

## Arab Leaders praise Qatar Hosting of Arab Summit



Doha, March 26 (QNA)

The Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah has said that HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani's chairmanship of the Arab summit will help advance joint Arab action into wider scopes.

Addressing the Arab summit conference, under way in Doha, he also called for restructuring the Arab League to improve its role at regional and international levels.

Sheikh Sabah said the Arab world was in need of summits with special topics, like the economic and social development summits that were held three times. "We need to think seriously in holding quality summits for our common action," he said.

"The situation in Syria is worsening and the chances of ending bloodshed are far, which forces us to urge the international community to live up to its responsibilities to stand by the Syrian people and end their ordeal," he said.

The Emir of Kuwait added "it is not reasonable nor acceptable that we and the international community watch the daily massacres and destruction of life there, and only issue statements of condemnation that, no matter how strong they are, will not stop bloodshed and killing".

Sheikh Sabah expressed full support for the Syrian people until they achieve their legitimate aspirations to freedom, dignity and democracy.

"We reaffirm that the Syrian people should achieve their legitimate demands for freedom, dignity and democracy," he said.

The Syrian people's "legitimate struggle" will continue "with our political and financial support in order to honor the urgent humanitarian needs of the Syrian people," said the Emir of Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah noted that Kuwait answered UN Secretary General Ban ki-moon's call and hosted a donors conference for the Syrian people in January, during which donors pledged over the \$1.5 billion target set by the UN to help the Syrian people in the first six months this year.

Sheikh Sabah urged the donors to fulfill their pledges as soon as possible in order to honor pressing needs of the Syrian people.

He said the Arab world should press UN Security Council and the Quartet to push forward the Middle East peace process and to force Israel abide by relevant UN resolutions, halt Jewish settlements' construction with the objective of establishing the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital in line with the land-for-peace principle and Arab peace initiative.

Sheikh Sabah also called upon Palestinians to unite ranks after Palestine's UN status was upgraded to a non-member observer state.

He meanwhile voiced relief for the progress in political process in Yemen and the launch of national dialogue in line with the GCC initiative.

Sheikh Sabah commended Bahrain's initiative to establish an Arab Human Rights Tribunal that would improve the human rights situation in the Arab countries.

## **Saudi Arabia: Arab - Israeli Conflict Would Continue Unless Palestinians Obtain Legitimate Rights**



Saudi Arabia has underlined that the Palestinian issue is on the top concerns of Arab leaders where the challenge still exists, rights are still alienated and justice is still missing, stressing that the Arab - Israeli conflict which has taken more than six decades would continue unless the Palestinian people obtain its legitimate rights which was recognized by all the resolutions of international legitimacy, including the right to a decent living within an independent state in which sovereignty, independence and territorial contiguity are maintained.

Addressing the second session of the 24th Arab Summit, HRH Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister in a speech on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia said "We do not see a possibility of a solution to this conflict unless there is a change in the policy of the Israeli government and the way it deals with the solutions and initiatives by adopting settlement policies, repression, territories occupation and the ongoing violations of the most basic human and political rights of the Palestinian people" .

He stressed that towards this bitter reality, the Palestinian people and its leadership are required today, more than ever, to overcome all differences and to stand as a united front based in its struggle on an Arab solid front that provides them with all the support and backing "specially that and we have all worked to prove our desire to the fullest extent for

just peace that achieves security, stability and development for all. " HRH Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud referred to the General Assembly resolution of the United Nations that grants Palestine the non-member observer, a matter which reflects the will of the overwhelming majority of the international community, stressing the importance of taking this position and build on it to complete realizing the constituents of the independent Palestinian state on the borders of 1967 and with Jerusalem as its capital and to reach attainment of the status of a full member of the United Nations, Prince Salman added.

On the Syrian crisis, Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud noted that the ongoing killings and destruction by the Syrian regime against the Syrian people using the various kinds of mass destruction weapons and whatever helping it to kill people, destroy the country and displace them inside and outside Syria. This takes place before the eyes and ears of the world community which has yet to make up its mind on how to face such crimes against Syrian human beings, HRH Prince Salman said adding: "We are still adamant to our belief that Al-Assad regime is pursuing its plot to foil any Arab or international initiative to solve the crisis politically, even though it might announce its acceptance of such initiative, as it is always opting to solving it through security and military means, given the fact that it was receiving its military might from sources everybody knows". he said

The deterioration of the humanitarian situation due to the influx of the displaced and refugees would definitely have serious implications on the security and stability of the region unless the international community ends its division on this issue and provides the Syrian legitimate opposition with its political and material needs, fortunately that all the opposition factions are now orchestrated under the banner of the Syrian national Coalition as a sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people, both in the ministerial council of the Arab League or within the Arab summits, he noted.

## Tunisian President Praises Initiative Of HH The Emir On Jerusalem Fund



Tunisian President Mohammed Mouncef Al Marzouki expressed on Tuesday, during his speech at the 24th Arab Summit, his appreciation to the initiative made by HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to establish a fund to support Jerusalem. On the Palestinian issue, Al Marzouki said that the state of division between Palestinian political factions was the biggest threat to the Palestinian issue. He expressed the willingness of Tunisia to play any role in making the Palestinian national reconciliation a reality.

