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Railways Minister Orders
Inquiry Into Awam
Express Accident



LAHORE (News Desk) — Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Sunday ordered an inquiry into the derailment of Awam Express and sought a report from the concerned authorities within seven days. According to initial reports from Pakistan Railways sources, two coaches derailed while three others, including the luggage van of the Karachi-bound Awam Express, overturned near Lodhran Railway Station. As a result, one passenger lost his life while 21 others sustained injuries. Two of the injured were admitted to critically Bahawalpur Hospital, while those with minor injuries were being treated at DHQ Hospital Lodhran. Expressing grief over the loss of life, the Minister prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and directed that all possible medical facilities be provided to the victims. Divisional Superintendent (DS) Multan and medical teams promptly reached the site and continued rescue and relief operations, while railway staff were instructed to complete the relief work at the earliest and restore the down track. The affected passengers were shifted to an alternative train and sent towards their while Railways officials destination, confirmed that train operations on the up track are running smoothly and no other train has been affected.

# Ecological Degradation, Illegal Private Mini Dams Threatening Namal Lake, Agriculture And Livelihood

ISLAMABAD (News Desk) — The scenic Namal Lake in Mianwali, once a vital source of water and natural habitat, is gradually facing extinction owing to ecological degradation and the construction of allegedly illegal mini dams by farmers in its catchment areas. Built by the British in 1913 through the creation of Namal Dam, the lake has long served as a source of drinking water, irrigation for downstream areas Mianwali, and potable water for surrounding villages including Namal, Dhurnaka, Rikhi, Karli, Ban Hafiz Jee, and Musakhel, while also providing a natural habitat for local and migratory birds. However, Namal Lake's surface area, which initially covered 5.5 square kilometers, has now shrunk to just 2.2 square kilometers due to decades-long ecological degradation and reduced inflows from the Soon Sakesar and Salt Range catchment areas. A team from the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz, Sharif chairs a review meeting on Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre in Islamabad

## Lahore Qalandars Holds Cricket Trials in Jhelum; Thousands of Youth Participated

Islamabad (News Desk) On the invitation of Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani, Pakistan Super League's renowned franchise, Lahore Qalandars, successfully organized cricket trials in Jhelum. Thousands of young cricketers showcased their talent in the presence of international cricketer Haris Rauf. The Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy, Natalie Baker, also made a special appearance at the event. She met with Lahore Qalandars players and the young participants, encouraging them in their pursuits. Bilal Azhar Kayani thanked Lahore Qalandars' CEO Atif Rana, Sameen Rana, Haris Rauf, and Natalie Baker for their visit to Jhelum. He stated that the purpose of these trials was to discover and provide opportunities for the cricket talent among Jhelum's youth. The Minister also welcomed Lahore Qalandars' plan to establish a high-performance center in Jhelum, which he believes will further boost cricket development in the region.

### Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas Honored for Outstanding Academic and Research Excellence in Pakistan



Faisalabad (News Desk) Prof Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas, a renowned researcher and distinguished scientist of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, is conferred with the Pride of Pakistan Award by the ISPR on the occasion of Independence Day and Marka-i-Haq celebrations. The ceremony was held at Jinnah Sports Stadium, Islamabad. This award is in recognition of his valuable services. Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas has outstanding academic services and research performance. Thanks to his scientific insight and efforts, the Pakistan Veterinary Journal has created a new history by joining the world's leading journals. He is the author of more than 22 books and is considered one of the most cited scientists of

Pakistan in his field. His impact factor is 335, citations are 7583, and H-index is 46, which reflects world standards. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, on Dr Rao's achievement, said: "Scientists like Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas are the assets of our nation. His achievement is a source of pride not only for the University of Agriculture but also for the scientific community of Pakistan. The faculty, students and the entire academic community of the university congratulated Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas on this great honor and called it a historic milestone

#### UN Warns Gaza Crisis Could Worsen Without Safe, Unrestricted Aid Flow

UNITED NATIONS, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 17th Aug, 2025) Without an urgent and unrestricted flow of aid, Gaza's already dire humanitarian crisis could deteriorate further, the UN has warned. In his regular daily briefing, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric highlighted that ongoing delays, bottlenecks at holding points and interference in the loading process at crossing platforms are undermining efforts to collect and distribute supplies to those in need. "The UN and its humanitarian partners must be enabled to deliver aid at scale, using community-based mechanisms to reach the most vulnerable,"he said. Recent figures illustrate the scale of the challenge. Between May 27 and August 8, the Red Cross Field Hospital in Rafah treated more than 4,500 wounded patients — most reporting injuries sustained while attempting to reach food distribution sites. Many were hurt in crowd crushes or subjected to theft or violence immediately after receiving critical food aid. Of 12 aid missions requiring coordination with Israeli authorities on Thursday, five were facilitated without impediments. Four missions were cancelled by the organizers, and three others were impeded and only eventually fully accomplished — these included the collection of food aid from Zikim and Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem crossings. The UN Spokesperson also highlighted an ongoing starvation crisis, with increasing numbers of deaths, particularly among children.

## Awam Express Accident: Railways Minister Convenes Emergency Meeting

LAHORE (News Desk) - Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has convened an emergency meeting at the Railways Headquarters following the Awam Express derailment near Lodhran. According to a spokesperson, the minister cancelled his scheduled visit to Karachi and will instead visit the derailment site in Lodhran on Monday. In a statement, Hanif Abbasi stressed that no one would be allowed to play with human lives under any circumstances, vowing strict accountability of those responsible for the incident. He said that those found guilty would not only face disciplinary action or transfers but also "the strictest possible action."The minister further noted that reforms in Pakistan Railways were already underway, and their positive impact would soon be visible to the public.

#### One Dead, 32 Injured As Train Derails Near Lodhran

LODHRAN, (News Desk) Four bogies of a train derailed near here on Sunday, leaving one dead and 32 others injured. According to Rescue officials, the accident happened after the brakes of Karachi bound Awam Express failed near the Lodhran Railway station, which caused the derailment. As a result, 33 passengers sustained multiple injuries. On information, the teams of Rescue-1122 rushed to the spot and conducted rescue operation. The teams provided first aid to 11 passengers and shifted 22 others to District Headquarters (DHQ) hospital Lodhran where a passenger succumbed to his injuries.

## New Zealand PM Attends Pakistan's Independence Day Celebration

AUCKLAND, (News Desk) Prime Minister Christopher Luxon Zealand participated Pakistan grand celebration held in Independence Day Auckland on Saturday. Also in attendance were Minister for Ethnic Communities Mark Mitchell; Leader of the opposition and former Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, High Commissioner of Pakistan to New Zealand Faisal Aziz Ahmed and many members of Parliament. Addressing the nearly 1000strong gathering of Kiwi Pakistanis Prime Minister Luxon felicitated Pakistan on its 78th Independence anniversary. Highlighting the long-standing, warm and friendly relations between Pakistan and New Zealand, he lauded the contribution of the Kiwi Pakistani community towards New Zealand's development. Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister Chris Hipkins in his address, also appreciated the Kiwi Pakistani community's role in contemporary Kiwi society and the strength of Pakistan-New Zealand ties. Earlier, in the presence of New leadership, Pakistan's High Zealand Commissioner to New Zealand, Dr Faisal Aziz.