



Demonstrated Solidarity

Page. 3



Cuba-U.S.A

Opportunities Opened

Page 4



Culture

Urgent Poster

Page 6



Spotlight

Oruro Carnival

Page 7



Latin América

Celac Summit

Page 12



Central Region's Increasing Attractions

Text and photo Benjamín **MICERINOS**

HAVANA.- Tour operators and travel agents operating in the island frequently express their interest in Cuba's central region, characterized by its history and beauty.

This opinion is shared by specialists, who affirm that promoting this area is key to recovering the travel industry, affected at present by strong economic difficulties.

According to tour guides, this region is highly attractive because of its diverse setting, such as that found in the province of Villa Clara and its capital city of the same name, which treasures natural, patrimonial and cultural values, in addition to a beautiful nature.

"Precisely, in this province you will find the solitary cayo Esquivel, accompanied by those of Las Brujas, Ensenachos, and Santa María, which are impressive for their nature and their beautiful beaches.

Other remarkable sites include the San Juan de Los Remedios town, known for its

parties (aka Parrandas); the Hanabanilla and Negro rivers, and mountain areas like the Mogote de Jumagua and Elguea, with their thermal waters.

The territory is home to 30 hotels with a capacity of over 11,000 rooms and its main tourist markets included Canada, the United States, Panama, the United Kingdom, Poland, Italy, Mexico and Germany.



Sagua La Grande town, with its historical sites, nautical areas and new hotels, is an attractions found in Cuba's central region.

SAGUA LA GRANDE, A TOURIST SITE

Other attractions found in Cuba's central region include Sagua La Grande town, with its historical sites, nautical areas and new hotels, a perfect scenario for both national and foreign travelers.

This town, located in the central Villa Clara province and very close to ports, beaches and keys, was a prosperous city in Cuba's interior in the 1920s.

Cradle of famous figures, like Doctor Joaquín Albarrán, father of the Cuban urology and to a large extent, of the world too, as for France, and renowned painter Wilfredo Lam, the city stood out in 1820 for its increasing sugarcane industry.

The town's first street design took place in 1849 and in 1905, the first symbolic bridge was built, still standing at present. This is the closest point to the United States, thus the initial and large trade that characterized the place at the time. In 1866, it was granted the condition of village and in 1825, its first hotel was opened.

It had 24 hotel facilities and in 1920, it added a village in Esquivel Key, a remote islet near the city for recreation and vacations.

The Sagua Hotel, with new looks, was the most luxurious of the area and the place where Spanish poet Federico García Lorca was lodged, in room 320.

It also treasures unique elements, such as having Cuba's first steamboat, the first telephone line, the first Congo council or the first Chinese casino, among others.

Located in Cuba's north-central region, it is included in the tourist circuit proposals and is highly acclaimed as a recreational modality, especially by European travelers.

Despite Difficulties, Havana is an Attraction

Text and photo Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

HAVANA.- As the main gateway to the island, the Cuban capital remains an excellent attraction for those who come for the first time to spend their vacations here, even amidst the current economic difficulties the country is facing.

According to tour guides and officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Havana offers a sense of peace to many people who decide to face Cuba's problems and want to witness everyday life, in addition to enjoying its warm weather and beaches.

One of the main attractions for those who travel to the island include the architecture and old buildings, especially in the capital.

Havana is not just a mixture of beaches and music. Its deepest essence lies in its stones, its facades eroded by salt residues and its noble indoor patios that whisper stories of captains, counts and landowners.

Declared a Heritage Site in 1982 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Old Havana is an authentic outdoors museum where every centenarian house is a unique piece.

Walking down its streets is a time travel into the colonial architecture, a tour that captivates travelers from all over the world.

The beating heart of this legacy is found in its squares, true period chambers around which the most emblematic mansions are grouped.

Plaza de Armas, the oldest in the city, is included among such squares, surrounded by the Palacio de los Capitanes Generales, a jewel of the 18th-century colonial baroque and the current seat of the City Museum, and the Palacio de los Condes de Santovenia.

The area's architecture stands out for the typical arcades of its buildings and the impressive Mudejar ceilings, offering a vivid idea of how the Havana's aristocracy's lifestyle was in the 18 and 19th centuries.

Touring Old Havana, thus, becomes a constant dialogue with the past. Each large solid wood door, each stained-glass window, each marble column, tells a part of Cuba's history, and that is always a captivating attraction.



The architecture and old buildings of Havana are highly appreciated by visitors.

The Havana Reporter

YOUR SOURCE OF NEWS & MORE

SOCIETY • HEALTH & SCIENCE • POLITICS • CULTURE
ENTERTAINMENT • PHOTO FEATURE • ECONOMY
SPORTS • AND MORE

President: Jorge Legañoa Alonso
Editorial Vice President: Ariel Barredo Coya
Chief Editor: Ilsa Rodríguez Santana
Art Direction: Anathais Rodríguez
English Editor: José Eloy Richards

Translation: Yanely Interián
Graphic Designer: Fernando Fernández Tito
Chief Graphic Editor: Francisco González
Circulation: Commercial Department
Printing: Prensa Latina

Publisher: Agencia Informativa Latinoamericana Prensa Latina, S.A.
Calle E, esq. 19 No. 454, Vedado, La Habana-4, Cuba
Telephone: (53)7838-3496 / 7832-3578
Fax: (53)7833-3068 E-mail: thr@prensa-latina.cu

Voices from around the World Say: Cuba is not Alone!



Young people from the United States joined the Our America Convoy to Cuba. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

By Jorge **QUEVEDO**

HAVANA.- Cuba received the solidarity from friends around the world, who express their conviction that fighting for the Caribbean nation is synonymous with fighting for humanity and the dignity of all peoples.

In March, the island lived intense days with the global initiative Nuestra América Convoy a Cuba (Our America Convoy to Cuba), a solidarity gesture against the escalation of the United States' policy of strangulation.

The actions of more than 650 activists, representing some 300 parliaments, political parties, organizations, groups and millions of people, including Cubans residing abroad, who brought aid to help address the consequences of the U.S. blockade on the health system and the daily lives of the population, had a wide media impact.

Visitors stated that their actions are for a humanitarian cause, since no other people in the world suffers the siege that attempts to stifle Cuba. They also defended an idea, an example, a real project represented by the achievements of the Cuban Revolution. In a time of crisis, the visit of this delegation to the Caribbean nation was necessary, not only to share aid, but also to remind Cubans that they are not fighting alone, they stressed.

The initiative, convened by Progressive International, included the delivery of essential goods, since the arrival of its first members on March 17, for the benefit of the population.

"Cuba yes, blockade no" was the most repeated slogan by a delegation from the

solidarity convoy that arrived from the United States with more than 100 members of the pacifist organization CodePink, who made further donations for the population's medical care.

As part of these actions, the European Convoy of Solidarity with Cuba, composed of representatives from 19 countries, visited the Sports City Coliseum in the Cuban capital and had a moving exchange with the Domadores de Cuba boxing team.

On another day, Hero of the Republic Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, welcomed them at the institution's headquarters and affirmed that "under no circumstances will we renounce the defense of the just causes of the peoples nor our aspirations to continue fostering solidarity, internationalism and collaboration, pillars of our foreign policy."

