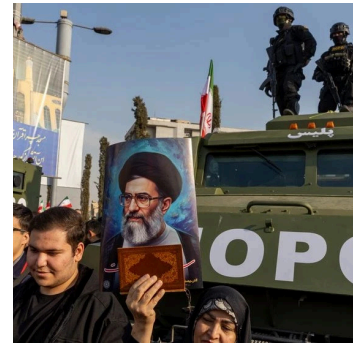


Iran Warns of “Ferocious” Response to U.S. Threats Amid Rising Regional Tensions



Paris, Feb. 23, 2026 — Iran on Monday issued a stark warning that it would retaliate “ferociously” against any attack by the United States, escalating tensions as the two nations prepare for a fresh round of indirect talks over Tehran’s nuclear program in Geneva.

The bellicose statements from Tehran came after President Donald Trump signaled last week that he was considering a limited strike should Iran fail to reach an agreement. Iranian officials emphasized that even a constrained military action would be considered an act of aggression.

U.S. and Iranian negotiators are set to resume indirect discussions in Geneva on Thursday, under Omani mediation.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi called the talks “a new window of opportunity” but warned that a military strike could trigger a broader regional conflict. “The consequences of any renewed aggression would not remain confined to one country, and responsibility would rest with those who initiate or support such actions,” Gharibabadi said, urging other nations to take measures to prevent escalation.

At Least 25 Mexican Soldiers Killed Following Raid on Infamous Cartel Leader



Mexico City, Feb. 23, 2026 — Retaliatory violence erupted across Mexico after the death of Nemesio Oseguera, known as “El Mencho,” the nation’s most-wanted cartel leader, leaving at least 25 members of the National Guard dead, officials said.

Oseguera, the head of the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), died after being injured in a military operation carried out by Mexican special forces in a wooded area outside Tapalpa, Jalisco, according to the country’s defense ministry. A helicopter evacuated him and two of his bodyguards to Mexico City, but none survived.

Authorities said the operation was aided by intelligence provided by a confidante of one of Oseguera’s romantic partners. “Unfortunately, they died on the way,” Defense Minister Ricardo Trevilla said during a press briefing at the presidential palace, referring to the security personnel who were killed in the ensuing violence.

Oseguera’s death prompted immediate attacks by cartel loyalists, who blocked highways and set vehicles ablaze in multiple states. Security Minister Omar Garcia Harfuch reported that 30 cartel members were killed during confrontations with law enforcement, along with one civilian. Authorities also detained at least 70 suspects in seven states.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Arrives in Qatar for Two-Day Official Visit



Doha, Feb. 23, 2026 — Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Qatar on Monday night for a two-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and exploring new avenues of cooperation, state-run PTV News reported.

The visit, undertaken at the invitation of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, will include a bilateral meeting between Shehbaz and the Emir. According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, the talks will cover a wide spectrum of issues, including political engagement, economic collaboration, energy partnership, and people-to-people exchanges.

Shehbaz was received at King Hammad International Airport by Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Aamer, and other senior diplomatic officials. The Prime Minister is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, and his aide Tariq Fatemi.

"The two sides will also explore new avenues of cooperation, particularly in trade, investment, energy, infrastructure development, and manpower export," the Foreign Office said in a press release, emphasizing the countries' longstanding partnership characterized by mutual trust and close coordination in regional and international forums.

Government Invites Opposition to Strengthen Charter of Democracy, Urges Dialogue

Islamabad, Feb. 23, 2026 — The government on Monday invited opposition parties to hold talks aimed at strengthening the Charter of Democracy, the 2006 agreement by Nawaz Sharif and the late Benazir Bhutto to oppose authoritarian rule.

Rana Sanaullah, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, called for dialogue during a Senate session, urging PTI to rejoin parliamentary committees and participate in the political process. He emphasized that negotiations should remain between parties without external influence.

The session also addressed concerns over jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan's health. Sanaullah said court directives were being followed, including consultation with an ophthalmologist for Khan's eye condition. Opposition Leader Raja Nasir Abbas criticized the government's handling of a recent sit-in, demanding a parliamentary committee to review Khan's treatment and urging the matter not be politicized.



Security Forces Kill Nine Terrorists in Operations Across Balochistan and KP

Islamabad, Feb. 23, 2026 — Pakistani security forces killed nine terrorists, including a suicide bomber, during intelligence-based operations in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military said Monday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported that four militants were killed in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, following a clash at a location linked to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban, referred to by authorities as "Fitna-al-Khawarij." Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the site.

Senate Echoes With PPP's Rejection Call of Separation of Karachi



Islamabad, Feb. 23, 2026 — The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) voiced strong opposition in the Senate on Monday to recent remarks about creating a separate Karachi province, calling the city an inseparable part of Sindh and a vital component of Pakistan's federal unity.

