

ECONOMY

Guzmán tells IMF chief: 'We will prioritise social spending'

Economy Minister Martín Guzmán told staff from the International Monetary Fund on Friday that Argentina has met the initial targets outlined in the country's US\$44.5-billion debt restructuring deal, though he warned them the government will continue to "prioritise social protection spending" amid soaring inflation.

Guzmán met with the Fund's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington on Friday. According to reports, the conversation between those present was dominated by Argentina's runaway inflation, which jumped to 6.7 percent in March – a 20-year monthly high.

Prices in Argentina have increased by 55.1 percent over the last 12 months and by 16.1 percent so far this year.

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ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE



GAME-CHANGER? How a gas pipeline could reshape Argentina's future

What is the 'Gasoducto Néstor Kirchner' and why is it so important for the country?

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ECONOMY

Report: Argentina's tech industry earning billions of dollars off the books

BY PATRICK GILLESPIE
BLOOMBERG

Billions of dollars in Argentine technology exports are going unreported as companies and freelance workers skirt currency controls, according to an industry group.

About US\$2.2 billion of service exports from the country's technology sector may go unreported in official data this year, according to Luis Galeazzi, executive director of Argencon, an advocacy group that published its semi-annual report on Thursday.

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CULTURE

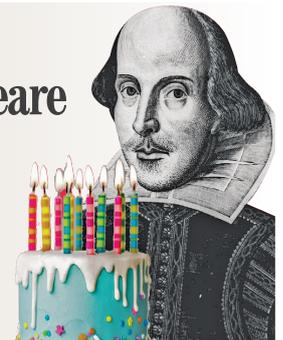
BAFICI film festival returns to a full house

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Argentina's Shakespeare Foundation ready to celebrate the Bard's birthday – PAGE 13

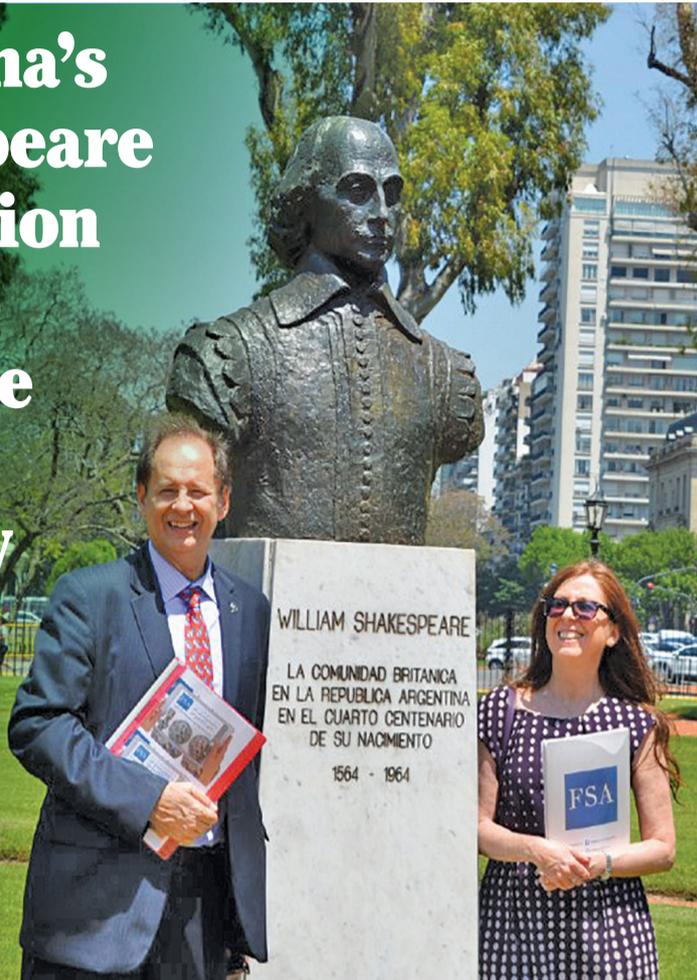


CULTURE 'MY DANCING SOUL DOTH CELEBRATE'

COURTESY OF THE FUNDACIÓN SHAKESPEARE ARGENTINA

Argentina's Shakespeare Foundation ready to celebrate Bard's birthday

FSA founders Mercedes de la Torre and Carlos Drocchi on their mission, their events and Shakespeare's birthday celebrations.



Carlos A. Drocchi and Mercedes de la Torre at the Shakespeare Bust in Buenos Aires.

BY HANNAH GONZALEZ

This April 23, William Shakespeare's birthday won't pass without its annual recognition from the Fundación Shakespeare Argentina ("Argentine Shakespeare Foundation," FSA).

The Bard's birthday will be commemorated on social media with a montage of video and artistic tributes by students, teachers and enthusiasts, all sent in to a foundation dedicated to bringing people together through the life and works of Shakespeare.

The English playwright is to be celebrated in the best possible way: through his art.

SURE FOUNDATION

The Fundación Shakespeare Argentina was founded in 2011 by Mercedes de la Torre and Carlos A. Drocchi.