Solidarity activities also included an action with high impact and symbolism: the arrival in the Havana harbor of the first vessel of the Solidarity Convoy from Mexico, with 14 tons of aid. With 32 passengers of various nationalities, the solidarity ship's name, Maguro, was renamed Granma 2 by the activists.

Members of this global initiative emphasized that upon their return to their countries, they will have an even greater task: denying media manipulation and defending the truth about Cuba. The struggle will not end until the blockade imposed by the United States government on Cuba is lifted, they reiterated.

Cuba Confirms Dialogue with the U.S. to Address Bilateral Differences

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA.- President Miguel Díaz-Canel announced that Cuban officials have recently had talks with representatives of the United States government, to find solutions through dialogue to bilateral differences between the two nations.

In a meeting with members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, the president explained that those exchanges are held in accordance with the historical policy of the Cuban Revolution and under the direction of leader of the Revolution Raúl Castro, the Cuban Communist Party, the State and Government.

Díaz-Canel emphasized that the purpose of these talks is to identify bilateral problems that require resolution, determine the willingness of both parties to take concrete actions for the benefit of their peoples and find areas of cooperation to face threats and guarantee security and peace in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

The head of State highlighted that Cuba has expressed its willingness to carry out this process "on the basis of equality and respect for the political systems of both countries, the sovereignty and self-determination of our governments," taking into account a sense of reciprocity and adherence to international law.

He reiterated that it is not the practice of the Cuban leadership to respond to speculation campaigns on these issues and stressed that this is a sensitive process conducted with seriousness and responsibility, as it affects bilateral relations and demands enormous efforts to create room for understanding to allow progress and moving away from confrontation.

Díaz-Canel recalled the various moments throughout the history of the Revolution in which dialogue processes with the United States government took place, led by Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro and Army General Raúl Castro, always on the basis of equality, sovereignty and self-determination.

He underlined that international factors facilitated these recent exchanges, although he did not offer further details on the specific content of the talks or on the U.S. representatives involved.

On the subject, Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío reiterated the disposition to maintain a respectful relationship with the United States, while stressing that no dialogue will imply changes to the political system.

At a meeting with the press that joined the Nuestra América (Our America) solidarity convoy, which recently traveled to Cuba to express support for the Cuban people, the diplomat emphasized that the Cuban political system is not negotiable, neither with the United States nor with any other country.

He added that there are numerous issues of interest for both nations which could be discussed, such as those related to regional security and cooperation to fight drug trafficking.

Fernández de Cossío also denounced the ruthless blockade the U.S. government has maintained for more than 60 years, which has had a destructive impact on Cubans. He assured that when there is an aggression that is not military in nature but also causes physical damage and disrupts people's daily lives, it is a ruthless policy.



Participation of compatriots in Cuban economy facilitated

By Teyuné **DÍAZ**

HAVANA.-The Cuban government announced measures to expand the participation of Cubans living abroad, including access to private businesses, productive projects and the national financial system.

The new provisions aim to create conditions for compatriots to be directly involved in economic activities on the island, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Oscar Pérez-Oliva explained.

Speaking on the television program Mesa Redonda, Pérez-Oliva noted that Cubans living abroad, even without legal residency in Cuba, will be able to participate as partners or owners of private companies in the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister specified that they will be able to participate in small businesses as well as larger-scale projects, including businesses linked to infrastructure and other major economic initiatives.

Partnering with Cuban private companies through various business modalities and establishing alliances with both state and private-owned Cuban entities will also be allowed, thus expanding possibilities for economic cooperation, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized.

Regarding land-related activities, he mentioned plans to grant the land in usufruct for the development of productive projects, which would channel investments and expertise from Cubans abroad into the agricultural sector and other related areas.

In the financial sector, Cubans residing abroad will be able to participate in the national financial and banking system. They will be able to open foreign currency bank accounts in national banks, which will facilitate transactions related

to investments, businesses and other economic activities within the country.

Pérez-Oliva affirmed that Cuba is open to trade with U.S. companies, referring to potential opportunities for economic exchange, possibilities that are conditional upon the restrictions imposed by the U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade on Cuba.

These measures aim to expand sources of financing, revitalize the economy and strengthen economic ties with the Cuban community living abroad.

Summarizing, Cubans residing abroad will be able to partner with private companies and cooperatives under

the Foreign Investment Law; become partners or owners of private companies, and participate in the various financial mechanisms provided for in the current legislation.

They will also be granted with licenses to participate as virtual asset service operators and to open foreign currency accounts in national banks to develop their businesses in the island.

Other measures will allow them to participate in investment funds managed by a financial institution, thereby contributing to the financing of projects of interest that offer the profitability needed to guarantee funds' return, and to create funds for international cooperation projects with local or national scope.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Oscar Pérez-Oliva. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

“I Would Love to See the End of the Blockade”

By Deisy **FRANCIS**

WASHINGTON.- “As a Cuban-American born in Havana and emigrated to the United States as a young child, I would love to see the end of the blockade against Cuba”, Jorge Ignacio Fernández told **The Havana Reporter**.

Founder and president of the Hope For Cuba Foundation, Fernández told THR that he fully supports the announced dialogue process between the two countries, which seeks to solve bilateral differences.

“From Cuba, President Miguel Díaz-Canel confirmed that respectful dialogues are underway with the United States, with the aim of normalizing relations between both nations and for mutual benefit,” he commented.

I hope, “like many of those who represent the majority of U.S. people, the UN, the Vatican and most of the world, that these respectful talks will lead to ending of the blockade and a fruitful and permanent

normalization of relations concerning our two countries,” he affirmed.

Instead of worsening the suffering of the Cuban people by blocking vital oil shipments – a policy that has deepened an already severe humanitarian crisis – President Donald Trump could change course immediately, he added.

Fernández emphasized that “allowing oil to flow again and opening a diplomatic dialogue at the highest level” is the clearest

path to follow, one that could have historic potential rewards.

The world would applaud the normalization of relations with Cuba because, for more than 30 consecutive years, the United Nations has voted overwhelmingly in favor of lifting the U.S. blockade on the island, he noted.

A significant majority of U.S. people support the normalization of relations, Fernández highlighted.

“So would the Vatican. I had the honor and the blessing of accompanying three Popes – John Paul II in 1998, Benedict XVI in 2012 and Francis in 2015-2016 – on their visits to Cuba, and a fourth papal visit is anticipated,” he stressed.

Fernández urged President Trump to lift the blockade on Cuba, “which would be a very good reason for him to fulfill his desire to receive a Nobel Peace Prize.”

Eliminating the over 60-year-old blockade would offer tangible benefits for both sides, he affirmed. “A favorable agreement could serve U.S. economic interests, while offering Cuba a path to greater prosperity,” he pointed out.

In that regard, he expressed his hope that U.S. citizens could travel “freely to Cuba, which is just 90 miles from our shores,” and that entrepreneurs on both sides could work together.

“Cuba’s migration wave in recent years would most likely decrease as people choose to build their future in their own land. The world is watching,” Fernández concluded.



