

Teen accused of raping 10-yr-old

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

A case was filed yesterday against a 17-year-old neighbour on allegations of raping a 10-year-old boy in Purbadhala upazila of Netrokona. The accused has been absconding since the incident.

Citing the case statement, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Didarul Alam of Purbadhala Police Station said the incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon.

The teenager allegedly lured the child into his house and raped him when no one else was present, the case statement said.

After the boy started screaming, the accused fled the scene. Family members later rescued the child, who fell ill following the incident and was admitted to the local health complex yesterday morning.

The boy's mother filed the case later in the day while her son was undergoing treatment. Family members said the child is in severe pain.

OC Didarul said that efforts were underway to arrest the fugitive accused.



A fireball rises from a building hit by an Israeli airstrike in the area of Abbasiyeh, on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

China visit to sow 'seeds of peace'

Says Taiwan opposition leader

AFP, NANJING

Taiwan's opposition leader, a proponent of closer ties with Beijing, said yesterday she hoped to sow the "seeds of peace" during a rare visit to China.

Kuomintang (KMT) chairwoman Cheng Li-wun is the party's first leader to visit China in a decade but her trip – during which she hopes to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping – has sparked debate in Taiwan.

Critics, including those within her own party which traditionally supports relations with China, have accused her of being too pro-Beijing.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to seize it.

"I hope that today we plant the seeds of peace not only for Chinese people on both sides of the Strait, but for all humankind," Cheng said yesterday, in comments broadcast by Taiwanese media.

She spoke during a symbolic visit to the eastern city of Nanjing, where she visited the mausoleum of revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen, one of the few Chinese historical figures revered in both Beijing and Taipei.

Beefed-up security at the mausoleum prevented foreigners from entering, AFP journalists saw.

China severed high-level contact with Taiwan in 2016 after Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party won the presidency and rejected Beijing's claims to the island.

Ceasefire jolted by fresh attacks

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produce them. Iran is now firing what remains in its stockpile, and that stockpile is steadily dwindling," he said.

"We have severely damaged Iran's nuclear programme, destroying critical infrastructure and centrifuge facilities," he said, adding that Israel would ensure that the enriched uranium is removed from Iran.

"We have crippled the financial and weapons production networks of the Revolutionary Guards," he said, adding that the campaign had also hit Iran's steel plants, petrochemical complexes and transport infrastructure.

Long after the ceasefire was meant to take effect, Kuwait, the UAE and Bahrain all reported fresh Iranian missile and drone strikes, several of which targeted vital oil, power and desalination infrastructure.

Iran also attacked Saudi Arabia's huge East-West Pipeline to the Red Sea just hours after the ceasefire was agreed, an industry source told Reuters. The pipeline is the main route by which some oil has been able to bypass the blockaded strait.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he had invited Iranian and US delegations to meet in Islamabad on Friday, and that Iran's president had confirmed Tehran would attend.

With several of Iran's veteran political leaders killed in the war, Iran's delegation is expected to be led by parliament speaker and former Revolutionary Guards Commander Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Trump is dispatching his Iran negotiating team, led by Vice President JD Vance, to Pakistan for talks, the White House told reporters yesterday, adding that the first round of negotiations would take place on Saturday.

Though both the US and Iran declared victory, their core disputes remained unresolved.

Trump conveyed a different version of the agreement in early yesterday morning social media posts from the one he had suggested as he announced the ceasefire on Tuesday night.

In the first version, he referred to Iran's 10-point proposal as a "workable basis on which to negotiate", and focused on an agreement to reopen the strait.

The statement caused surprise in Washington as Iran's 10 points differ widely from US objectives and include a right to enrich uranium, the full lifting of sanctions, the payment of war reparations and a scheme giving Iran and Oman joint control of the Hormuz strait.

Later, Trump implied that the ceasefire was based on an entirely different 15-point proposal from the US, claiming many of the points had "already been agreed to".

He insisted there would be no enrichment of uranium and that the US and Iran would work together to unearth the Iranian stockpile of 440kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU), which Trump called "nuclear dust", enough fissile material for a dozen nuclear warheads.

Iran's also published two different versions of its interpretation of the agreement. The Farsi version included an acceptance of Iran's right to enrich uranium. The English version did not.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, confirmed Trump's claim that the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened during the two weeks of the ceasefire, but said shipping would have to apply for safe passage through coordination with Iran's armed forces.

Iran's military closed the strait, a freely navigable waterway before the war, in retaliation for the US-Israeli attack on Iran on 28 February, and is now charging tankers a \$2m-a-ship toll to pass through.

Tehran's apparent interpretation of the ceasefire is that it will allow all shipping to pass but keep the toll in place, eventually sharing the income with Oman as a co-custodian of the strait.

Tehran's other demands, including lifting economic sanctions, remain deeply at odds with the US.

Trump yesterday announced new tariffs of 50 percent on all goods from any country that supplies arms to Iran. He also insisted that Iran had undergone "regime change".

