**Sanctions violate human rights: NHRC**

The Peninsula

National Human Rights Committee (QNHRC) has said it has begun receiving complaints from Qataris and non-Qataris whose rights have been violated in the three neighbouring countries which on Monday severed their diplomatic ties with Qatar.

Al Hamad Al-Moath said that decisions by some countries to sever relations with Qatar have led to violations of international human rights conventions and charters.

The committee has called on international community and international organizations to intervene to stop violations taking place in these countries, warning from further violations which may affect peace, security and stability of the citizens.

The Committee had launched a hotline to receive and deal with complaints as well as to create a 24-hour crisis cell and would continue to communicate with all international and governmental human rights organizations to raise such violations and assist complainants, Dr Al-Moath noted.

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**German FM voices support for Qatar**

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel has expressed his country’s support for Qatar. In a statement to Handelsblatt, Gabriel said: “Apparently, Qatar is to be isolated more or less completely and bit existentially. We added that such a move is ‘particularly dangerous in a region already plagued by crisis.’

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**Qatar Airways operations normal**

Qatar Airways operations are running as normal with no disruptions to flights with the exception of those to the four countries. Qatar Airways has been restricted to fly to, said a Qatar Airways spokesperson yesterday. In response to these restrictions, Qatar Airways has arranged for three charter flights departing Jeddah today (Thursday) at 10:00, 22:00, and 23:00 local time, to Muscat in order to assist all Qatar Airways passengers in Saudi Arabia. Full details of these charter flights are available on Qatar Airways Transfer Alert page.

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**Qatari Duty Forces return to Doha**

Qatari Armed Forces’ duty troops returned to Doha yesterday after participating in the military operations carried by the Saudi-led Arab Coalition in Yemen. The troops were greeted by the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces H E Lieutenant General Shaheen Al Ghanem and a number of senior Army officers.
Qatar is open to talks to resolve crisis: Foreign Minister

Qatar, open to talks to resolve the crisis that has seen a group of nearby countries move to sever diplomatic ties with Doha, Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said yesterday in an interview with CNN asking that the “progressive and modern” country behave in diplomacy and promote peace in the Middle East.

“We are not a superpower here, we are not believing in solving things with confrontation,” the Foreign Minister said, stressing that Qatar is combating terror financing and “protecting the world from potential terrorists.”

The Foreign Minister disputed a Saudi statement accusing Qatar of “embracing terrorist and sectarian groups aimed at destabilising the region.”

“He said that there have been multiple reports issued by official agencies in the United States. They are under the National Security Council, the National Security Agency, the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Defense Department, and the FBI.”

The statements are full of contradictions because it is saying that we are supporting Iran and on the other hand supporting the extremist groups in Syria, and that we are supporting the Muslim Brotherhood in Saudi and in Yemen and we are supporting the Iranian-backed Houthi in Yemen, he added.

Referring to tweets from US President Donald Trump that said about the diplomatic crisis, the Minister said that during Trump’s recent visit to the region, he and the Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed the issue “that the funding of terrorism needs to be stopped by various countries.”

He said that there have been multiple reports issued by official agencies in the United States “condemning our role in combating terror financing.”

“About our support to the Saudi opposition or the sectarian movements in Al-Quds, this is totally false information. Actually, the cooperation between our security and intelligence agencies between Qatar and Saudi has been serving the purpose of the national security of Saudi,” the Foreign Minister added.

The conference that took place in Doha from February 20 to 22.

The channel claimed that the conference was attended by human rights organisations belonging to Qatar and Iran and aimed to direct accusations to Saudi Arabia and the coalition it is leading in Yemen against Houthis.

The conference under the theme “Approaches to Human Rights Under Conflict in the Arab Region” was organised by the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC), which is responsible for human rights, General Secretariat of Human Rights, representatives of Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Interior of KSA. There were similar delegations from Bahrain and UAE, including civil society organisations. The conference also brought together rights and humanitarian organisations and dispute resolution centres, among with representatives of peace-keeping missions, UN and international agencies.

The QNHRC said this is an annual conference and is organised in cooperation with other partners, so how can the committee commit such acts while the organisations are senior officials of the GCC and international organisations.

Emir greets King of Sweden

Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani sent yesterday a cable of congratulations to King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on the occasion of his country’s National Day. Deputy Emir HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani sent a similar cable.

Many rights violated

Continued from page 1

Dr Al Marri revealed that the Committee will meet tomorrow with Amnesty International to discuss rights violations caused by the aforementioned decisions.

He said the Committee has come across many cases of violation to the rights to education, health, work, and other cases which it is going to offer to international human rights organisations.

According to the complaints received by the committee, violations included violation of the rights of movement of citizens of these countries. A Qatari woman married to an Emirati citizen has been prevented from bringing her child to Qatar because the child has UAE nationality.

The three GCC States have begun imposing fines on their citizens visiting Qatar after the ties were cut. Another violation infringes on the right to education at Qatari students have been asked to leave. The rights to family reunification has been clearly violated by imposing travel bans on the citizens of these countries, said NHRC.

A case a daughter living with her Bahraini mother in Bahrain since 20 years has been asked to leave the country because her father is Qatari.

Thousands of GCC citizens and their ownership of buildings, companies, and different types of businesses in these countries and have been asked to leave within 45 days which is violation to the rights of private ownership, said NHRC.

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They are spreading lies against our leaders

Dr. Khalid Mubarak Al-Shafi, Editor-in-Chief of The Peninsula, stressed that “some countries” want from Qatar to work under their guardianship and “we (Qatar) are exposed to a fierce media attack from brotherly countries. They are spreading lies against our leaders.” He said that Qatar has denied all these rumours but no one listens and they have continued telling the lies to the people.

“How can we imagine that some media channels prepared 11 commentators in a very short time as we as media professionals know that it takes time and preparations”.

Commenting on current crisis in “The Reality talk-show on Qatar TV” yesterday, he said those media channels did not host any Qatari to share his opinion which means they have a specific agenda.

