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GCC mulls sharing personal data in war against crime, terror

GCC states are considering the idea of exchanging fingerprint and security information electronically within the six-member bloc, officials said at the conclusion of meeting of a workgroup for electronic exchange of fingerprints and security information. The two-day meeting was hosted by Qatar's Ministry of Interior. "There was also agreement on the consideration of iris scans, face prints and DNA database in future so that will serve the security work in combating different kinds of crimes in the GCC countries," Qatar's Criminal Evidences and Information Department (CEID) director Col Nasser Abdullah al-Mahmoud said. This came after GCC workgroup co-ordinator Lt Col Hamid Hamoud al-Khalidi, a director of the Kuwait CEID, explained to participants of the successful experience of Qatar, Bahrain and Emirate of Dubai in exchanging information electronically among them and called for others to join in.

The heads and members of the delegations later toured various sections of the Qatari CEID, where head of Information Section Maj Rashid Ali al-Murri gave a briefing on the role of the CEID.

"The recommendations made by the workgroup in this meeting will be put for discussion in the agenda of the meeting of the director generals of the investigation and criminal search departments in the GCC countries which will be held in April in Oman," al-Khalidi said.