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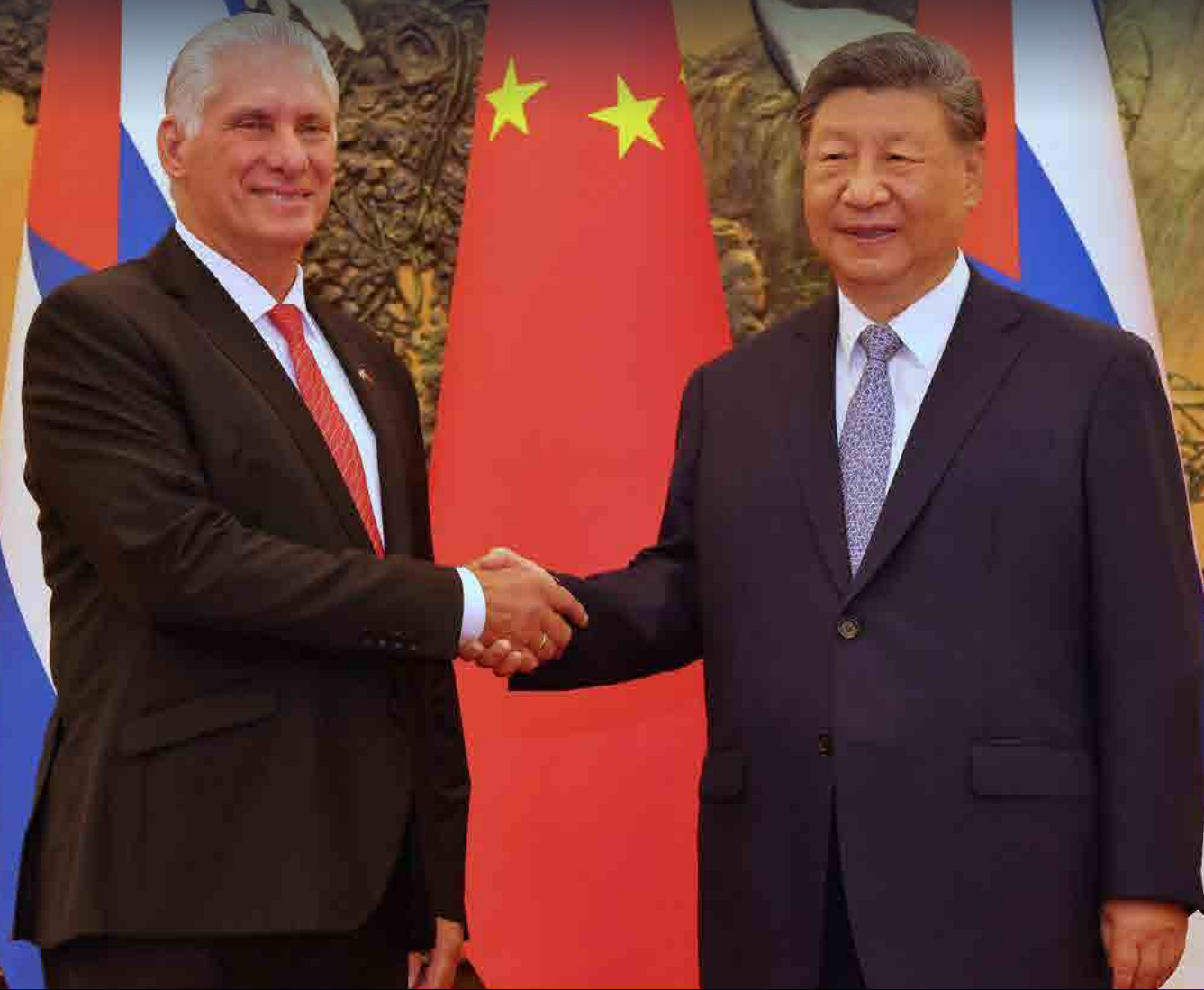
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Can Couples Rescue the Tourism Industry?

By Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

HAVANA.- Cuba's growing attractiveness as a Wedding Destination could add one more grain of sand to the efforts for the recovery of the travel industry in this country.

This perspective can well support several other facets of the industry to strengthen the arrival of foreign travelers on vacation, which would likewise consolidate the figures related to the island's tourism.

Hence, the most recent report on Cuba as a Wedding Destination signifies a new hope, in this case brought by couples from all over the world. Beautiful settings, structural conditions, hotels, and a professional team constitute the arguments, despite existing problems.

The Director General of Cubatur herself, Diana Beatriz Olivera, showed this optimism to the press with an interesting program for the second edition of the Expobodas Habana event, held from September 4th to 6th at the Hotel Nacional de Cuba.

Founded on April 1, 1963, the Cubatur Travel Agency is the oldest of its kind on the island in its type of operations and now leads this program.

According to Olivera, Destination Weddings—those where couples decide to marry in a celebration location different from their usual residence—are a proposal that attracts professionals in the sector and

in this modality from Mexico, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic.

The destination wedding industry is an ocean of opportunities, with more than

340,000 weddings celebrated annually worldwide.

Couples no longer just look for a place; they seek a multi-day experience that involves

their loved ones in an unforgettable journey.

The wedding market in some countries in the Americas alone generates 50 billion dollars a year, and within that market, destination weddings represent an impressive 16 billion dollars.

These figures are not just numbers, but a testament to the value couples place on authenticity and travel, certifies the expert. Therefore, Expobodas Habana is established as a platform in Cuba to capture a significant portion of that market, uniting the best providers and professionals to create events that exceed all expectations.

According to estimates, the average cost of a destination wedding is 28,000 dollars, an investment aimed at personalization, service quality, and exclusivity.

The average group size for a destination wedding is only 48 to 50 guests. This focus on a smaller, more intimate circle is key. 60 percent of couples who opt for a destination wedding assume all the costs. This means they are in charge, the true architects of their special day.

Furthermore, 36 percent of couples planning destination weddings hire a wedding planner, and experts indicate that this will foster networking in Cuba among different providers in the events and wedding industry, tour operators, and other interested parties.



The report on Cuba as a Wedding Destination signifies a new hope for the travel industry. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Dune Restoration Improves Beach Quality

By Neysa **MESA DEL TORO**

CIEGO DE ÁVILA.- The planting of native coastal plants is one of the main strategies to protect the beaches of the Jardines del Rey tourist destination, located on the northern cay archipelago of this central Cuban province. In this regard, specialists from the Center for Environmental

Engineering and Biodiversity (Ciba) of Morón, in Ciego de Ávila, are undertaking a project to rehabilitate and preserve the dunes of Playa Pilar on Cayo Guillermo, considered the highest in the Caribbean Islands.

Marisleys Castro, an Environmental Bioengineering specialist at Ciba and leader of the program aimed at developing sustainable tourism in the region, stated that in recent days they planted some 600 native seedlings of different varieties using the tube-stock propagation technique.

She explained that the vegetation on the dunes, besides maintaining the ecological harmony of the area, makes it possible to retain sand during extreme hydrometeorological events by dissipating the energy of waves and strong winds, thereby preventing erosion from the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Declared a protected area with the category of Outstanding Natural Element, the dunes of Cayo

Guillermo, with a height of 15 meters above sea level, are notable for the scenic values they offer to Playa Pilar, considered one of the most beautiful beaches in the region.

Managed by the Provincial Flora and Fauna Enterprise, the dunes extend across some 35 hectares of the coastline adjacent to the Iberostar Playa Pilar and Playa Luxury Cayo Guillermo hotels and are a refuge for six species of reptiles (some endemic) and 69 varieties of birds, both resident and migratory.

Also found in Jardines del Rey are the Loma del Puerto dunes, standing at 10 to 14 meters, the second-highest in the area. They belong to the West-Central Cayo Coco Ecological Reserve, an area protected for its high faunal value and good conservation.

Dunes are dynamic, variable, and very fragile ecosystems, exposed to the vulnerability of climate change, atmospheric phenomena, and human activity, making their restoration vital for maintaining the dynamic balance that makes the beach's existence possible.



The dunes of Playa Pilar on Cayo Guillermo are considered the highest in the Caribbean Islands. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

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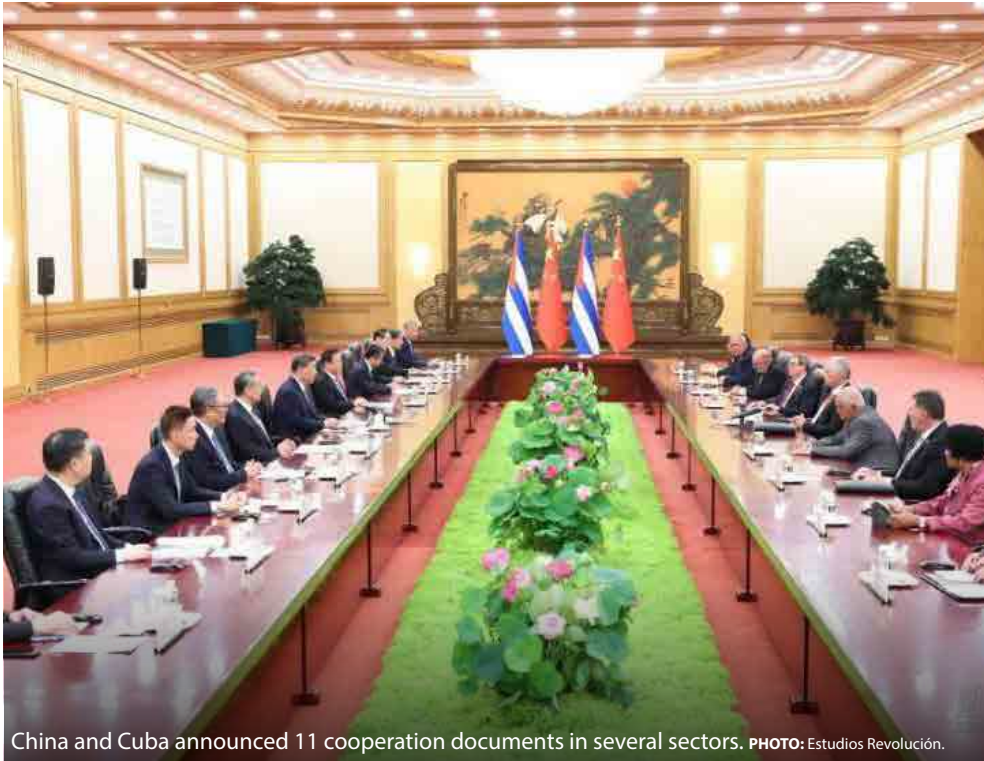
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Special friendship strengthened during President Díaz-Canel's visit



China and Cuba announced 11 cooperation documents in several sectors. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.

