



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with Dr Bashar Al-Assad, President of Syria, on the sidelines of the 32nd session of the Arab Summit currently in Jeddah.



A general view of the Arab League Summit in Jeddah

Assad’s return would lead to “stability” in Syria: Saudi CP

(Continued from page 1)

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said these concerted efforts will establish a stable region where humanitarian, religious, and cultural values can flourish.

HM King also expressed hope for the successful outcome of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), scheduled to take place in the United Arab Emirates later this year.

Additionally, King Hamad extended his gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for their gracious invitation and hospitality. HM also thanked President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria for his contributions to joint Arab action during Algeria’s presidency of the 31st Arab Summit.

Earlier, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, welcoming back Assad to the Arab league, said: “We are pleased today by the attendance of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in this summit.”

Prince Mohammed said he hoped the return would lead to “stability” in Syria.

Assad told the gathering that he hopes the return “marks the beginning of a new phase of Arab action for solidarity among us, for peace in our region, development and prosperity instead of war and destruction.”

“I would like to loudly welcome Syria back to its seat among its brothers,” Algerian Prime Minister Ayman Benabderrahmane said in the opening speech of the summit.

In his speech, Assad thanked Prince Mohammed “for the great role he played and the intense efforts he exerted to promote reconciliation in our region”.

Syrian state media reported on Friday that Assad chatted and shook hands with Qatari

Arab League adopts Jeddah Declaration, reaffirms the need for unity

● Reiterated Palestine’s right “to absolute authority over all territories occupied in 1967

● Rejected “foreign interferences” in Sudan

● Called for “activating the Arab Peace Initiative

● Rejected “foreign interferences” in Arab countries’ internal affairs

● Saudi pledges to strengthen joint Arab action

TDT | agencies

The Arab League concluded its 32nd summit with the adoption of the Jeddah Declaration, reaffirming the need for unity to achieve security and stability.

On the Palestinian-Israeli cause, the declaration reaffirmed the centrality of the Palestinian cause and reiterated Palestine’s right “to absolute authority over all territories occupied in 1967, including east Jerusalem.”

emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani before entering the summit hall.

Zelensky said his priorities for



Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit (L) and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan (R) attend a press conference held at the end of the Arab League Summit in Jeddah

It also voiced the importance of “activating the Arab Peace Initiative” which the kingdom proposed and the League endorsed in 2002.

Regarding Syria, the bloc welcomed its return to the bloc following years of isolation and voiced hope that this move will contribute “to Syria’s stability and unity.”

“[We] must intensify Arab efforts to help Syria resolve its crisis,” the declaration said.

During a press conference at the end of the summit, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said the kingdom would hold discussions with its Western partners regarding ties with Syria.

Regarding the situation in Sudan, where fighting has raged between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since April 15, the declaration rejected “foreign interferences that inflame the conflict and threaten regional security and stability,”

the visit would be “the presentation of our peace formula whose implementation should involve as many states as possible”.

and urged dialogue and unity among the warring sides.

Prince Faisal, during the press conference, said Riyadh and Washington were continuing to work together to get the warring sides to halt the violence. The top Saudi diplomat called on all sides to immediately stop the fighting and resume dialogue; however, he noted that it was too early to talk about a breakthrough.

For Yemen, the declaration reaffirmed support for all international and regional efforts to reach a political solution to the crisis.

For Lebanon, it urged authorities to resume efforts to elect a president, form a cabinet “as soon as possible,” and carry out economic reforms to overcome the current crisis.

The bloc also rejected “foreign interferences” in Arab countries’ internal affairs.

“[We] completely reject supporting the formation of armed militias... [and warn] that inter-

nal military conflicts will only aggravate people’s suffering,” it said.

The declaration also said that during Saudi Arabia’s presidency of the Arab Summit – which was handed over earlier by Algeria – the Kingdom will strengthen joint Arab action in various cultural, economic, social and environmental sectors.

These initiatives include teaching the Arabic language to non-native speakers, which targets the children of second and third-generation Arab immigrants to enhance communication between Arab countries and the rest of the world.

Another initiative aims to sustain the supply chains of basic food commodities for Arab countries. It will be implemented using several measures, which include providing investment opportunities with economic and financial feasibility and contributing to achieving food security for the Arab world.

insula, which was annexed by Russia in 2014.

AFP quoting an Arab League official later reported that



HM King delivers speech in 32nd Arab Summit

Zelensky’s invitation came from Saudi Arabia, not the bloc.

Putin ready to resolve conflicts

Meanwhile, Russia’s President Vladimir Putin confirmed in a letter to the Arab League summit that Russia is “willing to participate in resolving conflicts in the region.

“We will continue to offer any help possible to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict,” Putin said, adding that Russia intends to expand multifaceted cooperation with Arab countries.

“We are keen on supporting efforts to resolve conflicts in Sudan, Libya and Yemen,” an Al Arabia report quoting Putin said.

The president of the United Arab Emirates, was a notable no-show, sending his brother and vice president instead.

HM attends banquet

Following the summit, His Majesty attended a lunch banquet hosted by Saudi Crown Prince and Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in honour of the Arab leaders, marking their participation in the 32nd Arab Summit.

After the banquet, HM King Hamad bid farewell to the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as well as Arab leaders.



Bahrain experiences thunderstorms as depression hits Arabian Gulf

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday encountered thunderstorms in the northwestern areas, accompanied by strong gusts of wind.

The General Directorate of Traffic Department issued a warning, urging all drivers to exercise extreme caution on the roads.

The inclement

weather was attributed to a depression impacting the Arabian Gulf.

Meteorological officials predict that these weather conditions will persist until today.

