



The power to do more

The Daily Star

DHAKA, MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER, 2017, POUISH 4, 1424 BS
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY



OPPO F5

THE RETURN OF THE SELFIE EXPERT

Going bezel-less or near to the edge is the latest trend amongst phone designers after several top dogs launched their edge to edge display phones. Riding that very wave, OPPO has brought a new device nearly a month ago – The OPPO F5. OPPO, which has synonymised itself as the 'Selfie-Expert', through this device wants to continue to target the selfie-lover segment. But how good is the latest iteration of the F series? Let's find out:

Firstly, the phone looks gorgeous- design wise. It's everything you want in your new phone – a trendy metal-finished exterior, a slim form-factor, a bit tall yet not too tall for your fingers to play around and of course a near-edge-to-edge display. It measures 6 inches diagonally with a 1080X2160 pixel display – meaning the aspect ratio is 18:9.

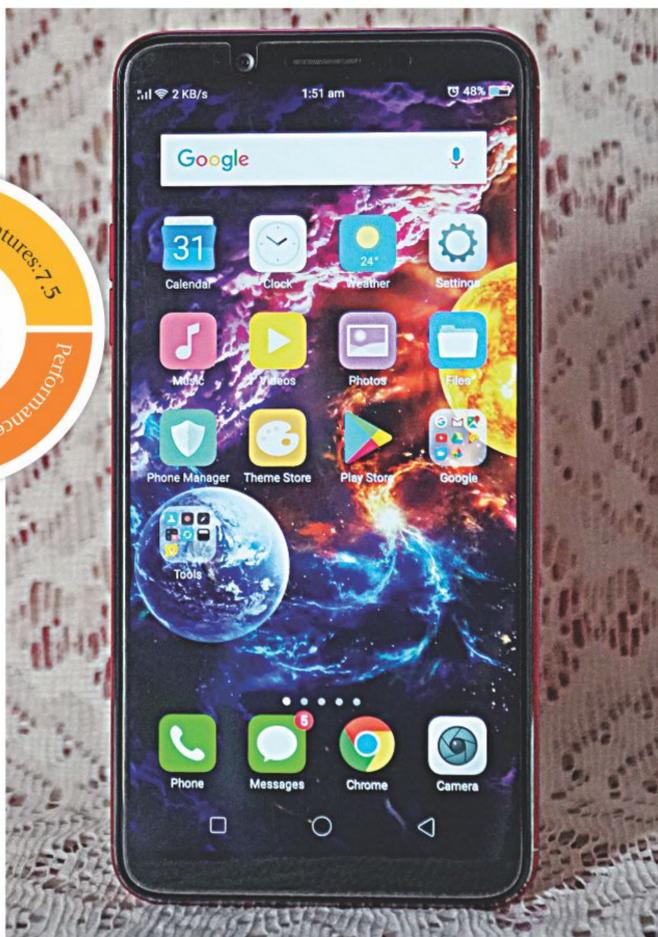
Secondly, the performance of the phone is average or a bit above average. It sports a fairly new processor: MediaTek MT6763T, which comes with eight ARM Cortex A53 cores, four of which run at 2.3GHz while resting of the four-run at 1.65GHz. The phone also packs a Mali G71 MP2 graphics processing unit. We tried playing some of the graphics-demanding games and it was able to render those at medium settings. A bit of stuttering was noticed when we went to the highest settings. Aiding the processors was a 4GB RAM module. The phone does also have a 6GB version which does come with a sizzling red colour. The phone's ROM or internal memory also varies according to the version: 4GB one has 32GB storage whereas the 6GB one has 64GB storage.

Now comes the most awaited part for most of our readers: the camera! Unlike the market competition, OPPO has kept itself in the Solo camera-sphere. Not that we are complaining- rather we have seen in the past how the single camera is good enough for most of your average photos and selfies. The back camera,

which ironically isn't the primary camera of the phones, comes with a 16MP sensor and a f/1.8 lens. We loved the Auto Settings Detection for HDR. The shutter speed of the phone was a bit iffy, particularly with the auto settings.

The selfie camera, the single key focus of OPPO's marketing campaigns, is a bit larger (1/2.8") compared to previous generations. The AI part is more sort of a marketing gimmick too. What it truly does is draws a reference from its trained processor and brighten, lighten or sharpen up the photo no matter what your age, gender, skin tone etc. I honestly have never been a fan of camera-based photo editing. Instagram has always been my go-to photo editing tool –so clearly I should be saying much about the AI based photo editing of OPPO. Many of my colleagues have tried it and they sort of liked it.

Some stuff that we have to mention about the device: the fingerprint scanner is blazing fast. Works 99% percent of the time without any hiccups. BTW it's on the back now. One of the saddest demises on the phone is the VOOC charger.



WHO IS THIS FOR?

For the price-tag, OPPO offers a decent device. It offers a above average performance which many my find adequate. The 6GB RAM version runs the phone smooth even when multi-tasking. That's certainly one of the features that we love. However the problem with this phone is there are multiple brands that are offering almost similar configuration and features. The camera from OPPO, as always, did stand out. It also boasts a tough competition in terms of form factor. But will it be able to win the hearts of the customer? Only time can tell.

