

World

Dyer Straits with Gwynne Dyer, every Wednesday, only in The Citizen



WORLD IN BRIEF

UN chief calls for calm

NEW YORK (AP) — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says there is no justification for the killings and brutality sparked by an anti-Islam film and is appealing for calm and reason. The UN chief said it is shameful to exploit the fundamental right to freedom of expression by deliberately provoking bigotry and bloodshed with “a hateful, disgusting film.” But Ban said it is also wrong to exploit the anger over the film, which “only feeds the cycle of recrimination and senseless violence.” The movie denigrating the Prophet Muhammad sparked an attack in Libya that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans and protests have spread to about 20 countries. The secretary-general told a General Assembly meeting Friday promoting peace that at this tense time the world urgently needs “a culture of peace.”

Smugglers put money where their mouth is

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian police on Friday said they had arrested two men at an airport in Medellin after discovering they were smuggling \$80,000 in cash hidden in their stomachs. Authorities say the men swallowed the dollars wrapped in latex, much like some drug smugglers hide cocaine and heroin. A Colombian citizen was taken into custody on Sept. 8 after arriving on a flight from Costa Rica. Authorities say he had seemed nervous and later admitted swallowing the money, which was all in \$100 bills and separated into 40 latex-covered packets, each of them about an inch in diameter. Police took the man to a clinic in Medellin and gave him laxatives that forced him to pass the packets in his stool. A second man, this one carrying Venezuelan papers, was arrested on Thursday after arriving from Costa Rica with cash hidden in his stomach. It was not clear if the money was to be used in a drug transaction. Authorities said they could be charged with money laundering. Their names were not released.

Ming vase doorstep sells for \$1.3 million

NEW YORK (AP) — A rare Ming Dynasty vase that had been used as a doorstep in a New York home has sold for \$1.3 million at auction. The blue and white moon flask was auctioned Wednesday at Sotheby's sale of Chinese works of art. Its presale estimate was \$600,000 to \$900,000. The piece had been in the same family collection for decades. The auction house said the family decided to sell it after seeing a similar piece in a Sotheby's advertisement. They had the vase on a wooden stand that was used as a doorstep in their Long Island home.



A Sudanese protester stands on a barricade during a demonstration in Khartoum, Sudan on Friday, as part of widespread anger across the Muslim world about a film ridiculing Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Film protests spread across Mideast

Aya BATRAWY, Lee KEATH
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Angry protests over an anti-Islam film spread across the Muslim world Friday, with demonstrators scaling the walls of U.S. embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, torching part of a German embassy and clashing with police in violence that left at least four dead. Amid the turmoil, Islamic militants waving black banners and shouting “God is great” stormed an international peacekeepers base in Egypt's Sinai and battled troops. Egypt's new Islamist president went on national TV and appealed to Muslims to not attack embassies, denouncing the violence earlier this week in Libya that killed four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador. Mohammed Morsi's first public move to restrain protesters after days of near silence appeared aimed at repairing strains with the United States over this week's violence. Police in Cairo and the Yemeni capital Sanaa dug in to prevent protesters from reaching U.S. embassies, firing tear gas and clashing with the young demonstrators. But elsewhere, authorities gave the anger freer rein: In Sudan, the attack on the U.S. Embassy came after a call from a cleric on state radio, and protesters drove unhindered for miles in a convoy of buses to the embassy. The day of protests, which spread to around 20 countries, started small and mostly peacefully in countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The most violent demonstrations took place in the Middle East. In many places, only a few hundred took to the streets, mostly ultraconservative Islamists – but the mood was often furious. The demonstrators came out after weekly Friday Muslim prayers, where many clerics in their mosque sermons urged congregations to defend their faith, denouncing the obscure movie produced in the United States that denigrated the Prophet



Demonstrators throw stones during a protest against the anti-Islam film Innocence of Muslims outside the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia on Friday. Tunisian police used teargas to disperse the protestors.

Muhammad. It was a dramatic expansion of protests that began earlier this week and saw assaults on the U.S. embassies in Egypt and Yemen and the storming of the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Several thousand battled with Tunisian security forces outside the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. Protesters rained stones on police firing volleys of tear gas and shooting into the air. Some protesters scaled the embassy wall and stood on top of it, planting the Islamist flag that has become a symbol of the wave of protests: A black banner with the Islamic profession of faith, “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.” Police chased them off the wall and took the flag down. Two protesters were killed and 29 people were wounded, including police. The heaviest violence came in Sudan, where a prominent sheik on state radio urged protesters to march on the German Embassy to protest alleged anti-Muslim graffiti on mosques in Berlin and then to the U.S. Embassy to protest the film. “America has long been an enemy to Islam and to Sudan,” Sheik Mohammed Jizouly said.

Soon after, several hundred Sudanese stormed into the German Embassy, setting part of an embassy building aflame along with trash bins and a parked car. Protesters danced and celebrated around the burning barrels as palls of black smoke billowed into the sky until police firing tear gas drove them out of the compound. Some then began to demonstrate outside the neighbouring British Embassy, shouting slogans. Several thousand then moved in a convoy of buses to the American Embassy, on the capital's outskirts. They tried to storm the mission, clashing with Sudanese police, who opened fire on some who tried to scale the compound's wall. It was not clear whether any protesters made it into the embassy grounds. The police then launched giant volleys of tear gas to disperse the crowd, starting a stampede. Witnesses reported seeing three protesters motionless on the ground, apparently dead, though there was no immediate confirmation of deaths in the violence. The attack on the peacekeepers base in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula

raised the dangerous prospect of armed Islamic militants exploiting the turmoil to carry out attacks on Western targets. The base near the border with Gaza and Israel houses some 1,500 members of the multinational force, including American troops. Gunmen waving the black Islamist banner and shouting “God is great” stormed into the base, firing automatic weapons. They set fire to vehicles and battled with peacekeepers inside, said a senior official with the force, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. Four Colombian peacekeepers were wounded and were evacuated to Israel. The official said it appeared the attack was connected to the wider protests in the region. Ahead of the expected wave of protests on Friday U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton explicitly denounced the movie, aiming to pre-empt further turmoil at its embassies and consulates. The film, called Innocence of Muslims, portrays the Prophet Muhammad as a fraud, womanizer and child molester.

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