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Cupaynicú's Natural Beauties

Text and Photo Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

BAYAMO.- The landscape perfections of Cuba's east were a distinctive feature of the 14th edition of the International Nature Tourism Event (TURNAT 2024).

An example of this is the Cupaynicú Botanical Garden of Bayamo, which welcomed a group of specialists in accessible tourism who knew about the flora of the Cuban archipelago in one of the country's most emblematic sites of this type.

The garden's guides say that the wildlife refuge of the Monte Natural Cupaynicú (aboriginal word) has an area of 54.58 hectares and is located in the north slope of Sierra Maestra, in the Los Mameyes town, Guisa.

Cupaynicú was just one part of the site TURNAT participants toured in the Southeast region, as the refuge's southern area includes forest zones that are owned by private people and the Guisa Forestry Company, where a coffee plantation area is also located.

The site exhibits typical, semideciduous mesophilic wood formations, which cover most of the protected area and are stunning because of their natural charms.

The area's flora includes 293 vascular plant species, of which 233 are native (30 endemic) and 68 are non-native, with outstanding species such as the *Eugenia aceitillo*, *Garcinia*

aristata and *Zamia angustifolia*, among many others that in spite of their scientific classifications can be described as beautiful. A curiosity of the place is the site named El Bosque de los Gigantes (Giants' forest), which shelters species that are over 200 years old. The fern area is also located there, in a zone near the Botanical Garden stream.

The place, thus, offers trips along the semideciduous-wood Bosque de Galería (Gallery Forest) to appreciate different flora species such as *Anón Criollo* and *Manajú* (endemic) and *Caracol Arbóreo*.

The area includes a space for activities and services, such as guided tours, eco-touristic trails, bird watching and sale of ornamental plants. Education on the environment through meetings, talks and tours is also a must, in addition to research on the plants that characterize the area.

TURNAT participants were able to appreciate the green scenario of this location and were eager to continue walking through the forest to catch as much as possible the institution specialists' accumulated knowledge on nature.



The wildlife refuge of the Monte Natural Cupaynicú (aboriginal word) has an area of 54.58 hectares.

Hemingway's tourist Sites in Cuba

By Roberto **CAMPOS**

HAVANA.- Trapped by the enchantment of his literary excellence, many travelers visit the sites U.S. writer Ernest Hemingway chose in Cuba to rest, or where his imprint is still present.

Winner of the Pulitzer prize for *The Old man and the sea* (1953) and the Nobel for Literature a year later for a lifetime's work, Hemingway enjoyed staying in Cuba so much that for some, he was both a Cuban and a U.S. citizen. In the island, where he lived for over 20 years, he used to meet his friends, talk, drink and write, in addition to choosing gulf streams to go on fishing or hunting German submarines. For such reasons, Hemingway is linked to the Cuban tourism field.

Born on July 21, 1899 in Oak Park, Chicago, he first came to Cuba on April 1, 1928, in a cloudy and misty night, as columns from the time indicate.

He came accompanied by his second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer, in a trip from France to Key West, with stopover in Havana.



Bust of Hemingway in Cojimar, a tribute from the fishermen. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

She was then five-months pregnant. A year later, the young reporter approached the Cuban waters aboard the Anita boat to fish marlins. Since then, he started loving Cuba deeply.

During his first visits, he stayed at the Ambos Mundos hotel, in Old Havana, in room 511 that is shown today as a relic, although it lacks really historic objects.

From there, the writer enjoyed a pretty overwhelming view of the city and finished some of his texts. From 1929 to 1936, Hemingway was actively involved in Havana's life, which made him a frequent visitor to bars such as the El Floridita, where he found shelter and even coined a drink on his name. It is Papa Doble or Hemingway Special, a variant of the Daiquiri cocktail that is made with white Cuban rum,

lemon, mint and sugar, but the writer eliminated the sugar and added more rum.

He used to drink up to 12 large glasses of that preparation and carried a couple of them for the road, back to Finca Vigía, a mansion up the San Francisco de Paula town rented by his third wife, Martha Gellhorn, in 1939 and bought in 1940.

In that rural residence, with a wonderful view, he refused to use the tower his wife ordered to be built for him to write because he preferred to do it standing, in his room. There, all his belongings remain as they were when he inhabited the house, today the Hemingway Museum.

Relatively close from there is Cojimar, a fishermen town in the capital's east where he docked his boat Pilar and where his captain Gregorio Fuentes (1897-2002) lived for a long time.

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Another Cuban Feat at the UN



Foreign Affairs minister said the U.S.A. deliberate attempt to asphyxiate Cuban economy and create significant barriers to prevent growth and development. PHOTO: U.N.

By Elizabeth **BORREGO**

UNITED NATIONS.- The most recent vote at the United Nations General Assembly against the policy of asphyxiation imposed by the United States on Cuba ratified an undeniable truth: the isolation of the northern nation because of the persistent blockade.

With 187 votes in favor, two against and one abstention, the result confirmed a real achievement in such a complex and divided world, with an almost total consensus against the over 60-year old siege.

In his speech at the forum, Cuban minister of Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodríguez described that set of measures as a lesson that tries to slow down the future of the island and of all nations daring to defend their sovereignty with strength.

The head of the Cuban diplomacy rejected "the United States' deliberate attempt to asphyxiate the national economy, sabotage and create significant barriers to prevent our growth and development."

No one can doubt the capacity the northern nation has today to strike with devastating force the economy of any other country, the minister acknowledged while recalling the 64 years of economic asphyxiation against Cuba.

That policy is in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Law with such a merciless aggression, he added.

Rodríguez affirmed that the Government of the United States is aware of the non-fulfilment of those international laws and the commerce and navigation agreements, although it continues to maintain threats and coercive measures against citizens of any nation, their companies and financial

institutions, if they have trade or maintain economic relations with Cuba.

The resolution approved demanded States to refrain from enacting and applying coercive measures and laws, in accordance with their obligations by virtue of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Law, which, among other things, reaffirm freedom of commerce and navigation.

It also urged to adopt the necessary provisions to abolish or rule out such measures as soon as possible.

The vote was accompanied by a detailed report drafted by the UN general secretariat with the contributions of over 180 countries and about thirty bodies attached to the world body.

Agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the World Food Program or the world Trade and Tourism organizations, referred to the critical effect that policy has in each of their areas of interest.

According to the Cuban delegation, the blockade is the cornerstone of the policy of maximum pressure against the island, and the extension of those unilateral measures, which have a higher impact on the people and the economy, continues to reproduce and aggravate the devastating effects of that siege.

That policy remains in place with the historic objective of depressing the economy and the salaries; creating material shortages and damaging public services; causing dissatisfaction and despair among the population, and subverting the constitutional order legitimately established.

FIHAV 2024, Four Decades Later

By María **ACOSTA**

HAVANA.- Havana's International Trade Fair (FIHAV 2024) celebrated its 40th edition from November 4 to 9 at its usual showground, EXPOCUBA, with the participation of about 50 countries.

Considered the main multisectorial commodities exchange in Cuba and the Caribbean, the fair was attended by over a dozen official delegations and more than 700 companies interested in showing their products in a 17 thousand-square meter area.