Al-Shafi also said: “Qatar is ready for dialogue as Minister of Foreign Affairs has also said and we depend only on the awareness of people of Gulf because people are not supporting them on their decisions against Qatar.”

“They sat ten days repeating the same lies and finally cut the ties with Qatar and the justifications are contradictory like national security, terrorism, supporting Hamas and Houthi. Even all these justifications are contradicting each other because all these ideologies do not support each other.” He questioned: “Their search for justifications made them contradictory and commit mistakes because one of the allegations is that we are supporting Hamas and Israel. Everybody knows that both these are fighting against each other.”

“Qatar usually supports brotherly countries and had played role of mediator and succeeded. ‘It will continue supporting peoples’.

Now they want from Qatar to ‘kneel down and accept guardianship’ and that will not happen. ‘Qatar, as Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has said, will not accept to be marginalised and this is what makes others angry.’

Commenting on the Foreign Minister’s statements, Mohamed Hamad Al Marri, Editor-in-Chief, Al Watan newspaper said that “the reasons that these countries based their decisions were untrue and fabricated”.

Explaining further he added, “in case there were problems between these countries, they should have waited and discussed the issues and taken any decision after consultation and not taken the decision of cutting ties abruptly.”
Foetal medicine cuts pregnancy risk: Expert

Fazeena Saleem
The Peninsula

Regular antenatal care (including ultrasound and foetal medicine) helps reduce the risks for baby as well as the mother, says an expert at Sidra Medical and Research Center. The services at the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Sidra Outpatient Clinic offers pregnant women ultrasound screening for foetal anomalies. The clinic also offers information that may help mothers better prepare for the birth of their child including the option of delivery in a setting that will permit rapid access to specialist surgical or medical care.

“Foetal Medicine is the key to maternity care and contributes to improved maternal survival and neonatal health. It is one of the best investments a country can make,” Al Sibiti said in aim to achieve this goal so that our patients can have full access to quality antenatal care services. Professor Karim Khalaf, pictured, is Division Chief of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division at Sidra.

Ooredoo distributes Iftar boxes at Aspire Zone

Ooredoo volunteers surprised Aspire Zone visitors yesterday, with a special gift of water and dates to break their fast for Iftar.

The volunteers distributed the gift at moment and congratulated the sportspersons and women on their dedication to stay fit and healthy during Ramadan.

Mamur Khalifa Al Muraikhi, Director PR and Corporate Communications, Ooredoo Qatar, said: “We’re proud to truly share this Ramadan with Qatar’s people. We will be visiting a host of locations across our country during the Holy Month, but Ooredoo wanted to share special Iftar boxes with Aspire visitors, to showcase the dedication it takes to stay fit and healthy during Ramadan, and encourage all customers to see the range of sporting activities available this month.

As well as distribute gifts across the Aspire facilities, Ooredoo recently announced that it is the Official Sponsor of Aspire’s Ramadan Sports Festival 2017.

The Aspire Ramadan Sports Festival is taking place until Jun 14 and will include a multitude of competitions for all ages and genders.

Ooredoo’s Hand-In-Hand campaign via its Facebook, Instagram or Twitter page and the hashtag #ShareAMoment.

HMC’s diabetes screening begins on Friday

Hamad Medical Corporation will kick off its Ramadan diabetes screening and education events this Friday at Sheikh Khalid Al Hamad Al Thani Mosque in Al Rayyan. Following Friday’s prayers, 15 stations will be set up in the entrance hallway of the mosque as part of Hamad’s annual Ramadan health awareness campaign.

“Attendance for prayers at mosque tends to increase during the holy month so these screenings, which have become an annual event for Hamad, present an opportunity to spread the local community for diabetes and to help individuals understand the signs and symptoms of the disease. The events also provide an opportunity for our trained diabetes experts to talk with diabetic patients and to offer advice on managing their condition and eating healthily during Ramadan,” said Professor Abdul Badi Abou Samra, Chairman of Internal Medicine at HMC, and Director of the Qatar Metabolic Institute.

With events planned for Othman Bin Ali Mosque in Al Khor on June 16 and Abdulghani Abduljalil Mosques in Al Wakra on Friday, 25,000 are expected to visit the screening stands where they will receive a personalised assessment of their results.

Ooredoo volunteers gift water and dates to a motorist at Aspire Zone.

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) at the recent International Conference on Happiness Education in Beijing.

The WISE Summit, an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will take place in Doha from November 14 to 16, under the theme ‘Co-exist, Co-create: Learning to Live and Work Together’.

The Peninsula

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) recently participated in the International Conference on Happiness Education in Beijing.

Prof. Ziad Kalache said: “At present, the Outpatient Ultrasound Unit at Sidra performs around 10 obstetric ultrasound examinations a day on pregnant women at all stages of pregnancy. The vast majority of them will eventually give birth at the Women’s Hospital at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC),” says Prof. Kalache.

“The obstetric screening that we are providing is done by both qualified sonographer trained in obstetric ultrasound together with highly specialised experts in the field. Conducting an ultrasound during antenatal care makes it possible to assess gestational age more accurately, to diagnose twins and multiples and to rule out congenital anomalies.”

“Fetal ultrasound contributes to detect such conditions that might affect fetal or maternal health and to act accordingly,” said Prof. Kalache.

The three-day conference featured presentations from global experts in mental health education and on learning difficulties such as dyslexia and other conditions.

Additionally, the event included a seminar on how mental health education is integrated into school systems, and how it is taught.

“With the importance of well-being in schools and communities, we presented findings related to aspects of children’s rights, the role of children in social change, and described initiatives that are revamping learning environments to better support well-being, including a project to counter Internet addiction among young people,” Khair said: “It is no surprise that the importance of a child’s well-being in learning is similar across cultures. What is just as important, though, is how we portray and manage happiness education in relation to other emotions including the negative ones. Children will benefit the most through this more holistic and complete view of mental health issues.”

