

Easter Eclipse



Total lunar eclipse took place early Saturday morning and was seen over much of the western United States. This image was taken in Placerville, California, at 5:07 a.m. local time. (Randall Benton/Sacramento Bee/TNS)

Iran

Senator: Congress Needs To Scour Final Nuke Deal

BY RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional scrutiny and approval of any nuclear agreement with Iran are essential and will help ensure the deal isn't a bad one, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said Sunday.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said Congress has a responsibility to scour the details of a final plan — including any classified annexes — ask the Obama administration hard questions and then vote on it. Negotiators announced on Thursday a framework deal, which would be finalized by June 30.

"It's very important that Congress is in the middle of this, understanding, teasing out, asking those important questions," Corker said.

President Barack Obama told *The New York Times* in a weekend interview that he insists on preserving the president's right to enter into binding agreements with foreign powers without congressional approval. But he praised Corker as "somebody who is sincerely concerned about this issue and is a good and decent man."

Speaking on "Fox News Sunday," Corker sought to counter Obama's assertion

that partisan politics in Washington could derail the landmark agreement to curb Iran's bomb-capable nuclear technology.

Congressional oversight "doesn't mean there won't be a deal," Corker said. "We just set in place a process to insure that if there's a deal, it's a deal that will stand the test of time, that will keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Obama told the *Times*: "my hope is that we can find something that allows Congress to express itself but does not encroach on traditional presidential prerogatives — and ensures that, if in fact we get a good deal, that we can go ahead and implement it."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is scheduled to meet April 14 to consider Corker's legislation to ensure that Congress debates and signs off on any pact. The bill requires the president to transmit, within five days of reaching a final deal, the text of the full agreement along with materials related to its implementation.

With key elements still to be finalized, the framework



Corker



Feinstein

agreement sealed by U.S.-led world powers describes a program for stunting Iran's capacity to produce nuclear

weapons while giving Tehran quick access to assets and markets now blocked by international sanctions.

In defending the framework and a potential final pact, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz cited what he called "unprecedented access and transparency" into Iran's nuclear activities that will allow the U.S. and its partner negotiators to know almost instantly should Iran try to evade the oversight. This is a long-term arrangement, he stressed, with requirements lasting a quarter century or longer.

"We'll have eyes on the entire supply chain of uranium," Moniz said on CBS' "Face The Nation." "Going back to mines, the mills, we'll have continuous surveillance of centrifuge production."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has criticized the framework as deeply flawed and a threat to Israel's very existence. He is urging negotiators to improve the agreement or scuttle it. Other Republicans have

echoed Netanyahu's concerns. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Sunday the proposed deal is a bad one — but it was the best one Obama could get because the Iranians don't fear or respect him. Graham said he favors waiting until a new president, Democratic or Republican, takes office in January 2017 and then trying again. In the meantime, economic and financial sanctions would stay in place.

"Is there a better deal to be had? I think so," Graham said on CBS' "Face The Nation."

But a senior Senate Democrat, Dianne Feinstein, warned that bashing the proposed deal could backfire on Netanyahu. The Israeli prime minister and other critics of the framework agreement have offered no viable alternatives, she said on CNN's "State of the Union." Feinstein said imposing more and stiffer economic sanctions would only drive Iran's nuclear program deeper underground and make it more difficult to monitor.

"I wish he would contain himself," Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said of Netanyahu.

Kenya: Gunman Was Official's Son

GARISSA, Kenya (AP) — One of the gunmen who slaughtered 148 people at a college in Kenya was identified Sunday as the law-school-educated son of a Kenyan government official, underscoring the inroads Islamic extremists have made in recruiting young people to carry out attacks against their own country.

Abdirahim Mohammed Abdullahi, who was killed by security forces Thursday along with the three other militants who stormed Garissa University College, was the son of a government chief in Mandera County, which borders Somalia, Interior Ministry spokesman Mwenda Njoka told The Associated Press.

The chief had reported his son missing last year and feared he had gone to Somalia, Njoka said.

Somalia's al-Shabab militant group claimed responsibility for the bloodbath, saying it was retribution for Kenya's sending of troops to Somalia to fight the extremists. The attackers separated Christian students from Muslim ones and massacred the Christians.

The news that one of the gunmen was Kenyan highlights the challenges faced by the government in preventing terrorist attacks. The danger comes not only from neighboring Somalia but also from within Kenya.

After Tikrit, Iraq Wooing Sunni Support

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq won the battle to retake the city of Tikrit from the Islamic State group, backed by a coalition of the unlikely in Iranian advisers, Shiite militias, and U.S.-led airstrikes, but the country now faces what could be its most important battle: Winning the support of the Sunnis.