According to minister of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX), Oscar Pérez-Oliva, such figures show the magnitude of the event, developed in a context of important transformations Cuba conducts this year to correct distortions and boost the economy again.

Pérez-Oliva highlighted that national participation exceeded 190 entities – 30 of them micro, small and medium-size companies (MIPYMES) – and a pavilion showed the trade potentials and interests of each of the provinces, including the

Isla de la Juventud special municipality, in accordance with Cuba's policy of promoting territorial development.

FIHAV's main activities included the VII Investment Forum, in which the Updating of the Cuban Portfolio of Opportunities was presented, an interactive tool that increases its local approach and includes small projects directed at increasing MIPYMES participation. On the investment portfolio, MINCEX first deputy minister Carlos Luis Jorge said in 2023 that it included 729 projects – 21 more than in 2022, which meant a total investment amount of about 34,471,000,000 dollars.

Binational chamber meetings were also held and national days celebrated, in addition to business exchanges, rounds of negotiations, seminars, lectures, products' presentations and the launch of the Cuba Foreign Trade magazine.

FIHAV 2024 was focused on the promotion of Cuba's export items (by state and private entities), with representation of its 13 export producing centers.



FIHAV celebrated its 40th edition in EXPOCUBA, with the participation of about 50 countries. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Another Candidate, A Different Agenda

Text and Photo DeisyFRANCIS

WASHINGTON.- The foreign policy agenda of presidential candidate of the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), Claudia de la Cruz, is clear in topics such as Cuba: the United States must lift the blockade and establish cooperation relations with such a geographically close country.

A respectful coexistence, of solidarity, would also help make progress in topics of common interest, the young candidate told **The Havana Reporter**.

"One of the things that can be done once the blockade is lifted is to have exchanges in the field of technological progress," she said.

In this regard, she referred to the development of the biotechnology and medication industry in Cuba, "regardless that it has been inhumanely and criminally attacked for over 60 years."

In spite of the economic, commercial and financial blockade, the island "has had the capacity to survive and make progress in sciences and we can learn from that," stressed De la Cruz, who highlighted that that would be really important because "we have said that the people needs to have access to health in the United States."

She also commented that "relations of respect to other countries' sovereignty must be established" and advocated the possibility all U.S. people should have to "live with dignity."

The PSL candidate stated that from the domestic point of view "there is need for reparation, from the attacks the black and indigenous population of that country has suffered for decades."

A decent life would mean that those sectors of the population could "access right now things that are more difficult, because (in the United States) we are going back in many of the rights in which we made progress in the last 50 years (such as abortion)," she said,



Presidential candidate of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Claudia de la Cruz.

De la Cruz reaffirmed her conviction that fighting is a must – and is part of her government program – "to have investment in infrastructure, in the public transportation service... something that is not done and yet, thousands of millions of dollars go to a war in Ukraine."

We do not want more imperialist wars, we must cut the war budget; if we did that, we would have the chance to invest in many more things for the benefit of the people in the United States," she concluded.

However, De la Cruz is aware of the fact that to a third party such as hers, it is extremely difficult to position itself in a political scenario controlled by traditional forces.

She warned that "promoting a whole movement and massively mobilizing the population is a must," but "a lot of money" is particularly needed.

However, the main obstacle in the path of a third option is the lack of economic resources. Those who can invest thousands of millions of dollars are the Democratic and Republican parties, because both of them are the parties "of the banks, of the corporations," she affirmed.

For that reason, it is so difficult for a third, independent party to go on... even though there is a sector of the population that is tired of "participating in that political act that takes place every four years," she stressed.

Cuba in Michael Moore's Wish List

By DeisyFRANCIS

WASHINGTON.- Michael Moore shared a letter with a list of requests to U.S. president Joe Biden for his last 100 days in office: ending the blockade on Cuba and closing the illegal Guantánamo torture base, are included among some of the demands.

In the fifth point of a long list: 'Free Cuba, free our souls,' the prizewinning documentary made it clear that "it is time to normalize relations with Cuba, end all sanctions against Cuba, end the embargo (blockade) and fully recognize the Cuban people's right to self-determination."

With his peculiar style, the "Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker urged Biden that while

(allegedly) "in Havana at the signing ceremony, announce that you're also giving Guantánamo Bay back to the Cuban people since we don't need it anymore because it's quite obviously their land."

In the fourth point of his list, he precisely urges to close the "torture base" in the territory his country illegally occupied east of the island because "it represents a dark stain on America's standing in the world."

He recalled that last November, an overwhelming majority of 187 countries in the UN General Assembly came together for the 31st time to "demand the United States end our six decade-long trade embargo against Cuba."

"The only country that voted with us was... wait for it...Israel! Oh, and one nation abstained – Ukraine," said Moore while stressing that "no decent person can look at this and truly believe America is on the right side of this issue."

"The devout Catholic in you knows that what we're doing to Cuba is wrong. Joe, free our souls of this sinful burden, do what is right," emphasized the Oscar winner in

2003 for his documentary 'Bowling for Columbine.'

Biden will end his presidential term on January 20, 2025 and apparently will leave without meeting his 2020 campaign promises: looking for a change in the policy towards Cuba that would allow reverting the measures adopted by his predecessor in the post, Republican Donald Trump.

In his long 13-topic list, Moore included, among others, that Biden cancel all student and medical loan debts; free Native-American civil rights activist Leonard Peltier, in prison for over 46 years, and stop Israel's slaughter in Gaza.

"How many violations of red lines will it take until you've had enough? (...) Mass carnage, mass murder, mass destruction all being committed in America's name," he affirmed while urging "to end this madness." In the Bucket List Joe, published in his official website, Moore reiterated to the Democrat president: "You have an extraordinary opportunity to make a whole bunch of things happen. Great things. Important things. With a simple stroke or two of your presidential pen."



Michael Moore made it clear that "it is time to normalize relations and end all sanctions against Cuba. PHOTO: Internet.

Nimotuzumab Registered in 20 Countries

By Alfredo **BOADA**

HAVANA.- The Nimotuzumab drug (CimAher®), one of the leading products of Cuban biotechnology that is mainly used to treat head and neck cancer and pediatric glioma, has been registered in over 20 countries.

This humanized monoclonal antibody added new medical registration last February in China – for its use in pancreas, head and neck carcinomas – while Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Canada, India, Brazil and Germany have conducted clinical research with this Cuban product in different cancer locations.

Created by the Molecular Immunology Center (CIM), Nimotuzumab obtained sanitary registration in Cuba in 2002 by the Center for State Control of Medication, Equipment and Medical Devices for advanced head and neck tumor therapies in adults, after proving its action to block epidermal growth factor, an important target in oncology.

Director of CIM Clinical Research, PhD Tania Crombet, explained that the drug inhibits the uncontrolled proliferation of malignant cells, as well as the formation of new vessels and the occurrence of metastasis (cancer spread) while activating the immunological system.

One of its main advantages is that it differentiates from tumor and healthy cells; that is, it specifically acts on malignant cells. In most of the cancer locations, Nimotuzumab is used in combinations with irradiation and chemotherapy, the doctor added.