U.S. Pressure and Blackmail Over Medical Aid Denounced

By Joe **OCAMPO**

HAVANA.- Cuba denounced the fierce pressure and blackmail exerted by the United States government against Latin American and Caribbean countries to force them to abandon the aid provided by the island's Medical Brigades.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez warned on social media that this cruel pressure and blackmail from the Oval Office not only aims to undermine the humanitarian and solidarity program created by Cuba and Fidel Castro, but also to further cut off sources of income for the economy of the Caribbean nation.

By doing so, "they are punishing the most disadvantaged peoples and communities in the region, who for decades have received Cuban medical care," said the minister.

The head of the Cuban diplomacy exposed the United States' intentions stating that "in exchange, they promise resources that we know will never arrive nor will benefit these populations."

In this context, on March 4, the Jamaican government announced its unilateral decision



Pressure from the United States forced the end of Cuba's medical cooperation in Honduras and Jamaica. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

to terminate its health cooperation agreement with Cuba, under which more than 8,176,000 patients were treated and some 90,000 lives were saved, according to official figures.

The professionals of the Cuban Medical Brigade in Honduras also returned to the

country following the termination of the agreement by Tegucigalpa.

In that Central American nation, Cuban healthcare personnel worked in 17 of the 18 departments in the public health system, providing more than 30 million

consultations and nearly 900,000 surgical procedures.

Guatemala also announced the gradual withdrawal of Cuban professionals, who had been working in rural areas since 1998.

My Whole Life Dedicated to the CIGB

By Maikel **MEDEROS**

HAVANA.- When we talk about scientists, there are those who have dedicated a significant part of their lives to this sector. Those who distance themselves from their families, who spend most of their time in a lab and make their most in this demanding profession.

One of those cases is Cuban PhD Jorge Castro Velazco, Director of Preclinical Research and Animal Experimentation

at the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center (CIGB).

Although science and labs were never his main attraction, Castro says that he felt a deep affection for animals from a young age.

"Science never interested me; in fact, I was in a sports school until high school. My mother was the one who encouraged me to enroll in the Poultry Farming Technical career."

At the conclusion of his studies, he joined the National Center for Laboratory Animal Production (CENPALAC)

because of his interest in Veterinary Hematology and a month later, quite by chance, he arrived at the place where he has worked for more than 25 years: the CIGB.

"When I arrived, the first thing I did was clean animals' cages. I spent a year doing that job. At first, I thought it was a frustrating work, but what motivated me was that those cages contained the animals used to develop the Hepatitis vaccine for children."

A year after, he moved to the Primatology department, where he stayed until 2014. He then went to the Hematology department, which he remembers as one of the happiest moments of his life.

He said that one day he received a call informing him of the departure of the head of the Preclinical Research and Animal Experimentation department. He confesses that he never imagined he would be his team's choice to replace her, but he accepted the position with a great sense of responsibility.

"In our area, we have to guarantee animals' optimal conditions for everything the researchers want with their projects. This is a more complex process than it seems since, under the current conditions in the country, guaranteeing that our animals have what is needed in relation to their genetic potential and to prevent them from dying is much more difficult than it appears to be. We are the last step between a product and a human being."

The scientist commented that the COVID-19 pandemic marked a turning point in his career. He considers all the work developed in previous years to be a preparation for a moment like that.

He recalled that in these laboratories, they tested all the toxicology of the Abdala vaccine, one of the country's candidates to immunize the population, in addition to other drugs like Jusvinza and Nasalferon.



Cuban PhD Jorge Castro Velazco, Director of Preclinical Research and Animal Experimentation at the CIGB. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

A Peace cry from Cuban Graphic Arts

By Adis**MARLÉN**

HAVANA.- Images, colors and strokes take shape in Cartel Urgente (Urgent Poster), a project born from the will not to remain indifferent to brutality; a cry from Cuban graphic arts in favor of world peace and solidarity.



With the creativity and talent that characterize them, designers José Alberto "Pepe" Menéndez and Khiustin Tornés joined efforts to bring this visual proposal to life, a sign of what people can do when sensitivity and art are mixed.

Pepe Menéndez, a professional with vast experience and a benchmark of this expression in Cuba, told **The Havana Reporter** that the initiative arises from the awareness that graphic design has the possibility and the ability to express an idea. We thought, he commented, it was good to invite our colleagues, some known and others are not, to express their points of view on what is happening.

It is therefore fair to take on the challenge and, with the use of available technological resources, manage to raise people's awareness. Driven by the Israeli aggression against that people and their territory, the first call,

entitled Cartel Urgente x Palestina (Urgent Poster for Palestine), was launched at the end of 2025, to create a platform to express concern on this topic and provide others with the space to do so.

Menéndez recalled the positive reception of that call, which included a workshop at the Higher Institute of Design (ISDI) in Havana, with the participation of industry professionals and two young Palestinians studying Medicine in the Caribbean nation. After that first release, Cartel Urgente x Venezuela (Urgent Poster for Venezuela) emerged, as a result of the events of January 3 that led to the kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro and his partner Cilia Flores, in addition to the death of 32 Cubans and other Venezuelan fighters.

Tu casa es mi casa (Your house is my house), Hands off Venezuela, Sed de oro negro (Thirst for black gold) and Pirate

of the Caribbean are some of the titles that showcase the creativity of Cuban designers, such as Pepe Menéndez himself, Roberto Pérez (Potto), Ana Beatriz Peña, Ana Gabriela Crespo and Roberto Chávez.

Shortly after the United States government's military attack against the Bolivarian nation, the call to participate in Cartel Urgente x Cuba (Urgent Poster for Cuba) was launched, available until February 20 on the website www.cartelurgente.org.

These events are based on the endless hope of defeating the Cuban Revolution, and in the face of this, we have the possibility of using our capabilities, especially the youth, he said.

Although social media offers the opportunity for anyone to express an idea in very different ways, the 2021 National Design Award winner affirmed that design professionals have the tools to communicate a message effectively, so the poster becomes a sort of "social tool," while the designer is the voice "both to consent and to dissent," he emphasized.

Tribute to Juan Padrón at La Manigua

By Victoria**MARIÑO**

HAVANA.-The La Manigua Cultural and Creative Space was inaugurated in the Havana municipality of Plaza de la Revolución with the opening of the collective exhibition "Who Was Calling Elpidio Valdés?", a tribute to the character created by Juan Padrón.

The project, initially conceived by Silvia Padrón, daughter of the celebrated cartoonist — a National Film Award and National Humor Award winner — had the enthusiasm and participation of her father before his passing.

The La Manigua Cultural and Creative Center was inaugurated in the Plaza de la Revolución municipality, in this capital, with the premiere of the collective exhibition ¿Quién llamaba a Elpidio Valdés? (Who Called Elpidio Valdés?), a tribute to the character Juan Padrón created.

The project, initially conceived by Silvia Padrón, daughter of the famous cartoonist, National Film Award winner and National Humor awardee, was fully endorsed by her father, who also joined the initiative before his passing.

Sachie Hernández, the exhibition's curator, told **The Havana Reporter** that Elpidio Valdés is a work that transcends the Cuban society, connecting different generations.

The character speaks of independence and sovereignty and the public feels identified with the way he presents these topics, the specialist added.

