



## Successful Trip To Europe of President Díaz-Canel



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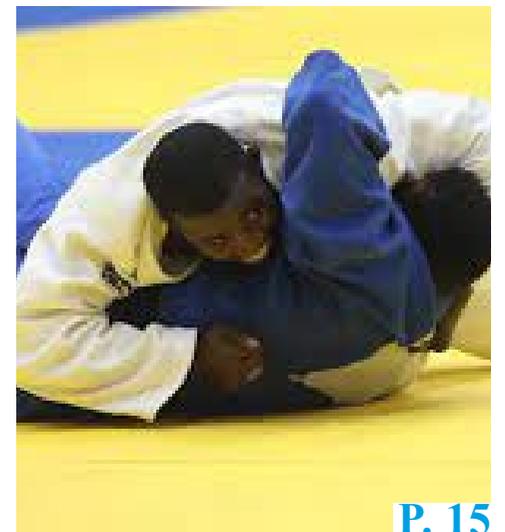
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# Among Spain's Favorite Destinations in the Caribbean

By Fausto**TRIANA**



Cuban Tourism Director in Spain and Portugal Niurka Pérez. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

MADRID. - Cuba is among the most favorite Caribbean destinations in Spain, with an increase in flight frequencies to the island, Cuban Tourism Director in Spain and Portugal Niurka Pérez told **The Havana Reporter** (THR).

According to the official, market performance is characterized by an upward trend this year, with itineraries from Madrid and Barcelona.

The Caribbean again has an important place in airline strategies in 2023 when betting on the region and increasing offers for the 2023 summer season, experts in the smokeless industry in Spain commented.

Pérez told THR that flight occupancy in Iberia, an airline that currently operates four weekly flights to Havana, stands at over 80 percent in the summer season and does not rule out increasing operations.

For its part, Air Europe continues operating the Cuban destination with a daily flight to Havana since the end of spring and during the summer, with bookings of over 85 percent.

She noted that World2Fly, a W2M group company, also says that sales in Spain are better than those in the last summer season.

However, World2Fly still has seats available in all routes, especially because Cubans in Spain usually make reservations late and use the strategy of waiting until the very minute.

Even so, until now, bookings of about 75 percent are already seen for July and August.

From Spain, the same company included a fourth weekly frequency to Havana since June 20, in addition to a weekly flight that connects Lisbon and Varadero beach resort, an operation that started on June 3.

On the other hand, the seat offers at Iberojet -an airline owned by Ávoris that departs from four different cities in the Iberian Peninsula-, will have 111 flights from Madrid in the summer, in three weekly frequencies to Havana and one to Santiago de Cuba. Likewise, Iberojet also bet on the Portuguese market with the weekly Lisbon-Varadero flight and an occupancy of over 90 percent.

Pérez also announced that as of June 29, Cuba increased its tourism air connections with Spain by opening the new Barcelona-Havana route, promoted by Enjoy Travel Group. The Cuban Tourism Director for Spain and Portugal highlighted that the diversity of products and services, the keys and beaches, the fantastic colonial and patrimonial cities and the rich nature, among other features, turn the island into a fascinating destination whose main sources are its people: kind, modest and full of life.

## International Journalism and Tourism Seminar

By Benjamín**MECERINOS**

HAVANA. - The 16th International Journalism and Tourism Seminar examined the most important topics on this field at present with the participation of delegates from Panama, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, Ecuador, Canada, the United States and Cuba. The event, held from June 19 to 23, was organized by Havana's José Martí International Journalism Institute and the specialized tourism journalism section of the Cuban Journalists Association (UPEC).

Called by UPEC, an entity that in recent years has led studies on how to benefit the exposure of the tourist industry in Cuba and the Latin American region, the event discussed on the sector's prospects for 2023 through lectures, panels and exhibitions.

Other topics dealt with were the strategies of the main hotel chains, the smokeless industry in Cuba, new technologies and tourism, plus their most important challenges.

The new meeting between journalists, communicators, community managers and other professionals was an ideal space to analyze tourism trends and

evaluate the leading role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) from three points of view: tourists, hotel management and social communication.

