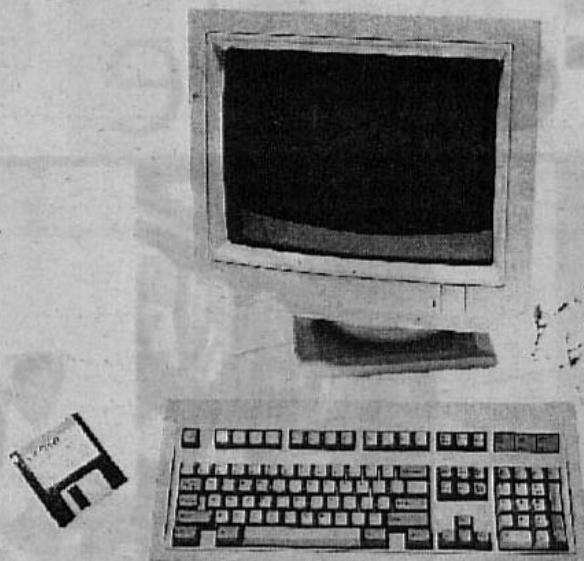


# Computer vision syndrome

UNDoubtedly one of the key features of modern civilization, computers, are essential in almost every aspects of our life. Indeed it has made our lives simpler and faster and in no time became an integrated part of our everyday life. For reason or no reason one that has access to computers will find him/herself in front of this machine whether to work or just to pass the time through the limitless blessings of this machine. However, too much exposure to computers does have its impact on the human health, as there is a relation with eyestrain and computers. Widely known as Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS), it is in fact a collection of symptoms of vision problems related to near work that might be caused or aggravated by regular computer use. Experts say that more than two hours a day regularly on the computers puts one at risk of developing CVS. It sure is a matter of great concern especially for those who are engaged in work that requires operating computers on a regular basis.

Computers do put stress in the eyes causing headaches, blurred visions and fatigue. But there are few reasons which causes CVS in a person. One of the major causes of CVS is improper lighting in the computer room. The lighting must be evenly distributed and one has to keep in mind that too much light can cause glare. Poor computer screens are also hazardous to eye sine low resolution, low pixel numbers and high contrast colours put extra strain in the eyes when reading from screen. Reflections on the computer screens are dangerous as well because it causes light to shine in the eyes which is quite harmful. The duration of computer related working hour is also important because sitting at a computer for longer periods of time can cause discomforts in the eye along with orthopedic problems such as back, neck or shoulder pain.



The CVS results in several discomforts in the eye including tired eyes, eye-strain, sore eyes, periodic blur vision, dry eyes, occasional blurred distance vision, red eyes, burning eyes, glare sensitivity, excessive tearing and headaches. However, no matter how negative the impact of computers on human health is, civilization is crippled without this machine. As a result it is wise to prevent the situation that causes CVS.

At very first one has to ensure that the computer screen is of a very good quality and make sure that the resolution is set as high as possible. While using the computer one must also blink more often than usual and use if necessary mild lubricating drops if there is a dry eye. It is also recommended that people look away from the screen at least once in 20 minutes and focus on something in the distance for at least 20 seconds. One also has to make sure that no bright lights shine into computer screen. Arrangement of too many lights

must be prohibited as over lighting within one space distract one's eyes from the screen and cause glare on the screen. Lighting has to be arranged in such a way so that it minimizes glare and reflections. It is also strongly advised that neither the person nor the computer is facing the window. The positioning of the computers is also very important. It is suggested that computer screen should be 50-60 cm away from the user's face and the monitor has to be arranged in such a way so that the top line of on screen text is at eye level. A very crucial point is to place reference material alongside and as close to the computer screen as possible in order to avoid frequent head and eye movement and focusing changes. Lastly for those who are regular computer users, it is advised that they have their eyes checked every six to eight months by eye specialist just to be on the safe side.

By Obaidur Rahman

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Looking for cheaper petrol?

YOU'VE got a car and you are yearning to open up the valves for a fast blast down the highway. Of course the fastest you will manage to go is slightly below the speed of an arthritic snail.

So there you are sitting in the traffic jam watching the needle of the fuel gauge go down. At the present cost of fuel, the descent of the fuel gauge is inversely proportional to the rate of your heartbeat. Conversion to CNG would give you a car that is cheaper to run but the conversion process itself hurts the wallet like a truck running over a chicken crossing the road. Maybe that was a bit too graphic but you get drift.

