

PM Shehbaz Sharif extends olive branch to incarcerated Imran Khan

Published on June 26, 2024

Document Date: Sun, Jul 05 2026 12:16:35 am

Category: ,English,Latest -

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KARACHI:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended “another chance” for dialogue to PTI founder Imran Khan, terming it the “sole option” for the incarcerated former premier if he wants to ease his jail hardships. Speaking in the National Assembly, Sharif said, “If Imran Khan has problems in jail, so let’s sit and talk.” The premier recalled proposing a compact economy in his first speech, only to have it rejected outright. Sharif extended an offer to discuss the economy again, questioning who is responsible for the current bitterness that has prevented even the simplest of gestures, like shaking hands. The prime minister recounted his own time in jail, sharing that he was denied leave when his mother passed away. Despite enduring significant personal hardships, including severe back pain and being transported with dangerous inmates,

Sharif maintained resilience even while battling cancer. Highlighting the distinction between the rights of undertrial and convicted prisoners, PM Shehbaz emphasised the need to avoid subjecting Imran Khan to similar mistreatment. He urged dialogue as the only way forward to progress the country, stressing the importance of working together for the nation's benefit.