

Int'l Ozone Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

The International Ozone Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world to protect the global environment by halting production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

This year's theme was "Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself, Protect Ozone Layer."

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the day.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged all countries to meet their commitments under the protocol, and in particular the industrialised countries to continue providing the financial and other assistance that will help the developing countries to do so.

The ministry of environment and forest observed the day with several programmes. The ministry organised a seminar in the BIAM auditorium here to highlight significance of the day.

Shishu Academy observed the day with a drawing competition for children of different age-groups.

Meanwhile, State University of Bangladesh (SUB) observed day through holding a discussion meeting on the campus, says a press release.

Release of BCF leaders demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF) at a press conference yesterday demanded of the government to fulfil their six-point demand including release of its arrested six leaders.

They said police arrested six leaders including central president Firoz Ahmed and Finance Secretary Moniruddin Pappu of BCF under Section 54 and recently filed a new case against them.

"We are demanding immediate release of the leaders," they said.

The demands include withdrawal of false case against the leaders, reopening of the Dhaka university and BUET and implementation of all demands of BUET Students Unity Against Violence and Students Unity Against Atrocity.

BCF General Secretary Taslima Akhter, Publicity Secretary Ibtisam Bipa, and central leaders Julhasnain Babu, Pratap Sarkar and Iftikhar Ahmed were present at the press conference.

DV-2004 lottery programme announced

UNB, Dhaka

The US government has announced its Diversity Visa-2004 lottery programme and fixed the entry dates between October 7 and November 6 this year.

The congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Programme is administered on an annual basis by the Department of State and the Act makes available 50,000 permanent resident visas annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

Applicants for Diversity Visas are chosen by a computer-generated random lottery drawing. The entries must be received at the Kentucky Consular Center mailing address: DV Program, Kentucky Consular Center, 2002 Visa Crest, Migrate, KY 41902-2000, U.S.A.

Entries received before or after the given dates will be disqualified regardless of when they are postmarked.

The law and regulations require that every applicant must have at least a high school education or its equivalent or, within the past five years, have two years of work experience in an occupation requiring at least two years training or experience, according to a US Embassy release.

A "high school education or equivalent" is defined as successful completion of a 12-year course of elementary and

secondary education in the United States or successful completion in another country of a formal course of elementary and secondary education comparable to a high school education in the United States, it said.

Documentary proof of education or work experience should not be submitted with the lottery entry, but must be presented to the consular officer at the time of the visa interview, it said.

Procedures for submitting an entry to DV-2004

All entries by an applicant will be disqualified if more than one entry for the applicant is received, regardless of who submitted the entry.

The entry will be disqualified if the entry is not personally signed by the applicant in his/her native alphabet, as it would appear on his/her passport or other official or contractual obligations. Neither an initialed signature nor block printing of the applicant's name will be accepted and will result in the disqualification of the entry. If an applicant chooses to sign his/her name in the Roman alphabet and that is not their native alphabet, he/she must also sign in his/her native alphabet.

The entry will be disqualified if all required photos are not attached. Recent photographs of the applicant and his/her spouse and each child, including all

natural children as well as all legally-adopted and stepchildren, excepting a child who is already a US citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident, even if a child no longer resides with the applicant, must be attached to the entry.

The name and date of birth of each family member must be printed on the back of their photo. Group or family photos will not be accepted; there must be a separate photo for each family member.

Photos should be attached with tape and not stapled to the entry. If there is insufficient room on the front of the entry, applicants may tape photos to the back of the page.

If photos do not conform to the following specifications, the entry will be disqualified and the size must be between 1 and 1/2 by 1 and 1/2 and 2 by 2 inches (37-50 mm) square, with the applicant's, spouse's, or child's name and date of birth printed on the back.

The Entry

There is no specific format for the entry. Simply use a plain sheet of paper and type or clearly print in the English (Roman) alphabet the following information," the release said, adding that failure to provide the following information will disqualify the applicant's entry:

1. Full name, with the last (surname/family) name underlined.
2. Date and Place of

Birth/Nativity. Date: Day, Month, Year

3. Name, date and place of birth of the applicant's spouse and all natural children, as well as all legally-adopted children and stepchildren, who are unmarried and under the age of 21 years, even if an applicant is no longer legally married to the child's parent, and even if the child does not currently reside with the applicant and/or will not immigrate with the applicant.