The exhibition brings together more than 55 artists and graphic and industrial designers in a renovated facility with

the support of the Cuban Ministry of Culture, the Cuban Fund for Cultural Assets and the funding from the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation.

Organized as part of the Juan Padrón Documentary Fund project and endorsed by the German Embassy in Cuba, the exhibition displays over twenty works showcasing the world of the Mambí colonel through diverse techniques and media.

The pieces include ¡Atrápalo Soldado! (Catch Him, Soldier), an interactive video by artists Mario Enrique Brino and Yamil Orlando that includes a real-time tracking system designed for five simultaneous participants.

Also on display is the storyboard of the first animated short film *Una Aventura de Elpidio Valdés* (Elpidio Valdés' Adventure), created by Alejandro Caner. This piece is exhibited as a transparent vinyl print on acrylic, offering a glimpse into the creative process behind the mambí's first adventures.

The sculpture *Mambí*, by artist Gabriel Raúl Cisneros; the installation *Figura Recurrente Vol 55* (Recurring Figure Vol. 55), by Eliany Consuegra and Marlon White, and the mural made by Gabriela Padrón, Juan Padrón's niece, highlight the generational convergence present in this tribute.

The exhibition, on display at this center at least until this summer, is part of the La Manigua's ongoing activities, which include drawing and animation workshops, screenings of short and feature films, concerts, stage performances and interactive exhibits, every Saturday.



Voces del Sur Global
Voices of the Global South



Oruro at Carnival, Between Archangels and Devils

By Jorge **PETINAUD**

LA PAZ.- The Oruro Carnival, a masterpiece of the Intangible Oral Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, captivates Bolivians and foreigners with its charm. Minister of Sustainable Tourism, Cultures, Folklore and Gastronomy, Cinthya Yáñez, said farewells from Viacha, in La Paz department, to the Carnival Train that once again united both jurisdictions of western Bolivia, as in the past century, in a six-hour journey.

"It's not just a means of transport, it's a tool for tourism development that helps decongest the roads and offers visitors an unforgettable heritage experience," said the beaming minister, with the screech of the rails in the background as the train departed with 400 passengers.

THE CARNIVAL

As every year, thousands of dancers from some 50 fraternities, each with different costumes and choreographies, paraded without interruption for four kilometers through the city of Oruro, from the "6 de Agosto Avenue" to the Santuario del Socavón. It is precisely in the latter that the majestic Carrara marble virgin sculpture is erected, visible from almost the entire city, in a

place where devotees leave part of their clothing as an offering. The uniforms of the accompanying bands and dancers dressed in their Diabladas, Morenadas, Caporales, Negritos costumes preserving the Afro-descendant tradition, dazzled spectators.



In the carnival thousands of dancers from some 50 fraternities paraded for four kilometers. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Also stunning were the costumes of the Toba indigenous warriors or the Tinku highland practitioners, a harmonious pilgrimage considered an act of faith and devotion to the "mamita del Socavón," patron saint of Oruro and the miners.

According to researchers, although many dances are notable for their unique characteristics and for representing different Andean-Amazonian regions of the country, the iconic dance of Oruro is the Diablada.

This choreography, a symbol of the struggle between good and evil and the defeat of the seven deadly sins, is performed in all Bolivian artistic and popular expressions, particularly in Oruro during carnival time.

It is a hellish dance of mining origin that shows respect for the so-called Tío or Devil, master of the tunnels, while representing faith and devotion to the Virgin of Candelaria, protector of those who work in the bowels of the earth.

Many characters participate in this dance with personal and multicolored costumes, particularly Archangel Saint Michael, the main guide and the responsible for leading the devils in their tenacious struggle between good and evil.

"Leader of the heavenly hosts in Christian mythology and true conqueror, he triumphs in the battle to banish pride, evil, lust, gluttony, and other deadly sins."



THE GETAWAY CAPITAL MODERN AND EXCLUSIVE

For the enjoyment of all customer segments, **38** hotel products with more than **11,000** rooms in the country's most important tourist destinations.

www.bluediamondresorts.com



La mayor casa editorial de publicaciones seriadas de Cuba
The largest publishing house of continuous publications in Cuba

www.prensa-latina.cu

[@PrensaLatina_cu](#)
[PrensaLatinaTV](#)
[@AgenciaPrensaLatinaOficial](#)
[@prensaathecuba](#)
[@PrensaLatinaNoticias](#)
[TesoroLatino](#)















Beacon of Dignity for the World

By MarlénRUÍZ

HAVANA.- The complex situation the world faces, aggravated by a scenario where neo-fascism and the law of the strongest prevail, was the topic of a recent public

exchange between renowned Franco-Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet and the audience at the Pabellón Cuba in Havana.

Amid such adverse circumstances, Cuba is a beacon of dignity for the world, affirmed the intellectual, specialist in geopolitics and international strategy, who also



Ignacio Ramonet said that amid adverse circumstances Cuba is a beacon of dignity for the world. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

condemned the United States government's policies and its desire for domination.

Ramonet is a profound connoisseur of history and his time, a guarantee for an illuminating exchange with intellectuals, colleagues and fans of his work at the Salón de Mayo of the abovementioned institution, the national headquarters of the Hermanos Saíz Association (AHS) – an organization that brings together the avant-garde of Cuba's young artists.

This is a very peculiar moment, the academic warned, in clear reference to the United States' ambitions to dominate the Western Hemisphere.

He also referred to the blockade imposed on Cuba for more than 60 years, intensified with the signing of an Executive Order that prevents fuel supplies from reaching the Caribbean nation, and the conflicts in Palestine, Venezuela and Iran.

The intellectual warned of the dangers of a nuclear war and urged to be vigilant, regarding the United States' strategy in relation to the international situation.

The limited time President Donald Trump has left to carry out his ambitions, given the upcoming midterm elections in November, was a topic of discussion.

He has unlimited time for imperial action; at this moment, he can do and does whatever he wants, Ramonet emphasized.

According to the author of the book Cien horas con Fidel (One Hundred Hours with Fidel), among other essential titles, Cuba is a beacon of dignity for the world, an example of its people's intellectual preparation.

The academic received the Alma AHS Distinction and a replica of the Hermanos Saíz monument at a meeting, attended by president of Casa de las Américas, Abel Prieto; the president of the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, Marta Bonet, and deputy head of the Ideological Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Luis Morlote.

Cuba Denounces Expulsion of its Diplomats from Costa Rica

By The Havana Reporter Staff

HAVANA- Cuba denounced the Costa Rican government's decision to close its embassy in Havana and the request to withdraw the Caribbean nation's diplomatic personnel from San José.

In an official statement, issued on March 18, the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed that the decision, without any justification, invokes a supposed and unfounded reciprocity, thus requesting Cuba to withdraw its diplomatic personnel from its embassy in San José. The ministry added that this does not include consular and administrative staff, who may remain to continue performing their duties.

The authorities of the Central American nation also announced that, as of April 1, the Costa Rican government will maintain relations with Cuba at a consular level.

"It is an arbitrary decision, clearly adopted under pressure and without considering the interests of that nation and those of our brother people," the message indicated.

