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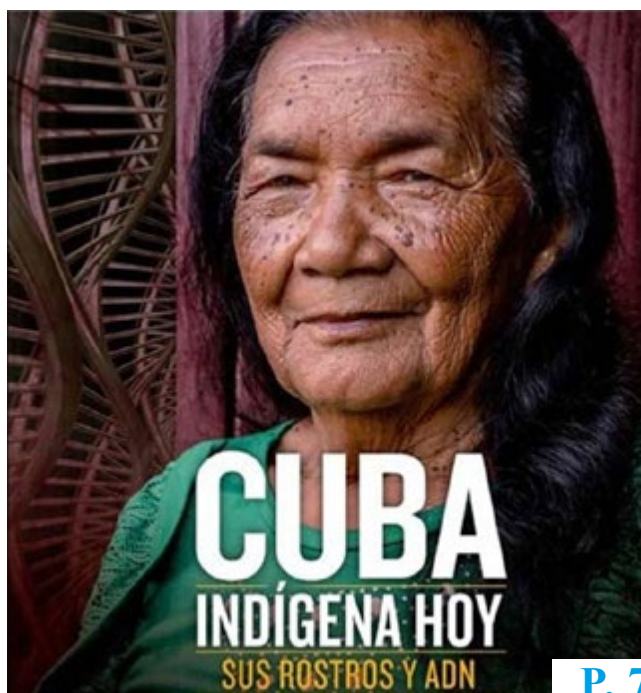
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Tourism Sector under Palmares' Wing

By Roberto F. CAMPOS

HAVANA.- The extra-hotel recreational scenario is the priority of the Palmares company, an entity with 17 years of work under the Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR). That branch of the Cuban tourism plays an important role in the sector as part of the reactivation actions conducted in a country that, before the pandemic of COVID-19, welcomed over four million foreign visitors each year.

The Palmares company is strongly committed to a varied tourism in Cuba, the entity's Commercial Director, Félix Ernesto Alonso, told **The Havana Reporter**.

The official stated his satisfaction for the Grand Cuba Golf Tournament, held from October 26 to 29, which highlighted the features of the Varadero resort's golf course. He also talked about the future construction, by the Bello Monte Company, of another golf course in the same location – east of Havana. Golf has an important impact, especially on the European and U.S. markets. Participants to this event – 50 from 10 countries, mostly Canadians – were amazed at the organization and the course of the Varadero Golf Club, the official added.

Alonso commented that Palmares is at present a lot more than what people think, as it includes gastronomy, emblematic restaurants, night clubs and other places.

The company manages over 700 establishments nationwide, including cafes, dolphinariums, Canopy facilities, farms, accommodations and a variety of other places, a sign of our diversification philosophy.

Golf in particular plays an important role in the objectives of the company, which manages the Varadero Golf Club (18 holes) and the Havana's Capdevila Club, a smaller course.

All the Palmares facilities, nationwide, were reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Palmares' beginning was linked to gastronomic establishments, but then, the company started expanding its proposals.

The areas in which the entity's impact has been higher include Havana, Varadero, Ciego de Ávila, Holguín and Santiago de Cuba – the two first being the most important.

Palmares is in constant growth and in the case of golf, it has a strong projection that could include over 20 fields all over the national territory – under the aegis of Cuba Golf. The intention is not only to build courses but also resorts associated to them, which demands the involvement of investors, real estate companies and marinas.

PALMARES A LA CARTE

The Palmares S.A. Extra-hotel Company offers its clients Cuba's history, culture and nature. With 14 Base

Entrepreneurial Unites (Branches) all over the country – four of them in the Cuban capital – the entity manages over 700 facilities.

The company's line of businesses includes nature products, sport tourism, art and entertainment, restauration, event and convention centers, fast food restaurants, franchises of important Cuban brands, accommodations and specialized trade.

Palmares manages a group of establishments that are in high demand. Varadero, Cienfuegos, Cayo Largo and Cayo Guillermo are home to dolphinariums in which visitors can know about these mammals' care and way of life, in addition to enjoying a fabulous show and even interacting with the animals.

Pinar del Río, Havana, Ciego de Ávila and Camagüey stand out for the Rural Farms, where travelers can ride horses, know about the rural culture and even participate in a rural party, among other activities.

There are also famous places, such as the Floridita Bar-Restaurant, in Havana; the El Fortín Canopy Tour, in Pinar del Río, and the Indian Cave, also in the Pinar del Río province – Cuba's westernmost territory.

The company's objective is to become a tourist and recreational group that stands out for its diversity and exclusivity, a motivation for people to travel.



Participants to this event were amazed at the organization and the course of the Varadero Golf Club. PHOTOS: Prensa Latina.



The Palmares S.A. Extra-hotel Company manages over 700 facilities.

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Presidential Tour Fosters Political and Economic Ties



In Algeria Díaz-Canel met President and Minister of Interior Abdelmadjid Tebboune. PHOTOS: Estudio Revolución

By **The Havana Reporter** Staff

HAVANA.- Cuba fostered its political and commercial relations with strategic partners during Cuban President Díaz-Canel's recent international tour. The trip, from November 16 to 25, included a program intended to meet the country's priorities, in addition to efforts to alleviate the effects of the post-pandemic crisis and face the effects of the U.S. blockade.

The Cuban delegation was composed of ministers and officials from key sectors of the national economy, who held talks and signed agreements in Algeria, Russia, Türkiye and China.

In Algeria, an African Union member nation, Díaz-Canel met President and Minister of Interior Abdelmadjid Tebboune. The El Mouradia Presidential Palace was the venue of the high-level meetings in which the parties agreed to foster cooperation projects in the fields of health, energy, renewable sources, medical-pharmaceutical industry and cultural, educational and scientific-technical exchange.

Tebboune announced that they considered alleviating the Cuban economic context by canceling the debt services and postponing its reimbursement for a further date, in addition to offering Cuba a solar power plant for power production.

He added that at the beginning of 2023, both nations would hold a session of the Joint Commission in Havana, in which the Algerian delegation would be composed of 150 businesspeople who will assess investment opportunities in Cuba.

In Moscow, Díaz-Canel was welcomed by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. In spite of the distance between both nations, the Cuban and

the modernization of the Antillana de Acero Plant; the increase of oil production at the Boca de Jaruco field; rehabilitation of the Santa Clara Mechanical Plant, and the Kamaz equipment diagnosis and maintenance center, at the Mariel Special Development Zone.

The intergovernmental cooperation commission also made progress on transportation, energy, biopharmaceutical industry, tourism and food production projects, in addition to bank and financial topics and the strengthening of Russia's investment in Cuba.

The inauguration, in Moscow, of a statue of historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, was a special moment of the official program, which, according to Vladimir Putin, should strengthen bilateral cooperation in the current circumstances. Díaz-Canel and the accompanying delegation also visited Ankara, Türkiye, at a time in which both nations celebrate the 70th anniversary of the start of diplomatic relations.

Cuban and Turkish presidents, Díaz-Canel and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, respectively, announced both nations' interest to foster projects in areas such as biotechnology, renewable energy, tourism, agriculture, cattle raising, health, education, sport and culture. In this sense, six agreements were signed on foreign relations, bank exchange, cooperation, heritage and mass media.

Erdogan stated that relations with Latin

America and the Caribbean are one of the pillars of its government's foreign policy, and in that context, Cuba is one of our main partners.

On November 24, Díaz-Canel arrived in Beijing and had a short but intense program that included talks with Chinese president Xi Jinping and other top governmental and legislative representatives.

The meeting between both presidents concluded with the issuing of a joint declaration that included both nations' will to improve communication and relations.

The signing of 12 agreements and the concession of about 100 million dollars are a sign of the interest of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative to strengthen cooperation in Cuba.

During a stopover on the way back to Cuba, Türkiye was also the venue of a meeting with businesspeople summoned by DEIK, an entrepreneurial organization that runs Turkish private sector's economic relations abroad.

The meeting had the purpose of promoting ideas and projects that allow increasing Turkish business people's relations with Cuba. Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Rodrigo Malmierca, who participated in that meeting, said that the Mariel Special Development Zone (in Cuba's west) should become the main point of attraction of foreign investment.