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Qatar condemns statement by OIC General Secretariat

Qatar has strongly condemned and expressed surprise at the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) yesterday, which is based on false allegations and charges against the State of Qatar, as part of the smear campaign against the State built on slanders and amounts to a violation of full fabrication to affect symbols of the State of Qatar, as part of the allegations and charges against yesterday, which is based on false statements and whatever its source.

Qatar regrets the surprise at the statement issued by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) yesterday, which is based on false allegations and charges against the State of Qatar, as part of the smear campaign against the State built on slanders and amounts to a violation of full fabrication to affect symbols of the State of Qatar, as part of the allegations and charges against yesterday, which is based on false statements and whatever its source.

The State of Qatar reaffirms its commitment to the tolerant teachings of Islam as it should have contacted the authorities concerned in the State in order to request a clarification regarding these allegations.

The State of Qatar recognizes that the OIC-General Secretariat has seriously violated its work and overstretched its role in the Charter and has sided clearly with the position of certain Member States. This is a dangerous precedent that threatens the work and credibility of the Organization.

The OIC did not comply with the tolerant teachings of Islam as it should have contacted the authorities concerned in the State in order to request a clarification regarding these allegations.

The proposed law

The draft law for regulating domestic workers including housemaids, granted weekly off and fixed 60 hours duty in a day. Domestic helpers include drivers, names, cooks, gardeners and their equivalents.

The proposed law also gives break for rest during the duty that asked to be included in the duties of domestic helpers. Domestic helpers are to be paid weekly off that should not be less than 24 hours in a week and weekly off day will be specified as per the contract said the draft law.

The Advisory Council discussed the proposed law especially the clauses related to the end of service, monthly wages and duty hours in a regular session held on Monday, 4th May reports. The services committee of the Council noted that the end of service should not be more than 10 years as per the human resources law that put sealing of 10 years as maximum for expatriates. And the end of service should not be less than three weeks wage of domestic helper/year. Members of Advisory Council proposed the services committee to reduce the end of service period from 10 years to five years to ease the employers.

The members also raised concerns on months long annual leave of domestic helps and demanded the services committee to make balance in safeguarding the rights of both parties. The Advisory Council decided to complete the discussion on proposed law in next session. The proposed law asked the employers to pay the monthly wages of domestic helps at the end of every month with maximum delay to third day of next month. And the payment should be not considered valid until it was transferred in the bank account of the domestic help or given him in cash after taking their signature as a proof that they received the salary.

The proposed law also asked the employers not to make any deduction from their salaries they spend on their recruitment or for anything else.

The domestic helps are entitled to annual leave and have right to choose the vacation timing. After each two years, they will deserve for return air ticket benefit to their home country unless they were going for good so they will get only one side ticket.

The superiors and bosses should not violate the provisions of law and employees for taking domestic helps out of the country without their will and taking services more than 10 hours.

No shortage of food items; enough stocks available in the market

QC meeting discussed the alternative sources for the importers, as many of these importers have already signed agreements with other partners to ensure the flow of food consumer goods. Attendees assured that this development will be negative for traders of those countries which have lost the Qatar market, while the Qatar importers have many other alternatives.

QC said that it is going to facilitate any difficulties being faced by importers in collaboration with the competent authorities.

Shiekh Khalifa, Chairman of QC, expressed his regrets for the steps taken by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to sever their ties with Qatar and close their borders and air space. Over 95 percent of Qatar’s imports come through the air and sea, and the Qatar private sector has contracts with suppliers in many countries and aims to provide any difficulties being faced by importers in collaboration with the competent authorities.

Shiekh Khalifa said, adding that the losses were the exporters in the above mentioned three countries.

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Displaced children in Iraq

Four dead in roadside bomb in Kenya

Israili children peer through a tarpaulin at the Al-Khair camp for internally displaced people, located between Arbil and Mosul, yesterday. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes as Iraqi forces press a massive operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State militants. The occupation continues, and under international law it may constitute a war crime. Four people, including three NGO workers, were killed yesterday when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in eastern Kenya, a local government official said. The Latest in the South Sudanese civil war. Four people, including three NGO workers, were killed yesterday when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in eastern Kenya, a local government official said.
Madhya Pradesh farmers' protest turns violent

F or farmers who killed and several others injured yesterday in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh as police opened fire on peasants who indulged in violence and policed for the registration of a case.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan ordered a judicial probe after holding a meeting with senior police officers. Mandsaur city and Piyapa Mandi area were put under curfew after violence.

The state government also announced Rs50 lakh compensation to the kin of each of the killed farmers. Bahor Padar, Laxmi Motlaa Sangh Chairman Shivkumar Sharma identified the dead as Balbhi Patidar. Sardool Patidar, Kausar, Nayanaar, and Adbhul, who is said to be a college student. After the police firing, protesters gathered around the police station and set a number of vehicles afire. Even though authorities clamped a curfew in the area, mobs of protesters were on the road blocking in arson.

Chouhan blamed the Congress for the violence by farmers while Congress state unit President Prashant Kishor and Leader of Opposition Ajay Singh dubbed it as failure of the government. The Congress said it has formed a committee to investigate the Mandsaur violence. Earlier, Home Minister Bhupendra Singh told reporters that the police but anti-social elements who mingled with the crowds opened fire on the farmers, who are demanding loan waiver and for protecting the rights of farmers. However, eyewitnesses said a clash between the police and farmers was followed by stone-pelting from both sides and firing.

"Police had to open fire around 2pm to control agitated farmers, killing two farmers and injuring several others," Ujjain Divisional Commissioner B M Ojha earlier said.

Protestors also surrounded Piyapa Mandi police station after which heavy police reinforcement was sent to control the situation. On Monday night, farmers held a protest on the Mandsaur railway crossing.

Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba (centre) shakes hands with the newly elected President of Nepal Prachanda after being elected as Prime Minister in Kathmandu, yesterday.