De la Torre, the organisation's president and a lawyer, says she first discovered Shakespeare through the theatre.

"I wanted to look for a place where you could learn Shakespeare, and there wasn't one, so we created it," explains the 58-year-old. "There were Shakespearean institutions all throughout the world, except for in Latin America."

"It's a necessary space for so many people, lovers of Shakespeare's work," she continues.

Co-founder Drocchi, 63, is also the executive director of the FSA.

"We said, 'Well, we have to bring more people to Shakespeare, and [bring more people to] connect with Argentina through Shakespeare, and vice versa,'" he says, recalling the organisation's founding.

Over the past 11 years, the organisation has hosted virtual and in-person events in Buenos Aires, participated in the Buenos Aires International Book Fair and put on two theatre productions (*As You Like It* in 2015 and *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2019) with

its Compañía de Repertorio de la Fundación Shakespeare Argentina, among other accomplishments.

The FSA's website also boasts scholarly articles and lectures, translated content, links to educational resources, and video compilations of birthday homages from years past.

THIS IS MY BIRTH-DAY

Since 2012, the FSA has brought their academic and Shakespeare-enthusiast communities together to celebrate the anniversary of the influential playwright's birth.

"We connect with many schools, with many professors, teachers, students, and they send us beautiful tributes," says de la Torre, noting that submissions for this year are already coming in.

Shakespeare-lovers can take part in this year's compilation through a reading of a text, a recitation of a sonnet or monologue, a performance of a scene or through other artistic contributions, in English or Spanish.

"Sometimes they're little drawings, sometimes it's a recitation... sometimes it's acting out a small scene," Drocchi listed. "Sometimes they are [from] actors who are studying performance, and they recite a monologue."

Submissions will be released on the foundation's social media starting April 23.

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Though this year is Shakespeare's 458th birthday, the playwright's influence is as alive as ever in contemporary society, argues Drocchi.

Citing examples, he pointed to the 2012 London Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, which was inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky's March 2022 speech in which he quoted *Hamlet* ("To be or not to be").

"Shakespeare is present in the entire world, in every culture, and that brings us closer as human beings," says Drocchi. "One culture to another."

SPORT FOOTBALL

Battaglia's days at Boca may already be numbered

Results themselves do not appear to be at the core of Boca's malaise. In the *Xeneize's* case it seems to be a case of lacking both style and substance.

BY DAN EDWARDS
@DANEDWARDSGOAL

If the proverbial Martian swooped down on a visit and asked what was going on with Boca Juniors, one might have a tough time explaining exactly what the current crisis is all about.

On the surface, all should be in more or less working order: the club is well on course to qualify for the play-offs in the Copa Liga Profesional, has lost just one game in 11, recovered from an inauspicious start in the Libertadores to get their campaign back on track and, as a bonus, pulled off a win in the Monumental against none other than their sworn adversaries River Plate.

Last month's *Superclásico* now feels like a lifetime ago, however. Four consecutive domestic draws since downing the *Millonario* mean that the elation generated from that triumph has all but evaporated, ramping up the pressure on rookie coach Sebastián Battaglia after barely six months in the post.

with the apparent exception of Fernando Gago's Racing Club. River fell midweek in a tepid defeat to lowly Talleres, admittedly having rested several first-teamers for the intense activity to come. But in the *Xeneize's* case it seems to be a case of lacking both style and substance as the wheels have come off in recent weeks.

The second half of Wednesday's draw with Godoy Cruz was one of the worst in recent memory at the Bombonera. Boca were lost on the pitch and thoroughly outplayed in front of their own fans as the Mendoza team, who themselves have managed just two wins all year, almost doubled their shots tally. If it were not for veteran goalkeeper Javier García – the tracksuit bottom-wearing dervish who came up with save after save, including an incredible late double-stop – to keep the *Tomba* at bay, it could have been even worse for the home team. As the game wound to a close an ominous message sounded from the terraces: "Let's see, let's, if the players can hear,



"I have the strength to go on, always," Battaglia told reporters who had swarmed outside Boca's training complex in Ezeiza on Thursday, having sensed the possibility of coaching bloodshed. "I trust the players, I trust the squad, I am strong enough to go on."

Ultimately he was lended a stay of execution by Juan Román Riquelme and the rest of the *Xeneize* board, who will no doubt be watching closely again on Saturday as Boca travel up to Santiago del Estero to take on Central Córdoba.

Results themselves do not appear to be at the core of Boca's malaise. Football teams do lose, after all, every now and then,

with Boca's shirt, it's win or die."

Battaglia and his charges, then, may well be relieved to be hitting the road to Santiago this weekend, over a thousand kilometres from the pressure cooker of La Boca. A win would leave them one step from securing qualification to the next stage of the Copa, and do much to ease the tensions that have arisen following the euphoria in the Monumental. But the outlook is nonetheless far from rosy for the *Xeneize*, and unless a real, sustained improvement both in results and performances is forthcoming Riquelme's hand may be forced into making yet another coaching change at a pivotal point in the season.