Nimotuzumab drug inhibits the uncontrolled proliferation of malignant cells. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

At present, the drug's sanitary registration in Cuba allows its use in brain and esophagus neoplasms, pancreas adenocarcinomas and non-small lung cancer, with encouraging results in what regards prolonging survival and improving patients' general condition. The product undergoes over 20 clinical research focused on investigating its efficacy and security and other cancer treatments. During the pandemic of COVID-19, researchers revealed that its application in

seriously ill patients showed an improvement of the ventilation function and a reduction of the interleukin 6 concentration – one of the main cytokines that cause hyper-inflammatory state, which worsens a disease clinical condition.

There was also a radiological improvement or stabilization of the multifocal interstitial pneumonia in 80 percent of patients by the seventh day of receiving the first dose, in addition to preliminary evidence of

prevention or reversion of fibrotic injuries through computerized axial tomography, which resulted in a reduction of lung sequela.

Nimotuzumab is part of CIM product portfolio against cancer, focused on blocking tumor growth and reducing the size of its mass, with the objective of transforming this malignant disease into a chronic ill, without deteriorating patients' quality of life.

Cuban Doctors in Haiti, A Crucial Work

By Joel M. **VARONA**

HAVANA.- The work of the Cuban Medical Brigade (BMC) in Haiti was described as crucial, because of the results seen in the improvement of the population's quality of life.

In a ceremony to say goodbye to a group of collaborators, head of the BMC, Efrén Acosta, highlighted that the health staff worked amidst unimaginable challenges.

"Their work was crucial in the battle against the high mortality rate that affects this country, and thanks to their dedication, thousands of lives were touched and transformed," stressed Acosta in the presence of Cuban ambassador to Haiti, Carlos Moya and other members of the diplomatic mission.

Under the bullets and countless difficulties, such as the lack of fuel and high food prices,

no member gave up their humanitarian mission, Acosta said.

"Each consultation, each operation and each sign of empathy, left a permanent

imprint in the community," the doctor affirmed.

They return to their homeland with the pride of having met their duty, carrying not only experiences and learning, but also the love and respect of those they provided their services to.

We say goodbye to you with a deep feeling of gratitude and admiration, for being an exceptional group of professionals who

gave their heart and effort in this noble mission in Haiti.

"Your commitment to health and your solidarity is an example to all of us," affirmed Acosta who, together with the Cuban ambassador, gave diplomas of acknowledgement to the collaborators who finished their mission in the so-called Pearl of the Caribbean.

The ambassador also congratulated the collaborators on behalf of the Cuban government, the Public Health ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a tense environment, the members of the Cuban brigade made their best; you really did a great job, great work, the diplomat affirmed.

Today, we have 68 members, but our philosophy is doing more with what we have; thus, the fulfillment of the plans regarding consultations and operations. Notwithstanding, we went further ahead, opening family doctors' offices, rehabilitation rooms and training the human health resources the people needs. The population is familiar with your work and express their gratitude, stressed the Cuban ambassador to Haiti.



Cuban doctors worked amidst unimaginable challenges. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

A Whirl of Happiness, Tradition and Modernity

By Martha **SÁNCHEZ**

HAVANA.- Prima ballerina Viengsay Valdés celebrated 30 years of professional artistic life by transforming herself into a show, an achievement attained by elite artists which is

only obtained with talent, determination and full maturity.

As in other shows of her vast career and if she could do without physical rest, the current director of the Cuban National Ballet (BNC) company made the audience of the National Theater vibrate as if it were a sport stadium.



The talent Viengway Valdés had shown throughout these three decades, for the art of ballet, is a tangible reality. PHOTO: Panchito González.

If there is one piece that really complements Valdés' boldness is *Non, je ne regrette rien*, by Belgian Ben van Cauwenbergh, on one of famous French singer Edith Piaf's greatest successes.

On November 2010, Valdés became the first local prima ballerina to include that piece in the BNC repertoire, at the suggestion of one of her partenaires, great Carlos Acosta, who saw in her the mixture of dramatic potentials and virtuosity, guided by a magnetic personality. "Celebrating Viengsay Valdés' existence is common in our time. Beyond her youth, the talent she had shown throughout these three decades, for the art of ballet, is a tangible reality, at first sight," stated writer Nancy Morejón when talking the floor to praise the guest of honor.

The diva returned to the stage in a scene of *The sleeping beauty*, in which she displayed one of the technical qualities that immortalize her in the history of ballet: her legendary *balancés*, woven with elegance, calmness, delicacy and courage.

The so-called *Rose adagio* showed a radiant ballerina, able of enjoying without contrition the greatness that distinguishes her current artistic career.

The protagonist of the show returned to the stage with Anyelo Montero in *Loss*, the third *pas de deux* of *Love Fear Loss*, by Brazilian creator Ricardo Amarante – the first choreography included in the BNC repertoire following Valdés' work after her appointment as the company's artistic deputy director.

Once again, her stage performance and histrionic conviction made her shine, which she also did in a piece that distinguishes her and has been constantly asked for in the world when she goes to other scenarios: the virtuoso *pas de deux* of the third act of classic *Don Quixote*, in which her *fouettés* reaffirmed the brightness of a sublime career.

With courage and perseverance, Valdés has been able to become a referent, a pride of the Cuban ballet school, which she has represented in all five continents.

Contemporary Art with the Society in Sight

By Daimarelys **PÉREZ**

HAVANA.- The Cuban Contemporary Art shows new features that reflect the concerns and realities of the present time, including the spirits of the younger generation.

The 11th edition of the *Post-It* event, recently held in this capital, guaranteed the boldest and most current art by highlighting the value and strength of young creators, who made use of a wide range of topics linked to the present society in the presentation of the contest.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, specialist Ariadna Cabrera, one of the curators of the exhibition shown at the downtown Galiano Gallery, in this city, explained that the exhibit shows the work of 17 young artists.

On the selection, endorsed by the jury, the Cuban art specialist affirmed that with the exception of painting, installation works including video, photography and large-format drawings, were selected.

This forum marked the beginning of the second decade of *Post-It*, in which contestants continue expressing their will to communicate their personal universe and visions on the realities that shape them, as in previous years, the expert said. It is not a thematic exhibition, but "rather a compilation of works that highlight the variety of experiences of each of those artists," Cabrera commented.

Our gallery has a research profile and as venue of this event every year, we are very selective when making an assessment, she noted.



The 11th edition of the *Post-It* event shows the work of 17 young artists. PHOTO: Jorge Pérez.

We showed works that are rather hybrid from the language point of view; topics that have been repeated since the first edition of *Post-It*, such as farewells, based on each of the participants' subjective perceptions, she added.

The curator also referred to the topic of social crisis and the way in which those youngsters deal with a shared reality. As individuals with artistic concerns, they show their path in those creations, of course, with different tones, some more cheerful or using jokes; others more dramatic, but in the end, topics that deal with an island's present, she said. What art does is to raise awareness, to cause reflection, stressed Cabrera when referring to the way in which this expression breaks with stereotypes.

From that starting point, the expert highlighted that "expressing yourself through art is making a review, but with the objective of creating thought."

Art has always been uncomfortable, has questioned, she stressed. The term *Post-It* comes from the meaning of a small piece of paper used to write down short messages, with a self-adhesive stripe on the back that allows easily sticking it to and removing it from something, hence the title of this competition, she explained.

We want it to go on for a long time and the fact is that this was the first commercial art contest created by the Cuban Ministry of Culture, she told THR on their desire to continue conducting this event.



