

RELIGION

Anti-Islam Backlash, Mideast Conflict Discussed

Muslim leaders shine critical light on the state of their nations

(AP)—Muslim leaders shined a critical light on the state of their nations Tuesday, with Sudan's president saying they risk being "even more marginalized" if they fail to close social and economic gaps with developed nations.

President Omar el-Bashir also called for reform of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in opening remarks to foreign ministers and senior officials from the 57 Muslim nations meeting in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum.

El-Bashir, who came to power in a 1989 coup, said the Muslim world had no choice but to develop its capabilities "to bridge the historic gap between backwardness and development, weakness and strength."

"Unless we do that," he warned, "we shall be reduced to neglected numbers and a quantity that is even more marginalized than we are at present."

Abdelouahed Belkziz, the Moroccan secretary-general of the OIC, warned that Muslims run the risk of losing self-confidence and of self-imposed international isolation because of an unfair linkage of Islam to terrorism.

"Muslims in the past had been associated with poverty and ignorance and accused of lacking

democracy and respect for human rights," he said. "Now they face the additional accusation of being followers of a backward civilization and a culture that glorifies death. In other words, a culture of terrorism."

is the world's only pan-Islamic body and, in theory, represents an estimated 1.2 billion Muslims living from West Africa to the Far East and from Russia to the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean.

United States should prompt swift changes needed to "lead joint Islamic endeavors toward the horizons we all aspire for," el-Bashir said.

The OIC was founded out of Muslim indignation over a 1969 fire at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest shrines. A Christian man from Australia was accused of starting the fire, but Muslims held Israel responsible since it controlled the holy city.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has always been central to the organization, and the three-day gathering in Khartoum is likely to voice solid support for the Palestinians and withering criticism of Israel.

The meeting began a day after President Bush urged the Palestinians in a long-anticipated speech to replace the Palestinian leadership with those "not compromised by terror" and to adopt democratic reforms that could produce an independent state within three years.

He also called on Israel to stop building settlements in the West Bank and said the Jewish state will ultimately have to withdraw from lands it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.



"The task of countering these challenges is made easier because they are based on false and vicious accusations that are not difficult to expose," Belkziz added.

The OIC, based in the Red Sea port city of Jiddah, Saudi Arabia,

The 30-year-old body, however, has been little more than a forum for debate, and it needs reform, el-Bashir said.

What Muslims perceive as a Western backlash against Islam after the Sept. 11 attacks in the

BAHA'I PLAN RACE UNITY FESTIVAL

People of all ages are invited to attend a race unity festival next month at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College at 705 N. Killingsworth.

African and Native American drumming, music, singing, dancing, children's activities, interactive cultural exhibits, and a panel discussion on "The delights and dilemmas of my culture," are planned during the Saturday, July 27 event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The celebration is the 5th annual race unity festival sponsored by the Portland Baha'i community and is free to all children, teenagers and adults.

TLC-TnT

based at

Whitaker Middle School (Lakeside)
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In conjunction with Portland Schools and Portland Park Bureau

Coordinated by Faye Palmerton & Roy Pittman

TLC-TnT is a program for student and families to promote self-esteem. The program is designed to offer everyone a chance to experience joy, fun gratitude, tenderness, love, accomplishment and victory.

Please Call 503-916-6320 for 2002 TLC-TNT Summer Camp Registration Form. The camp is free to all.

Obituary

Roosevelt Grad Remembered

Vaughn Ervin Wheeler

A funeral was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, at Killingsworth Little Chapel of the Chimes for Vaughn Ervin Wheeler, who died June 14 at age 44.

Mr. Wheeler was born March 17, 1958, in Portland. He graduated from Roosevelt High School and was a private care medical assistant. He lived in San Diego for nine years before returning to Portland in January.

Survivors include his sisters, Lenora Nelson, Lori Hill and Lodie Dunn; and brothers, Leonard Hill Jr., Nathan Mosley and Anthony Wheeler.

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Community Calendar

continued from Metro

p.m. at 422 N.E. Alberta. Call 503-284-4962 to register.

Alberta Cooperative Grocery

Every Thursday, the Alberta Cooperative Grocery, located at 1500 N.E. Alberta, will be having a Farmer's Market featuring organic and environmentally-grown produce and garden starts. Come and take advantage of the opportunity to purchase your food direct from the source. Learn what it means to grow sustainably, every Thursday from 2-7 p.m. Call 503-287-4333.

