

HANDS ON REVIEW

ONEPLUS 7 PRO

An exquisite rusty katana

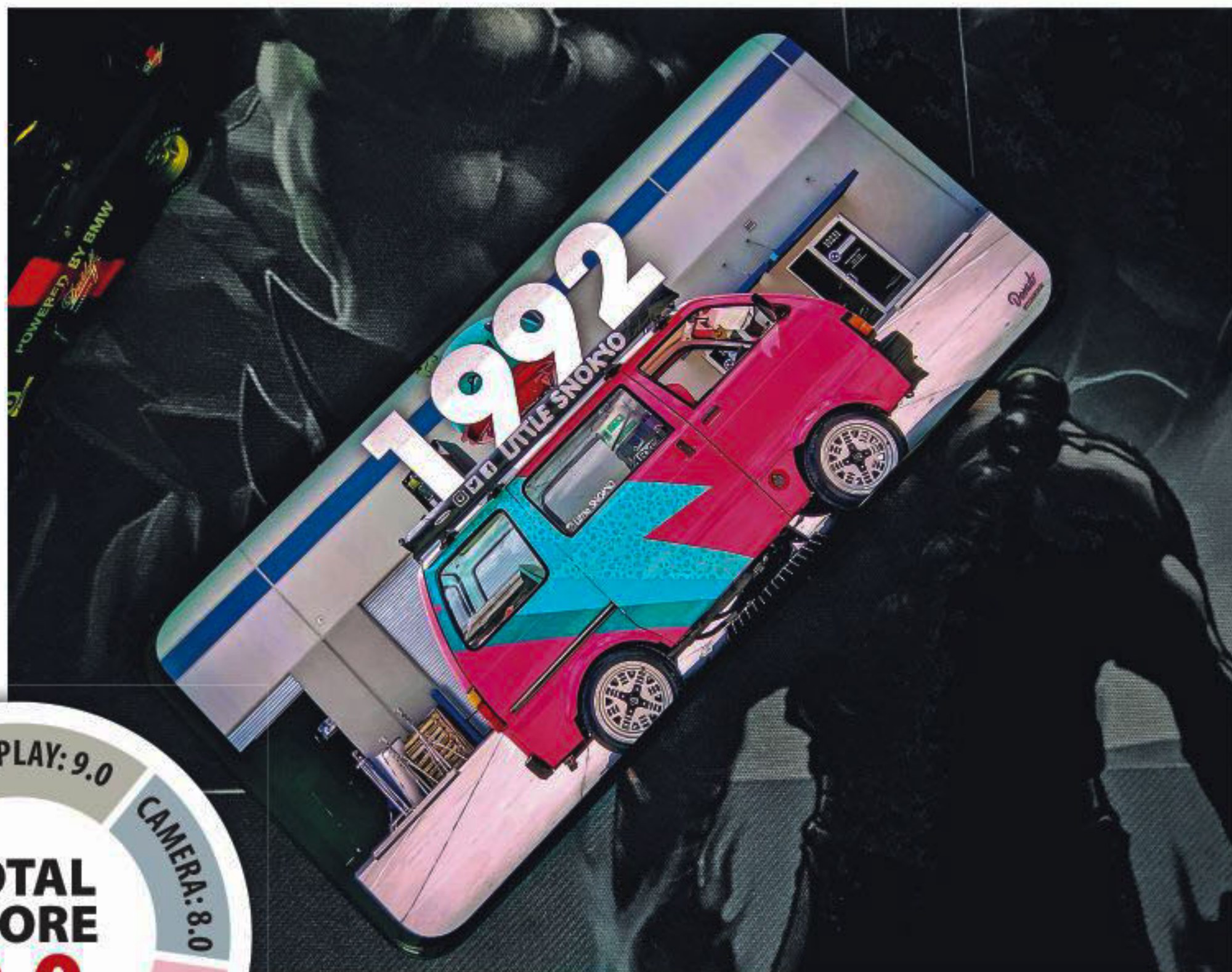
Not that long ago, OnePlus was considered the blue collar working class hero, taking Thor's hammer and smashing above its white collar peers like Apple and Samsung. This year's 7 Pro is clearly a sign of OnePlus shifting its strategy from 'bang for buck' to 'buck for bang'. So, has OnePlus really done anything to change the formula to justify its admission to the top tier club?

BUILD

I am glad to report that the phone at least looks and feels like a flagship. The curved front and back glass help its ergonomics spectacularly. Plus, thanks to other Chinese OEMs incorporating psychedelic colours and patterns on their phones to resemble modern art pieces, OnePlus also decided to tip its toes in some artistry to overcome their boring business suit-style greys and blacks, by introducing a new frosted blue gradient background, which looks really cool, without being too show-off-y.

