

Arabs, Africans war in Somalia, Sudan

(AP) - The crises in Somalia and Sudan are pitting Arabs and African governments against each other, sharpening a centuries-old continental divide.

That's clear from the way two regional groups — the Arab League and the African Union — have treated Sudan, a member of both.

Sudan currently chairs the Arab League, and was supposed to hold the rotating chairmanship of the African Union as well when it hosted the summit of the group's 53 states and territories in February.

Gap

(Continued from Page 13) at least for now.

"This is the first year overall rates didn't vary" by race and ethnicity, Halsey said. "But next year there can be a difference."

Vaccination rates rose in all the racial groups, but rose most dramatically in Blacks. In 2002, the vaccination rate was 62 percent for Blacks and 66 percent for Whites and Hispanics, according to CDC data.

Orenstein, who led the CDC's immunization program until he left the CDC in 2004 for a position with Emory, deserves much of the credit for the closing of the gap, Halsey said.

Racial gaps persist for some vaccines, according to the report. Chickenpox vaccination rates were higher for Black and Hispanic children than for White youngsters. But, four-dose coverages of whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines were lower for Blacks and Hispanics than for Whites.

There was additional good news: Overall vaccinations with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine have risen substantially since it was introduced in 2000, despite shortages. The percentage of children receiving three shots of the vaccine rose to 83 percent in 2005, up from 41 percent in 2002. The percentage receiving the full recommended four doses was up to 54 percent, from 36 percent in 2003.

Some vaccines have recently been added to the list of recommended immunizations for children, and that will increase the challenge to fully immunize children, Orenstein noted.

The Africans withheld the privilege, however, because of Sudan's alleged complicity in atrocities in its Darfur region.

U.N. peacekeeping has further highlighted the division. The African Union wants the U.N. in Darfur, Sudan doesn't, and the Arab states support Sudan's stance.

Africa experts say tensions between Arab and ethnic African states over Darfur have been growing for months.

Egypt's Al-Ahram news-

paper, which reflects the government's view, charged in a recent editorial that peacekeeping missions are a cover for foreign powers "to find a toehold in a region rich with strategic minerals."

"Once a region is destabilized, international powers step in and rearrange it according to their needs," Al-Ahram said.

Helmoed Romer Heitman, a South African defense analyst for *Jane's Defense Weekly*, agrees that when it comes to oil, outsiders don't necessarily have Africa's best interests at heart. "I'm not sure they really want good functioning states because they're more expensive to buy and work with than weak, fractious ones," he said.

But, he said Arab states harbor a deep-seated racism toward Black Africa, and Gamal Eid, executive direc-

tor of the Cairo-based Arab Network for Human Rights Information, accused them of having a "generally condescending view" toward their southern neighbors. He believes the rift is widening.

Compounding the friction is Somalia, where Islamic fighters — reportedly backed by Arab Muslim extremists — are vying for authority with a weak government. The Arab states oppose foreign peacekeepers for Somalia, a member of both the African Union and the Arab League, though that country's own government wants them.

Somalia and Sudan are at the eastern end of a continent-wide line where Islam and Christianity first collided 150 years ago, as Arabs moved south bringing Islam and bumped up against European colonizers with their Christian missionaries. Both

Arabs and Europeans were involved in the slave trade, leaving a legacy of resentment among Africans.

Nowadays, the conflicts in the two countries are exposing the fault lines between the 53-member African Union and the Arab League, some of whose 22 members belong to both.

Iqbal Jhazbhay, a political analyst at the University of South Africa, noted that when the African Union was founded six years ago, it pledged not to ignore members' human rights violations. The Arab League, however, though, rarely criticizes one of its own.

The result, Jhazbhay said, is that Arab League countries "have found themselves marginalized" in African forums.

He added that when the Arab League recently launched peace talks for So-

malia factions, some Africans saw it as interference. "That certainly has not gone down well with key member states of the African Union," he said.

Race and religion were evident in the 21-year conflict that divided Sudan between northern Arab Muslims and southern Black Christians and others.

