

PLANE CRASH IN ALPS The pilot who 'killed 149'

The co-pilot of the Germanwings Airbus A320 that crashed in the French Alps has been named by French authorities as German national Andreas Lubitz.



French prosecutors say the co-pilot was alone at the helm when the Germanwings plane began its descent as the pilot left the cockpit for toilet.



US strikes ISIS in Tikrit

Iraqi forces buoyed by the first US-led coalition air strikes on Tikrit made a final push yesterday to flush diehard jihadists out of Saddam Hussein's hometown.



YEMEN CRISIS DEEPENS

Yemeni Huthi rebels and members of the security forces loyal to the Shia movement inspect the damage at the scene of a Saudi air strike targeting the group which controls Sanaa near the airport in the Yemeni capital, yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Arab FMs agree on Joint military force

Arab foreign ministers meeting in Egypt yesterday agreed on the formation of a joint military force, the Arab League chief and the Egyptian foreign minister said.

IRAN TALKS NEAR DEADLINE Rohani writes to world leaders

Iran's president yesterday appealed to global leaders including Barack Obama as negotiators raced against the clock to agree the outlines of a deal that puts an Iranian nuclear bomb out of reach.



A Kurdish Syrian woman walks with her child past the ruins of the town of Kobane, also known as Ain al-Arab, on Wednesday. The number of asylum-seekers in industrialised countries rose by nearly half last year, driven by the devastating conflicts in Syria and Iraq, with Germany the top destination, the UN refugee agency said yesterday.

Iran talks near deadline

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Rohani writes to world leaders

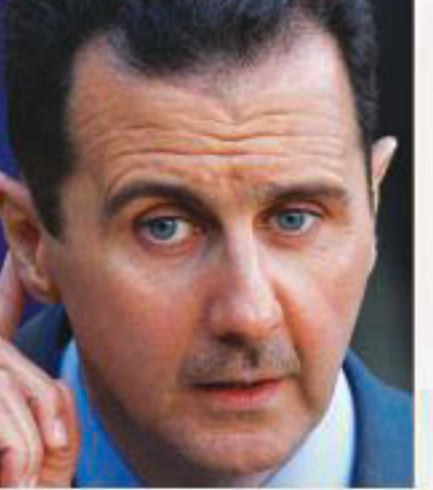
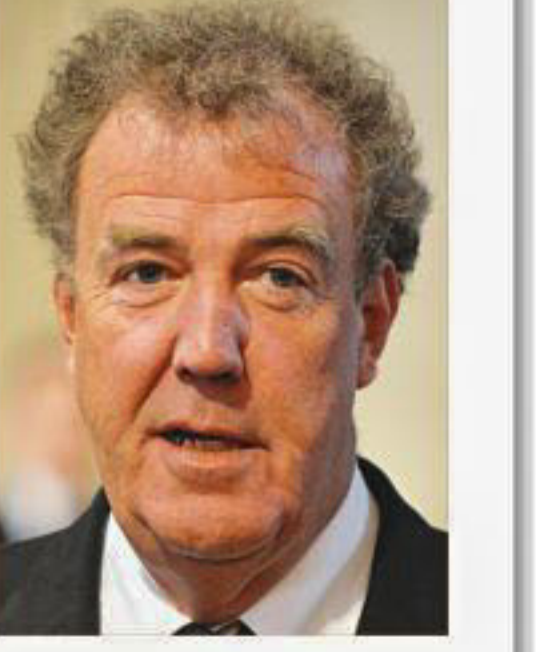
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Kerry brands Assad as 'a brutal dictator'

US Secretary of State John Kerry branded Bashar al-Assad "a brutal dictator" Wednesday, a week after suggesting that it would be necessary to negotiate with the Syrian president to forge peace.

Russian army TV offers Clarkson job

Russia's Zvezda television, a channel run by the defence ministry, unexpectedly revealed yesterday that it has offered a job to disgraced British "Top Gear" host Jeremy Clarkson after he was dropped by the BBC for assaulting his producer.



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