



# DAWN

Monday  
June 15, 2026  
Zilhaj 29, 1447  
KARACHI  
Rs 45.00  
26 Pages  
Vol. LXXX No. 162  
Regd. No. SS-022

www.dawn.com

## US, Iran reach deal; signing on 19th: Shehbaz

• PM says deal to be signed in Switzerland, both sides declared permanent end to military operations on all fronts • Trump says 'deal with Iran now complete', sees toll-free opening of Hormuz with removal of naval blockade • Iran yet to confirm agreement • US president railed against Israel for hurting peace efforts earlier, asked all sides to 'stand down' • Prezhkian says 'talks' choice of supreme council amid hardliners' protests

ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON: In a significant announcement here in the early hours of Monday morning, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has declared that the peace deal between the United States and Iran has been reached, with an official signing ceremony scheduled for June 19.

Both sides have declared 'immediate and permanent' end to military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, PM Shehbaz posted on X, just minutes before Trump, in a post on Social Truth, said, "The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all! I hereby fully authorize the toll free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and, simultaneously herewith, authorize the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade. Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!"

However, there was no official word from Tehran till 2.45am though Iran's Fars news agency, citing an informed source, earlier said Iran had not yet made a final decision on the framework agreement, with reviews of its political, legal and technical aspects still under way.

The Wall Street Journal earlier quoted Trump as saying the deal would "either be signed electronically by himself or Vice President J.D. Vance".

The announcements followed the rare

rebuttal by Trump against Israel for failing to respect ceasefire in Lebanon and thus placing the peace deal in jeopardy.

Sharing details of the signing ceremony and main points of the deal, PM Shehbaz in a post on X stated, "Following intensive talks, we are pleased to announce that the Peace Deal between the United States of America and Islamic Republic of Iran has been REACHED. Both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon.

**Brief opening: Editorial on Page 6**

**Three dead as Israel says strikes Beirut's suburbs: Page 12**

**How new deal may differ from Obama-era nuclear accord: Explainer on Page 12**

"The official signing ceremony will be on Friday, 19 June in Switzerland. We would like to thank the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran for their commitment to finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict. We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our brothers in this

**Continued on Page 11**

## US-Iran deal seems more of a 'stopgap measure'

MoU looks driven less by reconciliation than by exhaustion

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

FOR a few hours on Saturday, it appeared that the long diplomatic effort led by Pakistan to end the US-Iran war was approaching its culmination.

President Donald Trump spoke of signing an agreement on Sunday, while Pakistani and Qatari mediators echoed the same with high confidence.

Interestingly enough, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also remarked that a deal had never been closer. Still, within hours, Tehran publicly pushed back against reports that a signing ceremony was imminent, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei making it clear that no agreement would be signed that day.

Still, as these lines were being

written, it was not clear whether the delay was temporary or whether the negotiators were struggling to bridge differences that remain unresolved. Such uncertainty, in any case, isn't unusual in diplomacy especially when it is taking place between arch rivals like the US and Iran.

Even so, the broad contours of the proposed arrangement are now sufficiently visible to assess what kind of agreement is taking shape and why it is generating sharply different reactions among the stakeholders.

The first point to understand is that the proposed memorandum does not appear to be a peace agreement in the conventional sense. It has not been, as per the details leaked so far, formulated to resolve the dispute over Iran's

**Continued on Page 11**



ISRAEL strikes Kfar Tibnit area in southern Lebanon, sabotaging US President Donald Trump's efforts for peace in the Middle East. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres criticised the Israeli strikes despite the US-brokered ceasefire and urged 'all parties to show maximum restraint at this crucial moment' when the US and Iran are expected to reach an agreement.—AFP

## PPP links AJK election to peace in region

• Bilawal urges protesters to call off sit-ins • Party's AJK wing wants election schedule withdrawn as PML-N insists on elections without delay • Two deaths reported from Rawalakot

By Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: In what appears to be a rethink of the elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the PPP swung into action on Sunday, with its chairman urging the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) to end its protests and its AJK chapter asking the Election Commission to withdraw the election schedule.

The developments came as two people were killed and eight others injured in a clash between protesters and law enforcement personnel in Rawalakot.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari appealed to protesters in AJK to end their demonstrations, warning that the unrest was "damaging both the Kashmir cause and Pakistan's international reputation".

In a statement, the PPP chairman said the imminent signing of the Pakistan-mediated peace agreement between the United States and Iran marked "a historic moment".

