



Back to School

Page. 3



Cuba/USA

Increasing Pressures

Page 4



Culture

Book Fair

Page 6



Spotlight

Honoring Finlay

Page 7



Economy

Recent Regulations

Page 14



Communication Management in Viñales Valley

By Miguel **VALDÉS**

HAVANA.- In 1999, UNESCO inscribed the Viñales Valley on the World Heritage List under the Cultural Landscape category. Since 1979, its archaeological, scenic, and sociocultural values had already led to its recognition as a National Monument.

Located 25 kilometers from the city of Pinar del Río and 178 kilometers from the capital, the Viñales Valley has unique geographical and geological features that endow it with significant heritage value.

Its mogotes —ancient, rounded limestone formations with vertical walls— distinguish it from other Cuban landscapes as a unique geomorphological setting. Their caves and underground aquifer systems are home to a rich array of endemic biodiversity.

Traditional rural music, tobacco cultivation, and vernacular architecture

—characterized by beautiful columns, spacious porches, and picturesque sloping Spanish-tile roofs— serve as symbols of the region and define the features of its Outstanding Universal Value.

However, the Viñales Valley's qualities would not be sufficiently recognized or validated without the use of communication as a tool for heritage management, public engagement, and the enhancement of the site's value.



The Viñales Valley has unique geographical and geological features. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Based on this premise and her professional role at the Viñales Valley Historian's Preservation Office, Carmen Rosa Romero (MSc) has launched a communication management plan that engages key strategic audiences linked to heritage activities, as well as local residents.

The goal is to enhance recognition of the heritage values of the Viñales Valley Cultural Landscape and, in doing so, strengthen the community's identity and sense of belonging.

Preserving the identity of groups or communities is essential to face cultural colonization, often spawned by "global globalization"—a term coined by Brazilian theologian and researcher Frei Betto.

Latin American schools of thought, that emerged in the second half of the past century, have highlighted the importance of recognizing mediations —particularly sociocultural ones— as decisive factors in engaging individuals in educational processes and social transformation.

When considering the importance of sharing heritage with the public through communication tools, it is essential to emphasize the need to convey the historical, aesthetic, and functional values that define it.

Sharing heritage with the public, the final stage of highlighting its value, must also involve interpretation; in this process, the link between communication and emotional connection with the audience serves as the fundamental psychological axis for communication management.

The geomorphology of the beautiful Viñales Valley, the symbolism of its traditional cultural practices, and the community's sense of identity and deep-rooted connection to the land have all been central to the communication management strategy undertaken by the Historian's Preservation Office.

Camagüey on the Tourism Map

By Francisco **MENÉNDEZ**

HAVANA.- The eastern province of Camagüey, the largest in Cuba, is strengthening its presence on the tours chosen by many of the travelers who visit the country.

Experts describe Camagüey as a destination of contrasts, where colonial history blends with dreamlike landscapes, while the Ministry of Tourism characterizes it as a hub of great diversity.

In this regard, they highlight that Camagüey's comprehensive tourist proposal goes from the cultural heritage of its capital city to the pristine beaches of its archipelago.

The city's main attraction is its Historic Center, declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2008.

This 54-hectare area is renowned for an urban layout unique in the Caribbean, a labyrinth of winding streets, alleyways, and irregular plazas designed, according to legend, to confuse pirates who besieged the old town.

This design, more akin to an Arab medina than a Spanish-American colonial city, stands as an exceptional example

of medieval European urban planning transplanted to the Americas.

Walking through its cobblestone streets reveals a harmonious architectural ensemble where Neoclassical, Eclectic, Art Deco, and Neo-colonial buildings coexist alongside imposing Baroque churches —such as the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria Cathedral, the city's most important, and the Nuestra Señora de la Merced Church, famous for its catacombs.

Squares such as Plaza de los Trabajadores, Plaza del Carmen, and Plaza de San Juan de Dios are must-stop spots for experiencing daily life and local art. In fact, Plaza del Carmen houses the studio of renowned artist Martha Jiménez, celebrated for her sculptures of local figures like Las Cotorras."

Beyond its urban charm, this province serves as a gateway to two of Cuba's major archipelagos: Sabana-Camagüey (known as Jardines del Rey) to the north, and Jardines de la Reina to the south.

Its main beach destinations —Playa Santa Lucía, on Cayo Sabinal, and Cayo Cruz— attract tourists with their crystal-clear waters and fine sand.

These locations, next to the natural landscapes of the Sierra del Chorrillo mountain range and the history of Guáimaro —where the first Cuban constitution was signed— create an offering designed to satisfy everyone, from sun-and-sand vacationers to history and nature enthusiasts.

With a hospitality tradition dating back to 19th-century inns and solidified by the development of Playa Santa Lucía

in the 1970s, Camagüey stands out as a destination that adapts to the demands of a diverse international tourism market without losing its authentic Cuban soul.



Camagüey as a destination of contrasts, where colonial history blends with dreamlike landscapes. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

The Havana Reporter

YOUR SOURCE OF NEWS & MORE

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

President: Jorge Legaña Alonso
Editorial Director: Daily Pérez Guillén
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

2026-2027 School Year



Education in Cuba is one of the greatest achievements of the Revolution. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

By Jorge QUEVEDO

HAVANA.- Cuba started the school year on September 1st, a decision that, far beyond merely overcoming difficulties, reaffirms its commitment to preserving and advancing education as an achievement of its Revolution."

The Ministry of Education announced that the 2026-2027 academic year would begin as scheduled in the official calendar. He also noted that education is both a right and a shared responsibility.

With these statements, the Ministry cleared up concerns regarding an issue of vital interest to the Cuban families, who suffer the consequences of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States—a situation further exacerbated this year by an energy siege.

As a result of these pressures, the previous school year had to be cut short.

In addition to the Cuban government's repeated denunciations regarding the situation caused by Washington's hostile actions, UNESCO's Regional Office in Havana warned last May that education in Cuba is at risk, due to the current energy crisis, which jeopardizes the future of an entire generation.

This critical situation hinders teachers and students from attending classes and is an obstacle to effective learning and the enjoyment of a normal social life.

Cuban higher education institutions also resumed activities on September at universities and colleges nationwide,

including those affiliated with other training bodies.

This process is taking place against a national backdrop marked by worsening fuel shortages due to well-known causes, as a result of which the higher education system has restructured its operations by prioritizing decentralization and a territorial approach.

Education in Cuba is one of the greatest achievements of the Revolution, forged during years of struggle that led to its triumph in January 1959.

With the rise to power of Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army, illiteracy was eradicated and an extensive network of institutions—including universities—was established to guarantee education.

This effort bore fruit, and Cuba has developed extraordinary human capital, serving both the nation and the rest of the world through various forms of solidarity. International assessments and surveys have attested to the quality of education in Cuba, which in recent years has undoubtedly been affected, primarily by the economic situation resulting from the U.S. policy of maximum pressure and strangulation.

The new school year will take place under complex circumstances; for this reason, Minister of Education Naima Trujillo has emphasized on the need to innovate, adopt flexible approaches, and carefully tailor plans for each school, neighborhood, municipality, and province to ensure work is carried out efficiently and with quality.

Solidarity from All over the World

By Brenda BARRANCO

HAVANA.- It seems as though the words Cuba's National Hero wrote in his essay *Nuestra América* (Our America) were penned for present times: "It is the time of mobilization, of marching together, and we must go forward in close ranks, like silver in the veins of the Andes."