The said meeting marked the conclusion of Cuban President's international tour.



In China President Díaz-Canel had a short but intense program.

New Migratory Talks

By José **FERNÁNDEZ**

HAVANA.- High-ranking delegations from Cuba and the United States started here the second round of talks on migratory issues, a diplomatic source confirmed.

Deputy General Director for U.S. Issues at the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX), Johana Tablada, said in the Facebook social media that she attended the migratory talks held between both nations.

Tablada commented that the Cuban delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign

Affairs Minister, Carlos Fernández de Cossío, while the U.S. side was headed by Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of State, Emily Mendrala.

The Cuban official added that high representatives of the migratory authorities and the Cuban Coastguards, as well as

representatives of several U.S. government agencies, also participated in these talks.

In a message spread in Twitter, Cuban Foreign Affairs minister, Bruno Rodríguez, stressed that the holding of bilateral migratory talks in Havana is part of the mutual commitment to promote an ordered, legal and safe migration.

On November 9, top officials from both countries held talks in Havana on migratory and consular issues.

On that occasion, Fernández de Cossío highlighted the importance of the restart of migratory and consular services at the U.S. embassy in Havana, including the processing of non-immigrant visas.

The meeting at the Cuban capital was a follow-up to the first round of negotiations on the topic held since 2017, which took place in Washington in April this year.

At this exchange, both parties revised the fulfillment of bilateral agreements on the topic and the mutual commitment of guaranteeing a regular, safe and ordered migration.

The closing of the U.S. consular services in Havana, due to the alleged health incidents their diplomats suffered – never corroborated – meant the non-fulfillment of the migratory agreements between both nations.

The U.S. diplomatic venue recently announced that their services would be increased as of January 2023.



Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Carlos Fernández de Cossío. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Trump's Uncertain Political Future

By **The Havana ReporterStaff**

WASHINGTON.- Former U.S. president Donald Trump faces obstacles that could hinder his political future, especially after the start of his White House bid for 2024.

Trump's legal wrongdoings might perhaps make his life difficult, particularly because of the investigation on the finding, last August, 8, of dozens of confidential documents at his residency in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, which he took from the White House at the end of his term, on January 2021.

The New York Times recently warned that either because of his deceitful entrepreneurial practices, or his efforts to cancel the democratic elections, or his refusal to turn-in confidential governmental documents that did not belong to him, his several legal problems are the result of the same reason.

For the former president, the norms that others should meet are not applied to him, said the New York journal. However, a recent decision of a federal court of appeal will allow the Department of Justice (DOJ) to use the rest of the unclassified records seized at Mar-a-Lago.

The decision restricts the process the special investigator conducts at the request of the former president to check the documents, and puts an important obstacle to the investigation on the potential mishandling of files at the executive mansion.

Trump's arguments, as well as those of the examining magistrate who agreed to his request of allowing a third party check the evidence seized, were strongly rejected at the Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

The decision also gave the DOJ the freedom to use 22,000 pages of governmental records recovered, an important green light that will allow experts to check each piece of evidence with the hope of building a case, according to local media.

"The law is clear. We cannot draft a norm that allows any individual subject to a search warrant to block the government's investigations after the execution of the said warrant. We cannot write either a rule that allows to do so only to former presidents," the judges indicated.

That is the last and most recent sign that Trump's initial success in the case is falling apart, as the court's three-judge panel rejected a series of arguments his legal team put forward, and determined that even unclassified records can be used in the investigation.

One of the greatest challenges for the attorneys of this case would always be establishing that Trump had personal

knowledge of the fact that the classified documents were in Mar-a-Lago, said Brian Greer, a former CIA attorney.

"The fact that these classified documents were mixed with other unclassified documents he accessed to, or would have accessed to, is a potentially valuable evidence that shows Trump's personal knowledge," added Greer.

Without the power of the presidency, the former president faces a crowd of attorneys and lawyers who investigate him and his partners, published The Times.

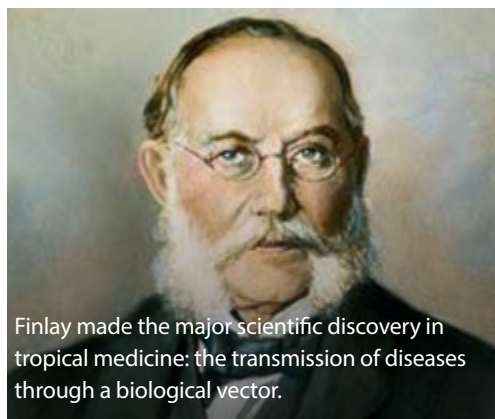
The journal stressed that never before, a former president has faced such a lengthy series of federal, state and Congress investigations as Trump has.



Trump's several legal problems are the result of the same reason, said the New York Times. PHOTO: Internet.

Finlay, a Glory of Latin American Medicine

By Elsy**FORS**



Finlay made the major scientific discovery in tropical medicine: the transmission of diseases through a biological vector.

HAVANA.- Since December 3, 1933, when the 100th anniversary of birth of famous Cuban doctor Carlos J. Finlay Barrés was commemorated, this date has been annually celebrated as the Latin American Medicine Day. Finlay made the major scientific discovery in tropical medicine: the transmission of diseases through a biological vector, the mosquito, thus saving humankind from the scourge of yellow fever. For that reason, he was given the distinction of Humankind Benefactor. In the thesis he presented on August 14, 1881, at the Havana's Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences, he rightly stated that the

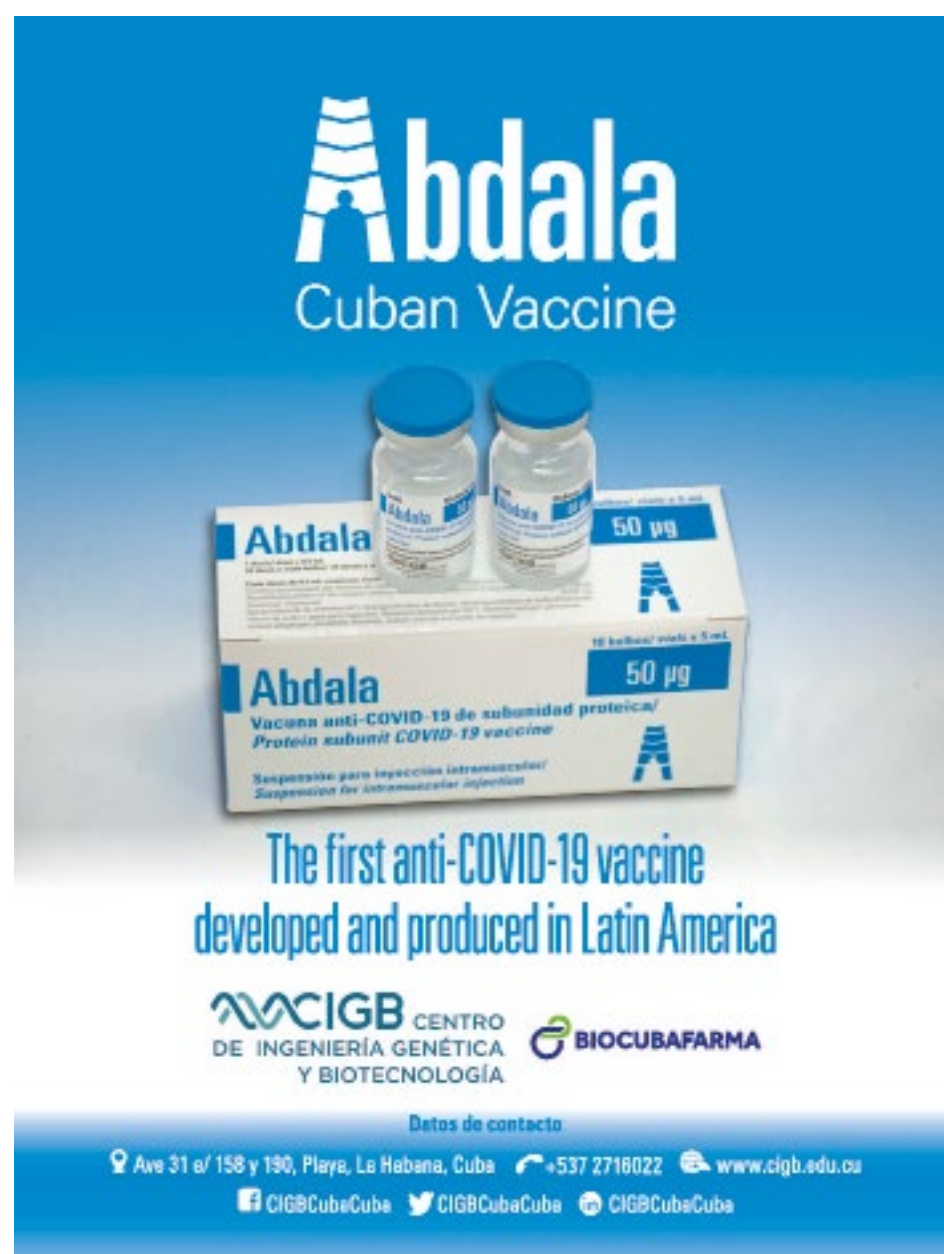
female species of the mosquito we call *Aedes Aegypti* at present was the agent responsible for the transmission of yellow fever, and drafted an anti-vector plan to eradicate the disease.