Voces del Sur Global
Voices of the Global South



The El Cobre Sanctuary

Text and Photo Benjamín MICERINOS

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.- The El Cobre Sanctuary, in Cuba's east, is a special place that was visited by 130 tour operators and travel agents from 20 countries who recently attended the TURNAT 2024 Nature Tourism Convention.

The calm countenance of Mexican nun Estela Cruz Álvarez welcomed many of those who visited the site those days. Of small height and few words, the nun spoke to **The Havana Reporter** to give a significant image of those who stay in that place.

A member of the Jesus The Good Shepherd Missionary Congregation and coming from Chiapas, Mexico, her face shows kindness and respect, in addition to highlighting the features inherent to her origins.

Those who toured the church, either religious or not, made a kind of tourist reverence, in accordance with relations of cultural tolerance present in the travel industry.

The El Cobre sanctuary, located in a hill overlooking the town named the same and not far from an opencast mine, is a place covered by an almost magical environment, with several stories of famous visitors, where the offerings of personalities of different origin are shown.



The El Cobre sanctuary is located in a hill not far from an opencast mine, a place covered by an almost magical environment.

In this site, 18 kilometers from the city of Santiago de Cuba, a typical church is erected, with red dome and clear walls, where the image of the Virgen de la Caridad de El Cobre, Cuba's patron saint, has been zealously kept for years. The story goes that in 1608, two indigenous men and one black slave boy found the image of the Virgin in the

northeastern Nipe Bay, with an inscription that identified her as such.

Although there are contradictions on the date of the event, most of the documents agree to say that the rowers were named Juan and Rodrigo de Hoyos and the black boy Juan Moreno, who saw a large shape in the middle of the bay when on a trip to get salt.

When they got close, they discovered the image of the Virgin on a board with a gold cross in her right hand and Baby Jesus in the left arm.

On August 12, 1898, when the war of independence against the Spanish colonization had finished, Cuban general Calixto García sent his staff to celebrate a solemn mass and a thanksgiving "Te Deum."

Other important events are related to the request the war of independence veterans made in 1915 to Pope Benedict XV to proclaim the Virgin Cuba's Patron Saint, in addition to the inauguration of the sanctuary on September 8, 1927 and the dispatch, on December 30, 1977 by Pope Paul VI, of African cardinal Bernadin Gantin as his emissary to proclaim the Chapel, Minor Basilica.

The Virgin's altar was built with marbles and her silhouette is usually facing the Sanctuary chapel, which can be accessed through the back area, located over the Miracles Chapel, where the memories of thousands of parishioners lie.

The altar has an electric device that makes the Virgin go around so that when a mass is conducted, she faces parishioners in the main hall, which can be accessed through the stairs; otherwise, she faces those who visit her in the chapel.



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March for Peace in Solidarity with Palestine

By Ernesto **VERA**

HAVANA.- Thousands of youngsters marched with the people of the capital to demand the end of the Zionist government of Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people and their attacks to other Middle East nations.

Participants in this march, led by Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel and other high ranking officials, denounced the United States' complicity with the Zionist attack that has caused over 42,000 deaths in Gaza, mostly women and children, and about 2,000 in Lebanon.

From Havana's Antiimperialist Tribune, the destination of the march that started in the Fragua Martiana, Palestinian students in Cuba stated the will of their compatriots to resist until they recover their nation and reach their inalienable rights and a fair and lasting peace.

They also denounced the State of Israel's expansionist interests and its aggression to other nations, such as Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and all the region, in complicity with the United States, while the world remains stock-still, incapable of stopping the tragedy.

It is not a war, it's a generalized and progressive genocide, they affirmed in the political-cultural act in which they expressed their endless gratitude to Cuba for its permanent solidarity with their people's fair cause.

In the event, first secretary of the Cuban Young Communist League, Meyvis Estévez, affirmed that this march and the demonstrations conducted throughout the country in recent days endorse this Caribbean nation's stance in support of the Palestinian people, which she described as an impressive example of abnegation and patriotism.

She also stressed Cuba's commitment in favor of peace, justice and the defense of Palestine's sovereignty.

We will not close our eyes in the face of this massacre; we will not forget neither the heroism of those attacked nor the brutality of the aggressors, she said.



Participants in this march denounced the United States' complicity with the Zionist attacks in Gaza. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

Spanish Jolidey Tour Operator Bets for Santa María Key

By Fausto **TRIANA**

MADRID.-Spanish Jolidey Tour Operator increased its proposal for the 2025 summer with the inclusion of Santa María Key, Cuba, with direct flights from Madrid, Barcelona and Lisbon.

As announced here, Jolidey, a specialist of Ávoris Corporation Company in the Caribbean, will focus in the paradisiacal Cuban Santa María Key destination from April 15 to September 23, 2025.

Flights' frequency from Lisbon will be on Tuesdays, while from Madrid will be on Thursdays; both will be available from June 19 to September 11. In the case of Barcelona, it will be on Sundays, from June 22 to September 7.

Jolidey is an essential part of Ávoris, which commercializes holiday and company trips, endorsed by the prestige of the Barceló Group.

Santa María Key, located in Cuba's central region, northeast of the Villa Clara province, is one of the main sun-and-

beach destinations in the islands, with a high-level hotel infrastructure.

Jolidey also foresees to promote the Trinidad destination, a city declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This Cuban colonial center, with an extraordinary historical site, includes in its surroundings beautiful beaches such as Ancón and also offers access to hiking in the Topes de Collantes heights. Direct flights to Santa María Key will increase the number of Spanish tourists, who find in Cuba one of their preferred tourist destinations.



Jolidey will focus in the paradisiacal Cuban Santa María Key destination. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

By AdisMORERA

A Promising Cuban Film

HAVANA.- The Cuban film *Nora*, directed by Roly Peña with script by Amílcar Salatti, is on the final shooting stage and promises to be captivating because of its excellent cast, both behind and in front of the cameras.

It is an interesting script; it deals with the story of a woman who infiltrates an espionage network and fights tooth and nail to meet her desire of doing her task; the production has been wonderful and

attention to actors impressive, Clarita García, a cast member, told **The Havana Reporter** via WhatsApp.

García is a familiar face in the Cuban television for her role of professor Amalia in the famous youth series *Calendario*.

The protagonist of this new production is Ingrid Lobaina, who played the role of teenager Noemi in the popular drama by Magda González, recently broadcasted.

I admire that actress a lot; she underwent a strong training with a team at the gym to face the action sequences that appear in the film, she said.

The cast is long, with outstanding figures such as Aramis Delgado, Héctor Noas, Patricio Wood, Yuny Bolaños, Reyte Oro, among many others who interact with the main character and the story very fast and intense.

The general production is conducted by Luis Orlando, who left his imprint in the 2009 Cuban series *Mucho ruido*, while the scenery chosen to shoot *Nora*'s first scenes was the Meliá Las Américas hotel, located in the famous Varadero resort, in the Matanzas province. The team moved to the Zapata Swamp, also in Matanzas province, to shoot the final sequences, to then start the editing stage, the actress commented.

It has been an intense and beautiful experience; the script is really good, because it shows Salatti's passion and truth when he writes, she stressed.

