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Argentina Bonds Battered on Global Risk Off as IMF Talks Wrap Up

- Bonds slide 3 cents in worst intra-day trading since August
- Argentina concludes talks with IMF, largest investors Friday

By Scott Squires

(Bloomberg) -- Argentina's dollar bonds tumbled at the end of a week of talks with the International Monetary Fund and the country's largest creditors over debt restructuring, as investors dumped risky assets worldwide.

Bonds due 2033 suffered their their biggest intra-day loss since August, sliding as much as 3 cents to 49.9 cents on the dollar. Century bonds due 2117 slipped 2.2 cents to 37.8 cents.

The sell off comes after Economy Minister Martin Guzman met with representatives from Blackrock Inc., Pacific Investment Management Co., Ashmore Group and other institutional investors.



"It may be in part due to some negative feelings following the meetings," said Ezequiel Zambaglione, head of strategy at Balanz Capital Valores in Buenos Aires. "Perhaps creditors found that Guzman was a little more dogmatic than they hoped."

Argentina is also concluding a week of talks with IMF officials to rework a \$56 billion financing agreement signed by former President Mauricio Macri in 2018.

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"Its a mix of everything, but clearly the IMF has a major influence here," said Ramiro Blazquez, head of research and strategy at Banctrust & Co in Buenos Aires. "There is controversy in the IMF regarding whether the Fund should refinance Argentina without committing to structural reforms."

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