SCREEN

Samsung had remained the undisputed leader of mobile screens for a while, with no one on the horizon to really challenge the rein. So imagine the general shock when OnePlus comes out, touting not only a no-notch quad HD display OLED display, but a 90hz refresh rate to go with it. Colours are as you should expect from a high quality OLED panel, with excellent viewing angles. What you need to know about is that refresh rate. Forget all the gaming jargons for 90hz, and understand this; the truth of the matter is when it comes to using a touch screen, 90hz SHOULD be enforced as a standard on smartphones. The phone feels faster than you can interact with. Couple that with flagship specs, and I can't imagine a single situation where the phone would ever have a hiccup moment. OnePlus really has brought a hammer blow to the industry (never mind that Samsung did make the OLED panel for the 7 Pro). If I were to nit-pick, I would say that the display didn't need to be curved like on Samsung displays, especially since they don't have any additional software functionality, like



they do on Galaxy devices.

CAMERA

This year's OnePlus 7 Pro has brought about the holy trinity of camera setups; a 16MP Ultrawide, 8MP 3X Telephoto, and a 48MP main camera setup. To keep the screen notch-free, they also went with the industry favourite pop-up front camera, touting 16MP.

The question is simple; it has the brawn, but does it have the brain to make something out of it? Short answer: kind of.

Long answer: All three cameras take more than acceptable images in good lighting, with particular praise to the main camera, featuring the industry darling Sony IMX586 48MP sensor. However, there is still room for improvement when it comes to software processing. The first major offender is the sheer differences between the processing of the three lens setups. Pictures of the same subjects with the three lenses yield quality and colours so different, they might as well have been from

different phones altogether. Also, when you are in normal lighting conditions, the telephoto lens does not work, thanks to the small f/2.4 aperture, so zooming then becomes digital through the main sensor, which defeats the purpose of the tele lens altogether.

Video has been good, and thanks to OIS, which, along with EIS, makes for a very stable, almost tripod-like, handheld video experience. The quality can go right up to 4K 60fps, just like its flagship competitors. It also has Slow motion modes, with 240fps at 1080p and a very respectable 480fps at 720p.

The phone also features the bragworthy nightmode, which does help in very dimly lit situations, albeit with considerable grain and a hit-or-miss colour science. Thankfully, it has a Pro mode, letting you take some spectacular images. A new update has also brought a Macro mode, with a good amount of success, but with the same noise issue as Nightmode.

Long story short, this phone is nowhere near the Top 3, or even Top 5 smartphone cameras



VERDICT

The OnePlus 7 Pro is the best Swiss Army Knife device in the market right now, thanks in no part to its OS, unique display, and its versatile camera setup. However, I still think that OnePlus's current price point strategy is somewhat unjustified, especially considering devices like the Redmi K20 Pro and Asus 6z/Zenfone 6 exists on the market, and OnePlus's cheaper 7 is completely inept at dealing with these competitors.

thanks to the launch of the iPhone 11 Pros, but it is comfortably high in the Top 10s, so rest assured because it is still worth keeping in your pocket for those precious moments.

NAYS

The lack of wireless charging, at this price point, is downright inexcusable, even with OnePlus's arguments about it not being able to achieve Dash/Warp charging standards. Otherwise, the use of glass on the back of the phone is pointless, save for making it look fancy. The omission of the headphone jack is quite simply put, a crime, especially considering that this is supposed to be a phone for power users, and given how vocal and integral the community is to OnePlus. Unfortunately, with even Samsung now ditching it with the Note series, harping on about it seems pointless.

YAYS

Your shiny new 7 and 7 Pro gets the market's most powerful SoC, the 855, and a choice between 6/8/12 GB of RAM. But honestly, if