4. Full mailing address. A telephone number and e-mail address is optional, but useful.

5. Photograph. Attach recent photographs of the applicant, the applicant's spouse, and all children.

6. Signature. The applicant must personally sign the entry in his/her native alphabet.

The envelope must be between 6 and 10 inches (15 to 25 cm) long and 3 1/2 and 4 1/2 inches (9 to 11 cm) wide. Postcards or envelopes inside express or oversized mail packets are not acceptable.

In the upper left-hand corner of the envelope, the applicant must write his/her country of nativity followed by the applicant's name and full return address.

No fee is charged to enter the annual DV program. The U.S. Government employs no outside consultants or private mail services to operate the DV program," it mentioned.

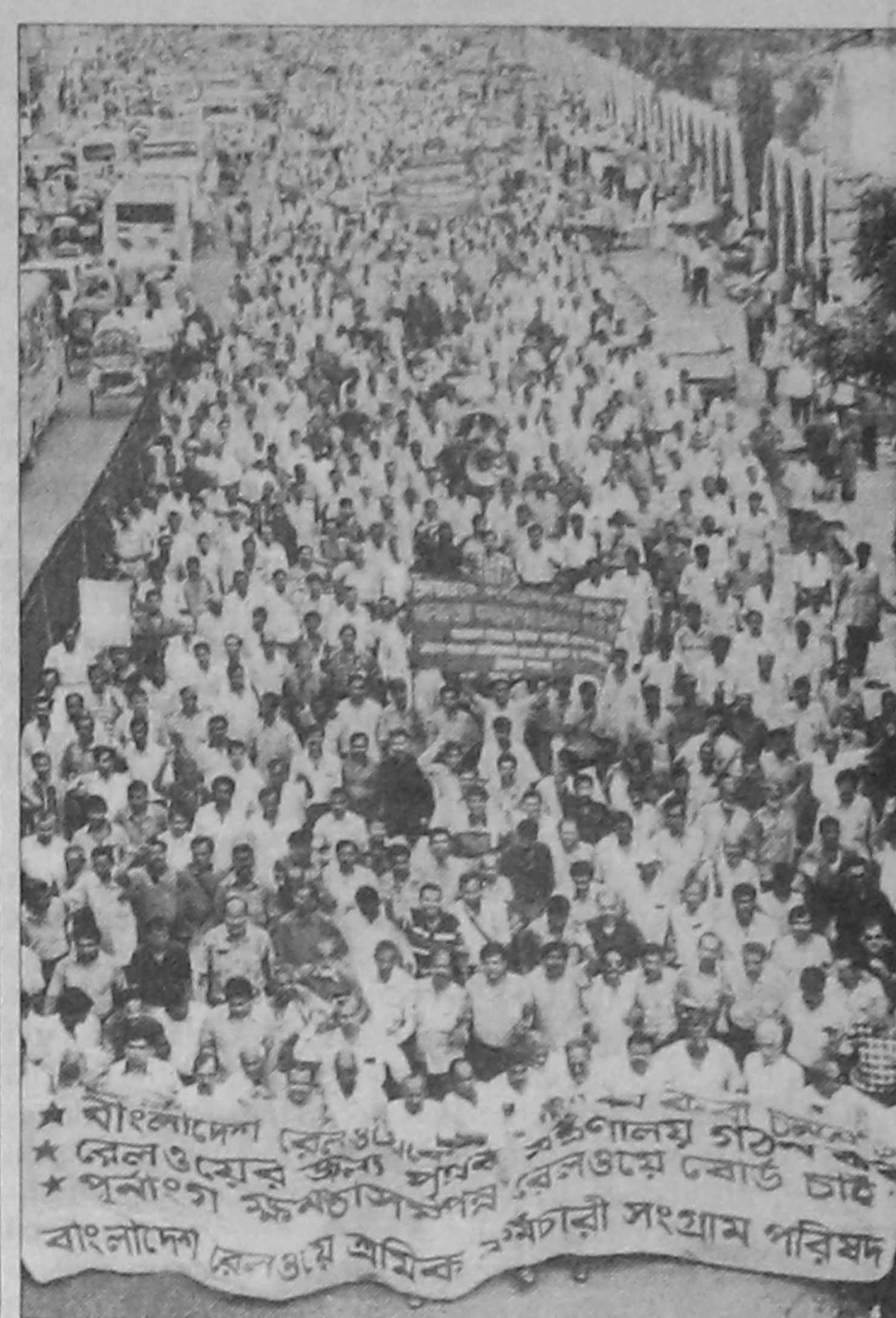


PHOTO STAR
The Bangladesh Railway Employees' Action Council staged a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the move to make the Railway a corporation.