By Isaura **DIEZ**

BEIJING.- Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel visited China, where he participated in the military parade in Beijing, held talks with his Chinese counterpart, and commemorated the 65th anniversary of bilateral ties.

The president arrived in the Chinese capital on September 2 and on September 3 became the only president from Latin America and the Caribbean to attend the commemorative activities for the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the defeat of fascism.

During the same day, he visited the Communist Party of China History Museum and the joint venture Biotech Pharmaceuticals Limited (BPL), a leader in bilateral scientific cooperation, and praised the company's innovative capacity, which he said has gained maturity and stability and is facing current challenges.

Once at the island's embassy in the capital, the Caribbean leader held a videoconference with Cuban doctors and health specialists working in different provinces of China, some of which are difficult to access and have challenging climatic and geographical conditions.

He then spoke with members of the State Mission about the country's socioeconomic situation and cooperation projects between China and Cuba.

On September 4, Díaz-Canel held official talks with his host counterpart Xi Jinping, and both emphasized the special nature and "iron friendship" between the two countries.

The two leaders signed a joint statement to accelerate the construction of a community with a shared future between China and Cuba, and announced 11 cooperation documents in areas such as the Belt and Road, global security, local agriculture, artificial intelligence, and other sectors.

In the afternoon of that day, Díaz-Canel and Chinese Vice President Han Zheng co-chaired the ceremony marking the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

During the evening, both sides underscored the special bond marked by broad multisectoral cooperation, high mutual political trust, coordination on international issues, and mutual support.

At the event, the Cuban president awarded the Medal of Friendship with the Peoples to Yang Wanming, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Miguel Díaz-Canel traveled to Guangdong province and met with some 77 Chinese businesspeople interested in establishing or expanding their presence on the island.

He expressed his admiration and respect for China and praised the Asian giant's ability to increasingly open its doors to countries in the Global South amid a scenario marked by uncertainty.

The agenda there also included visits to places of historical interest and technology parks, as well as talks with top government and Communist Party officials in that province.

Priority and High Consideration

By Moisés **PÉREZ**

HANOI.- The official visits to Vietnam and Laos by the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (PCC) and President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel, ratified the priority and high consideration worthy of a relationship considered strategic. The leader described his three-day stay in Vietnam as "satisfactory and fruitful," notwithstanding all the activities for the 80th anniversary of the August Revolution and the National Day, in which he participated; he had the opportunity to meet with the country's top leaders.

This visit, he said, ratified the disposition, determination, and will of the Communist Party, the State, and the Government of Vietnam to work with Cuba, and their sensitivity towards the difficulties the country is currently facing as a result of the severely intensified U.S. economic, financial, and commercial blockade.

Díaz-Canel highlighted that this trip was undertaken with concrete results, almost a year after the state visit to Cuba by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and then President of the Republic, To Lam.

There is a change in the dynamics of business that opens new perspectives for advancing bilateral collaboration, particularly in the spheres of food production, consumer goods, and renewable energy, he stated.

In this sense, the Joint Declaration issued at the end of the visit agreed to praise the positive initial results, particularly the pilot models for rice cultivation, the Photovoltaic Solar Energy

Complex project, and the establishment of a joint venture for the manufacturing of pharmaceutical and biotechnological products.

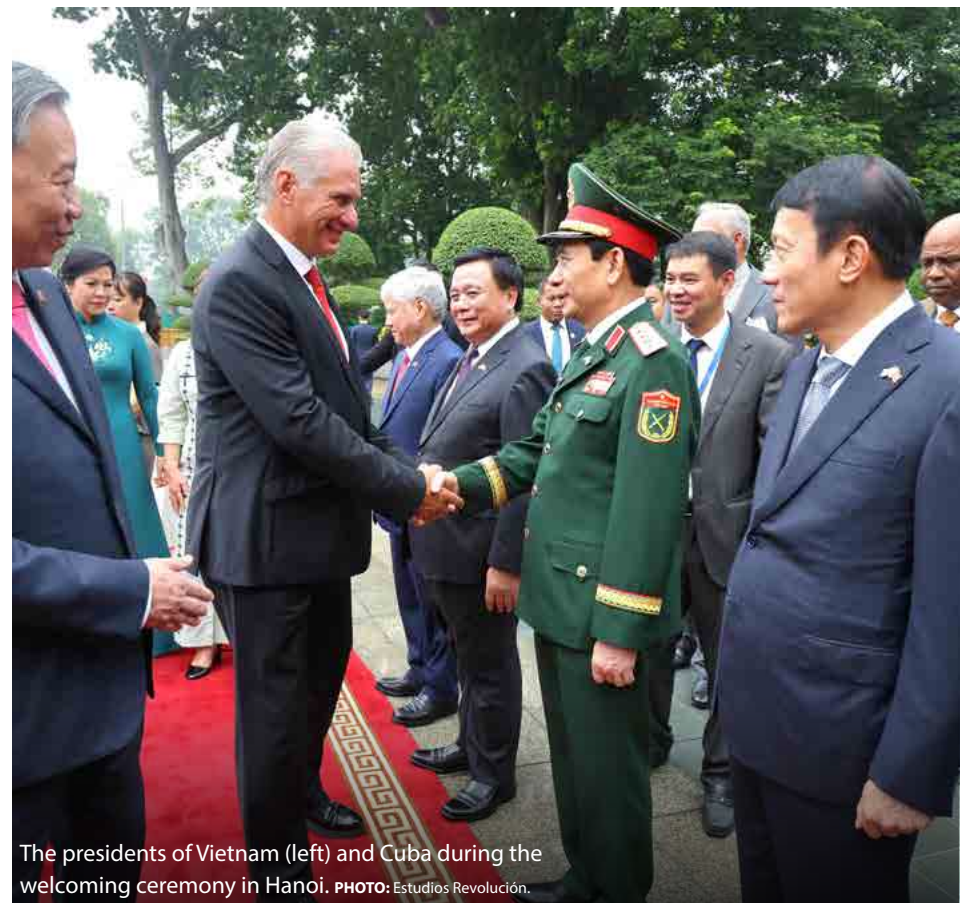
"The two parties have committed to supporting the creation of favorable conditions and stimulating the development of new cooperation models, suited to the characteristics of the situation and potential between research centers, training institutions, and companies," the document stated.

At a meeting with Vietnamese businesspeople headed by Díaz-Canel and Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, the latter urged them to "sacrifice their time, effort, and intelligence" to contribute to Cuba and to do so with a spirit of mutual benefits and shared risks.

When it came to visiting Laos, it was Díaz-Canel's first visit in his capacity as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the PCC and Cuban head of state, and his third to the small Indochinese nation, having previously visited it in 2013 and 2018.

In Vientiane, he completed an intense program that included meetings with the General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) and Laotian leader, Thongloun Sisoulith, with Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, and with the Vice President of the National Assembly and head of the Laos-Cuba Friendship Association, Chaleun Ylapaoher.

Díaz-Canel stated that Laos and Cuba are united by close, historical, and indestructible bonds of friendship and collaboration, which is why this visit reaffirms the high importance given to the development of bilateral ties and political dialogue.



The presidents of Vietnam (left) and Cuba during the welcoming ceremony in Hanoi. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.

Damages from US Blockade Increase

By Jorge**QUEVEDO**

HAVANA.- The damages caused by the United States blockade against Cuba increased in the last year by 7.556 billion dollars, denounced the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez.

Presenting the updated report from March 2024 to February 2025 before the diplomatic corps and the press, the Foreign Minister specified that this figure represents a 49 percent growth compared to the same previous period and emphasized that the suffering inflicted on the population is incalculable.

Rodríguez supported with data the damages caused by this hostile policy and mentioned, among others, losses of 2.570 billion dollars due to the loss of qualified personnel, a result of the heightened migratory flow.

Cuba's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) without the tightening of the hostile US policy would have been 9.2 percent, one of the highest in the world.

The minister pointed out that the historical losses of the Caribbean nation in over six decades of blockade stand at 170.677 billion dollars at current prices and at two

trillion 103 billion dollars at the value of gold.

