

1639

Madras (now Chennai), India, is founded by the British East India Company on a sliver of land bought from local Nayak rulers

1642

English Civil War begins between Royalists and Parliamentarians

1775

King of Great Britain and Ireland, George III, proclaims the American colonies to be in open rebellion and orders his officials to suppress them



1864

First Geneva Convention adopted in Geneva “for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field” is signed by 12 nations

DRCongo Ebola outbreak growing ‘exponentially’: UN

Half of deaths occurred in last 20 days



Teams from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies prepare for burial at Mbiyo cemetery the body of a fourth orphan who died from Ebola virus disease at an orphanage in Bunia (file photo)

● More than 2,500 deaths recorded

● Virus spreads faster than any on record

● Covers area larger than France

AFP | Geneva

The Ebola outbreak raging in the Democratic Republic of Congo is growing “exponentially”, with more than 2,500 deaths recorded and half of those in the last 20 days, the senior UN coordinator on the disease said yesterday.

The Ebola outbreak is already the biggest in the country’s history and is spreading faster than any outbreak of the deadly virus on record.

According to the latest figures, the virus is “growing exponentially,” Julien Harneis told reporters in Geneva from Bunia, at the epicentre of the outbreak.

He said that in the last three months, “more than 2,500 people” had died, “and half of those in the last 20 days”.

“The epidemic is spreading widely. It’s now covering an area that is bigger than France.... It is growing faster and wider than the Ebola response.”

The DRC’s 17th Ebola outbreak is thought to have already been spreading for several weeks before it was officially declared on May 15.

It has hit regions in the north and east where the presence of the state is weak, health infrastructure is lacking and myriad armed groups have roamed for decades.

‘Alarming’

The Doctors Without Borders (MSF) charity also cautioned yesterday that the outbreak was spreading “at an alarming rate”.

“This epidemic continues to spread, moving faster than the response can keep up,” MSF president Javid Abdelmoneim said in a statement.

Harneis stressed the need to

ramp up the response, which has faced criticism for its slowness and poor organisation, and is also hampered by mistrust among the population.

Cases have so far been reported in six DRC provinces, including near the border with South Sudan, as well as in neighbouring Uganda.

Uganda, which saw two deaths from 20 Ebola cases, declared itself free of the virus last month.

There is no approved vaccine or specific treatment for the Bundibugyo virus strain behind the current surge, although a number of trials are underway.

And the World Health Organization said Thursday that the DRC would receive 70,000 doses of Ervebo vaccine, which has proved effective against the more common Zaire strain.

Earlier this month, WHO vaccine experts recommended a full-scale human trial of Ervebo, the only existing approved Ebola vaccine, to see if it offered cross-protection against the Bundibugyo strain.

Tech-Tools Can Help Bahrain Fight Climate Change



KOTA SRIRAJ

Technology is increasingly emerging across the world as the foremost tool to combat climate change. Cutting edge concepts are fast being applied in real time and once the trials are completed, large scale roll out of the concepts is being implemented. Bahrain can tap into the global innovation traffic for environmental conservation and capture transformative technology solutions that can alter the way the nation powers homes, grows food and secures freshwater. Many of these critical technologies already exist but remain underused, Bahrain can therefore unlock their potential as practical, scalable solutions in order to combat climate change in an innovative manner.

Carbon removal has been the foremost concern for every nation in order to bring down temperatures and ensure lesser carbon footprint as well. In this regard, Bahrain has made tremendous progress by using carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a key tool to meet its national goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2060, alongside an interim target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2035. In addition to this, Bahrain can execute a large scale deployment of Direct Air Capture (DAC) technologies that can enable pulling of carbon dioxide straight out of the atmosphere using fans and filters. This can help Bahrain reach its net-zero carbon emissions targets faster.