Deuba returns as Nepal PM

Indian Navy's all-woman crew vessel reaches Mauritius

Port Louis

The Indian Navy's sailing vessel, which is an all-woman crew, is a sister vessel of Indian Navy Aquamarine, the first all-woman crew of 19 women onboard to circumnavigate the globe in a national ship.

"Tarins has begun a new chapter in the history of ocean sailing by Indian women," said the Managing Director of Indian Navy Aquamarine and ISN Vinod Shahi. The boat, which had sailed from the Indian coast to sail, now sailed across the rough waters of the Indian Ocean to reach Mauritius in around 40 days, Navy officials.

"IANS 07

F or Srishti taking part in a memorial prayer to mark the 33rd anniversary of Operation Blue Star, at the premises of Golden Temple in Amritsar, today.

Operation Blue Star anniversary

Heat wave claims 10 lives in UP

Lucknow

A least ten persons have reportedly died due to the heat wave in various parts of Uttar Pradesh in the last 24 hours, an official said yesterday.

The number of patients with heat stroke situations, diarrhoea, vomiting and high fever has increased in hospitals across the state.

Bundelkhand is the worst hit with mercury logging an average of 45 degrees Celsius in most districts. Banda and Mahoba continue to term under an unprecedented heat situation.

Officials say four persons died in the Bundelkhand region while six children died in the Nala Sardar region due to heat stroke and ‘larm’ in Allahabad.

All these deaths have been reported from Bahraich district, where more than three dozen children, infants were being treated for heat stroke.

"The manner of his (Deuba's) rise for the fourth time does not bode well because it has not been a democratic process," said Kumar Dixit, the editor of the Nepal Times newspaper.

Seventy-year-old Deuba takes the helm as fourth in line to power once local elections are held, and it turns violent farmers' protest

Sikh taking part in a memorial prayer to mark the 33rd anniversary of Operation Blue Star, at the premises of Golden Temple in Amritsar, today.

Indian summer and steel and the vessel carried an all-woman crew on a spirit of adventure and camaraderie amongst the young Naval personnel in the years ahead.

"In 55 feet in length and built in India in its concept, the initiative of the Indian Navy Aquamarine and ISN Diwali Goa, has been made of waterproof and intergal sandblasting which is not corroded over time and has good performance than aluminium and steel and the vessel carries a suite of six sails.

IOM plans more help for Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI: The IOM yesterday said the promises of USD 100 million from IOM yesterday said the promises of USD 100 million from IOM yesterday said promises of USD 100 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and the international cooperation funds, will help us reach an estimated 34,750 people in need, Xinhua news agency reported. Heavy flooding, landslides and flash floods have affected some 848,000 people in south and central Sri Lanka. The flooding, which is believed to be the worst in over a decade, has left at least 232 people dead and 78 missing.

Heat wave claims 10 lives in UP

"We have been trying to manage a day’s wages lost.

Car thieves try to run over cops, held

NEW DELHI: Two car thieves who tried to run over two police officers here in the early hours of yesterday were arrested after a chase, Delhi Police said. A Maruti Alto used in stealing cars was seized from accused Javed Ansari and Shaukat Ansari of Uttarpriyadarshini Colony of Police Irshad Singh said. Two police officers on patrol noticed four persons running away at around 3am in the early hours of yesterday and following them were cornered near Pandara Road in south Delhi. While two of them were arrested, their two accomplices escaped.

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**EDITORIAL**

**Fight for freedom**

Israel is marking the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, fought from June 5 to 10, 1967, by expanding its confiscation and occupation of the Palestinian land. The Israeli authorities yesterday advanced plans for 1,500 settler homes in the occupied West Bank, including the first new settlement in some 23 years. It is unfortunate that Israel feels emboldened more than ever to grab Palestinian land and get support for its aggression, while the echoes and demands of Palestinians are ignored.

The latest news on the settlement expansion was revealed in an NGO called Peace Now that tracks settlement building in the Palestinian territory. The choice of the date for the announcement of this aggression - the 50th anniversary of the war – is an attempt to cut into the wound of Palestinians. As Arabs mark these 50 years, they remain divided more than ever, with the crisis in Syria, Libya, Yemen and other Arab countries weakening their ability to speak in one voice and protect the actions of Israelis.

The settlement expansion is meant to strengthen a two-state solution. “By promoting the establishment of the first new settlement in 25 years, as well as thousands of additional settlement units, Netanyahu’s government is signaling its intention to turn the victories of Israel into a major opportunity to take a critical step forward in the peace process,” Peace Now said.

The deadline of the peace process, Benjamin Netanyahu is focusing on killing the prospects of a two-state solution. US President Donald Trump has made Middle East peace one of his priorities, but recent developments show his administration will find it difficult to walk through multitudes of obstacles. Also, Trump has not seen as impartial a media, with his team aligned completely with Israeli interests.

Israel is shrinking over its victory as it marks the 50th anniversary of the war in 1967. It has no reason to be publish. It was a victory which came too fast, and fifty years on, Israel’s policies have changed while the Arab position has weakened significantly. Palestinians themselves remain divided between Fatah and Hamas. The differences between the two groups are too steep to be healed, with both adopting diametrically opposite positions on Israel. This division has been one of the victories of Israel.

Palestinians need a new strategy as the region marks the 50th anniversary of the war with Israel, in 1967.

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

If Venezuela cannot, it should voluntarily step down from its seat on the Human Rights Council until it can get its own house in order.

Nikki Haley
US Ambassador to UN

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**Why is Egypt involved in the latest GCC crisis?**

Muhammad Elmary
Al Jazeera

I n a move that is sure to have far-reaching consequences, three Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries – Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Bahrain – and Egypt announced on Monday that they would no longer diplomatic ties with Qatar. The action comes after a few of their regional partners, didn’t leave their motivations to the imagination. The collective decision was explicitly billed as part of a new strategy to defend its broader fight against terrorism, the Saudi Arabia-led-ally accuses Qatar of supporting terrorist groups.

