



People displaced by the ongoing war in Sudan return to Wad Madani in the Jazira state yesterday after the city was retaken by the Sudanese army from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitaries.

PHOTO: AFP

FIGHTING IN KURSK REGION 909 Russian troops captured in 6 months

Says Kyiv; Ukrainian drone strike kills three in Russia's Belgorod region

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday it had captured more than 900 Russian troops over six months of fighting in the western Russian Kursk region.

Kyiv says a key goal of its struggling operation launched in August just over its border with Russia was to build up reserves of Russian soldiers to exchange for Ukrainian prisoners of war.



Kursk region.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone hit a Russian border village yesterday, killing two teenaged girls and a man, the governor of Russia's Belgorod region said.

The strike targeted the village of Logachyevka in the Belgorod region, which has a border crossing with Ukraine's Kharkiv region. The crossing has been closed since Moscow launched its 2022 offensive on Ukraine.

Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said the drone hit a car near the village, adding: "a man and two girls aged 18 and 14 are believed to have been in the car... They died at the scene."

After launched its shock offensive -- the largest by a foreign army in Russia since World War II -- Ukrainian forces have been losing the swathes of Russian territory they initially captured.

Kyiv says the ground it holds in Kursk will be an important bargaining chip in any future peace negotiations with Russia, whose forces have been making steady gains across the front line.

January sets 'surprising' heat record
Says EU monitor

AFP, Paris

Last month was the hottest January on record, Europe's climate monitor said yesterday, despite expectations that cooler La Niña conditions might quell a streak of record-breaking global temperatures.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service said January was 1.75°C hotter than pre-industrial times, extending a persistent run of historic highs over 2023 and 2024, as human-caused greenhouse gas emissions heat the planet.

Climate scientists had expected this exceptional spell to subside after a warming El Niño event peaked in January this year and conditions gradually shifted to a cooling La Niña phase.

But the heat has lingered at record or near-record levels ever since, sparking debate among scientists about what other factors could be driving warming to the top end of expectations.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

China, Pakistan pledge to boost cooperation

REUTERS, Hong Kong

China and Pakistan will upgrade and reconstruct Pakistan's railway network and further develop its Gwadar port, while Chinese companies can invest in the South Asian nation's offshore oil and gas developments, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday.

The comments came as Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari visits China from February 4-8, where he will also attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Winter Games.

Chinese investment and financial support for Pakistan since 2013 have been a boon for the South Asian nation's struggling economy.

The two countries have had close ties underpinned by long-standing wariness of their common neighbour, India, and a desire to hedge against US influence across the region.

Pakistan and China recognised the importance of Pakistan's Gwadar Port and agreed to fully unleash its potential as a key node for connectivity and trade," Xinhua said quoting a joint statement from the two countries. Chinese-funded enterprises would be encouraged to "carry out mining, investment cooperation in Pakistan" and cooperate in terrestrial and marine geological resources.

"Pakistan welcomes Chinese companies to participate in the development of offshore oil and gas resources in Pakistan."

Longtime Pakistan ally China has thousands of nationals working on projects grouped under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

UK govt to fire civil servants who fail to make savings

AFP, London

Senior civil servants in the UK could lose their jobs if they fail to make savings, while those who do will receive bonuses, the government said yesterday.

The moves come as part of an effort by the Cabinet Office, the ministry that supports the prime minister in running the government, to create a "more agile and modern" state.

Under the new policy, all senior civil servants will have to meet a set of core standards, including being able to demonstrate they have made savings, the ministry said in a statement sent to AFP yesterday.

Those who do not meet the minimum standards will be placed on a performance development plan, which could lead to dismissal if no improvement is observed.

"We need to reform the state to make it more agile and modern so we can transform the public services people rely on every day," said Cabinet Office minister Pat McFadden.

"It is vital that senior leaders are not just encouraged, but held responsible for this," he added. "We will introduce new checks to identify and tackle poor performance where we find it, and to recognise the good work of senior leaders across the civil service," he added.

Government departments have been told to find savings worth five percent of their budgets as the UK struggles to rein in public borrowing against the backdrop of a stagnant economy.