From the very America our Apostle José Martí envisioned, when some lack decency, others are making common cause in defense of Cuba, providing humanitarian and material support to a people suffering the effects of a hostile and genocidal policy that has recently been intensified by an energy blockade.

Convoys carrying material aid from Brazil, Colombia, the United States, Uruguay, Mexico, and Argentina are arriving on the island, thanks to the hard work and dedication of political parties, labor leaders, and others who identify themselves with the cause.

Their cargo includes medicines, food, medical supplies, school kits, and energy-related equipment, among other essential items. These individuals understand that, despite their efforts, what they bring is not enough to meet the Cuban people's current needs.

What Cuba truly needs is to break free from the brutal siege imposed by the United States government; however, they hope this aid to spark an international solidarity movement inspiring governments to put an end to that siege.

The shipments arriving in Cuba carry not only supplies but also the hope and solidarity of millions of people across

the continent who stand alongside this nation.

The fact that the U.S. government's policy toward Cuba is hostile does not mean the American people are. An example of that is the Pastors for Peace group, which has collaborated with Cuba for decades.

Claudia de La Cruz, the religious organization's executive director, stated that their work upholds the legacy of Reverend Lucius Walker and Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

It is a historic responsibility that carries with it the love of the people of the United States, she said.

Expressions of support have also arrived from Europe.

A wave of solidarity from Italy has arrived, bringing political, social, and youth delegations.

Also from Italy, at the proposal of the San Marino parliament, an initiative emerged urging the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to maintain the country's traditional stance in favor of the lifting of the blockade imposed on the island.

In August, the National Italy-Cuba Friendship Association (ANAI) allocated 65,000 euros to initiatives supporting the Cuban people, using funds raised from its collaborators.

According to the organization, 10,000 euros were allocated for the purchase of pediatric oncology medications, and another 10,000 for the acquisition of glucometers and test strips.

The remaining 45,000 euros will be used to purchase solar panels and batteries for the Energy Autonomy Project at the Havana's Cerro Pediatric Teaching Hospital—known as "Las Católicas."



Convoys carrying material aid are arriving on the island. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



The Institute recommended actions toward Cuba based on the "America First" foreign and economic policy doctrine.

AFPI Recommends Increasing Pressures on Cuba

By Deisy **FRANCIS**

WASHINGTON.- The America First Policy Institute (AFPI), an ultra-conservative U.S. think tank, has called for more pressure on Cuba in a one-sided report built on the very elements that define the anti-Cuba narrative: falsehoods and defamation."

From its very title — "The Neighboring Dictatorship: Cuba and the Struggle for the Western Hemisphere"— the 42-page text aligns with Washington's rhetoric since President Donald Trump's return to the White House in January 2025.

The report portrays the Caribbean nation as a threat to U.S. national security, a state sponsor of terrorism, and a danger to the Western Hemisphere —views that mirror the current administration's stance toward the country.

In this sense, it offers a series of recommendations to the executive branch in relation to the policy toward Cuba based on the "America First" foreign and economic policy doctrine, which prioritizes U.S. interests above everything else.

Released on August 19, the document suggests increasing economic pressures and sanctions; re-establishing a permanent U.S. military presence in the Caribbean; permanently assigning naval, Coast Guard, intelligence, air, cyber, and special operations forces to the Southern Command, and expanding terrorism-related designations against Cuba.

For instance, the report recommends reviewing whether the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) and other Cuban institutions and organizations meet Washington's unilateral criteria for designation as Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

Upon his return to the official residence on Pennsylvania Avenue, several of Trump's cabinet designations —such as Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins— came from the America First Policy Institute.

Additionally, current Secretary of Education Linda McMahon previously chaired the AFPI board of directors, while former Attorney General Pam Bondi has overseen the group's legal affairs.

That think tank was founded in 2021 by Rollins and Larry Kudlow, former director of the Economic Council during Trump's first term (2017–2021).

For some political observers, the AFPI has succeeded in placing more of its members in high-profile positions than the Heritage Foundation —the conservative think tank that shaped the controversial Project 2025, which was described at the time as a sort of roadmap for Trump's second term.

In a recent interview with **The Havana Reporter**, Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez emphasized that the argument regarding a supposed threat from Cuba is fallacious and ridiculous. "What they aim to do is manipulate U.S., Cuban, and global public opinion."

Transformations Do Not Mean Concessions

By Martha Andrés **ROMÁN**



Cuban President said that the new economic measures are the result of a 10 years of refinement debate. PHOTO: Internet..

BRASILIA.- Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel affirmed that the 176 economic measures recently approved on the island aim to strengthen the national economy and do not mean concessions to the United States.

In an official interview with the Brazilian newspaper Folha de S.Paulo, the president

rejected the notion that the economic transformations represent a deviation from the socialist construction process.

"The 176 economic measures announced are the result of a refinement debate that has been going on for more than 10 years," he said.

Díaz-Canel pointed out that the current economic situation has given greater urgency to changes that were already being studied, and defended the incorporation of different economic actors as a way to increase production, attract investment, and generate resources for development.

The said measures include greater participation of the private sector, new opportunities for foreign investment, and opening up to investments by Cubans residing abroad.

As he explained, the main means of production remain in the hands of the State, while new economic actors must contribute to the objective of increasing production and generating benefits for the population.

Díaz-Canel strongly rejected the idea that the measures are a response to demands from Washington. "The United States has no moral authority to ask us for any concessions, nor are we willing to make any," he emphasized.

The president insisted that the reforms are part of a national process of economic improvement and not a negotiation with the U.S. government.

He also maintained that social justice remains a central principle of the Cuban project, and highlighted the social programs supported by the state budget.

During the interview, the president was also questioned about the possibility of a U.S. military intervention in Cuba, in a context marked by threats and pressures from Washington.

"We can expect anything from this U.S. administration," the head of state responded. Díaz-Canel also stated that Cuba is a peaceful country, but noted that there is a constant rhetoric of threats and for that reason, the island is preparing itself with actions such as the

National Defense Day, which is held every week. When asked what would happen to him personally in there were a military action against the island, he replied: "If my time comes, it will come. But it will not be with weakness and cowardice. It will be fighting."

The president reiterated that Cuba does not seek confrontation and remains open to dialogue with Washington, but without any demands or subordination to external interests.

Díaz-Canel maintained that, given Cuba's circumstances, the defense of independence and sovereignty is directly linked to the construction of socialism.

He also referred to the teachings of the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, who "taught us that setbacks can be transformed into victories and that no enemy, however powerful, is invincible."

"We know it will be difficult. Yes, it is. But look: here we are, standing tall, fighting, without giving up," the Cuban leader concluded.

Support for Health Services in Eastern Provinces

By Daimy **PEÑA** and Yugdaris **VICET**

HAVANA.- The first batch of eco-friendly vehicles has begun operating in Holguín to ensure patients' transport to hemodialysis centers and support public transportation in this northeastern Cuban province.

The fleet, acquired through Cuba's Transport Development Fund, began its regular health-related operations on August 17, following test runs with passengers, days earlier, to verify logistics on the assigned routes.

The vehicles will provide transport to the Vladimir Ilich Lenin General Teaching Hospital and the Lucía Ñíguez Landín Hospital, the two main healthcare institutions in the provincial capital.

Additionally, they will provide services to the population, contributing to urban mobility within the area.

The launch event was attended by First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in the province, Joel Queipo Ruiz, and provincial governor Manuel Hernández Aguilera.