On the Syrian crisis, Al Marzouki said that the actions of the Syrian regime were no longer acceptable, from a political and a moral point of view . He welcomed the Syrian opposition as representatives of the Syrian people. He maintained however that the conflict in Syria must be resolved through political means.

On post-revolution Tunisia, Al Marzouki said that the new constitution will be finalized soon and that elections will be held before the end of 2013.

## Libyan Premier Praises Qatar's Support For Libyan Uprising



The Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zidan has praised Qatar's substantive assistance to the Libyan revolution, telling the 24th Arab summit conference in Doha that Qatar stepped in to help the Libyan people when supporters were very few in the early days of the revolution against the former leader Moammar Gaddafi.

He called for concerted Arab efforts to unify ranks and potentials to the benefit of peoples in the area, noting that despite the difficult changes that accompany transition Libyans are intent on protecting legitimacy and writing a constitution that will be the first brick in the edifice of its modern history.

Zidan also praised the Arab League's support for the revolution of the Libyan people and the reconstruction process in his country.

### **Jordan King Calls for Peace Process Revival, Political Solution to Syria Crisis**

King Abdullah II of Jordan on Tuesday said the international community is demanded to shoulder its responsibilities and intensify efforts to rebuild confidence between the Palestinians and Israelis to revive peace negotiations and end the suffering of the Syrian people.

In his speech at the Arab Summit in Doha, the King stressed the need for all concerned parties to find a comprehensive political solution to end the suffering of the Syrian people and put an end to the spiral of violence and bloodshed, adding that any resolution must maintain Syria's unity.

He warned that "the tragic situation in Syria is still mounting dangerously," adding that such

conditions placed major and exceptional burdens on neighboring countries because of the massive influx of refugees.

King Abdullah said Jordan has received and still hundreds of thousands of Syrians despite limited capabilities and difficult economic conditions.

On peacemaking, the King pointed out that Israeli's unilateral actions constitute an obstacle to peace, urging the international community to pressure Israel to halt its continued settlement policy in the West Bank and its non-stop attempts to impose a de facto in the yards and vicinity of Al-Haram Ash-Sharif.

King Abdullah stressed the need to address all final status issues, leading to the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state on pre-1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of a two-state solution and international legitimacy resolutions.

#### **Mauritanian President Calls for Enhancing Joint Arab Action**



Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz has called for enhancing the joint Arab action through economic blocs with the social, economic and political dimensions, and by ensuring the free movement of individuals and the movement of goods and capital financial aid between countries . He said the 24th Arab summit is held in a historical moment full of challenges that we must face together, he added.

Addressing the 24th Arab Summit in Doha today, the Mauritanian President extended thanks to HH the Emir and people of Qatar for the warm reception and hospitality . He also extended thanks the Iraqi President Jalal Talabani for efforts made during the Iraq's

presidency of the previous Arab Summit session and wished him a speedy recovery”.

He pointed out that on top of the challenges facing the Arab world is to ensure sustainable development which requires maintaining of security and stability as well as direct support for investment and development of educational systems, and so to keep pace with the evolution of knowledge and renewed technology and to provide an economic climate that stimulates private and public investment and take into account the cycle of sustainable development.

### **Djibouti President: Arab Peoples Aspire to Ambitious Decisions**



The 24th Arab Summit is taking place under delicate circumstances experienced in the Arab region, Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh said, pointing out that the Arab peoples await that the Doha summit would take ambitious decisions in political field and would meet their aspirations in economic and social development.

Speaking before the ongoing Arab summit in Doha, Guelleh said the Arab nations possess the potential to succeed and progress but the reality is different. On the Palestinian cause, he said it will remain the Arab States' foreign policy priority, hoping to see the Palestinian struggle for a statehood with full UN membership and East Jerusalem as its capital a success, especially after the attainment of the observer state status in the United Nations.

He pointed out that the political and financial pressures by the occupation authorities on Palestine "recall that we take courageous positions to ensure the steadfastness of our brothers in Palestine”.

"We are following with concern the current situation in Syria," the Djibouti President said on Syria, adding "it is time to stop the bloodshed and resort to peaceful solutions to end the Syrian crisis".

On the situation in Somalia, Guelleh said "we are closely following the improvements taking place in political aspect and in security field," acknowledging that the Somali government is facing major challenges to build up the army and police. Regarding the economic and social issues listed on the summit's agenda, he called for attention to be given to the agriculture sector and food security in the Arab world, saying investment in the agricultural sector can contribute to the fight against poverty in the region.

### **President Bashir Praises HH the Emir's Support to Sudan**



Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir hailed the efforts of HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani in support of his country, especially as Doha will host Darfur donor conference.

Addressing the 24th Arab Summit in Doha, Bashir expressed his sorrow over what is happening to the Syrian people, while at the same time lauding all efforts being spared to unite Syrians in order to promote a peaceful solution and smooth transition of power in Syria.

He also urged the President of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces to work with all factions of the Syrian people.

The Sudanese President said that Sudan will cooperate with all factions of the Syrian people for the peaceful transfer of power, while announcing Sudan decision to admit Syrian

students in the Sudanese schools and universities.

President Bashir pointed out that Sudan has begun implementation of the outcome of the recent Arab Economic Summit in Riyadh, calling on the Arab investors to invest in Sudan for realizing Arab food security.

He called on the international community to adopt practical measures to halt the Israeli aggressions and practices in Palestine, calling for reconciliation between the people of Palestine. (QNA)