

NEWS IN brief

South Korea launches anti-North leaflets

South Korean activists launched tens of thousands of anti-Pyongyang leaflets into North Korea yesterday, amid heightened tensions on the divided peninsula...

Indonesian prison fire kills 5 inmates

Five inmates have died in a prison fire in Indonesia, police said yesterday, after an operation to flush out a drug kingpin sparked a violent riot...

Turkish warn of possible Easter attacks

Police in Turkey have warned of possible Islamic State attacks against Jews and Christians over the Easter weekend...

4 killed in plane crash in Japan

A small plane with four people on board crashed to the ground at Yao airport in Osaka yesterday, leaving all four dead...



Supporters of Yemen's former President Ali Abdullah Saleh attend a rally marking one year of Saudi-led air strikes in Yemen's capital Sanaa, yesterday. Thousands of Yemenis rallied in the rebel-held capital to denounce the Saudi-led coalition...

IS blasts kill 26 in Yemen

Three suicide bombers struck security checkpoints in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on Friday, killing at least 26 people...

Syria pushes into Palmyra amid heavy bombardment

Pentagon to propose boosting military presence in Iraq to fight militants

Syrian troops backed by Russian ground and air forces yesterday pushed deeper into the Islamic State group stronghold of Palmyra, as Washington considered boosting its anti-jihadist fight in neighbouring Iraq...

AFP's correspondent said. The military source said the site was likely "rigged with explosives" and being watched by nearby IS snipers. Despite a major drawdown last week, Russian warplanes have continued their bombing campaign around Palmyra...



WAR ON ISLAMIC STATE

Stigmatizing Muslims 'plays into hands' of jihadists

Warns Obama; Pope says militants profane God's name

President Barack Obama yesterday urged Americans not to stigmatize Muslims following this week's deadly attacks in Brussels, saying that doing so is "counterproductive" in the fight against radical Islam...

attacks in Belgium, claimed by the Islamic State group, which killed 31 dead, including two Americans, and wounded 300. Meanwhile, Pope Francis condemned "unprecedented violence" by Islamist militants...



'Gaddafi plotted to kill Saudi king'

Reveals UK's Independent

A British-based dissident is being pursued through the courts by the UK's elite crime agency over a plot to assassinate the former Saudi king in a hit ordered by the ex-Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi...



Workers remove oil during a clean-up operation after oil leaked from a cargo ship owned by TS Lines Co (in background), off the shores of New Taipei City, Taiwan, yesterday. The oil spilled from the ship has contaminated 2 kilometer (1.24 miles) of water...

REFUGEE CRISIS

Greece starts evacuating main camp

Greece has begun evacuating migrants from the main Idomeni camp on the Macedonia border, while the flow of refugees arriving on Aegean islands has slowed to a trickle...

Women: the Achilles heel that could doom Trump

"Bimbo," "dog," "fat pig" -- Donald Trump has never minced his words about women he doesn't like, but prolific insults and personal attacks on prominent females may cost him the election...



NOMINATION RACE TO WHITE HOUSE Sanders hopes to score wins in West

Three states are holding Democratic presidential nominating contests yesterday where Hillary Clinton will try to expand her lead in the contest to secure the party's nomination...