



The power to do more

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INFORMATION | GADGETS | TECHNOLOGY

BYTES

HANDS-ON REVIEW

SAMSUNG GALAXY S9+

WHAT'S NEW

It's a bigger, badder version of last year's must have, must sell kidney-for-a-phone. And if you sold a kidney last year, you are out of luck trying to purchase the new S9+. It is pricier.

It has a massive 6.2 inch curved display that continues to fall over the edges like an exotic waterfall. Much like the way your wallet contents will disappear. And that's the last of our wide-eyed price point proclamations.

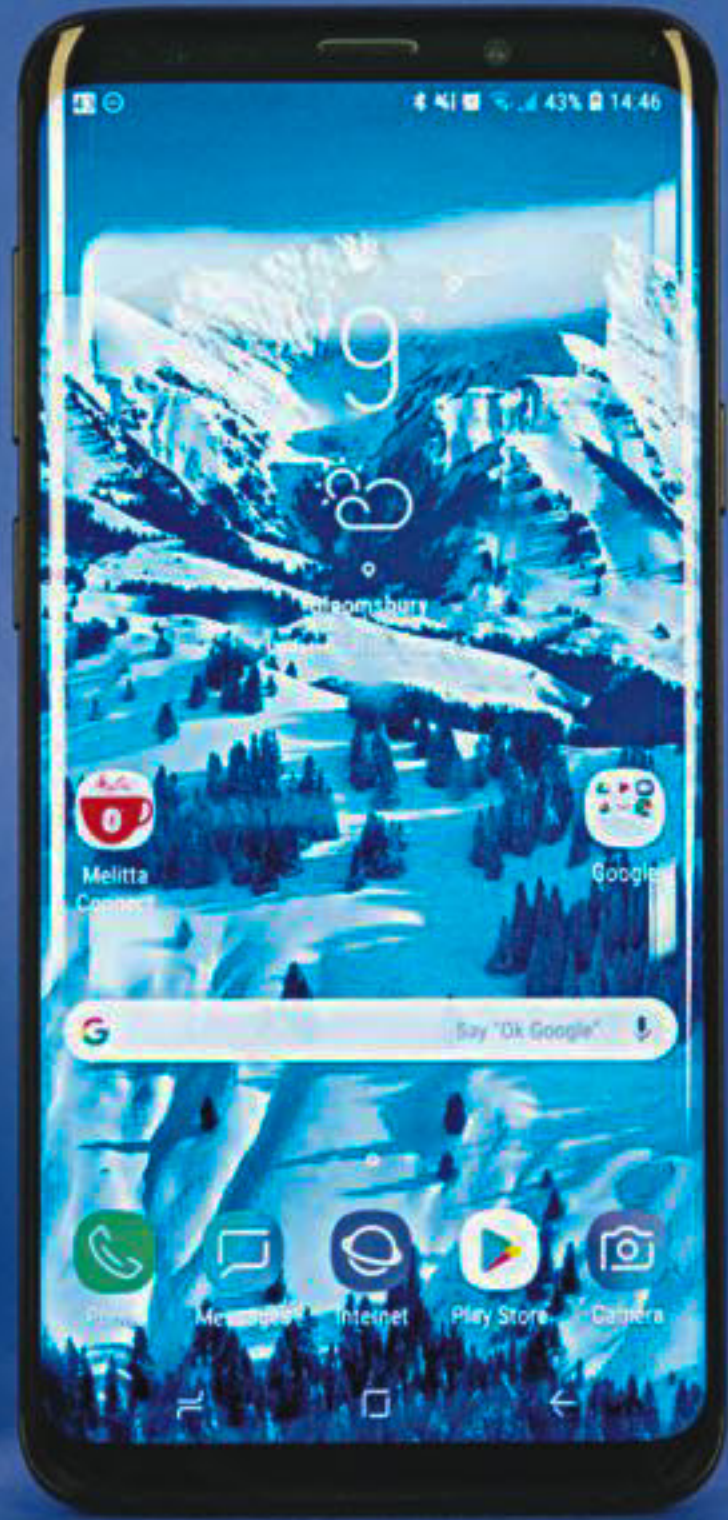
While the device is big, it is actually a bit shorter than the previous S8 plus. They did the unthinkable magic of narrowing down the bezels even further to give you more screen awesomeness.

