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Eastern Ukraine:

Dutch investigators announced Tuesday that Malaysian Airlines Flight 17, which went down in rebel-occupied Ukraine on July 17, was brought down "by a large number of high-velocity objects that penetrated the aircraft from outside," according to the BBC. There is no evidence of human error or poor maintenance having contributed to the crash. This lends credence to the theory that the plane was brought down with an anti-aircraft missile. Western nations have blamed Russian-supplied Ukrainian rebels for the crash, while Russia blames the Ukrainian air force.

Santiago, Chile:

A bomb constructed from a fire extinguisher was detonated in a subway station in Santiago, Chile. Fourteen people were injured in the blast. This is only the most recent in a string of bombings; 29 have occurred this year and around 200 in the last decade, according to Vice News. Prior bombings have been largely symbolic, however, and set to take place at night. Thus the new bombing is the worst since the country's return to democracy in 1990. The bombing came shortly before the anniversary of the military coup on Sept. 11, 1973.

Scotland:

Polls for the upcoming referendum on Scottish independence suggest that the votes for and against are now tied, according to The Guardian. This historic vote by the Scottish people will decide if Scotland will separate from the United Kingdom after more than 300 years together. The polls have shown a closing of the gap between "yes" (pro independence) and "no" (pro union) votes over the summer. Indeed, some polls that reported a 22-point lead for no votes in early August are now showing a two-point lead for yes.

Punjab, Pakistan & Kashmir, India:

Over 375 people have died after floods on the India-Pakistan border after the Chenab River flooded its banks, destroying homes and roads according to the BBC. Vice News estimates tens of thousands of residents have been stranded. The Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, and the Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, have offered mutual support in aiding residents on opposite sides of the border during this crisis. United aid efforts remain unlikely in reality, however, given political tension between the two nations.



World works to fight against spreading Ebola outbreak

BY AMOL GARG
STAFF WRITER

Intense pain ripples through your muscles allowing you to stand for almost a few seconds as you gasp for breath. You hear the cries of your family as they watch your condition deteriorate. You lay there waiting for help, as doctors try to stop the symptoms from progressing.

This is a scene currently witnessed around the world as thousands of people experience these same symptoms. Ebola is slowly gaining momentum — spreading quicker and faster around the world — as there is no confirmed treatment to stop it.

"Six months into the worst Ebola epidemic in history, the world is losing the battle to contain it," stated International President of Doctors Without Borders Dr. Joanne Liu in a public radio interview. "Leaders are failing to come to grips with this international threat, and states have essentially joined the global coalition of inaction."

Ebola is a deadly viral disease spread through direct contact with blood or bodily fluids. Ebola cases have arisen in Africa, mainly in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Although many world organizations, such as the CDC and the World Health Organization, have dispatched aid to nations affected by Ebola, the aid is limited. In an attempt to stop the spread, airports in the affected countries are largely shut down, further preventing a mass influx of supplies.

There are simple treatments that can help many recover from Ebola. However, these are not necessarily available in the nations affected by the disease. For example, when two American citizens caught Ebola, they were flown to Emory University hospital and cured while hundreds continued to die in Africa. This raises questions about the inequality of care.

"It's an injustice that just because certain people are wealthier and come from a more developed country their lives are prioritized over thousands of others who have just as much of a right to live as any American," said a Guilford College student who wished to remain anonymous in an email interview.

Although there is no known cure for the

disease, scientists believe the experimental drug ZMapp might potentially provide aid to the thousands of people suffering from Ebola. However, the drug has not yet been delivered, as it has not yet been approved by the United States' Food and Drug Administration.

"ZMapp has not been tested on humans, so it has not gone through the proper trials to make sure it is safe," said Associate Professor of Biology Melanie Lee-Brown. "What they are doing right now, by giving it to the patients, is actually using them as test subjects."

A more ethical approach might include getting the drug approved, informing the patients of the drug and only administering ZMapp as a last resort.

As a continent with many developing nations, Africa does not have the resources to adequately deal with Ebola. Transmission of the disease results from the lack of disposable surgical masks and latex gloves as well as insufficient equipment to confirm contraction of Ebola.

To prevent the spread of this deadly disease outside the nations currently affected will require more international aid.

Already, the failure of outside nations to act has resulted in 3,900 cases of Ebola and more than 2,000 deaths and the numbers keep escalating.

"It is a social injustice that Africans are not able to receive the same level of treatment as Americans affected by Ebola," said Danielle du Preez, South African national and Early College student.

"It is the responsibility of countries that have access to more advanced medical facilities to provide resources and aid to Africa so the people there have a greater chance of surviving and so the area will not become overwhelmed with the disease."



The image above shows a strand of the Ebola virus photographed in a lab under a microscopic lens.

What can you do to help?
Stay informed
To check for more information regarding Ebola or ways that you can reduce your risk in the future:
WWW.CDC.GOV/WHF/EBOLA/ABOUT

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