What would you say if someone told you that you could buy octane at around 29 taka per liter? You probably would not have anything to say because you would be busy heading for the wallet and car keys. Cheap fuel can be found pretty much all over the country. These are tiny makeshift shops much like tea stalls. Some of these are not even shops but big wooden trunks that store gallon

cans. These can be found around the commercial parts of residential areas such as the locality surrounding the Mohammadpur bazaar or Gulshan 2. Also look near bus stands and car workshops.

The question is how can they get fuel at such low rates? Wait for a few minutes and you will invariably see a private or office car park discreetly. The chauffeur steps out to quickly carry out a shady deal. The shop people insert a pipe into the tank, siphon out the liquid and pay the driver anything from 15 to 20 taka per liter. It is all over under two minutes and the driver is off feeling smug at duping his boss.

This business existed for a long time but recently the stalls are sprouting all over the place. This way the drivers can show the owners the receipt from the pump that they bought the proper amount. The loss of fuel can be simply blamed on the poor fuel consumption of the engine. Heck, it can even be blamed on the thieving petrol pump owners. It is easier for the drivers to sell the fuel when the car they drive is an old one.

The excuse is that the engine is old and weak. As for government cars, well, the sky is the limit for pilferage. Car owners beware; your gas guzzler might not be a guzzler after all.

The quality of the fuel is dubious. New cars or those with big engines will run smoothly even if the petrol is adulterated. But that is only for a short while. So if you want to buy it do so at your own risk.

This business is robbery no matter which point you look from. Asked about the ethical issue, one proprietor of a shop near Kawran Bazaar said that where there is a seller there is a buyer. They cannot refuse someone who wants to sell it off. They prefer to look the other way if the annoying conscience ever comes knocking. After all, they are making at least 10 taka profit per litre. One man's loss is another's gain.

Once again CNG seems to be a solution to fuel robbery. So far there is not any way to steal gas but I am sure our Bangali ingenuity will soon find a way.

By Ehsanur Raza Ronny

## DID YOU KNOW?

### About UV rays

THE sun emits many different kinds of rays most of which are filtered out by the protective ozone layer of the earth. But of the rays, which penetrate this layer, the most harmful to the skin are UV or the Ultra Violet rays. These can be split into two types the UV A and the UV B. These rays cause a lot of damage like tanning due to UV A and sun burn due to UV B. Exposure to both these rays causes premature ageing in the form of wrinkling and extreme exposure. In some cases it may also lead to skin cancer.

# HOROSCOPE

## ARIES (Mar. 21-April 19)

You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Look into intellectual and physical games that will test your abilities. You will find good buys and you will lift your spirits. Opportunities for love will develop while traveling or while attending religious functions. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20)

Think about taking the time to complete unfinished domestic chores. Coworkers may not be on your side. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangement. Your ability to charm others will put you in the limelight at social functions. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You will enjoy the interaction with youngsters and take great pride in the projects you've completed. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. You may find your self in a romantic situation. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You will have some wonderful ideas that should bring you extra money. Do not travel unless absolutely necessary. Be careful. You will have to watch out for minor health problems related to stress. Be discreet and don't present your ideas until you're certain that they're foolproof. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. It's doubtful anyone will try to stand in your way or cut you off at the pass this week. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental. You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Opportunities to get ahead will be evident. Concentrate on yourself or your work. You need to refrain from being the generous one in the group. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You may find it difficult to communicate. Don't let your health suffer because of abuse. You are in a high cycle where travel, education, and creative endeavors are concerned. Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

For now just do the best you can. Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards. Relatives will be happy that you dropped by. Trips will be favourable for business as well as pleasure. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Don't take your frustrations out on the ones you love. You can make financial gains through investments and dealing with other people's money. Don't let your partner start any arguments. Passion should be redirected positively. If you're single, get out there and you'll meet someone new. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

You could find yourself left with someone's dirty laundry. Think twice before eating spicy foods; you may have problems with your stomach. Minor health problems may flare up if you haven't been taking care of yourself or have been burning the candle at both ends. Don't make financial contributions in order to impress others. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

You're on to something tangible and need to act fast. Take some time to change your house around. You should be on the road. Don't allow colleagues to put unreasonable pressure on you. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

## PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)

Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. You may have personal problems, but professional duties might be pressing. You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. You may find that relationships are not going as well as you'd like. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.