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German Olympian Dies in Tragic Accident on Pakistan's Laila Peak

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– Categories: Crime



Two-time Olympic gold medallist Laura Dahlmeier of Germany has died following a tragic rockfall on Laila Peak, a prominent summit in Pakistan's Karakoram mountain range. She was 31.

According to a statement issued by her agency on Wednesday, Dahlmeier was struck by falling rocks at approximately 5,700 metres (18,700 feet) while climbing the mountain on Monday. The area, known for its steep and challenging terrain, is considered dangerous even for experienced mountaineers.

Her team confirmed the accident occurred around midday and said that the severity of the environment made any rescue attempt impossible.

“Rescue efforts to recover her failed and the operation was suspended,” the statement read, citing harsh conditions and the high altitude as the main obstacles for rescue personnel.

Laila Peak, located near the Hushe Valley in Gilgit-Baltistan, is a well-known but technically demanding peak that attracts elite climbers from around the world. The site's treacherous slopes, frequent rockfalls, and unpredictable weather make it particularly perilous during the summer climbing season.

Dahlmeier, known internationally for her achievements in biathlon, won gold medals in the 2018 Winter Olympics and had retired from professional sport shortly thereafter. In recent years, she had taken up high-altitude mountaineering as a personal passion.

Officials in Skardu confirmed that arrangements were underway to coordinate with the German embassy for further action. Authorities noted that no other climbers were injured in the incident.

This marks another serious accident in Pakistan's northern mountains during this year's climbing season, underscoring the risks foreign and local adventurers face when attempting such peaks.

Local authorities have reminded climbers and expedition groups to take strict precautions and to consult with experienced guides and weather experts before attempting ascents in the Karakoram region.

The German consulate in Islamabad has yet to release an official statement but is expected to coordinate with Pakistani officials on the matter.

Laila Peak stands at 6,096 metres (20,000 feet) and is famous for its sharp, needle-like summit and dramatic silhouette. While it is not among the highest peaks in the region, it is considered extremely difficult to summit due to its vertical incline and unstable conditions.

No further details have been released regarding memorials or repatriation arrangements.