



A demonstrator in a wheelchair gestures at an armoured vehicle during a protest against Chile's government in Santiago, Chile, yesterday.

# Tens of thousands flee renewed Syria violence

Russia, China veto UN extending Syria cross-border aid

AFP, Beirut

Tens of thousands of civilians are fleeing bombardment in Syria's Idlib region, the UN said, as fighting flares in the jihadist bastion fuelling an already dire humanitarian situation.

Meanwhile, Russia and China used their vetoes Friday to block a UN Security Council resolution that would have extended for a year cross-border humanitarian aid to four million Syrians.

The Idlib region, which is home to some three million people including many displaced by Syria's civil war, is controlled by the country's former al-Qaeda affiliate, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. The Damascus regime has repeatedly vowed to take back control of it.

There has been an uptick in violence in Idlib since Monday and, despite UN calls for a de-escalation, major clashes between Syrian regime forces and armed groups has flared in the past 24 hours, killing more than 80 people on both sides, a war monitor said Friday.

The fighting raged around the jihadist-held town of Maaret al-Numan in southern Idlib, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

It came as warplanes from Syrian regime ally Russia pounded areas around Maaret al-Numan and the nearby town of Saraqeb with a series of air strikes, it added.

The UN humanitarian agency OCHA said tens of thousands of civilians have fled southern Idlib since Monday and headed north for safety, while thousands more were waiting for the violence to abate to leave.

The UN agency said a shortage of fuel for private vehicles is limiting the movement of civilians while roads leading out of the town are "extremely dangerous" as they are reportedly being hit by air strikes.

"Since the evening of 19 December, residents of Maaret al-Numan town... began to communicate to the humanitarian community that they wanted to move to safety, but were unable to move due to the heavy aerial bombardment," the UN agency said.

The UN agency said the displacement of civilians was straining an already dire humanitarian situation, specially because it is happening during the winter. OCHA said that some of the displaced who moved north had not eaten in days.

Humanitarian aid currently flows into Syria through UN-designated checkpoints without the formal permission of the regime in Damascus, but that authority is due to expire on January 10.

On Friday, Germany, Belgium and Kuwait presented a resolution extending that authority for a year, winning the support of 13 council members but drawing the vetoes of Russia and China.

A competing Russian resolution that would have granted a six-month extension while reducing the number of UN crossing points was rejected, having failed to get the



minimum nine votes.

Russia is a close ally and major supporter of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and has used its veto 14 times on Syrian issues since the start of the civil war there in 2011.

Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzya, said the latest resolution was "obsolete" because the authorities in Damascus have "retaken control of most" of Syria's territory.

But the UN humanitarian relief department says the aid remains crucial as the situation on the ground has deteriorated over the past year and Syria is heading into winter.

Four million Syrians directly benefit from the cross-border aid shipments while 11 million benefit from international aid after eight years of war.

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Dr. Md. Khalid Quddus  
 Coordinator, EMIR, JU  
 GD-2096

## Twitter, FB target state-linked accounts made to manipulate

AFP, Washington

Facebook and Twitter on Friday said they had blocked multiple government-backed manipulation operations around the world, several of which favored US President Donald Trump, as part of a crackdown on state-sponsored propaganda efforts.

Twitter said it had blocked some 88,000 accounts linked to Saudi state-backed "information operations", in violation of its manipulation rules.

Separately, Facebook said it had blocked a network in Vietnam and the United States which posted pro-Trump messages aimed at US citizens, along with another network targeting domestic audiences in the country of Georgia.

It comes as social media giants have been struggling in the face of state-backed disinformation efforts, often using automated accounts or "bots" to manipulate the platforms, amplifying their own messages while disparaging opponents.

Most of the accounts blocked by Twitter on Friday were in Arabic and aimed at "amplifying messages favorable to Saudi authorities," but that some English language content was aimed at "Western audiences."

Twitter said it released details on 5,929 accounts which it called a "representative sample" of the 88,000 suspicious accounts.

Facebook said the effort originating in Vietnam was traced to the multi-language media group Epoch Times, which is linked to the Falun Gong spiritual movement, and a US media outlet called BL, which has been posting pro-Trump messages.

The California-based company added that it removed more than 600 accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

The researchers said "sophisticated state actors" from at least seven countries are working outside their borders on global foreign influence operations, using Facebook and Twitter.

The report identified the countries as China, India, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
 Office of the Executive Engineer  
 Education Engineering Department  
 Noakhali Zone, Noakhali

**Invitation for e-Tender (IFT)**

Tender Notice No. 26/e-GP/EE/NDZ/Code-120001602/2019-2020 Dt. 19/12/2019  
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Sl No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Reference Memo No. SE EED CHA TTRO-DIV	Tender document last selling/ downloading (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
01	eed/nz/rev. repair/044	400802	Repair and Renovation works at Osmania Madrasa, Sonagazi, Feni.	040.2019.119 4, Date: 27.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:00
02	eed/nz/rev. repair/045	400806	Repair and Renovation works at Kallyandi Foyzul Ulum Dakhil Madrasa, Senbag, Noakhali.	042.2019.119 4, Date: 27.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:00
03	eed/nz/rev. repair/046	400811	Repair and Renovation works at Basantapur Eidgah Dakhil Madrasa, Senbag, Noakhali.	042.2019.119 4, Date: 27.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:00
04	eed/nz/rev. repair/047	400812	Repair and Renovation works at Pathan Nagar Aminia Senior Fazil Madrasa, Chhagalnaiya, Feni.	042.2019.119 4, Date: 27.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:00
05	eed/nz/rev. repair/048	400813	Repair and Renovation works at Darahpur Mohammadia Islamia Dakhil Madrasa, Chhagalnaiya, Feni.	042.2019.119 4, Date: 27.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:00
06	eed/nz/rev. repair/049	400818	Repair and Renovation works at Shibpur RB Hat High School under Sadar Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:15
07	eed/nz/rev. repair/050	400819	Repair and Renovation works at Sheikh Mujibur Hoque High School under Sadar Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:15
08	eed/nz/rev. repair/051	401002	Repair and Renovation works at Joyal Hazri College under Sadar Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:15
09	eed/nz/rev. repair/052	401003	Repair and Renovation works at Kajarbug Hazi Dosto Mahmud High School under Sadar Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:15
10	eed/nz/rev. repair/053	401004	Repair and Renovation works at Sharisadi High School under Sadar Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:15
11	eed/nz/rev. repair/054	401005	Repair and Renovation works at Panchgaon Girls High School under Chatkhil Upazila in Noakhali District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:30
12	eed/nz/rev. repair/055	401006	Repair and Renovation works at Md.Pur Ramendra Model High School under Senbug Upazila in Noakhali District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:30
13	eed/nz/rev. repair/056	401009	Repair and Renovation works at Joyanagar Wazedia Alim Madrasa under Senbug Upazila in Noakhali District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:30
14	eed/nz/rev. repair/057	401010	Repair and Renovation works at Changaoon Girls High School under Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:30
15	eed/nz/rev. repair/058	401011	Repair and Renovation works at Amki Women Alim Madrasa under Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:30
16	eed/nz/rev. repair/059	401012	Repair and Renovation works at Chardarbesh SESDP High School under Sonagazi Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:45
17	eed/nz/rev. repair/060	401013	Repair and Renovation works at Enayet Ullah Women College Madrasa under Sonagazi Upazila in Feni District.	042.2019.120 3, Date: 29.10.20	06-01-2020 16:00	07-01-2020 11:45

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