Everything is narrated very well and the story is clear in Roly's mind, who is passionate and experienced in actor direction, so everything becomes real when assuming the project, she affirmed.

The end of the shooting stage is getting closer and although Clarita does not know the date of its premiere, she is convinced that the people will love it a lot, because it is a very different film.



The end of the shooting stage of *Nora* is getting closer. PHOTO: Cubacine

Claudia Alvariño, An Adult with An Inner Child

Text and Photo DaisyFRANCIS

WASHINGTON.-Cuban actress Claudia Alvariño, artistic co-director of the La Colmenita children's theater company, considers that nothing perhaps better defines her than: "I am an adult with an inner child."

With a broad smile and great humbleness, it would be no exaggeration to say that Muma, as she is affectionately called, has her umbilical cord connected to the group that Carlos Alberto "Tin" Cremata founded on February 14, 1990.

"Imagine that I am a member of La Colmenita since I was four (she is over 30 now). I have spent all my life in the company and it is a great luck. It is my family, my home, where I feel happy," she told **The Havana Reporter** a few minutes after their performance at the Imagination Stage theater, in Maryland, last October.

I studied at the National Art school and the Higher Institute of Arts but I was always linked to La Colmenita, she said.

When she graduated, in 2006, she returned to the company. "I started my social service, was Tin's assistant director and now I am the artistic co-director, Tin's right-hand woman, learning a lot."

"La Colmenita is a school; I was lucky to grow up there and right now, it is also lucky that my children (Lucas and Ana Lucía), because I am also a mother now, are in the cast," commented the actress, whose role of a professor in Ian Padrón's fiction feature film, *Habanstation* (2011), owed her higher acknowledgement among the Cuban audience.

Because of that, she once said that she "was a little bit afraid of popularity," because as a result of the film, people look at her differently in the street, "as if constantly being subjected to examination" and that's why she "sometimes felt a little bit shy."

It is not strange though to see Muma act like a "little bee" that is constantly sucking honey or even as if she wants to "go unnoticed."

Her name is definitely tied to La Colmenita, a company in which children "learn a lot and it is not that we are artists or actors' shapers, but we do work with them on human values, the Cuban culture, a lot; it is really a great luck to have spent all my life here," she stressed.

Alvariño added that being surrounded by kids, working with them, is a daily learning, they do know what humbleness is, what to get rid of things mean and even more in this world we live in; it is so enriching, being surrounded by kids gives a lot of oxygen.

"I think that there is still a lot of the Muma girl, the one that was a member of La

Colmenita. I was very happy, very lucky," noted Claudia, who also grew up watching her sister Tahimí Alvariño, on her father's side, act in soap operas, series and films.

In relation to the tour of the United States, she commented that on this occasion (the fourth), the children performed in Tampa, New York, Washington DC and Maryland.

The audience has been great, warm and respectful, she stressed while stating their desire to "come back soon and let's hope that this wish of sharing culture, art and knowledge together remains among our peoples."



Claudia Alvariño is a member of La Colmenita since she was four years old.

Cuba Denounces Impunity to Attacks on its Embassy in the U.S.

By **TheHavanaReporterStaff**

HAVANA.- Cuba denounced the persistent immunity in the United States of the perpetrators of the attacks against the diplomatic mission of this country in Washington.

The topic was dealt with at the Razones de Cuba program, broadcasted by the national television with the participation of deputy director for U.S. issues at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Johana Tablada and Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Martínez, second chief of the Department of Criminal Investigation of Crimes against the State Security at the Ministry of Interior (MININT). The diplomat made reference to the Molotov-cocktail attack on the Cuban embassy on September 24 last year, which hit the façade of that diplomatic mission, and stressed that over a year later, the responsible person has not been identified yet.

She also recalled the machine-gun attack on that facility four years before by Alexander

Alazo Baró, who is about to be released from prison, in spite of the seriousness of the attack.

There is a record of complicity and impunity in relation to aggressions against the Cuban diplomatic staff and facilities in that country, which are terrorist acts, she affirmed.

For his part, Lieut. Col. Martínez stated that Cuba has stressed the need of taking measures for the safety of the embassy, including the installation of lights and video surveillance, as well as parking prohibition in front of the building, among others.

However, he made it clear that those measures have not been authorized, in spite of the obligation they have of protecting diplomatic missions' facilities in their territory.

Major Mario Díaz, head of the Face Recognition Unit at the MININT Criminal Department affirmed that Cuba contributed since the beginning to those investigations. He stressed that in the most recent case,

they immediately provided the recordings of the venue video surveillance to the United States security bodies, as well as the results of the expert analysis on the subject's features, to facilitate identification.

These and other data were handed in in three bilateral meetings held until now, without

receiving any detail on the investigations the security bodies of that country are said to be conducting, said the officials of the Ministry of Interior.

The sources indicated that the U.S. party affirms to have DNA samples and fingerprints, but no other element, and the subject has not been identified.

The impunity of those terrorist acts occur in a country that has unfairly included Cuba in its unilateral list of nations that allegedly sponsor terrorism, said Tablada, who demanded clarification and justice in the face of such acts.



Cuba has stressed the need of taking measures for the safety of the embassy in Washington. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

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Congress of People with Physical Disability in Session in Havana

By **TheHavanaReporterStaff**

HAVANA.- About 300 delegates attended the 7th Congress of the Cuban Association of People with Physical-Motor Disability (ACLIFIM), an organization created 44 years ago that, in spite of challenges, grows with projects in favor of inclusion.

Held at the Havana's Conference Center, the event's opening was attended by president Miguel Díaz-Canel, who received the Award to Inclusion and Equal Opportunities, a decoration that was also granted to leader of the Cuban Revolution, Army General Raúl Castro.

On behalf of the over 74,000 Cubans with physical-motor disabilities, participants in the event debated ways to promote a more efficient social inclusion, with higher access to

all social activities developed in Cuba, as well as the organization's functioning.

They also analyzed issues related to the number of ACLIFIM members with labor capacity or ties, membership fees and other topics linked to the organizations' strategy in the 2020-2024 period.

Under the motto 'For inclusion from and for the community,' the congress was preceded by meetings in all the provinces and the Isla de la Juventud special municipality, in which discussions were held about problems related to the organization, an entity founded on March 14, 1980 and initially called Cuban Association of Physical-Motor Limited People. At the final session, head of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) Central Committee Economic-Productive Department, Jorge Luis Broche, highlighted the quality of the debates and their importance.



Delegates analyzed the capacity and labor of ACLIFIM. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Art's Imprint in the UN

Text and Photos Elizabeth **BORREGO**

UNITED NATIONS.- Going from a copy of Pablo Picasso's famous Guernica to Cuban René Portocarrero's Gran Carnaval 2, thousands of valuable pieces compose the art collection of the United Nations Organization (UN) in New York.

Over 400 works of art, historic objects and architectonic elements remain on display at the world body as part of an exhibition that shows a variety of cultures and periods.

Scattered through the building's gardens, halls and corridors, the collection reaffirms the expression of historic moments, artistic tendencies and even particularities of the donor countries or foundations.

Pieces by artists such as Marc Chagall, Henry Moore or Picasso himself, remind the important role the United Nations play in the world.

In their busy to-ing and fro-ing along the building's areas, visitors and diplomats

can also see the Peace Bell, located in the Japanese Garden and a warning symbol of the consequences of wars.