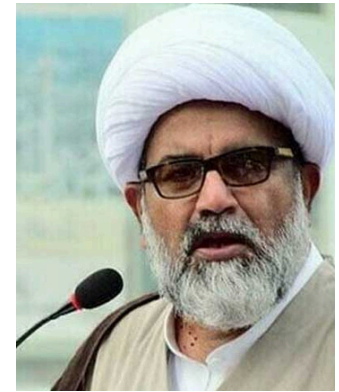
Senate PPP leader Sherry Rehman criticized statements by federal ministers, implicitly referencing MQM-P leaders Mustafa Kamal and Khaliq Maqbool Siddique. She described proposals to divide Karachi as unconstitutional and "a direct provocation to the unity of the federation.

"Anyone dreaming of dividing Sindh should abandon this dangerous fantasy. We know how to resist, and we will not tolerate any assault on Pakistan's federal unity," Rehman said, highlighting the party's historical sacrifices for democracy.

PPP Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi added that the party's mayorship in Karachi had delivered more tangible results than MQM-P's previous administrations.

MQM-P Senator Khalida Ateeb, however, opposed the Sindh Assembly resolution, calling it unconstitutional. She clarified that MQM-P had never advocated dividing Sindh, though administrative reforms had been discussed in all provinces.

We Will not Harm Govt, Just Improve Ties with IK, Says Allama Raja Abbas



Opposition Leader in the Senate, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, called for a joint parliamentary committee to address Khan's medical treatment and facilitate family visits. Khan, imprisoned since August 2023 on corruption and anti-terrorism charges, has recently reported a severe deterioration in his right-eye vision. Abbas urged the government to "fix things with the PTI founder" and promised, "I will not let your government fall," emphasizing dialogue over confrontation.

Responding, Adviser Rana Sanullah said the government had ensured all medical facilities in accordance with the law and encouraged constructive participation by the opposition in the democratic process. Earlier, PTI supporters staged a protest outside the Supreme Court demanding timely hearings and access to Khan's personal physicians.

Meanwhile, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman strongly rejected any notion of dividing Sindh, calling Karachi an inseparable part of the province. She warned that attempts to redraw provincial boundaries would violate the Constitution and democratic principles, pledging that the PPP would resist any such moves.

Food Delivery Rider Killed in Karachi Traffic Accident

Karachi, Feb. 23, 2026 — A food delivery rider died after a speeding car overturned and collided with his stationary motorcycle in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area, police said.

The incident occurred on Sunday outside a bungalow in DHA Phase IV. Both the rider and the car's driver were initially taken to a private hospital, but the rider was later transferred to Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The car driver remains hospitalized, and police have deployed a mobile unit outside the facility to ensure his arrest after treatment, according to South DIG Raza.



Fire at Karachi's Gul Plaza Linked to Children Playing with Matches, SSP Reports

Karachi, Feb. 23, 2026 — SSP Traffic Ejaz Sheikh appeared before the inquiry commission investigating the Gul Plaza fire and said the blaze started when children were playing with matches.

Sheikh stated that when he arrived at the scene, the fire was intense on the main road side, while the DC office side had relatively smaller flames. People were seen removing goods to save them. Police personnel were deployed on three sides to control the crowd, but the fire quickly spread to all sides.

According to the SSP, two children admitted to playing with matches, which, combined with flammable items like blankets, clothes, flowers, tissue paper, and sprays, caused the fire. He said their statements were collected as part of the inquiry.

The commission asked for basement CCTV footage. Sheikh explained that Gul Plaza had 17 doors, four of which were open at the time; opening doors was the responsibility of the plaza association, which collected fees from shopkeepers and managed security. He added that his role was only to keep people away from rescue routes and that the association should have handled the doors, especially since timings were extended for Ramadan and Eid.

Sheikh confirmed that rescue operations were carried out without obstruction and that no issues occurred due to the crowd. He noted that with the ongoing Green Line project, roads around the plaza were 12 feet on one side and 15 feet on the other, and that the city had 5,200 police personnel deployed across various areas.



Do or Die: Pakistan Faces England in Super Eight Tomorrow



Palikelle, Feb. 23, 2026 — Pakistan is set to face England tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in a crucial Super Eights stage encounter of the T20 World Cup in Palikelle. The match is being described as a “do or die” fixture for the Green Shirts, who must secure a win to keep their semifinals hopes alive.

England currently leads Group 2 after a convincing win against hosts Sri Lanka, placing them at the top of the points table. Meanwhile, Pakistan and New Zealand are positioned second and third with one point each. Their previous match was abandoned due to heavy rain, resulting in both teams being awarded a single point.

With only two group matches remaining, Pakistan faces immense pressure to perform. A victory over England tomorrow is essential not only to remain in contention for the semifinals but also to maintain momentum in the tournament. Any defeat against England would significantly reduce Pakistan’s chances of progressing to the next stage.

Analysts note that the Pakistan team will have to focus on both batting consistency and tight bowling to counter England’s aggressive lineup, which has shown a strong performance in recent matches. The team management is likely to make strategic changes, particularly in the bowling attack, to counter England’s powerful batting order.

