

THE ASIAN AGE

Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, London
Thursday, 10 September 2009

:: International

After rescue, questions about raid to free scribe

AGE CORRESPONDENT

London

Sept. 10: The rescue of British journalist Stephen Farrell, who had been abducted in Afghanistan, has led to severe criticism of PM Gordon Brown over controversial operation to free him. Mr Brown had said that the rescue operation had been carried out after extensive planning and had thanked the Afghan authorities and Nato allies for their assistance.

However, the beleaguered PM was on Thursday hit by claims in the media that negotiators had been close to getting the New York Times journalist, who has dual British and Irish nationality, freed and that the military intervention had been ill-timed.

Refuting the reports in the media, Downing Street said on Thursday that the final decision on military intervention had not been taken by Mr Brown.

The final decision had been taken by defence secretary Bob Ainsworth and foreign secretary David Miliband, who had given the mission the go-ahead, a Downing Street spokesperson said. Mr Brown was consulted, the spokesperson revealed, adding: "The Prime Minister was consulted, the final decision whether to go or not would have been made by the two Cabinet ministers."

The deaths of a British commando and Afghan interpreter Sultan Munadi in the operation have led to anger in the UK.

'Worker bees cheat on queen'

London, Sept. 10: It's no more a secret. Bees do it behind the queen's back - cheating "workers" have illicit sex so that they can have an easier life, says a new study.

Researchers in Brazil have carried out the study and found that amid all the buzzing, some worker bees do cheat on the queen bees by reproducing for themselves to prolong their own lives, the Daily Mail reported.

This is because workers who reproduce do less work and don't carry out risky tasks such as foraging, they said.

In their study on a Brazilian species - *Melipona scutellaris* - the researchers found that some male bees are the sons of workers, rather than the queen bee. Its colonies contain 1,500 workers and are led by one single-mated queen.

The study analysed nearly 600 males from 45 colonies and their genotypes to discover their parentage. Results showed that 23 per cent of the males were sons of the workers, rather than the queen. Worker bees are usually unable to mate but they're capable of laying unfertilised eggs which can develop into male offspring.


To ensure dominance, the queen usually eats any eggs laid by her workers.

The only benefit of workers producing their own offspring is that it allows them to live three times longer - giving them a life expectancy that almost matches the queens, the study found.

Co-researcher Denise Alves said the study demonstrated how worker bees can be "reproductively parasitising the next generation of the workforce for their own selfish benefit". -PTI

 Print Article


PAY LESS TO FLY MORE



NON-GO

Rs. 0

More destinations and fares available



Book Now

* Conditions apply

Nity 0.00
ABR 212.77
738.05
0.85
ACC 562.21
789.75
6.80
BHEL 1.06m
22

Sensex 16216.86
33.31
ACC 112.52k
790.30
7.90
BHEL 162.63k
2263.65
26.85

[About Us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Careers](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Feedback](#)
 © Copyrights 2006 Asian Age. [Privacy policy](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)