GCHTSC memo to edn minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Students Council (GCHTSC) submitted a memorandum on their five-point demand to Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk yesterday.

The GCHTSC demands that the rights to primary education for all tribal children in their mother languages be ensured and a hill quota introduced instead of the existing hill-tracts quota for education.

It also demands for exclusion of any denigrating reference to the tribes in the textbooks and inclusion of history of the tribes in all school and college textbooks.

Prior to submission of the memorandum, the GCHTSC held a rally at Muktangan in the city at 11.00am.



PHOTO STAR
The Binodan Sangbadik Samity organised a cultural function and a seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday to raise awareness about dengue fever.

17,824 women workers have gone abroad since '91

UNB, Dhaka

A total of 17,824 women have gone abroad since 1991 till July 2002 with certificates from the Manpower Bureau for jobs in hospitals in different countries.

State Minister for Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Major (ret'd) Kamrul Islam disclosed this in parliament yesterday in reply to a question from Prof Joynta Abedin (BNP, Feni-2).

He said the women workers mainly got jobs in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Malaysia, Bahrain, Oman, Mauritius, Qatar, Lebanon, Singapore and Brunei.

In reply to another question from Prof Mia Golam Parwar (Jamaat, Khulna-5), the minister informed the Parliament that some 111,300 Bangladeshi workers went abroad from January to July this year. The number is higher by 1,165 than that of corresponding period in 2001.

The minister also said that during the period, 13,602 Bangladeshis went abroad with direct visas from the embassies of different countries. Some 11,908 of them went to Kuwait and 1,694 to Jordan.

No plan to impose total ban on child labour, JS told

UNB, Dhaka

The government has no plan at present to impose a total ban on child labour, but is taking steps to ban it in risky areas.

State Minister for Labour and Employment M Lutfar Rahman Khan said this during question hour in Parliament yesterday, replying to Delwar Hossain Saidee

(Jamaat-Pirojpur).

Quoting from Bangladesh Statistics Bureau (BBS) survey conducted in 1996, he informed the House that the number of country's child labour aged between 5 and 14 is 6.6 million.

Of them, 66 per cent are engaged in agriculture, 8 per cent in industrial sector, 2 per cent in transport and communications, 14 per cent as domestic help and 10 per cent in other sectors and utility services.

Responding to MAH Selim (BNP-Bagerhat), Lutfar Rahman Khan said his ministry, with financial support of USAID, is implementing a 4-year project beginning July 2000 to eliminate child labour in the risky areas.

"Some 10,000 child labours engaged in risky jobs in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan areas have been selected through a survey to withdraw them from hazardous workplaces. They will be groomed as skilled workers by providing them with non-formal education and training," he said.

The minister informed the House that parents of 5,000 children would be selected and given micro-credits so that they could withdraw their kids from risky jobs.

Besides, he said, two ILO projects with US\$ 6.6 million assistance from US Labour Directorate and US\$ 4.8 million from the Dutch government are now being implemented.

"In the backdrop of social and financial aspects, child labour is a very sensitive issue in Bangladesh, a populous developing nation. The present government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, has continued all realistic and pragmatic efforts to remove child labour," Khan said.

Indian defence college team in city

A twenty-one member delegation of the Indian National Defence College (NDC) arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, says an ISPR release.

Major General AJB Jaini is leading the delegation. During their stay in Bangladesh, the delegation members will meet the chiefs of staff of the three services and visit some military training institutes in Dhaka and Chittagong.

'Decentralisation of admin to strengthen private sector'

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said with implementation of the government's commitment to decentralisation of administration, the country's private sector would be strengthened further.

"Many issues related to trade and commerce would be solved after re-introduction of the Upazila system and Gram Sarkar," he said while addressing a seminar at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the seminar on "Government Regulatory Functions That Can Be Transferred to the FBCCI and other Private Sector Institutions (PSI)".

Former secretary Dr Haroonur Rashid presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

Chaired by FBCCI president Yussuf Abdullah Harun, the semi-

nar was also addressed by Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Advocate Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, former advisor of the caretaker government Manjure-Elahi and former minister Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly.

Referring to different complexities faced by the business community, he suggested induction of private sector representatives into different regulatory bodies for smooth functioning of business in the country.

He said regulatory system must go in some cases for maintaining discipline in the business sector as well as the economy.

In his key-note paper, Dr Haroonur Rashid proposed transferring some regulatory functions like issuing of trade license, dealerships and import registration certificates to the private sector institutions like FBCCI, DCCI, district chambers and other business bodies from the city corporations, municipalities and union parishads.