Given that it is not a GCC country, Egypt’s exclusion on this short list of nations may, at first glance, be perplexing. But a statement by the Saudi Arabian Press Agency (SPA) offers important insights into Egypt’s motivations for wanting to isolate Qatar. SPA said that Qatar embraces “various terrorist and sectarian groups aimed at destabilizing the region, including the Muslim Brotherhood group, Daesh (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda, proselytizes the same, and plots these groups through its media.”

I’ll leave aside the suggestion that the Qatari government has emulated the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as ISIS and Al-Qaeda. It hasn’t - and focuses instead on the statement’s references to Qatar’s ‘media’ and the Muslim Brotherhood. Insofar as Egypt is concerned, these are the two most important aspects of Monday’s diplomatic decree.

The ‘Qatari media’ alluded to in the statement is an obvious reference to Al Jazeera, Qatar’s most important, powerful, and well-known media outlet. A network that has long been considered a thorn in the side of autocratic Arab governments, including the current Egyptian administration, which has taken issue with the network’s coverage of Brotherhood affairs.

The statement’s reference to the Muslim Brotherhood is equally important. The Brotherhood broadly governed Egypt in 2011 and 2013, and following the country’s 2013 Arab Spring protests, which led to the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak. Context is important to understanding the Egyptian government’s displeasure with both the Qatar government and Al Jazeera.

Egypt’s current government, led by President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, came to power on the heels of a summer 2013 military intervention. The Egyptian milit- ary, led at the time by Sisi, billed its intervention as a glorious “revolution” in response to a popular demand to save Egypt’s true citizens from the “terrorist group” that had hijacked Egypt’s revolution. But, while the Egyptian military considers itself to be the saviour of the Egyptian people, political scientists and mainstream international news outlets have consistently labelled the military intervention a “coup” much to Sisi’s chagrin. The Sisi government went so far as to propose legislation criminalizing use of the “coup” label to describe the military’s intervention.

What happened after the coup that overthrew Egypt’s first-ever democratically elected president, the Brotherhood’s Mohammed Morsi, is also critical to understanding the present political rift. Sisi moved to carry out an intense campaign to eliminate both the Brotherhood and all forms of political opposition from Egyptian society.

For a great extent, he has been successful. Sisi has consolidated power, and human rights groups and political scientists contend that Sisi is responsible for the worst human rights violations in modern Egyptian history, including large-scale mass arrests, mass death sentences, draconian legislation, and mass arrests - including Al Jazeera journalists - among other acts of repression.

To the Egyptian government’s dismay, Al Jazeera has offered up intense coverage of the rights violations, as well as of some of the Sisi administration’s political failures. The Sisi government has said that Al Jazeera’s coverage of Egypt has been similar in tone to the New York Times, the Guardian, CNN, and the BBC. All of whom, incidentally, have been accused in Egypt of being pro-Brotherhood. As far as the Egyptian government is concerned, anything short of labelling the 2013 intervention a revolution and labelling the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation, constitutes treachery.

It is important to note that the current Egyptian government’s displeasures with Al Jazeera and Qatar run deep, and did not begin in 2013. The Sisi regime is part and parcel of Egypt’s “deep state,” a more extensive network of state agencies which was no fan of Al Jazeera. Like many of their autocratic partners in the Arab region, Sisi and the rest of Egypt’s military brass opposed Al Jazeera’s coverage of the 2010-2011 Arab Spring protest movements that led to the ousters of Egypt’s Mubarak, Tunisia’s Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi. Given the fact that Al Jazeera is a Qatar government-owned network, it is not difficult to see why Egypt and its allies in the Saudi-led axis - take issue with Qatar.

It is also important to point out that, while the Brotherhood is a deeply flawed, sociopolitical movement, it is not difficult to see why Egypt, and its allies in the Saudi-led axis - take issue with Qatar.

The Saudi-led axis’ position that the Muslim Brotherhood is ISIL-like is more of a double standard, with the GCC countries not delivering on their threat to isolate Qatar. It is a threat that has never been delivered on, and instead, of delivering a meaningful response, GCC states have provided the Brotherhood with an open checkbook, funding it with billions of dollars in support.

The GCC countries have been the most vocal in their criticism of Qatar, while not delivering on their threat to isolate Qatar. This is despite the fact that Qatar is a GCC member, and has been a long-time ally of the GCC in the region. Qatar has provided the GCC with significant financial support, and has been a key player in the region’s political landscape.

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Macron’s party faces a tough battle in parliamentary elections in the south-western city of Toulouse, as the leading candidate struggles to gain support.

For Macron’s political opponents, the challenge is to persuade voters that Emmanuel Macron’s party, which won a majority in the last presidential election, cannot be trusted to deliver on its promises.

In the final round of the presidential election, Macron’s party was comfortably ahead of the Socialists, who were supported by a wide range of political parties and independent candidates.

But the Socialists, who came a distant second in the presidential vote, have been preoccupied with their own internal divisions and have failed to capitalize on their strong performance in the presidential election.

Meanwhile, the Socialists, who were crushed in the presidential election, have been busy trying to repair their image and win back the support of voters who were turned off by Macron’s perceived lack of substance and commitment to social issues.

The Socialists’ challenge is to demonstrate that they have a clear and viable plan for the future of France, and that they are capable of delivering on their promises.

For Macron’s party, the challenge is to show that it is not just a conquered presidential majority, but a genuine force for change in French politics.

Can America lead in the age of Trump?

Dan W Drezner
The Washington Post

T

I will not shock readers that I am not the biggest fan of the Trump administration.

I believe that his policy is likely to be self-defeating and that he is likely to be a complete failure. But I do not believe that he is a danger to the world or to the United States. He is not the worst possible choice for president, but he is certainly not the best. He is a mediocre and ineffective leader, and he has a tendency to make things worse, not better.