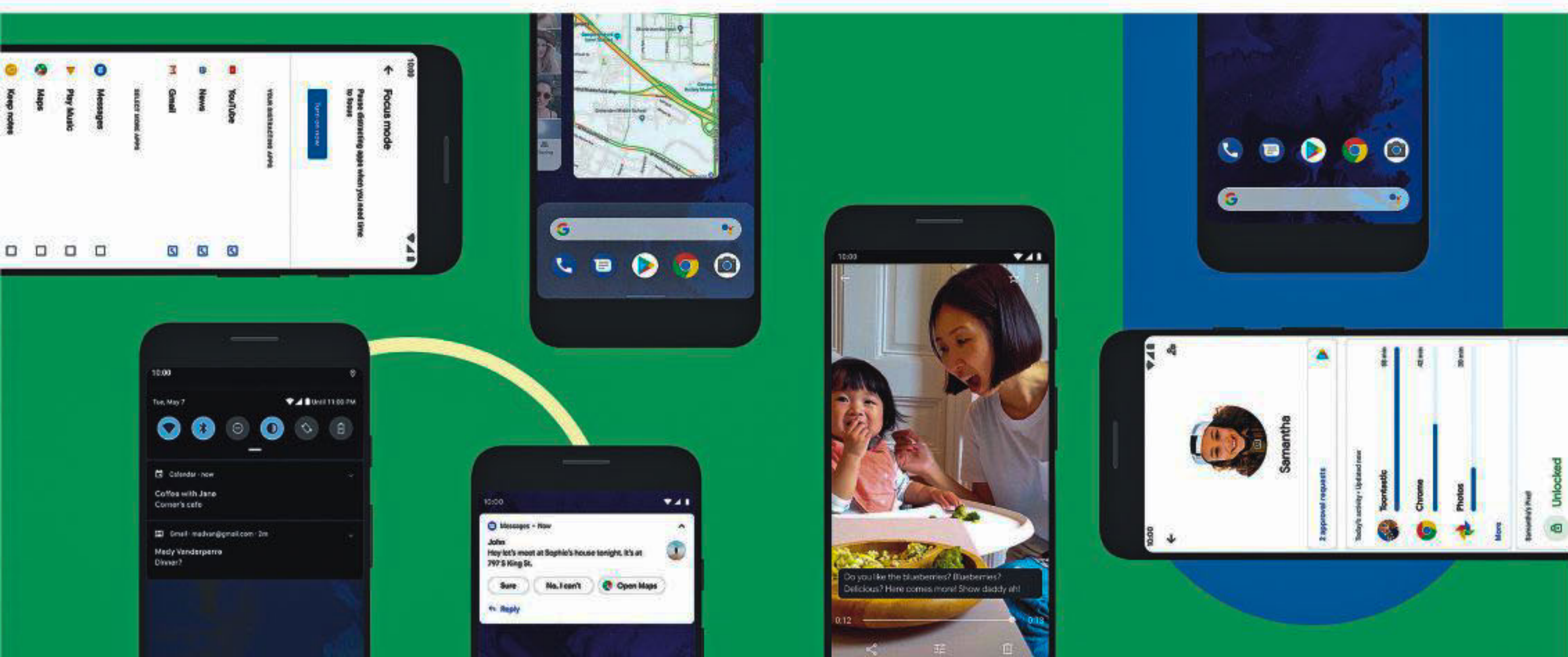
SPECS

Processor: 2.84 GHz Snapdragon 855 octa core processor
OS: Android 9.0 Pie with Oxygen OS
Rear Camera: 48MP, 8MP telephoto and 16MP ultrawide
Front Camera: Motorized pop-up 16MP Display 6.67-inch, 3120 x 1440 pixels
Memory: 8GB RAM
Storage: 256GB internal memory
SIM: Dual SIM dual-standby (4G+4G)
Battery: 4000mAh lithium-ion battery
Price: BDT 72,990/-



you are buying into OnePlus, you are buying into what I personally consider as the best software experience on the market. Simply put, nothing is as fast, and now, thanks to the 90hz display, as smooth as Oxygen OS. While most OEMs thrive on throwing the kitchen sink at you, OnePlus does the exact opposite, only giving you what you need and want out of a smartphone. This simplistic approach makes Oxygen OS even faster than Google's Pixel devices (yes, I said it), and far faster, and will remain faster, than any Sammy, Huawei, and even the 'mighty' Apple iOS. Here's a high praise; if you want to experience how Android really is, you need to spend 5 minutes with a OnePlus. Also, the fact that they are enormously developer friendly only helps to sweeten the deal if you happen to be a tinkerer. The simplicity also aids in the battery life, making it an easy two or even a three-day use phone.

WORDS AND PHOTOS:
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All that's new with Android 10

Google has released the much anticipated Android 10 and Android 10 GO operating system on a select few devices on September 3 of this year. With Android 10, Google has dropped its dessert themed naming practice and adopted the industry standard numerical systems, much like Windows and iOS. Besides that, this latest iteration of Android OS features a number of change and updates, this list outlines some of the best.