Also participating were René Rodríguez Morales, delegate from the Ministry of

Transportation, and Joel Rodríguez, director of the Taxis Cuba company.

NEW AMBULANCES IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Meanwhile, it was announced that the public health service in this southeastern province has received six new vehicles for the Integrated Medical Emergency System (SIUM).

These brand-new ambulances help optimize the transport and care of patients requiring urgent life support, as well as

the units' technical positioning systems, sources indicated.

The presentation of these ambulances took place in the parking lot of the Saturnino Lora Provincial Clinical-Surgical Teaching Hospital, a facility that has undergone construction and renovation work in recent years.

This delivery takes place amidst a context marked by the intensification of the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States on the Cuban people, which particularly affects the healthcare system.



These new ambulances in Holguín and Santiago de Cuba help optimize the transport and care of patients. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Cuban Scientist Participates in IAEA Marine Workshop

By Sabdiel **BATISTA**

CIENFUEGOS.- MSc Liana B. Carballo, a scientist at the Cienfuegos Center for Environmental Studies (CEAC), participated in an international workshop in Monaco, which was focused on monitoring and assessing marine pollution, ocean acidification, and blue carbon sequestration.

The scientist joined the group of international experts at the event, the Cuban institution told The Havana Reporter. The meeting addressed the need to tackle the lack of integrated global scientific research regarding marine pollution, climate change, carbon cycle, and ocean acidification, Carballo stated.

The researcher added that the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques will help establish an efficient system for monitoring key pollutants such as marine biotoxins, mercury, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and radionuclides.

The project also promotes analytical responses to environmental emergencies, the tracking of SDG indicator 14.3 regarding ocean acidification, and the assessment of blue carbon sequestration in coastal ecosystems.

The event, organized by the Division of Marine Environment Laboratories of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), was part of the interregional project "Strengthening Ocean Health for Sustainable Development: A Global Approach Using Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques" (INT7022).

Specialists from Uruguay, Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil, Kenya, Tunisia, Slovenia, Türkiye, Jordan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Cuba participated in the meeting alongside IAEA experts.

The workshop's primary objective was to facilitate the global exchange of technical knowledge to harmonize and implement marine monitoring methodologies on a worldwide scale.

CEAC, an institution under Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, has an extensive track record of research related to coastal zones and marine ecosystems.

The presence of Cuba in these global scientific coordination forums reaffirms the country's commitment to sustainable development and supports decision-making for the protection of marine heritage in the region.



Specialist from 15 countries participated at the meeting organized by the IAEA. PHOTO: Internet.

Book Fair showed the unity and fraternity among nations

By Adis**MORERA**

HAVANA.- Deputy Prime Minister Inés María Chapman affirmed that the holding of the 34th Havana International Book Fair demonstrated what the Cuban people can achieve, and that unity is the foundation to continue moving forward.

In statements to The Havana Reporter at the conclusion of this literary festival, on August 16, Chapman emphasized that the event's success lies on the Cuban people and the Revolution.

The Deputy Prime Minister also highlighted the joint work of various institutions and agencies, as well as the presence of friends from around the world and from the Russian Federation, the guest of honor country.

Held amidst a complex national scenario, this edition featured delegations from 33 countries from across all continents, a fact viewed as a reaffirmation of the commitment shown by Cuba and its friends toward this major literary event.

The Nicolás Guillén Hall of the Línea y 18 Cultural Center, in Havana, hosted the tribute to those who have made possible this renowned event, which promises new proposals and emotions as it travels to the

remaining provinces, ultimately concluding in Santiago de Cuba.

During the evening, the interim chargé d'affaires of the Russian embassy, Sergei Parkhomenko, highlighted the Eurasian giant's diverse cultural offerings and the responsibility of holding such a significant status.

"We made a real effort to showcase the nation's multifaceted culture," he stated, emphasizing that this would not have been possible without the support of "our Cuban friends."

At the gathering, with the entertainment of Russian violinist Petr Lundstrem, various Cuban institutions and publishing houses were recognized for their outstanding presence and contributions to the fair.

The Grand Prize for Social Communication, awarded by the Cuban Association of Social Communicators, went to the Letras Cubanas publishing house, while Ediciones ICAIC and Editorial Gente Nueva (Children's Pavilion) were among those honored in the Graphic Design, Audiovisual, Digital Media, and Public Relations categories.

In this edition, historian Pedro Pablo Rodríguez received the 2025 National Publishing Award in recognition of his sustained work on the monumental

Edición Crítica de las Obras Completas de José Martí (Critical Edition of José Martí's Complete Works.)

An official statement noted that this award, granted unanimously by a jury of experts, recognizes not only an exemplary career but also the significance of a publishing project that keeps the thought of Cuban National Hero alive.

In the presence of Cuban Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso and other dignitaries, the

Russian Federation, the Communications Department of the Cuban Book Institute (ICL), the Línea y 18 Cultural Center, and the Fidel Castro Ruz Center, among other institutions, were also recognized.

According to ICL President Juan Rodríguez, the complex circumstances, exacerbated by the U.S. blockade, did not prevent the holding of the fair, which was dedicated to Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro, "its most loyal promoter."



The 34th Havana International Book Fair success lies on the Cuban people and the Revolution.

PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

German Donation Strengthens Cuban Film Institute

By Verónica**NÚÑEZ**

HAVANA.- The Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC) received more than 70 solar panels donated by the German association Netzwerk InterRed Cooperation, as part of an agreement between the two institutions.

In January this year, ICAIC President Alexis Triana and director of the German entity, Lothar Reininger, signed a letter of agreement for sustainable collaboration aimed at ensuring the operational continuity of the organization's facilities —specifically the Digital Laboratory and the Charles Chaplin Cinema.

The delivery included the installation of technological structures on the roof of the main Cubacine building, which will allow essential areas of the institution to be supported by a grid-tied solar photovoltaic system, Triana said on social media.

This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Culture and the Cuban Presidency's goal of having all socioeconomic

actors drive forward new sources of electricity generation.

Triana pointed out that this objective is already being realized across various sectors linked to the organization, such as the Palomas Project, the Production House, Audiovisuales ICAIC, Cubanacán Studios, ICAIC Animation Studios, the ICAIC Distribution Division, the Film Archive, the Seat of the New Latin American Film Festival, and the Digital Laboratory.

Alltogether, they add up to more than 80 solar panels, 40 lamps of the same technology, seven electric tricycles, and five alternative energy stations. In his message, Alexis Triana thanked Reininger and his team for their efforts; they are members of the boards of directors of the solidarity organizations InterRed, LAGG, and AMCA.

The agreement strengthens ICAIC's infrastructure and reaffirms the value of international collaboration for the benefit of culture and the audiovisual arts, he added.