New technologies increase services and quality from the very moment vacationers look for destinations to the time when they

arrive to rooms equipped with the latest amenities. In addition, such technologies change the management of hotels, airlines, travel agencies and specialized journalistic communication.

During the meeting, representatives of the Tourism Ministry, technological

companies and hotel chains presented development plans of the industry in Cuba, including the project of turning Cayo Largo del Sur into the first smart destination in the Caribbean.

In addition to exchanges with new players of the Cuban economy, participants also visited hotels, places of cultural interest, the famous Tropicana nightclub and Varadero beach resort.



The event discussed on the sector's prospects for 2023 through lectures, panels and exhibitions. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

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# President Díaz-Canel's Fruitful Tour of Europe



The Cuban president gave a speech at Summit for a New World Financial Pact.

PHOTO: Estudios Revolución

By Oscar **REDONDO**

ROME. - Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel, began in this capital a fruitful tour of Europe that included, in addition to Italy and the Vatican, Serbia and France, where he participated in the Summit for a New World Financial Pact in his capacity as president of the G77+China.

The president met with his Italian counterpart Sergio Mattarella at the Quirinale Palace, an occasion in which both leaders reiterated their willingness to continue developing the historical relations established 120 years ago – on February 4, 1903 – in areas of common interest.

In Rome, Díaz-Canel also met with Qu Dongyu, general director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), whom he extended “the eternal gratitude for the unconditional and permanent support for Cuba.”

On June 20, the Cuban leader had a private audience with Pope Francis, which he described as a frank talk.

“We extensively agreed on pressing issues of the international agenda for humanity,” in addition to “Cuban reality at present, particularly the severe impact of the stepped-up economic blockade on our population.”

“I thanked his expressions of close support for and encouragement in favor of our country,” the Cuban president said, adding that he expressed his willingness “to continue strengthening relations between both States.”

The head of the Cuban State also attended a work lunch in Rome with Italian business people, who “have not stopped working and maintained their cooperation and exchange with Cuba,” he said.

In the second leg of his tour, the Cuban President traveled to Belgrade, where he was welcomed by Serbian leader Aleksandar Vucic, with whom he held official talks he described as valuable.

In the friendly meeting with president Vucic, we reiterated our willingness to continue strengthening the historical friendship and ties of cooperation that bring Cuba and Serbia together and with satisfaction we checked on the excellent state of the political links that unite both countries, he noted.

The president pointed out that during the exchange, they talked about the possibility of fostering cooperation in sectors, such as healthcare, tourism, biotechnology, agriculture and sport. Vucic valued Cuba’s support for Serbia’s territorial integrity.

At the French capital, the Cuban president gave a speech at the aforementioned Summit and had exchanges with his Brazilian counterpart, Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, among others.

Díaz-Canel and Lula reportedly exchanged views on historical bilateral links and potential to increase cooperation in areas of common interest. They also agreed on current topics of the international agenda. The Cuban president’s stay in Paris wound up with a meeting with representatives of different sectors of French society, whom he thanked for their solidarity against the aggressions and the challenges Cuba faces. We could not leave without meeting you; we are honored to attend this meeting of friends and brothers, Díaz-Canel said at the Cuban embassy headquarters, where he talked to parliament members, intellectuals, members of solidarity movements and Cuban residents.

# 70 Years of the Attack on the Moncada Barracks

By Ernesto **VERA**

HAVANA. – The attacks on eastern Cuba’s Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks, on July 26, 1953, marked the beginning of the armed insurrection that led to the triumph of the Revolution in 1959.

The action shook society and showed the existence of a leader capable of heading that redeeming battle and an avant-garde movement willing to confront, from a military point of view, the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship (1952-1959), which was supported by the United States.

That day, over one hundred young people, headed by Fidel Castro, participated in the brave attacks, with the purpose of taking up arms and urging people to start the fight against the tyranny.

The action failed once the surprise factor was lost and the dictator’s army increased repression against attackers, who were mostly murdered or arrested.

By arresting the massacre’s survivors, the tyrant pretended to crush the uprising and, as an example, punish the boldness of those who took up arms.