Similarly, With regard to renewable power generation, Bahrain can track cutting edge technologies riding on artificial intelligence and advanced computing to balance fluctuating renewable energy supplies with real-time electricity demand, thereby reducing waste and dialling down fossil fuel backup. In this regard, Bahrain can also implement next generation bi-directional charging system that allow electricity to flow both into and out of batteries, making the grid more flexible and stable, whether the storage comes from electric vehicles, homes, or elsewhere. Additionally, Bahrain can also explore manageable modular geothermal energy that is factory built which can deliver constant renewable power almost anywhere, adding reliable and stable clean energy to the national energy mix.

Food security and self-sufficiency can be taken to the next level if Bahrain can combine climate change mitigation along with replacement of fertilisers with green alternatives such as Green Ammonia. Produced using renewable energy, this clean alternative replaces fossil fuels in shipping and reduces emissions from chemical fertilizers. In addition to this, concepts such as Precision Fermentation can help generate animal-free protein production which can cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 97% compared to traditional livestock farming. Bahrain can also utilise satellites such as MethaneSAT to detect and monitor hidden methane leaks from oil and gas infrastructure, and therefore protect the environment.

Cutting edge tech tools can give Bahrain’s combat with climate change a decisive edge.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

UK court orders Prince Harry, others to pay Daily Mail £9.5mn

AFP | London

A UK court ordered Prince Harry and six others yesterday to pay an initial £9.5 million (\$13 million) after they lost their privacy case against the publisher of British tabloid the Daily Mail.

The court said the prince and six other high-profile figures, who lost their unlawful information gathering and privacy invasions claim against Associated Newspapers Limited (ANL), must make the payment within a week.

The claimants -- which include Elton John, his husband David Furnish, actors Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost -- accused the Mail of bugging their cars and homes, listening into calls and accessing bank ac-



Britain's Prince Harry (L) arrives outside the High Court in London (file photo)

counts and medical records. ANL had denied all the allegations.

After an emotional 11-week trial, judge Matthew Nicklin sided with the publisher in a rul-

ing handed down on July 7, concluding the “claimants failed to prove their pleaded allegations”.

After a further two-day hearing over costs, he made yester-

day’s initial costs decision.

“The Court ordered the claimants make an interim payment of £9,544,355” by 4:00 pm (1500 GMT) on August 28,” a published summary stated.

It noted ANL had said its total costs defending itself had reached about £34.5 million by July 9, which the court described as “exceptionally high” and “unprecedented”.

Nicklin said ANL’s claim for £34.5 million appeared “excessive and... giving rise to real concerns as to whether all of the costs now claimed by Associated were reasonably incurred”.

However, the ruling noted the High Court had not determined how much of those costs the claimants must ultimately pay.

“The issue before the court was the basis on which costs should be assessed, not the amount recoverable,” the summary stated.

“If the amount is not agreed, that question will be determined separately by a costs judge.”

Nicklin rejected requests by Harry and the other celebrities to pay on a standard basis, instead favouring arguments by ANL that its costs should be repaid on a stricter so-called indemnity basis.

That is set to hike the share of the costs the seven are liable for.

The summary also noted the court had set a timetable for the claimants to request permission to appeal the July 7 decision, which must be filed by October 2.

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TWEETS

01



DRC has launched the “#Ebola-Free Congo River” initiative to protect the country’s vital artery against the risk of the virus spreading. @WHO @WHOAFRO @OMSRDCONGO

@mvanerkhove

02



Aid workers are protected under international humanitarian law. Yet marked humanitarian vehicles are still being hit. Local organizations face greatest risks. Those funding and fuelling today’s wars must do more to protect humanitarians.

@UNReliefChief

03



At the notorious Sayd-naya prison, a symbol of the atrocities inflicted on Syrians, the cruelty is unspeakable. Syria’s future must ensure such horrors never happen again, and be built on peace, coexistence, dignity and prosperity for all.

@BarhamSalih

04



On this #VictimsofTerrorism Day, we pay tribute to victims & survivors. We honour their courage, amplify their voices & reaffirm our commitment to their dignity & rights. Instead of letting terror divide us, we must stay united to build a future free from violence & fear.

@antoniguterres

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)