With this step, "the Costa Rican government, which has a history of servitude to the United States' policy against Cuba, is once again joining U.S. administration's offensive in its renewed attempts to isolate our

country from the nations of Our America, and joins its aggressive escalation against the Cuban Revolution, action rejected by the international community," the declaration added.

The Cuban assertion underscores that "like 60 years ago, this endeavor will fail. Nothing can divide the peoples of Cuba and Costa Rica, united by permanent bonds of a shared history, forged by great heroes of the

Cuban independence struggle, like Martí and Maceo."

President Miguel Díaz-Canel criticized the Costa Rican government for reducing its relations with Cuba, asserting that with this decision, the nation is yielding to pressures from United States.

"We reject the Costa Rican government's unilateral decision to lower the level of relations with Cuba, limiting them to a consular sphere, without any argument or justification," the

Cuban president said in a message posted on social media.

He added that "this is an unfriendly act, a response to evident pressures from U.S.'s government, a result of its renewed offensive to try to bring other countries into its failed policy against Cuba," while pointing out that this position "will crash against the strength of the historic and close relations" between the peoples of Costa Rica and Cuba. .



CUBA

COSTA RICA



Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed that this decision is arbitrary and adopted under pressure. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Women in Culture are creators who transcend

By Verónica NÚÑEZ

HAVANA.- When actress Laura de la Uz moved between the stages of Havana and Andalusia in 2025, she brought with her a Cuban way of understanding the stage that echoed on both sides of the Atlantic.

Her case displays a constant in Cuban culture: the presence of women creators overflows both within and beyond the Caribbean island, whether through the physical movement

of its performers, the spread of their works or the foreign recognition of their careers.

In the very heart of the arts movement, the 6th Latin American Monologue Festival, held in the central province of Cienfuegos in February and March 2025, focused on women's issues and showcased plays dealing with violence against women, unrequited love and the struggle for gender equality.

Women's achievements also reached the Ibero-American cinema thanks to the nomination of sound engineer Angie

Hernández to the 2025 Platino Awards for the film *Una noche con los Rolling Stones* (A Night with the Rolling Stones), directed by Patricia Ramos.

Also noteworthy in the film section is the work of filmmaker Lizette Vila, who presented her documentary *Todos los días son 8 de marzo* (Every Day is March 8) on February 22 the present year at the Benny Moré Cultural Center, in Mexico City.

The desire to leave a lasting mark was also evident in August 2025 during the opening of the exhibition *Huellas de mujer* (Women's Imprints) at the headquarters of the Cuban Women Federation in Havana, a tribute to Visual Arts Award winners Zaida del Río, Lesbia Vent Dumois and Flora Fong.

In the literary field, the Havana's International Book Fair regularly dedicates its editions to prominent figures of the sector, both male and female.

Researcher, professor and National History Prize (2008) and National Social Sciences and Humanities awardee (2022), Francisca López Civeira, was honored in 2025 along with her colleague Virgilio López Lemus, poet, essayist, researcher and critic.

This year, the event organizers announced that the fair will be dedicated to writer Marilyn Bobes, two-time Casa de las Américas Prize winner, who will share the spotlight with PhD in Philosophical Sciences and recipient of the 2025 National Prize for Social Sciences, José Bell Lara.

Dance also plays a significant role in the national culture, and last year was no exception.

Not only did the Cuban National Ballet host a spectacular season featuring Argentinean star Marianela Núñez alongside renowned dancer Patricio Revé, but the company's director, Viengsay Valdés, was also awarded the 2025 National Dance Prize.

In relation to music, in June, singer and songwriter Osdalgia Lesmes again paid tribute to the presence of women in the film genre with the fourth edition of the *Bohemia Mía* Film Festival.

The cultural movement was also active in regards to collective initiatives during the 2025-2026 period. Activities included the sociocultural project *Todas* (All Women), a project by filmmaker Marilyn Solaya, who presented an exhibition dedicated to preserving the historical memory of Cuban women.



The presence of Cuban women creators overflows both within and beyond the Caribbean island. PHOTO: Panchito González

An artist who Dreams of his Country and Cinema

By Adis MORERA

HAVANA.- There is no doubt about the will this great artist has to dream, create, transform and showcase the beauty of Cuba and its culture. This and more defines 2024 National Film Award winner, actor Jorge Perugorria. Alongside renowned actress Mirtha Ibarra, the Cuban filmmaker recently presented the film *Neurótica Anónima* (Anonymous Neurotic) at the 29th Malaga Film Festival in Spain, where he shared details on the film with the press and stated his condemnation of the stifling policies imposed by the Donald Trump administration against the Caribbean nation.

His statements have had an impact among Cuban artists, creators and filmmakers, who admire him for both his film and humanitarian work.

One of them is Luis Ernesto Doñas, director of the fiction feature film *Baracoa*, who considers Perugorria an actor with

magnetism and energy like few, capable of radiating both on and off the screen.

On his Facebook page, he pointed out that the renowned actor "dreams of and builds a better Cuba every day as an artist and natural cultural promoter."

He lives on in the collective memory of several generations of Cubans and Latin Americans because he also managed to build a solid career outside the Cuban cinema, and because his endless creativity has also been expressed in directing and painting, he added.

According to Doñas, "he has never lost track of the humility and awareness that cinema is a collective and popular art," while also highlighting that he was the first to convene a group of filmmakers to reach remote locations after Hurricane Ike passed through the coastal area of Gibara.

The director also referred to the artist's will to bring light to the Isla de la Juventud municipality with a film and environmental event, adding that he inherited, protects and

nurtures Humberto Solás's dream of "a film festival with few resources but rich in ideas." "He has managed to bring all that artistic passion to a personal level in his most beautiful creation: his family," said the young filmmaker, emphasizing "he professes the cult of friendship as a way of life."

Jorge Perugorria has always been on the side of a hug and a bridge, and the Cuban cinema has grown alongside him, Doñas affirmed, wishing him and Mirtha Ibarra success "for that declaration of love for cinema that *Neurótica Anónima*" represents.



Cuban actor Jorge Perugorria presented the film *Neurótica Anónima* (Anonymous Neurotic) at the 29th Malaga Film Festival in Spain. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Varadero Marathon Deferred

By Boris **CABRERA**

HAVANA.- The Cuban Athletics Federation announced the postponement of the seventh edition of the Varadero Marathon, scheduled for April 12, due to logistics limitations as a result of the national energy situation.

The decision, announced through an official press release, responds to the need to preserve the organizational standards and the prestige achieved by the event in its previous editions.

The postponement was agreed by the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, the

National Athletics Commission and the Cubadeportes S.A. company, the entities responsible for the event's organization.

The race also included the Pan American Marathon and Half Marathon Cup, convened by the Pan American Athletics Association, and the national 10Km and 21Km championships.

Sports authorities indicated that they are now focusing their efforts on ensuring the 2027 edition, whose date is still to be determined. However, they do foresee maintaining its traditional location towards the end of the first quarter of the year.