REDESIGNED GESTURE CONTROLS

The Android 10's new gesture controls strongly mimic iOS 10's gesture controls. The three "buttons" that were once located at the bottom of the screen has been done away and replaced with "swipes". Users can now swipe up to go home, swipe up and hold to access the app switcher and slide along the bottom to cycle through recent apps. That said, there is an option in the settings menu to switch back to the "buttons" for those who prefer it.

ENHANCED "DARK MODE"

The dark mode, or more accurately the "grey

mode" in previous Android OS used to simply grey out the background. The new mode now turns the background completely black, providing a much nicer interface.

INTEGRATED SOUND AMPLIFIER AND HEARING AID SUPPORT

The previous sound amplifier app, which amplified real world sounds through headphone, is now an integrated part of Android OS. Moreover, some Bluetooth hearing aids can now also be used to play audio, allowing people with impaired hearing to enjoy music.

ENHANCED TEXT-TO-SPEECH FEATURES

The live video caption no longer require an online connection and there is now a "Live transcribe" app that effectively provides subtitles for someone using it.

ENHANCED PRIVACY CONTROLS

One of the more significant addition to Android 10 is its enhanced privacy controls. The settings menu now provides a dedicated privacy section and expanded app permission

options, allowing users to choose when and how much information an app can gather about them.

IMPROVED FAMILY LINK CONTROL

For parents, the improved family link control allows them to set screen time limits, view app activity, manage content restrictions and see where their family members are. There is now a new option that allows parents to "turn off" specific apps to prevent their use.

BATTERY LIFE INDICATOR

When the notification tray is pulled down, the battery indicator will now show the estimated time of depletion. This is very useful for heavy users who prefer to wait until the very last moment before charging their phone.

NOTIFICATION BELL ICON

The latest notification on the lock screen now has a "bell" icon beside it to help the user realise which notification came in last.

RAHBAR AL HAQ

Rounding up Amazon's Alexa event

Amazon's September event saw a mix of new hardware, Alexa updates and other neat additions to existing products. Amazon's push for Alexa integration went above and beyond at this event, as well as, taking the show floor to show off new privacy features and a line-up of kid-friendly hardware. And while mainstream media has highlighted Samuel L. Jackson's voice being lent to Alexa (for only \$0.99), here is every other noteworthy feature from the event.

ALEXA IN EVERYTHING

The event saw the addition of the Echo Buds, Echo Frames and Echo Loop to Amazon's wearable line of hardware. The smart wireless earbuds, glasses and ring respectively all come with Alexa integration. The \$129.99 earbuds come with Bose's Active Noise Reduction, the glasses can be altered according to your prescription while the Echo Loop can be paired with your phone to vibrate whenever you receive a call and other notifications. While the earbuds are available for pre-order already, the Echo Frames and Loop are still "invite only" devices for a select few individuals.

ECHO DOT WITH LED CLOCK

The Echo Dot now features an LED Clock on the front of the display, showing the time and temperature. It also features a tap to snooze functionality, making it the perfect alarm clock/ Bluetooth Speaker/sentient being which can play your Spotify playlist. The new Echo Dot is already available for pre-order for \$59.99.

THE NEW AND IMPROVED AMAZON ECHO

The all new Amazon Echo now comes in a new Twilight Blue colour while also being packed with a handful of incremental upgrades. The device now features neodymium drivers and 3-inch woofer, making the mids and highs much clearer than the previous Echoes. The previous Amazon Echo devices' 2.5-inch woofer had a less than ideal bass profile, something that has been taken care of with the addition of an increased back volume profile.

Amazon also announced the Echo Studio, a smart speaker which features Dolby Atmos 3D Audio, the Echo Show 8, a standalone 8-inch HD display with a camera for video calling, a smart lamp for kids called Echo Glow and the new Eero WiFi.



YouTube Music will come preinstalled with Android 10 and new Android 9 devices



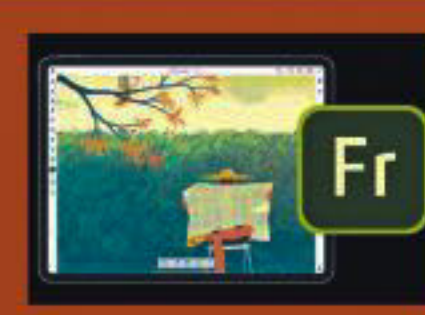
Facebook has started to hide Like counts on posts, starting first with Australia



Ride-sharing company Gojek has launched video streaming service GoPlay



Adobe's next-gen Fresco drawing and painting app available on iPad



Messaging app Kik shutting down, shifting focus on to its cryptocurrency called Kin

