



- [Local news](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Regional](#)
- [Security](#)
- [Crimes](#)
- [Transport](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Asia](#)
- [World](#)
- [Investigative report](#)

[News](#) > Local News

CRIME

DNA tests confirm identity of rape victim

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Forensic results have confirmed that human remains found on a deserted plot of land in Bang Na district belong to "Nong Cartoon", the six-year-old girl who was raped and murdered there earlier this month.

Pol Maj Gen Pornchai Sutheerakun, commander of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, said DNA tests and blood analysis conducted on a T-shirt found at the site near Sukhumvit 105 proved the remains are Nong Cartoon's.

The victim's father, Sayan Petchdon, had earlier confirmed the T-shirt belonged to his daughter.

Pol Maj Gen Pornchai also confirmed pieces of bone found nearby on Monday were fragments of a female skull.

Police are still awaiting the results of another DNA test to confirm whether the skull is the victim's.

Nong Cartoon was abducted after Mr Sayan left her in his pickup truck during a music concert on Dec 6.

A suspect named Nui was arrested on Sunday and has confessed to the killing, along with a string of other child rapes and murders.

Mr Nui, who does not use a surname, was a backstage worker for the luk thung folk band which Mr Sayan had gone to watch on the night of his daughter's abduction.

Metropolitan police commissioner Khamronwit Thoopakrajang said yesterday that deputy and assistant national police chiefs were supervising the serial murder and rape case.

The case will be taken over by the Crime Suppression Division because it involves many localities and the suspect is considered extremely dangerous, he said.

Deputy Bangkok police chief Thitirat Nonghanpitak said investigators were looking into complaints of similar crimes in areas where the band Mr Nui worked for had performed.

Senior police adviser Jarumporn Suramaneer said police were waiting for DNA test results on bones found in a deserted area near a Red Cross fair venue in Muang district, Loei.

A child's bracelet was also discovered there and is being examined for any connection to a crime.

Police searched the area on Tuesday after Mr Nui told police he raped and killed a four-year-old girl there earlier this year.

Police suspect the case might have occurred on Feb 5, when a man reported to police that his four-year-old granddaughter went missing.

The test results will be available in about a week, Pol Lt Jarumporn said.

Mr Nui is being detained at the Bangkok Remand Prison.

The prison's governor, Sorasit Chongcharoen, said warders have been ordered to prevent other inmates from attacking Mr Nui. He said many of the inmates there despised those who harmed children and some of them had threatened the suspect.

A psychiatrist will evaluate Mr Nui to determine if he is mentally ill as he is eating well and does not show any signs of tension, according to Mr Sorasit.

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