However, strong popular pressure forced the regime to grant an amnesty and in the morning of May 15, 1955, Fidel Castro and his comrades-in-arms were released, following 19 months in jail at the Isla de Pinos National Prison for Men, also known as Presidio Modelo.

The release of all 30 revolutionaries should have occurred on May 13, but as this was not so, the people, fearing that revolutionary leaders would be murdered, started a permanent demonstration in front of the penitentiary, until amnesty became effective.

On May 16, after holding a press conference at the Isla de Pinos Hotel, Fidel Castro handed journalists the Manifesto to the Cuban People, in which he reiterated his willingness, after his release, to continue fighting “without rest or fun,” “without truce,” until obtaining Cuba’s freedom.

Two months after the release, on June 12, 1955, the Movimiento 26 de Julio (M-26-7) - referring to the date when the dictatorship’s military strongholds were attacked – was set up in the underground.

Other actions included exile in Mexico; the preparation of the Granma yacht expedition there; the guerrilla fight at the Sierra Maestra, and the underground struggle in the cities, until the tyranny was finally defeated, on January 1, 1959.

July 26 is considered National Rebelliousness Day in Cuba and provinces take turns to celebrate the date in recognition of each area’s economic and social results.



On July 26, 1953, over one hundred young people participated in the brave attacks. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

# Cuba Thanks Solidarity against the U.S. Blockade

By The Havana Reporter **EDITORIAL STAFF**

HAVANA. - Cuba thanked actions in solidarity with families on the island and world demands in favor of the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States. Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez, referred to actions supporting Cuba in the United States and said on his Twitter account that the policy against the island is criminal,

violates human rights and is the main obstacle for the development of the nation. Rodríguez's statement was made after several U.S. cities were involved in actions to condemn the siege the island has suffered for over 60 years, which has caused losses worth over 147,853,000,000 dollars. Caravans, rallies and demonstrations supporting Cuba were also held in cities in

some 30 countries of the world, in addition to international rallies to demand the lifting of the blockade and the end of the destabilizing escalation against the Cuban Revolution promoted from the United States.

Those actions included the arrival in Washington of a Bridges of Love walk, after a two-thousand-kilometer tour aimed at urging the White House to end the coercive measures and the establishment of respectful and civilized relations with Havana.

## SUPPORT IN PANAMA

Meanwhile, in Panama City, the Hero of the Republic of Cuba, Fernando González, stressed his people's determination to face and overcome the blockade imposed by the United States in a moving solidarity and friendship meeting held in the auditorium of that capital's University.

In his speech, González – who is also the president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) – said that “there would be no way imperialism can break Cuba or overthrow the Cuban Revolution.”

Upon thanking the different gestures of friendship and commitment to defend

Cuba, he said that he expressed that feeling from the emotion of doing it in the same place that 23 years ago, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro denounced to the world an assassination attempt by terrorist Luis Posada Carriles”)

González also highlighted that in light of the different attacks and aggressions against his country, with the purpose of hindering its development, the determination to win grows stronger, referring to Army General Raúl Castro's phrase in the post-mortem tribute to Fidel: “Yes, we could; yes, we can and will always be able to.”

In another part of his speech, ICAP's president also praised the participation of the José Martí Association of Cuban Residents in Panama in organizing logistics to send over 11 million syringes and other medical supplies to Cuba to be used for vaccination against COVID-19.

At the evening event, the parliament member presented the Friendship Medal to Javier Medina, of the National Coordinating Committee in Solidarity with Cuba in Panama, and Jorge Guzmán, coordinator of the National Front for the Defense of Economic and Social Rights.



Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez, thanked actions supporting Cuba in the United States the actions. PHOTO: Cubadebate.

## Immigrants Reiterate Commitment

By Juan **DÍAZ**

LA GUAIRA, VENEZUELA. - Participants at the 6th Regional Meeting of Cuban Residents in Latin America and the Caribbean reiterated their commitment to defend their homeland and continue the struggle against the U.S. blockade.

The final declaration of the two-day meeting, held in the city with the attendance of delegates from over a dozen countries of the region, confirmed the willingness of people participating to be absolutely faithful to the country they were born in and coordinate and take joint actions to benefit the nation.