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Duterte orders troops to crush militants

**Rebellion**

Duterte described the rampage in Marawi City by the militants, fighting under the Islamic State group flag, as a “rebellion” demanding a forceful response and morality.

“I am not ordering you to take an ordinary police action. I am ordering you to crush our enemy,” Duterte told soldiers.

Despite a military effort to crush the Islamic State-affiliated militants in Marawi City, the situation continues well into the night, according to the World Health Organization.

A Philippine court in the city of 200,000, rampaged through the largely Muslim city of 200,000 on Thursday. The money was found stashed in a chicken farm on the island.

The culling can continue well into the night, although an official handling the issue said the country’s southern island of Jolo and Sulu has declared martial law in the Mindanao region.

The government said Monday that the outbreak was reported in South-East Asia and who is on the US list of most wanted terrorists.

Authorities said they were "surprised when gunmen went to protect Haiyan and then rampaged through the largely Muslim city of 200,000." "I cannot stop my soldiers now. Let’s think this over. I’ve started,” Duterte said.

The court issued these directives, as argued by one of the petitioners, who has declared martial law in Mindanao and the Mindanao region.

The Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday ordered the military to use force to crush militants still occupying parts of a southern city, as photos emerged of bombed buildings and charred corpses.

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Confiscated cash and cheques amounting to $1.6m being presented by Philippine military authorities in Marawi City yesterday. The money was found stashed close to a sniper’s perch.

Underscoring the volatile situation, at least one rocket struck an Indian diplomatic compound in Kabul, as the Taliban have made steady gains.

Later yesterday, a suspected bomb outside a mosque in the city of 200,000 killed seven people and police said.

Ghani told the diplomats that attacks in Afghanistan were not just attacks of violence that had struck foreign countries around the world, most recently in London, where three militants drove a van into pedestrians on Saturday before attacking people with knives.

Afghanistan is on the front line of a global war against such violence, he said. “We’re fighting 20 transnational terrorist groups on your behalf,” Ghani said. “What we need is an agreement on regional security”.

Pakistan court urges channels to telecast 10pc time for public service

The Islamic High Court has directed the country’s media regulator to ensure that 10 percent of total time of all TV channels is spared for public service announcements.

Official sources said yesterday that a meeting of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pema) that is mandatory under the code of conduct constituted under the supervision of apex court and all the parties, including Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) is significant in this context.

The High Court on these directives while hearing a petition against the alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution which includes good of Islam, decency and morality.

The bench also directed that 10 percent of time of all TV channels must be as per proportion of hourly transmission or 10 percent in each hour of telecast and the channel.

The IHC bench directed Pema’s counsel Ali-Gulam to watch reported advertisements and point out to Pema channel for action and also submit a report before the court next date of hearing.

Petitioner prayed to the IHC bench for direction to the respondents to keep a check on TV channels and bar them from airing obscene clips, immoral TV ads and airing foreign content. The IHC bench after issuing the said directions put off the matter till July 4.
Ready to curb human rights laws to fight extremism: May

Slough

British Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday she would be willing to toughen up human rights protections to make it easier to deport or jail British militants who there is not enough evidence to prosecute. May used one of her final speeches in an election campaign which has turned into a debate about national security to step up her rhetoric against Islamist extremism, pleading to ensure security services had the powers they needed.

The poll, which was published overnight by Survation, found a wide range of estimates of support for the two main political parties, adding to scepticism among many critics who have dismissed the industry for failing to accurately predict the outcome of the 2015 election and last year’s referendum vote to exit the European Union.

Moreover, all the polls have shown a steady narrowing of May’s lead of May’s Conservatives over the past few weeks following the publication of the party’s electoral policy pledges.

Opposition had a lead of 19 points over Labour early in the campaign. But began to struggle after she failed to make a plan to make elderly people pay for more of their care, and then started to be moved quickly to say there would be a limit on costs of what people would face.

In the wake of Saturday’s attack on London by Islamist militants who killed seven people and injured 48, Opponents said in its showed a significant rise in national security as an issue for voters. 13 percent said anti-terrorism policy would influence their vote, up from 2 percent last week. Respondents said May was the most trusted leader on fighting terrorism and on Brexit, while Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was most trusted on Britain’s health service.

Opinium had moved for more comfortable reading for May than another one published overnight by Hartington which showed her lead over Labour had narrowed to just 1 percentage point. The Conservatives had a slim 17-seat majority before parliament was dissolved for the snap election. The poll for ITV television was conducted on Friday and Saturday before the attack in London. No other poll has shown a lead that tight.

Conservatives on course for bigger majority

London

Reuters

British Prime Minister Theresa May (right) is accompanied by Britain’s Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (second right) as she addresses supporters at a campaign event in South-west London yesterday.

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French police shot and wounded a man who attacked officers with a hammer outside the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris yesterday and the Paris prosecutor’s office swiftly launched a counter-terrorism investigation.

Armed police cordoned off the area and the hull was locked in central Paris that is visited by millions of tourists every year. The attacker was reportedly out of control and had been carrying a hammer.

Security during the presidential campaign

“Situation under control, one policeman injured, the assailant neutralised and taken to hospital.” Paris police said on Twitter. France is in a state of emergency after a wave of terrorist attacks since early 2015 that have killed more than 230 people across the country. Police have been patrolling the streets of the capital throughout the election season.

Frances Macron set for biggest majority since De Gaulle: Survey

Emmanuel Macron’s party is set to win the biggest nuclear-capable bomber flying over the Baltic Sea near its borders. The Russian defence ministry said it was flying over neutral waters as an American B-52 strategic bomber it said was being used by the US military over the Baltic Sea.

The appearance of the B-52, a long-range bomber that first went into service in the 1950s, introduced to Moscow a Russian Foreign Ministry official said on Monday that the US aircraft did not disturb its activities in the region.

The US military said the US Air Force had flown a B-52 bomber near the coast of the Gulf War.

Russian officials said they were keeping a close eye on the B-52’s appearance in Europe because of the tensions between the West and Russia.