Sports authorities indicated that they are now focusing their efforts on ensuring the 2027 edition of the Varadero Marathon. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Musical Journey De La Habana a París

By Adis **MORERA**

HAVANA- Virtuosity, musicality and legacy converged on stage in this capital to honor great French diva Edith Piaf with the concert De La Habana a París (From Havana to Paris). This musical gift, conceived by Cuban singer and songwriter Lester Lez, was held on March 20 and 21 at the Gisela Hernández Concert Hall of the National Museum of Music to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the first visit paid to Cuba, in 1956, by that iconic singer.

"Making it happen was a dream come true, since not many people know that Edith Piaf visited us twice, and this is a way to rescue part of our country's historical and cultural memory," the performer told The Havana Reporter.

"She didn't just sing in Cuba," Lez added, "she performed at the Sans Souci cabaret, one of the most famous nightclubs of the time, located in the Havana municipality of La Lisa, 'where I'm from.'"

To the delight of both artists' fans, the concert featured a selection of songs that were very popular in the 1950s, going from the chanson française to the boleros, said the musician, who also performed his own compositions, including Sobreviviré (I Will Survive), from his first album released on the Bis Music Record Company.

The concert was one of the initiatives included in the Francophonie Month which reflected the cultural relationship between the two nations, as well as the influence of French song on the artistic and personal growth of the singer and songwriter, whose repertoire showcases his vocal qualities and stage presence.

Another objective of this project was the production of an audiovisual piece portraying the impact in Cuba of the famous French singer, known as La Môme Piaf, remembered for classics like La Vie en Rose.

Voice, piano, violin, percussion and bass, lent a distinctive touch to each piece, confirming De La Habana a París as a musical journey.

Authorities Sign Agreement to Protect Cultural Heritage



The agreement will protect the nations musical heritage through television materials. PHOTO: CRT.

By Dylan **LASTRE**

HAVANA- The National Museum of Music (MNM) and the Cubavisión television channel will safeguard Cuba's musical heritage in audiovisual format, thanks to the signing of a bilateral agreement.

The arrangement seeks to preserve and promote the nation's musical heritage through television materials, emphasizing on the restoration and dissemination of historical recordings.

This is the first bilateral cooperation settlement between both institutions.

The ceremony, held at the MNM headquarters, was attended by officials from both entities and representatives of the Colibrí Record Company. The Museum received Collection 1 of the program Lo Bueno no pasa, a TV slot that for more than 20 years on the air has recalled the work of

personalities and shows that have marked several Cuban generations.

These volumes are already part of the museum's legacy collection. It can be consulted by researchers and the public in the institution's interactive digital rooms.

The audiovisual collection was submitted to the Cubavisión 2026 Award and is listed on the official catalog of the Colibrí Record Company, an entity attached to the Cuban Institute of Music, which endorses its artistic value and contribution to the country's cultural memory.

The agreement establishes the foundation for a constant tripartite alliance between the Museum, Cubavisión and Colibrí, which will promote joint research, the restoration of audiovisual materials and the creation of new products to disseminate Cuba's musical identity, according to reports.



The concert remembered the first visit of Edith Piaf to Cuba, 70 years ago. PHOTO: Internet.

Cuba's Colonial Cannons

Text and Photos Roberto **CAMPOS**

HAVANA.-A strong tourist and photographic attraction from the Spanish colonial time, Cuba is today a kind of open-air museum where cannons from those years are still preserved, especially in this capital.

Their relevance is confirmed every night at 9:00 PM local time, when a cannon is fired from La Cabaña Fortress as part of a centuries-old tradition enjoyed by many who visit the site.

Such cannons are stone and bronze guardians found along the Havana Malecón (seafront), the entrances of imposing fortresses and historic squares, silent witnesses that have withstood time, salty air and history itself.

The colonial cannons still preserved in Havana are not just military relics; they

are powerful tourist magnets and tangible elements that connect visitors with the era when the city was the Key to the New World and the fore wall of the West Indies.

These pieces of artillery, mainly cast in Spain in the 18th and 19th centuries (with foundry marks from Seville or Barcelona) and in some cases in Cuba, fulfilled a crucial defensive role.

Havana, due to its bag-shaped bay and narrow deep entrance channel, was the gathering point for the fleets of the Indies, loaded with treasures.

Protecting the city was vital for the Spanish Crown. Fortresses such as El Morro, La Cabaña, La Punta and Castillo de la Real Fuerza were equipped with hundreds of cannons, whose batteries crossed fire to close off the entrance to the bay by means of a chain, or defending the land flanks.



Adoption of the Bogota Declaration Closes 10th CELAC Summit

By Ivette **FERNÁNDEZ**

BOGOTA.- The 10th CELAC Summit concluded here with the adoption of the Bogota Declaration, underscoring the full validity of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and the unwavering commitment of the regional bloc's member states to guaranteeing its respect. The 35-agreement document adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American States (CELAC) stated that this was a perfect time for a person born in Latin America and the Caribbean to assume the responsibility of serving as Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such appointment would enhance the UN's capacity to address global challenges and promote peace, development and justice. The member nations also expressed their support and solidarity with the Haitian Government and people in their efforts to achieve political, economic and social stability, and their endorsement to national, regional and international initiatives aimed at promoting peaceful, inclusive and sustainable solutions in that country. The declaration also reaffirmed the decision of the countries that supported United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/

RES/80/4 of October 29, 2025, on the need to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba, and opposing laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects.

The document acknowledged that Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism and its permanent inclusion on that arbitrary and unilateral list creates obstacles to international financial transactions with the island.

The CELAC member countries expressed their concern about the growing number of armed conflicts and stressed the need to prioritize the peaceful settlement of disputes, diplomacy, dialogue and the strengthening of multilateralism, with full respect for international law, including the United Nations Charter.

They reaffirmed their commitment to join forces to deepen cooperation mechanisms in the fight against the various manifestations of transnational organized crime, like corruption, illicit drug trafficking and the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

Other topics dealt with the importance of coordinating regional action to mitigate the effects of climate change and promote the development and strengthening of flexible financial instruments.

The Colombian President, Gustavo Petro, handed over the organization's gavel and flag to his Uruguayan counterpart, Yamandú Orsi, whose country will hold the presidency of the bloc for the following year.

In his acceptance speech, Orsi emphasized that his country assumes the leadership of the integration mechanism with humility, with the conviction of the importance of dialogue and consensus.



Colombian President, Gustavo Petro, handed over the CEPAL's gavel and flag to his Uruguayan counterpart, Yamandú Orsi. PHOTO: Internet.

 An advertisement for ESICUBA travel insurance. On the left, a woman with long red hair, wearing a white short-sleeved shirt and a dark blue skirt, is seen from behind. She is holding a brown hat and has a black suitcase next to her. The background is a stylized map of Cuba with a dotted line path and a red 'X' mark. On the right, the text reads:

INSURANCE

TRAVEL

JUST TO CUBA

ESICUBA
Seguros Internacionales de Cuba, S.A.

www.esicuba.cu esicuba.derechos@esicuba.cu

New forms of Business

By Manuel HUDSON

HAVANA.- Cuba has introduced a regulation that allows the establishment of new forms of business between state and non-state business entities to boost the national economy.

The Gaceta Oficial de la República de Cuba published Decree-Law 114 of December 10, 2025 and its complementary regulation, Resolution 8 of the Minister of Economics and Planning, dated February 23, 2026 that governs these partnerships.

