

## Greece Without Clear Proposals

BRUSSELS (AP) — Frustrated and angry eurozone leaders fearing for the future of their common currency gave the Greek prime minister a last-minute chance Tuesday to finally come up with a viable proposal on how to save his country from financial ruin.

Overcoming their surprise when Alexis Tsipras failed to present them with a detailed reform blueprint, the leaders reluctantly agreed to a final summit on Sunday, saying the days leading up to it could give both sides an opportunity to stave off collapse of the struggling but defiant member nation.

Underscoring the gravity of the challenge, European Union President Donald Tusk decided to call all 28 EU leaders to Brussels, because, for the bloc, it “is maybe the most critical moment in our history.”

French President Francois Hollande insisted much was at stake. “It’s not just the problem of Greece — it’s the future of the European Union,” he said.

Highlighting the rising anger with Tsipras over months of foot-dragging and surprising negotiating twists, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker had a stark warning for Greece.

## Pope Presses For Care Of Environment

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Pope Francis challenged Latin America’s youth to take up his environmental protection campaign Tuesday, saying the defense of God’s creation isn’t just a recommendation but a requirement.

Francis appeal, delivered at Quito’s Catholic University, is particularly relevant for Ecuador, a Pacific nation that is home to one of the world’s most species-diverse ecosystems in the Galapagos Islands and Amazon rain forest, but is also an OPEC country heavily dependent on oil extraction.

Francis told students and professors that God gave humanity the Earth to not only cultivate, but to care for — a message he framed earlier this month in his headline-grabbing encyclical on the environment.

“It is no longer a mere recommendation, but rather a requirement because of the harm we have inflicted on it by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed it,” he said.

He challenged universities to ensure that students’ educations aren’t aimed only at profitable careers but at helping the poor and the environment.

## 2 Aboard Small Plane Killed In Collision

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. (AP) — An F-16 fighter jet smashed into a small plane Tuesday over South Carolina, killing two people and raining down plane parts and debris over a wide swath of marshes and rice fields.

The two people aboard the smaller Cessna were killed, and the plane was completely destroyed, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Peter Knudson said. The pilot of the F-16 ejected and “is apparently uninjured,” he said.

A press release from Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter said the pilot, Maj. Aaron Johnson from the 55th Fighter Squadron, was taken to Joint Base Charleston’s medical clinic for observation.

The fighter jet crash-landed into woods around the privately owned Lewisfield Plantation, an estate dating to 1750.

“We heard the plane crash. And then we took off from where I was at, I guess I was about a half-mile from it, when we saw a cloud of smoke,” said Leo Ramsey, who’s worked at the plantation for about 30 years.

## Cosby Accusers Claim Vindication

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — While many of Bill Cosby’s accusers feel vindicated by his decade-old admission that he gave at least one woman quaaludes before sex, some of his Hollywood friends are reserving judgment, saying the testimony doesn’t prove he committed a crime.

The testimony, unsealed Monday by a federal judge, reignited the furor that erupted last year, when dozens of women came forward to accuse the comedian of sexual assault over the past four decades. Many said Cosby drugged and raped them.

“I never thought I would be validated or vindicated in this,” said Joan Tarshis, of Woodstock, New York, who accused Cosby of drugging and attacking her when she was breaking into comedy writing in 1969.

“I mean, it’s turned my life around 180 because now all the people that haven’t believed me or us have come out, most of them, and said, ‘We were wrong.’”

The testimony came from a deposition in a 2005 sexual abuse lawsuit brought against Cosby by a former Temple University basketball team employee, Andrea Constand. The case was settled on confidential terms, but it was the first in a torrent of lawsuits that have shattered Cosby’s good-guy image as wise and understanding Dr. Cliff Huxtable on “The Cosby Show” in the 1980s and ’90s.

## Subway Suspends Ties With Spokesman

ZIONSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — FBI agents and Indiana State Police raided the home of Subway restaurant spokesman Jared Fogle on Tuesday, removing electronics from the property and searching the house with a police dog, two months after the then-executive director of Fogle’s foundation was arrested on child pornography charges.

FBI agent Wendy Osborne said the agency was conducting an investigation in Zionsville, an affluent Indianapolis suburb, but wouldn’t say whether it involved Fogle or describe the nature of the investigation.

Subway said in a statement that it is “very concerned” about the raid, which it believes “is related to a prior investigation” of a former employee of the Jared Foundation, an organization founded by Fogle to raise awareness about childhood obesity. Subway did not immediately say whether that employee was former foundation executive director Russell Taylor.

The company had removed references to Fogle from its website by late afternoon and issued another statement, saying the two “have mutually agreed to suspend their relationship due to the current investigation.”

“Jared continues to cooperate with authorities and he expects no actions to be forthcoming,” the company said. “Both Jared and Subway agree that this was the appropriate step to take.”

## Senators Criticize Policy To Combat IS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing blistering criticism from Republican senators, Defense Secretary Ash Carter acknowledged on Tuesday that the U.S. has only 60 trainees in a program to prepare and arm thousands of moderate Syrian rebels in the fight against Islamic State militants.