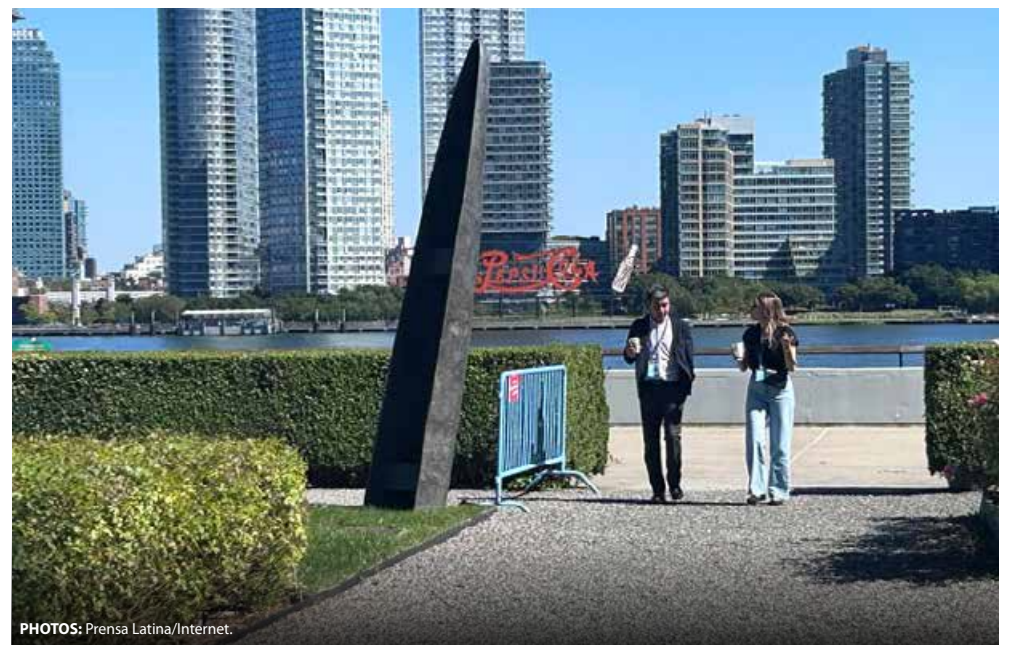
Next to this, eight characters read the phrase: Long live absolute world peace.

The Kusikawsay monument, donated by the Colombian Government and made with the 1.4-ton molten metal of the ammunitions the UN received during the laying down of weapons, brought a similar message to these premises last July.

During its inauguration, president Gustavo Petro affirmed that the work will be a kind of a heritage for the history of humanity for both, its meaning and the place of its location.

This sui generis combination is one of the collection's main values, according to the UN Arts Committee.

In addition to its aesthetic quality and symbolic value, the great merit of the sculpture is its diverse origin, while recalling the United Nations' foundational purpose of justice and peace.



Civil Unrest in Chile, An Unsolved Problem

By Carmen **ESQUIVEL**

SANTIAGO DE CHILE.- Five years after the outbreak of the civil unrest in this country, the causes of one of Chile's largest demonstrations remain latent: the economic model is the same and the country still waits for the promised social transformations.

On October 18, 2019, a student demonstration against the rise of the metro ticket started in this capital, with the incorporation of different sectors in all the national territory, where millions of people went to the streets to reject social inequalities.

The demonstrations, suppressed by the security forces, resulted in 30 people dead and thousands of wounded, including over 400 who suffered eye injuries, although metro stations were also destroyed and stores looted.

Politician and writer Omar Cid spoke to **The Havana Reporter** about those events, which he considers to be the answer to a set of historical demands accumulated by the neoliberal model imposed during the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship (1973-1990) and reaffirmed by subsequent governments.

Demands are linked to better health, access to education, increase of pensions, more social justice; in the end, a better quality of life.

That debt of the economic, political and social model is the one that somehow starts to be collected in a hard and complicated way on October 18, 2019.

Cid commented that although everything started with the metro demonstrations, "such inconveniences had already been stated before: in 2006, with the junior high student demonstrations; in 2011, with the university student movements, and then with the outbreak of the unrest."

That does not include a right wing that takes the power during the Sebastián Piñera government (2018-2022), with a pretty arrogant Education minister (Marcela Cubillos) and other officials who exercised a strong pressure not only on students but on the social world too, he added.

In relation to the opinion of the authorities of the time on an alleged conspiracy to explain collective feeling, the specialist stated that it was a spontaneous movement. "I do not think, as the Piñera government said, that there was any kind of plot, even less from abroad."

Cid explained that five years later, the causes that led to the unrest are still latent. "What happens is that today, conservative sectors, through their communicational hegemony, try to make people believe that the Chilean society does not acknowledge the unrest as its own."

On a question THR made about a recent survey by the Public Studies Center, according to which 50 percent of the population considers the consequences of these demonstrations as bad or very bad, the writer said that "it is clear that a sustained marketing campaign has been conducted to try that only violence remains for posterity and to hide the reasons of its origin."



Demands in Chile are linked to better health, access to education, increase of pensions and more social justice. PHOTO: Internet.

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Transition to Clean Energies

By Raquel **DÍAZ**

HAVANA.- The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) supports Cuba in its endeavor to increase renewable energies, indicated the entity official.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, the executive explained that IRENA supports Cuba in the integration of renewable energies (RE) to the food and agricultural value chains and in the search for best practices to increase and adopt an electricity system with different clean sources technologies.

In the framework of the III edition of the Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Fair, held at the end of September at the PABEXPO exhibition site, in Havana, Torón affirmed that such research are conducted with the involvement of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Studies focus on how to integrate RE in a decentralized way to the food and agricultural sectors' value chains, as well as in the identification of regions and specific sites of the country (within the chain) where higher value can be provided by integrating renewable energies, he said.

What technology will be particularly used? That will only be known at the end of the study, and once this finishes, we will look for ways to implement all recommendations, he stressed.

In relation to Cuba's plans in the energy field, he affirmed that they are ambitious as to reducing pollutant emissions and in what regards its global commitment in the face of climate change.

Obviously, increasing the renewable energy matrix, decarbonizing the economy and reducing the use of fossil fuels will be beneficial for the country, the expert affirmed. Cuba, like other Latin American countries, has a great potential to develop those technologies, particularly photovoltaic systems on a small, medium and large

scale, applicable to businesses and the energy matrix, he added.

IRENA's perspectives are to collaborate with other agencies, as the entity is interested in continuing supporting the country in this energy transition and in the adoption of renewable energies, whose projects will be eventually in place and we will be ready to support.

According to Torón, the island would be one of the nations to benefit the most from the materialization of the energy transition, beyond meeting the climate objectives of decarbonizing the economy. It would

also have financial and socio-economic advantages by transforming fossil fuels to renewable technologies.

The objective is also to integrate the labor chain, which would imply the formation of experts in the installation and maintenance of those technologies, while including minorities such as the youth and women.

To IRENA, the role of women within the energy transition is highly important because their participation in the development of RE grew in time and the idea is that the genre issue be precise, he stressed.



