Study finds how embryo sticks to uterus

embryos and have greater certainty

Fisher. "If you had a drug that went

directly to the molecules that control

adhesion it would be not only very

successful, but also have many less

also help control the risk of pre-

eclampsia, which is the most common

cause of maternal death in the indus-

trial world. She said the fundamental

cause of the disorder is a shallow

attachment of the placenta to the

uterus wall. Normally, the placenta

forms a strong connection to blood

vessels deep within the uterus, but this

fails to happen in pre-eclampsia. The

placenta grows from both the uterus

and the embryo and is the organ that

provides nourishment and blood

supply to the developing fetus. But it all

starts with implantation on the uterus

Six shops gutted in a fire at

Raghunathpur Bazaar in sadar

from an electric short circuit in a shop

and soon engulfed the adjoining furni-

rushed to the spot and extinguished

ture, grocery and stationary shops.

Witnesses said the fire originated

On information, fire fighters

Six shops

Chandpur

upazila Wednesday night.

Morshed

FROM PAGE 1

gutted in

UNB, Chandpur

Fisher said the new research may

side effects."

In research that could lead both to new ways to treat infertility and new types of contraceptives, scientists have identified molecules that help embryos stick to the wall of the uterus

Timing is everything, the study

By analyzing carbohydrate molecules on the surface of the uterus during different times of the female cycle and by identifying a protein, called L-selectin, on the surface of the embryo, researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, learned for the first time how the embryo sticks

Susan J. Fisher, a co-author of the study appearing Friday in the journal Science, said coatings on the uterus and on the surface of the embryo act like puzzle pieces that touch and

"One piece of the puzzle is a protein on the embryo and the other is a very specialized carbohydrate sugar structure." said Fisher.

The sugar molecule on the surface of the uterus is secreted for only a short time during a woman's monthly cycle and the embryo, with its L-selectin coating, must arrive at the uterus "It has to take place in exact syn-

chrony or you don't get pregnant," said Fisher, noting that failure to implant on the uterus is one of the most common causes of a failed conception. "Only 50 to 60 percent of all con-

ceptions advance beyond 20 weeks and of pregnancies that are lost, 75 percent represent a failure of implanta-With this understanding of implan-

tation, researchers may find new ways to help women time their efforts to get pregnant, both naturally and in fertility clinics. Fisher said it may be possible in

fertility clinics to coat embryos with the sugar molecule and help uterus "If we can launch the implantation

(process) in the culture dish then you might be able to implant fewer

Miscreants cut tendons of youth in C'nawabgani UNB, Chapainawabganj

Miscreants cut tendons of both hands and legs of a youth Thursday night after abducting him from the town's old C&B Ghat area Locals said four miscreants --

Sumon, Ismail, Shahjahan and Palton -- picked up Manik, 20, son of Sadhu Mistry of the area, Thursday afternoon and left him at a place adjacent to the Mahananda bridge after cutting the tendons of his hands and legs. Pedestrians found and rescued

Manik vesterdav morning and sent him to the sadar hospital in critical condition. Reason behind the incident

could not be known immediately. Police arrested Sumon yesterday noon in connection with the incident.

Coincidence

FROM PAGE 1 Mymensingh and Sylhet, allega-

tions surfaced that it might have been a handiwork of Indian insur-In January 2002, the government

formed two committees to deal with gas reserve and utilisation. It was thought that the committees would put forward the export option as one of the profitable propositions.

resting at the prime ministerial level for months, subscribes to immediate gas export.

the liberation war of 1971, among others.

He was elected general secretary of the Leninist Communist Party in 1972 and of the United

United Workers Party at its sixth

congress in 2000. Different political parties expressed deep condolence for the death of the veteran leader.

to the Workers Party office in the city at 3.00pm today and will be carried to the Krishak Andolon-famed Egarokhan village in Narail for burial tomorrow. The Workers Party expressed

profound shock at the death and finalised some memorial programmes

The Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Gano Front, Jatiya Gonotantrik Sramik Federation, Progotishil Chhatra Jote, Bangladesh Khet Majur Samity, Samajtantrik Sramik Front, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Samajtantrik Mahila Forum, Bangladesh Garments Sramik Mukti Andolon, Gono Sangskriti Front, Bangladesh Students Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri also

Sylhet begins

UNB, Sylhet

On the first day, a flight with 30 oilgrims departed the airport for Jeddah at 3pm. The flight was delayed by three hours causing sufferings to the pilgrims.