Sunni tribes played a key role during the U.S. occupation fighting back al-Qaida in Iraq, the Islamic State group's predecessor, and their distrust of Baghdad's Shiite-led government eased the extremists' takeover last summer. But as Tikrit now sits in ruins, still patrolled by fractious Shiite militias, the powerful Sunni tribes remain as distrustful as ever as further offensives in their heartland loom.

The government "needs those local tribes to secure the territory and hold the fort until government function is restored in these areas," said Sajad Jiyad, a senior researcher at al-Bayan Center for Studies and Planning in Baghdad. "The government needs to make sure that everyone who fights today has a future in Iraq tomorrow — and not just to find a short-term military solution today and forget about them later."

Sunni grievances mounted during the eight-year rule of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, widely seen as pursuing sectarian policies. Al-Maliki responded to rising Sunni protests with a violent crackdown, further stirring dissent. By December 2013, security forces withdrew from Ramadi after dismantling a protest camp, allowing Islamic State militants ultimately to take it over.

Profile Of Co-Pilot Turns More Troubling

BERLIN (AP) — The profile that has emerged of Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz has become more troubling by the day.

In the hours after Flight 9525 crashed in the French Alps two weeks ago, Lubitz was regarded as one of 150 victims in an unexplained disaster. Two days later he was the prime suspect of an unfathomable act.

By now, French and German prosecutors have little doubt that the 27-year-old intentionally slammed the Airbus A320 into a mountain, killing everyone on board, and there is growing evidence that his actions weren't just a split-second decision but the result of days of planning.

The revelations have raised questions about who knew what, when, and whether Lubitz could have been stopped.

The crash has prompted particular soul-searching in Germany. Seventy-two of those killed were German citizens, the worst air disaster in the nation's history since the Concorde crash of 2000, in which 97 Germans died.

Report: Rape Article 'Journalistic Failure'

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A report from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism says a *Rolling Stone* magazine article about an alleged rape on the University of Virginia campus was a "story of journalistic failure that was avoidable." Published on the magazine's website Sunday night, the report said that "the failure encompassed reporting, editing, editorial supervision and fact-checking."

Rolling Stone Managing Editor Will Dana posted an apology on the publication's website Sunday night and said the magazine was officially retracting the story.

The report said *Rolling Stone*'s article may cast doubt on future accusations of rape. It also damaged the reputation of the Phi Kappa Psi chapter at U.Va. and depicted the university administration as neglectful.

Official: Iran May Resume Nuke Activities If West Pulls Out Of Pact

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's foreign minister said Saturday that Tehran would be able to return to its nuclear activities if the West withdraws from a pact that is to be finalized in June.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator, said on a talk show on state-run TV that Iran has the power to take "corresponding action" and "will be able to return" its nuclear program to the same level if the other side fails to honor the agreement.

"All parties to the agreement can stop their actions (fulfillment of their commitments) in case of violation of the agreement by the other party," Zarif said.

Zarif said the framework nuclear deal announced by Iran and six world powers Thursday in Switzerland was not binding until a final agreement is worked out by a June 30 deadline. The framework agreement, if finalized, would cut significantly into Iran's bomb-capable nuclear technology while giving Tehran quick access to bank accounts, oil markets and other financial assets blocked by international sanctions.

Zarif said the deal, if finalized, would nullify all U.N. Security Council resolutions against Iran's nuclear program and lead to the lifting of U.S. and European Union sanctions.

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- **Thursday 4/23 6:00 pm:** Cooking Class with Chef Staci. Spring Recipe Ideas. Cost: \$20. Register with Chef Staci or email 1899chef@hy-vee.com
- **Sunday 4/26 1:30 pm:** Cooking Class with Chef Staci. Cost: \$20.
- **Tuesday, 4/28 7:00 pm :** Spring Floral Arranging with Jan Byrkland. Cost: \$15. Register at Hy-Vee Floral.
- **Wednesday 4/29 6:00 pm:** Starbucks Coffee Club with Coffee Master Linda Nickel. Cost \$10. Frappuccino Frenzy tasting. Register at Starbucks.
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- **Tuesday 4/14 5:30 pm:** Diabetes Class- Learn how to control diabetes with diet and physical activity. Kenny Tomek, Registered Dietitian. Register at Customer Service, or email ktomek@hy-vee.com
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- **Wednesday 4/8 7:00 pm:** Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits Wine Tasting at Ben's Copper Room, 222 W. 3rd Street. Cost \$15. Register at Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits or email 1899winespiritsdept@hy-vee.com