SPECS

Display: 6.0 inch touch screen
OS: Android 7.1.1
CPU: Octa-core 2.5 GHz Cortex-A53
GPU: Mali-G71 Mp2
RAM: 4GB/6GB
ROM: 32GB/ 64GB
Camera: Front-20 MP (f/2.0, 1/2.8") & Back-16 MP, f/1.8
Battery: 3200 mAh
Price: Tk. 24,990 (4GB) Tk. 32,990 (6GB)

PHOTOS & WORDS: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

HOW TO PORTRAIT LIKE A PRO USING DUAL LENS CAMERA

More smartphones are focusing on creating prettier, fancier Instagrammy portrait effects because we love ourselves. Dual lenses is the factory in-thing for just that effect. Here are tips to make your portraits come out better.



Keep background clutter to a minimum

The dual lenses are primarily for creating that smooth background blur. The Huawei Nova 2i uses the secondary 2MP lens mainly to detect depth more accurately. Keep the background as clean and clutter free as possible otherwise the blur around your subject may not always be perfectly smooth. Keep in mind, most of these devices still rely on mostly software processing for that bokeh



Try monochrome for sharp details

Monochrome takes away unnecessary information from an image and leave you with a raw, powerful visual that emphasizes specific elements. It works even when it is just a filter. In case of portraits, focus on eyes. Make sure they are well lit. People are naturally drawn towards eyes as they provide an instant change in the story you're telling.



Used the 'Selective' feature in Snapseed

Snapseed is a brilliant power tool for editing image. It has tons of filters but most importantly, has photo improving tools usually reserved for RAW images. The selective tool lets you pick dark or bright spots all over the image and adjust each point individually. You can select between brightness, structure, colour saturation and contrast.



Use PRO mode and a longer shutter speed

Almost every camera comes with a PRO mode. The Nova 2i we're using allows for ISO, exposure, autofocus mode, white balance and shutter speed. You can set up a tripod and a slower shutter speed to get sharper, brighter. Less noisy images in low light.



Have Patience

Breathe. Relax. Steady your hands. With patience, any camera phone can result in quite outstanding portrait shots.



Avoid the flash

Phone flashes are emergency light sources. Using them for photos create jarring bright patches.

BY: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN & EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

JUST IN

First 'Made in Bangladesh' Smartphone Primo E8i by Wato hits the market

'Primo E8i', the first locally manufactured smartphone by Walton Walton Digi-Tech Industries Ltd was launched in the market last week. The 4.5-inch Primo E8i features a 1.2 GHz Quad Core Processor, Mali-400 GPU, 512 MB RAM with 8 GB internal storage. It has a 5MP rear camera with LED flash and a 2MP front camera for selfies. The phone runs on Android Marshmallow and features a 1700 mAh li-ion battery.
Price: Tk. 3,500/-



TECH HAPPENING

Robi launches its own native gaming platform- MyPlay

Robi has launched the largest gaming platform of the country, MyPlay, at a city hotel Robi has partnered with Gakk Media to launch the gaming platform. Both, Robi and Airtel users can enjoy this gaming platform and is accessible through APP or WAP or WEB. Robi's Chief Corporate and People Officer,

Matiul Islam Nowshad, Vice President, Market Operations, Md. Mahbulul Alam Bhuiyan and Gakk Media BD Ltd.'s CEO Sabirul Haque were also present on the occasion.

MyPlay contains games of various kinds; such as: action, adventure, racing, puzzle, arcade, sports, strategy and

many others. The beauty of this platform is that it allows users to play these games online, in addition to the usual download facilities. According to the press release, MyPlay has partnership with many international games providers and many local game developers are involved in this platform.

Doctorola to support cancer patients with health insurance

Doctor appointment service Doctorola Ltd. recently signed an MOU with Pragati Life Insurance Ltd. Both companies have launched an insurance scheme named "Cancer Care" which will provide financial support to those who are struggling with the cost associated with cancer treatment. The MOU was signed by Mr. Mohammad Abdul Matin Emon, Managing Director & CEO of Doctorola Ltd. and Md. Jalalul Azim, Managing Director & CEO of Pragati Life Insurance Ltd.

ServicEngine Ltd wins ICT Day Award for recognition in ICT sector

ServicEngine Ltd has been awarded for its contribution in the ICT sector by the ICT ministry for being the highest export of IT services for the last fiscal year. Syed Akram Hossain, Chief Operating Officer received the award on behalf of the company. The program was hosted by ICT ministry and Bangladesh Computer Council at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) on 12th December'17 last and the award was handed over by Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP & Honorable Speaker, National Parliament of Bangladesh and State Ministry of ICT, Mr Junaid Ahmed Palak, MP.

TECH BITS

Loot, the digital current account aimed at students and millennials, banks £2.2M Series A



Google is using light beam tech to connect rural India to the internet



Go-Jek buys three startups to advance its mobile payment business



Uber investor Shervin Pishevar resigns from Sherpa Capital



The FCC finally repealed net neutrality.

