



Reacting to the instability of the peso in Argentina, people lined up outside a bank in Buenos Aires on Friday to buy dollars.

Cash Crisis: Silence in Argentina, Vague Signals in Turkey

As Peso Falters, President's Absence Is Noted

By SIMON ROMERO and JONATHAN GILBERT



Kirchner

question: Where is the president?

President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner spoke in public just once in the six weeks before the currency plunge last week that set off global concerns about the fragility of developing economies. As her country's currency began its slide, she spoke about a subsidy for schoolchildren instead.

Then, after the steepest drop in the Argentine peso since the country's economy collapsed over a decade ago, Mrs. Kirchner steered clear of the turmoil yet again, flying to Cuba for a summit meeting. Once there, she avoided mentioning the simmering crisis almost entirely, opting to send Twitter messages about meeting Fidel Castro's grandchildren. Only later did she post a few Twitter messages attributing Argentina's market upheaval to "speculative pressures" by unnamed economic groups and banks.

"The president does not feel she owes any explanation to the citizenry as a whole," said Federico Finchelstein, an Argentine historian at the New School for Social Research in New York.

The problems in Argentina

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A Leader Shows Vulnerability in Istanbul

By TIM ARANGO



Erdogan

halt the decline in the country's currency, telling reporters that higher borrowing costs would lead to inflation — an argument that contravenes accepted economic logic.

Mr. Erdogan's economic adviser, Yigit Bulut, then did little to reassure skittish investors, suggesting that the prime minister would do something that would be "very positive for the mar-

kets," but did not say exactly what Mr. Erdogan's plans were.

The remarks only added to jitters in financial markets, which have battered the Turkish stock market and in recent weeks sent the currency, the lira, to historic lows. While Turkey has suffered along with other developing nations from the "tapering" of bond purchases by the United States Federal Reserve and the threat of rising global interest rates, its problems go beyond that to basic questions about the stability of the government and its ability to grapple with the economy's problems.

To some extent, Turkey and Mr. Erdogan are victims of their own success, having created an attractive investment climate that brought in billions in dollar-denominated lending, particular-

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Christie Linked To Knowledge Of Shut Lanes

Lawyer for Former Ally Says Proof Exists

By KATE ZERNIKE

The former Port Authority official who personally oversaw the lane closings at the George Washington Bridge, central to the scandal now swirling around Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, said on Friday that "evidence exists" that the governor knew about the closings when they were happening.

A lawyer for the former official, David Wildstein, wrote a letter describing the move to shut the lanes as "the Christie administration's order" and said "evidence exists as well tying Mr. Christie to having knowledge of the lane closures, during the period when the lanes were closed, contrary to what the governor stated publicly in a two-hour press conference" three weeks ago.

During his news conference, Mr. Christie specifically said he had no knowledge that traffic lanes leading to the bridge had been closed until after they were reopened. "I had no knowledge of this — of the planning, the execution or anything about it — and that I first found out about it after it was over," he said. "And even then, what I was told was that it was a traffic study."

The letter, which was sent as part of a dispute over Mr. Wildstein's legal fees, does not specify what the evidence is. Nonetheless, it marks a striking break with a previous ally. Mr. Wildstein was a high school classmate of Mr. Christie's who was hired with the governor's blessing at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which controls the bridge.

Mr. Christie's office responded late in the day with a statement that backed away somewhat from the governor's previous assertions that he had not known about the closings in September, which appeared to have been carried out as political retribution against the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee, until they were reported in the news media. Instead, it focused on what the letter did not suggest — that Mr. Christie knew of the closings before they oc-

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FEDERAL REPORT REMOVES HURDLE FOR OIL PIPELINE

POLLUTION IS ADDRESSED

Impact Statement Hints Keystone Could Meet Obama's Criteria

By CORAL DAVENPORT

WASHINGTON — The State Department released a report on Friday concluding that the Keystone XL pipeline would not substantially worsen carbon pollution, leaving an opening for President Obama to approve the politically divisive project.

The department's long-awaited environmental impact statement appears to indicate that the project could pass the criteria Mr. Obama set forth in a speech last summer when he said he would approve the 1,700-mile pipeline if it would not "significantly exacerbate" the problem of greenhouse gas emissions.

Although the pipeline would carry 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to the Gulf Coast, the report appears to indicate that if it were not built, carbon-heavy oil would still be extracted at the same rate from pristine Alberta forest and transported to refineries by rail instead.

The report sets up a difficult decision for Secretary of State John Kerry, who now must make a recommendation on the international project to Mr. Obama. Mr. Kerry, who hopes to make action on climate change a key part of his legacy, has never publicly offered his personal views on the pipeline. Aides said Mr. Kerry was preparing to "dive into" the 11-volume report and would give high priority to the issue of global warming in making the decision. His aides offered no timetable.

