



MEDAN: Students sit in circles as they read the holy book of Quran during Ramadan at Ar-Raudlatul Hasanah Islamic boarding school in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. During Ramadan, the holiest month in Islamic calendar, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from dawn to dusk. — AP

TRUMP LASHES OUT AT LONDON MAYOR

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It risks alienating mainstream Muslims." Trump later challenged Khan to an IQ test during an interview on ITV. Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway on Monday condemned what she called the media's "obsession with covering everything he says on Twitter and very little of what he does as president."

In an appearance on NBC's "Today Show," Conway said people should pay attention to what the president is doing, saying people

in England had tried to inform authorities about the terrorists before the attacks happened. "If you're going to see something and say something, it has to be followed by, do something," she said.

"And this president is trying to do something to protect the people of this country," Trump said he had spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May to express America's "unwavering support" and offer US assistance as the British government works to protect its citizens and bring the guilty to justice. British authorities say that have identified the three attackers but have not revealed that information publicly. — AP

KUWAIT GOVERNMENT SETS KD 75 AS MINIMUM...

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MP Waleed Al-Tabtabai said he was saddened with the developments among GCC states, adding that the Arab nation has two enemies: Israel and Iran. MP Abdulkarim Al-Kundari said Kuwait should not become a party in the conflict and instead should preserve unity with our Gulf brethren.

MP Ali Al-Deqbasi regretted that the divisions among the

GCC states is taking place on June 5, which marks the 50th anniversary of the Arab countries' defeat in the 1967 war against Israel. The lawmaker called for restraint. The Assembly then approved the budgets and final accounts of 10 government departments amid strong criticism of several bodies. Those bodies include Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the Fire Department, Kuwait University, Public Authority for Youth and others. The Assembly meets again today until Thursday to approve the state budget.

MODERATION

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And that is the correct religion." (98:5) Although we should strive to perfect our conduct, faith and attitudes, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned us against extremism when he said, "Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of religion. Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of religion. Ruined are those who insist on hardship in matters of religion." (Muslim) This is not an editorial error or typo - he actually repeated it three times.

Sometimes adhering to moderation feels like walking a tightrope, because it is easy to get off balance from the ele-

ments that push us in one direction or the other. But God offers us a handle by which we can remain on course: the Quran and the living example of His Prophet, Muhammad (PBUH). With these handholds, we will safely reach our goals.

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

JIHADIST-LINKED TERROR ATTACKS ACROSS EUROPE

PARIS: A London terror attack claimed by the Islamic State group has left seven people dead and 48 wounded after men mowed down and stabbed revelers on Saturday night. It is the latest in a deadly series of strikes linked to radical Islamists against European targets in the last two years.

France has been hit the hardest, with 238 deaths since early 2015. The first attack comes on January 7, 2015 when two brothers who claim allegiance to Al-Qaeda gun down 12 people in an attack against the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo in Paris. The next day, a man linked to the Islamic State group (IS) shoots dead a policewoman in a Paris suburb.

He takes hostages in a Jewish supermarket near Paris the following day, killing four people. All three gunmen are killed by police. In April 2015, a woman is killed by a radical Islamist, in June a delivery firm boss is killed and then decapitated, and in August a man opens fire in the Thalys train between Amsterdam and Paris before he is overwhelmed by passengers. Two people are wounded. On November 13, 2015 France suffers its worst ever ter-

ror attack, when suicide bombers strike several targets, killing 130 people and wounding 350.

The sites include the Bataclan concert hall, bars and restaurants, and the Stade de France stadium just north of the capital. The IS group claims responsibility. In June 2016, a policeman and his companion are killed at their home west of Paris by a man who swears allegiance to IS. On July 14, the national holiday, a man rams a truck into a crowd in the Mediterranean resort of Nice, killing 86 people and wounding more than 400. He is shot dead by police. IS claims responsibility. Twelve days later, two jihadists slit a priest's throat in his church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, Normandy. They too are shot dead. IS claims that attack as well.

On March 22, 2016 suicide attacks claimed by IS kill 32 people and wound more than 340 at Brussels airport and Maelbeek metro station, near the European Union headquarters. On August 6, a machete-wielding man attacks two policewomen in Charleroi, southern Belgium, slicing the face of one before being shot dead by a third officer. The IS group claims responsibility. — AFP

QATAR IN DIPLOMATIC STORM

Continued from Page 1

The Qatar Stock Exchange tumbled eight percent on opening and eventually closed down 7.58 percent. Riyadh said in a statement its measures were the result of "gross violations committed by authorities in Qatar", accusing Doha of harboring "terrorist and sectarian groups that aim to destabilize the region."

Amir calls Qatar leader

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has urged Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani to exercise self-restraint and refrain from steps that would escalate the tension. His Highness the Amir, in a phone call with the Qatari Emir, hoped Sheikh Tamim would give a chance to the efforts aimed at "containing the tension." His Highness the Amir reiterated importance of bolstering common Gulf action to serve the "interests of the GCC countries."

Flights cancelled

Economic consequences were already emerging, with UAE carriers Emirates, Etihad, flydubai and Air Arabia, as well as Saudi Airlines, announcing the suspension of all flights to and from Qatar as of today morning. Egypt said it would also suspend air links with Qatar from today and gave Doha's ambassador 48 hours to leave the country. Qatar Airways said it had suspended all flights to Saudi Arabia with immediate effect. The airline-one of the

region's busiest-also faced major potential problems after Saudi civil aviation authorities said the country's airspace would be closed to Qatari planes.

Speaking in Sydney, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he did not expect the announcement to have "any significant impact... on the unified fight against terrorism." He encouraged Qatar and its neighbors to "sit down together", adding that Washington was ready for "any role that we can play" in helping to overcome divisions. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also urged Qatar and its neighbors to talk. "Neighbors are permanent; geography can't be changed. Coercion is never the solution. Dialogue is imperative, especially during blessed Ramadan," Zarif tweeted, referring to the Muslim month of fasting.

'Unprecedented tensions'

The crisis is the worst to hit Gulf Arab nations since the creation in 1981 of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) grouping Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar. There was no immediate word from Kuwait and Oman yesterday on their ties with Qatar. Last week, the Qatari emir traveled to Kuwait to meet Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in what was widely seen as an attempt at mediation by the Kuwaitis. "This certainly represents an unprecedented uptick in tensions within the GCC," said Adam Baron, visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "Qatar has long had an independent streak that's led to resentment from its neighbors." — Agencies



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