

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS; AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AND BANCO FRANCES IN DEAL

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American International Group Inc. plans to buy an Argentine consumer finance company from Banco Frances S.A. for \$49 million. Banco Frances, controlled by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya S.A. of Spain, said American International had agreed buy its 70 percent stake in Compania Financiera Argentina S.A., which focuses on lending to low-income consumers. Banco Frances did not say what would happen to the remaining 30 percent of the company, though the daily newspaper Clarin reported that American International had agreed to buy out Compania Financiera's two other shareholders for another \$21 million.

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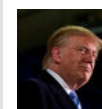
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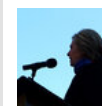
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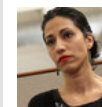
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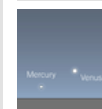
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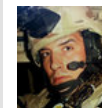
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