

WEEKLY ASADO

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The Argentina Project
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Nuclear ban: Beat their swords into bombillas

The Nobel Peace Prize, awarded October 6 to the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#), was probably comforting to governments that spurned the world's nuclear powers to support a global treaty banning nuclear weapons. Argentina was among the [122 countries](#) that approved [the treaty](#) in July, which bans the development, testing and possession of nuclear weapons. None of the nuclear powers approved of the treaty, with the United States, Great Britain and France boycotting the negotiations entirely and vowing, "We do not intend to sign, ratify or ever become party to it." Argentina, which is active in the International Atomic Energy Agency, engaged in a tentative nuclear arms race with Brazil when both countries were ruled by their armed forces. Following the Nobel announcement, the Argentine Foreign Ministry congratulated ICAN, and called nuclear weapons "a risk to humanity."

Pots and pans: Project on public protest

The Center for Legal and Social Studies – a high-profile, Buenos Aires-based NGO – has launched a new initiative, "Protesting as a Right," to highlight the importance of public demonstrations and draw attention to what CELS describes as excessive government crackdowns on protestors. Mr. Macri's administration has sought to limit the public inconveniences and economic costs of demonstrations. But in the land of the *cacerolazo* and the towering civil society soapbox known as the Plaza de Mayo, Mr. Macri's efforts have angered human rights groups. (The groups have also criticized Mr. Macri for his handling of the Milagro Sala prosecution, and the disappearance of indigenous rights activist Santiago Maldonado.) Notably, the CELS effort is backed by the ACLU.

President Mauricio Macri's coalition is luxuriating in its poll numbers in advance of the Oct. 22 midterms, which are now just nine days away. In the closely watched Buenos Aires Province Senate race, the latest surveys from Poliarquía and Management and Fit show Mr. Macri's former education minister, Esteban Bullrich, leading former President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. Nonstop corruption allegations against Ms. Fernández de Kirchner are no doubt helping Mr. Bullrich. In an Oct. 6 report, The Miami Herald [highlighted](#) the latest scandal, detailing allegations from Laura Alonso, the director of Argentina's national anti-corruption office, that Ms. Fernández de Kirchner owned 60 properties in Miami, purchased with illicit funds. The former president denied owning the real estate, which came to light in the Panama Papers, but Ms. Alonso insisted that the discovery was the "tip of the iceberg." Despite the report, the Senate race remains close. Furthermore, polls in Argentina are not always reliable. Remember 2015, for example, when almost no major pollster forecast Mr. Macri's performance in the first round of the presidential election, which forced the country's first-ever run-off.

Mate tee time: Obama, Macri golf in Buenos Aires

Former President Barack Obama was in Argentina this past week for a speech at the 2017 Economía Verde summit in Córdoba. He found time to play a round of golf with Mr. Macri, at the Golf Club de Bella Vista in Buenos Aires province, which is owned by Mr. Macri's brother. The two reportedly discussed Argentina's upcoming hosting of the G-20 summit in 2018. It appears that Mr. Obama did not show off his tango moves this time around, despite the rave reviews at the state dinner in 2016.



Mauricio Macri ✓

@mauriciomacri

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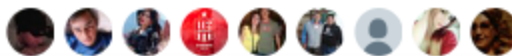
Encuentro con Barack Obama en Bella Vista

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Three's a crowd?: Paraguay joins World Cup bid

The 2030 World Cup is a decade away, and the host will not be chosen for four years. But that hasn't stopped countries from angling to organize the event, including in South America. Initially, Uruguay let it be known that it wanted to host the centennial tournament, given its role as the location of the first World Cup, in 1930, which Uruguay won. Later, apparently in recognition of its inadequate infrastructure, Uruguay recruited Argentina as a partner. Now, Paraguay has joined the joint bid, offering to organize games in two of its stadiums. Argentina might have a better chance of hosting the 2030 World Cup than winning the 2018 tournament in Russia. After all, the Argentines qualified for the tournament by the skin of their teeth. After a discouraging tie against Peru on October 6, Argentina had to win its final game, against Ecuador on Tuesday, to qualify. The Argentine Embassy broadcast the game in its downstairs theater, and after Ecuador scored in the first minute, the chargé d'affaires paced around the lobby muttering, "*no puede ser.*" After the come-from-behind win – powered by a Lionel Messi hat trick – one guest observed, "It wasn't a pretty start, but pulled through in the end, salvaging a whole nation's self-respect in the process."

Palm-greasing: Slippery slope

Corruption appears to be worsening in Latin America, but perhaps not in Argentina, according to a new 20-country [survey](#) by Transparency International. Over all, two-thirds of respondents said corruption had increased over the past year, and almost half described the police and elected

officials as corrupt. Yet Argentina was one of just three countries in which a majority of citizens did *not* see corruption worsening. (The others were Guatemala and Uruguay.) And just 16 percent of Argentines reported paying a bribe to access basic services, compared to 22 percent in Chile and Uruguay, and 23 percent in Paraguay. But Ms. Alonso should not let her guard down yet. The survey found that 41 percent of Argentines believe corruption is getting worse, and 42 percent say the government is performing badly in its anti-corruption campaign.



G-20: Let's make a deal

Ambassador Pedro Villagra Delgado, Argentina's G-20 Sherpa, recognizes the difficulty of bringing together G-20 members in the Trump era. The "challenge was evident in Hamburg," he said Tuesday on a panel at the Argentine Embassy. At the Hamburg summit, in July, leaders struggled over trade language in the declaration, and resorted to a separate statement on climate change that was endorsed by 19 G-20 members. "It is not going to be easy," said Mr. Villagra, who is [speaking](#) today at an Argentina Project event at the Wilson Center. But the Argentine G-20 presidency, he added, will invest in "bridging the gap."

Half moon: Loco for loco

Last week, the Weekly Asado wrote about "The Knife," a *parrilla* that is a bargain, but also a journey. Fortunately, readers shared options that do not require a Lewis and Clark expedition, including [El Patio](#), an Argentine steakhouse and bakery in Rockville, Md., where you can warm up this winter with a bowl of locro (rather than wait for a sweltering summertime serving at the Argentine Embassy, which occasionally ladles out locro on independence day); and [Il Bastone](#), which sells its chorizo and medialunas at the farmer's market in Fairfax, Va. on Saturdays, through next month.



(Source:NSF)

Argentina boasts the “longest permanent and uninterrupted presence” on Antarctica, but it is one of seven nations that claims territorial sovereignty over portions of the planet’s frozen, southernmost landmass. The others include: Australia, France, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and Chile. To make matters more interesting, the claims of Chile, Argentina and the United Kingdom overlap. Despite that dispute, all seven nations, plus the United States and 45 others, are party to the Antarctic Treaty System. The treaty guarantees that Antarctica is reserved for “peaceful purposes,” and permits scientific research on the uninhibited continent. Argentina runs two of Antarctica’s 13 research stations; one, Carlini, is a year-round facility and the hub of Argentina’s Antarctic program, while the other, Brown, is a popular tourist site. Argentina also hosts the Antarctic Treaty System secretariat, but don’t expect movement on the sovereignty dispute any time soon; the United States does not recognize any territorial claims on Antarctica.

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