

Send Small Packages with Pathao

ARMAN R. KHAN

Pathao is a new service that utilizes bike messengers to send small packages around Dhaka in a short time. The service was co-founded by Hussain M. Elius, Shifat Adnan and Fahim Saleh, and was officially launched in September 2015.

The idea of using bike messengers for fast and reliable delivery occurred when the trio were discussing the problems they face when sending a package around town. "How awesome would it be if you could just tap a button and someone would deliver your package as fast as possible? We decided we needed to make it happen," said Elius. Since the trio had been in the tech industry for some time, they had all it took to turn this concept into a reality. Within a month, they created the service that can currently be availed through the web or the Android app. Though the service started out with just personal deliveries, it has evolved into one that can be used for e-commerce deliveries as well.

So how does Pathao work? You place a request through the app or the website, and a properly vetted bike messenger



WEBSITE REVIEW

picks up the package shortly thereafter. They usually deliver it to the destination within 90 minutes. "When you place a request, it goes straight to the nearest courier's smartphone. So it happens quite fast," says Adnan. You can track your

package through GPS in real time as it makes its way to its destination. The packages can be up to 2kg in mass and up to 30 linear inches in dimension, meaning that the sum of its length, width and height cannot exceed 30 inches. The "On-Demand" service is available all days of the week between 10am and 10pm.

As it is still a relatively new service, Pathao currently only supports personal deliveries in Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Lalmatia and Dhanmondi. They plan to expand their service to more places in Dhaka as soon as they find more reliable bike messengers. However, e-commerce deliveries are available all throughout Dhaka and are usually met within 24 hours. Either the sender or the receiver can pay for the service. The rates are Tk.120 for personal deliveries and starts at Tk.55 for e-commerce deliveries.

Elius informed, "Our primary focus now is to ensure the quality of service and further developing the tech infrastructure that enables it. The idea is to give vendors and their customers a

risk-free and seamless experience through the use of technology." They hope to expand the service in other major cities of Bangladesh in 2016.

I personally have not been able to test the service as Pathao doesn't deliver to or pick up from my locality yet. However, users have mostly claimed that they like the service as it usually delivers well within the promised time of 90 minutes.

Pathao is still pretty new, but a good initiative in the delivery service industry. Provided it expands its services all over Dhaka, Pathao has the potential to become a revolutionary service soon. For more information about the service visit their website www.pathao.com or visit them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PathaoApp

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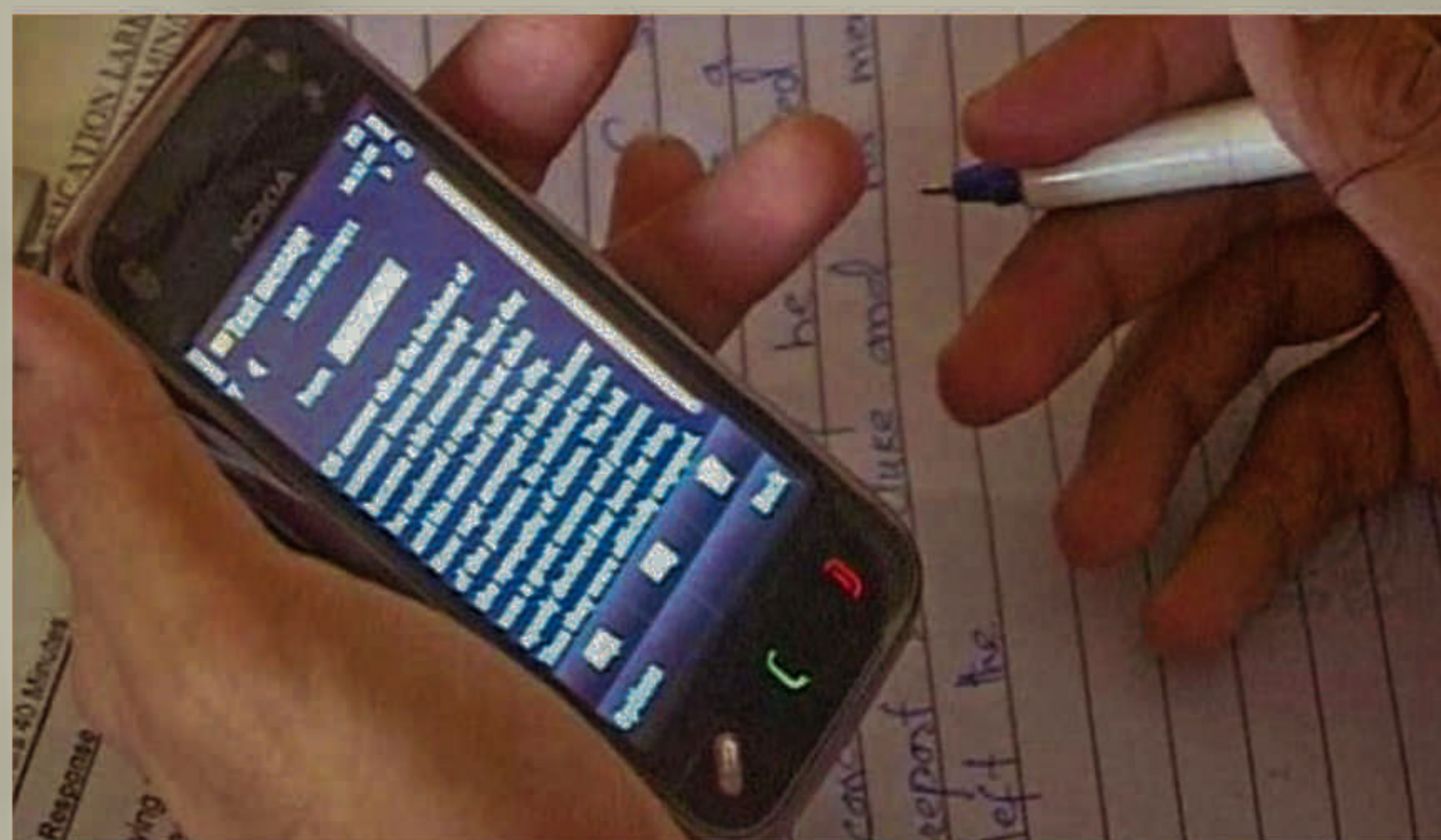
CELLPHONES IN CLASSROOMS