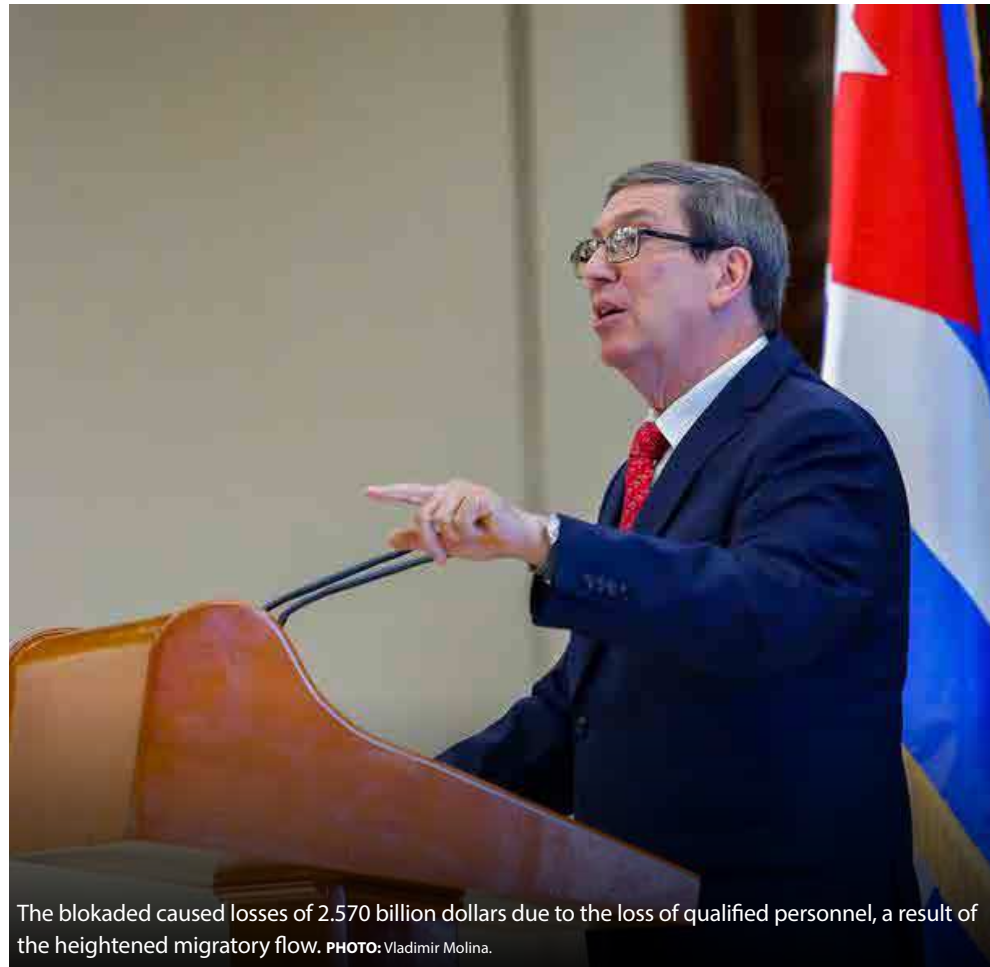
In his press conference, the Cuban foreign minister also addressed financial persecution and Cuban international collaboration.

He mentioned that due to pressure from the White House, some 40 foreign banks declined some 140 transfers, while also trying to deprive Cuba of legitimate income from medical collaboration and other sources.

Rodríguez denounced that the US military deployment in the Caribbean, aimed against Venezuela and its constitutional president Nicolás Maduro, also threatens Cuba and the entire region.

The diplomat reaffirmed that his government defends the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and called on the international community to mobilize for international law and the principles of the United Nations charter to preserve global stability.

He also called for the mobilization of governments, parliaments, civil society, political forces, and popular movements to stop a possible military aggression against Venezuela.



The blokaded caused losses of 2.570 billion dollars due to the loss of qualified personnel, a result of the heightened migratory flow. PHOTO: Vladimir Molina.

Foreign Minister's Activities in New York

By Deisy**FRANCIS**

NEW YORK.-Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez concluded a Meeting with Cuban residents in the United States and met with a group of doctors born in that country, who were representing the 245 graduates from the Havana-based Latin American School of Medicine.

Rodríguez was in this city leading the delegation that represented Cuba at the High-Level Segment of the 80th session of the General Assembly, which began its debates on September 23.

In the meeting with Cubans resident in this North American nation, the minister stated that the current UN session will be peculiar due to the enormous tensions existing globally, the proliferation of conflicts, the tariff war, and the use and threat of the use of force as an everyday tool.

He pointed out that these "are issues in which Cuba involves itself by tradition and conviction" and some of them "have a more direct relationship with Our America, such as the threatening military deployment currently taking place in the eastern Caribbean Sea, aimed against the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

He likewise mentioned relevant issues in the current international scenario, such as the genocide in Gaza and the loss of innocent lives, not only there, but also due to other conflicts in the world.

Rodríguez, furthermore, spoke about the impact of the long-standing blockade by successive US governments against the largest of the Antilles and noted that they have not yet moved to prohibit travel to Cuba, "but they are making it extremely difficult, employing intimidating actions."

He said this is reflected in the reduction of travel by Cubans in any immigration status in the United States, because

they face the great uncertainty of not being allowed entry afterwards.

He denounced the policy of harassment and threats, which "is truly atrocious and has in some way come to replace those privilege-seeking policies aimed at attracting, with the purpose of destabilization and harming our homeland," and the extreme tightening of the blockade, which is reflected in the daily lives of Cubans.

He invited his compatriots to participate more in the life of the country in general, and in their homeland, in their municipality, and in all ways, "which coincides with the determination of our people and our government."



The Cuban Foreign Minister met with young doctors from the United States who graduated in Cuba.

Another activity of the minister was his meeting with a representation of the 245 medical graduates from Cuba, a country he assured "will always be their home."

During the exchange, Jiddou Sirker (recently graduated in 2025 from the Latin American School of Medicine) noted that the experience on the island was an important stage in his life, and he appreciated the resilience capacity of its people.

Anecdotes, stories, and gratitude characterized this meeting, which aligns with that of thousands of other young people from countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean who received their medical degrees in Cuba, which, despite the blockade, continues to hold high the banners of international cooperation.

Two Decades of Humanitarian Work

By Ana Laura **ARBESÚ**



Three of the Henry Reeves brigades fought Ebola in West Africa, and 58 confronted the COVID-19 pandemic in 42 nations with over three thousand collaborators. PHOTO: Prensa Latina..

HAVANA.- It was late August 2005. A category five hurricane swept through the southern United States, ravaging from Florida to Texas, likewise hitting the city of New Orleans hardest, which was flooded due to its fragile embankment system.

From the cradle of jazz and blues, the images were devastating. This is how the story begins of a medical brigade formed by Cuban professionals, specialists in disaster situations, named after Henry Reeve (1850-1876), an American who joined this island's independence struggles against Spanish colonialism in the second half of the nineteenth century.

It was then-President Fidel Castro of Cuba who offered the neighboring nation's government the possibility of assistance from Cuban doctors to end the unfolding disaster. Cuba never received a response.

Days later, a brigade arrived in Guatemala, which was suffering from severe flooding, and a week later, more than 2,500 health workers traveled to Pakistan, where a 7.6 magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale killed 70,000 people.

To cooperate immediately in any country suffering a catastrophe, such as hurricanes, floods, and other phenomena, or confronting major epidemics that constitute natural and social disasters, is the primary role of this brigade, officially founded on September 19, 2005.

While commemorating the event two decades later, Cuban Vice Minister of Public Health Tania Cruz qualified the work of this Contingent as brave and humanist.

In the main speech for the anniversary, the official gave an account of this brigade's work since its creation, 90 groups with 13,000 professionals have provided service in 55 countries, saved 166,000 lives, and treated more than eight million patients in consultations.

In 1960, when an earthquake devastated Chile, 25 Cuban health professionals arrived in that nation. They carried no weapons, they carried stethoscopes and hope, Cruz emphasized.

Between 1960 and 2005, 30 medical brigades emerged and were deployed in 19 countries, the official recalled, later highlighting that they faced hurricanes, earthquakes, epidemics, and even the wrath of volcanoes.

She recounted the beginnings of the Contingent and highlighted the proposal of the Caribbean island's government: "Cuba offered its help and the United States rejected it, but the world never forgot the gesture," she stressed.

Cuban collaborators, she recalled, have worked since then in the thick snow of the Himalayas, under the intense sun of the Middle East, in Africa, in America, from the Rio Grande to the Patagonia, and in the Caribbean, and also in old Europe.

Of these brigades, three fought Ebola in West Africa, and 58 confronted the COVID-19 pandemic in 42 nations with over three thousand collaborators

Commitment to Ozone Layer Protection

By Daii **LIEM**

HAVANA.- Cuba celebrated this year's World Ozone Layer Protection Day, observed every September 16, with numerous activities in all provinces and in the context of the 30th anniversary of the Ozone Technical Office (Otoz). The nation is strengthening the role of environmental actions in the economy and society, promoting the reduction of the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

At a press conference on the occasion of the celebrations, Otoz confirmed that progress is being made in fulfilling the commitments signed by Cuba in the international arena, such as the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment.

The Montreal Protocol, with 198 signatory countries and five amendments, is considered the most successful international environmental agreement of the United Nations.

According to Dr. Nelson Espinosa, director of Otoz, without this agreement signed in 1987, the Earth's temperature could have increased by more than two degrees Celsius to date. Espinosa explained that specifically in these years, work in Cuba has focused on the control and gradual elimination of the production and consumption of industrial chemicals harmful to the environment. To date, 100 such substances have been eliminated. He noted the progress of the National Plan against hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), organic

compounds used in air conditioners and other devices, and the elimination of methyl bromide and carbon tetrachloride.

He also reported positive results in the fields of refrigeration, medicine packaging, and other applications.

Regarding the issue, engineer Armando Gómez, a specialist at Otoz, highlighted the training work for refrigeration system technicians and mentioned challenges in the country considering the replacement of HCFCs as greenhouse gases.

This substitution seeks to implement options with low global warming potential based on natural refrigerants, according to the specialist.