One person was stabbed to death

held in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

sources said.

fied as Hasan Ali, 38, son of Abul Bashar of Kaharpar village under Lalgola thana in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

Bangladesh.

Godagari Police Station.

here in Bangladesh because of its

possible fallout. Dhaka is trying to know the minds of the other affected nations through Bangladesh missions in those countries, such as Egypt, Kuwait and Jordan, who are also strong allies of the United

Expressing dismay over the US government decision about Bangladesh, Khan recalled US President George W Bush praisng Bangladesh as a strong ally o global coalition against international terrorism and Secretary of State Powell's remark billing Bangladesh as a role model.

The foreign minister hoped that the US government would soon withdraw the restrictive measures against Bangladesh.

In reply to a question Khan said the US decision does not reflect any change in their policy or attitude towards Bangladesh.

He reaffirmed that Bangladesh is a tolerant democratic country with religious harmony and is "totally committed to its fight against terrorism in all its forms and kinds".

The foreign minister hoped that the global fight against terrorism, which is prompted by the September 11 incidents in USA -should not be weakened through any such uncalled-for actions.

N'ganj polls

FROM PAGE 1

The winner ward commissioners are Mohar Ali (AL) in Ward 1, Jansher Ali, (independent) in Ward Sawkat Hashern Shaku (Ind.) in Ward 3, Maksudul Alam Khandokar (4 Party) in Ward 4, Md Mohiuddin Prodhan (JP) in Ward 5, Azhar Hossain (4 Party) in Ward 6, Alhaz Obaydullah (AL) in Ward 7 Waliuddin Bhuiyan (AL) in Ward 8 and Kamrul Hassan Manna (AL) in

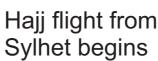
The three women commission ers elected to the reserved seats are Minuara Begum in Ward 1, Dilara Masud Moyna in Ward 2 and Khodeza Khanana Nasrin in Ward 3. All are backed by the Alliance.

Afroza Sultana Hazera who lost in Ward 3 has demanded recounting of votes. She alleged that presiding officers at four centers did not supply result sheets to her polling agents.

Meanwhile the port city took a festive mood yesterday. The winner commissioners brought out colourful processions in the town to celebrate their victory.

The southern part of the town including the DIT Avenue was decorated with thousands of candles, which was the election symbol

of Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy. After announcement of the result, Ivy went to the residence of Nurul Islam Sarder to meet him. Islam was not at his residence.



flag-carrier, yesterday started operating hajj flights for the first time from Sylhet Osmani International

Police said a gang of four swooped on Babul, 45, manager of Khan Shoe Store at Chhahiruddin Market while he was returning home from workplace at about 10.30pm. They stabbed Babul in the chest and fled the scene. He died on way to hospital.

not be known.

Police arrested four people, including a woman, in connection

An Indian citizen was arrested from Rajabari under Godagari upazila in the district Thursday night, police

Acting on a tip-off, a police team from Godagari thana raided the area and arrested Hasan Ali as he

Police sent him to court hajat after recording a case with the

Tofail

murder case. "The government arrested me to harass me without any charge,"

Tofail told newsmen after his

rying to destroy those families." Meanwhile, the court order to release Saleem Samad did not reach Gazipur Jail till vesterday.

Saleem Samad's brother Shamim Samad told The Daily Star that the copy of High Court order was sent to Gazipur through Express Mail Service (EMS) from GPO, Dhaka, on January 15.

Office told Shamim Samad yesterday that the copy of the order might reach the post office today and it would be sent to Gazipur iail authorities immediately via the District Judge's office.

tion with a sedation case. He was put under detention on December

Grace period

first group of visa holders. That prompted angry demonstrations and a lawsuit against the federal government.

Most were detained because their visas had expired and were released pending a hearing on their

cases. Since those detentions, the Justice Department has embarked on a more intensive campaign to justify the programme and ensure that affected people get notified. The registration is part of a broader INS plan to set up, by 2005, a comprehensive system detailing who is entering, leaving and staying in the United States.

States from Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and Bangladesh will have from February 24 to March 28 to register at local INS offices. This does not affect US citizens, diplomats, refugees or permanent resident aliens--those holding "green cards.