Finlay's hygienic recommendations to eliminate the mosquito allowed eradicating yellow fever in Panama, Río de Janeiro, Veracruz, New Orleans and other places of the western hemisphere, where constant outbreaks caused an inestimable number of victims.

For the contribution he made, he is considered one of the world's most important microbiologists in the history of medicine, to which his practices in ophthalmology were added. In this sense, he published a scientific article in which we presented his considerations on the extraction of cataracts and where he described a new operation method.

His innovative spirit allowed him to design a device to lessen the brightness of natural light in patients who had had a cataract operation, in addition to an effective ocular dressing.

For the importance of his discovery, in 1975, UNESCO included him among the six most outstanding microbiologists in history. In 1977, an award that carries his name and acknowledges people and institutions that have made a relevant contribution to the field of Microbiology – including Immunology, Molecular Biology, Genetics and others – was created, sponsored by Cuba.



Curmeric: Efficient and Safe

By Lourdes**PÉREZ**

HAVANA.- Curmeric, a Cuban natural product developed from curcuma longa (turmeric), has important antiviral and antibacterial properties that allow fighting respiratory diseases and has proven to be efficient in the treatment of patients suffering and recovering from COVID-19.

In an interview granted to **The Havana Reporter** (THR), PhD Tania Valdés, head of the TheraNostics Lab – an entity established between the Calixto García University Hospital and the Technological Applications and Nuclear Development Center – affirmed that Curmeric's results, validated in its use, showed the product's safety and effectiveness.

The official explained that since 2011, the entity has been working on the development of natural products based on turmeric – in capsule form – to treat non-communicable chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, dyslipidemia (high cholesterol and triglycerides) and rheumatoid arthritis. Additionally, we had been conducting research on the antimicrobial properties of this plant; isolated bacterial strains of seriously ill patients with respiratory diseases, and then, when COVID-19 emerged in Cuba, we already had a finished product: Curmeric, which was initially administered to the health staff that was in the line of battle, she commented.

In principle, it was also administered to the dentistry staff in three clinics of the Plaza de la Revolución municipality, in Havana and then, to the primary care workers. In 2021, it was applied in a mass health intervention in the provinces of Ciego de Ávila and Granma, due to the high transmission

of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 in those provinces, the specialist added.

Valdés stated that at present, the product has been administered to over 100,000 patients in any of its three formulations: nose drops, mouthwash and oral solution in the form of syrup.

We are talking about a natural product registered at the Hygiene and Epidemiology Institute as supplement, not as a medication yet, she stressed.

Turmeric is used as food, as it is the basis of curry, which is applied as color; but from the point of view of its use as treatment to different pathologies, it has antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, she said.

It is also used in gastrointestinal, respiratory and dermatological diseases, and research is also conducted on its use in cancer and neurodegenerative illnesses' treatment, especially as prevention, in order to guarantee quality of life when aging.

Cuba's climate is excellent for the production of this plant, which is currently cultivated in almost all the provinces. We are negotiating agreements with the agricultural sector to have high-quality turmeric and thus get a product with the requirements needed, she concluded.

At present, Curmeric is produced at the Medilip Pharmaceutical Lab, in Bayamo (Granma province) and is distributed to all pharmacies of the country, the specialist noted.

Of the Curmeric antimicrobial line, research is conducted to create two new products: ear drops and ointments.



Curmeric has been administered to over 100,000 patients in any of its three formulations. PHOTO: Internet.

Pablo Milanés' Death Unites Cubans in their Grief

By Mario **MUÑOZ**

HAVANA.- Cuban singer and songwriter Pablo Milanés' death in Madrid united the Cuban people in their grief in spite of their political differences or musical preferences, as seen on the social media.

The musician, born on February 24, 1943 in the eastern city of Bayamo, developed a professional career in which his interpretative versatility prevailed and became the fuel of the Grupo de Experimentación Sonora band and other emblematic Cuban voices.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel, on an official tour in Moscow, regretted Pablo Milanés' death, whom he considered an "inseparable voice of our generation's soundtrack." The President also extended his condolences to Milanés' widow and children.

Cuban Minister of Culture Alpidio Alonso stated on his Twitter account that "his poetic and musical legacy is immortal. Our condolences to his relatives, friends and fans all over the world."

"A sad news. Cuba says goodbye to Pablo Milanés, one of the indispensable persons in our culture. His musical creation will be with us forever," also wrote on Twitter president of the Cuban Association of Writers and Artists, Luis Morlote.

Different institutions and personalities from the Cuban culture offered their condolences to relatives, friends and the many followers of his work.

Milanés, whose repertoire included over 400 pieces, compiled an important work for the Cubans living in the island and in other Latin American areas.

Winner of two Latin Grammys (2006) and recipient of a statuette to Musical Excellence (2015), his music went from tradition to modernity, including filin, jazz, rumba,

son or boleros, rhythms compiled in over half a hundred albums.

The artist's last concert in Cuba was conducted at the popular Ciudad Deportiva coliseum. After almost three years without singing in his homeland, Pablo was able to witness the Cuban peoples' affection for his creation, full of Cuban experiences and realities, in tune with his declaration of principles, which for over 60 years, characterized the Cuban trova scene.



Milanés compiled an important work for the Cubans living in the island and in other Latin American areas. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Art and Technology...Duel or Alliance?

By Liz **BOBADILLA**

HAVANA.- As reference to Darwin's theory of evolution, technology advances and distances itself from its ancestor, the steam engine, while exercising an influence on every sphere of social development, to which art is also attached.

That interrelationship between the different aesthetic expressions and science is precisely a common topic at present, when doubt is casted on works' human component and the increasing presence of machines.

Over and above the invention of photography, the radio, the cinema, record discs and cellphones, digital technologies' use has become an essential tool for creators, even though some look at their capacities with suspicion.

Relationship between science and art is becoming more and more important, also fostered by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced creators to launch their works in different platforms, through

virtual reality concerts, the use of avatars and artificial intelligence (AI).

It is not surprising then the achievement of a group of scientists who eliminated the veil of shades that hid a work of Spanish Pablo Picasso and revealed the painting The Blind Man's Meal, which researchers of the Oxia Palus baptized as The Lonesome Crouching Nude.

