

# TOP GUNNING FOR RUSSIANS



**AN RAF Typhoon intercepts Russian fighter jets — one of four separate incidents in Baltic airspace.**  
Two Top Gun pilots from 3 Fighter Squadron saw off SEVEN Russian aircraft, including a bomber and four Sukhoi Su27 jets. Russia said Tuesday's incidents were routine training.

**By DAVID WILLETTS, Acting Defence Editor**  
British Typhoons are part of Nato air defences over Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania during the crisis in Ukraine. Yesterday Ukraine's new president Petro Poroshenko promised pro-Russian fighters a unilateral ceasefire.



**RUSSIAN SU-25K FLANKER JETS**

**BRITISH TYPHOON FIGHTER JET**



Accused... Hancock

## Shamed 'perv MP' apology

By STEVE HAWKES

A DISGRACED former Lib Dem MP yesterday apologised to a vulnerable constituent who accused him of asking her for a "w\*\*k or a quick s\*\*k".

Mike Hancock, 68, made an "unreserved" apology as part of a confidential settlement.

The woman — a single mum called "Annie" who has mental health problems — had launched a civil damages claim.

However, Mr Hancock can remain as an independent MP for Portsmouth South at least until the General Election. And Parliament has no right to investigate or punish him.

A spokesman for Mr Hancock — now at the Priory rehab hospital in Southampton — had repeatedly insisted there was no case to answer.

"Annie" claims the Lib Dems had ignored her when she contacted them.

## DESPERATE ED GETS TOUGH

# MILIBAND ON DOLE FOR U21s

**DESPERATE Ed Miliband will today pledge to axe benefits for jobless young people in a bid to save his political skin.**

The Labour leader will also say the unemployed should receive no dole unless they have worked for at least five years beforehand.

The frantic attempt to woo Right-wing voters comes as he tries to cling on to Labour's thin poll lead over the Tories — and boost his rock-bottom personal ratings.

In a further blow, a YouGov poll last night suggested Labour would be more likely to win next year's General Election if his brother

**By KEVIN SCHOFIELD**  
Chief Political Correspondent

David was leader. It put Mr Miliband behind David Cameron by 33 per cent to 23 per cent when voters are asked who would be the better PM.

However, when David Miliband was put up against Mr Cameron, he won by 35 per cent to 23 per cent.

Another poll yesterday showed 43 per cent of Labour members say Ed should be dumped as party leader.

Speaking in London, Mr Miliband will say Labour would strip Jobseeker's

Allowance from jobless 18 to 21-year-olds. It would be replaced with a means-tested "youth allowance" — if they join a training scheme.

He will also say JSA payments could go up from £71 to £100 for those who have paid more taxes. The jobless would also not be eligible for dole unless they have worked for five years, rather than two as they do at present.

Mr Miliband will say: "We must reshape our social security system so it does everything to get people into the world of work, not a life on benefits."

Former Labour minister Alan Johnson admitted Mr Miliband was unable to "connect" in the way his brother could. He said: "I can't pretend people are really enthusiastic about Ed."

Tory chairman Grant Shapps last night condemned the ideas, adding: "Ed Miliband has no economic plan."

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Poll blows... Miliband



**ZERO dole unless you've worked for 5 years**



Apology... Mrs May

## Passport row May: I'm sorry

By STEVE HAWKES

HOME Secretary Theresa May told MPs yesterday amid the battle to clear a backlog of half a million passport applications: "I am sorry and the Government is sorry."

She said staff were struggling with a workload that had hit a 12-year high.

Labour said that she had previously refused 15 times to say sorry to the thousands left in the lurch over travel plans.

Shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper insisted Mrs May "hasn't had her eye on the ball". She predicted summer-long chaos — and said Brits' holidays were "being wrecked by her incompetence".

### DOUBLE ACT

Nigel Farage has struck a pact for his 24 Ukip MEPs to join forces with the 17 from Italian comic Beppe Grillo's party.

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## '33% of families are poor'

MINISTERS were blasted last night for deserting the "working poor" — as a report claimed millions now live on the breadline.

A major study of modern day poverty said 33 per cent of households fall below "society's minimum standard of living".

While employment is at a record high, millions are trapped in low paid jobs with no chance of promotion. The Poverty and Social Exclusion report said 5.5million adults go without essential clothing and one in six "in paid work are poor".

### SAT'LL DO NICELY

Saturday's Lotto prize is a £5.2million rollover as no one won last night with 10, 11, 18, 23, 26, 37. Bonus number 6.

## Wash in buckets

EXCLUSIVE by JACK LOSH

PATIENTS had to wash from hospital hazardous waste buckets — filled with hot water from a tea machine.

One woman being treated at London's Charing Cross Hospital said some elderly patients were not washed for days after a boiler broke down. The NHS trust apologised and said the heating problem left three wards without hot water.



# £2bn NHS BLACK HOLE

HOSPITAL patients will suffer longer waiting times, cancelled ops and poor care as the NHS battles with a £2billion black hole next year, campaigners have warned.

Health experts predict soaring costs will outstrip NHS funding from April 2015 — just as it faces increased demands from a growing and ageing population.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has insisted next year's £100billion budget will be

**By EMILY ASHTON**  
Whitehall Correspondent

enough to cover costs. But pressure groups yesterday urged him to get a grip before it is too late.

Patients Association chief Katherine Murphy said a lack of finances means "sub-standard, unsafe and undignified care" is imminent. The

Warned... Hunt



King's Fund think tank said there was a "real risk" of hospitals running out of cash next year.

Chief Chris Ham said: "The impact is already being felt on patient care."

Health watchdog Monitor predicted a shortfall of at least £1.6billion in hospital and mental health service budgets. And Anita Charlesworth, chief economist at the Health

Foundation think tank, warned: "We're not going to find this money behind the sofa, so it really would mean the Treasury stepping in."

The Department of Health last night insisted it was confident the NHS is "on track to make £20billion savings this Parliament".

MEDICAL jargon leaves 43 per cent of patients baffled, a survey has found.

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