Most of those required to register are in the United States as students or business travelers or are visiting relatives.

people are afraid to come forward, in part because of an INS backlog that can snarl their paperwork and make them vulnerable to deportation if their visas expire while they are awaiting a final outcome of their "In light of the mass, warrantless

arrests, which we believe to be illegal, it is difficult for us to recommend, in good faith, for people to come forward to register," Pete Schey, an attorney for several immigrants in California, said earlier this month



Jubo League leader shot dead

immediately after the incident. where he died at about 9:45am

Wife of the victim Marjina Begum, who witnessed the attack, said that she attempted to save him from the attackers but the assailants pushed her down and left the place. She also alleged that the

miscreants were threatening Islam of dire consequences for his role during the Operation Clean Heart. She said her husband has

been killed because he helped

the law enforcers arrest criminals

over the last three months. Locals, who gathered at the hospital to see the body of the Jubo League leader, said that Islam went into hiding as soon as the four-party coalition government came to power. But he came back immediately after the anticrime drive began

Gazi, an influential man of the locality, also thought that Islam had a role in his arrest during the crack-down on criminals.

Sources said Chairman Ismail

According to the police, Islam himself led a group of musclemen. Two groups of the area

palace in Kathmandu vesterday

The country's demand for gas

has already exceeded the projected

quantity, by over 100mmcfd.

Against a projected demand of

1,127mmcfd in 2003, gas consump-

tion has already shot up to

1240mmcfd during peak hours,

clogging up the existing gas pipeline

During this summer, when power

Discovered in 1999, the

Moulvibazar field bears the legacy

of the Magurchhara fire. The

Magurchhara field, which is also

known as Moulvibazar 1, blew out

during its drilling, owing to inept

operation on the part of Unocal's

predecessor, Occidental, on June

Since discovery, Unocal con-

ducted all scientific studies of the

field and assessed that the field had

about 350 billion cubic feet (bcf)

gas, a quantum indicating that it is a

consumption will increase by

another few hundred megawatts,

the demand for gas will also go up.

Bibiyana field

fought for the control of a bridge and it was ultimately set afire. A tense situation was prevailing in the area and Islam might have been killed as a sequel to the incident, another source said.

Meanwhile, Mostafa Kamal Master, an Awami League leader and former commissioner of ward No. 5, who went to the DMCH to see the body of the victim, was picked up by Pallabi police. Asked whether Kamal had anything to do with the killing, police replied in the negative. They said he was a listed criminal and accused in a case filed with the Pallabi Police Station. Police were looking for him for a long time, they

Mosharaf Hossain, driver of a yellow taxi, Dhaka Metro Pa-11-1493, who took Islam to the DMCH, claimed that the victim could be saved if the physicians gave him treatment immediately.

Hossain said when Islam was taken to the DMCH, on-duty doctors asked for police clearance, and he had to take him to the Pallabi Police Station and later again to the hospital with clearance from police.

Islam, son of Sundar Ali, was

from Botarkandi, Bancharampur in Comilla. district. He left behind two sons and two daughters (of his first wife) and his second wife Saju also has three daughters. Marjina received the body

from the morgue after postmortem. Sources said that his body was supposed to be taken to the Awami League office, but police did not allow it. The duty officer of Pallabi Police Station said that none from

the victim's family went to the

police station to file any case till

last night. Police picked up at least ten people for interrogation in connection with the killing. Police sources believe that it was the first revenge killing since the withdrawal of the joint forces

Hasına

to only 20 million dollars before 1996.

In her reaction to the AL-backed candidate's victory in Narayanganj municipal polls, Hasina thanked voters in Narayanganj and asked how her party could lose all the parliamentary seats in Narayanganj in the last general seats in

Tarajuddin murder

Court order on naraji petition Jan 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Dhaka, on Thursday fixed January 30 for order on the naraji

Chowdhury Maya, Sourav and Rana from the chargesheet. In the petition, the complainant said names of Dipu Chowdhury, Sourav and Rana were included in

the chargesheet submitted on November 6 last year though he and other prosecution witnesses did not mention their names to the investigation officer (IO). The chargesheet was submitted against Dipu Chowdhury and 22 others. The complainant, brother of

Tarajuddin, on November 30 had also submitted an affidavit before the court, saying that Dipu, Sourav and Rana were not present on the spot when the incident took place, thereby contradicting the FIR in the case, filed

Tarajuddin, president of a cooperative society at Narda in the city's Uttara area, was gunned down by an armed gang on February 8, 2001.

Ansars-robbers

FROM PAGE 1

on-duty ansars were alerted about it and started shooting at random to scare off the robbers, but the robbers fired back. In the ensuing clash, 20 persons including some staff of the launch were injured.

Three of the robbers were however caught by the ansars, passengers and launch staff. Immediately after the incident, Karnaphuli-3 as well as all launches bound for Bhola and Barisal gathered near Munshiganj where Munshiganj police conducted a thorough search for robbers in all the launches until 5:00am yesterday. Police however failed to find any robbers.