IMANI KHALED

With great power, comes great responsibility; the almost impossible responsibility of reining in that temptation that tugs at you to ask Google for help. Because you can. Forgetting an important date or a formula is not going to present teachers with glorious opportunities anymore to snatch precious marks away with a pen, glowing with red ink, like swords cutting through air. That sound oozes cruelty. And so, in cooperation with the Internet, the twenty first century brings you Electronic Cheating. (A round of applause for high definition cameras as well.)

The ever-growing popularity of cell phones has come to a point where fun and play precede necessity. In addition to fanning our narcissism, cell phone cameras take notes for us while internet or Bluetooth allow us to pass those notes from corner to corner without having to make any suspicious movements in the classroom during exams. Whispering, poking your friend in front, positioning your neck in the most unsuspecting way possible, furtive glances at the teacher, exchanging pieces of paper are quaint actions found only in novels now. What further proves our deceptive innocence is how, thanks to technology, we manage to sit miles away from each other, throwing the most unthreatening smiles at the invigilator, while sharing ten answers in less than a minute.

Ever noticed how the desks are almost spotless these days, unsoiled by educational scribbles, standing the test of time, patiently waiting for the arrival



of the next student in need? Cell phones are alarmingly crawling their ways into classrooms and while this may prove to be an immediate access to

knowledge during class hours, they are eating away the learners' exam performance skills. They are boosting their confidence in a wrong and rather harm-

ful way. Electronic cheating is not restricted to classrooms anymore; plagiarism is on the rise too.

While plagiarism machines are used to contain the situation these days, students also need to understand that 'Googled up' answers are not difficult to catch; you are only embarrassing yourself. Public examinations are banning all sorts of electronic devices inside the exam hall but many students are earning degrees based on the instant knowledge the Internet has provided them with. Ever seen that viral meme where a valedictorian asks you to respect your elders because they have survived school without Wikipedia, copy-paste, or Google? In our generation's defence, our predecessors were not exactly saints. People of all ages have found sneaky ways to obtain answers to all sorts of questions the teachers threw at them. What is a matter of concern is that the easier it becomes, the more we come to rely on them. It becomes difficult to resist; in fact, there are students who resort to these magic devices for help because some other course took up all their study hours.

Restricting cell phones is not the answer, however. Currently the most plausible solution is strict exam room policies at public examinations, and teachers creating the awareness in classrooms and encouraging creativity. The Internet is only a source of knowledge; originality is in our hands.

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