By 2030, Cuba is firmly moving towards the elimination of all HCFC gases and plans

the same goal for the chlorofluorocarbons used in refrigeration, foams, and aerosols, according to Otoz experts.



Acosta Dance Celebrates a Decade of Life

By Martha **SÁNCHEZ**

HAVANA.- Among his points of pride, Carlos Acosta counts the fact that audiences around the world, beyond his own name, now seek out that of Acosta Dance, the company he founded a decade ago in his native Cuba.

"They see it as something that represents the country; that was one of the main objectives to achieve: when Acosta Dance performs outside of Cuba, it is our country that is dancing on that stage," the proud director stated in exclusive comments to **The Havana Reporter**.

The company celebrated a decade of history in Havana at the National Theatre, with performances on September 5th, 6th, and 7th—ten years that, according to its creator, have flown by.

"If you look back, it seems like just yesterday we were at the National Ballet School, working in those first days and trying to assemble the idea of a company that would unite contemporary and variety dancers with ballet dancers, and where everyone could take on any choreographic challenge," he reflected.

The dancer, choreographer, and teacher dreamed of artists capable of taking on

urban dance just as well as folkloric dance, as that mix reflects the essence of his company's concept.

"It was truly difficult to balance the cast and have artists from different backgrounds integrate as one. But by the second year, you could already see the emergence of something completely different," recounted the only Cuban to hold the National Dance Award in both Cuba and the United Kingdom, where he directs the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

This year, Acosta was recognized as Lord Mayor for his exceptional contributions to that city. However, his prior career as a star of The Royal Ballet in London not only earned him the title of Sir but also placed him in the Olympus of universal dance history.

The idol to generations of dancers around the planet assures that his intention was never to compete with the companies already existing in his country; quite the opposite.

"I conceived my project as a summary of the knowledge of those groups. In a way, Acosta Dance is also a tribute to the three great national companies: the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, and the Conjunto Folclórico Nacional," he detailed.

Over the course of a decade, Acosta has linked his company to extraordinary choreographers such as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Justin Peck, María Rovira, Marianela Boán, Goyo Montero, Saburo Teshigawara, Pontus Lidberg, Christopher Bruce, Jorge Crecis, among others.

"I won't say everything has been easy because that's not true. We have had to face difficulties. We postponed some

projects we started with, but we have never stopped, and that determination has brought us to the place we are in now," he asserted.

In 2025, Acosta Dance received the UK National Dance Award for Best Mid-Size Company and holds other awards in that European country, where it can boast of having been selected for years among the best ensembles performing on its stages.



WHEN Acosta Dance performs outside of Cuba, it is our country that is dancing on that stage, said the proud director. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

A Festival for the Family

By Ángel **SANTA CRUZ**

MATANZAS.- The fifth edition of the Varadero Josone Festival: Rumba, Jazz, Son, once again showcased the event's ability to bring together different musical genres under the premise of pleasing families.



The Varadero Josone Festival is conceived and designed for the enjoyment of every family. PHOTO: Internet.

Facing the immense challenge of holding a week-long edition for the first time, thereby breaking with the traditional structure of four nights of concerts, Varadero Josone 2025 proved—despite complex circumstances—that music is capable of healing and bringing out the sabrosura (flavor/rhythm) that every Cuban carries inside.

"This Festival is conceived and designed for the enjoyment of every family, so they can come together and experience music for all tastes and thus spend incredible nights," stated Isaac Delgado, the leading figure of the musical project.

"Giving opportunities to new musical trends and to those trying to make their way in this world, while also featuring established stars, is something truly distinctive that the audience appreciates in every edition," assured Delgado.

For Alaín Pérez, one of the artists who has repeated appearances at these events, the festival flows thanks to everyone's effort and the ability to unite, and caring, nothing more than taking the stage and each giving their best.

"Isaac and his entire team have created a different Festival that is eagerly awaited every year, because enjoying four or five bands in a single concert night is something very special," he emphasized.

Under the slogan "Mira Como Vengo" ("Look How I Come"), which also titles Delgado's latest record production, the fifth edition of Varadero Josone maintained the status of this Cuban resort town in the western province of Matanzas, as a musical reference point.

Artists from the United States, Argentina, Colombia, and Cuba came together as brothers and sisters to demonstrate that good art does not need ideal worlds, but rather unbreakable wills capable of creating in the most complex situations.

Nearly 40 musical groups performed during the Festival's seven days, featuring exponents of dance music, reparto (a Cuban genre), son, jazz, and more.

They have left the door open for a new edition, already planned for August 2026, with the certainty that the Varadero Josone Festival: Rumba, Jazz, Son is one of the most important events of its kind, not only in Cuba but also worldwide.



The Almost Unknown Journalistic Feats of Ángel Boan

By Jorge**LUNA**

HAVANA.- Although he had already delivered several hard-hitting journalistic pieces for Prensa Latina, the experienced correspondent Ángel Boan died on the day he was set to undertake his biggest assignment: the first visit of Commander Ernesto Che Guevara to Algeria.

Boan was representing the young Latin American news agency there when Che arrived in that North African country, which was being aggressed by Morocco and with which Cuba was beginning strong ties of collaboration in health and military advisory.

It was July 18, 1963, and since early morning Che was touring the country's southern roads in a caravan, but the car Boan was traveling in had a violent accident and the journalist of a thousand feats died immediately.

Deeply affected by Boan's death, Che asked for the Cuban doctor Manuel Cedeño, who was providing services in Setif, to be brought in to embalm Boan's remains so they could be taken to Havana, as recounted by Gabriel Molina, another Prensa Latina correspondent who would replace him in Algiers. The agency thus lost one of its best journalists. Later, others would fall, murdered, victims of the aggressions by the United States and its allies against Cuba and Prensa Latina, the first media project to serve as an alternative to the U.S. information monopoly.

What did Boan do before Algeria to be considered among the best? He was - along with the Cuban Francisco V. Portela and the Colombian Gabriel García Márquez - one of the agency's first correspondents in the United States, with an office right in the heart of Manhattan, New York, where he came to know the political, economic, social, and cultural intimacies of that society. The fruit of his sharp observations and reports was the book "Two Years Behind the Gum Curtain", which covers various events and anecdotes from his stay in the United States, including an interview - that no one else had managed to get - with a man condemned to death for murder, hours before his execution—a highly publicized case at the time. It was a frank conversation with Caryl Chessman, sentenced to the electric chair two years prior, which surprised the

most prominent American journalists of the time. It is still not known exactly how he managed it.

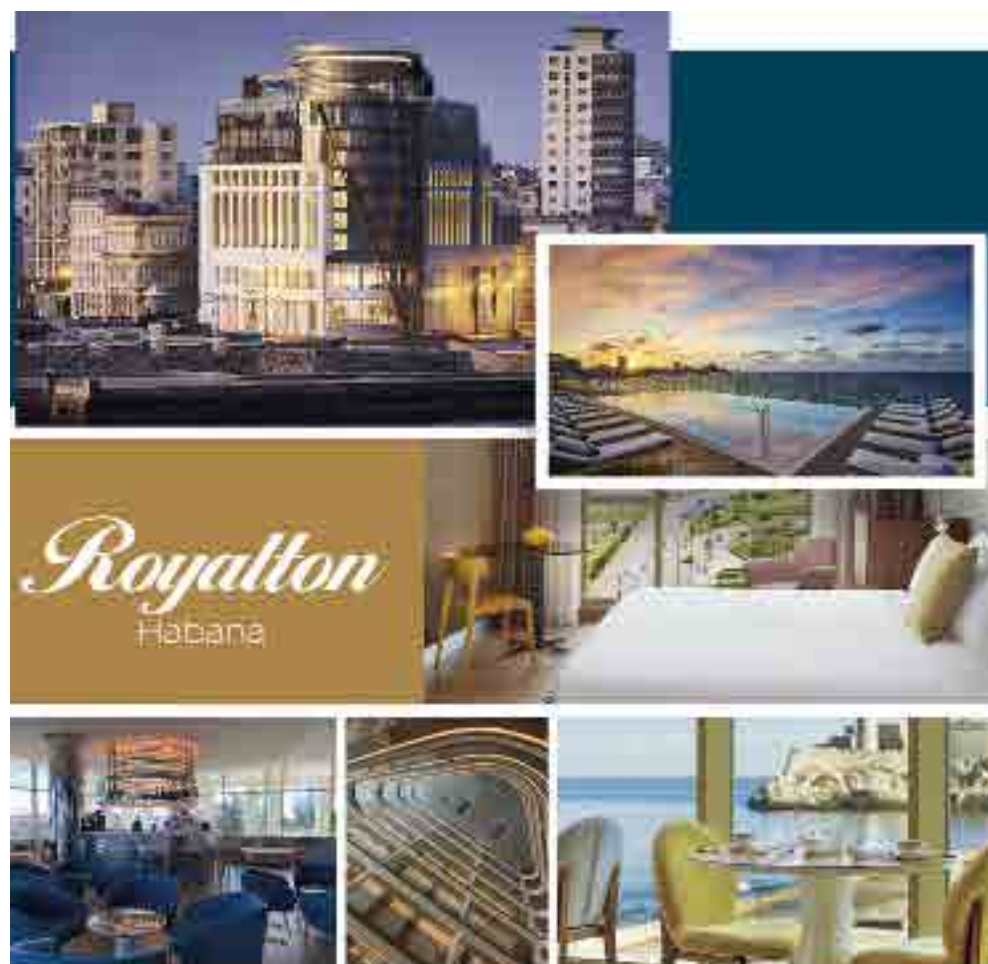
Boan found journalism amusing and, according to those who knew him, on one occasion he managed to surprise the Dominican dictator (Trujillo) with a fake interview.