“That is a small class,” Carter told the Senate Armed Services Committee. “This is the number that got through a very vigorous vetting and selection process that we have. ... We expect that number to improve.”

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the committee and a persistent critic of Obama’s foreign policy, wasn’t convinced.

“I got to tell you that after four years, Mr. Secretary, that is not an impressive number,” McCain, R-Ariz., said in one of several testy exchanges with Carter and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

So far, Congress has approved \$500 million to train Free Syria Army fighters. The Associated Press reported last month that the number of trainees involved in the program at bases in Jordan and Turkey had dropped below 100, with dozens of recruits fleeing the program.

# Iran Nuke Deal Remains Elusive After Deadline

BY MATTHEW LEE  
AND BRADLEY KLAPPER  
Associated Press

VIENNA — Negotiators at the Iran nuclear talks pushed past their second deadline in a week on Tuesday, raising new questions about the ability of world powers to cut off all Iranian pathways to a bomb through diplomacy. The discussions, already in their 12th day, were prolonged until possibly Friday.

“We knew it would have been difficult, challenging and sometimes hard,” said Federica Mogherini, the European Union’s foreign policy chief. She said the negotiations would continue despite hitting some “tense” moments, and the U.S. State Department declared the current interim nuclear arrangement with Iran extended through July 10.

As the latest target date arrived for a deal that would set a decade of restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and other top diplomats huddled in Vienna in search of a breakthrough.

All had spoken of deep differences remaining, and there was no public indication they had resolved disputes ranging from inspection rules on suspicious Iranian sites to limits on Tehran’s research and development of advanced nuclear technology.

“The last, difficult, political issues, we have to solve,” Mogherini said.

In Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the parties “have never been closer to reaching a final agreement than we are now” but significant differences remain.

“That’s an indication that these talks, at least for now, are worth continuing,” he said.

A senior U.S. official in Vienna confirmed that one more clear difference had resurfaced, saying the U.S. would oppose Iran’s demand that the nuclear agreement also include the lifting of the U.N. arms embargo on the country. The official said the U.S. is

## Deadline extended in Iran talks

*Iran and the (P5+1) have been holding intense talks in Vienna over the past nine days to hammer out a final deal over the Islamic Republic’s disputed nuclear program.*

### Who are the P5+1

**China, Russia, and the United States joined three European countries, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (the EU3) in 2006 as part of a format known as the “P5+1” to negotiate with Iran in a resolution that would prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons**



insisting that any new U.N. Security Council resolution pertaining to Iran retain an arms ban and ballistic missile restrictions.

As he left the talks for an economic summit at home, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said fewer than 10 major differences were still to be ironed out, including access to Iranian sites for international monitors. He said questions related to the easing of sanctions on Iran had been decided, Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported. Lavrov said he could return to the talks later in the week.

Diplomats had extended their discussions by a week when they missed their goal of a pact by June 30, after passing previous deadlines in July 2014 and last November. For Kerry and his team, pressure is increasing from skeptical U.S. allies and members of Congress. If the accord isn’t sent to Congress by Thursday, its monthlong review period would be doubled to 60 days, meaning the Obama administration couldn’t lift any economic sanctions on Iran during that time.

In Tehran on Tuesday, Iran’s Atomic Energy Organiza-

tion declared it had reached a “general understanding” in parallel talks with the U.N. nuclear agency on “joint cooperation.” The Iranians have made similar claims previously, and it was unclear if any process was established for the International Atomic Energy Agency’s long-stymied investigation of past nuclear weapons work by Iran — a demand of Washington and its international partners in the negotiations.

Kerry met early Tuesday in a baroque, 19th-century palace with the foreign ministers of Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia and then briefly with Zarif. Russia’s Lavrov and China’s Wang Yi left on Tuesday, and the EU’s Mogherini said other ministers were likely to depart and return.

“We are taking these negotiations day to day to see if we can conclude a comprehensive agreement,” State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement, adding that Kerry would remain in Vienna.

The U.S. is in a tough spot. President Barack Obama has expended significant political capital on finalizing an

agreement that has prompted suspicion from Iran’s regional rival, Saudi Arabia, outright hostility from America’s closest Mideast ally, Israel, and deep ambivalence even among congressional Democrats.

The No. 2 Democrat in the U.S. House, Rep. Steny Hoyer, told reporters Tuesday the talks “ought to be brought to a close.”

“My concern has been that there would be a rope-a-dope sort of performance by Iran, that they’ll just string out these negotiations,” he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was more strident.

“The agreement of concessions that Iran is set to get from the world powers paves the way for it to arm itself with nuclear weaponry and to distribute it even more through the missiles it continues to develop,” he said. “How can you even trust a country that violates time and again the decisions of the international community? How does one grant Iran hundreds of millions of dollars without stipulating that this money will not oil the wheels of the terror machine and its expansion?”

To ease their concerns, Obama and Kerry have vowed to hold out for a “good deal” that verifiably keeps Iran at least a year away from a nuclear weapons capability for at least a decade. Current intelligence estimates put the Iranians only two to three months away from amassing enough material for a nuclear warhead, if they pursue such a course. The administration has repeatedly threatened to abandon negotiations if they prove fruitless.

