



The power to do more

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 rang-ers. 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 mem-ory 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 down-side is that the onboard storage is only 16GB in an age where 16GB is like having three 'futchkas' 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 leg-ibility 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 cam-era 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 shut-ters 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 pic-ture 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 over-done 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 dust-bin in the background. You can't have the camera blur is out natu-rally. It has basic beauty modes with up to 10 levels of adjust-ments 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.

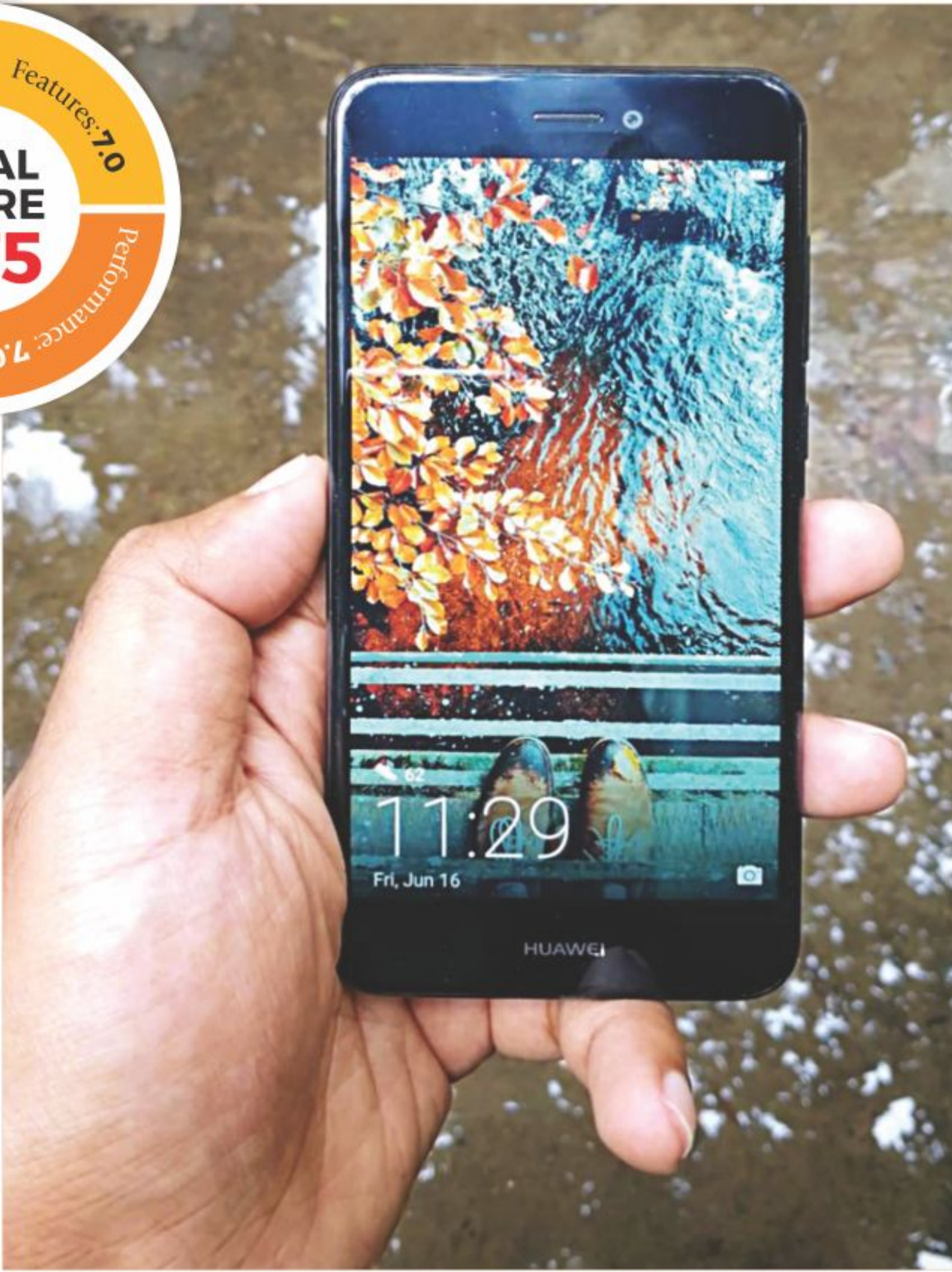
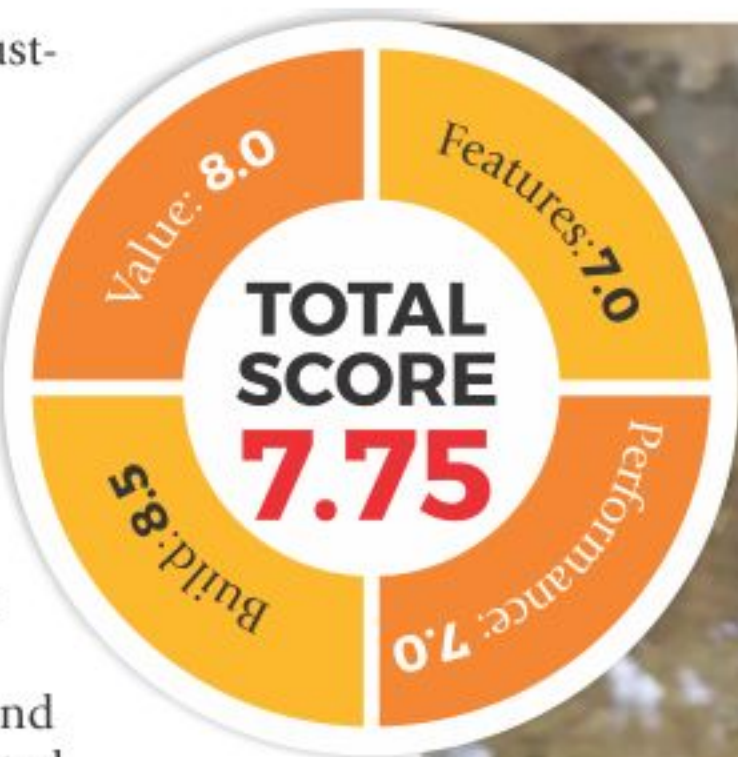
VERDICT