Before the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, Boan was exiled in Guatemala, where he worked in the government of Jacobo Árbenz until its overthrow by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). After leaving Guatemala, he found refuge in Mexico until returning to Cuba in the 1950s, where he practiced political journalism.

Today, when remembering the tragic death of Boan, it is also good to delve into his short but extraordinary life, full of true feats of Latin American journalism.



Ángel Boan's burial at the Colón Cemetery in Havana. PHOTO: Archives



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Media Forum Reinforces Global South Cooperation

By Kmila**CASTRO**

KUNMING.- Some 200 representatives from 165 media outlets and institutions from 87 countries debated in China about the shared responsibility of contributing to mutual learning between civilizations and the new world order.

The 2025 Belt and Road Media Cooperation Forum was held from September 15 to 17 in this city in Yunnan province.

The Latin American News Agency Prensa Latina, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Belt and Road News Network (BRNN), was present alongside other colleagues from Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, and other representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The event also debated the need to expand cooperation between media, think tanks, and governments in an era marked by profound international changes, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), and systemic crisis.

Since its creation in 2014, this forum has brought together, across nine different editions, over a thousand representatives from global media and international and regional organizations from about 100 countries and regions.

The Vice President of Prensa Latina, Alejandro Gómez, advocated for the construction of a more just and inclusive communicational order for the Global South.

Gómez stated that Southern media have the responsibility to articulate synergies and amplify the truth of their nations in the face of challenges like disinformation and unilateral coercive measures.

The executive affirmed that projects like the Belt and Road are decisive contributions to cooperation and dialogue between civilizations.

He highlighted Prensa Latina's commitment to highlighting the efforts of the peoples of the Global South in building sovereign and sustainable development models.

He mentioned the unjust and illegal US economic blockade against Cuba as a clear example of coercion that must be denounced and proposed reinforcing the collective commitment against the law of the strongest and giving more voice to Global South countries.

He invited others to join the Global South Voices initiative, which already brings together information from a hundred international media outlets.

For his part, Leonardo Attuch, CEO of Editora 247, Brazil, advocated for concrete practices to consolidate this vision, recalling that the focus of development is moving towards the Global South and stating that to achieve a more just, sustainable, and inclusive globalization, the mission of media and think tanks is to be a bridge between civilizations.

Amin Alhassan, Director General of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation, emphasized that "we must publish stories that reflect our hopes and aspirations and not those that contribute to reinforcing our fears."

Organized jointly by the People's Daily, the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Yunnan, and the People's Government of this province, the forum had as its theme "Shared Responsibility of Media for the Exchange and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations."



The Vice President of Prensa Latina, Alejandro Gómez, advocated for the construction of a more just and inclusive communicational order for the Global South. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

University Collaboration with Spain

By Fidel**ALEJANDRO**

CAMAGÜEY.- The University of Camagüey (UC) is consolidating its international outreach following the success of academic cooperation initiatives, such as a recent one on aging and heritage developed alongside its counterpart in Seville, Spain.

This project, concluded in August 2025, reflects the commitment of the UC's Directorate of International Relations to strengthen global ties that positively impact the institution's scientific and social agenda.

The course, focused on the diagnosis and characterization of facilities for older adults in the historic center of Camagüey, allowed a fruitful exchange between students and professors from both universities.

The Spanish participants donated measurement equipment and collaborated on studies that will serve as a basis for future research by the City Historian's Office, demonstrating how binational cooperation drives local development.

A tangible result of this collaboration is the planned construction of the first Day Care Center for Alzheimer's patients in Cuba, an achievement

that underscores the strategic value of these exchanges.

The UC, in alliance with Spanish institutions, continues this year with similar programs addressing global challenges such as public health, heritage preservation, and technological innovation, aligned with the objectives of the Cuban National Plan for Economic and Social Development.

The closing ceremony of the course was attended by Rector Dr. C. Julio Madera Quintana and the Cuban coordinator Dr. C. Marisabel Almeida Torrens, who highlighted the organization, teamwork, and human impact of this initiative.

Students from Seville emphasized the welcome and cultural enrichment they experienced during their 45 days in Camagüey, reinforcing bilateral ties.

Thus, the University of Camagüey maintains its momentum in internationalization, with current projects that include areas such as cybersecurity, geography, and social work, always with a focus on sustainable development and local relevance.

New Scholarships Awarded for Haitian Youth

By Michel**VARONA**

PORT-AU-PRINCE.-Cuba maintains its commitment to the people of Haiti and has awarded 32 scholarships for young people born in this Caribbean nation to build their future at universities in the largest of the Antilles.

At the headquarters of the Cuban diplomatic mission in Haiti, Ambassador Carlos Moya recently met with the 25 selected to pursue higher education in institutions of the neighboring island's Ministry of Public Health.

Another seven students will begin their professional training in different specialties under the Ministry of Higher Education.

These 32 young people have before them the example of the academic prowess of Jonas Jean, a poor Haitian man who recently graduated this year from the University of Medical Sciences in Santiago de Cuba.

The young man born in Cité Soleil, one of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince, embodies perseverance and determination, as he traveled a path marked by challenges and sacrifices. Jean is a true source of inspiration for all those who believe in the power of education and persistence. Jonas Jean was one of the 299 graduates of the Faculty of Medicine and the number one student of the University of Medical Sciences of Santiago de Cuba, which graduated 598 new doctors this year. Among the foreign graduates, Jean was one of the 10 Haitians who studied this career on the largest Caribbean island.

The Rector's Office of the University of Medical Sciences Santiago de Cuba awarded the Haitian doctor the Scientific Merit Award, the University Faculty Award, and the highest distinction: the Award for the Most Well-Rounded Student of the University and the Faculty.

The newspaper Juno 7 emphasized that these awards are a testament to his academic excellence and commitment to medicine.

"You have to work hard and take advantage of all the opportunities that arise. I never had the idea of being the best student, but I always had the goal of succeeding," stated the Haitian doctor.

Jean published several papers, including a study on the prescription of methyldopa in hypertensive disorders during pregnancy.

This research, conducted at the Mariana Grajales Hospital in Santiago de Cuba, aimed to characterize patients with high blood pressure during pregnancy and to improve drug prescription practices.

His story shows that a person's place of origin does not determine their future, but rather what they do with opportunities.

"Life is not about where you were born, but what you do with the chances you have," he said.

Jean, the son of Cité Soleil, not only illuminated Cuba with his achievements, but continues to inspire an entire generation in Haiti and beyond.

His journey—in the newspaper's opinion—is a beacon of hope for many young Haitians who dream of overcoming obstacles and achieving their ambitions.

An Ode to Social Song



The event was dedicated to musicians Marta Valdés and the recently deceased Eduardo Sosa, prominent exponents of the Cuban singer and songwriting music. PHOTO: Internet.

By Adriana **ARAÚJO**

HAVANA.- A space for the trova women perform takes place in September every year with the Ella y Yo Festival, which brings together artists from Cuba and Latin America in an ode to social song.

The 8th edition of this event was dedicated to musicians Marta Valdés and Eduardo Sosa, prominent exponents of the Cuban singer and songwriting music.

Until her death at the age of 90, teacher Marta Valdés (1934-2024) dedicated her life to composing and singing, and this festival served as an opportunity to learn about her work as a teacher.

A special place was given to beloved troubadour Eduardo Sosa, who was honored since the very beginning of the event for the empathy he always showed for the people and the trova movement.

Born in Santiago de Cuba, Sosa died in February this year in the city of Guantánamo and was one of the driving forces behind the Ella y Yo Festival of Female Singers. He captivated the audience with his deeply rooted compositions and unique Cuban style.

Sosa dedicated a long part of his life to singing to unity, peace among the peoples, love and even irreverence, with themes that arouse from his encounters with the muses and assert the songs made by women from Latin America and the rest of the world.

Singer and songwriters from Spain, Paraguay, Chile and Argentina, including the Cuban provinces of Ciego de Ávila, Guantánamo, Villa

Clara and Havana, shared their performances, while Madrid-based instrumentalist Virginia Rodrigo delighted the audience since the very start.

Rodrigo, a box (drum) player, offered a special moment, as the masterful way she performed the instrument received the ovation of the audience.

Pureheid, a trio of female singers from Paraguay, was also applauded wildly for their performances in the Guaraní language.

Songs by Silvio Rodríguez, the driving force behind the Nueva Trova movement and the protagonist of that musical trend alongside Pablo Milanés, were also heard, including Te amaré, La maza, and Óleo de una mujer con sombrero, which were chorused by the audience.

The Fine Arts Museum, the National Museum of Music, the Cuban Writers and Artists Association, and the "Fresa y Chocolate" Cultural Center, were some of the venues that witnessed the social-song festival; even children had their space at this gathering of female singers.

Theoretical events also led to days of creativity, and the screening of audiovisual materials highlighted every moment, particularly the documentary Soberana del tiempo, by filmmakers Juan Carlos Travieso and Raúl Nogués.

The 2025 festival of bohemian gatherings is all history now and troubadours in Cuba and other parts of the world are putting a hold on their guitar strings and minstrel gatherings to dedicate themselves to what they do best: making poetry.

Cuban Artists Nominated for the 2025 Latin Grammy Awards

By **The Havana Reporter Staff**

HAVANA.- The Cuban Institute of Music (ICM) announced the nomination of several Cuban artists and albums for the 2025 Latin Grammy Awards, to be held next November.

In an official statement, the institution indicated that the country again shows that it is an unstoppable musical power, and that its talent, rhythm and soul continue to win the hearts and the world's most important stages.

The list of nominees includes young Camila Guevara (Best New Artist); Isaac Delgado (Best Salsa Album) for Mira Como Vengo, and the Failde Orchestra (Best Traditional Tropical Album) for Caminando Piango Piango, while Lucas y Sombras, by the Iván Melon Lewis Trio, is competing for the Best Latin Jazz/Jazz Album.