And finally, they fixed the one annoying design glitch: the off centre fingerprint scanner. Now on the S9 and the plus, it is located smack dab in the middle NO more awkward caressing of the backside looking for right spot. He face detection and iris scanner ensured that would not be a problem, but plenty of people prefer to be horrified by their face being scanned by strange invisible rays.

And then there are stereo speakers on a Samsung flagship for the first time. These are supposedly 40 percent louder.

WHAT ISN'T

The design isn't new. But then, you sometime don't need new when the old works so well. Putting the older unit side by side, it is difficult to tell them apart at first glance. They have also stuck with the 3.5mm jack in this day of Bluetooth headphones. The microSD



THE VERDICT

This is a pricey device (again) but then this is the hottest device RIGHT NOW. It mixes the tried and tested old bits, fixes a few issues and adds a few cool features. So it seems to have done it all right. It's a fantastic new device which will not disappoint. It is also a big phone requiring big hands. The 3500mAh battery manages to get you through an easy day and more of showing off your fancy new device.

But is it a terrific upgrade? While the AR Emoji isn't really all that cool, the S9 offers one of the best camera experiences on a smartphone right now. Most S8/8+ users will not be noticing significant difference in processing performance or even how it looks. But in the end, you sometimes get something because it is cool. And this definitely is cool.

SPECS

Display: 6.2 inches, Super AMOLED, 1440 x 2960 pixels, 18.5:9 ratio
OS: Android 8.0 (Oreo)
CPU: Octa-core (2.7GHz, 1.7GHz)
RAM: 6GB
ROM: 64GB
Camera: Front-8.0 MP & Back- 12.0 MP + 12.0 MP
Features: Accelerometer, Barometer, Fingerprint Sensor, Gyro Sensor, Geomagnetic Sensor, Hall Sensor, HR Sensor, Iris Sensor, Pressure Sensor etc.
Battery: 3500 Mah
Price: Tk. 105,900/-

card slot also remains which is always a good thing as does the Bixby call button, which still cannot be remapped without third party app.

So it turns out, what gets carried over is mostly the good stuff.

IMPRESSED BY THE SCREEN

Some device manufacturers go full screen

only to cut a silly looking notch on the top. The S9 and plus offers default FullHD 1080p, notch-free display. Vibrant colors and an amazingly high contrast ratio will bring you back to the screen over and over.

PARTY TRICKS

AR emoji is all the rage or so manufacturers want you to believe. Apple did it. And now

Samsung has its version called, er, AR Emoji. Rather straightforward there. The front 8MP camera analyses a 2D image of your face and creates tons of facial features to create cartoony 3D avatars. You can convert it to a standard GIF and send it to your non S9 friends to be super annoying. Although my avatar ended up having a rather furry/cottony

beard instead of my actual caveman face.

POWERHOUSE

The global unit is powered by the Exynos 9810 and 6GB of RAM. Qualcomm Snapdragon 845 chipset is on the US and China versions. In either case, there is currently nothing on the market to slow down the phone. Or even give it a hic-cup. Nothing. Running on Android 8.0 Oreo, Samsung has done away with the TouchWiz. Now called Samsung Experience, the streamlined software now features very little bloatware, most of which can be deleted. This is probably the best iteration of the Samsung flagship OS so far.

IT SHOOTS, IT SCORES

Few phones are there to beat it for photo quality now. The camera unit also borrowed a little from last year's Note8. It now feature an optical zoom lens. The f/1.5 aperture is the first on a smartphone ever. It can apparently take in 28 percent more light meaning your photos in low light are that much well-lit and sharper. While the images are super sharp in average light, in low light situations the bigger aperture ends up over processing certain facial features giving you smooth polished skin. Which, according to Instagram trends, is exactly what people want.