The text rejected the inclusion of Cuba in the fake list of countries that, according to Washington, sponsor terrorism and demanded the return of the illegally occupied Guantanamo Naval Base, in the country's east. Participants also stressed that they would permanently reject and maintain activism against the United States attempts to overthrow the Cuban political order and, in that sense, urged to strengthen coordination with solidarity movements and other associations.

The document also urged to intensify the use of social media to contribute to counteract campaigns that attempt against the image of Cuba and its people, and to be more proactive in terms of the business opportunities the island currently offers.

The declaration came out for promoting activities with the purpose of involving young generations to know Cuban history and culture.

The meeting's plan of action, for its part, stressed the need to consolidate the work and performance of associations, and to maintain activities in favor of the lifting of the blockade, the return of the Guantánamo Naval Base and the elimination of Cuba from the list of

countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, as a priority. It was agreed on granting the venue of the next meeting to the Dominican Republic set to be held in two years. At the event's closing, Deputy General Director for Cuban Consular Issues and Cuban Residents Abroad, Laura Pujol, praised the development of the meeting and highlighted that working and doing the best for Cuba was the essence of the event.

We have a common ground of understanding, which does not mean that we have to validate criteria and opinions with the Government, she said.

Pujol also told delegates that they have an open and permanent way of contacting consular offices where they live in and added that that is also part of immigrants' accompaniment and work.

Cuban residents abroad currently participate more as a result of the change of that pattern in recent years and because of President Miguel Díaz-Canel's political will, she commented.

You are the fuel to our soul, knowing the Revolution is everywhere, as Cubans all over the world are our better ambassadors, she highlighted.



Cuban Residents in Latin America and the Caribbean met in Venezuela. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

# Innovation at the Service of Children

By Yenia **SILVA**

HAVANA. - A group of Cuban specialists designed a multifunctional stander that is already being used in children with cerebral palsy, psychomotor development retardation and lower-limb angular deformities.

The device is used to place children in an upright position when they cannot actively hold or control their body against gravity.

The equipment, designed by experts of easternmost Guantanamo province, includes five positions that go from supine to standing. It also includes a turning table that can be adjusted according to the patient's size and pathology to receive a combined treatment.

The functions of this mechanic-therapy device go from reeducating posture to preventing skeletal-muscle, cardiovascular and respiratory complications resulting from the adoption of prolonged sitting or lying positions.

Other functions include strengthening upper torso, achieving lymphatic control, raising awareness of the standing position, correcting limb malformations, stimulating the use of the upper limbs and improving balance.

The price of such equipment on the international market, not including the occupational therapy

table and transportation costs, ranges from three to four thousand euros.

Since April this year, the device is used at the Omar Ranedo Pubillones rehabilitation room, in the central area of the abovementioned province.

The results are better and higher than expected, as first-degree specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and General Medicine doctor Gladiuski Pérez, the project's tutor, said.

"Kids get adapted to, accept and respond faster; it reduces spasticity (stiffness), crying and irritability, which facilitates manipulation; improves treatment quality and muscle response, in addition to increasing concentration and attention," she stressed.

Patients' relatives already see significant progress, which is translated into posture correction and balance improvement, reason for which children are more relaxed, do not cry or feel desperate.

For the moment, the use of standers is exclusive for pediatric patients, "which does not mean its use in adults is not a motivation, especially in patients with cerebrovascular diseases, those bedridden or with other diseases that prevent, inhibit or make standing and walking difficult."

One of its contributions is that it allows combining physical, occupational and speech therapy.

# A sustainable tourism project

By Miriam **CÉSAR**

HAVANA. - Tourism is confirmed as an important source of income for Cuba; however, its oversized growth could cause an increasing damage on the environment, which is a main attraction to visitors, a reason for which sustainable tourism is becoming more important.

In this context, the project Integration of conservation of biodiversity and mitigation of climate change in the development of the sustainable leisure industry provides the necessary incentives for the sector to change its usual operation and improves sustainability in the long run.

For six years, 2023-2029, the program will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and climate change mitigation in vulnerable marine-coastal areas, by designing and implementing innovative models with stepped-up financial capacities and mechanisms.

