HANDS ON REVIEW

Xiaomi Redmi 7

To dip its toes in the mid-range entry-level market, Xiaomi has brought yet another device with a not-so-hefty price tag: Redmi 7. Compared to its previous iteration, Redmi 7 is a huge upgrade in terms of design and quality. The performance, however, got a proportional upgrade instead of an exponential one; unlike the design. Let's find out what else the device has to offer:

Design wise, Redmi 7 is a stunner. The departure from all aluminium chassis might disappoint a few but to us, the new reflective coated all plastic body felt really good. Our review unit came in 'Eclipse Black' but we loved the other two-colour gradient schemes: Lunar Red and Comet Blue. The 6.26-inch IPS LCD display of the phone on the front houses a tiny notch for the front-facing camera. The dual camera setup is housed on the back along with the fingerprint sensor. The charging port on the bottom and the 3.5mm jack on the top.

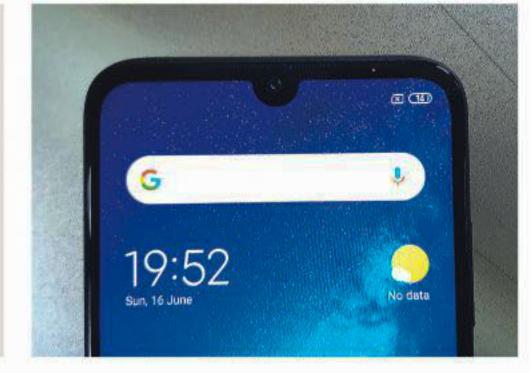The display of the phone isn't going to offer you the sharpest resolution but for a 720 X 1520 HD screen with a price-tag under BDT 15k is certainly a bargain deal. The display is properly lit even in Dhaka's glaring sunshine. I have the adaptive feature on, so didn't really find it hard to operate the phone in outdoors.

Redmi 7, very much like its predecessor, delivers sub-par performance. As a daily drive, the phone was able to perform smoothly while I constantly juggled between YouTube, Facebook, and several other messaging apps. The phone started to lag a bit when I had more than 20 tabs opened in the browser. The lag becomes even more prominent when you start playing GPU intensive games such as PUBG or Fortnite. I had to restart the phone once when I was playing PUBG in low-graphics settings; probably it was a bit too much for the Adreno 506 to process.

Redmi 7 comes in two memory variants: 2GB RAM with 16GB ROM and 3GB RAM with 32GB ROM. Our review unit was the latter version, so this is the best you can get out of your phone.

The phone runs MIUI interface on top of Android 9 operating system. This means you have many bloatware. On the other hand, you also have some useful tools and tweaks at your disposal including clone apps. Xiaomi provides security patches and upgrades time to time which is also great to keep your phone optimised all the time.

Redmi 7 comes with a 12-megapixel f/2.2 primary back camera tied with a 2-megapixel depth sensor. The camera app of the phone has some stabilisation and AI-based scenes

TOTAL SCORE 6.5

DISPLAY: 6.5
CAMERA: 6.0
PERFORMANCE: 6.5
BUILD: 7.5
BATTERY: 8.0

SPECS

Display: IPS LCD capacitive 6.26 inches
OS: Android 9.0 (Pie); MIUI 9
CPU: Qualcomm Snapdragon 632
GPU: Adreno 506
RAM: 3 GB
ROM: 32 GB
Camera:
-Back: 12 MP, f/2.2, 1.25μm, PDAF & 2 MP, depth sensor
-Front: 8 MP, f/2.0, 1.12μm
Battery: 4000 mAh Li-ion Battery
Price: Tk. 13,999/-

detection. The modes include Pro, portrait, group selfie, time-lapse, beautification, etc. Probably the best feature of the phone is Google Lens. The snaps that we took came out decent. Colour contrast was a bit off and some photos came out way too saturated. In case of the front camera, the selfies turned out great. The shocking part was the above average quality of photos in low light in both of the cameras.

Battery life is the best feature of the phone. The phone can endure day long abuse without any issues. Be it streaming, be it Facebooking, be it listening to music… you will have enough juice to last the entire day. The fast charging with the wall-charger was impressive too.

VERDICT

Undoubtedly this is one of the best 'value buy' smartphones of the market right now. It offers best in class features with superb battery life for just BDT 14K. The competition might have devices with a bit better camera, but certainly doesn't outweigh Redmi 7's design and functionality. All in all, this is a great smartphone if you don't have a deep pocket.

