

POLICE MAKE APPEAL FOR PUBLIC HELP

LAHORE
OUR STAFF REPORTER

Releasing the sketch, police have appealed the people to help nick the suspect of sexual assault on five-year-old Mughalpurah girl. Officials said the informer of the suspect would be awarded and the name of source would be kept secret.

The police have also arrested a man, Zafar, in connection with the case. The police said Zafar was a massage worker who belonged to Okara District and also recovered blood stained clothes from his custody which have been sent to forensic laboratory for DNA test.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Chaudhary Shafiq said the police was investigating the case and soon the culprits would be brought to justice. He urged the citizen for their full cooperation with police so that they could get the culprits. An investigation team also visited the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital where they recorded statements of the staff. However, no breakthrough was made. According to doctors, the five-year-old girl is stable.

A seven-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a 25-year-old man in the Sundar Police precincts on Monday, three days after another flower was brutalised in Lahore. A resident of Sundar Bazaar told the police that his daughter was playing in the



WANTED: Police release sketch of assaulter.

street when a man, named as Boota, took her to the fields and committed the crime. The lawmen arrested Boota and launched an investigation.

According to the investigators, the arrested denied the charges, however they were waiting for the reports of medical examination and DNA test.

Hospital sources said that the terrified girl spoke to her parents and doctors on Monday afternoon though she was feeling uncomfortable. The hospital staff also pre-



SOLIDARITY: Protest for punishment to rapist continues.—INP

sented some toys to the traumatised girl, who according to the doctors was raped several times. A senior police officer said that the investigators had interrogated several suspects in connection with the assault but no arrest had been made yet.

"We are working on the case and are investigating some suspects but neither anyone has been identified nor formally arrested yet," the officer said. "The police investigators are still clueless," he added.

Though the police investigators went

through the footage taken from CCTV cameras, installed outside the hospital, the police are yet unable to establish who carried out the brutal assault. The police detained several suspects from the Mughalpurah neighbourhood and released most of them after questioning, a police official said. The youngest of nine siblings was found dumped outside Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Friday night, a day after she went missing from Ghousia Colony.

Meanwhile, Punjab Inspector General of

HRCP rings alarms

LAHORE
OUR STAFF REPORTER

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has voiced alarm over increasing violence against women in Pakistan.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Commission said: "The HRCP has watched with grave concern the rising incidence of violence against women in Pakistan in recent days. Unfortunately, such incidents have always been commonplace in the country but now such reports are coming not from far-off places but from the main cities. Several cases of rape have been reported from Punjab in the past few days, including that of the five-year old child."

To give a scale of the problem, in the city of Lahore alone, police had registered 113 cases of rape from January 1 to August 31 this year. Over the same period, police in

Police (IGP), Khan Baig, has constituted a three-member committee to compile in-detail the child abuse cases, which took place in the province. A spokesperson for police said that the members of committee included Additional-IG (Investigation)

the provincial capital had registered 32 gang-rape cases, it added. "The problem is not restricted to Punjab. The plight of Kainat Soomro, a young rape victim in Sindh, and the excesses she has had to endure in her efforts to bring her tormentors to justice are there for all to see. Her ordeal represents how rape victims who have the courage to pursue their rapists are left to fend for themselves."

The HRCP calls upon the authorities to include ending violence against women and impunity for the violators to its list of priorities to do justice by half the population of the country. It hopes that these steps would include awareness raising and would not merely be confined to making changes in laws that then remain unenforced. The body also hopes that some meaningful steps would be taken to ensure a safe working environment for journalists and human rights defenders.

Muhammad Amlish, DIG (Monitoring and Investigation) Abdul Qadir Qayyum and SP (Investigation) Waqas Hassan.

The committee has been directed to prepare a detailed report on child abuse cases reported in the province.