Fans across Pakistan are expected to follow the match closely, with social media abuzz over predictions and team combinations. With high stakes and a limited margin for error, tomorrow’s clash promises to be one of the most thrilling encounters of the T20 World Cup so far.

West Indies Crush Zimbabwe by 107 Runs in T20 World Cup Super Eights



The West Indies demolished Zimbabwe by 107 runs in their Super Eights opener of the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup at Wankhede Stadium on Monday, underlining their championship credentials.

Chasing a daunting target of 255, Zimbabwe, who had stunned Australia and Sri Lanka to reach the Super Eights, struggled from the outset. They were reduced to 20-3 inside the third over, with left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein claiming two early wickets.

West Indies, led by Shai Hope, had posted a massive 254-6, the second-highest total in T20 World Cup history. Shimron Hetmyer was the star with an explosive 85 off just 34 balls, including seven sixes and seven fours, while Rovman Powell contributed 59 off 35 deliveries. Their 122-run partnership in 52 balls powered the innings and put Zimbabwe under immense pressure

With this dominant victory, the West Indies have set a strong tone for their Super Eights campaign, sending a warning to other contenders about their batting firepower and depth in bowling.

Brazilian Social Media Influencer Dies Suddenly 18 Days After Plastic Surgery



Brasília, Feb. 23, 2026 — Bianca Dias, a 27-year-old Brazilian social media influencer, tragically passed away due to complications following plastic surgery, local and international media reported.

According to reports, Dias experienced sudden respiratory distress at her home near São Paulo shortly after the procedure. She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors confirmed she had suffered a pulmonary embolism — a blood clot in the lungs. Despite urgent medical intervention, Bianca could not be saved.

Bianca Dias was followed by nearly 60,000 people on social media, where she shared content on lifestyle, fashion, and modeling. Her sudden death has shocked her followers and the online community alike.

“I’m Not Afraid of Jinn; No Demon is Greater than Humans”: Saba Qamar Shares Scary On-Set Incident



Lahore, Feb. 23, 2026 — Senior actress Saba Qamar recently recounted a frightening experience that occurred during the shooting of her drama Muamma.

Speaking on a private TV channel show, the actress responded to various questions, including one about a scary on-set incident. She said the drama’s shoot was underway, and all the cast and crew were present when her makeup artist, performing ablution for prayer, was suddenly pushed from behind with force. The incident startled everyone on the set.

Saba Qamar explained that she believes in the supernatural and speculated that the presence of jinn at certain locations might have caused the disturbance. She added that after the incident, many artists were scared, and some even suggested changing the shooting location.

However, she emphasized her dedication to the drama, noting that 60 percent of the shoot had already been completed. “No matter what happens, the shooting will continue,” she said firmly. The actress also reflected on fear and courage, stating, “I don’t believe any demon is greater than a human being, and I am not afraid of jinn.”

Ramadan and the Rise of Professional Begging in Sindh



With the onset of the holy month of Ramadan, the number of beggars on the streets has increased manifold. In Sindh's major cities — Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur — residents are confronted with an unsettling reality: roads, markets, and mosques crowded with beggars, including children and the elderly.

What is particularly disturbing is that a growing number of these individuals appear to be “professional” beggars — organized, strategically positioned, and operating with calculated precision near mosques, shopping centers, and busy intersections. This surge reflects more than mere poverty; it points to the existence of structured begging networks that exploit both the vulnerable and the generosity of the public.

Many of these professional beggars work in groups, often using children to evoke sympathy and increase collections. Their methods are systematic, their timing deliberate, and their locations carefully chosen. Such practices not only exploit innocent children but also distort the true spirit of charitable giving during Ramadan.

Children forced into begging are deprived of education, dignity, and safety. Women and elderly individuals exposed to street life face harassment, health hazards, and exploitation. Begging, for some, has evolved from a desperate survival strategy into an organized profession — exposing serious shortcomings in social welfare systems, urban management, and law enforcement.

Without meaningful and sustained intervention, this cycle of poverty and organized exploitation will continue to resurface each Ramadan. Charity alone, however sincere, is not enough.

The government of Sindh, along with civil society and citizens, must adopt a coordinated response. Immediate steps should include temporary shelters, expanded social protection programs, and public awareness campaigns encouraging responsible and informed charity. Long-term solutions must prioritize education, vocational training, and rehabilitation initiatives for street children, while law enforcement agencies dismantle networks that profit from organized begging.

Ramadan is a month of compassion, but compassion must be guided by responsibility and reform. Streets overflowing with professional beggars are not merely a seasonal concern; they are a stark reminder of deep-rooted socio-economic disparities and governance failures. True charity lies not in distributing coins, but in restoring dignity, opportunity, and security to the most vulnerable.

Sindh's progress depends on confronting both poverty and exploitation — ensuring that the month of giving uplifts lives rather than sustains organized