The actions will be taken in Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo keys in Ciego de Ávila, and Varadero in Matanzas, and strategies will be implemented with them to integrate biodiversity to tour activities and adopt practices with low greenhouse effect gas emissions in hotel facilities.

In order to meet the scheduled objectives, works are divided into five key results which, linked among them, will enable to successfully reach the final goal: to strengthen the institutional, normative and economic-financial framework to the environmental sustainability of tourism in Cuba.

Other results of the initiative are to show low greenhouse gas emission standards, procedures and technologies in the tour area; knowledge management; and environmental monitoring, evaluation and safeguarding. The project promotes new paradigms in the country's tour management: a legal and juridical framework that will favor the integration of sustainability in tour plans and programs, the strengthening of local alliances through participatory processes, in a way that all players in the value chain can influence how the activity is developed and run at the destination level.

It also includes the development of sustainable products and services that foster the respectful use of natural and cultural heritage and the implementation of management systems to certify hotel facilities as an element on which the project focusses, in line with the State plan to face climate change, known as Tarea Vida (Life Task).

The Ecology and Systematic Agency from the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry is working on complying with this, along with the Ministry of Tourism as the project's main beneficiary.

The experience is supported by the United Nations Development Program and financed by the World Environment Fund.



The program will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and climate change mitigation. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

# Van Van Concert Tour of Europe

By DaiLAFÁ

HAVANA. – Cuba's Los Van Van orchestra will hold a series of concerts in Europe in July, with performances in Spain and Germany, and announced its return to Japan at the end of the summer.

According to a communiqué, the famous band, known as the 'train of Cuban music,' is scheduled to perform in Barcelona (Spain) on July 6 and then in Frankfurt (Germany). In the latter, Van Van will offer a concert on July 8 at the Rudolstadt Festival, one of Europe's most important events, in which Cuba is the guest country this year, with the attendance of 10 artists and other cultural forms.

On July 9, Van Van will offer its music in Jardins, Mallorca (Spain).

The famous orchestra also announced its recent tour of Japan, following 13 years without performing for that audience. The tour will start at the end of the summer in the city of Fukuoka and will also include Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka.

Meanwhile, the Rudolstadt Traditional, Folk and World Music Festival website announced the participation of 10 Cuban bands, a symposium and a photo exhibit.

The opening of the event, to take place from July 6 to 9, will include the performance of Cuban musician Eliades

Ochoa and his group Patria, who will take "the Cuban joie de vivre and Caribbean air to Heinepark's main stage," the Rudolstadt website said.

Other Cuban artists to perform in Rudolstadt include singer-songwriter Tony Ávila; rapper Telmary y Habanasana;

Cimafunk; Los muñequitos de Matanzas; Yarima Blanco y su son.

According to organizers, people visiting the Rudolstadt 2023 Festival, which premieres an on-line app, can expect some 120 concerts, street music and dance.



Van Van's Japan tour will be at the end of summer. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

## Ceramic Mural at Casa del Caribe

By MartaCABRALES

SANTIAGO DE CUBA.- A Tzompantli ceramic mural is one of the visual attractions of the 42 International Caribbean Festival held in early July.

According to Fire Party host, Casa del Caribe (Caribbean House), the piece is the result of Mexican artist Dhante Loyola's effort and the work of several Santiago de Cuba artists from the Luis Díaz Cultural Workshop and the José María Heredia Cultural Exchange Association.

Tzompantli, a head or skull wall, flag or line in Aztec culture, was an extended practice among the area's Central American peoples, especially Mexica and Maya, as the festival's publication says.

The text adds that the most important finding is the Huey Tzompantli at the Templo Mayor of Mexico City, a skull wall that was also described in several chronicles by Spanish conquerors who arrived in Tenochtitlan.

This visual art work, a skull wall, is the result of a contemporary appropriation exercise, a mystical symbol that still hides great mysteries and becomes another action of artistic exchange between Mexico and Cuba.

The mural's works are conducted in different places in the city, because of its dimension and the fact that it will include from 400 to 500 built-in ceramic skulls on a vertical surface, with the characteristic colors that

identify the celebration of the Day of the Dead in Mexico.