Also competing for the Best Contemporary Tropical Album are the albums Bingo, by Alain Pérez and Ilusión Óptica, by Pedrito

Martínez. The Best Instrumental Album category includes Alma en Cuba, by Ariel Brínguez & Iván Melon Lewis, and Havana Meets Harlem, by the Harlem Quartet ft. Aldo López Gavilán.

The Cuban Institute of Music congratulated the rest of the nominees from other countries, who are also in the running for one of the most important awards in the Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. music. The 26th edition of the 2025 Latin Grammy Awards ceremony will take place at the MGM Garden Arena in Las Vegas, the United States, next November 13.



Chucho Valdés and Tributes to Fitzgerald and Ellington in Barcelona

By Fausto **TRIANA**

MADRID.- One of the greatest exponents of jazz and music at large, Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés, stands out among the highlights of the Barcelona Festival, starting October 10.

The news was announced by the organizers of the 57th Barcelona Jazz Festival, a kind of a marathon session of the genre scheduled until March 1, 2026 that includes tributes to Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington.

Founder of the Irakere band and winner of several Grammy Awards – being the most recent the Latin Grammy for Best Jazz Album in 2023 – Chucho Valdés (83) is one of the world's leading jazz figures at present.

The festival will include different styles and artists, such as Laurie Anderson; Janis Siegel, singer and founder of Manhattan Transfer; Tomatito and Yeraí Cortés, flamenco exponents, and a project that brings Amy Winehouse back to the forefront.

Tito Ramoneda, the festival's director, announced that the event's program features 48 concerts across 10 venues, including the Palau de la Música Catalana, the Jamboree, the Liceu Conservatory, and the Gran Teatre del Liceu.

A special highlight is the preview, by the festival's artistic director, Joan Anton Cararach,

of The Moment of Truth, a tribute to Fitzgerald that will take place at the opening concert and will be performed by the Barcelona Jazz Orchestra, with Tricia Boutté as guest vocalist.

In addition to this unique venue, on October 10 at the Palau de la Música Catalana, the organizers hope to rescue the spirit of the legendary concert Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington performed on January 1966, a tribute featuring the Sant Andre Jazz Band with the concert Ellingtoniana.

Since the program is so extensive, the aforementioned performance is scheduled for November 28, along with 14 master classes to be held at the Conservatori Liceu.

In addition, Andrea Motis will present two premieres: a project dedicated to Amy Winehouse, with the participation of the Barcelona Gospel Messengers, and the Andrea Motis Guitar Trio.

Spain's essential flamenco spirit will also include the show De Cajón, featuring renowned figures such as Miguel Poveda, Israel Fernández and El Relojero, Tomatito, Yeraí Cortés, José Mercé, Soleá Morente, Dorantes, Rafael Riqueni, Las Migas, and the special show Así canta Jerez en Navidad.

The Draft Labor Code Bill is under consultation

By Luis **OCAMPO**

HAVANA.- Cuba is developing a unique worldwide process of consultations on the draft bill of the Labor Code, an updated regulation in line with the country's current context, affirmed union and government leaders in the capital.

Osnay Miguel Colina, president of the Organizing Committee for the XXII Congress of the Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC - Cuban Workers' Federation), recalled that the current legislation was signed in 2013, so the new text reflects that Cuba's current reality is more inclusive, and has greater reach and benefits.

In relation to the subject, Leobanys Ávila, also a union leader, highlighted that the analyses include all workers, unionized or not, a figure that exceeds two million.

At the national headquarters of the CTC in the Cuban capital, Olgalidi Alapón, from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, explained that the Labor Code reconstructs and integrates its legal foundations based on the multiple legislative processes that have taken place on the island in recent years, essentially stemming from the Constitution of the Republic approved in 2019.

The expert from the Directorate of Legal Affairs and International Relations stated that guidelines from the International Labor Organization were taken into account, likewise some 90 international agreements, plus treaties, conventions, and regulations from some 17 countries were studied.

The new text is mandatory for all forms of economic management in the Caribbean nation, reinforces the

prohibition of forced labor, individual rights, and the participation of all workers in decision-making.

The new legal framework in Cuba protects training abroad, provides for telework and the right to so-called digital disconnection, and also stipulates that the employer is obligated to provide insurance for employees.

These were, among others, the novelties presented at the press conference in Havana, but the new labor code has 525 articles and some 2,700 paragraphs, with more rights and more guarantees, the panelists agreed.

The consultation process for the draft bill of the Labor Code in Cuba will continue until November 30. All proposals are considered and, although they are not binding, they do carry weight in the final drafting of the text to be presented in July 2026 before the National Assembly of People's Power, the only body with legislative authority in Cuba.

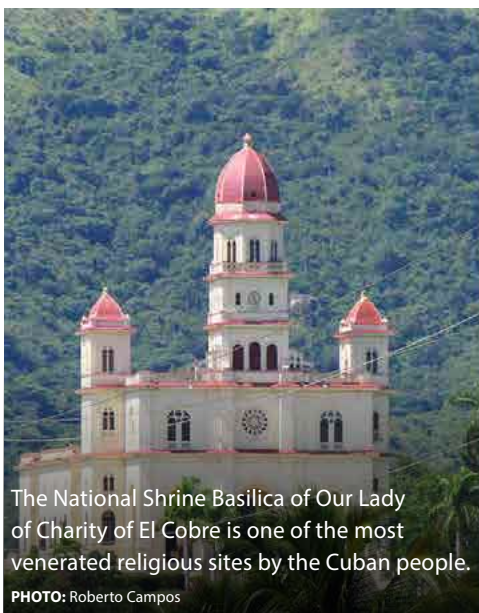


The new Code includes guidelines from the International Labor Organization, plus treaties, conventions, and regulations. PHOTO: ACN.

Virgin of Charity of El Cobre, Patron Saint of Cuba

By Daimarelys **PÉREZ**

HAVANA.- On September 8th, Cubans celebrated the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre, the Patron Saint of Cuba, a solemn title



The National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre is one of the most venerated religious sites by the Cuban people.

PHOTO: Roberto Campos

proclaimed by Pope Benedict XV in 1916 at the request of the veterans of the War of Independence.

Pope Pius XI authorized the canonical coronation of the sacred image. On the morning of December 20, 1936, the ceremony was performed by the then Bishop of Santiago de Cuba, Monsignor Valentín Zubizarreta.

Later, in homage to the people of Cuba during his visit to the island in 1998, Pope John Paul II, then Saint John Paul II, crowned and blessed the image of the Patron Saint of Cuba during the third Mass he officiated, which was celebrated in the Antonio Maceo Square in the city of Santiago de Cuba.

This pope called for never forgetting the great events related to Charity and recalled the singular place the Virgin Mary occupies in the mission of the church, to whom Saint John Paul II himself was devoted.

The feast day of the image is commemorated on September 8th, the birth and nativity of the Virgin Mary. She is also called Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre or simply Cachita.

According to accounts from the time, this icon appeared in 1612, or in early 1613, in

the Bay of Nipe, the largest on the island, and was sighted by three men: a 10-year-old black boy (Juan Moreno) and two brothers of pure Indian blood (Juan and Rodrigo de Hoyos), who worked as slaves in the copper mines of the region. The trio is known in Cuban lore as "the three Juans."

The youths, who had gone to fetch salt, spotted the image of the Virgin with the Child Jesus in her arms—the very object of veneration for Cubans—approaching as it floated on a plank, and on it could be read the phrase: "I am the Virgin of Charity."

Currently, visitors to the shrine often return to their homes with tiny stones in which the copper from the mine shines, and it is said that those who keep them possess special protection and a noble future in their personal and family lives.

The Basílica Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre (National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre) is one of the most venerated religious sites by the Cuban people; arriving from different territories of the nation, faithfuls seek spiritual consolation from the Patron

Saint of Cuba, along with resolution for their personal yearnings and the problems that affect all humankind.

This chapel was inaugurated on September 8, 1927, and features an altar of solid silver and other ornamental objects of great value.

Beneath the Virgin's Camarín (shrine) is the so-called Chapel of Miracles, where believers deposit diverse offerings, such as gold jewelry and precious stones, amulets, among other objects of value. Approximately 500 people visit the site every day.

The Nobel Prize in Literature winner, Ernest Hemingway, gave the medal he was awarded to the venerated Patron Saint of Cuba, stating that this act was in recognition of the Cuban people, the inspiration for his work "The Old Man and the Sea," for which he received the highest award in literature in Stockholm.

Oshun, an orisha (goddess) from the Afro-Cuban religion of Yoruba origin venerated in Santería, is syncretized with the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre. This deity, brought from Africa, reigns over fresh waters, streams, springs, and rivers.

Crocodiles and travelers

Text and Photos Roberto F. CAMPOS

HAVANA.- The search for nature, adventure, and rural tourism is bringing a new trend in Cuba, responding to travelers interested in exploring the island's crocodile habitats.

This motivation is currently linked to two breeding and rearing centers for these animals: the Zapata swamp and the Lanier swamp, both in the west of the island. The former is in the southern part of Matanzas province, and the latter is in the "Isla de la Juventud" special municipality.

These are sites of scientific research, but also frequently visited by Cuban and foreign vacationers, with Zapata being the most outstanding example.

Specialists indicate that these reptiles can make sudden turns, run on land and water at 80 kilometers per hour or over, and strike quickly at any human being. So, what is the point of tourism in confronting these monsters?

Well, it seems that despite such dangers, crocodiles have a lot to do with a good vacation, as these centers are highly attractive to tourists.