On-and-off talks with Tehran have been going on for more than a decade, though this incarnation has come closest to any resolution. The latest effort began in secret and then gained speed after the election of moderate-leaning Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2013. By November that year, Iran and the six world powers clinched an interim nuclear agreement and began the process for a comprehensive accord.

# SC Senate OKs Confederate Flag Removal

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Senate gave its final approval Tuesday to removing the Confederate flag from the Capitol grounds, but across the hall in the House, Republicans quietly sought a way to make a last stand to preserve some kind of symbol honoring their Southern ancestors at the Statehouse.

The House was scheduled to begin debate Wednesday on the bill to take down the flag and its pole and send the banner to the state’s Confederate Relic Room. Gov. Nikki Haley and business leaders support the proposal.

To stress the chamber’s unity after Tuesday’s 36-3 vote, senators invited the widow of their slain colleague Clementa Pinckney to the floor. She stood just inside the door in a black dress, only a few feet from her husband’s desk, which was draped in black cloth with a single white rose on top. Every member stood as she entered and later walked up to her, offering condolences.

After the flag was pulled off the Statehouse dome 15 years ago, it was called a settled issue. The banner was instead moved to a monument honoring Confederate soldiers elsewhere on the Capitol grounds.

But the flag debate swiftly gained urgency last month after Pinckney and eight other black people were fatally shot at a historic African-American church in Charleston. A white gunman who police said was motivated by racial hatred is charged in the attack.

Dylann Roof was indicted Tuesday on nine counts of murder, three counts of attempted murder and a weapons charge.

Haley and other conservatives have said they called for the flag to come down in part because of photos showing Roof posing with the Confederate symbol.

If the House goes along with the Senate’s bill, the flag could be removed by the end of the week. But if the House changes the bill, either the Senate would have to agree with the changes or lawmakers would have to reconcile their differences in a conference committee, possibly delaying action for weeks. Several senators said the lopsided vote shows they do not want

their bill to change.

Many Republicans in the House insist the flag will come down because of its association with racist groups. But they think lawmakers should at least discuss replacing it with a different flag that flew over Confederate troops.

Rep. Mike Pitts plans to propose several possible flags for the pole and believes he has a majority to pass them. Completely removing the flagpole, he said, would scrub history, which includes family members from his Laurens County home and from the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia.

“I guess my plan for tomorrow is to be a lot like my ancestors were at the Bloody Angle,” Pitts said, referring to part of a Virginia battlefield where fighting raged for nearly 24 hours in 1864, leaving Confederate dead stacked four deep behind their fortifications. “And fight until I have nothing left to fight with.”

Pitts’ favorite amendment would place on the pole the flag of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers regiment, which is a blue flag similar to the state flag with its Palmetto

tree and crescent moon but with a wreath around the tree. Similar art is etched on a wall inside the Statehouse, Pitts said.

Any change to the Senate bill is unacceptable to the 46 Democrats in the 124-member House — a critical number because some Democrats will have to support any bill to take down the flag to reach the two-thirds threshold required by law, Minority Leader Todd Rutherford said.

“It will become the new symbol,” Rutherford said of any flag that goes up beside the monument to Confederate soldiers. “It will be the new vestige of racism.”

Asked if the GOP was using the idea of an alternative flag simply to avoid bringing down the existing banner, Democratic Rep. Joe Neal, elected in 1992, said he thinks most Republicans are willing to remove the flag and pole entirely.

“I think a majority wants to do this. There is a minority that is dead set against it,” Neal said. “We’ll see when that vote comes up who they are.”

Tuesday’s Senate vote lacked drama, nearly matching

the vote from the day before. But minutes after, the chamber hushed and all 45 senators stood up as Jennifer Pinckney entered.

On June 17, she locked herself in an office with one of the slain senator’s two daughters as the gunman fired dozens of shots in her husband’s Emanuel African Methodist Church. Since then, her only appearances have been at her husband’s viewing and funeral.

She did not speak publicly at the Capitol. Instead, family attorney and Clementa Pinckney’s fellow senator Gerald Malloy spoke on her behalf. Malloy said he was proud that the Senate followed the example of the Emanuel AME families who offered forgiveness to the gunman. He cited lawmakers’ willingness to accept that the Confederate flag is a painful symbol to many South Carolinians who are not in their party or of their race.

“She wanted to show her gratitude,” Malloy said of Pinckney’s widow. “As you can see, Clementa shined on her as well. His grace is contagious. It is contagious throughout this state.”



## It’s more than just a mortgage.

It’s the place you’ll call home. With 18 years of experience, Darren Melstad can help you get the job done right. Home buying success—it’s you and  together.

4939 S. Western Ave., Ste. 100 | NMLS# 400286 | 605-977-8511



2014 Forbes Media LLC. Used with permission.

COMPETITIVE RATES • FIRST-TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAMS  
ONLINE APPLICATIONS • INSTANT PREQUALIFICATIONS • REFINANCING

*firstinterstate.com*

Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. 