Video can be shot at a max 4K resolution at 60 fps limited to five minutes for keeping file sizes manageable. It lacks optical stabilisation which is available for all video resolution from 4k 30fps down. But this year, the most hip feature is the super slow motion at 960fps for 720p video.

EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

Pathao pacing up



Local ride-hailing service Pathao has closed yet another round of funding (Pre-Series B) which now puts this startup's valuation a bit north of \$100 million. The news broke a few days back and was later confirmed by Hussain Elius, the CEO of Pathao. The latest round was led by Indonesian ride-sharing startup Go-Jek, and according to TechCrunch, the amount is more than \$10 million. However, no official confirmation has been received from Pathao regarding the amount. This is the second round of investment that was led by Go-Jek. In the immediate past round, Pathao was estimated to have raised another \$2 million (Pre-Series A).

So where are these gigantic amounts of investments going in? According to sources inside Pathao, Pathao is heavily investing in scaling

up the business with the current and the upcoming investments going in there too. They are also hiring engineers and trying to make the tech better. The app of Pathao isn't the best in the market but it is good at getting the job done, for now.

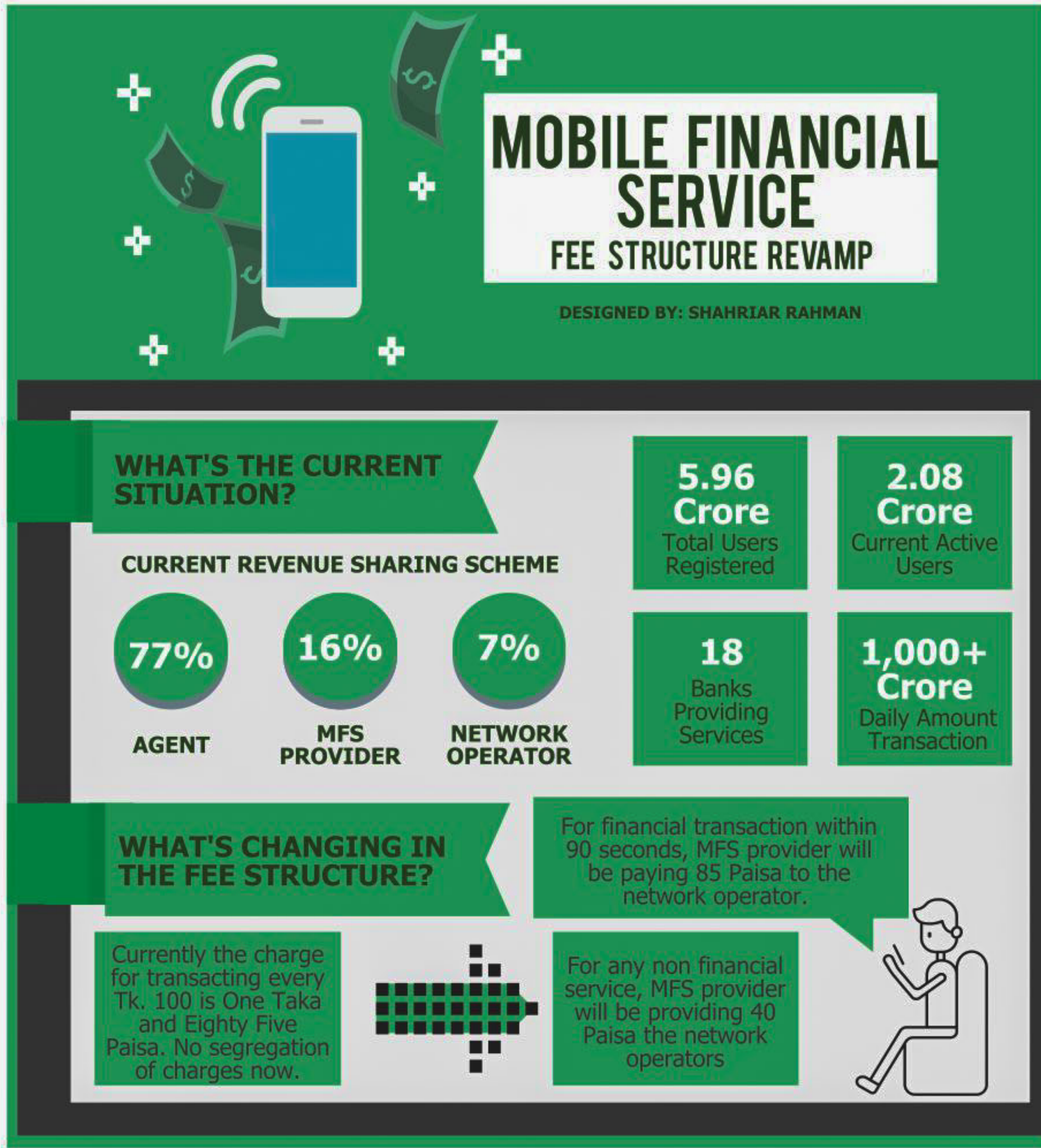
Moreover, in an interview with CNBC recently, Elius said they are going to get into the 'e-wallet' business as they have a network of riders. This 'bold' move, according to industry analysts, is not uncommon. Southeast Asian ride-hailing service, Grab also opened up mobile payment wallet called GrabPay. GrabPay credits can be used for purchasing just via your smartphone.