The G7 summit in Italy next week is close to Russia’s state border with France.

French president-elect Emmanuel Macron celebrates on the stage at his victory rally near the Louvre in Paris.

The “Scorpionfish” operation, which was carried out from the French La Ferté-Franche, near the French-Swiss border, was aimed at French citizens who have Jewish links to Europe.

It depicted a hacking operation tied closely to Moscow, which was preparing to bring more than 300,000 migrants to Europe.

The operation had been shadowing the group for months, according to 15 Italian or Tunisian citizens sought by arrest warrants.

The operation involved the use of two teams of trackers and specialists in several Italian regions. The investigation found that the group had made at least five trips, and at one point police managed to follow a boat ferrying 14 migrants and 220 kilos of cigarettes.

The teams approached and were planning to track more than 100 migrants in the future, the police said.

Serbian Republic bans teaching about Sarajevo siege & Srebrenica genocide

Bosnia’s Serb Republic leader yesterday banned the teaching of the Siege of Sarajevo and the genocide in Srebrenica for the first time that Bosnian Serb forces besieged and attacked people in the capital for years during the 1992-95 war.

The move follows a regional government decision to ban the teaching about the two conflicts in the region’s two towns.

Under an internationally sponsored 2002 agreement between the two regions, the Bosnian Republic and the Bosnian-Croat Federation, the 1992-95 war was omitted from history textbooks because each party had its own interpretation of the events.

The amendments to the textbooks about the Sarajevo siege and the Srebrenica genocide have been included in some history textbooks in the Bosnian-Croat Federation, and could be used by Bosnian students in some of 22 schools they attend in the Serb Republic.

Dane Miloradovic, said the weekend that he would ban the use of such textbooks. Ten of thousands of Bosnians who were driven from their homes, have returned to the town they are living in now the Serb-dominated region. Many of them struggle daily with discrimination and not have access to education and housing.

Italy police bust trafficking ring in Sicily

The Italian police said yesterday that they had broken a smuggling ring between Tunisia and Italy, which was preparing to bring more than 300,000 migrants to Europe.

The operation had been shadowing the group for months, according to 15 Italian or Tunisian citizens sought by arrest warrants.

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US holds breath for high-stakes Comey hearing

Brasilia AFP

Brazil’s President Michel Temer faces a court showdown this week in a large graft scandal that could see him forced from office and plunged Latin America’s biggest country into disputed political waters.

Timmer has been haggling by a thread since the revelation of a video in which he allegedly held up his blessing to payment of bribes by a now-arrested businessman to a top politician jolted for corruption. Temer faces the separate and immediate challenge of the Supreme Electoral Court of Brazil’s justice system.

The TSE is deciding whether Temer’s July 6 meeting with an intelligence report revealing this week showed a cyberattack that targeted more than 650 local election officials and software vendors, causing a prospect of an attempt, possibly to manipulate votes.

The top-secret document from the National Security Agency published by online news outlet The Intercept, stops short of drawing any conclusions about the impact of the attacks and whether it affected any ballots. But it suggests hackers got deeper into US voting systems than previously believed.

“Breach: hard drive of one key aide’s links to Russia. Timmer had already released a former reality TV star, may not appreciate the worldwide attention paid to Comey’s public testimony. He pointed to the Super Bowl of high political drama.

Comey is the star witness in the Senate Intelligence Committee’s investigations of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential contest. Last year, with the possible combination of the Trump campaign. The allegations have drawn comparison to the 1972 Watergate scandal that brought down president Richard Nixon.

Comey was given the go-ahead to deliver potentially devastating evidence after the White House announced it would not block the probe to protect his appearance. However it is unclear whether he will be controversially sacked by the president.

The US is watching Washington bars were opening their doors before the 10 am start of the hearing to residents of the capital wanting to watch the drama live. “Come on. You know you want to watch this unfold Thursday,” Snow’s Tavern posted on its Facebook page.

A warm-up act of sorts comes today, where the same committee hears testimony from Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, National Security Agency’s head Mike Rogers, FBI Director Christopher Wray, and Security and software vendors that may lack resources against a well-funded, well-organized opponent. Hacking elections “has become a major threat to democracy,” he said.

The Russian election meddling last summer has been the subject of congressional inquiries, investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election and legal action. The俄罗斯 election meddling last summer has been the subject of congressional inquiries, investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election and legal action.

The student says the guard “just told her that when you have are going up an eight-pound bear.”

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The 3 winners’ names will be announced in the next day’s edition

Condition:
- The employees of The Peninsula and the sponsors are not eligible to participate.
- The Ramadan Quiz will appear daily, except Friday & Saturday.
- All correct coupons will be entered into a daily raffle draw and 3 lucky winners will win a 4gm Gold Coin each.
- Winners will receive their gold coins in a ceremony held weekly once at The Peninsula Office.
Canada seeks larger world role as US retreats

Ottawa
Reuters

Canada will seek to play a larger role on the world stage as the United States retreats, Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said yesterday.”

Freeland spoke after recent NATO and G7 summits where US President Donald Trump upset leaders to such an extent that German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed doubts about the reliability of the United States.

Freeland, noting “international relationships that had seemed immutable for 70 years are being called into question,” stressed the value of bilateral ties with the United States, traditionally seen as Canada’s closest friend. She also made clear those bonds might loosen.

“The fact that our friend and ally has come to question the very worth of its mantle of global leadership, puts into sharper focus the need for the rest of us to set our own clear and sovereign course,” she said in an address to parliament outlining her foreign policy.

“For Canada that course must be the renewal, indeed the strengthening, of the postwar multilateral order,” she said.

Trump, elected on a promise to put “America first,” accused North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies of not picking up their fair share of military spending and then announced he was quitting the Paris climate change pact.

“Canada understands that, as a middle power being next to the world’s only super power, Canada has a huge interest in an international order based on rules,” said Freeland.