"He'll deliberate and take the time he needs," said Kerri-Ann Jones, the assistant secretary of state for oceans and international affairs.

Environmentalists said they were dismayed at some of the report's conclusions and disputed its objectivity, but they also said it offered Mr. Obama reasons to reject the pipeline. They said

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Snowy owls have been observed far south of their usual habitat.

A Bird Flies South, and It's News

By JOHN SCHWARTZ

DUXBURY, Mass. — The snowy owl seemed almost complacent, showing the confidence of a top predator whose bright yellow eyes suggested she might be sizing you up as a weaker combatant — or perhaps a large snack.

She had been where no bird should safely be — Logan International Airport in Boston — and now, regal and imposing in brief captivity, she represented the latest of her kind to arrive in a remarkable and growing winter's wandering to the Lower 48.

Not only is the Boston area seeing the largest number of

snowy owls ever recorded, they are popping up in territory far from their usual habitat near the Arctic Circle. Ecstatic bird watchers have spotted them perched atop the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and in Washington (where one made headlines for being struck by a bus), in Little Rock, Ark., and northern Florida — even in Bermuda.

"This year's been bizarre," said Dan Haas, a birder in Maryland. "The numbers have been unprecedented. Historic."

No one is sure why so many

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Snacks Laced With Marijuana Raise Concerns

By JACK HEALY

DENVER — All day long, customers at LoDo Wellness Center, one of Colorado's new recreational marijuana stores, reach into the refrigerator and pull out tasty ways to get high. They buy sparkling peach and mandarin elixirs, watermelon Dew Drops, and sleek silver bags of chocolate truffles, each one packed with marijuana's potent punch.

"The stuff just flies off the shelves," said Linda Andrews, the store's owner.

As marijuana tiptoes further toward the legal mainstream, marijuana-infused snacks have become a booming business, with varieties ranging from chocolate-peppermint Mile High Bars to peanut butter candies infused with hash oil.

Retail shops see them as a non-threatening way into the shallow end of the marijuana pool, ideal for older customers, tourists staying in smoke-free hotels or anyone who wants the effect without the smoke and coughing.

But the popularity of edible marijuana has alarmed parents'

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Eight lanes of Super Bowl Boulevard? A toboggan run in Times Square was popular this week.



SUPER BOWL GUIDE A look at all things related to Super Bowl XLVIII, including where you can eat and drink, along with some alternatives that have nothing to do with pigskin. PAGE A18

METROPOLITAN MEETS METLIFE The soprano Renée Fleming will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Super Bowl on Sunday evening, a first for an opera star. Yet blurring the boundaries between opera and popular culture has a long, proud tradition in the United States. PAGE C1

SEATTLE'S SPORTS MOGUL Paul Allen, a Microsoft founder, has helped the Seahawks become a perennial N.F.L. power since he bought the franchise. Known to keep a low profile, Allen is emerging as a more visible leader of his hometown team. PAGE D1

TRYING TO BEAT THE SPREAD While some watch the Super Bowl for the celebratory touchdown dances, one group of sports devotees prefers the Las Vegas Hotel & Casino SuperContest, the world's biggest football-betting contest. MAGAZINE

NATIONAL A12-16

An Immigration Dilemma

An immigration overhaul with tough security measures put forth by Speaker John Boehner could create tough trade-offs for President Obama. PAGE A14

California Cuts Off Water

In a drought, 29 agencies will have to find other sources for 25 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland. PAGE A12

NEW YORK A17-20

New Strategy in Policing Effort

New York's police leader indicated he would change a program that sent rookie officers to high-crime areas. PAGE A17



INTERNATIONAL A4-11

Syria Talks Fail on Initial Goal

The first round of Syrian peace talks ended without achieving even its most modest goal: easing the government's blockade on delivery of food and medicine to besieged communities. Above, a rescued boy in Aleppo. PAGE A10

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Familiar Face for Microsoft

Microsoft appears to be close to naming one of its own executives, Satya Nadella, its head of corporate software cloud computing, to be its next C.E.O. PAGE B1

Bank's Persistent Problem

Bank of America's \$8.5 billion payment over bad mortgages was approved, but its headaches are not over. PAGE B1

SPORTSSATURDAY D1-6

Shaky Soccer Reign in England

Under its new manager, Manchester United is struggling to keep pace in England's Premier League. PAGE D5



ARTS C1-7

Salvaging a Museum's Trove

Antiquities restorers, including the engineer above, hope to recover works at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, which was devastated by a truck bomb attack last month at police headquarters across the street. PAGE C1

THIS WEEKEND

'All Joy and No Fun'

Through the latest research and interviews with a handful of families who are neither typical nor extraordinary, Jennifer Senior offers a bracingly honest examination of modern parenthood. Her book has flashes of authentic wisdom, Andrew Solomon writes in a review. BOOK REVIEW

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

Gail Collins

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