

HANDS-ON REVIEW

Xiaomi Redmi K20 Pro

Move over flagship killers

When OnePlus left the very segment it created to pursue the flagship slice of the cake, it left a bitter taste in the mouth of many of its fans. For a while, it seemed as though the “Flagship Killer” segment would remain vacant, or populated with phones that would always lack serious horsepower. That all changed last year with the introduction of Xiaomi’s new venture, the Pocophone F1. Lauded by fans and praised by critics everywhere, this was the phone we all needed back in the space. It was, by no means, perfect. Build quality was unimpressive, the screen LCD, notched, and not so bright. The camera was mostly ok to potato depending upon the light, and only had a single lens camera system (the additional 5MP depth sensor doesn’t really count). Enter the K20 Pro/Mi 9T Pro, the unofficial sequel to the F1, correcting most of the flaws the original had.

BUILD

Where the Poco brandished an all-plastic unibody design, the K20 Pro features the fit-in-with-the-crowd glass and metal side design. But even though the design choice serves no purpose (no wireless charging), Redmi decided to give it a paint job that really shines wherever you keep it. The buttons are a bit mushy, but extra points for the flamboyant power button. The phone also has quite a nice heft to it, meaning that the phone was built to last.

SCREEN

The screen was quite possibly the most unanimously hated feature on the F1, first of all, sporting a notch, and adding insult to injury, it sported an LCD panel, in a day and age where OLEDs rule the scene. Thankfully, the K20 Pro addresses both issues, with a notch-less full screen 6.39" OLED display. The display maybe a “meagre” 1080+ but that takes nothing away to how good this screen is, considering its price bracket. Colours are accurate, blacks are, well, black, just as you’d expect from an OLED. Also, even if it is a personal opinion, bonus points for a flat

screen and not the annoying curved ones; it makes life much more convenient since finding a good tempered glass protector is easier.

CAMERA

The camera department is where the K20 Pro makes the most improvement, considering its predecessor. Gone is the 5MP “depth sensing” system, and in its place, Xiaomi has put 2 entirely different camera systems, sporting an ultrawide lens and a 2X telephoto lens, along with the 48MP IMX586 sensor main camera. If this setup looks familiar, it’s because this same setup also resides on the OnePlus 7 Pro, a phone nearly twice as expensive. As for the quality, it is a very reliable shooter. The IMX586 is a very capable sensor, and not too many manufacturers can screw this up. Plus, Xiaomi’s own twists on the camera software yields very good results. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the ultra-wide and telephoto, with the ultrawide being the biggest offender. The ultra-wide creates very grainy pictures in anything other than broad daylight. Also none of the lenses have Optical Image Stabilizing

TOTAL SCORE
8.5

DISPLAY: 8.0
CAMERA: 7.5
PERFORMANCE: 8.5
BUILD: 9.5
BATTERY: 9.5



(OIS), meaning pictures under somewhat low light comes out all blurry, especially so for the telephoto, which by the way, doesn’t work unless the lighting is exceptional. Under normal light, your camera digitally crops when you switch to telephoto.

The phone also comes with its version of nightmode, but the processing on it is a

complete hit or miss, and almost always noisy, and blurry thanks to the omission of the aforementioned OIS.

Perhaps, the biggest let-down was the pop-up camera, the technique they used to get a notch-less full screen display. Quite simply, it’s horrible, no dynamic range, washed out colours.

Video quality is ok, you do feel the omission of the OIS, but quality wise, its good. As a bonus, it also does super slow-mo videos at 960fps at 1080p.

■ VERDICT

Throughout the review, I have been referencing the Poco F1 as a comparison, and I think that’s unfair, because, all things considered, this is more a competitor to the OnePlus 7 Pro, not the normal nerfed 7. It has the same 3 lens camera setup, and pop-up camera setup, featuring the same main camera sensor, a notch-free OLED panel, same capacity battery, and the same glass and metal build. Yes, the 7 Pro does have a 90HZ display, but the K20 Pro retains the headphone jack. In my opinion, buying the OnePlus has just become completely redundant.

One, this could have been THE phone to buy, regardless of your budget. However, if you are a tinkerer, or know someone who is, you could rid yourself of MIUI and its messes, and install stock Android or better, Oxygen OS from OnePlus, with little to no loss of functionality

YAYS

Other than the software debacle, the K20 Pro does nearly everything else right. Ok, the camera may not be class leading, but do remember how much you are paying for it, and when that consideration is brought back, its excellent. It also has a 4000mAh battery, making this an easy two-day phone, even with heavy usage. And guess what — even with a full screen display, 3 cameras, a pop-up camera, and a big battery — it managed to retain the headphone jack, which does output good quality audio. And the mono loudspeaker gets LOUD.

Disclaimer: Avoid buying the 8/256 variant in Bangladesh, which costs BDT 50,000/-, which is absolute highway robbery.