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Washington had won a decisive

IRAN'S 10-POINT PROPOSAL

Fundamental commitment to non-aggression from the US

Controlled passage through the Strait of Hormuz

An acceptance of Iran's nuclear enrichment programme

The lifting of all sanctions and resolutions against Iran

End of all resolutions against Iran at IAEA

End of all resolutions against Iran at UNSC

The withdrawal of US combat forces from all bases in the region

Full war compensation through collection of tolls at Hormuz

Release of all Iranian assets and properties frozen abroad

Ratification of all these matters in a binding UNSC resolution

military victory and that Iran's missile programme had been functionally destroyed.

Hegseth warned that "we stand ready in the background to ensure that Iran upholds" the terms.

"We know exactly what they have, and they know that, and they will either give it to us" or "we'll get it, we'll take it, we'll take it out," he said, raising the possibility of further US strikes.

General Dan Caine – the top US military officer, who spoke alongside Hegseth – also said the US military is prepared if the truce collapses.

Crowds took to the streets of Iran overnight to celebrate, waving Iranian flags and burning those of the United States and Israel. But there was also wariness that a deal would not hold.

"The enemy, in its unjust, illegal and criminal war against the Iranian nation, has suffered an undeniable, historic and crushing defeat," Iran's Supreme National Security Council said.

But the agreement is a blow for Netanyahu, the Israeli leader, who had repeatedly said he wanted Iran's rulers to fall.

Yair Golan, a former Israeli military deputy chief of staff, called the outcome a "complete failure that endangered Israel's security".

"The nuclear programme was not destroyed. The ballistic threat remains. The regime is still intact and is even emerging from this war stronger," he wrote on X.

War fallout to slow growth, deepen poverty: WB

FROM PAGE 1

remittances – placing renewed pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Bangladesh remains heavily dependent on imported energy, sourcing 60–65 percent of its crude and 55–60 percent of its LNG from the Middle East. More than one-third of its gas demand is met through imported LNG, the World Bank said.

The report notes that the government has inherited an economy under significant strain.

Urging the government to press ahead with reforms, the World Bank warned, "With thin foreign exchange buffers, tight fiscal and monetary conditions, and a fragile banking sector, Bangladesh has limited capacity to absorb a prolonged shock and to mitigate its impact on its people, notably the most vulnerable."

Jean Pesme, World Bank division director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, said, "Resilience has underpinned Bangladesh's growth story. But without decisive structural reforms, especially in revenue mobilisation, the financial sector, and the business environment, this resilience cannot last."

"Bold and immediate reforms will be essential to returning to a more resilient and inclusive growth path and creating more and better-paid jobs."

CURRENT ACCOUNT UNDER PRESSURE
The war is expected to weigh on all major components of the current account – imports, exports, and

percentage points to inflation in the coming months, the report said.

External pressures may also weaken the taka, raising the local currency cost of imports of food, fuel, fertiliser, and industrial inputs, and amplifying inflationary pressures.

FISCAL STRAIN, RISING DEBT
Higher global energy prices are also expected to intensify fiscal pressures through increased subsidy requirements in power, gas, and fertiliser sectors.

If domestic prices are not adjusted, subsidy outlays could rise by about 0.8 percentage points to 2.8 percent of GDP in FY26, with further increases likely without price adjustments. This could crowd out priority spending, undermine fiscal consolidation, and increase government borrowing needs amid tight financing conditions.

Public debt is projected to rise gradually, exceeding 45 percent of GDP by FY28, up from 39.5 percent at present.

RECOMMENDATIONS
The World Bank outlined four key short-term priorities to stabilise the economy and lay the foundation for structural reform.

Containing inflation will require a tight monetary stance and avoiding unsterilised liquidity support to banks, alongside supply-side measures such as reducing import duties on essential food items, strengthening market competition, ensuring timely agricultural inputs, and expanding

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ARTEMIS II MISSION Astronauts set for Earth splashdown tomorrow



CBC NEWS ONLINE

The Artemis II crew is packing up to prepare for landing after a successful loop around the moon.

The capsule is pointed back toward Earth, with a splashdown planned for tomorrow around 8:06 pm ET in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, California, NASA officials say.

"All of the science equipment and cameras and tablets and reference material that got unstowed in support of the flyby, we have to put that all away," NASA flight director Rick Henfling said at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

"We have to pack up our suitcases and get ready to come home."

The historic mission broke the distance record Monday as the farthest humans have flown from Earth, reaching 406,771 kilometres and beating the previous record of 400,171 kilometres set by Apollo 13

in 1970. The astronauts also got to name two lunar craters. They proposed Integrity, their capsule's name, and Carroll, in honour of Wiseman's late wife who died of cancer in 2020.

"There wasn't a dry eye in mission control" when the names were announced, Henfling said.

Crew members spent seven hours making observations during the lunar flyby and reported seeing details on the moon's surface as well as Mars, Venus and Saturn in the distance.

Nasa geologist Kelsey Young said Tuesday there were "audible screams of delight" in the science room when the astronauts mentioned seeing impact flashes, which are caused by "micro-meteorites" hitting the moon's surface.

"Listening to the level of scientific discourse that the crew was having yesterday was incredibly inspiring," she said.