Both Zapata and Lanier swamps are home to the two main crocodile species in the country: the Cuban crocodile and the American crocodile.

The Cuban crocodile has a comparatively short snout and reaches about 3.5 meters in length. It belongs to a group of reptiles whose existence on the planet dates back more than 70 million years, making them contemporary with the dinosaurs.



Bolsonaro Sentenced in Brazil

By Osvaldo **CARDOSA**

BRASILIA.- Extreme right politician Jair Bolsonaro made history in Brazil as the first former president convicted of attempting to undermine the democracy that defeated him at the polls in 2022.

On September 11, the first chamber of the Supreme Federal Court sentenced Bolsonaro to 27 years and three months in prison, after finding him guilty of attempting a coup d'état to remain in office despite his electoral defeat to current president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Four of the five judges who made up the panel found the former president guilty of five serious charges, in a ruling that marks a historic milestone in the Brazilian justice system.

The former Army captain is facing charges of attempted coup d'état, participation in an armed criminal organization, attempted violent abolition of the Democratic Rule of Law, violent damage, and damage to historical heritage.

For the first time, a politician elected president by popular vote was convicted by the highest court for violently conspiring to remain in power.

Between extraordinary and ordinary sessions, the trial continued until September 12, following the complaint filed by the Attorney General's Office in February, after the so-called Operation Countercoup.

COUP PLOT

The investigation revealed the existence of an alleged conspiracy organized by Bolsonaro and part of his inner circle

– including military personnel, former ministers and advisors – to prevent Lula's swearing-in ceremony.

Key events took place between November 2022 and January 2023, a period of political tension that led to unprecedented episodes of violence in the federal capital.

According to the Federal Attorney General's Office, the group drafted unconstitutional

decrees, exerted pressure on the Armed Forces, and planned violent actions that ended up in the assault and plundering of the headquarters of the Three Powers in Brasilia on January 8, 2023.

Although Bolsonaro was in the United States during the attacks, the evidence gathered – including messages, recordings, and testimony from whistleblowers, such as his former deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Mauro Cid – directly links him to the conspiracy.

The former president's defense team announced they will appeal the conviction, calling the sentences "absurdly excessive" and saying that they will file "the appropriate appeals, including at the international level," according to a statement published on the social media platform X by Fabio Wajngarten, one of Bolsonaro's collaborators.

Never before in Brazil had a former head of State been tried and convicted for attacking the prevailing democracy.

Even though the country experienced military dictatorships and institutional breakdowns in the 20th century, none of those responsible for those periods faced justice in life.



Former President Bolsonaro sentenced to 27 years in prison. PHOTO: Internet.

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NAE Project Strengthens Business Process

By Tino**MANUEL**

HAVANA.- The holding of the NAE (New Economic Actors) Dialogues initiative received an additional boost at a recent meeting held at Quinta de los Molinos, in this capital.

About 60 businesspeople attended the meeting, in addition to representatives from the European Union (EU) and other entities that support the initiative.

EU representative in Cuba Amaya Olivares and director of the State Business System of the Cuban Ministry of Economics and Planning (MEP) Yovana Vega attended the opening ceremony.

On that occasion, they stated their satisfaction with the development of businesses, both private and state-owned, which aim to boost the nation's economy. Olivares commented that the Dialogues initiative represents a space with a dual purpose: first, to promote open and collaborative communication among those who boost initiatives and support and design public policies.

Second, to highlight the role the institutions play to achieve a real boost, a key word for the event in light of micro, small and medium-sized companies (MIPYMES) growth, which will contribute to their performance with financial viability and socioeconomic distribution, she added.

The NAE Dialogues promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized companies (MIPYMES) in Cuba, they commented.

With a focus on business strengthening and development, innovation and the leadership of women and youth in the Cuban business ecosystem, the cooperation project supports new economic actors to attain diversification.

Those present at the meeting pointed out that the NAE Project contributes to a more dynamic, inclusive and sustainable business ecosystem.

With an emphasis on public and private MIPYMES, non-agricultural cooperatives (CNA) and local development projects (PDL), this initiative fosters hope for problem-solving.

Committed to productive processes, the project seeks national reach and will work in strategic sectors such as sustainable food and agricultural systems, renewable energy, information and communication technologies, and cultural and creative industries.

The project has a budget of €14 million, funded by the European Union in Cuba.

The initiative is being launched in partnership with the MEP and its National Institute of Economic Research, the French Cooperation Agency in Cuba, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

In addition, it also includes the ministries of Foreign Trade and Investment, Communications, and Higher Education, as well as the National Institute of Non-State Economic Actors and the Cuban Central Bank.

The NAE Dialogues initiative brings together representatives of new economic actors, government officials, development partners, and civil society organizations, the participants indicated.

According to the organizers, the meeting included panel discussions, talks, critical perspectives, and debates.



Representatives from the European Union stated their satisfaction with the development of businesses, both private and state-owned. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Parranda Brewery Boosts Sales of Byproducts

By Tino**MANUEL**

HAVANA.- Cervecería Cubana S.A. is promoting the sale of byproducts for the country's agricultural and energy industries, thereby supporting the island's economy.

This producer of the well-known Parranda Beer and Malta Guajira brands announced that it has two byproducts generated during the manufacturing process available for sale: residual yeast and malt husks (brewers' spent grain).

These raw materials, of high nutritional and functional value, represent a sustainable opportunity for sectors such as animal feed, agriculture, the food industry, and biofuel production.

These products are notable for their richness in proteins, fibers, vitamins, and minerals, optimizing nutrition for cattle, swine, poultry, and aquaculture.

Such byproducts serve as organic fertilizers, inputs for biofuels, functional flours, and eco-friendly coverings for green infrastructure.

Company spokespersons insisted that in order to facilitate access for interested clients to these resources, they have established clear and transparent commercial terms to enable such access.

Therefore, they have organized orders in minimum lots of 20 tons (with no upper limit), competitive pricing, advance payments, and efficient logistics, states the company's communiqué.

Regarding the malt husks and residual yeast, they indicated that the primary goal of this initiative is to adhere to the principle of utilization and closing the production cycle of the industry.

In this way, they transform what was once a waste product into new business opportunities, reduce waste, generate economic value, and contribute to the sustainable development of the country's agricultural, energy, and food sectors.

Cervecería Cubana S.A. reaffirms its commitment to innovation and the circular economy, the message concludes.



Cervecería Cubana S.A. announced that it has two byproducts for sale: residual yeast and malt husks (brewers' spent grain). PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



The Minister explained the causes of the current difficult energy situation in the country. PHOTO: Cubadebate.

Measures to Alleviate the Grave Energy Situation

By **The Havana Reporter Staff**

HAVANA.- The Minister of Energy and Mines of Cuba, Vicente de la O Levy, announced measures being adopted to alleviate the critical energy situation the country is experiencing, while reiterating the causes behind the deficit.

At a press conference in the capital, de la O Levy specified that these problems are exacerbated by aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and a lack of financing that prevents undertaking major interventions on the generating units.

The minister's meeting with the press occurred in mid-September, when power outages intensified in Havana due to maintenance and breakdowns of units at the Nuevita and Renté plants, located in the provinces of Camagüey and Santiago de Cuba, respectively.

Despite the complex panorama affecting the entire country, the minister spoke of short and medium-term improvements, with the repair and adjustment of several units currently out of service, which will be supported during daytime demand by the generation of 650 MW from solar parks.

He also announced the upcoming arrival of battery systems that will allow for the

storage of solar energy and stabilize the frequency of the National Electric System (SEN).

On this topic, he reiterated the commitment to synchronize the remaining solar parks in December to reach a generation of 1,000 MW. De la O Levy also mentioned that of the eight floating power generation barges (pontoon barges) the country had, only two remain, with a combined capacity of 70MW.

When addressing the topic during a presentation last July before the Industry, Construction, and Energy Commission of the National Assembly of People's Power (Parliament), the minister said that with the country's scarce financial resources, minimum payments had been made to try to maintain the barges during the months of July and August.

Finally, the minister confirmed that this October, units from the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes plant (4 units in Cienfuegos) and 2 from the Santa Cruz del Norte plant in Mayabeque province will be incorporated into the system.

Furthermore, he assured that resources are available for the review and comprehensive repair in December of the Antonio Guiteras plant, a thermoelectric plant founded in 1988, which, due to its original capacity, is the largest contributor to the SEN.

Second Phase of Sembrando Vida

By **The Havana Reporter Staff**

HAVANA.- Mexico and Cuba signed the so-called Declaration of Intent for the second phase of the Sembrando Vida (Sowing Life) program, which will extend benefits to more rural communities in this country.

The agreement was signed by representatives of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (Amexcid) and the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment.

The executive director of Amexcid, Alejandra Del Moral, stated that this agreement represents "a symbol of what can be achieved when two countries with a historical relationship work from solidarity and mutual respect."

The CEO visited Cuba, leading a delegation that was received by President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

During the meeting at the Palace of the Revolution, the Cuban head of state thanked President Claudia Sheinbaum for her solidarity and support towards the island and stated that the "level of political dialogue with Mexico is excellent."

Presidential sources indicated that the Cuban leader highlighted the "relations of

brotherhood, respect, and understanding that have always existed between Cuba and Mexico," and commented that the solidity of official ties "has to do with links between peoples, between families."

Likewise, Díaz-Canel praised the collaboration with the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, especially in agriculture, and spoke of continuing to expand working relations.

Amexcid CEO, Del Moral Vela stated that "for her team it was a luxury to be in Cuba" and referred to the "successful project that has been consolidated with farmers in the provinces of Artemisa and Mayabeque."

She announced that this project will be extended to other Cuban provinces and to another program related to "the installation of solar panels in Cuban hospitals."

