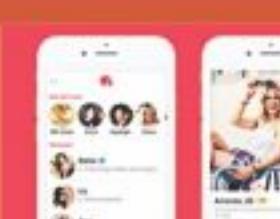
Even a \$2.2 billion investment couldn't solve LeEco's money problems



Mysterious stealth gaming startup Wonder announces \$14 million in funding



Waymo's self-driving van hits the desert to see if it can stand the heat



Tinder's new subscription, Tinder Gold, lets you see who already likes you