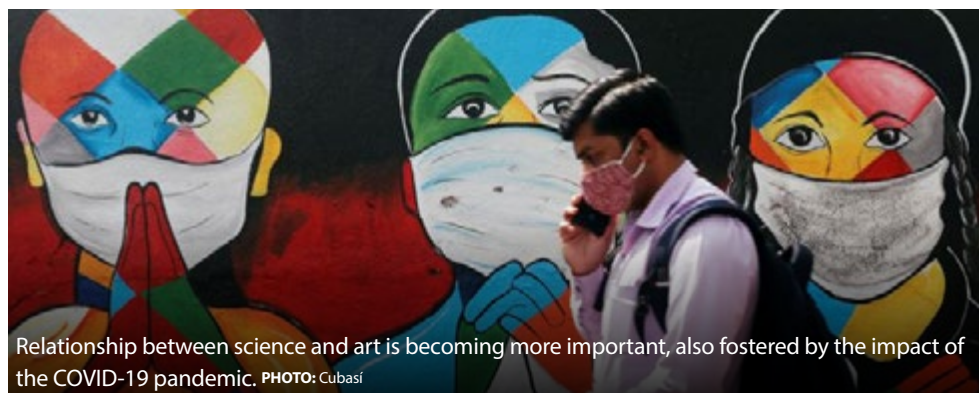
This discovery was possible thanks to the training of a neural network with a collection of pieces made by the Spanish creator; however,

the result was rejected by the organization that manages the artist's heirs' interests: the Picasso Administration, which prohibited to exhibit the painting on grounds of copyrights' violation.

It is worth mentioning also the arrival, to the world of letters (2018), of the first novel written through an AI robot: 1 the road, devised by U.S. Ross Goodwin, who created the script of Sunspring, also made this way. In spite of disagreements about the topic, the seventh art opened its doors to this

technology, and the Venice Film Festival premiered the short film Fellini Forward, created with AI and in which humans and machines collaborate to recreate the style of renowned Italian director Federico Fellini, under the direction of Maximilian Niemann. In the meantime, the Dall-e project made a change of direction in the evolution of this system of technologies, as the initiative the Open AI Company developed has the capacity of taking users' wishes to a canvas. With a name that recalls the robot of the film Wall-e and Spanish painter Salvador Dali, Dall-e performs the descriptions on the computer, creates realistic images and works of art based on language and even allows to imitate peculiar styles of emblematic artists such as Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso or Dali, the company explained.

The running of this project sharpened the controversial debate about the authenticity of computer-generated art, copyrights, human factor in the pieces made, veracity of the images edited, among other topics, to which creators agreed to declare as norm "that the images are generated through Artificial Intelligence."



Relationship between science and art is becoming more important, also fostered by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO: Cubasí



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Faces and DNA

By Fausto **TRIANA**

MADRID.- It would seem to be a surrealistic image, but well thought, telling Panchito – the closest aboriginal descendant in Cuba – that 500 years of history are real, arouses strong emotions.

An irrefutable fact, because DNA tests that lead to other hypotheses so prove. In 1560, when Brother Bartolomé de las Casas spoke about the extinction of aboriginal people in the Caribbean, it was most probably a scheme to protect those who have run away to the top of the mountains.

There is a lot of history but culture too, and results are surprising and extraordinary: descendants of native people actually live in Cuba.

Those 500 years, which the National Natural Sciences Museum speaks about once and again, were proven in the case of Panchito, the Mountain Cacique (chief), an inhabitant of Ranchería (Manuel Tames municipality, Guantánamo province), who has 40 percent of Cuban aboriginal blood – the Arawaks, known as Taínos.

DNA tests are irrefutable, said Julio A. Larramendi, an outstanding Cuban photographer who has scientific formation and is the editorial coordinator of the book Cuba Indígena Hoy: sus rostros y AND (Indigenous Cuba at

Present: Faces and DNA), which is part of a wider research project that will soon include a documentary directed by filmmaker Ernesto Daranas.

This production, conducted for over five years, also includes in its staff Spanish Héctor Garrido, a renowned geography and human photographer; PhD Beatriz Marcheco, director of the Cuban Medical Genetics Institute; historian Alejandro Hartmann, and sociology doctor, Enrique J. Gómez.

The documentary's executive production also includes famous Cuban actress Laura de la Uz, Garrido's partner, who highlighted the work of Julio's daughter, Paola Larramendi, "who opened the path to this adventure in a remote mountainous region, where a lot of courage is needed to guarantee the logistics."

For the record, the project had the total support of late Havana city's historian Eusebio Leal, a prestigious figure who asked Marcheco to conduct a DNA test that proved Panchito had a one-percent aboriginal origin.

He was very proud of that one percent, Larramendi and Garrido said at the book launch, in Madrid.

"For a long time, the descendants of those populations were totally isolated," said Julio A. Larramendi, a doctor of sciences, professor and photographer.

Larramendi and Garrido stressed that the research is conclusive, and given the phenotype and DNA, we can

affirm that there are about 15,000 aboriginal descendants in Cuba in the eastern region, from Maisí to Holguín and probable further beyond.

They are the descendants of Amerindians from north, south and Central America, which confirms our geographical, cultural and also genetic connection with the region we belong to, Larramendi highlighted.



The results are surprising and extraordinary: descendants of native people actually live in Cuba. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

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Security tragedy in Ecuador

By Adriana **ROBREÑO**

QUITO.- Some regions in Ecuador suffering the consequences of drug trafficking and organized crime live among bullets, bomb attacks, extorsions, prison riots and murders, while many point to the government's inefficiency to solve the crisis.

At the beginning of November, in 24 hours there were 18 attacks on police and gas stations and health facilities, leaving five policemen dead in the provinces of Guayas and Esmeraldas, where the government issued the state of emergency and a curfew for 45 days.

However, crimes don't stop, they even extended to Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, an area that joined the exceptional measures that include a curfew from 21:00 to 5:00 hours.

This is the fifth time in his 17 months in office that President Guillermo Lasso uses the state of emergency and violence continues on the rise, security expert Fernando Carrión warned, suggesting that they should change the method to get a different result.

For the official, "terrorist" acts and continuous clashes in penitentiaries -in which 410 prisoners have died in two years- is the criminal gangs' response to the transfer of inmates and gang leaders to different jails.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Carrión explained that in fact the current situation originated in 2017, when they eliminated the Justice Ministry, which ran jails and other institutions, to merge it with what was later called Interior Ministry, which brought about a budget reduction. Five years ago, the murder rate was 5.6 per 100, 000 inhabitants; four years later, when President Lenín Moreno's term of office came to an end, that number rose to 14.4 and now, during the Lasso administration, the tendency points to the fact that 2022 will wind up with a 21 to 22 rate.

With this scenario, the National Assembly approved a resolution demanding the administration to present in 30 days a strategy against insecurity with short, medium- and long-term actions.

Amid critical views against the government, the legislature has spoken of using the so-called "cross-death" clause, a constitutional mechanism that could bring down

President Lasso and call for early elections, but finally no party suggested the procedure.

Historian Juan Paz y Miño said that politicians only talk of superficial "solutions": free possession of weapons, harsh laws and direct use of force, "they don't think of the State's role in making large investments to improve living, work and security conditions."



The South American country lives in a state of emergency due to a drastic rise in violence. PHOTO: Internet.

Boquete, More than flowers and coffee

By Mario Hubert **GARRIDO**

PANAMA.- In Panama and in the world the district of Boquete is famous by its flower and coffee fairs. However, it's more than that: its people, their love for what is grown in the land and willingness to recover from natural disasters.

The largest monument to resilience is on the streets; but, each January, to the delight of visitors, emerges with the design of more than 40, 000 species and varieties of flowers that draw on the land daily passages.

In 2023, the 50th version will be somewhat different, **The Havana Reporter** learned from Tomás Ruiz, the President of the Fair's Patronage, who also recalled that they never stop working all year round, since gardens require a long process, including the planting, care and production of flowers. They expect to surpass the 125 thousand visitors they had before the pandemic.

Nobody here forgets April 9, 1970, a day before the fifth fair opened, when the Caldera River overflowed and floods caused regrettable damages. One out of three Boquete residents lost their homes.



The event welcomed artists from Guatemala, Panama, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Spain, Chile, and host country.

But a year later they permanently held the showcase with the best of their production, flowers and coffee.

The mountainous climate favors the crop in the also called Valle de las Flores. It thus shows a perfect combination of lilies,

hibiscus, hortensias, anthuriums, roses, Saint Joseph, carnations, sunflowers and exotic orchids, which create a polychrome scene of incomparable beauty, which can be seen sipping the top-quality coffee that is grown in these highlands.