IRENA supports Cuba in the integration of renewable energies to the food and agricultural value chains. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Battle for the Transformation of the World

By Teyuné **DÍAZ**

HAVANA.- The secretary-general of the Organization of Southern Cooperation (OSC) Manssour Bin Mussallam said in Havana, that a third way of development for the transformation of the world is a multilateral battlefield.

In a conference at Casa de las Américas, in the capital, Bin Mussallam explained that that third way of development cannot be turned into a third model indiscriminately imposed to all countries or regions, but it must imply diversity and multiplicity.

It is essential to reach consensus on some goals and principles, to have the flexibility to translate regional and national priorities, because as countries of the south, we are different and have different histories, but we also share systemic challenges and common aspirations that go beyond any political differences there might be, he stressed.

Articulating, from the south, new paradigms that allows to emancipate ourselves from the models that made the world more and more unequal, and in that path, facing inequalities of knowledge and the nature of those that are legitimate and those that are not, as well as the need of both, academic and endogenous knowledge, he said.

In addition to the inequality of the economy of knowledge that includes the cost of access to knowledge itself, resources, as well as those who receive and benefit from the funds for research, he added.

He finally referred to the inequality of knowledge geopolitics, which comprises the lack of visibility of research done in the countries of the south.

Bin Mussallam also explained that OSC is cautious about the options to narrow the technological gap, options that usually include donations or the import of technologies, which, in no case, can be integrated to our system.

In the opinion of the OSC secretary-general, it is essential to foster the development of endogenous technologies with our own capacity, either national or regional.

The emergence of a third way of development lies on the fact that consumerism economic development models are

intrinsically unsustainable; we have the responsibility of investing in strategic sectors that strengthen sovereignty and overcome structural deficiencies, he stressed.

He also spoke about the importance of sectors such as balanced and inclusive education, comprehensive health with emphasis on care and preventive medicine in the framework of a Single health among the flora, the fauna and the human beings.

Sustainable agriculture, and from there, attaining food sovereignty; renewable energies to have more access for our peoples and industries; infrastructures that also allow connecting our peoples, our countries, he mentioned.

The official highlighted that "we know very well that talking about a south-south cooperation, about regional integration, without the infrastructure that connects it, would mean talking about something pretty abstract."



The secretary-general of the Organization of Southern Cooperation (OSC) Manssour Bin Mussallam. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Digital Space for Everyone

By Mirna **GONZÁLEZ**

HAVANA.- Residents in about 30 countries attended the 1st Cuban IT Entrepreneurial Forum, which according to local officials was an opportunity to strengthen ties in the academic, research, collaboration and entrepreneurial fields with nationals living abroad.

Held in virtual format with the participation of over 170 computer and communication-related people, the meeting is a sign of the efforts the island makes to consolidate ties with Cubans living abroad and a follow-up to the 4th Nation and Emigration Conference.

General director for Consular Issues and Attention to Cubans living abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ana Teresita González, described the event as excellent and said that the Cuban embassies and consulates are open to access cooperation in different fields and provide all the information needed.

González highlighted the increase of international connectivity with Cuba through the setting-up of the second Arimao optical fiber cable, which allowed a 47-percent increase of connectivity in relation to 2023.

The official referred to the negative impact of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba that, from March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024, caused damages amounting to about 58,772,100 dollars in the information and telecommunications sector. For his part, first deputy minister of Telecommunications, Wilfredo González, presented an outlook on the software industry in Cuba, as well as opportunities for foreign investment and topics linked to the 2030 Digital Agenda – approved in May – and the national strategy on artificial intelligence.

González commented that main achievements include the growth of the cellphone system – which reached 7.8 million subscribers – and the increase of e-commerce, with an exponential rise in the payment of basic services through digital platforms.

Other outstanding speeches included that of vice-president of the Havana Scientific-Technological Park (3CE) Héctor Rodríguez, who spoke about the entity's functioning as a key ecosystem for innovation in research, development and innovation projects (I+D+i), as well as the design of Technological Base Companies in the IT field.

The Park offers incentives that allow obtaining high-impact results, both economic and social, in addition to access to international markets for export and commercial representation, as well as a comprehensive service package addressed at promoting the creation and competitiveness of companies designed, explained the 3CE vice-president.

Other topics dealt with access to highly specialized human talent, with potential for remuneration based on results and an advanced infrastructure that includes over 1,200 jobs, offices, labs and project-tailored common areas.



The 1st Cuban IT Entrepreneurial Forum is a sign of the efforts the island makes to consolidate ties with Cubans living abroad.

PHOTO: Panchito González.

40th Session of ECLAC in Peru

By Manuel **ROBLES**

LIMA.- The 40th session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) dealt here with the so-called traps that hinder development and how to deactivate them.

The event, held in the Peruvian capital, was attended by 37 delegations, nine ministers of Foreign Affairs, eight ministers of other sectors and seven deputy ministers, for a total of 365 participants.

Closed by Peruvian minister of Foreign Affairs Elmer Schialer, whose country assumed the presidency of the commission for a two-year term, the event approved 14 resolutions, the program of work of the ECLAC system and the 2025-2026 conference calendar.

According to Schialer, the new presidency will promote higher cooperation for sustainable development in search of a better future for all citizens, especially for the most vulnerable people.

The minister said that the so-called position document, presented by ECLAC executive secretary José Manuel Salazar, is a valuable diagnosis that

should be evaluated by the member States' competent sectors and that for its adequate use, that analysis will take into consideration national circumstances and priorities.

PRODUCTIVE EVENT

Cuban representative at the meeting, deputy minister of Foreign Trade Deborah Rivas, spoke to **The Havana Reporter** about the importance of the event for the region's development.

The official described the meeting as productive and stressed the importance

of the position document presented by ECLAC executive secretary José Manuel Salazar, which in her opinion, not only makes a diagnosis on the region's very complex situation but also includes a group of questions on how to transform it. Rivas added that the document foresees a number of solutions that, in the first place, require financing to development, an ECLAC objective the institution supports in favor of an equal, fair and inclusive development for the area.

The Cuban deputy minister highlighted that the text also includes a balanced, realistic and objective analysis of the situation and establishes the guidelines for transformation in seven key sectors, such as energy transformation through the use of renewable energies and topics linked to the battle against climate change.

She also talked about others topics included, such as financing for development, an issue to be dealt with at the UN International Conference on the topic in Seville, Spain, next year.

At the ECLAC meeting, Cuba ratified the precepts of its politics and denounced the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States on the island as the main obstacle for the country's development, Rivas added.



Cuban deputy minister of Foreign Trade Deborah Rivas described the meeting as productive. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Baseball5, Candidate to Best Team of the Year

By Boris **CABRERA**

HAVANA.- The Cuban Baseball5 team launched its candidature to the Best Team of the Year award in Cuba, after winning for second occasion, and undefeated, the title of champion of the World Cup held in Hong Kong, China.

Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel congratulated the players in his official X account and thanked them for “defending with passion a sport born in the heart of our Homeland: our neighborhoods.”

It is a pride for those born in this small island that a discipline that emerged in the streets with the name of “four corners” or “hand baseball” has reached universal status and its main exponents are the Cubans.