This artistic piece will enrich the aesthetic value of the Casa del Caribe, a cultural institution located in the Vista Alegre neighborhood that will leave for the future something dedicated to those Mexican traditions, the main reason for this year's summer event.



This visual art work at Casa del Caribe, becomes another action of artistic exchange between Mexico and Cuba. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



# A Magical and Natural Paradise in Ecuador

By Nayara **TARDO**

QUITO. – Just in the heart of the Ecuadorian Andes there is a place blessed by the natural beauty of its environment: Baños de Agua Santa (Holy Water Baths).

Popularly known as the Baños and located in Tungurahua province, in the central Ecuadorian region, the exotic site is famous for its thermal waters, which are considered to be curative and rejuvenating.

Getting into its waters and appreciating the majestic Andes is a unique experience that lures people from all over the world. However, the small Ecuadorian paradise is not only famous for its thermal waters but also for its amazing mountainous setting and rich biodiversity.

Nature lovers can enjoy bird watching, hiking along beautiful paths or going on exciting bicycle tours.

One of the region's most outstanding areas is the Tungurahua volcano, one of the most active in Ecuador and whose fumarole and volcanic landscapes thrill visitors. This place is also a pilgrimage site for Ecuadorians and worshippers alike, while the Virgen del Agua Santa Sanctuary, located downtown, attracts thousands of religious believers every year.

According to local tradition, the Virgen del Agua Santa has worked several miracles and her image is worshipped and known as the city's Patron Saint.

The site's cultural heritage is also seen in its delicious food, which includes typical Ecuadorian dishes, such as cuy asado (roast guinea pig), fritada (fried pork), locro de papas (potato soup) and the traditional milk cherimoya (custard apple), a sweet and refreshing dessert that delights most demanding tastes.

Last May, Condé Nast Traveler – a magazine specializing in luxury tourism and lifestyle – included the place among the world's 50 most beautiful small towns.

According to data provided by the Tourism Department in Baños Municipality, 80 percent of the over 20,000 inhabitants left farming to start businesses in the tourism sector.

## BACKGROUND

People say that it was at the time of a Tungurahua volcano eruption, in 1999, that interest in the town started.

It was just then when former Ecuadorian soldier, Carlos Sánchez, knelt in front of the Virgen de Agua Santa and promised that he would stand watch over the volcano to protect his neighbors as long as it remained active.

Then, on a cliff his family owned and with a privileged view of both, the volcano's western side and his beloved Baños, he built a small watch hut.

On July 14, 2006, when the Tungurahua volcano had the most violent eruption in the last 88 years, Sánchez was the first to notice it. His reports helped evacuate hundreds of families and save lives.

In 2008, because of the isolation of his hut, he decided to build a swing aimed at encouraging his grandchildren to visit more often. From that place, in 2014, a couple of hikers were able to photograph the volcano just at the time in which it released a column of smoke eight thousand meters high.



Former Ecuadorian soldier, Carlos Sánchez built a small watch hut just in the heart of the Ecuadorian Andes. PHOTO: Internet.



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# Prime Minister Strengthens Links with Eurasia

By Germán **FERRÁS**

MOSCOW. - Cuban Prime Minister Manuel Marrero's recent visit to Russia reiterated the two countries' willingness to strengthen long-term ties and take economic and commercial relations to the same level of political relations.

Marrero's visit, from June 6 to 17, took place in the context of increasing and consolidating bilateral relations, following the 20th session of the Cuba-Russia Intergovernmental Commission for Economic-Commercial and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, held in Havana.

In order to follow up on topics dealt with in the Cuban capital, one of the main activities included a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Dmitri Chernyshenko, in Sochi, where several Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) events took place.

Likewise, Marrero also held exchanges with his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Mishustin, to check on the implementation of agreements reached and potentials for economic-trade relations between Russia and Cuba and between the island and the EAEU.

Along with the head of the Russian government, the Cuban Prime Minister toured the exhibition "Eurasia is our home," which included four stands of Cuban companies, and presided over the signing of three important documents between the BioCubaFarma business group and Russian and Belarusian companies in the sector.