Havana's International Ballet Festival Closes its Curtains

By Claudia **HERNÁNDEZ**

HAVANA.- Havana's International Ballet Festival (FIBH), which closed its curtains on November 13, reaffirmed the quality of dance in the Latin American stage and showed how much stars have grown in Cuba and the world.

The 27th edition of this event became a platform to show a variety of styles, going from the classical ones to the most varied forms of a discipline that is considered a symbol of fine arts. The Cuban National Ballet (BNC), the host company and a National Cultural Heritage, displayed the magnificent repertoire of its first 75 years of creation.

One of the most exciting moments of this festival was, without a doubt, the return to the stage of BNC director and prima ballerina Viengsay Valdés, who again performed that outstanding figure of the romantic era, Giselle, which received the ovation of the audience.

As the artist said, "this is the first time that I am the president of this Festival, a great responsibility and a commitment to continue highlighting its tradition and undertaking new challenges."

Valdés, winner of the gold medal in Vignale Danza (Italy 1993), reaffirmed its proven technique after a pause in her artistic career because of her pregnancy and when 25 years had passed since her debut in Giselle – for which she considers herself an heir to Alicia Alonso, BNC founder.

The Festival gathered international stars such as Spanish Joaquín de Luz, who came to Cuba in his capacity as dancer and director of the Spanish National Dance Company to exhibit his acclaimed, contemporary version of Carmen. De Luz, who received the Josefina Méndez International Honorary Award – a prize granted by the Cuban Writers and Artists Association – was excited about sharing the stage with Cuban dancers.



This year, the Festival was also staged outside Havana, in places such as the provinces of Matanzas and Cienfuegos. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

The Festival hosted several premieres by the Buenos Aires Ballet of Argentina, the Sodre National Ballet of Uruguay and national companies such as Acosta Danza, Malpaso and Mi Compañía. Italians Roberto Bolle, Jacobo Tisi and Nicoletta Manni, from the Scala de Milan and Susana Salvi, from the Rome Opera Ballet, also made their debut.

Russians Maria Kochetkova (American Ballet Theater) and Seymon Chudin (Bolshoi Ballet), and Melissa Hamilton (Royal Ballet of London), also received the ovation of the audience.

From the choreographic point of view, the pieces of British Gemma Bond and Ben Stevenson and Canadian Peter

Quantz stood out as part of this event, which showed new languages and ways of approaching the stage.

This year, the Festival was also staged outside Havana, in places such as the emblematic Sauto Theater, in the western province of Matanzas and the Tomás Terry Theater, in the south central province of Cienfuegos. The newly refurbished José Jacinto Milanés Theater of Pinar del Río province also opened its doors to the Festival after the damages caused by Hurricane Ian.

From 1960 and until the present, the FIBH has not only promoted the continent's dance but has also consolidated itself as one of the most important events of Cuban culture.

Why is the Cuban Culture a Melting Pot?

By Yelena **RODRÍGUEZ**

HAVANA.- Listening to researcher Rolando Rensoli allows understanding why Cubanness goes beyond the primary and strict sense of being born in Cuba, and the parallelism between culture and the melting pot wise man Fernando Ortiz spoke about.

October 20 is a date that ennobles and recalls Cubans' *raison d'être*; a date to be felt in the blood, the soul and the spirit, and "to be expressed in the feelings, ideas and attitudes."

According to Rensoli, "no other date better summarizes the Cuban Culture than October 20, because it was the date when the people of the city of Bayamo sang the lyrics of the National Anthem, La Bayamesa, which was sung 'at the most beautiful and solemn time of the Homeland,' according to José Martí."

Thus, the major debate, headed by Fidel Castro 40 years ago in front of some representatives of the Cuban intelligentsia such as Armando Hart and Abel Prieto, reached the same conclusion: no other date can be the National Culture Day. October 20 recalls the roar of fight, the flavor of victory and people's pro-independence spirit, from the San Antonio cape to the Quemados Point (east of the Maisí Point).

The academician added that identity has also been

patent from our native American peoples to the Europeans and English, who added many of their nutrients to make the melting pot Fernando Ortiz spoke about, evident in the country's genetic map and mixed race.

The scholar said that it is not necessary to dig up too much to appreciate the legacy of the over 2,500 ethnic groups that joined the three present in Cuba, the 20 imported by the Spanish and the slaves brought from the rest of the Caribbean, in addition to the Hispanic, French, Arab, Asian and Jewish.

The variety Rensoli described, present in the hammock, the cuisine, the rustic vernacular homes and many other expressions, was the same Ortiz mentioned when he described the melting pot – not a mixed salad – as a mixture and the systematic cooking of all those ingredients, poured on an open pan and cooked over a low heat to obtain a substantial stew.

Vice President of the Aponte Commission of the Cuban Writers and Artists Association spoke about the Hispanic world present in the dance, the music, literature and many different artistic expressions, and quoted researcher Miguel Barnet when referring to the prevailing Sub-Saharan African roots that made him consider Cuba's African soul. Ortiz, an ethnologist and anthropologist, nicknamed Cuba's Third Discoverer, went in depth on the topic and highlighted the influence present

in the food, the way of speaking, the verbose language (...) and the jokes, but specially in art, religion and emotions. Resoli affirms that, in spite of their strong presence after the conquest and their forced emigration, the Africans' contributions were hidden for a long time due to racist issues.

At present, the National Program against Racism and Racial Discrimination, a result of the political will that emerged after the triumph of the Revolution, faces those issues.

To reinforce such argument, Rensoli recalled the figure of the Father of the Homeland, Carlos Manuel de Céspedes: a white man who opposed slavery; a Cuban who called his slaves citizens and urged them to join the fight. He also recalled the figure of the Mother of the Homeland, Mariana Grajales: a mixed race woman; a descendant of those African roots. That was also the case of black Cuban José Antonio Aponte and white Cuban Félix Varela, or Antonio Maceo and José Martí.



Rolando Rensoli said that appreciated the legacy of the over 2,500 ethnic groups that joined the three present in Cuba. PHOTO: UNEAC.

A climate summit with bittersweet taste



By Roberto **CASTELLANOS**

SHARM EL SHEIKH.- The climate summit held at the Sharm El Sheikh Egyptian resort left the world with a bittersweet taste due to the meeting's different results, after its conclusion of two weeks of heated debates, forums, workshops and exhibitions.

If, on one hand, the approval of a fund to finance the losses and damages of poor countries was a much-talked triumph, on the other hand; the event –held on November 6-20- failed to adopt more drastic measures to face the scourge.

It is a historic achievement after 27 years of debates and claims from the developing nations, Egyptian Foreign

Minister and the event's Chairman, Sameh Shoukry, said upon referring to the first topic.

Adopted by the consensus of the almost 200 delegations, the creation of the fund was also welcomed by UN Secretary General António Guterres. The debate on the topic was so surly that the 27th UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) had to postpone its closing for almost 48 hours due to differences between the North and the South.

The first ones were reluctant from the beginning to accept the project, because it failed by its opposition at the previous COP, held last year in Glasgow, while the second ones supported it in bloc upon presenting it as an old claim very much necessary nowadays.

According to the text, the mechanism will provide

a "new, predictable and adequate" financing to the "developing countries especially the vulnerable".

Details of its functioning will be drawn up by a committee made up by 24 countries, three of them from Latin America and the Caribbean, to be presented at the next summit to be held at the United Arab Emirates in 2023.

The fund will be mostly financed by rich countries and private contributions, but it leaves a window so that other emerging nations, such as China, could contribute with resources, a theme to be debated.

"The Losses and Damages Financing Fund agreement marks the beginning of a new path for climate justice", YebSaño, Greenpeace delegation head to the COP27, affirmed.

When it comes the time to discuss the details of the initiative we need to ensure that those most responsible for the climate crisis make the greatest contribution, he said.

After decades of struggle, the project is a victory, but we have a great challenge ahead us to guaranteeing that the developed nations contribute in accordance with justice and equity, Sara Shaw, from the Friends of the Earth Network NGO, said.