WORDS AND PHOTOS:
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SPECS

Processor: Snapdragon 855 (7 nm)
GPU: Adreno 640
OS: Android 9.0 Pie with MIUI 10
Rear Camera: 48MP f/1.8, 13 MP ultrawide f/2.4 and 8 MP telephoto f/2.4
Front Camera: Pop-up 20 MP
Display: 6.39-inch, AMOLED FHD+ 2340 x 1080 pixels
Memory: 8GB RAM
Storage: 256GB internal memory
Battery: 4000mAh lithium-ion
Price: BDT 49,999/-



TECH BITS

MediaLab acquires messaging app Kik, expanding its app portfolio

\$35B face data lawsuit against Facebook will proceed

Google Maps adds more Waze-like features, including driving-incident reports

Microsoft accessibility grants go out to companies aiming to improve tech for people with disabilities

Google’s new voice recorder app transcribes in real time, even when offline

Special Supplement

Meet The Future

Rahul, a random corporate person, is passing his one weekday in 2029. He has an urgent meeting in the evening but he is also supposed to receive his wife and children from the airport. He is in a crisis moment yet he is a bit stress-free since he can manage some of his duties in a different manner. He decides to send his auto driven car to fetch his family members from the airport to home and also order lunch in an instance by the means of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The food will be delivered directly to his home through an air drone the moment his family reaches there. And if we look into his house, we can find it smart in different ways. He has installed intelligent censored appliances all around his home. The lights are going to be automatically controlled according to the ambient light. As a result, power will be less consumed than before. His smart home automatically gives signals from their smart refrigerator for next lot of required items. Here we find an easy and convenient future with the help of Ai (Artificial Intelligence). This is a journey started from a long ago. If we look back, apparently we can realize how technology has driven social change. 2G kicked off an era of global communications; 3G and 4G brought us mobile internet. And now 5G will mark the start of a new, intelligent world, with all things sensing, all things connected, and all things intelligent. The ICT industry is always in motion, with new technologies and methods repeatedly

revolutionizing the way people learn, communicate, and do business. Few changes, are likely to be as revolutionary as the advent of 5G. This new advent in ICT technology will go far beyond increasing the speed of smart devices searches, unleashing new possibilities in transportation, medicine, manufacturing, and countless other areas of life. Emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI) and extended reality will all see new uses with 5G, as well as combining in new ways, creating new value for business horizons. 5G is surely the definitive guide to next generation ICT technology. Today data traffic is continuously growing unceasingly around the world. Network faces the immense challenge of meeting demand for fast, ubiquitous data links by providing faster, larger wireless networks. 5G is the game changer here. And in the coming 5G world, networks will connect things, as well as people. It will be a world where all things are sensing, all things are connected, and all things are intelligent. The whole world is going to experience and observe the emergence of many things that is unconceivable today. On the roads, self-driving cars will communicate through the 5G network — and traffic jams, accidents, and parking problems will become a thing of the past. The blind will perceive the world using assistive technologies. In short, 5G will be the portal to the digital world for everything



and every person. 5G is not only ICT itself, in the future, 5G will also be a significant changer for many industries. 5G network will provide the foundation for a variety of applications that primarily involve data communication in the broadest sense. Therefore, industries must invest in 5G as early as possible to get a head start on digital transformation. It is also a major opportunity for carriers, and as digital transformation spreads, the opportunities for carriers will grow bigger. And if we think about execution or integration it is all about the ecosystem. And among all the companies or industry, Huawei may be considered first. This company has gone far beyond people really think about. It is not only about just Huawei smart phone. Its main focus is now

deploying 5G all over the world. And this company has already signed more than fifty 5G contracts. Cloud and Ai have become the key focus areas of Huawei. With the power of low latency network projects like smart hotel, smart airport and smart power grid have already been live. And it has devoted itself for ensuring better integration of all possible areas to bringing digital life. Huawei started developing its own 5G technology in 2009 when even 4G was still just a pipe dream. And it was hardly imaginable that people would be buying plane tickets, booking hotels, ordering taxis, and paying bills all at the touch of a smart device screen. On July 25th 2018, Huawei conducted Bangladesh’s first trial of fifth generation network (5G) and well on

its way to work for transforming the expectations into reality. Therefore, having the comparative advantage over other industry players, Huawei is playing an advancing role in the advancement of the 5G revolution. As a leader in 5G technology, Huawei has completed inter-operability development testing (IODT) with main stream chip, terminal, and network. Between 2009 and 2013, Huawei invested a considerable amount of investment into 5G technology research. Following this, in 2017 and 2018, Huawei has achieved various key awards in the 5G industry, including the 5G Evolution Outstanding Contribution Award and 5G R&D Outstanding Contribution Award. Undeniably, it will take some years to make above 5G ecosystem become a reality and mature in global market, especially in emerging market. In this scenario Huawei is helping its customers to build 5G networks. More importantly, the company is committed in working with global industry partners to help its customers succeed in their 5G business. Huawei will extend support to its customers build better 5G capabilities in every area, from technology and ecosystem, to applications, AI, cloud, and professional services. Huawei always believes that dreams come true if one has the courage to pursue them and Huawei never stops chasing them. Together, Huawei intends to bring digital to every person, home and organization for a fully connected, intelligent World.