This legislation responds to the 2019 Constitution of the Republic of Cuba mandate, which recognizes mixed ownership, legitimizing the combination of state and non-state resources for the country's economic development.

The Decree-Law regulates associations between state and non-state business entities through four types of business arrangements, such as the establishment of mixed limited companies, where the associated entities contribute assets or rights or transfer their respective social equity to a new company.

It also covers the acquisition by a state business entity of shares in an already existing private limited company.

Likewise, it foresees the taking-over, by a 100-percent Cuban capital public corporation or a state limited company, of a private limited company, as well as the arrangement of economic association contracts.

State business entities; 100-percent Cuban capital public corporations; micro, small and medium-sized state companies (MIPYMES),

and budgeted units with special treatment, can participate in the aforementioned associations.

Collaboration from non-state entities is likewise accepted, such as private MIPYMES, non-agricultural cooperatives and agricultural cooperatives.

Minister of Economics and Planning Joaquín Alonso Vázquez said at a press conference that the new regulation strengthens productive connections, promotes exports and benefits of installed capacities.

Other profits include promoting job creation, improving business competitiveness and fostering the recovery and consolidation of the socialist state company as the main entity of the Cuban economy.

The new Decree-Law favors greater connections between the state and private sectors, he affirmed.

The new forms of business in Cuba between state and non-state business entities, in which two or more units with different types of ownership can participate, generate science, innovation and productive sovereignty, in addition to strengthening business autonomy for national and territorial development, he added.



This legislation recognizes mixed ownership, legitimizing the combination of state and non-state resources. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Important Economists' Event Postponed

By Tino MANUEL

HAVANA.- The organizing committee of the XV International Meeting of Economists on Globalization and Development Issues announced its postponement due to the current situation in Cuba.

The official statement of the National Association of Cuban Economists and Accountants (ANEC) added that with great regret, the meeting, foreseen to take place in Havana from May 12 to 15, is postponed due to the current circumstances facing the country.

The escalation of illegal aggressions by the United States government and the Miami terrorist mafia that supports it, forces us to take this measure, the text underscores.

The communiqué specifically addresses the intensification of the oil blockade against Cuba and the country's economic and financial situation.

The International Meeting of Economists on Globalization and Development Issues is a high-level academic forum with a solid regional and global reputation, used to showing high standards of quality, the announcement emphasizes.

These levels of quality cannot be fully guaranteed due to the current conditions, the text reads.

The Association, the event's organizing and hosting institution, reaffirms its commitment to the development of economic and accounting sciences and international cooperation, hoping that these meetings can be resumed in the near future.

The information highlights that the Organizing Committee will continue working to hold the event as soon as possible.

The holding of this forum is a heartfelt tribute from Cuban and international economists and accountants to Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro (1926-2016), on the centenary of his birth, the entity affirmed.

All official communication channels will remain open to keep those interested in participating updated on the new dates, and to address any questions or concerns that may arise regarding its organization, the official statement concludes.



The International Meeting of Economists is a high-level academic forum with a solid regional and global reputation. PHOTO: Internet.

Initiatives in eastern Cuba

By Daimy PEÑA

HOLGUÍN.- Cuba is driving a shift in its energy matrix through scientific projects in vulnerable communities, a strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and strengthen the sovereignty of the electricity sector.

Deputy Delegate of Environment in the eastern province of Holguín, Geovanny Zaldívar, highlighted that the plans prioritize the installation of solar pumping systems for agricultural irrigation and water heaters in healthcare facilities.

The implementation of these technologies directly benefit food production in areas included in the Turquino Plan, where international programs like Ecovalor facilitate access to technical resources in geographically challenging regions.

According to the specialist, the initiative includes training local staff and managing spare parts, key elements for overcoming the material limitations resulting from the economic blockade imposed by the United States.

The program also promotes the use of biogas and wind energy on private farms, utilizing animal waste to generate

electricity and organic fertilizers for territorial self-sufficiency.

Zaldívar emphasized that these actions promote the advancement of women in the rural sector by providing direct benefits to female landowners and residents in socially disadvantaged areas.

The national energy transformation seeks to gradually replace hydrocarbon-based generation, which accounts for the majority of consumption, with clean energy sources installed at economic sectors.

The Holguín province currently manages more than 200 science and innovation programs focused on food security, government management and the development of skilled human capital.

TRANSFORMS PLASTIC WASTE INTO FUEL

The Holguín Scientific and Technological Park is leading the Pyralis project, an innovation that transforms plastic waste into high-quality fuel to benefit vital services in this eastern Cuban province.

The initiative, created by specialist Alejandro Ortíz, uses an oxygen-free heating procedure (pyrolysis) to process nylon bags and plastic tops.

According to the technical specifications, from every 100 kilograms of waste, 100 liters of pyrolytic oils are obtained, which are then used in the production of gas and diesel.

President of the Youth Technical Brigades in the province, Eric Díaz, specified that the plant is located on the grounds of the Héroes del 26 de Julio Factory.

This program foresees the installation of collection places in the communities for the purchase of waste, which will generate jobs and promote environmental cleanup.

As social incentive, neighborhoods with higher collection rates will receive resources for the beautification of facades and gardens.

Spokespeople said that Pyralis seeks to extend this closed-loop utilization cycle to the entire country, for which it requires the coordinated work between the business sector and the Community Services Company.



Solar panels installed at medical institutions in Holguín. PHOTO: ACN.

For a Future without Child Labor

By Alfredo BOADA

HAVANA.- Reducing poverty, promoting decent work and advancing social justice are some of the elements that will allow eliminating child labor in Latin America and the Caribbean, where more than 8 million children suffer this situation. It is a harsh reality for millions of children and adolescents in the region. Although the number of child workers has decreased significantly in the last two decades, there are still 8.2 million kids and youngsters under this condition – 5.5 million of which are engaged in hazardous activities. This phenomenon leaves a sharp mark on their lives and is a barrier to overcoming persistent inequality in the area, as stated by the Regional Initiative 'Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labor.' This scourge is mentally, physically, socially and morally harmful to children's development. It affects them both in their present and future lives. It interferes with their schooling and prevents them from attending class or concentrating.

Child labor, in its dangerous forms, exposes them to unhealthy and unsafe environments

that could cause death, injury, disability or disease. It also deprives children of their rights to protection, learning and health.

CHILD LABOR IN NUMBERS

Despite significant progress made since the year 2000, with a reduction of almost half in the number of minors affected by this social evil, there are still around 138 million children worldwide who suffer from this affliction, according to estimates by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Of that figure, around 83.4 million are linked to the agricultural sector. This is where the largest proportion of this misfortune is concentrated, according to ILO and UNICEF statistics. Agriculture continues to be the sector with the highest concentration of child workers, with 61 percent of cases, followed by services (27 percent) – such as domestic work and the sale of products in markets – and industry (13 percent), including mining and manufacturing. Asia and the Pacific have achieved the most significant reduction in prevalence since 2020, with a decline in the child labor rate from 5.6 percent to 3.1 percent

(from 49 million to 28 million children). Latin America and the Caribbean saw an 8.0 percent decrease in prevalence and 11 percent in the total number of children in child labor, the report indicates. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to bear the heaviest burden, with almost two-thirds of all children involved in child labor, about 87 million.