According to a Loss and Damage Collaboration report, a group of more than 100 researchers, 55 of the most vulnerable economies to climate suffer losses of more than 500 billion dollars from 2000 to 2020.

FOSSIL ENERGY SOURCES

However, the future of the fossil renewable energy sources made environmentalists, experts and NGOs unhappy because the final draft leaves many doubts.

From the beginning several countries, especially coal, gas and petroleum producers, rejected to end that highly contaminating industry.

According to the UN website, there were more than 600 groups of pressure from oil companies on the list of registered participants at the COP27, which means an increase of 25 percent in relation to the summit held last year.

Pressures to slow down the goals of mitigation and reduction of contaminating gases was another important topic at the COP27, which generated confrontations.

Some States tried to bury the adopted agreements at the 2015 Paris Summit, which limits global warming lower than 2 degrees, preferably to 1.5 degrees, compared to preindustrial levels. The majority rejected any change on such sensible theme.

CALLS TO FACE CLIMATE CHANGE

Cuba warned here that time is running short to adopt decisions in relation to climate change, and called for justice and solidarity with countries with less resources to face this scourge.

Climate solidarity means to stop acting out of individual economic interests; to think of those who lose living conditions; to change unsustainable patterns of consumption; to help the most vulnerable, said Cuban minister of Sciences, Technology and Environment, Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, in this Egyptian city.

In her speech at the 27 Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), the minister highlighted that "financial justice is having new and additional funds to compensate for the damages and losses caused".

She also urged to implement adaptation measures, simplify procedures and adopt a new financial goal.

"Time to adopt the decisions and actions needed to revert climate change is running short," she stressed.

Pérez Montoya affirmed that the roots of this problem lie at the capitalist system, which she held responsible for a predator and consumer model of development. What is happening in the world has an impact on global ethics and aesthetics; humans' quality of life, their environment and infrastructure deteriorate, she said.

The minister affirmed that as a result of extreme weather phenomena, people die, cities and traditions are destroyed and food and energy security are affected.

When referring to Cuba, she commented that every year, "we live the uncertainty of knowing whether we will be affected by a hurricane, strong rains or severe droughts." Those vulnerabilities are aggravated by the cruel and unfair economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United



Cuban minister of Sciences, Technology and Environment, Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya. PHOTO: Minrex.

States, which the international community rejects, she recalled.

In spite of that, Cuba makes progress in the implementation of a plan to face climate change, she said. What is at stake is a sustainable development, the eradication

of poverty and humans' survival. For that reason, we must pledge ourselves to act in order to attain an open climate ethic and governability, based on solidarity and financial justice, for the benefit of future generations, she concluded.

Soroa's Magic

By BenjamínMICERINOS

PINAR DEL RÍO.- Soroa is one of the most attractive nature recreation centers in Cuba that, for years, has stood out for its orchid garden and the surrounding colorful environment.

Known as 'Cuba's Rainbow' for its chromatic colors and natural impact, this tourist center is part of the Horizontes Cubanacán chain. It has 49 cabins, is attended by over 100 staff and provides famous extra-hotel options, such as a waterfall and the abovementioned orchid garden.

The center's guests, who mostly come from the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands, are attracted by one of Latin America's largest orchid gardens, in addition to over 100 species of resident, endemic and migratory birds.

This natural landscape, which stands out for its stunning beauty and is considered a Biosphere Reserve in Cuba's west, was named after two Spanish brothers, Lorenzo and Antonio Soroa Muñagorri, who settled there in 1856 with the hope of making fortune.

Once there, they acquired the La Merced coffee plantation and later on, they also acquired Los Neptunos, San Luis and San

Ramón de Aguas Claras. With the passing of the years, the area was known after the owners' name.

However, the region was not famous because of the Soroa brothers but because of its nature, which attracted several people.

Soroa is in the limits of the Sierra del Rosario mountainous region, about 70 kilometers west of Havana. It is part of the Guaniguanico Range, in the Candelaria municipality (Artemisa province).

The area includes a small valley that shapes the Manantiales River, the main affluent of the Bayate River, and a waterfall that is 22 meters high.

Famous since the 17th century because of its stunning beauty, Soroa's attractions include Castillo de las Nubes (Castle in the Clouds), a medieval-style construction erected at the El Fuerte hill that was built in 1940 by landowner Antonio Arturo Sánchez Bustamante, without reservations on its cost.

The castle is close to the Viewpoint, which is 250 meters above sea level and from where visitors can have one of the best views of the Sierra del Rosario and Sierra de los Órganos mountain ranges.



Argentina Hosted the IV RUNASUR Assembly

By Ollantay **ITZAMNÁ**

GUATEMALA CITY.- On November 5 and 6 this year, the city of Buenos Aires hosted the IV Assembly of Representatives of organizations, movements, peoples and communities coordinated within the RUNASUR space coming from Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Guatemala. The idea behind the creation of the RUNASUR space "for a plurinational America of the peoples for the peoples" emerged "on the return journey of comrade Evo Morales (former Bolivian president) from Argentina to Bolivia," said Hugo Godoy, member of the RUNASUR technical committee and host of the Assembly in Buenos Aires.

RUNASUR's first two meetings took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia (2020), while the third was held in Santiago de Chile (2021). Another meeting had been scheduled for 2021 in Cusco, Peru, but it was suspended because of the political context at the time. Representatives of social organizations and the peoples of Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Peru and Ecuador attended the first meetings. Representatives from Colombia and Uruguay joined the Buenos

Aires meeting, in which Peru and Ecuador were absent.

RUNASUR has five technical commissions: health, education, economy, peoples' integration and Mother Earth. To a large extent, the meetings were and are addressed at setting-up and evaluating the work of the commissions.

In the recent IV RUNASUR Assembly, held in the Argentinean capital, emphasis was made on the importance of starting or following-up the fight processes against

the U.S. interference in a coordinated way. Five commissions were set up at the meeting to read, analyze and adopt a final declaration.

RUNASUR was defined as a space for coordination of the peoples for the peoples, which should promote life and respect to the rights of Mother Earth. The signatories to the declaration promised to accompany the transformation processes undertaken in the countries and foster constituent assembly processes in others.

It was agreed to strengthen the identity of the peoples and respect to pluriculturalism, as well as to create a RUNASUR communication network and hold campaigns against the Monroe Doctrine and its terrible consequences for our peoples.

At the Abya Yala Continent, Argentina is one of the countries in which a lower number of native peoples were able to survive the state ethnophagy of two centuries of Republic. In that sense, racism is a characteristic element of that Republic, although the high educational level the Buenos Aires people have on average makes this European evil be merged to some extent.

With the 2019 Coup d'état, concern turned into solidarity. That is how the RUNASUR idea emerged on Morales' return journey to Bolivia, accompanied by an important delegation of the Argentinean progressive sector. That concern for the Andean-Amazonian issues in Argentina and the multiculturalism applied since the end of the 20th century have not been implemented in Argentina yet.

Actions for supranational coordination, such as RUNASUR, must focus on eliminating the national borders that stop us and acting as part of a single territory to defend: sovereign and plurinational Abya Yala.



The meeting emphasized the importance of starting or following-up the fight against the U.S. interference in a coordinated way. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

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FIHAV 2022: Present Challenges

By Ania**TERRERO**, Yoandry**ÁVILA** & Adis**MORERA**

HAVANA.- About 400 Cuban economic actors found in the 38th edition of the Havana's International Trade Fair (FIHAV 2022) a space to identify productive connections, commercial links and foreign investment businesses, amidst a climate of transformations.

The event, held from November 14 to 19 at the EXPOCUBA exhibition site, gathered over 200 state entities and 76 new forms of productive management, including micro, small and medium-sized companies (MIPYMES) and non-agricultural cooperatives, which held exchanges with about 450 commercial partners from 62 countries.

Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero stated that the commodity exchange is another sign of the changes taking place in

Cuba, in spite of two years of pandemic in which the island suffered the consequences of the health crisis and the strengthening of the economic blockade imposed by the United States.