Canada, she said, would "strive for leadership" in multilateral forums such as the G7, the G20, NATO and the United Nations.

She said NATO and Article 5, the alliance’s mutual defense doctrine, lay at the heart of Canada’s foreign policy. Trump upset NATO leaders by not personally affirming his commitment to the article. For Canada to play a larger role globally, it would need to make "a substantial investment in its armed forces," she added.

Officials are due to unveil additional military spending today.

Venezuela jails 14 army officers for dissent

Caracas
AFP

Venezuela’s security forces arrested at least 14 army officers on suspicion of “insubordination” and “treason” in the first week of protests against President Nicolas Maduro’s government in early April, according to military documents seen by Reuters.

The soldiers, who include colonels and captains, are being held in Ramo Verde prison in the hills outside Caracas, according to lists being circulated within the military.

The documents said their cases were being “processed” and it was not clear if they had been formally charged.

The lists emerged after allegations by Venezuelan opposition leaders that a purge is underway within the military to quash dissent over the handling of massive demonstrations against the socialist government since early April.

At least 65 people have died, with victims including government and opposition supporters, bystanders and members of the security forces. Hundreds more have been injured. In public, top military officers have backed Maduro’s accusation that an “armed insurrection” is being mounted by violent conspirators seeking a coup with US backing.

But opposition leaders say there is increasing discontent within the military over the use of force against protesters who are demanding general elections, foreign humanitarian aid and freedom for jailed activists.

Mexico & Guatemala to boost help for deported migrants

Guatemala City
AFP

Mexico and Guatemala yesterday said they would boost the help they give to their citizens deported back home, especially from the United States.

Both countries recognize the need for policies of “inclusion and development for returned migrants, as well as programs of labor mobility,” Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales said after talks with visiting Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto.

He said they shared a goal of “concrete actions that will fully tackle the structural causes of migration.”

Neither president made any direct comment about the hard-line anti-immigration policies of US President Donald Trump and his administration.

The Guatemalan and Mexican peoples are united by strong ties of friendship and a proximity that has created close links between our citizens,” Pena Nieto said.

The US has an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants, most of them from Mexico. In recent years, migrants from Central America have become the biggest group seeking entry into the US.

Last year, before Trump took office, US authorities deported 35,465 Guatemalans – 10 percent more than the previous year.
Ferrari Qatar unveils Ramadan rewards

The Peninsula

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rdan Sports Motors, the official dealer of Ferrari in Qatar, is offering a one-of-a-kind extended warranty package to its clients, in line with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Italian marque. The special offer coincides with the holy month of Ramadan, reflecting the brand’s commitment to service excellence during this season of benevolence.

As part of the Ramadan offer, clients seeking to own the 2017 range of Ferrari models are entitled to a complimentary warranty extension of 2 years, following the standard three-year factory warranty. The brand is also the first in the luxury sports car segment to provide clients a choice of further extending the warranty and maintenance package up to a remarkable 15 years in total, during the holy month.

In addition to an exciting warranty package, Ferrari is offering an unparalleled period of service, marking yet another benchmark in the high-end automotive world. Clients can avail a comprehensive Genuine Maintenance programme that covers all the scheduled maintenance for the first seven years of the vehicle’s life. The programme covers the scheduled maintenance labour along with the relative original spare parts, engine oil and brake fluid.

The month of Ramadan is extremely special to us, as it ignites our passion to reach out to clients and cater to their needs. As part of our world-class services, we are delighted to offer our clients a unique warranty scheme that can cover an additional period of up to 15 years. This is a powerful testimony of Ferrari’s trust and assurance on its quality of engines and cutting-edge design. The brand is continuously enhancing its production, making every new vehicle more superior and reliable than its predecessor,” said Charly Dagher, General Manager, Alfardan Sports Motors.

Clients can avail of the exclusive warranty package for the latest line-up of Ferrari models including the new GT3 race and the incredible Ferrari 488, available at the state-of-the-art showroom in The Pearl-Qatar. The offer is valid until the end of Ramadan.

Blue Salon to celebrate Garangao

The Peninsula

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imed to delight children and entertain their families, Blue Salon is set to celebrate Garangao with them through a series of special events, that will take place on 12, 13, 14 and 15 of Ramadan. The festivities start with an exciting and enjoyable trip, around Doha, for the children and their families in Doha Tourist Bus. It will allow them to bask in the magical atmosphere of Ramadan and enjoy a unique and distinctive Garangao experience where the country’s heritage takes centre-stage.

The enchanting Garangao experience will offer the children the chance to participate in various fun activities such as Face painting and henna. Candy, as well as various exciting and valuable toys and gifts, will be distributed amongst the participating children accompanied by their families. The events will be hosted by various lively, popular cartoon characters that will no doubt create a fun atmosphere, and will keep the children and their families entertained.

Year after year, Blue Salon continues to take on the initiative of celebrating Garangao by hosting and organising a set of celebratory events that aim to nurture young people’s affinity for reviving in the country’s rich cultural heritage and to create an authentic experience for these children and their families.

New mosques to hold more worshippers

The Peninsula

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inistry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has opened five new mosques with a total capacity of 2,860 worshippers in Freej bin Abdul Aziz, Al Wajbah, Abu Hamour, Al Gharrafa and Onaiza. The mezzanine floor of the new mosque No 278 in Onaiza has a capacity of 511 male worshippers, and 40 female worshippers. The new mosque in Al Wajbah, No 274, also has two separate prayer halls with a capacity of 230 male worshippers and 40 female worshippers. Mosque No 684, which opened in Abu Hamour, can accommodate 100 men and 60 women for prayers.

At least 224 male worshippers can pray in the new mosque No 801 opened in Al Gharrafa. As many as 261 male and 70 female worshippers can perform their prayers in congregation in the newly opened mosque No 278 in Onaiza. The mezzanine floor of the mosque building can house 238 worshippers. The Mosque Management Department at the Ministry is building big mosques and small prayer facilities. Portable

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