Three persons from the Karnaphuli-3 were admitted to the Munshiganj hospital in critical condition. Two of them were identified as Shahid Laskar and Salam.

On the following day, Nurul Islam filed a murder case with Uttara thana, accusing Dipu Chowdhury and 22

But in the affidavit, Nurul Islam said that he had filed the FIR without properly knowing who were involved in the murder. Later, he came to know from witnesses and local people that Dipu, Sourav and Rana were not present on the spot when the murder

He said that the IO of the case, influenced by some unknown political people, submitted the chargesheet against Dipu and the two others to harass them politically though no witness was found to prove any allegation against He also said that he was "forced'

to give his signature in a naraji petition and vokalatnama prepared by "police-appointed" lawyers to include the names of Dipu and the two others though those were dropped from an earlier chargesheet submitted on July 9, 2001.

After submission of that naraji petition, the court on April 22 last year ordered further investigation into the murder without hearing his statement, the complainant said in his affidavit.

Of the accused. Dipu and 21 others are now in iail custody while Khorshed is still at large

Road accidents

the Magura-Dhaka highway yester-The dead were identified as Zahid Hossen, 20, rickshawpuller

and Anath Biswas, 22, passenger of the rickshaw. Zahid died on the spot while Anath succumbed to his injuries at Magura Sadar hospital. Driver of the vehicle fled the

Liner service

said the authorities.

FROM PAGE 12 of the other three is uncertain. The Ostrich is now anchored at the Hularhat Steamer Station in Pirojpur. A group of departmental engineers is repairing the steamer

The Turn is docked in Narayanganj and the Shela is at the Dhaka workshop for repair.

Craze for soft drinks

soft drinks among young Bangladeshis, the potential for expanding their market in Bangladesh seems promising.

To pump up sales, these softdrink manufacturers are looking to more variations in terms of size. colour, flavouring and even calorie intake, especially aimed to reach teens, a critical consumer for the multibillion-dollar softdrink industry. Hence, there are Diet Coke and Pepsi as well as new versions of soft drinks including lemon and apple flavourings such as Slice and Mirinda.

Local soft drink manufacturers are also vying for a piece of the pie and have come up with products like Pran, RC Cola, Virgin, Euro Cola, Shark energy drink etc. In an effort to claim a bigger share of the market, they also hope to unveil more variations of their products in future.

Given the competition in the market, these companies are making ongoing innovations in the industry and rolling out newer products. As such, various new hit the shelves on a regular basis. Over the last few years, soft-drink companies have seen their business grow in volume and are adopting new marketing techniques to boost sales. The soft-drink culture has

brands of soft drinks continue to

successfully integrated itself into the city life. From the consumer's perspective, any social function is incomplete without soft drinks on the menu. In some cases, the traditional Borhani in functions like marriages also find itself competing with Coke or Pepsi. The roadside vendors of coconut drinks are now all but extinct in the big city. Given its current rate of expansion, it is not hard to imagine that the soft-drink industry will make inroads into every nook and corner of the country. It is however important to

monitor the process of manufacturing these drinks to see if the ingredients used meet health standards. Also, there should be awareness about the possible health risks due to large-scale consumption of soda pop

Stone extraction

Meghalaya.

s extracted even from cultivable plain land without any allotment or approval from the authorities concerned. Three border pillars are missing from there.

Though Piain was the main stream, unplanned extraction of stone has choked the river near the border. Change in the course of the rivers

causes devastation during the rainy Besides, some stone collectors even dig deep ditches and cut hills,

The Sripur quarry is located from pillar No. 1279/8-S to 1280/4-S, wherefrom some pillars have disappeared. Even stone importers are sometimes seen collecting stone from

Eighteen pillars are missing from Five pillars are missing from

Environment formed a five-member committee to give a detailed report on the environmental degradation and losses caused by the unplanned and llegal extraction of stone.

The committee is headed by the divisional forest officer and includes representative of the divisional commissioner, superintending engineer of WDB, battalion commander of BDR and BMDC. The committee recently visited some of the areas, but it is yet to prepare the report, sources said.