The squad, headed by Pablo Terry, defeated Japan – the only team that managed to win one set against the Cubans, in the super round – and thus extended its chain of successes since the start of international competitions. Winners of the first world edition, held in Mexico in 2022, the Cuban team also reached the top of the podium in the Venezuela 2024 Pan-American Championship and the world junior tournament held last year in Ankara, Türkiye.

With this record of achievements, baseball5 has the path clear to win the

annual award, considering that no Cuban team sport qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

In addition to the tributes the team’s staff and its members deserve, especially its captain Briandy Molina

– chosen as the Most Valuable Player in both world editions – Eros Bernal, the team’s responsible person at the Cuban Federation, also deserves to be acknowledged for his work at the head of this discipline.

In Hong Kong, the Cubans left no room for doubt and defeated with authority the teams of Lithuania, South Africa, Venezuela and the hosts, while in the final round they defeated Japan, Mexico and France, the latter being the bronze medalists.



Briandy Molina, two-time MVP of the world tournament and Haila González, leader in runs batted. PHOTO: WBSC.

Luis Tiant Passed Away

By Julio **MEJÍAS**

HAVANA.- Fans, experts and mass media professionals were filled with dismay after hearing about the death of former Cuban pitcher Luis Tiant, a legend who stood out in the Cuban, Mexican, Venezuelan and U.S. Major League baseball.

The right-handed Cuban pitcher, considered one of the forgotten in Cooperstown, died at the age of 83 as a result of several health issues.

Recalled for his pitching style, twisting his body like a dancer and turning his back on the batter to then throw to the plate through different angles, his Fu Manchú-like mustache and cigar in hand outside the fields, Tiant had a brilliant career in the Major Leagues for 19 years. His performance with the Cleveland Indians (today Guardians) first and specially with the Boston Red Sox – he also played with the Minnesota Twins, the New York Yankees, the Pittsburgh Pirates and the California Angels – was enough for him to be considered as the

best Cuban pitcher to ever play in the MLB.

Since his debut, in 1964 and until the end of his career, in 1983, he added numbers that ratify the above statement: 229 victories versus 172 defeats, with 2,416 strikeouts in 3,486.1 innings, 187

complete games and an outstanding 3.30 earned run average per nine innings.

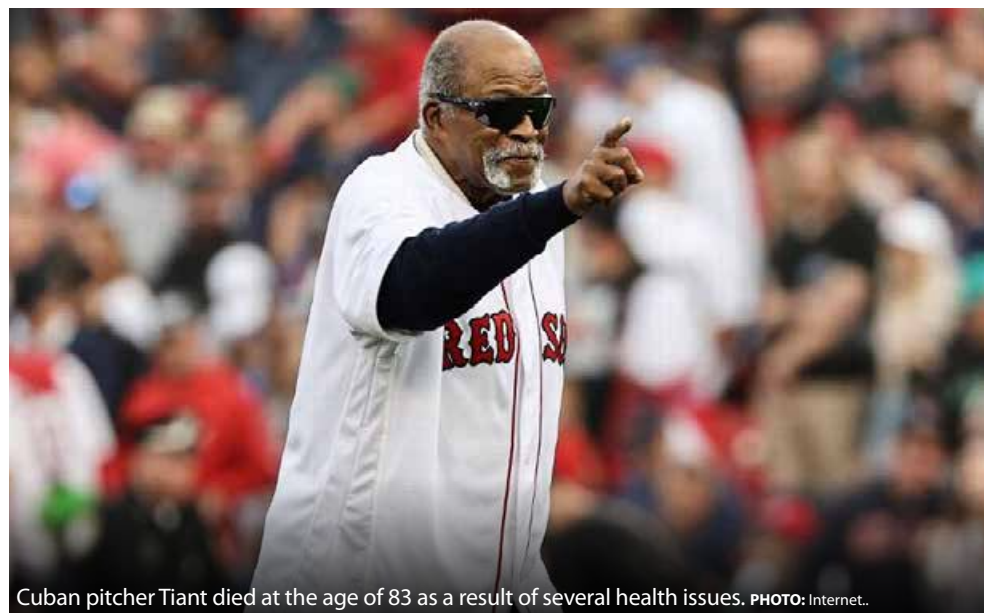
Awarded on three occasions with the chance to pitch in all-star games, the peak of his career goes back to 1975, when he led the Boston to win the American League and then defeated the Cincinnati Reds in the World Series in a couple of occasions, including the 6-0 win with only five hits, although the so-called Big

Red Machine became the champion in a dramatic seventh game.

Three consecutive seasons with a victory-defeat ratio of 21-12 (1976), 12-8 (1977) and 13-8 (1978) place him in the top among those who have come out to the Fenway Park mound as a local, while in 13 out of his 19 seasons, he finished with two-digit victories – in four of those occasions, with 20 or more. Tiant closed eight seasons with over 200 innings played – in 1974, he threw 311 pitches – and averaged over 200 strikeouts in three seasons. He also deserved the American League Comeback Player of the Year Award in 1972 after a great performance of 15 victories and only six defeats, including six shutouts in 19 games and an excellent average of effectiveness of 1.91 (leader).

However, in spite of such a brilliant career, the Cuban pitcher was ignored since 1988 by voters in relation to his inclusion in the Cooperstown Hall of Fame.

Tiant also played one season with the Leones de La Habana team in the Cuban professional baseball (won the Rookie of the Year award); the Mexican League Tigres, and the Industriales de Valencia, Leones del Caracas and Tiburones de La Guaira teams in Venezuela, where he was exalted to the Hall of Fame in 2009.



Cuban pitcher Tiant died at the age of 83 as a result of several health issues. PHOTO: Internet.

National Visual Arts Awardee's Exhibition

By Ángel DARIÁN

MATANZAS.- The exhibition *Miradas Medulares*, by National Visual Arts Awardee José Villa Soberón and on display at the Pedro Esquerré Gallery, in this city, was included among the activities conducted to celebrate Cuban Culture Day.

The exhibition is composed of over 30 works, including canvases, small and large-format sculptures adapted to the gallery, where visitors can interact with the work.

Curator Meira Marrero highlighted that Villa not only stands out for being an excellent sculptor but his main achievement lies on the fact that he is an educator of new sculptors who, like him, will make their best in each piece, for the benefit of the national culture.

The exhibition shows works made in different periods and focused on developing a taste for sculpture among the audience, even though they are not knowledgeable about art, she said.

For his part, Soberón commented that in his works, he always likes to be fueled by young artists' vitality, as they have a fresh and renewed air and the exhibition is an example of that.



The exhibition display at the Pedro Esquerré Gallery is composed of over 30 works. PHOTO: George Carlos Roger.

An artwork is capable of passing on endless feelings that nourish the spirit, as culture and art in general in addition to be appreciated, should also be felt, said the 2008 National Visual Arts awardee.

Miradas Medulares was included in the program of activities conducted in this western city on occasion of the Culture Day

(October 20) and its objective was to show art in the territory and its relation to values linked to the Cubanness.

Soberón is famous for the numerous sculptures he has made of personalities such as Ernest Hemingway, John Lennon, Enriqueta Favez (the first woman to exercise medicine in Cuba and who did it wearing

men's clothes) and epidemiologist and discoverer of the agent responsible for the yellow fever, Carlos J. Finlay, among many other people.

His works, including over a hundred of medium and large-format pieces, are exhibited in public spaces in about 25 countries.



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