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED



395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Local Press Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Importers/ Reputed Suppliers for supply of following Hydraulic Trolley for Liquid, Tablet, Packing & ORS Section under the production department at EDCL (Dhaka) Plant on urgent basis:

S.I. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	EDCL(Dhaka)/PUR/LT/2025/29 Date: 06/02/2025	Hydraulic Trolley ---- 06Pcs (Details as per Tender Schedule & Technical Specification)	Tk. 750.00/set Non-refundable	Closing :19/02/2025 at 12.00PM Opening :19/02/2025 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited(EDCL), Dhaka on Payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager(CC),
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

(Size: 6 Inch. x 4 column)

Engineering Office University of Chittagong Chittagong



Ref No. Cons-04/CECU-2594/25

Date: 05/02/2025

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

1. Ministry:	Ministry of Education
2. Procuring Entity Name:	University of Chittagong
3. Programme Name:	Chief Engineer, Engineering Office, University of Chittagong
4. EOI Ref No.:	N/A
5. Date:	Chittagong
6. EOI Closing Date:	Engineering & Architectural Consulting Firm
7. Eligible Entities	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
8. Source of Fund	GoB
9. Selection Process (Overall)	Consultant for Architectural and Engineering Design of a 06 (Six)-Storied Annex Building for Jamal Nazrul Islam Research Center for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at University of Chittagong.
10. Contents of EOI Application	Providing consultancy services for the Preparation of Architectural and Engineering Design of a 06 (Six)-Storied Annex Building for Jamal Nazrul Islam Research Center for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at University of Chittagong.
11. Financial Capacity	Up to 12.00pm on 20/02/2025. Technical offer shall be submitted at the Engineering Office, C.U. (Please seal envelope duly marking the envelope as technical offer bearing the Name & Address of the Consultant).
12. Technical Capabilities	Technical offer will be opened at the Office of the Chief Engineer at University of Chittagong on the same day at 2.00pm in presence of the consultant or his representative if thereby any.
13. Documentation Criteria	a) Trade license (updated) b) VAT, TIN and TAX Assessment Certificate (updated) c) Last 05 (Five) years Audit report (Only summary part) d) Average annual turnover: The consulting firm must have at least an average annual turnover of BDT 1,50,00,000.00 (One Crore and Fifty Lakh) for at least 02 (Two) years within the last 05 (Five) years.
14. Evaluation Criteria	The consulting firm shall meet the following minimum qualification criteria. 1. The consulting firm shall have a minimum of 15(Fifteen) years' experience in the field of providing architectural and engineering design. 2. The consulting firm must have experience in completing both architectural and engineering design of at least 10 (Ten) different projects in last 10 (Ten) years. 3. The consulting firm should have specific experience in both architectural and engineering design of at least 02 (two) similar types of building projects, each having minimum 05-storied construction (above ground) with a minimum total floor area of 10,000 square meter in each project in the last 05 years.
15. Scope of works	a) The plan shall be prepared considering environmental, ecological impact & topographical condition. b) The plan shall reflect/represent proposed structures showing three-dimensional visualization. c) Demarcation of the boundary line against acquired land of the University of Chittagong d) Preparation of detail Architectural Design Structural design, MFP, Firefighting system, Bill of quantities (BOQ). e) Provide animation of the proposed plan. f) The plan should fulfil requirements considering present & future demand of the University for minimum 50 (fifty) years.
16. Name, designation of official inviting EOI	Engr. Syed Zahangir Fazal, Chief Engineer
17. Address of official inviting EOI:	Engineering Office, University of Chittagong. PABX-02334460789, Ext: 4213. Mobile No: 01863-521561
18. Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI:	Tel:8711510, Email: dg@dmle.gov.bd
19. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all EOI without assigning any reason.	18. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any part of all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever. 19. If it is not possible to receive/open the Proposal on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue. 20. For any kind of query please contact with the related person or email us at ce_engroff@cu.ac.bd

Chief Engineer
Engineering Office
University of Chittagong
Chittagong