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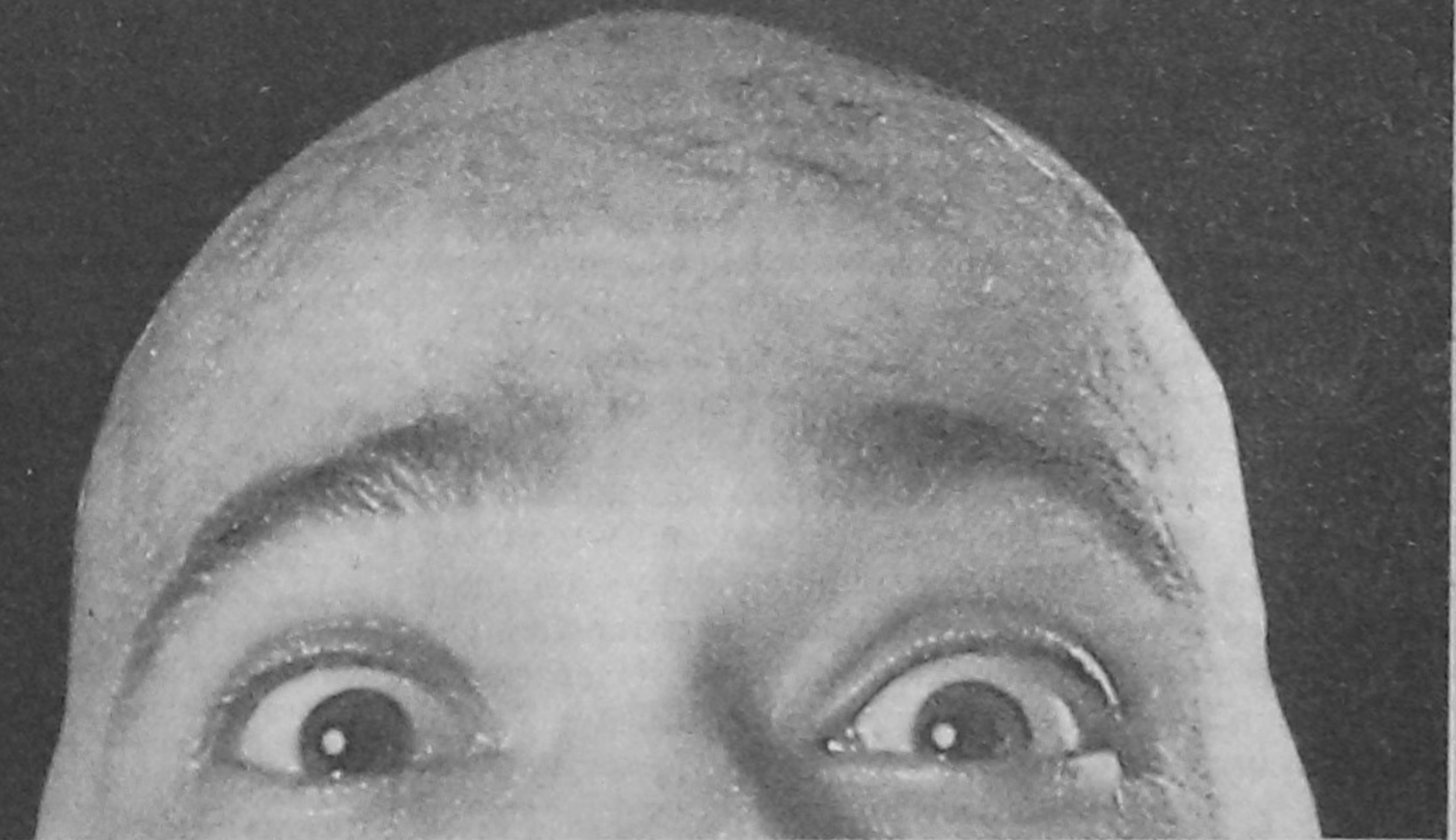
SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Embassy announces a sealed bid sale of used computers and peripherals on 'as is' basis. Upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of Tk. 50 the goods may be inspected at the GSO Compound, 122/123 Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka between 0900 and 1300 hours on Wednesday, September 18, 2002.

A Security deposit of Tk. 5,000 in cash or Pay-Order must accompany each bid submitted. The Pay-Order from any commercial Bank in Dhaka in favor of USDO, Dhaka will be acceptable.

Full details about the bidding process are contained in the bid documents that will be available at the bid site on the sale day.

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