Such agreements will allow Cuban biotechnology products to enter the market of EAEU nations, such as Russia and Belarus, in addition to boosting academic exchange and accessing raw materials for the production of medicines.

During his speech at the EAEU Intergovernmental Council, Marrero highlighted the results of exchanges held to regulate the circulation of medicines and medical

equipment in the EAEU and proposed to establish a multinational alliance in the biopharmaceutical sector in order to attain sovereignty in vaccine and drug production.

He also came out for boosting an EAEU industrial park at the Mariel Special Development Zone in Cuba to establish productive linkages that favor interregional integration in a unipolar world.

At the Russian capital, Marrero also held meetings with President Vladimir Putin, officials of both chambers of the Russian parliament, Friends of Cuba and the leader of the Communist Party.

Three agreements were penned by Cuban scientific companies and the Russian entities Alkana and Pelima, including the University of Sechenov.

The first one was the Framework Agreement for the Establishment of the Biomedical Innovation Cluster between the Biotechnological and Pharmaceutical

Industries Group and Moscow's State Medical University of Sechenov.

The other two documents included the agreements between the Cuban Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center and the Russian companies Pelima and Alkana.

Such accords will allow conducting studies and finishing the required stages for the development and commercialization of the new colon-rectal cancer treatment drug and enabling the supply of the Hebermin product for burns and ulcer treatment to the Russian health care system.

The official visit to the Russian Federation concluded with the Cuban delegation's attending the 26th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, where Marrero stressed that Cuba considers foreign investment a key element for the economic-social development plan, as well as tourism, agriculture, industry and other areas.



Marrero also held meetings with President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.

## Recovery without discouragement

By Cira **RODRÍGUEZ**

HAVANA. - With the principle of safeguarding people without ignoring material resources, Cuba makes progress in the recovery of areas affected by heavy rains in several of the country's central and eastern regions.

The extensive experience accumulated by the island in the face of severe meteorological events and powerful hurricanes allowed political and government authorities to get involved in recovery shortly after the rains stopped.

The most significant figures were registered in Camagüey, with 289.7 millimeters (mm), 145 percent, Granma 281.2 mm (167), Santiago de Cuba 226.1 mm (146), Las Tunas 214.9 mm (137) and Holguín 204.3 mm (143).

In this regard, the National Hydraulic Resources Institute announced that in 10 days Cuba reported an accumulated 146.2 mm of rains, 75 percent of the average historical rainfall figures for June.

From the very first moment local authorities sped up the people's evacuation in low



The most significant figures were registered in Camagüey, with 289.7 millimeters. PHOTO: ACN.

areas threatened by floods, equitably organized the feeding of people and adopted the necessary measures in communities with a large number of victims.

When the rainfall stopped, they began identifying damages and distributing the resources needed for recovery.

About the situation, Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel, said that, amid difficulties, "this heroic people are used, in the face of adversity, to stand firm. Nobody will be left behind, and we are going to work on coming out of these difficulties as soon as possible.

Six people died as a result of heavy rains, from June 6 through 10, according to the

first working meeting headed by Díaz-Canel himself to follow up on damages.

It was found that the greatest damage focused on roads, railroads, housing, farming and, in particular, various crops, while most of the damage caused on electrical service and communications was solved.

It was also known that the rains brought a remarkable increase in dammed water, which is something beneficial following two months of severe drought.

Preliminary information provided by the Agriculture Ministry says that various crops and livestock are, up to this moment, the most affected areas in the country's eastern region.

As of June 12, 11,434 hectares of cassava, plantain, sweet potato, pumpkin, beans, corn and rice, among other crops, had been damaged.

Regarding livestock, 159 heads of cattle and 126 small cattle were reported dead.

After returning to normal, they are working on the recovery of great damages caused on the assets of many families, distributing construction materials among victims, as well as working on the recovery of access roads, bridges and factory works, and providing food, donations and mattresses in affected areas.

