

## Islam in Arab world awaits results of changes in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — For nearly 20 years, the glowering visage of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his vow to export revolution captured the essence of Iran's message to the Arab world. It inspired Islamic movements and frightened the regimes they opposed.

But as delegates from across the Muslim world meet this week in Tehran, Iran is conveying an altogether different Islam to its neighbors, a new moderation best exemplified by President Mohammad Khatami, whose stunning election in May electrified Iran.

Those changes are being anxiously watched in the Arab world, where the militant Islam once inspired by revolutionary Iran remains formidable. And increasingly, some Islamic activists, intellectuals and officials are wondering whether the new trends here could bring about a new style of political Islam across Iran's borders.

Some speculate that the country whose revolution in 1979 best demonstrated the power of resur-

gent Islam could usher in, a generation later, a more tolerant style.

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**ADEL HUSSEIN**  
EGYPTIAN ISLAMIC ACTIVIST

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The Iranian revolution, which brought the pro-Western regime of the shah crashing down, infused the Muslim world with a sense of confidence and euphoria. Here, in the heart of one of America's closest allies, revolutionaries loosely grouped under the banner of Islam

won a rare victory in a region long accustomed to defeat.

But that fervor, which inspired young militants from Algeria to the Gulf, has given way over the past year to a budding moderation on issues from the role of women to tolerance of political dissent.

The best example of that has come through Khatami, an urbane and engaging clergyman who has called for an atmosphere in which freedom can thrive and dissent is tolerated. In an article in an Arabic newspaper after his election, he insisted that the Muslim world must understand the West in "an unprejudiced way."

And last month, in a striking speech, Khatami declared that women must enjoy the same opportunities as men.

"Unfortunately, some unfair practices against women are justified through religion," he said in the address to a women's conference in Tehran. "We must look at religion anew and purge practices that are considered religious but are not."

## U.N. expert says over 20 million people in Africa now carry HIV

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — More than 20 million people in sub-Saharan Africa carry the virus that causes AIDS, and most of them don't even know it, an expert told an international conference Sunday.

"The situation in this region is unprecedented," Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS, said.

Piot was addressing the opening session of the 10th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa, a five-day gathering bringing together hundreds of researchers who will discuss methods for stemming the

disease's spread on the continent.

French President Jacques Chirac also was to address the gathering.

A UNAIDS report released two weeks ago estimated 30.6 million live with HIV or AIDS globally, two-thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa. One in every 13 men and women between ages 15 and 49 are carriers of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, Piot said.

But he said that UNAIDS estimates that nine out of 10 people don't know they are infected and therefore never seek medical assistance or arrange care for themselves and their children when they become ill.

The developing world's lack of ac-

cess to the latest, and most expensive, treatments plays a major role in the spread of the disease in Africa, according to Piot. He noted that many industrialized countries were seeing a drop in AIDS deaths as a result of new therapy whose price is far beyond the reach of most Africans.

"Only a very small proportion of people in the developing world have access to these treatments," Piot said.

The solution, Piot said, is an "unprecedented global effort" to make drugs more accessible in developing countries, and to improve health services so that more people can be tested and respond early to the disease.

## Scientists warn world must avoid another ozone scenario

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — The American leading the international scientific effort to track global warming says he fears the world may repeat the mistake it made on ozone — wait for a near-catastrophe before acting decisively.

"Suddenly, the Antarctic ozone hole appeared, a huge geophysical change," climate scientist Robert T. Watson recalled.

With global warming, he said, "I don't want to find a 'smoking gun' in quite that way."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Watson also warned the global climate observation system is deteriorating, just when it may be needed most, because of budget cuts by governments in many nations.

"It will degrade our ability to say to what degree our climate is changing," said the former NASA scientist, recently named chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a U.N.-sponsored network of more than 2,000 scientists monitoring the global climate.

Watson is participating in the week-old Kyoto climate change conference, where delegates worked behind closed doors Sunday to reach agreement by Wednesday on a complex plan to rein in industrial nations' emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

The gases, mostly from combustion of fossil fuels, trap heat in the atmosphere.

## Experts say action must be taken before problems become critical

The IPCC, established in 1988 to coordinate research on global warming, warned in a major 1995 report that emissions appeared already to have boosted temperatures slightly — and would raise them as much as 6 degrees more by 2100 if not controlled.

That would shift climate zones, make weather more turbulent and expand oceans, flooding islands and coasts.

The Kyoto talks are expected to lead to only limited rollbacks in emissions by 2010 or so.

But "it's still a critical step," Watson said. "It will start to send a message to governments and industries that they have to get their energy policies right."

Watson, 49, has the rapid-fire delivery and untamed beard of a scientist in a hurry. A veteran research manager, he was a White House science aide in the first Clinton administration, and previously worked for NASA for 13 years.

Beginning in 1980, the British-born scientist was in charge of the global effort to assess the "eating away" by manmade chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) of atmospheric ozone, which helps protect life on Earth from harmful ultraviolet rays that can cause skin cancer and

other biological damage.

He notes that some of the same handful of scientists "questioning global warming" today had challenged about ozone depletion in the 1980s. Then NASA discovered fast-developing ozone holes in the late 1980s, and warnings rushed to ban CFCs.

"Still, we are going to have a world with ozone depletion by 50 or 60 years," Watson said.

Scientists now theorize that physical chain reactions from global warming, phenomena not fully understood, might also cause such sudden events — like the Atlantic Ocean current that keeps Europe warm.

The lesson, according to Watson, is that "there is some uncertainty over global warming, but no reason to be complacent behind scientific uncertainty."

The new IPCC chief said the early warning system of change in the 21st century is on the thousands of land weather monitoring stations around the world, and measurements, which include temperature, precipitation, wind patterns and ocean circulation.

## Bus

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Trevor Hull, a bus trainer coordinator for PTTS, said that increased student fees would not exceed the benefits of the bus system.

"The increased service fee would not cost that much more," Hull said. "But it would assure that the bus fleet is up to date. If we have all the buses up and running, then most students living off-campus could leave 10 to 15 minutes before class to get to campus [on time]. The bus

system is definitely a convenient way to get to campus."

Of the 32,000 students that live off campus, about one-third (10,000 students) use the bus system to get to campus. Williams said a new bus fleet could increase the number of off-campus routes.

"If we were able to get proper funds, we could serve every apartment in the area," he said. "We actually started serving the Oaks Apartments in Bryan with a van. We found that students liked that service."

Expansion of West Campus, including the opening of the George

Bush School of Government

Library, coupled with increased parking, has increased the demand for bus transportation. Despite the demand, Jackson said the system continues to show little growth.

"It has been a very slow process over the past few years," he said. "We have only purchased three buses since 1994. We need to modernize the bus fleet. The lot of places in town, three large apartment buildings that we want to provide. They are currently not sufficient to accommodate

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