Triana and Reininger, signed a letter of agreement aimed at ensuring the operational continuity of the Cuban organization's facilities. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



Voces del Sur Global
Voices of the Global South



Finlay, the True Discoverer of the Yellow Fever Vector

By PedroRIOSECO

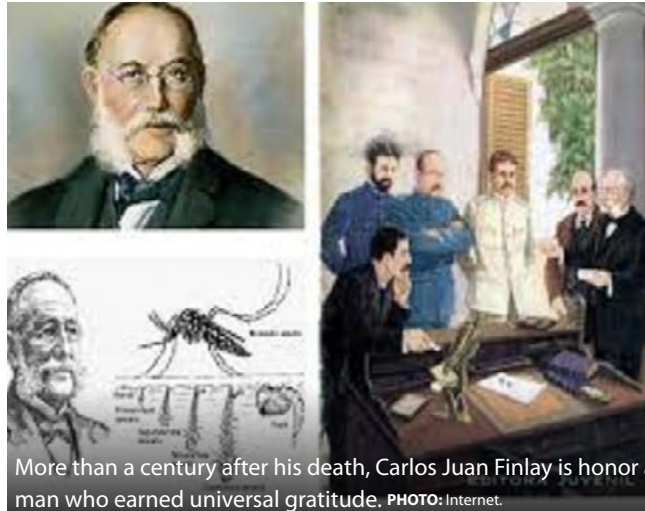
HAVANA.—Cuban epidemiologist Carlos J. Finlay discovered the way of transmission of the yellow fever, via the female of the mosquito species now known as *Aedes aegypti*. However, an American physician attempted to claim credit for this discovery on the international stage.

Carlos J. Finlay y Barrés, as he went down in history, was born Juan Carlos in Puerto Príncipe (today's Camagüey) on December 3, 1833 —a date in which the "Latin American Medicine Day" is celebrated at present, in his honor— and died in Havana at the age of 81 on August 20, 1915.

More than a century after his death, we honor a man who earned universal gratitude, not only for his work regarding yellow fever but also for discovering and solving the terrible problem of infantile tetanus.

For his research and scientific contributions, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize award on several occasions, but never received it.

At a time when no one could imagine that a tiny insect could be the vector for the disease —also known then as "black vomit"— Finlay did not give up on his efforts and documented his views in various writings that, over time, validated the accuracy of his theories.



More than a century after his death, Carlos Juan Finlay is honored as a man who earned universal gratitude. PHOTO: Internet.

Since 1868, he also started conducting significant studies on the spread of cholera in Havana, revealing that the disease was being transmitted through the waters of the so-called Zanja Real (Royal Ditch) —which were likely contaminated by sick individuals at the very sources which supplied that primitive aqueduct.

These epidemiological studies went unpublished at the time due to strict censorship imposed by colonial authorities. However, the Royal Academy of Sciences of

Havana managed to publish this important work in 1873, after the epidemic had already passed.

In 1872, Finlay was elected a full member of the Royal Academy of Medical, Physical, and Natural Sciences of Havana, and in 1895, a Member of Merit. He also studied glanders and described the first case of filaria in blood observed in the Americas (1882).

He ventured into more theoretical scientific matters and practiced ophthalmology, his father's specialty.

At the same time, he dedicated himself to investigating the etiology of yellow fever, drawing upon the considerable experience gained in Cuba regarding the characterization and diagnosis of the disease —some of whose symptoms were also originally described by Cuban physicians.

Representing the Academy of Sciences, he actively collaborated with the first yellow fever research commission sent to Cuba by the U.S. government in 1879.

In 1893, 1894 and 1898, Finlay formulated and spread, domestically and internationally, the key measures for preventing yellow fever epidemics, which were centered on destroying the larvae of the transmitting mosquitoes within their own breeding grounds.

In essence, these were the same measures that, starting in 1901, were successfully implemented in Cuba and later in Panama, as well as in other countries where the disease was considered endemic.



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

LPL PRENSA LATINA

La mayor casa editorial de publicaciones seriadas de Cuba

The largest publishing house of continuous publications in Cuba

www.prensa-latina.cu

Twitter: @PrensaLatina_cu, YouTube: PrensaLatinaTV, Facebook: @AgenciaPrensaLatinaOficial, Instagram: @prensaletinacuba, Telegram: @PrensaLatinaNoticias, RSS: TesoroLatino

Experts Study Reptiles in Central Cuba Protected Area

By Neisa **MESA**

CIEGO DE ÁVILA.- National researchers are conducting a study on reptiles as biological indicators of vegetation formations' health at the Cayo Coco Central-West Ecological Reserve, located in the north of this central Cuban province. The area, a part of the Ciego de Ávila Great Northern Wetland Ramsar Site, is considered the country's second-largest protected zone of this type, spanning 36,040 hectares.

The research, promoted by the Environmental Engineering and Biodiversity Center (CIBA), aims to integrate the structural characteristics of reptile communities, with their presence or absence, to coastal ecosystems, affirmed scientist Daylon Fundora, leader of the initiative.

He added that the project is scheduled to conclude in 2027 and fosters collaboration among researchers, specialists and technicians from prestigious national institutions, including the Cuban Institute of Biodiversity, the local Flora and Fauna Enterprise, and CIBA.

Fundora explained that the animal groups within the area's four existing vegetation formations have already been characterized, and the locations of various species have been mapped, along with estimates of their amounts.

Other objectives include gathering knowledge on the health status of vertebrates and assessing the relationship between the protected area's climatic and seasonal conditions and the various genres and vegetation status, he said.

The studies also aim to develop public awareness initiatives directed primarily at managers, staff and both domestic

and international visitors at the hotel and non-hotel facilities in the northern cays.

These environmental education activities seek to raise awareness regarding the vulnerability of reptiles and the importance of preserving them to maintain ecological balance, Fundora explained.

Twenty-eight reptile species, representing 11 genres, inhabit the Cayo Coco Central-West Protected Area. The most notable of these include the Majá de Santa María (Cuban boa), iguanas, and various lizards.

Reptiles can serve as indicators of sensitive changes in land use, pollution and other forms of disturbance, making them useful tools for understanding the impact of human activity on ecosystems.

CIBA Director Yamilé Jiménez highlighted that this is a research project linked to the 'Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Components' sectoral program, which will yield useful data for the efficient management of this important Cuban area, while also defining prospects for the development of ecotourism and scientific tourism.



The research aims to integrate the structural characteristics of reptile communities, with their presence or absence, to coastal ecosystems. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Latinoamérica Magazine Unites 15 Countries in China

By Isaura **DIEZ**

BEIJING.- The Latinoamérica magazine, shaped with the participation of 15 countries from the region, was launched in the Chinese capital as an initiative to promote culture, tourism, and ties between Latin America and China.

The publication brings together content regarding diversity, identity, and features of the participating

nations, aiming to strengthen bonds between Ibero-American peoples and the rest of the world.

During the ceremony, President of the China International Publishing Group, Chang Bo, highlighted the role of reading as a means to enrich knowledge, foster ethical development, and encourage dialogue among civilizations. He noted that books allow different cultures to learn from one another and gain wisdom and experience from diverse civilizational achievements.

He explained that the China International Publishing Group has organized three sessions of the Ambassadors' Book Club to date, involving diplomatic representatives from more than 20 countries.

Meanwhile, Lookwe General Manager, Xu Yunzu, expressed gratitude for the support and trust shown by the 15 embassies that participated in the production and publishing of this special edition —Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Xu stated that the publication serves as an invitation from Latin America to the Chinese public to discover the region's attractions and unique characteristics.

The executive noted that the publication also reflects the friendship between China and Latin American countries, opening up new possibilities for exchanges in culture, tourism, and other sectors.

At the ceremony, Panama's Ambassador to China, Miguel Lecaro, affirmed that Latin America presents itself to the Asian nation with a voice that is both united and diverse, rooted in the richness of its multiple identities.

The diplomat noted that the embassies conceived the magazine not merely as a tourism or cultural catalog, but also as a tool to promote the participating countries.

Each page, he added, aims to open a window to trade, sustainable development, and experience-based tourism for Chinese citizens and investors.

The ceremony also featured cultural exhibition areas showcasing books and works from Latin American countries, alongside a space dedicated to experiences related to China's intangible cultural heritage.



