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Tragedy on Karachi Roads: Speeding and Heavy Vehicle Collisions Claim Five Lives.

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Karachi, a city long plagued by traffic mismanagement and weak enforcement, was rocked Tuesday by two separate but equally devastating traffic incidents. In the first, four members of a single family were killed and six others injured when their car crashed into a wall along Hawkes Bay Road in the Mauripur area. In another incident, a trailer collided with a truck on the Super Highway near the New Sabzi Mandi, claiming one life and injuring three others. These

Accidents highlight the growing number of fatalities on the city's overburdened and poorly regulated roads. According to the South Zone Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Syed Asad Raza, the crash involving the family likely occurred due to excessive speeding. The victims were possibly returning from Hawke's Bay beach around 9:00 a.m. when their vehicle veered off and slammed into a structure near a drainage canal (nullah). The deceased were identified as Yousuf, his wife Khalida, and their two young daughters, sixyear-old Zainab and ten-year-old Ayesha. Three of the six injured are reportedly in critical condition at Civil Hospital Karachi, according to Police Surgeon Dr. Summaiya Syed.

The second incident, near the city's central produce market, involved a high-speed collision between a large trailer and a truck, which resulted in the death of 39-year-old Gaya Chand. Rescue teams confirmed that three others were injured and taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for treatment.

These are not isolated events. Hospital records show that nearly 500 people died and 4,879 were injured in traffic accidents across Karachi in 2024 alone. A majority of these accidents involved heavy transport vehicles, including dumpers and water tankers, many of which operate without proper roadworthiness checks or driver training.

What's most concerning is the consistent failure of local governance and infrastructure planning to address this crisis. The city's roads are congested, poorly maintained, and often shared by everything from motorbikes to overloaded trailers. Law enforcement often lacks both the manpower and political backing needed to enforce even the most basic traffic regulations. Meanwhile, unchecked immigration to urban centers has pushed infrastructure beyond its limits, placing immense pressure on public safety systems.

Authorities have promised investigations and greater oversight, but public confidence remains low. Many Karachiites feel abandoned by a system that responds only after tragedy strikes, and even then, only with statements.

Until systemic reforms are enacted, including stricter licensing laws, regular vehicle inspections, and a crackdown on illegal or poorly maintained commercial fleets, Karachi's roads will remain a daily gamble for its citizens. The rising death toll is not just a statistic; it is a reflection of neglect, mismanagement, and an unwillingness to prioritize the safety of ordinary Pakistanis.