"At a time when the international spotlight is firmly on Pakistan, the ongoing unrest in AJK is damaging both the Kashmir cause and Pakistan's

reputation," the former foreign minister added.

He urged protesters to end their demonstrations peacefully and asked those who had "taken the law into their own hands" to surrender to the authorities and allow "due process to take its course".

The PPP chairman stressed that political grievances should be resolved through "democratic, constitutional and peaceful means".

"Parliament and the political process — not the streets — are

**Continued on Page 5**

## BUDGET 2026-27

## Govt invites opposition for Charter of Economy

• Tarar defends 'sagacious' economic policy • Asad Qaisar says farmers crushed; Dogar calls allocation for new dams 'peanuts'

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: While defending the the federal budget 2026-27 during the budget debate in the National Assembly on Sunday, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar invited the opposition to sign a Charter of Economy (CoE).

Mr Tarar gave credit to the PML-N government for what he called "sagacious" economic policy. "It's a friendly and relief-ori-

ented budget for all," he said, noting that the budget has proposed to abolish the super tax, which

**Multiple risks looms over next-year budget, finance ministry warns: Page 3**

**PTI rules out CoD-style Charter of Economy: Page 3**

had been approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The information minister high-

lighted that revenue and foreign remittances had increased.

He urged opposition to appreciate the good decisions made by the government, particularly its efforts for peace in the Middle East. "Today the economy is on the right track," he asserted.

On June 12, the government presented the budget for FY27, announcing relief measures for the salaried, corporate, real estate and export sectors to revive

**Continued on Page 5**

**FIFA WORLD CUP 2026**

**MATCH-1 12am**  
Belgium vs Egypt

**MATCH-2 3am**  
Saudi Arabia vs Uruguay

**MATCH-3 6am**  
Iran vs New Zealand

Matches start on Tuesday at Pakistan Standard Time.

## Death toll reaches 10 as rains ravage KP, Punjab

Dawn Report

ISLAMABAD: A 72-hour spell of monsoon rains and severe thunderstorms has left at least eight people dead and 33 others injured across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while rain-related accidents in Punjab killed two people dead and injured nine others.

The severe weather, forecast by the Met Office for the upper parts of the country from June 11-13, has caused a rolling wave of casualties and damage. The deadly incidents were driven by sudden roof collapses, electrocutions and flash floods.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the provincial death toll steadily climbed to eight, with 33 others injured over the multiday

**Continued on Page 5**

## ON OTHER PAGES

### Deepti leads India to victory in T20 clash

In a tense Women's T20 World Cup Group A clash on Sunday, Pakistan's batters failed to withstand the pressure from Indian spinners. Chasing 171, Pakistan collapsed to 106, losing seven wickets for just 31 runs. India won the match by 64 runs. Deepti Sharma was named player of the match. **Page 18**

### Plus... BUSINESS & FINANCE

SITUATIONER

Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS TO PAKISTAN ON RECEIVING THE LABBAYTUM HAJJ PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD 2026

★★★★ WORLD NO.1 ★★★★★  
BEST PRIVATE HAJJ SECTOR IN THE WORLD

**MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF**  
Prime Minister  
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

**SARDAR MUHAMMAD YOUSUF**  
Federal Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony

**DR. TAWFIQ BIN FAWZAN AL-RABIAH**  
Minister of Hajj & Umrah Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**WORLD NO.1**  
BEST PRIVATE HAJJ SECTOR IN THE WORLD  
PAKISTAN

**RECEIVED WORLD NO.1**  
PRIVATE HAJJ GROUP PERFORMANCE AWARD  
PAKISTAN

**RECEIVED TOP THREE**  
PRIVATE HAJJ POSITIONS IN THE WORLD  
PAKISTAN

**LABBAYTUM HAJJ PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD 2026**  
WORLD NO.1  
BEST PRIVATE HAJJ SECTOR IN THE WORLD

**HEARTFELT GRATITUDE**  
HOAP extends its heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony (MoRA), and the Ministry of Hajj & Umrah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for their leadership, guidance and continuous support in achieving this historic milestone.

**PAKISTAN ZINDABAD**  
PERFORMANCE, A PROUD MOMENT FOR EVERY PAKISTANI

- Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony (MoRA)
- Pakistan Hajj Mission (OPAP)
- Private Hajj Sector of Pakistan (HOAP)

COURTESY:  
**NASIR KHAN**  
Chairman HOAP  
Hajj Organisers Association of Pakistan (HOAP)

THANK YOU, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, FOR THE SUCCESSFUL HAJJ OPERATIONS 2026