China expressed gratitude for the support and trust shown in the production and publishing of this special edition. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

A Visual Tribute to thought and cultural Heritage

By Marlén **RUIZ**

HAVANA.- Recognized faces of Cuban culture emerge from the creative passion of a group of students who, with the exhibition Retratos (Portraits), honor an organization that is a pillar in the defense of national thought and heritage: the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC).

National Poet Nicolás Guillén; visual artists Lesbia Vent Dumois and Alfredo Sosabravo; singer-songwriter Silvio Rodríguez; historian Eusebio Leal, and dancer Alicia Alonso—to name just a few— make up the collection of 17 works intended to celebrate UNEAC's 65th anniversary.

The exhibition is part of the Arte Soy (I am Art) commemorative series, on display at the headquarters of the organization's Villena Hall thanks to the talent of students from the San Alejandro Fine Arts Academy.

Following the public's encounter with images that captivate, beyond colors and brushstrokes, the institution's gardens hosted a concert by the Cuerdas Profundas orchestra, conducted by Maestro Lázaro Dagoberto González.

Emblematic pieces from both the national and international repertoires such as La bella cubana by José White delighted the audience, in a performance that demonstrated the enduring future of the country's musical tradition.

With this and other initiatives, among which stand out the panels "Fidel in the Media Stage" and "UNEAC Awards: more than 60 Years of Cuban Literature," the organization commemorates six and a half decades of extraordinary prominence in the nation's cultural life.

Attending the evening were Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso; Deputy Head of the Ideological Department of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee, Elier Ramírez, among other prominent figures from the Cuban intellectual community.



Retratos (Portraits), honor the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists (UNEAC). PHOTO: Abel Rojas..

Cuban Writer Leonardo Padura Wins Liber Award

By Fausto **TRIANA**

MADRID.-Cuban writer Leonardo Padura was granted the Liber Award by the Federation of Publishers' Guilds of Spain (FGEE) as the most outstanding Spanish-American author.

The recognition will be presented on September 30 at the National Art Museum of Catalonia (MNAC) during the Barcelona International Book Fair (Liber 2026).

According to an FGEE statement, the jury highlighted Padura's ability "to tell stories grounded in research, truth exploration,

guilt, friendship, and the weight of history on individual lives."

The organization also recognized his career as an international renown author and the richness of styles and genres that characterize his work.

The Cuban author, born in 1955, had previously achieved one of the

most prestigious honors in the Ibero-American world: the Princess of Asturias Award for Literature in 2015 for a work published by the Tusquets Publishing House.

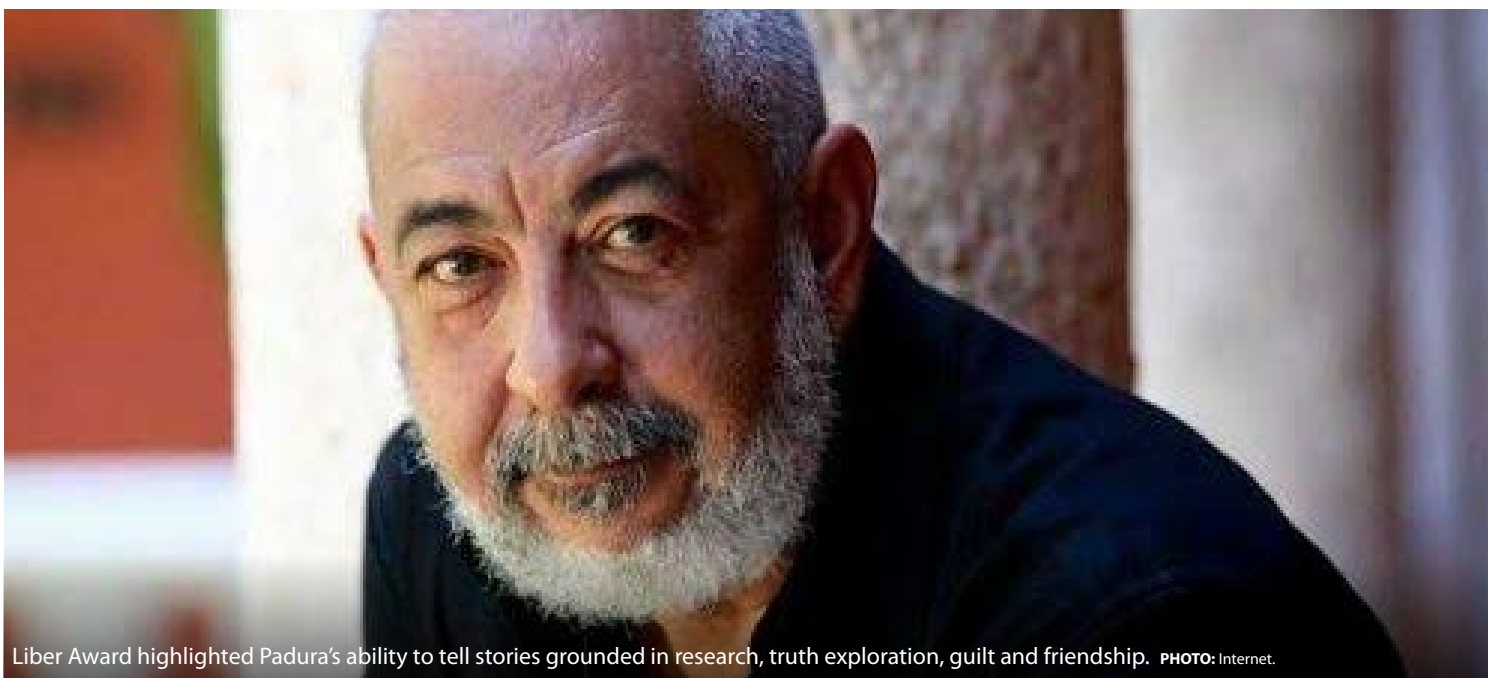
Some of his most notable books include La novela de mi vida, Herejes, Regreso a Ítaca, Como polvo en el viento, Morir en la arena, and the highly celebrated El hombre que amaba a los perros, in which he rewrites the story of Leon Trotsky through the tales of Ramón Mercader.

His plots often center on detective novels featuring the character of Mario Conde.

According to the FGEE statement, when learning of the granting of the Liber Award, Padura praised the federation's efforts to give visibility to writers' work and acknowledged the significance of becoming the first Cuban author to receive such an honor.

"It represents a recognition not only of me personally but also of the culture to which I belong and in which I remain," he noted.

Padura's list of acknowledgments also includes the Café Gijón Prize, the Dashiell Hammett award, the Barcino Historical Novel Prize, and the 2023 Pepe Carvalho award.



Liber Award highlighted Padura's ability to tell stories grounded in research, truth exploration, guilt and friendship. PHOTO: Internet.

Worldwide Tributes to Fidel on his Centenary

By Milagros **PICHARDO**

HAVANA.- The centenary of Fidel Castro's birth transcended Cuba's borders to become an event of global resonance, mobilizing revolutionaries, social organizations, and political leaders from different regions.

On the premise that his legacy belongs to all humanity, numerous nations have joined the commemoration through political-cultural events, academic colloquiums, documentary screenings, and strong declarations of solidarity.

Member states of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America–Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) stated that Fidel Castro's life, thought and work "stand as a moral and political heritage" for the peoples fighting

for their dignity.

