

BBC NEWS

May 23, 2026

BBC News with Chris Barrow.

The Democratic Republic of Congo says Ebola cases have now been reported across several conflict-hit eastern provinces after the World Health Organization upgraded the risk assessment for the current outbreak to "very high." From Kinshasa, here's Emery Makumeno.

The authorities say there are now outbreaks in eastern part of the country, including Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. No cases have formally been declared in the regional capital Goma, although there has been one positive laboratory test. So far, more than 700 have been exposed to the virus, with over 170 suspected deaths recorded.

The outbreak involves the Bundibugyo species of Ebola, and the World Health Organization has raised the national risk level to very high.

A federal judge in the United States has thrown out a human smuggling prosecution brought by the Department of Justice against Kilmar Ábrego Garcia, a Salvadoran migrant who challenged his deportation. The case was dismissed on the grounds of vindictive prosecution.

Mr. Ábrego Garcia became a symbol of President Trump's mass deportation drive when he was mistakenly sent to El Salvador last year.

Protesters in Bolivia have been clashing with police in the capital La Paz, as thousands again marched to demand the resignation of President Rodrigo Paz. For more details, here's Clizia Sala.

Bolivia's president came to power only six months ago on a pledge to rein in soaring inflation and fuel shortages, but labor unions say he failed to fulfil his promises. Protests calling for wage increases started at the beginning of the month, growing into a country-wide revolt. Farmers, miners, transport workers and teachers then joined forces to blockade roads throughout Bolivia.

This has caused shortages of food, medicine and fuel in several regions. Civic groups are calling on the government to take action and lift the blockade to prevent further economic instability.

Police in Russia have conducted regular raids on music bars and nightclubs as part of a practice which critics say is aimed against freedom of expression. The BBC estimates that over the last 12 months, 21 events have been raided. Vitaly Shevchenko reports.

The events which identified as having been raided included 15 concerts and the other six were theatrical performances, festivals and parties held at nightclubs. Music fans have been telling the media, including the BBC, that they were threatened with guns, beaten, subjected to pro-Kremlin propaganda and pressured to join the Russian army.

The police rarely say why they raid gigs and clubs, but media reports give reasons such as looking for drugs, extremists and LGBT symbols which are banned in Russia.

World news from the BBC.

There are reports of airstrikes in the Tyre area of southern Lebanon. A correspondent on the ground for the French news agency says he heard two explosions as one building on the outskirts of the city was struck. Shortly afterwards another explosion was heard within the city. Only hours ago the Israeli military had issued an evacuation warning for the area.

In a major shake-up of U.S. immigration policy, the Trump administration has announced that most foreigners seeking permanent resident status, or a Green Card, will have to leave the United States and apply at an embassy or consulate. A spokesperson for the U.S. immigration agency said the new policy reduced the need to find and deport those who'd been denied residency.

Canada's prime minister has said the oil-rich province of Alberta is central to the country's future. Mark Carney's comments come hours after Alberta's leader announced that it would vote in October on whether to remain in Canada or start the legal process for a binding referendum on separation.

Danielle Smith said she supported a unified Canada but also more autonomy for the provinces. "I am fiercely loyal to both Alberta and Canada, but I truly believe our country is so much stronger and more prosperous when we respect the rights of provinces and empower them to govern themselves with minimal federal interference. Albertans? Not Ottawa. Quebecers? Not Ottawa. And all the other provinces must each be empowered to control our own direction and destiny."

Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye has dismissed his Prime Minister Ousmane Sonko after months of tension between the two men. The sacking follows a series of heated exchanges in Senegal's National Assembly, during which the prime minister had openly criticized President Faye.

Mr. Sonko, his former mentor, had recently hinted at the [possible] possibility of a return to the opposition.

BBC News.