Portland Walking Tour

Portland Walking Tours offers guided tours exploring the history, art, architecture, fountains, parks and unique places in the City of Roses. The tours start at the Visitor Center at Pioneer Courthouse Square, S.W. 6th and Morrison. For more information, call their 24-hour line at 503-736-3248 or go online to www.portlandwalkingtours.com.

Kaiser Permanente Hike

To help people learn to identify what Northwest plants are potentially harmful, Kaiser Permanente is sponsoring a free hike on Saturday, July 27 called "Sinister Plants of the Columbia Gorge." The hike starts at 8:30 a.m. at Kaiser Permanente's Rockwood Medical Office, 19500 S.E. Stark St. and then carpool to the Gorge. Call 503-813-4820.

New Seasons Barbeque

The New Seasons Market in Concordia will be having a delicious barbecue to support Zenger Farm, a unique urban education center, encompassing both farm and wetland. Funds will be used to expand the existing sustainable farm and add an education and job training center. The barbeque benefit will be held on Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30, from 11 a.m.—5 p.m. Call 503-288-2323.

Cheney Talks Tough

continued from Front

network, Cheney said it is not enough for the United States to rely on measures to protect people and buildings in the United States.

"Wars are not won on the defensive," Cheney said. "We must take the battle to the enemy."

He said "we are going to shut down terrorist camps wherever they are" and find terrorists "one by one and bring them to justice."

Cheney said the government has "found confirmation bin Laden and al-Qaida are seriously interested in nuclear, radiological and biological weapons."

Cheney also said Saddam is "clearly pursuing these weapons of mass destruction."

He pointed out that the Iraqi leader used chemical weapons in Iraq's war against Iran.

Security was tight for Cheney's Portland visit. About 30 police motorcycles were parked in front of the hotel where the fund-raiser for Smith was held.

About 30 protesters gathered at the end of the block. Some carried signs saying "Free Palestine" and "Terror lives in the White House."

Glen Owen, 50, of Portland, said "protesting in America isn't dead" and "not everyone is going to lie down and have their civil liberties taken away."

Rolf Scar, 26, of Portland, said he was upset that Cheney came out to raise money for Smith.

Men and Women Battle Bulge On Different Fronts

(NAPS)—On the weighty issue of shedding pounds, men and women don't see eye to eye. However one survey found both sexes are in agreement that advancing years make it more difficult to stay at their ideal weight.

According to the national study, sponsored by dietary supplement maker, Metabolife International Inc., 91 percent of the respondents found losing or maintaining weight became more difficult as they grew older. A whopping 69 percent of women and 52 percent of men found it "much more" difficult.

Only two percent of Americans found weight control easier as they got older.

The survey, called "Battle of the Bulge," revealed the sexes have their own "specific demons" in terms of diet and lifestyle.

Asked about dietary villains, 53 percent of women identified sweets as the bane of a trim waistline. However, only six percent of men claimed to be victimized by a sweet tooth. Men cited large portions (43 percent) and fast foods (29 percent) as the culprits they must overcome. Women listed snacking between meals (18 percent) ahead of either large por-

tions (17 percent) or fast foods (12 percent).

The survey also revealed today's woman has an awful lot on her plate that isn't food. The number one weight loss obstacle women cited, at 34 percent, was the lack of time to plan meals and shop. Only seven percent of men shared that concern.

Both sexes agreed that changing metabolism was their main obstacle to losing weight.

The good news is the survey found Americans don't perceive themselves as total losers at losing weight. Eighty-four percent reported a desire to only shed either "a couple of sizes" or "a few pounds in certain places." Losing a couple of sizes was the main goal of both men (50 percent) and women (67 percent).

At the extremes were 12 percent who would like to lose "a ton, so to speak" and five percent who simply wanted to "maintain."

Another telling statistic from the survey was that 97 percent of respondents have at some point in their lives been on a diet. In fact, for many, dieting is very much a part of their lives. Almost half of the male respondents—46 percent—have attempted six or more diets (women were at 31 percent) and 16 percent of women said they are always dieting (only three percent of men made such an admission).

The holidays were found to be especially trying-times for those battling the bulge. January is the biggest month for dieting with 43 percent of women and 34 percent of men admitting they begin every year on a diet.

"The Battle of the Bulge" is the first in a series of surveys sponsored by Metabolife International Inc. The surveys explore diet and lifestyle as they relate to modern Americans. For more information, and to view the entire survey, visit www.Metabolife.com.