Nicaragua's Co-President, Rosario Murillo, highlighted in her speeches the enduring relevance of the Commander-in-Chief's ideas in the struggles for sovereignty and peace, while the community of Cubans residing in that country reaffirmed their commitment to his legacy and underscored their homeland's resilience.

In Brazil, left-wing political parties and social and student organizations celebrated the occasion. In Buenos Aires, the Cuban Embassy opened its doors for a moving gathering, in addition to other events in La Plata, Mendoza, Córdoba, Neuquén, and Moreno.

Santiago de Chile hosted the launch of the book *Fidel. Una Revolución cargada de futuro* (Fidel: A Revolution Charged with the Future), a text compiling the views of more

than 50 global figures.

The Autonomous University of Santo Domingo hosted a political-cultural gala commemorating the awarding of the Doctor Honoris Causa to Fidel Castro in 1992.

Venezuelan acting President Delcy Rodríguez affirmed that Fidel Castro is one of those men who transcend time and remain in the collective memory, while Foreign Minister Félix Plascencia attended a wreath-laying ceremony.

Asian nations also paid tribute to the leader. China and Cuba commemorated the centenary at the Jintai Art Museum with a floral offering, speeches, and cultural performances.

In Vietnam, the park named after Fidel Castro in Dong Ha (Quang Tri province,) hosted the national commemoration, where authorities

recalled that Fidel was the only foreign head of state to visit the liberated zone of the then-South Vietnam in 1973.

On the African continent, the President of Namibia, Netumbo Nandi, highlighted that Fidel Castro sowed seeds of generosity and internationalism, describing him as a close friend of Africa and one of the most important leaders of the 20th century.

Tributes also took place in Angola and Ethiopia, while in Zimbabwe, a commemorative plaque was unveiled alongside a photographic exhibition showcasing the leader's ties to Africa.

Even in the United States, despite the current administration's attempts to tarnish the Commander's image, numerous expressions of tribute were conducted.



Tribute to Fidel in Santiago de Chile. PHOTOS: Prensa Latina.



Cuban children in Russia remember Fidel Castro on his centenary.



A plaque commemorating the centenary of Fidel's birth was unveiled in Harare.



Holguín's Treasures

By Roberto F. CAMPOS

HAVANA.- The province of Holguín, located in Cuba's northeastern region, holds several treasures for those who visit an area that combines beaches, nature, history, and a vibrant cultural life.

Firmly established as the island's third most important tourist resort, Holguín's main attraction is its stunning coastline, featuring 41 beaches along 350 kilometers of northern shore —some boasting the Caribbean's whitest sands and clearest waters.

Destinations such as Guardalavaca, Playa Esmeralda, and Playa Pesquero are renowned for their fine sands and colorful coral reefs, making them ideal spots for scuba diving and snorkeling.

Adding to these beach paradises, there is also Cayo Saetía, an island spanning over 40 square kilometers, with exotic wildlife —such

as zebras and antelopes— roaming freely and offering a unique safari experience.

Beyond the coast, Holguín harbors world-class natural treasures. It is home to Salto del Guayabo, Cuba's highest waterfall, and the Sierra del Cristal mountain range, an area of lush biodiversity.

History also plays a pivotal role in this province. Christopher Columbus landed at Bariay Bay in 1492, and according to historians, he described this area as "the most beautiful land human eyes have ever seen."

The city of Holguín —also known as "City of Parks"— invites visitors to wander its streets and climb the 458 steps of Loma de la Cruz, a lookout point offering spectacular views of the entire region.

Throughout the year, the province hosts major festivities, such as the Romerías de Mayo —an art and youth festival— and the Ibero-American Culture Festival.



Argentina: Peronist Fragmentation Emboldens Milei and Supporters

By Martin HACTHOUN

BUENOS AIRES.- The lack of unity among Peronist factions is emboldening President Javier Milei, his executive team and his advisors, who view this infighting with optimism, in the face of the 2027 general elections.

For the Milei followers, the move by Cristina Fernández's lawyers to challenge the Vialidad case conviction before the UN Human Rights Committee —arguing it is illegitimate and the result of political persecution— could erode support for the Partido Justicialista, according to an in-depth article by the Perfil newspaper. Fernández is currently serving a six-year sentence under house arrest and faces a lifetime ban from holding public office.

For the Partido Libertario, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner's legal maneuvers at the UN — and her staunchest supporters' calls for her to run for president— are seen more as political gestures than strategies with a realistic chance of success, as they view any ruling by that international body as non-binding on the Argentinean justice system.

In other words, a favorable decision from the UN body for the former leader would have a symbolic rather than practical impact, even

though her defenders consider it an essential technical and legal step.

Through this filing, they seek to halt a conviction and disqualification they deem arbitrary, maintaining that the Argentinean State would be obliged to comply with whatever measures the body mandates.

Taking for granted that Argentina's judicial leadership will not alter its verdict in the case, a ruling-party official told Perfil that the main concern for the La Libertad Avanza

Party today is not their external rival — whom they see as fractured— but rather their own government's performance. In their view, if they do things right, Milei will be re-elected.

Following the Senate defeat that scuttled proposals to allow foreign ownership of Argentinean land and privatize burned forest areas —initiatives that notably enjoyed the explicit approval of President Donald Trump— the political team led by Karina Milei at the

Casa Rosada has redrawn the parliamentary agenda for the coming weeks and months to minimize complexity and risk.

The Libertarios' primary objective is to suspend the Open, Simultaneous, and Mandatory Primaries (known as PASO), a system major political movements use to organize their ranks and select their presidential tickets.

Historically, these primaries have helped the diverse Peronist movement —Argentina's leading political force— to align its electoral strategy and achieve unity behind a single pair of candidates. This explains the ruling party's insistence on eliminating the primaries through an amendment to the Electoral Law, an effort that previously failed before the winter recess.

While the Kirchnerist faction pursues its legal strategy and internal rifts within Peronism remain unresolved, the Libertarios' leadership is simultaneously building a grassroots presence across the country with an eye toward the 2027 elections.

Karina Milei, the president's sister and General Secretary of the Presidency, is intensifying efforts to forge alliances in the provinces, with Buenos Aires as a key district where the ruling party aims to consolidate its own competitive political structure.



President Javier Milei capitalizes on the lack of unity among Peronist factions. PHOTO: Internet.

**INSURANCE
TRAVEL**

JUST TO CUBA

ESICUBA
Seguros Internacionales de Cuba, S.A.

www.esicuba.cu esicuba.dientes@esicuba.cu

Transformations to Save Socialism

By Orlando **ORAMAS**

MONTEVIDEO.- Cuba is engaged in the implementation of economic and social transformations to continue building socialism despite the obstacles posed by the blockade, stated here Déborah Rivas, the island's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment.

These remarks were made on August 18 at the headquarters of the PIT-CNT trade union federation, where its president, Marcelo Abdala, welcomed her to "the home of solidarity with Cuba."

Rivas led her country's delegation to the Sixth Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During her meeting with the Uruguayan labor and solidarity movement, the Cuban deputy minister explained the latest consequences of the tightened U.S. blockade against Cuba, which now includes an energy siege.

"The blockade is killing people," she denounced, citing the lack of medical supplies, medicines, fuel, and water.

"There are 15,000 children awaiting surgery because hospitals lack the resources to treat them," she emphasized. Rivas added that, in this context, the Cuban Revolution has not remained idle.