According to the official note, the executive director ratified the interest in continuing collaboration with Cuba, a country united to Mexico by strong and historical ties.

Sembrando Vida (Sowing Life) is a program created by the Mexican government to contribute to the social well-being of farmers by promoting food self-sufficiency, with actions that simultaneously favor environmental recovery.



President Miguel Díaz-Canel received the delegation led by the executive director of Amexcid, Alejandra Del Moral. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.

Cuba beats again to the rhythm of baseball

By Boris **CABRERA**

HAVANA.- In Cuba, when the National Series kicks off, it's not just a tournament that begins, but the country's greatest sporting celebration, that ritual that transforms passion into a language and turns every stadium into a nation's temple.

Over the next few months, 16 teams will face off in 75 qualifying matches, seeking the eight golden tickets to the playoffs, to determine the keys to destiny and dreams of glory.

Every hit that crosses the outfield, every impossible fielding, every pitch that borders on perfection, will be a story that will be added to the living legend of Cuban baseball.

Los Leñadores de Las Tunas, champions of the last edition, arrive with the strength of a team accustomed to fighting until the last inning, while the Havana Industriales, with 12 titles in their trophy case and a 15-year debt to their demanding fans, seek to regain the throne they haven't set foot on since the spring of 2010, when Germán Mesa, now the national team's manager, led them to their last title.

The tournament offers more than local glory: the top six finishers will earn a ticket to the IV Cuban Baseball Elite League, a tournament that showcases the highest quality, and the champion will represent Cuba in the Baseball Champions League Americas, scheduled for April 2026.

Furthermore, the Series has seen the return of players who play in foreign leagues, reinforcing the competition and highlighting that Cuban talent knows no boundaries.

The organization of the Series is no small feat. In a country with economic limitations,

the authorities have ensured that the ball continues to roll, protecting a sporting capital that in 2021 was officially declared a National Cultural Heritage.

Baseball has been much more than a sport: it has been resistance, language, and culture. It was the spark that lit in the mambises, the game that the Spaniards tried to ban in 1869, and the heartbeat that has united generations around a common love.

Although the emigration of athletes and the employment of Cubans baseball players in foreign professional leagues have affected the quality of the tournament, the fans' devotion remains intact. They fill stadiums, turn on their radios, and celebrate every home run as if it were the first in history, remembering that this sport is woven into the very identity of Cubans.

In every glove that catches a rolling, in every voice raised in the stands, in every hug after a victory, there is a clear message: Cuban baseball never gives up.

The recently inaugurated 64th Series not only promises spectacle; it is proof that Cuba continues to dream on the diamond, a country that stumbles but always gets back up, its heart beating to the rhythm of its truest passion.



Series has seen the return of players who play in foreign leagues, reinforcing the competition and highlighting that Cuban talent knows no boundaries. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Successful Strokes

By Yodenis **MASÓ**

HAVANA.- Canoeist Yrisleidys Cirilo, a multiple-time world champion, stands out among Cuba's best athletes in the present sports season, which marks the beginning of a competitive cycle on the road to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

With strong strokes and physical power, the first Cuban woman to win an Olympic medal in canoe sprint has established herself as one of the leading figures in this sport, endorsed by her senior runner-up title in Milan and the U-23 gold medal in Montemor-o-Velho.

In the Italian city, Cirilo recorded 46.27 seconds, enough to secure the silver medal in the C1-200m Final A, only surpassed by Ukrainian

Liudmyla Luzan, who won with a score of 46.09. With this result, the 23-year-old sprinter has now won four medals in this level, including a historic victory in C2-200m alongside Katherin Segura in the 2022 edition and the individual title in the 2023 competition.

A bronze medalist in Paris 2024, Cirilo competed in the Milan World Championships less than a month after winning the gold medal in the junior competition, with a score of 47.25 seconds – defeating Spanish Viktoriia Yarchevska (48.08) and Russian Ekaterina Shliapnikova (48.47).

In the waters of Montemor-o-Velho, the Cuban canoeist recorded an impressive time of 45.88 seconds, the best of the competition.

Currently placed second in the Americas region, Cirilo has reached the podium in World Cups and is the reigning champion of the Pan-American Games, having dominated the 2023 edition in Santiago de Chile.

Winner of the Best Female Athlete of the Year Award in 2023, a distinction granted by the International Association of Sports Journalists (AIPS) of the Americas, the native of the eastern Guantánamo province raises Cuban fans' hopes as she looks forward to winning more medals in the Los Angeles Games.

In preparation for her third Olympic competition, the young Cuban canoeist will try to expand her record of achievements at the Santo Domingo 2026 Central American Games and the Lima 2027 Pan-American Games.

The multiple-time medal holder in the single-seater canoe is a strong candidate for the Best Cuban Female Athlete distinction, a traditional vote organized by the Sports Institute and the Sports Journalists Union.

Cirilo shines brightly and once again establishes Cuba as a power in international canoeing, following decades of triumphs and leading figures such as Ledys Frank Balceiro, Ibrahim Rojas, Leobaldo Pereira, and Serguey Torres.



Cirilo is one of the leading figures in this sport, endorsed by her senior runner-up title in Milan and the U-23 gold medal in Montemor-o-Velho. PHOTO: Internet.

Where the Virtue of a Human Being pounds, Fidel Castro

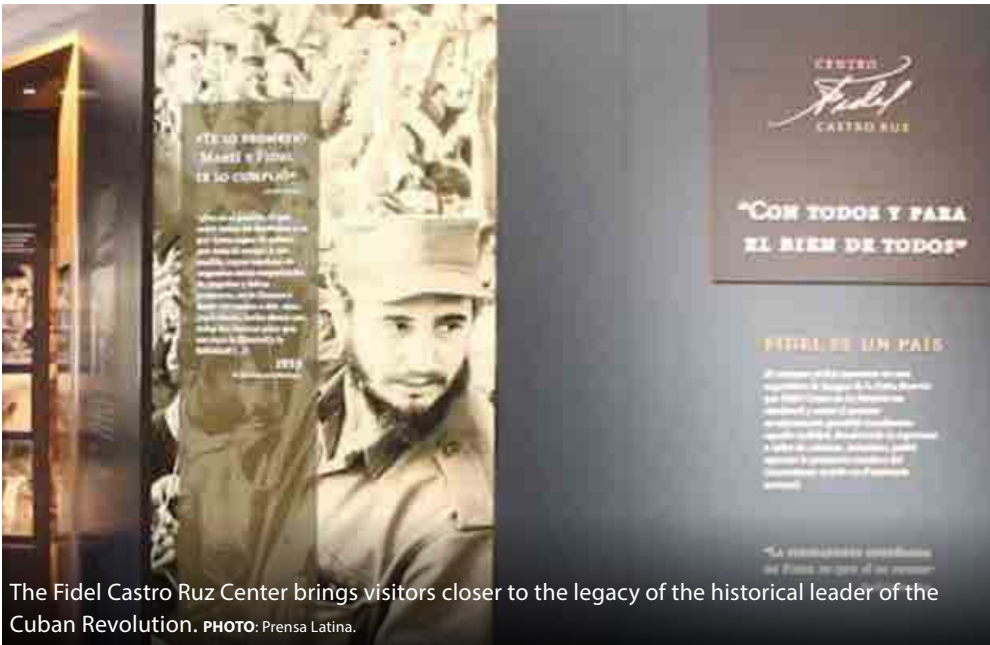
By MarlénMORERA

HAVANA.- Between life and history, with the moral stature of a hero in olive green, the Fidel Castro Ruz Center rises in the heart of Havana's Vedado district, like a dwelling that safeguards his work and thought. The institution features advanced technology to bring visitors closer to the legacy of the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution.

Nine rooms allow one to discover an extraordinary man, his exceptional oratory, his solidarity with the peoples of the world, part of his legacy, and the humility that characterized him throughout his life.

"Here, the protagonist is the history of Cuba and the Revolution, which is the same as the history of Fidel, which cannot be separated," the institution's deputy director, Sissi Abay, stated in an exclusive interview with **The Havana Reporter**.

"We believe in the importance of culture to bring people closer to the best of our traditions and our art. Through publications and social media, we spare no resources to reach an ever-growing community and publicize curious and essential elements



The Fidel Castro Ruz Center brings visitors closer to the legacy of the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

of the life of the Commander in Chief," she noted.

The institution was conceived for everyone, especially for those Cubans who are eager to return to Fidel. However, "there are generations who were not fortunate enough to coincide with him in historical time, and that is the focus of all our attentions."

"There is a Fidel that we must build for them from the transcendental and deeply emotional episodes of the Cuban Revolution," she emphasized.

The Center houses several work areas, including a specialized library and a digital archive comprised of over 100,000 images—mostly unpublished—of the entire political, human, and intellectual

endeavors for Cuba and the world, a beacon of light and hope.

It also includes nine exhibition halls, which are the main reason for visits, audiovisual productions, its own publishing output under the Alejandro editorial imprint, and two research departments focused on the most important task since the entity's foundation in 2021: the compilation of the Selected Works of Fidel Castro.

This is complemented by a varied program that showcases the best of Cuban art and culture, always linked to the promotion of the nation's history, she referred.

The rooms cannot be seen separately, she explained, because the museographic concept is designed to awaken emotions as the visitor's knowledge evolves.

"Know, Love, Defend is the center's slogan, and you cannot love something you do not know, much less defend it. Therefore, among the essential purposes of the exhibits is to remind the public of moments in Fidel's life, allow them to reflect on episodes of Cuba then and now, and to discover an exceptional, very Cuban man, our own," she enlightened.

Inside the building, we are witnesses to his childhood, youth, and adulthood, to the humility with which he assumed life.



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