What once started as a parcel delivery service, Pathao has now pivoted its business slightly by launching bike and car sharing services. Initially

Pathao started with its own bikes. But quickly after launching, they started signing up riders. Now it has Pathao Foods which is growing fast- thanks to its city-wide coverage. If Pathao's e-wallet does see the light of day, the food delivery service will become a big hit as Pathao credits can be used as a method of payment.

No doubt, Pathao has a long treacherous path ahead. With Uber, Obhai and many other players in the market doing almost the same thing it's doing, Pathao can thrive only by pacing up its game. And if everything does go accordingly, then who knows, in a couple of years Pathao might emerge as a truly homegrown UNICORN.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN



JUST IN

HUAWEI nova 3e pre-booking ongoing



Huawei has launched a new smartphone HUAWEI nova 3e in the country. This uniquely featured smartphone is specifically designed for dynamic, young professionals. The HUAWEI nova 3e features Huawei FullView Display 2.0 with a 5.84-inch FHD screen, a 16 MP front camera with light fusion portrait technology and a 16MP & 2MP dual-lens rear camera, 4GB RAM & 64GB internal memory (can expand up to 256GB).
Price: Tk. 27,990/-

WALTON RELEASES NEW FULL VIEW DISPLAY SMARTPHONE

Walton released new gen. full view display smartphone Primo EF7. It features a 4.95-inch wider screen with 960X480 & 2.5D curved glass and BSI 5MP rear camera with LED flash while bears another 2MP front camera for selfies. It comes equipped with a 1.2 GHz Quad Core Processor, 1 GB of DDR3 RAM with 8 GB ROM (expandable up to 32 GB), the Primo EF7 fea-



tures Mali-400 as GPU. The phone runs on Android Nougat 7.0 and is powered by a 2100 mAh li-ion battery.
Price: Tk. 4,499/-

TECH HAPPENING

Over 1 lac people served by Doctorola

Doctorola.com, a doctor appointment service, has already served more than 1 lac 20 thousand people. According to a press release issued recently, Doctorola added more than 8 thousand registered doctors in its account. Anyone who wants to take appointment from any of the doctors can easily now make an appointment using any of the following three systems: Mobile App, Website (Doctorola.com) or their hotline 16484.

ACM ICPC Kolkata-Kanpur regional site judge from Bangladesh

Kazi Hasan Zubaer, BUET CSE Graduate and currently working in Kona Software Lab as R&D Engineer joined as a judge in ACM ICPC regional contest of Kolkata-Kanpur site recently. He participated in different national level programming contents and is passionate in solving problems. He represented Bangladesh in the prestigious event of ACM ICPC regional contest.

TECH BITS Amazon is now selling home security services, including installations and no monthly fees



Mozilla Hubs is a super-simple social chat room for robots



DeepCode cleans your code with the power of AI



Amazon up 7% following earnings beat



Apple iTunes finally arrives in the Windows Store