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/-

PHOTOS AND WORDS:
EHSANUR RAZA RONNY



TECH-ROUNDUP

This week we have flagship killer and a smart bus

In OnePlus still the flagship killer?

OnePlus 5 has been out for a while now. Two of our users have reported it to be the 'coolest thing on this side of an iPhone'. And considering the price bracket, it probably is.

One complaint some people have mentioned on the forums is an occasional 'jelly-like' effect as you scroll. OnePlus states all its compo-nents are made of the highest qual-ity materials.

The Qualcomm MSM8998 Snapdragon 835 and Adreno 540 offers incredibly fast performance and the 3300 mAh battery provides an 18 hour usage or more than a day of regular operation.

It also comes with one of the best cameras on the market. Dual main cameras of 16 MP f/1.7, 24mm and 20 MP, f/2.6, 36mm. Those two cameras are now standard fare to get that all important Instagram friendly "bokeh" effect created from a shallow depth of field. It's unfortunately not the killer budget deal it used to be. It's still cheaper, but starting to close the margin with others. A 64GB/6GB RAM costs \$479 online and a



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 start-ing 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 vehi-

cles. It's a feature now almost standard on many high-end and luxury vehicles. It can gauge objects 250 meters away. The short range radar can detect peo-ple in less than 70including peo-ple moving around the front cor-ner. What Bangladesh needs is a complete stop; no matter how fast the driver wants to go.

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.

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Where are we headed?

The global data and mobile technology trends

In the last couple of decades we have seem 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.

We are now at a point where video data that we are creating are more data than voice and image data combined. This uproar in data consumption is mostly due to the fact more and more people are getting access of to high speed internet through their smartphones. Be it watching live sports, social media videos, and professional content- Bangladeshi are consuming them more than ever now.

As mentioned, this tremendous growth in data consumption is fueled by adoption of high speed mobile broad-band. Looking at the global picture, we can see how more and more people are consuming video content. Even in our neighboring country India we are seeing a rise of consumption of data. According to Ericsson's Mobility Report 2017, in Q1 2017 India saw an addition of 43 million subscribers with China and Indonesia being second and third with over 24 million and 10 million subscribers respectively.

Mobile broadband will account for more than 90 percent of all subscriptions by 2022. It's anticipated that by the end of 2022 there will be 9 billion mobile subscriptions. Mobile broadband sub-scriptions will reach 8.3 billion, thereby accounting for more than 90 percent of all mobile subscriptions. The number of unique mobile subscribers is estimated to reach 6.2 billion by the end of 2022. Mobile broadband will complement fixed broadband in some segments, and will be the dominant mode of access in others.

Greater device affordability is driving increased smartphone adoption. At the end of 2016, there were 3.9 billion smartphone subscriptions. The majority of these subscriptions (90 percent) were for 3G and 4G. Interestingly, 70% of the 2.1 billion people without a mobile broadband connection in 2022 will have mobile broadband coverage.



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

