

Turkey-backed rebels close in on IS bastion

Turkish forces and allied Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters have begun an assault to drive Islamic State from the town of al-Bab in an operation that could foreshadow a push on the group's de facto capital of Raqqa

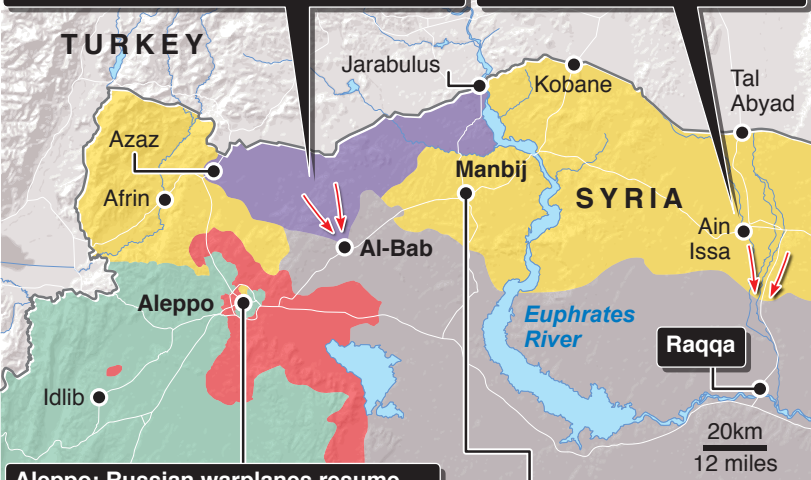
AREAS OF CONTROL

- Syrian regime and allies
- So-called Islamic State
- FSA / Turkish army
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) / Kurdish YPG – U.S. ally seen by Turkey as affiliate of Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged insurgency in Turkey's southeast for 30 years
- Other rebel groups



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says goal is to seize control of al-Bab before targeting Manbij and Raqqa

U.S.-backed alliance led by YPG recently launched own offensive to retake Raqqa



Aleppo: Russian warplanes resume bombing of besieged rebel-held east after three-week pause

Manbij: Recently captured from IS by YPG militia