That war ended in 2005, but, meanwhile, Darfur was becoming the vast country's next battleground.

In Darfur, the fight pits Muslims against Muslims, though some identify themselves as African and others as Arab.

Somalia is mainly Black and Muslim. There, the fear expressed by many is of a Taliban-style government taking root or of foreign intervention, sparking a regional war and drawing in

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Your Horoscope Says... Sept. 21-Sept. 27

ARIES

You might get negative answers to an important question this week. So, you should have a backup plan. And, you should know that, in the long run, it is better that the answer was not yes. Be daring. Make efforts to move beyond your comfort zone. You'll be glad you did.

Soul Affirmation: I will ask joy to marry me.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 22, 36

TAURUS

Don't waste your shine on solitude. Get out and let other people see it this week. The cheerfulness that should have come into your life last week is looking for places to express. Find them. Your winning ways can win big this week.

Soul Affirmation: People love me, yes they do.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 4

GEMINI

You like to shine. Everyone might not know it, but you like to be a little superficial and playful. That side of your soul vibration is pleading for expression this week. Listen to the plea. Give it a chance, but be careful of the sensitive feelings of those who experience you in another way.

Soul Affirmation: Light from my soul shines in many directions.

Lucky Numbers: 25, 40, 55

CANCER

Some say optimism is fantasy. Suppose the good thing you're optimistic about never comes. This week, you'll know that the joy of anticipating it is joy enough. Just the certainty of coming goodness is present goodness. The joy of tomorrow is available this week.

Soul Affirmation: The certainty of coming goodness is goodness.

Lucky Numbers: 26, 21, 30

LEO

The joy that you get from good results can make you a hero this week. Others will easily see how valuable your soul vibration is to them. It will be easy for them to see why they are glad they know you. Feel pride in your ability to move towards distant goals.

Soul Affirmation: The sunlight of my spirit shines in the land beyond the horizon.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 31, 44

VIRGO

Did you enjoy what flowed in last week? Tell someone about it. Sure you like to gossip. So what? Enjoy going over in conversation what you enjoyed in consciousness last week. Did you make the consciousness into reality? You could have. You still can.

Soul Affirmation: Things are as I know them to be.

Lucky Numbers: 33, 43, 53

LIBRA

Well, enough of being satisfied and being still and letting the wealth inside yourself be your joy. Spend some of that wealth. Get into your real bank account. Use some hard cash and buy something to make you look as good as you feel.

Soul Affirmation: Jewelry reflects the beauty of my feelings about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 35, 50

SCORPIO

You find that waiting pays off; doesn't it? Now is a better time to charge ahead. Good communication is favored. You'll be more convincing. Others are more eager to work with you. Love is easier. Business is easier. People give approval in ways that they would not have last week.

Soul Affirmation: A day of rejoicing is upon me. I celebrate.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 23, 30

SAGITTARIUS

Sweet sincere emotions can run through you like the odors of different perfumes. Open yourself up and let it flow. If love offers itself this week, please accept the offer. Everything is open. Write down what you think of yourself this week. Save it. Make a poster out of it.

Soul Affirmation: Trust gives me a deep sense of peace and joy.

Lucky Numbers: 38, 45, 53

CAPRICORN

Business as usual is good business. Energy is high. Others give back to you what you gave to them the past few weeks. We hope you were generous because what you get this week will be a multiple of what you bestowed.

Soul Affirmation: I love myself for being myself.

Lucky Numbers: 51, 54, 55

AQUARIUS

Did joy take a vacation on you? Well, joy is back and ready to unpack. Get the spare room ready or move over and let joy crawl in bed with you. Smile in joy's face and make joy feel at home. Know that you've done well.

Soul Affirmation: Joy is my roommate.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 22, 37

PISCES

Putting the world back in balance is your chore this week. Cheerfulness has been a little lower on the scale than it should be. You can spread it around lavishly this week. Give some to everyone. The more you give, the more you'll get.

Soul Affirmation: Goodness is its own reward.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 34, 48



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