"Amidst a very complex scenario, our country took the sovereign decision of approving a set of economic and social transformations aimed at making the economy efficient, generating and distributing wealth, and preserving social achievements —particularly universal, free healthcare and education systems," she said.

"These objectives demands social transformations and the participation of all economic actors and civil society organizations," she affirmed.

The deputy minister referred to the transformation regarding corporate social responsibility, to which thousands of small and medium-sized private companies operating on the island must be added, especially at the local level.

She also explained that the policy of subsidizing losses incurred by state-owned enterprises and products that render the economy unviable is being left behind. From now on, such subsidies will be reserved only for the most



Déborah Rivas, Cuban Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

vulnerable individuals or for enterprises with specific social responsibilities; all others must manage their own resources.

Rivas noted that the State requires revenue to fund a budget that allocates 21 percent to education and 24 percent to healthcare.

She emphasized that the transformations adopted and currently being implemented are the result of a sovereign decision, and denied that this represents a transition to capitalism.

"We are convinced that this is the path to saving socialism in Cuba," she stressed.

At the meeting, Norma Goicochea, president of the United Nations Association of Cuba (ACNU), stated that this is a

process in which all civil society organizations on the island must be involved.

Speaking on behalf of the Jurists Union of Cuba, lawyer Ivonne Pérez highlighted that implementing the 176 measures comprise work involving both the general public and the academic community, specifically regarding the adjustment of regulations and the provision of legal support. Questions from the audience addressed the role of labor unions in this new reality, the function of public ownership, and Cuba's capacity to navigate the pitfalls and obstacles created by the blockade. The political thought of Che Guevara was also recalled.

Cuba's ambassador to Uruguay, Lissett Pérez, also attended the event.

Science and Innovation against the Oil Siege

By Alfredo **BOADA**

HAVANA.- Cuba, a small island and a nation of men and women of sciences, gives technological innovation a prominent role in defeating the criminal and genocidal oil blockade imposed by the United States government since the beginning of this year. The recent completion of a third processing of domestic crude oil at the Hermanos Díaz refinery in Santiago de Cuba —one of the Caribbean nation's four refineries— highlights the progress made by Cuban scientists, engineers and technicians toward the fundamental goal of securing fuel supply based on the country's own capabilities.

Engineer Irene Barbado Lucio, the refinery's general director —an entity attached to the Cuba-Petróleo Union— told the press

that on this occasion, approximately 2,000 tons of naphtha and 10,000 tons of fuel oil were obtained, a result surpassing that of the two previous processes, conducted in March and May.

The expert noted that, this time, protocols for future modifications were improved

to account for the specific characteristics of the domestic crude, which is high in viscosity, acidity, and sulfur content.

Meanwhile, engineer Cristóbal Acosta Blanco commented that measures were also taken to ensure the continued viability of the infrastructure.

Specialists noted that this entire technological and scientific work, driven by collective creation and a robust movement of innovators and efficiency experts, shows the Cuban people's capacity for resilience.

They also added that it confirms their unwavering determination to find solutions to the most complex adversities caused by Washington's unjust economic blockade and energy siege.

The actions conducted at the Santiago de Cuba refinery are being carried out in parallel with studies at the Petroleum Research Center.

These efforts are based on the thermoconversion process, a technique highlighted by President Miguel Díaz-Canel during a meeting with members of the National Innovation Council.



The recent completion of a third processing of domestic crude oil highlights the progress made by Cuban scientists, engineers and technicians. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

New Economic Regulations

By Benjamín **MICERINOS**

HAVANA.- Recent economic regulations enacted by the Cuban government have received broad support among officials, executives, and specialists, who agree that these measures represent a pivotal step toward the revitalization of the non-state sector.

While there is much to discuss regarding Cuba's new economic regulations and measures, it is essential to focus on their underlying objectives: incentivizing investment and addressing the challenges posed by the blockade.

The provisions, which include four new decree-laws from the Council of State, update the regulatory framework for Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Companies (MIPYMES),

cooperatives, and self-employed workers, while also easing restrictions on wholesale and retail trade.

President of the National Institute of Non-State Economic Actors, Mercedes López-Acea, emphasized that these regulations —the result of a year and a half of work and consultation— aim to “organize and foster this complementary economic activity and correct distortions.” Speaking to the press, the official highlighted that all existing forms of non-state sector activity remain in place and that the new provisions fulfill the commitment to update the legislation originally approved in 2021.

First Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade Yosvany Pupo Otero described the rescission of the controversial Resolutions 56 and 18 —which had restricted the commercial activities of non-state actors— as a key step forward.

In his statements, Pupo Otero explained that the new decree establishes that wholesale trade will no longer be contingent upon contractual relationships with state entities but will rather depend on the will of the parties involved.

Regarding fiscal matters, First Deputy Minister of Finance and Prices Yenislei Ortiz detailed the new benefits approved via Resolutions 179 and 180 of 2026, which exempt the importation of photovoltaic solar systems and other equipment from customs duties.

Ortiz stressed that “the resolutions foster greater contributions to transforming the energy mix in each municipality” and announced a full tax exemption on profits and personal income for those investing in such projects.

These measures aim to “make products available at more affordable prices” and encourage active participation in clean energy generation, she explained.

Deputy Minister of Economy and Planning Johana Odriozola highlighted that the new legislation was developed with extensive input from the academic community and noted that “we have reached a consensus on the fundamental principles of the legislation.”

The Council of State also approved a decree-law on tendering processes —presented by Minister of Economy Joaquín Alonso Vázquez— which regulates tendering as the standard mechanism for procuring goods and services using state resources.



President of the National Institute of Non-State Economic Actors, Mercedes López-Acea. PHOTO: ACN.

International organizations join forces to prevent diseases

By **The Havana Reporter Staff**

ROME.- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) called for strengthened prevention efforts in the face of increasingly complex health threats.

A new report from the FAO Investment Center, in partnership with the two other organizations, highlighted the need to invest in the One Health approach to recognize the interconnections among human, animal, and plant health, as well as ecosystem health.

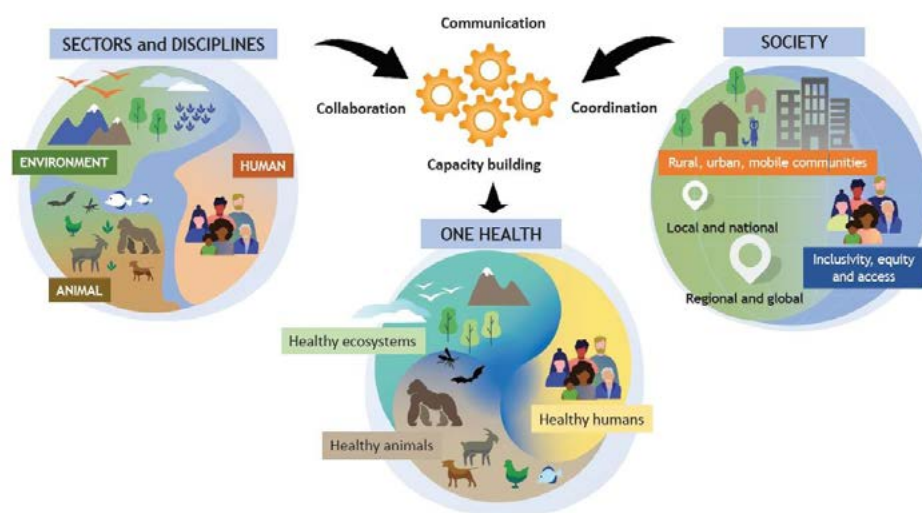
Entitled “Financial and Economic Returns to Investing in One Health: Evidence and Future Directions,” the study examines how this approach can reduce the burden of disease, healthcare costs, environmental

pollution, and the spread of antimicrobial resistance.

