THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • CONGO

Ebola Cases in Congo Pass 12,000 as Fighting Slows Health Teams

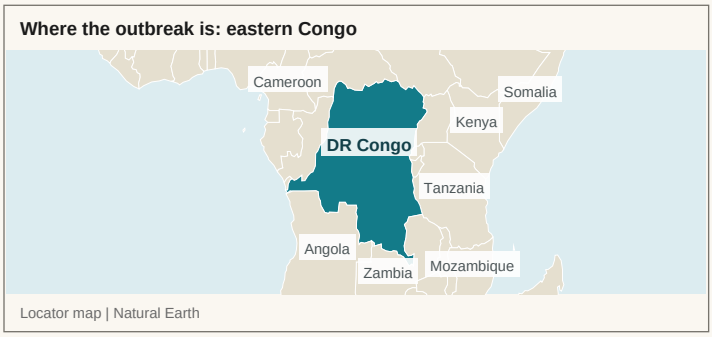
Doctors are racing to find sick people and check on those near them, but gunfire is getting in the way.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

In eastern Congo, in central Africa, the government says 12,021 people have had Ebola confirmed. The outbreak began in May and is caused by a rare virus called Bundibugyo. There is no approved vaccine or treatment for it.

So health teams use careful methods. They find patients quickly, keep them apart from others, watch people who may have been near them, and bury the dead safely. The virus spreads through contact with the blood or body fluids of people who are sick or have died.

This week fighting made that harder. On Thursday, soldiers and a rebel group clashed in a mining town about 25 kilometres north of Bunia, a main base for the response. The World Health Organization said fighting kept teams from reaching some communities.



Fighting near Bunia is slowing the work.

WHY IT MATTERS

Without a vaccine, quick checking and care are the main tools, so anything that blocks health teams helps the virus spread.

WORLD • ARGENTINA

Argentina's Economy Shrinks for a Second Quarter in a Row

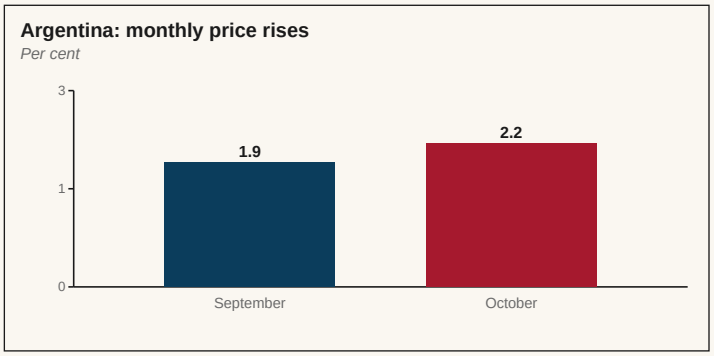
When an economy gets smaller two times running, experts call it a technical recession.

An economy is all the buying, selling and making of things in a country. Argentina, in South America, has just had some bad news about its own. Between July and September, it shrank by 1.8 per cent. In the three months before that, it had already shrunk by 1 per cent.

Two shrinking quarters in a row is what economists call a technical recession. President Javier Milei's government has asked people to be careful before using that word. Economists who study the numbers say they clearly point to a recession.

Prices matter for families too. Prices rose 2.2 per cent in October, after 1.9 per cent in September. Borrowing is also costly: interest on personal loans is around 64 per cent a year, and roughly six million people are behind on payments.

Work is another worry. Unemployment reached 7.9 per cent in the second quarter, the highest since Milei took office. Final figures for the economy are due on 16 December.



Prices rose a little faster in October.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Argentina once had prices rising 211 per cent in a single year, in 2023. Today's figures are far smaller, but families still feel every rise.

UNITED STATES • SPACE

US Says Yes to a Million Satellites That Would Act as Computers in Space

SpaceX's plan, called Starmind, would put data centres in orbit.

A data centre is a big building full of computers that power the internet and artificial intelligence. They use a lot of electricity, and a lot of water to keep cool. SpaceX has a plan to put them in space instead.

This week, the US Federal Communications Commission, which oversees satellites, approved SpaceX's plan to launch one million satellites it calls Starmind. SpaceX must put up at least one authorised space station by 2033, then add more through 2040.

Supporters say sunshine captured in orbit could ease the strain on power grids and cut water use. Scientists see big technical and money problems, and worry about rocket pollution.

WHY IT MATTERS

AI needs huge amounts of power. Space is one idea, but nobody knows if it will work.

Also in United States

• Thanksgiving storms left over 600,000 homes and businesses without power.

• Macy's postponed its 100th Thanksgiving parade in New York until Saturday.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Poland: NATO has sent a radar plane to watch the sky over Poland after three Russian missiles crashed there.

• Britain: The shop chain Poundland has entered administration, with about 11,000 jobs at risk.

TALK ABOUT IT

TALK ABOUT IT

Health teams in Congo cannot always reach people because of fighting. What other jobs get harder when it is unsafe to travel?

Would you want computers placed in space instead of on Earth? What would you want to know first?

India Post is fixing up thousands of post offices. What do you think a post office is for today?

INDIA • POST OFFICES

India Will Spend 2,632 Crore Rupees on Post Offices

Thousands of post offices will be fixed up or rebuilt over the next five years.

The post office is one of the oldest services in India, and it is getting a big update. Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced 2,632 crore rupees for India Post for the years 2026-27 to 2030-31. A crore is ten million.

The money is split between two plans. The Postal Operations Scheme gets 1,141 crore rupees. The Estates Management Scheme, which looks after post office buildings, gets 1,491 crore rupees and has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

For buildings, the plan includes 190 new post office buildings and 50 rebuilt ones. Some 2,550 sub-post offices will be renovated and given a new look, and 2,500 rented post offices will be upgraded. Twenty heritage postal buildings will be preserved.

India Post is also working on technology. A new system means a Postal Life Insurance policy can now be bought from start to finish in about 20 minutes. India Post's revenue target for this year is about 19,803 crore rupees.

WHY IT MATTERS

A post office is often the closest government service to a family, so a better one can save a long trip.

SPORTS CORNER

ATHLETICS

Sabita Toppo won the women's 100m hurdles gold at the BIMSTEC U-23 athletics meet in Bhubaneswar, helping India extend its medal lead.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Whether health teams reach more communities near Bunia in Congo.

• Whether Argentina's final economy figures on 16 December confirm a recession.

“Slow and careful work is often how big problems get solved.”

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.