

# 18 suspects flee Ebola centre

**Bunia, Congo:** Angry residents of a town at the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo attacked and burned a tent that was part of a health centre where people are being treated for the virus, the staff there said on Saturday.

It was the second such attack in the region in a week.

No one was hurt in the attack, according to initial reports, but as patients ran out to escape the fire, 18 people with suspected Ebola infections left the facility and are now unaccounted for, a local hospital director said.

The angry residents had arrived at the clinic in the town of Mongbwalu on Friday night and set fire to a tent set up for suspected and confirmed Ebola cases by the Doctors Without Borders humanitarian group, Dr Richard Lokudi, director of the Mongbwalu hospital, told The Associated Press.

"We strongly condemn this act, as it caused panic among

the staff and also resulted in the escape of 18 suspected cases into the community," he said.

On Thursday, another treatment centre, in the town of Rwampara, was burned down after family members were banned from retrieving the body of a local man suspected to have died of Ebola.

The bodies of those who died of Ebola can be highly contagious and lead to further spread when people prepare them for burial and gather for funerals. The dangerous work of burying suspected victims is being managed wherever possible by authorities, which can be met by protests from families and friends.

A communal burial for Ebola patients in Rwampara took place on Saturday under tight security as tensions between health workers and the local community ran high, said David Basima, a team leader with the Red Cross overseeing burials. AP