The economic costs stemming from zoonotic and other infectious diseases amount to billions of dollars each year. The World Bank assesses that antimicrobial resistance could lead to losses of around 3.8 percent of global GDP by 2050.

FAO Assistant Director-General, Director of its Animal Production and Health Division, and Chief Veterinarian, Thanawat Tiensin, warned that “today’s most pressing challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, food insecurity, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities, are deeply interconnected.”

WOAH Deputy Director-General Baba Soumare, in turn, underscored that animal health is one of the most effective entry points for prevention and stressed the importance of strengthening veterinary services, surveillance, and collaboration.



Cuba Finishes Third in Santo Domingo and Paves the Way to Lima 2027

By Yodeni**MASÓ**

HAVANA.-Cuba concluded the Santo Domingo Central American and Caribbean Games in the third place on the overall medal table, and celebrated securing 70 spots for the Lima 2027 Pan American Games.

At the event, the national delegation qualified for next year's continental games in five of the 19 sports offering quotas: handball, field hockey, athletics, archery, and rhythmic gymnastics.

In assessing the performance at Santo Domingo 2026, the Cuban delegation highlighted the rising level of competition across the region, and the consolidation of Mexico and Colombia as leading powerhouses.

The progress made by Venezuela and the Dominican Republic was also acknowledged, in addition to the significant impact of Cuban coaches who worked with 19 different nations (106 in total) and contributed to a combined haul of 52 gold, 58 silver, and 83 bronze medals. Regarding Cuba's performance at these multi-sport event, 51 gold medals were reached, along with 48 silver and 56 bronze. Notwithstanding this result, the gold medal total fell short of the 62

predicted through analyses conducted with the coaching staffs.

However, in line with predictions, 34 gold medals were won by athletes and teams projected to win them, while 23 of the remaining 28 reached the podium.

Fifteen sports contributed titles, most notably track and field, which secured 10 gold medals —surpassed only by the Dominican Republic, with 14 titles.

Most outstanding female athletes included double champions Anisleidis Ochoa (5,000 meters and 3,000-meter steeplechase) and Daily Cooper (800 and 1,500 meters), while from the men's side, only triple jumper Lázaro Martínez managed to repeat the title achieved in San Salvador.

Wrestlers once again had the best performance in the gold medal count, contributing 10 titles distributed among men's freestyle (two), women's wrestling (four), and Greco-Roman (four).

Performances that caused special interest included that of cyclist Marlís Mejías, who reclaiming the top spot in road races, as well as the field hockey, handball and beach volleyball teams —the later saw the men win gold and women silver.

On the downside, boxing —historically the flagship sport for national delegations at major multi-sport events— managed to

win only one title, though with a special significance: Dayira Mesa, the 70-kilogram champion, became the first Cuban woman to win a gold medal in the ring at the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Baseball also missed the regional podium for the first time, while the softball teams fell short of expectations and the indoor

volleyball squads also failed to meet their goals.

Cuba arrived in Santo Domingo with barely over 500 athletes and faced the competition under complex circumstances, marked by training difficulties and limitations caused by the intensification of the U.S. blockade.



Contracts for Cuban Baseball Players

By Boris Luis**CABRERA**

HAVANA.-The signing of Cuban baseball players to foreign leagues has stopped being an exception to become a pathway for the growth of the national sport, without breaking athletes' ties to their home provinces, the National Series or the Cuban national team.

Japan remains the most outstanding nation in this regard, thanks to the high performance achieved there by Liván Moinelo and Raidel Martínez —two pitchers who have established Cuba's reputation among the key players in the powerful Japanese league.

However, the scope has expanded well beyond the Land of the Rising Sun: Mexico, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Italy and more recently China offer new arenas where Cuban players can gain experience, meet new competitive demands, and return with valuable skills for the domestic championship or the national team.

When these contracts keep players connected to their home region and available for national commitments, they



Liván Moinelo has established Cuba's reputation among the key players in the Japanese league.

PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

function as a two-way bridge where athletic development and income generating go hand in hand.

Athletes gain competitive exposure, learn to handle tough schedules, study different opponents, and adapt themselves to new tactical approaches, while Cuban baseball absorbs this knowledge at home and benefits from the revenue generated by these agreements to support training programs, competitions, and infrastructure development.

the Federation explores further cooperation with markets such as Australia and South Korea.

"The real value of these signings is in their potential to elevate the players' technical, tactical, and mental standards, broaden their range of experiences, produce financial returns, and keep the National Series from falling behind the trends of modern professional baseball."

A player returning from Mexico with more quality at-bats; from Venezuela with greater competitive toughness; from Nicaragua with offensive consistency, or from China with new responsibilities, can transform his individual performance into a collective benefit.

That knowledge is shared within the squad; reflected in daily preparation, and ultimately enriches younger teammates who are still awaiting their first international opportunity. The challenge will be to manage schedules, safeguard athletes' health, and ensure that every signing aligns with the priorities of both provincial teams and the Cuban national squad, so that individual benefit translates into collective performance and institutional strength.

The opening to China has introduced a significant new development: nine Cuban players have joined two teams of the Asian country's professional circuit, which not only represents a new destination on the schedule, but also an entry into an emerging market capable of expanding signing opportunities for both established stars and promising young talents.

The Asian giant thus represents a newly opened door, while Italy maintains a long-standing tradition of Cuban participation and

Critical Minerals: An Economic Bet of an African Regional Community

By Nara**ROMERO**

ADDISABABA.-Facing global mineral demand for energy transition, local processing and added value offer a fast track to industrialize and diversify the economy of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) highlighted that the 9th SADC Industrialization Week and its related exhibition —held from July 27 to 31 in Durban, South Africa— showcased a key initiative promoting the responsible extraction of these resources.

This five-year regional project, which focuses on mineral value chains for a responsible and inclusive energy transition, is led by ECA with the financial support of the International Climate Initiative.

Its objective, sources indicated, is to promote responsible mining and sustainable industrialization across the Community's 16 member states, .

From copper in Zambia, cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and manganese in South Africa to lithium in Zimbabwe, the SADC region is pivotal



to a clean energy future and global green industrialization.

Under the motto "Resilient, sustainable and inclusive industrialization through infrastructure development, and agricultural and critical minerals' transformation for a just world," the International Industrialization Week

underscored the crucial importance of responsible mineral extraction.

According to ECA Economic Affairs Officer Oliver Maponga, the work —carried out through the ESG principles and responsible mining promotion project— contributes directly to sustainable industrialization, as environment governance is fundamental to

industrial policies across the SADC region.

Maponga pointed out that critical minerals' responsible exploitation and value addition for the region's energy transition goals are essential to industrialization, transformation, and economic diversification.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa revealed that the project is being implemented in the DRC, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, countries with vast reserves of cobalt, copper, lithium, manganese, platinum-group metals, and rare earth elements.

The initiative's implementing partners are the African Union Commission's African Minerals Development Centre; the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa); the German World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources.

Among its expected outcomes are the development of mining policies that meet ESG criteria; improvement of environmental and climate monitoring practices, and guaranteed participation and benefit-sharing for local mining communities in governance related to the activity. It also aims to strengthen the capacities of communities in mining areas.



FOREIGN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CUBAN HEALTH SECTOR