In that endeavor, the business rounds, investment forums and exhibitions held during the six-day event contributed to coordinating projects in key areas, such as the food and agricultural, energy, biopharmaceutical, transportation, construction, tourism and telecommunication sectors, among others. In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX) Déborah Rivas stressed that the Cuban business people who attended FIHAV 2022 assumed a more

pro-active attitude, essential in the role they play in the economy.

All this implies benefits for the Cuban population, but "if our companies do not actually assume this position, we will not be able to carry out the updating of the model," she warned.

Specialist of the Business Division at the Electronics, Computer, Automation and Communication Industry Group (GELECT), Yamilé Herrera, commented that the event allowed presenting the comprehensive line, audio, light and visual projection system of the GEDEME Company's Smart Communication Project.

Agreements were signed between Panda (a foreign company), the Cubaelectrónica Importer and the Company for the Production of TV and other Electrical Appliances, as well as between the Refrigeration and Climate Institute and JR Soluciones (a MIPYME) to work on products' certification and homologation.

The Cuban Medical Services Marketing Company also made businesses with foreign businesspeople in areas related to medical tourism and wellbeing, export of medical services, events' organization and postgraduate formation. The company also presented its foreign investment portfolio for the development of resorts, thermal zones and wellbeing and quality of life centers.

In the gastronomic sector, Bravo S.A. Marketing specialist Gisel González highlighted that the company's strategy was directed at retail shops, with 42 equally important products. The free service line that brings the company closer to consumers and

the gluten-free product factory "allows the allergen and celiac segment to consume our products," she commented.

According to MINCEX First Deputy Minister Ana Teresita González, one of FIHAV 2022 landmarks was the incorporation of new economic actors and Cubans living abroad, "a sign of the changes that will contribute to having a better country."

President of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce Antonio Carricarte stressed that the value of the participation of new forms of management went beyond the presence of their stands in FIHAV.

On the participation of Cubans living abroad, Carricarte referred to Cuba's interest to make progress with its emigrates not only from the sentimental point of view but also from the economic relation perspective, as they can contribute to development, he said.

In his opinion, FIHAV allowed the acquisition of experiences and the exchange of views with high-tech suppliers. Progress was also seen on the use of this event as a platform for the launch of products, the setting-up of businesses and the development of activities addressed at having a better information of products in the international arena, Carricarte noted.

The achievements of the integration between the different actors materialized through the signing of over 50 export and import agreements and letters of intent that will result in international economic associations, joint ventures and other contracts in the near future, he stressed.

It is clear, then, that the first steps have been taken: challenges are already known.



FIHAV 2022 gathered over 200 Cuban state entities and 76 new forms of productive management. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Progress on Food Sovereignty

By Rafael**CALCINES**

HAVANA.- Cuba makes progress at present on the implementation of a National Food Sovereignty and Nutritional Education Plan to reduce imports and foster production, affirmed Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero.

The minister participated in the international virtual forum "Hybrid rice assistance and global food security," sponsored by the China International Development Cooperation Agency.

In his speech to the event, Marrero warned that Cuba faces a complex economic situation due to several factors, including the strengthening of the U.S. blockade, which violates the right to development and life.

However, progress is made on the "use of science, technology and innovation and the development of efficient and sustainable food systems at the local level." The minister appreciated the support China has given Cuba in that direction, which includes donations of machinery

and agricultural production materials to improve the production system, in addition to academic exchange on topics such as

hybrid rice cultivation on saline grounds – highly important to face the negative effects of climate change.

He also stressed the "special relevance" the Chinese cooperation, innovation and open collaboration platform – known as "China-



Prime Minister Marrero warned that Cuba faces a complex economic situation due to several factors. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Latin America Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Center" – has to support industrial institutions, universities and research.

At the FAO World Summit held in 1996, Fidel Castro stated that in order to guarantee food security in the world and eradicate hunger, it is necessary to be aware of the fact "that in this world hegemony, arrogance and selfishness should end."

The only solution to that painful drama is to transform, urgently, radically and in a sustained way, the irrational and unsustainable capitalist production and consumption patterns, so that humankind can save itself, said the Cuban leader.

Marrero added that according to data provided by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), from 702 million to 828 million people were affected by malnutrition in 2021 – 56.6 million of them are from Latin America and the Caribbean.

He also noted that efforts to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, in all its forms, are reducing, as well as the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goal on Zero Hunger for 2030, according to FAO

MIPYMES on the Road to Sustainable Development

By Miriam**CÉSAR**

HAVANA.- Micro, small and medium-sized companies (MIPYMES) represent today 90 percent of the companies at the international level; from 60 to 70 percent of employment, and 50 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product.

In the case of Cuba, those companies need today more support than ever due to the triple thread caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, international conflicts and climate crisis; however, they are better prepared to achieve a strong reconstruction.

In 2017, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 27 as the Day of Micro, Small and Medium-sized

Companies to raise awareness about the contribution they make to the Sustainable Development Goals and the world's economy.

Cuba, without leaving out its Socialist Economic and Social Development Model, has the challenge of boosting an efficient economy, overcoming difficulties and generating the goods and wealth that support an inclusive project.

On September 20, 2021, the legal norms for the creation of new actors were approved, thus opening a new stage for the state-managed forms and micro, small and medium-sized companies, in addition to the renovated non-agricultural cooperatives.

Nine days later, the 35 first MIPYMES were authorized, and one year after the implementation of those norms, there are 5,360 MIPYMES and non-agricultural cooperatives all

over the country, according to data provided by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economics and Planning (MEP) Johana Odriozola.

The new economic actors choose their own legal form of organization, which guarantees diversity and heterogeneity of the Cuban entrepreneurial system. The majority of the MIPYMES approved are located in the capital, followed by Granma, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and Villa Clara.

Odriozola recalled that the legal norm for the setting-up of MIPYMES established that self-employed (private) workers with more than three employees hired – which are not family members – should have legal status, whether they are a non-agricultural cooperative or MIPYMES.

Sectors with the highest number of new actors include construction, with about 24 percent of the total – an intense activity in terms of labor that does not require high investments or financing to start operating, in addition to being in high demand nationwide.

This sector is followed by the manufacturing industry, which includes the production of food and light industry items – areas that have a strategic importance for the country and played an essential role in gastronomy and lodging.

When assessing MIPYMES' impact, Odriozola stated that the most important thing is their acknowledgment in the legal process as a legal entity, and their transformation into a company, with the corresponding banking operations.

The increase of the number of economic activities to be exercised in the non-state sector – from 127 to over 2,000 – is also important as part of the improvement and relaxation policy. The modest contribution they have made is better seen at the territorial level, in local development projects.

One year after the birth of the first MIPYMES and their corresponding approval, such organizations are a constant topic of debate at forum, entrepreneurial meetings, international fairs and economic analysis gatherings, because in spite of limitations, obstacles and taboos, they are important and essential actors for Cuba's sustainable development.



The majority of the MIPYMES approved are located in Havana. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Energy Topic: A Priority Task

By Danay**GALLETI**

HAVANA.- Cuban Minister of Energy and Mines Vicente de la O Levy described the recent tour of Algeria, Russia, Türkiye and China as successful in respect of the energy topic, a priority task in the government's agenda due to the complex situation the island faces in this sector.

De la O Levy, a member of the Cuban delegation that toured those countries headed by president Miguel Díaz-Canel, said that the agreements reached in those four destinations will help alleviate the National Electro-Energy System (SEN).

The minister stated that in the case of Algeria, some of the actions president Abdelmajid Tebboune informed include the restitution of a stable oil supply to Cuba aimed at power stations.

He also referred to the donation of a photovoltaic park that will be located in Havana but will be connected to SEN to benefit all the people, from the westernmost province of Pinar del Río to the easternmost province of Guantánamo.

The energy topic was also dealt with in Russia, including issues such as oil supply, renewable sources of energy and power stations functioning, the minister added.