REVIEW & PHOTOS BY: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Best moments of E3 2019

E3 2019 was filled with some amazing new games, endearing moments and surprises. The most memorable Electronic Entertainment Expos are remembered as much for the jaw-dropping reveals as they are for the on-stage antics and moments. So, joining the ranks of "$299", Caffeine Man and a host of other great E3 moments, here are the best from this year's E3.

YOU'RE BREATHTAKING

Keanu Reeves appearing on stage for Cyberpunk 2077 was easily the best moment of E3. His time on stage was breathtaking and wholesome, and it was exciting to see Keanu's character revealed at the end of the trailer for Cyberpunk 2077. Cyberpunk 2077 is available for pre-order.

PUNISHER AND HIS PUPPY

The Punisher actor, Jon Bernthal came out to the Ubisoft show floor at E3 to talk about Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon Breakpoint. He, however, brought along a special little friend alongside, his own pet pitbull Bam Bam. The grey pitbull lept onto the stage and made it his own.

DEVOLVER

This was Devolver Digital's third time presenting at the show and the company's presentation, like always, was over the top. Following the death of their fictional CEO Nina Struthers, Devolver picked things up where they left off and decided to do the presentation in her consciousness.

BETHESDA'S CROWD ENTHUSIASM

Bethesda's sweet little lies usually start and end with Todd Howard but it seems like the crowd had joined in too for E3 this year. There are rumours that Bethesda paid the crowd to cheer and it was blatant because they cheered literally everything even Fallout 76 stuff.

TECH INSIGHT

Can AMD finally win this game?

Over the second half of the 2010s, AMD has been bringing out some the best processors on the market. Spending less than five years to overtake industry titan Intel, AMD is showing no signs of stopping any time soon. At the AMD keynote on May 27th 2019, AMD unveiled their 3rd Generation processors to the world, with a release date just a few short months later on July 7th. Having already announced their Zen 2 Architecture earlier this year, this new processor capitalizes on the announced 7 nanometers manufacturing process and cheaply producing high powered and efficient processors. The biggest attraction? The price is half of Intel's.

The new CPU is going to have 12 cores on its 24-thread processor. Even though intel has been able to flaunt its own dozen core processor, AMD has completely frog-leaped right over their heads with their own product. The size being 7 nanometers is a crucial point. The reduction of size comes with the obvious benefit of taking up less space on your motherboard. The further benefits lie within. With the new size, AMD's new processor now has less power requirements. With their new manufacturing process, they have managed to efficiently manage power usage which will lead to lower temperatures, better over clocking and, as a benefit especially for our older and more independent gamers, lower power bills.

The chiplets die carrying the power cores have been shrunk. This means that each processor has the ability to contain more cores. Contrary to previous release, the chiplet size has shrunk to the point where 3 chiplets can be used in the space for one. The Ryzen 7 processors, part of the most recent lineup, though still have 8 cores, but the Ryzen 9 3900X has benefitted the most from this shrink by having 12 cores on a 24-thread processor.

The processor market is brutal, with companies taking as many shots as possible to beat the competition as much as possible. During Computex, Ryzen displayed their new processors, Ryzen 7 3900X against the performance of Intel's top-of-the-line core i9 9920X CPU, also sporting 12 cores. With the former surpassing the latter's performance by 18%, AMD out showed intel, leaving

them in the dust.

The pricing is another factor that makes this already incredible product even more so. The price point for Intel's I9 9920X has a price point reaching a rather blood-curdling level at $1,199 (over 1lakh bdt). Bringing out performances and features far above that, the Ryzen hits stores with the price point of $499 (approximately 42,000 BDT). I know, exchange rates suck. With the average gaming PC budget here being approximately $1000, this opens up to a more powerful range of components to buy. Now you don't have to wait 2 years for the price to fall. Just get it now for less than half.

Even though AMD's processor coming into the market does warrant the company's inevitable success, it brings some deeper glad tidings our way. Instead of the new product, as great as it is, I find my attention drawn towards the manufacturing. Finding an easier, cheaper and more efficient method of production is an economist's dream. If this method can soon be shared, then as gamers and PC enthusiasts as a whole, maybe this can slowly be adapted to making more components and reducing the amount of money we shell out. With each year of innovation, we reach further lengths of efficiency. And that just seems great.

RASHAAD HABIB