



UHT Processed to retain all the Nutrients & Taste of Milk

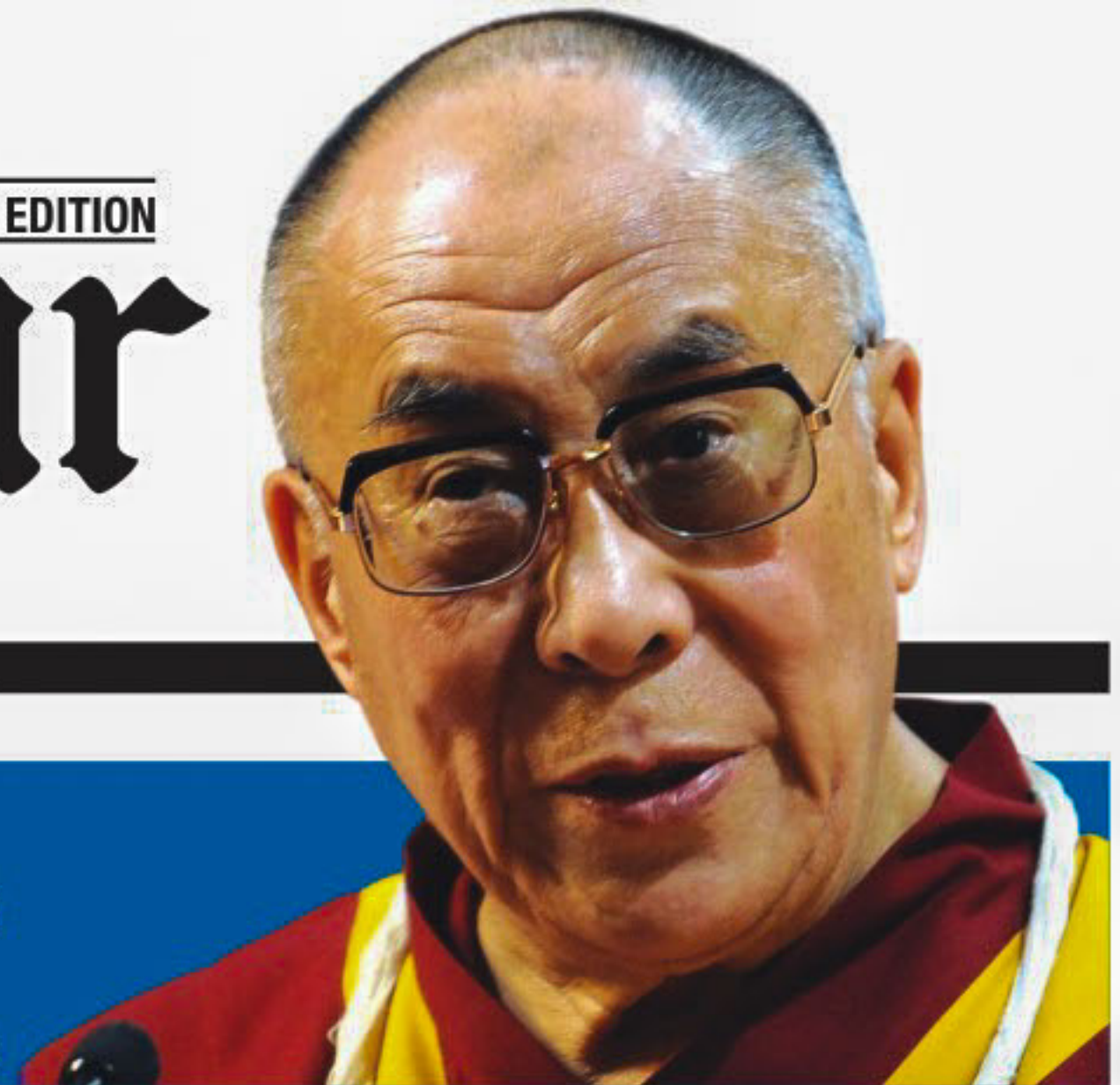
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Your Right to Know

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BPL, A LOST CAUSE?

BCB president will meet with franchises in a last-ditch try

PAGE 14

LPG GETS COSTLIER

Prices rise by Tk 40 to Tk 80 a cylinder this month

PAGE B1

EXILED TIBETAN LEADER

A leading official of China vows to continue fight against Dalai Lama

PAGE 8

Brinjal modified

Bangladesh set to join elusive club of 28 GM crop growing countries



- **Traditional brinjal** is very vulnerable to pests. Excessive use of pesticides by farmers poses health hazards
- **Genetically modified brinjal** is infused with a bacterial gene that destroys pests. No pesticide is needed.
- **Anti-GM activists** say govt is not sharing test results; farmers will have to buy seeds from multinationals
- **Scientists/regulators** say there will be public consultation before its release; farmers will be able to use its seeds

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladeshi scientists have readied the country's first genetically modified (GM) crop -- brinjal infused with pest-resistant genes -- that will see a drastic fall in the use of harmful pesticides in the crop.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research

Institute (Bari) will apply to the National Technical Committee for Crop Biotechnology on Sunday for its release next month, said officials concerned.

Once cleared, the GM crop will go through a bio-safety regulatory process and public consultation before its release, they said.

Of all vegetables produced in the

country, brinjal tops the list in terms of pesticide use.

Fruit and shoot borer (FSB), considered the most devastating pest in South and Southeast Asia, ravages brinjal fields and can cause loss of the crop by as much as 70 percent unless a heavy dose of pesticide is used.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Sermon Shafi style

Hefajat chief belittles women, speaks against their freedom, education, employment

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Women should take care of furniture, bring up children and stay within the confines of their homes!

This is what Hefajate Islam Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi thinks the conduct of women should be.

When today's world hails the freedom of women and considers women's participation a key to development everywhere, Shafi is dead against their liberty, education and employment.

In a video clip of his sermon, now available on Facebook and YouTube, the 93-year-old

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Ahmed Shafi



One demo brings city to a halt

Few hundred students demand cancellation of BCS exam results, PSC to review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A demonstration closing off Shahbagh intersection halted traffic in the surrounding area and the cascading effect crippled the entire capital yesterday.

People missed appointments, trains, inter-district

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Vehicles going towards Shahbagh stand still between Bangla Motor and Sonargaon intersections yesterday as people who failed to get into the civil service blocked the Shahbagh junction, inset.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/RASHED SHUMON



Let us put our Hands Together

Listen to the call of beloved motherland
 A call for being united
 The unity is essential
 To bring the change we always dream of
 A prosperous Bangladesh
 The blessings of workers' hard work
 The commitment of entrepreneurs
 Support of the Government
 Guidance of teachers and intellectuals
 The pen of a journalist

Holding hand in hand
 Let's take our opportunities
 And draw a happy Bangladesh
 An indomitable desire
 Toward a Prosperous Bangladesh



Leading Bangladesh to Prosperity