Barisal polls FROM PAGE 12

Mahbub), advocate Enayet Pir Khan, former MP candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron, district AL Joint Secretary Monirul Ahasan Khan and Shahanara Abdullah, wife of former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah. Taking to this correspondent,

sources in both the parties and many city dwellers said withdrawal of army will encourage many alleged criminals to run in the polls February 23 is the last date for

filing nomination paper, which will be scrutinised on 24 February March 3 is the last date of withdrawal of candidature

However, none of the reports,

Amal Sen FROM PAGE 12

Communist League in 1986. Sen was elected president of the United Workers Party in 1992 and re-elected in 1995 and made a central committee member of the

The body of Sen will be brought

expressed condolence.

Bangladesh Biman, the national

by unidentified assailants in the town's Badurtala area Thursday

Reasons behind the killing could

Indian citizen

The arrested person was identi-

failed to produce any valid document regarding his entry into

FROM PAGE 1 He was later shown arrested in a

Thousands of people are passng days in imprisonment without justice, he said. "The government is

The post master of Gazipur Post

Saleem Samad was arrested on November 29 last year in connec-

Long-term visitors to the United

Immigration lawyers say many

However, Unocal refrained from making an official announcement as that would have contractually compelled it to submit a development Instead, the company went on hammering the gas export issue.

small gas field.

in 2010 and 500mmcfd in 2012. However, energy experts opposed it saying that Bangladeshi gas reserves were too small to support the idea of export, which requires a commitment of at least seven trillion cubic feet of gas. A couple of experts from the

chemical engineering department of

BUET and the state minister for

energy supported gas export,

The only daughter of Nepal's King Gyanendra, Princess Prearana Shah, 25, right, exchanges gar

lands with her husband-to-be Raj Bahadur Singh, 29, during a pre-wedding ceremony at the royal

Moulvibazar gas field

Bangladesh.

saying that Bangladesh had enough gas to make the move. They argued that Petrobangla was giving 'fabricated and unusually high' gas demand projections. Besides, they said, allowing export would give the oil companies adeguate incentive to invest more in the 'stagnant gas market' of

national-level Gas Utilisation Committee opted for meeting domestic demand first, saying that the existing gas reserves could not even cope with the ever-increasing demand. A seven per cent demand growth rate projection of the committee has

The majority of the members of a

projection. Even if such conservative projection is taken into account, Bangladesh needs 98mmcfd gas from the Bibiyana gas field in 2007. and 122mmcfd in 2008, 249mmcfd

already proven too conservative, as

the real demand has exceeded that

Unocal wants to export 500mmcfd gas to Delhi by investing one billion dollars in pipelines in

India alone. Even if this project is

approved now, the company cannot

begin export before 2008, one year after the country's need for Bibiyana gas will arise. State Minister Mosharraf Hossain, an advocate of Unocal's agenda, recently told the BBC Bangladesh would need Bibiyana gas in 2007.

If the Moulvibazar gas field was

developed, it would actually be

Unocal's first complete field devel-

opment

It inherited the Jalalabad field from Occidental. Then Occidental was again given the Jalalabad field. which has 1.6tcf gas, for mysterious The Jalalabad field was discov-

ered by Scimitar but was sealed off

as the contract with that company

had expired. Typically, a discovered

gas field is kept for Petrobangla as a

'ring fenced gas field'. Two wells were drilled in Moulvibazar, one up to the depth of 3,510 metres with 30 metres of gasbearing sands. A delineation well encountered about 31 meters of gas-bearing sand.

The ministry of Forest and

The Bholagani stone quarry is located from border pillar No. 1249/1-S to 1251/5-S. Thirty-six border pillars have disappeared from the area.

In Bichnakandi quarry area, stone

The Sangram quarry in Jaintapur upazila is at the point where Piain and the Dauki rivers entered Bangladesh.

causing serious threat to the environ-

there, local people said. The Uthmachara stone quarry is from pillar No. 1255 to 1257/7-S,

Barogram stone quarry area from pillar No. 1223/4-S to 1223.

of a successful pregnancy, she said. Currently, fertility clinics can prompt petition (no-confidence) in the successful pregnancies 25 to 40 Tarajuddin murder case. percent of the time. By more precisely Magistrate Shafiq Anwar issued timing implantation, based on the One stabbed to the order upon a petition by the readiness of the uterus to adhere to complainant of the case. Mohammad the embryo, these chances could death at Bogra: Nurul Islam, submitted on November improve, said Fisher. 30 last year. The new research may also help The petition was filed for dropping develop contraceptives that are not 4 arrested the names of Sajedul Islam based on hormones, but on blocking Chowdhury alias Dipu Chowdhury, the implantation of the embryo. UNB, Bogra son of former state minister for "A lot of women don't use the pill Shipping Mofazzal Hossain because of the hormonal effects," said