Child labor compromises education, limits rights and future opportunities, and puts children at risk of physical and mental harm.

Boys are more likely than girls to engage in child labor at any age, but when unpaid domestic tasks of 21 hours or more per week are included, the gender gap reverses, the report highlights.



It is reported that more than eight million children in Latin America and the Caribbean work. PHOTO: Internet.

Boxing: 13 Quotas and Five Central American Titles

By Yodeni**MASÓ**

HAVANA.- The Cuban boxing team concluded its participation in the qualifying tournament for the Santo Domingo Central American and Caribbean Games, scheduled for July 24 to August 8, with 13 quotas and five titles.

The so-called flagship of the Cuban sport guaranteed full team in the men's category, with representation in all seven weight classes, and six quotas in the women's, as no boxer competed in the 60-kilogram division.

Nine boxers entered the ring in pursuit of the title and five won gold medals, with Olympic champion Erislandy Álvarez (65 kg), world silver medalist Saidel Horta (2023) and two-time world bronze medalist Alejandro Claro (55 kg) playing key roles. Yusnier Sorsano (70 kg) and Keylor García (80 kg) also reached gold, while world runner-up in 2023, Fernando Arzola (+90 kg) and two-time Olympic champion Julio César La Cruz (90 kg) had an unfavorable final bout. Arzola slowed his pace after the opening round and multi-medalist La Cruz suffered a cut that was immediately attended by

the team's medical staff – ruling out further consequences – and brought the fight to an end.

Women contributed three medals: silver for Carysney García (54 kg) and Magda Massó (57 kg) – who lost to Colombian Yeni Arias and Venezuelan Omailyn Alcalá, respectively – and bronze for Erlis Cobas (65 kg).

By nation, Cuba returned to the top of the regional standings, winning five gold, four silver and one bronze medals at the Guadalajara qualifying tournament, ahead of Colombia (4-3-2), the host country Mexico (4-0-6) and Venezuela (1-5-4).

At the Santo Domingo multi-sports event, the national boxing team will compete during the final week of the games, from August 1 to 7, with only two days for medal matches.

Three years ago, at the San Salvador edition, Cuban boxing only contributed two gold medals, thanks to the performances of Julio César La Cruz and Fernando Arzola, in addition to several silver medals and five bronze. In that event, women made their debut at this level and returned home with one silver and one bronze medal.



Olympic champion Erislandy Álvarez (65 kg) qualify for the Santo Domingo Central American and Caribbean Games. PHOTO: Jit.

Two Stars under Beijing's Sky

By Ángel**DARIÁN**

BEIJING.- The history of world sport is being written in golden pages, with protagonists from every corner of the Earth, touching the limits of humanity and approaching the table of the Olympic gods.

Many born in Cuba have earned their place there, including two men forged on Greco-Roman wrestling mats: Mijaín López and Raúl Trujillo.

Winner of five consecutive Olympic titles, the giant from Herradura – his hometown, in the province of Pinar del Río – and Trujillo, his coach, friend and sport father, now face new challenges in wrestling which has taken them away from their beloved Cuba to Beijing, China, to share their experience with a nation that is getting stronger in this discipline.

López, appointed international wrestling ambassador, said that the purpose of his arrival in Beijing is primarily to assist in the preparation of the Chinese national team toward the Asian Championships, to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from April 6 to 12.

We will be here for approximately two months, contributing to the training of the Chinese team. We think that some adjustments have to be made, since their training method is different to ours, but their athletes are very disciplined and that yields excellent results, he affirmed.

The champion doesn't hold back his emotions for returning to the land that saw him win his first Olympic Games, in Beijing 2008, and confesses his admiration for a culture he describes as spectacular, with people whose historical significance should be followed.

For Trujillo, a true Cuban seasoned by decades of coaching on mattresses around the world, this new task is a positive one, given the talent he sees in this Asian nation.

"The Chinese national team is growing; its development is huge and it has all the conditions to increase its quality with fast, highly disciplined, strong and committed athletes. In the days I've been here, I have seen some difficulties in their preparation, some mistakes in the method and knowledge of training theory and

methodology, but we have corrected them and they're on the right track," he noted.

Mijaín's faithful squire misses the time he represented the colors of his homeland, but assures that his mission now is to develop wrestling in China, "but I always work

and think in favor of my country, seeking agreements, training camps and whatever is needed," he emphasized.

Two giants of world sport, two Cuban stars, continue to shine brightly more than 12,000 kilometers away from their people, now illuminating the sky of Beijing.



Five-time Olympic champion Mijaín López shares experiences in the Chinese capital. PHOTOS: Prensa Latina.

Women knit Resistance in Brazil

Text and photo MarthaROMÁN

CARACAS.- The agile hands of a group of women in the capital city of Brazil, transform the art of embroidery into a political language present in social struggles, expressions of affection and the defense of democracy.

Every Saturday, visitors to the Ponta Norte Agroecological Fair in this city can find them seated, needles in hand and surrounded by fabrics bearing messages denouncing racism and violence against women, while singing to diversity and respect, among many other themes.

It is the Líneas de Resistencia movement, a group born out of the COVID-19 pandemic as an intimate and collective response to a time marked by uncertainty, fear and political tensions in Brazil.

What began as a gathering of embroiderers has evolved into a militant art movement that now occupies public space and engages with local and global causes.

On their website, the group describes itself as a team founded in Brasilia in 2022, bringing together women from diverse backgrounds and regions, united by the art of free embroidery and a commitment to democratic causes.

"With love and dedication, we transform threads and needles into resistance and dreams, occupying physical and digital spaces to strengthen the struggle for social justice and freedom," they affirm.

The above was confirmed to **The Havana Reporter** by one of its members, Luciana de Maya Ricardo, who assures that Líneas de Resistencia was created "to address our

anxieties, our needs, which were driving us at that time."

She also added that the national context was decisive: "It was a political period in which we were very worried about the direction things were taking."

The meetings started in a simple, almost spontaneous way, at the aforementioned fair in Brasilia, with women anxious to

go to the streets and embroider and sit under a tent in chairs they brought from home.

However, this practice was not limited to a therapeutic exercise; it became a tool for political intervention: Words, symbols and slogans began to appear on the fabrics, expressing longings, pain and indignation.

"We embroider those topics that are important to us: anxieties, what we want; that's what we put on the cloths," Luciana explains.

In this way, small embroideries are then integrated into larger pieces called mantles, named like that because the group members wear them on their backs when participating in public events on the causes they defend.

The themes woven in the fabrics are multiple: democracy, human rights, environment, indigenous peoples, sexual diversity and social justice coexist in the threads. "...It is a way of positioning ourselves in the world," says Luciana.

In this sense, Líneas de Resistencia has also sewed stances on international conflicts and situations they consider unfair, and their designs include references to Cuba, Venezuela and Palestine.



Líneas de Resistencia born out of the COVID-19 pandemic, was a response to a time marked by uncertainty, fear and political tensions in Brazil. PHOTO: Prensa Latina



FOREIGN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CUBAN HEALTH SECTOR