In relation to Türkiye, he recalled the presence in Cuba of floating stations for electricity generation and added that at the meetings with representatives of Turkish companies, those actions were assessed, as well as their permanence. Several business opportunities, beneficial for both parties and focused on renewable energies, were identified. When talking about the results of the tour of China, he referred to initiatives

for the restart of photovoltaic parks, stopped because of the lack of financing, as well as to the analysis and easing of payment conditions and the continuity of investments.

De la O Levy summarized the tour of Algeria, Türkiye, Russia and China by

stressing that "now, with our embassies, specialists and technicians, we have the duty of implementing all those agreements as quickly as possible."

He also highlighted "the commitment of reducing damages to the population in the month of December" through the electricity system's maintenance and stability, and added that a more efficient stage is coming closer.



Cuban Minister of Energy and Mines Vicente de la O Levy. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Cuba Stood Out in Baseball 5



The Cubans, coached by Pablo Terry, also made history after achieving the first triple play in an international event. PHOTO: JIT.

By LemayPADRÓN

HAVANA.- The hard blows the Cuban baseball has suffered in recent years made us be careful about the I Baseball Five World Cup; however, the Cubans stood out in the sport that has historically been the most practiced in the island. In fact, in the first match, the Cuban players made several mistakes that led to a 0x3 defeat against the week Hong Kong team, although once those mistakes were corrected, they became a real steamroller and did not give anyone a moment's rest, to finish undefeated by beating all their opponents in at least two games. As specialists said before the start of the event, Japan was the main threat; but the Japanese were also wiped out both, in the preliminary phase, as part of Group A and in the match for the title. The Cubans, coached by Pablo Terry, also made history after making the first triple play in an international event – in the initial match against Hong Kong. Several Cuban players stood out at the emblematic Zócalo Square, including Orlando Amador, Roivelis Núñez, Shakira Aspiazú and Briandy Molina, among others. The latter was also part of the coaching staff that has shown Baseball5 throughout the world

and has conducted lectures on different places to popularize this discipline. Baseball5, a sport born in the Cuban streets and known as 'four corners,' is the new pearl of the World Baseball and Softball Confederation, which tries to promote this competitive modality and even include it in the next Olympic Games. The few economic expenses needed for its practice turn it into an attraction for youngsters, just as its inclusive nature, as men and women can play together as part of the same team, thus turning this sport into a serious candidate to replace the traditional baseball and softball disciplines – even though that might hurt. Baseball5's debut is included in the program of the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar 2026, although another World Cup is scheduled for 2024. From the television point of view, as the Cubans were lucky to witness, it also looks attractive; thus, it should probably continue growing. The friendly spirit among rivals also speaks highly of this discipline, in favor of its universalization and it should grow even more, especially in Europe. Baseball finally makes us happy, after the second place reached in the U-15 championship, which somehow eliminated that bitter taste. Experience tells us, however, not to rest on our laurels, because eventually and if it gains importance in multiple sport competitions, quality and rivalry on the court will grow.

Linking sport and information technologies

By Joel MichelVARONA

HAVANA.- Cuban experts seek to implement the new information and communication technologies (IT) on sports and physical education aim at improving technique in different disciplines. "We are witnessing the digital era, of digital natives, and we can say that the IT and specialized techniques will help solving problems accumulated in this field", director from the department of Physical Culture, Sports and Recreation of the José Antonio Echeverría Havana Technological University, Maykel Barrera told **The Havana Reporter**. We are trying to place us and be updated, we cannot fall behind although there is resistance to accept the new technologies, but now it is about trying to find technical and methodological alternatives to overcome obstacles, Barrera said. Those topics were discussed during the 20th Engineering and Architecture Scientific Convention, held in Havana from November 28 to December 2. The meeting included 11 scientific events with representatives from 15 countries, among them Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Belgium and Mexico.

As a delegate to that event, Barrera explained that it is aimed at encouraging a methodology through the IT in the teaching and learning process, specifically in judo, but seeing the discipline as part of physical education in the university curricular context. He assured that with this new methodological alternative physical education will be boosted in the university sphere. I am lucky to be part of the Provincial University Organizing Committee, and we will extend the experience to other territories through it, he stated. The academician commented that physical education has been isolated from the ITs in the teaching process, but it is a challenge for us to move forward on that sense...there is no intention whatsoever of separating the traditional, but to complement the subject with modern times". This congress was part of the activities on the 58th anniversary of the José Antonio Echeverría Technological University in Havana, Cujae, rector of technical sciences and architecture in Cuba.



José Antonio Echeverría Havana Technological University. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

David vs. Goliath

By Danay **GALLETTI**

HAVANA.- The leader of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro, who passed away on November 25, 2016, had an antiimperialist formation and opposed the Latin American dictatorships of the first half of the XX century, thus obsession to assassinate him, said Fabián Escalante, a retired Division General and former Deputy Minister of the Interior.

Escalante, who met Fidel, made a major compilation on the plots to end with the leader's life from 1958 to 2000, totalling 634 attempts.

Of that number, the specialist highlighted 167, which had the means and the will and were better planned. Others even emerged from TV programs such as Cita con Cuba, broadcasted by Voice of Americas, through the so-called Operación Botín, which offered a reward for the assassination of different leaders.

In an exclusive interview to **The Havana Reporter**, Escalante acknowledged that the AM/LASH operation, headed by former commander Rolando Cubela – a CIA agent – with the support of different collaborators, was one of the best planned.



Fabián Escalante, a retired Division General and former Deputy Minister of the Interior.

PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

This group tried to assassinate Fidel from 1961 to February 1966 – when Cubela was captured – by using “poison, bullets and the famous fine-tipped ballpoint with which they pretended to inoculate a deadly substance at a ceremony conducted on December 7, 1965 at El Cacahual” Monument.

All that characterized Fidel's life, because he represented David versus Goliath, an image strengthened after the victory of the Revolution, an event that changed the vision on Latin America and the Caribbean and the U.S. policy, and that influenced on the liberation movements worldwide.

Escalante, founder of the Cuban Security Services and head of the State Security Department (DSE) from 1976 to 1996, affirmed that the several attempts against Fidel Castro started when he was studying at the University of Havana.

Escalante also stated that Fidel was later one of the attackers to the Moncada Garrison, in 1953 and a protagonist of his self-defense speech, who “had what was needed to foster the subsequent process and the causes behind the assassination attempts by the United States and the national and continental bourgeoisie.”

The plot organized in 1958 by the government of the United States and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the military police of dictator Fulgencio Batista, headed by Alan Robert Nye and based on a “basic and rustic” plan, started an unstoppable process.

“Once Nye was captured by a scouting party of the Ejército Rebelde (Rebel Army), what he least expected was the triumph of the Revolution, a few days later, thanks to the enormous pressure exerted in the eastern region and in the city of Santa Clara. He was then expelled from the country to avoid a conflict with Washington,” Escalante said.

The writer also referred to a memorandum signed on December 2, 1959, in which Colonel J.C. King, head of the CIA Western Hemisphere Division, stated the need of assassinating Fidel because “none of the other revolutionary leaders are as

appealing and hypnotize the masses” as he did.

Escalante noted that attempts against the Commander in Chief were conducted by that intelligence agency, the mafia that had big interests in the island, members of the bourgeoisie, landowners and owners of large estates who were angry at the social measures applied after January 1, 1959.

Escalante, who also participated in the tripartite Cuban-Soviet-U.S. meetings on the October Crisis explained that, in 1960, prior to the arrival of Fidel, as head of the Cuban delegation, to the XV United Nations General Assembly, there were several meetings and “crazy” plans.

One of those projects involved scattering LSD, a substance with psychotropic effects, at a radio studio in which Fidel would talk, “to cause him a fit of laughter, so he could not speak and be discredited in front of the population.”

“Gastronomy specialist José Santos de la Caridad Pérez Núñez, who had an envelope with the first batch of botulinum toxin capsules that were sent to Cuba, worked there. He kept them in his lockers and when he had to work, he put them in the freezer waiting for the first chance,” Escalante explained.

And then, “you will ask me how he underwent decades of plots and assassination attempts. Do you think that was his main concern? No. That image of him on the plane when he opens his shirt and says he has a moral vest, that is Fidel,” he stressed.

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