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THE WEEKLY

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Buenos Aires, July 2, 2018

Happy Monday, everyone!

I mean, if you can call it that, considering that now that Argentina is out of the World Cup the world and life in general no longer make sense.

So as you try to get out of bed today - and fail - this is what happened in the last seven days.

FROM BAD TO WORSE

IN JAW-DROPPING, TONE-DEAF INTERVIEW

YESTERDAY, VICE-PRESIDENT MICHETTI SAYS SHE'S

EVEN AGAINST ABORTIONS IN CASE OF RAPE



If there was ever a time for President Mauricio Macri to tell his Vice-President to stop talking to the media, this is it.

The debate surrounding the abortion decriminalization bill is causing a big divide within the Cambiemos coalition, and while Macri has quietly signaled that he's ready to sign it into law if it's passed by Congress, his chances of becoming the unlikely hero of Argentina's progressive movement are being challenged by an even more unlikely nemesis: his own Vice-President, Gabriela Michetti.

While discussing the problem of illegal abortions being performed in Argentina [in an interview with La Nación](#) yesterday, Michetti seemed callous, detached and, at least according to a large percentage of the local twitteratti, *downright evil*. She even, in fact, said that she is against abortions in case of rape, something that has been decriminalized in this country since 1921: ***"I've always said this very clearly. You can give (the baby) up for adoption, see how you feel during your pregnancy, work things out with therapy... I don't know ... I***

understand how much of a drama this is, but there are so many dramas in life we can't solve that just because we're going through this one it doesn't mean your life is over. I mean, you can give the baby up for adoption and it's all good. "

But wait, there's more:

"Eliminating a person that's already been conceived and not letting it live after eight or nine months of pregnancy... Honestly, I don't think so. I mean, there are people who go through much worse than that and they don't have a solution and have to put up with it. I don't know... *que se yo.*"

Her ineloquence and apparent disconnect was enough to outrage members of the pro-choice green tide who are now seeing her as the proud leader of the pro-life movement - a terrifying notion, considering that she is also the president of the Senate and in the event of a tie on the floor, hers is the tie breaking vote. The abortion decriminalization bill has already been passed in the Lower House and Senate committees begin debating it this week.

BAD NEWS FOR THE ECONOMY

MAINLY DUE TO DROUGHT, APRIL'S ECONOMY OUTPUT DROPS 0.9%

Economic output in Argentina was reduced by 0.9 percent in April when compared to the same month of last year, and by 2.7 percent when compared to March of this one, according to a [report released](#) last week by the Indec statistics agency.

The drought experienced by the farming sector during the first months of the year was by far the main factor that resulted in this figure, as its output saw a whopping inter-annual reduction of 30.8 percent. Further evidence is the fact that the figures of two other sectors of the economy that had negative inter-annual figures – transport and communications and “other community, social, and personal services” – clocked in at -0.8 and -0.5 percent, respectively.

The other 12 sectors whose figures make up the final number, in contrast, achieved positive growth in April compared to their respective figures from 2017 and were led by the fishing industry (10.8 percent), construction (10.2) percent and financial activity (9.4 percent).

The next months are also expected to show red figures: the drought's numbers will be joined by those resulting from the negative effects of the economic turbulence the country has undergone since early May.

Government officials have already anticipated the economy will be in recession during the coming months. This predictions are illustrated by the fact that even though the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) [grew by 3.6 percent](#) inter-annual in the first quarter of 2018, Treasury and Finance Minister Nicolás Dujovne said the Macri administration expects the country to grow by less than one percent this year.

DEMANDING ANSWERS FROM THE GOV'T

FAMILY MEMBERS OF ARA SAN JUAN SUB CREW CHAIN THEMSELVES TO PLAZA DE MAYO

A group of family members of the missing ARA San Juan submarine crew chained themselves to a fence in Plaza de Mayo last week, demanding the government expedite the process of hiring a private company to find the vessel that went missing on November 15 last year.

“We feel abandoned by the national government and the Navy. We’re demonstrating our pain by camping outside the Casa Rosada. We will not move until the government resolves this situation and finds a company that can be tasked with locating the submarine and its crew members,” said Marcela Moyano, one of the people chained in an interview with C5N TV

station. She went on to call people to visit the Plaza and see for themselves the pain they're enduring.

Earlier that day, family members of the deceased crew had a meeting with Defense Minister Oscar Aguad regarding the government's bureaucratic processes to hire said company. Out of eight companies that bid for the contract, Spanish Igeotest Geociencias y Exploraciones SL was the one pre-selected to undertake the task. However, the lagging time taken to finally adjudicate the contract led the members to take this action.

WORLD CUP

IT'S OVER! BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, ARGENTINA

That would be in Qatar in four years or wherever the hell this thing is supposed to be taking place next.

Have a great week, kids!