# Viengsay Valdés Gives Luster to the Prix Benois de la Danse

By Odette **DÍAZ**

MOSCOW. - The presence of Prima Ballerina and General Director of the Cuban National Ballet Company (BNC), Viengsay Valdés, gave prestige to the jury of the Prix Benois de la Danse, an event held in the Russian capital.

Held every year since 1991, the contest established by Moscow's International Dance Association invited outstanding dancers to diversify the selection criteria of winners.

"It is an honor and privilege to have been chosen as part of the jury of the Prix Benois de la Danse, for its international recognition and because it is granted in Russia, where ballet tradition and art have developed for centuries and where classical and academic ballet roots and the rest of the arts that ballet comprises are so close," the Cuban ballerina told **The Havana Reporter**.

Valdés highlighted that the invitation to join the group of jury members of the event, recognized as the Dance Oscar, is a special moment in her professional career.

Feeling that Cuba is also represented through me confirms the importance that our ballet school is in prestigious events at the international level such as this, considered the highest award a dancer can win in his/her artistic career, she said.

Asked on the possibility that her presence opens in the Russian capital to continue increasing cultural ties between the Havana and Moscow ballet schools, Valdés told **The Havana Reporter** that there is a lot to do and this is a special occasion for exchanges and consolidate relations.

"I think that we now have to strengthen those cultural relations even more, using spaces such as our Havana international ballet festivals but also in other frameworks for exchange, either of teachers or projects in which we can share experiences between both schools, without losing our identity, our methodology and our way of being," she highlighted.



It is an honor and privilege to have been chosen as part of the jury of the Prix Benois de la Danse, she told. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

Regarding this, the prima ballerina also bet on the possibility of sharing the stage at international galas, both in Cuba and Russia.

"These are some of my proposals to Bolshoi Ballet Prima Ballerina, Svetlana Zajárova, artistic director of the Prix Benois de la Danse, and to the board of directors of the Bolshoi company, to put forward all those future projects," Valdés commented.

The BNC general director added that participating in Benois 2023 is also a gift for her company on the 75th anniversary of its establishment.

"This year, the Cuban National Ballet celebrates the 75th anniversary of its first performance as a professional

company in 1948, and gets to present times with a prestigious history, following the path of founders, Alicia, Fernando and Alberto Alonso," she said.

Valdés commented that to round off celebrations, they are preparing a season of performances in October with special guests, former BNC dancers who have succeeded in international companies "but do not stop belonging to it and remembering the National Ballet and still feel they are a valuable part of Cuba."

Valdés also highlighted the links Cuban Prima Ballerina Assoluta Alicia Alonso had with the Prix Benois de la Danse, as she was the one who opened the award's category "For the work of an entire life" in 2000.

## Festival Pays Tribute to Cuban *Bolero*

By Liem **ARMENTEROS**

HAVANA. - The 36th Boleros de Oro International Festival, held in this capital and with alternative venues in other provinces, included several tributes to renowned Cuban bolero musicians and singers.

The event, which again included international participation after the pandemic, highlighted the value of the musical genre, born in Cuba as a Hispanic-Caribbean heritage asset and taken to Mexico 100 years ago, where it is also loved, performed and enjoyed.

The festival confirmed the current preparation of a binational dossier, between Cuba and Mexico, to declare *bolero* an Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The edition of the event, that recently wound up, was dedicated to the 140th anniversary of the musical piece *Tristeza* (Sorrow), the first *bolero*, composed in 1883 by José "Pepe" Sánchez (Santiago de Cuba) and the 130th and 110th anniversaries of Eusebio Delfín and singer, Esther Borja, respectively.

Other tributes included the 100th anniversaries of the vedette of the Americas, Rosita Fornés (1923-2020), and Dominican Alberto Beltrán (1923-1997), known as "El grrito del Batey."

Established in 1987, the festival also praised Cuban singers, Elena Burke (1928-2002) and Pacho Alonso (1928-1982), in their 95th birthdays, in addition to recalling the career of recently deceased singer and songwriter, Pablo Milanés, who would have celebrated his 80th anniversary this year.

The event is internationally recognized as Latin America's most important *bolero* party, a region in which the genre is very popular and considered the most romantic of them all, always present in the heart of those who enjoy its lyrics and melodies.

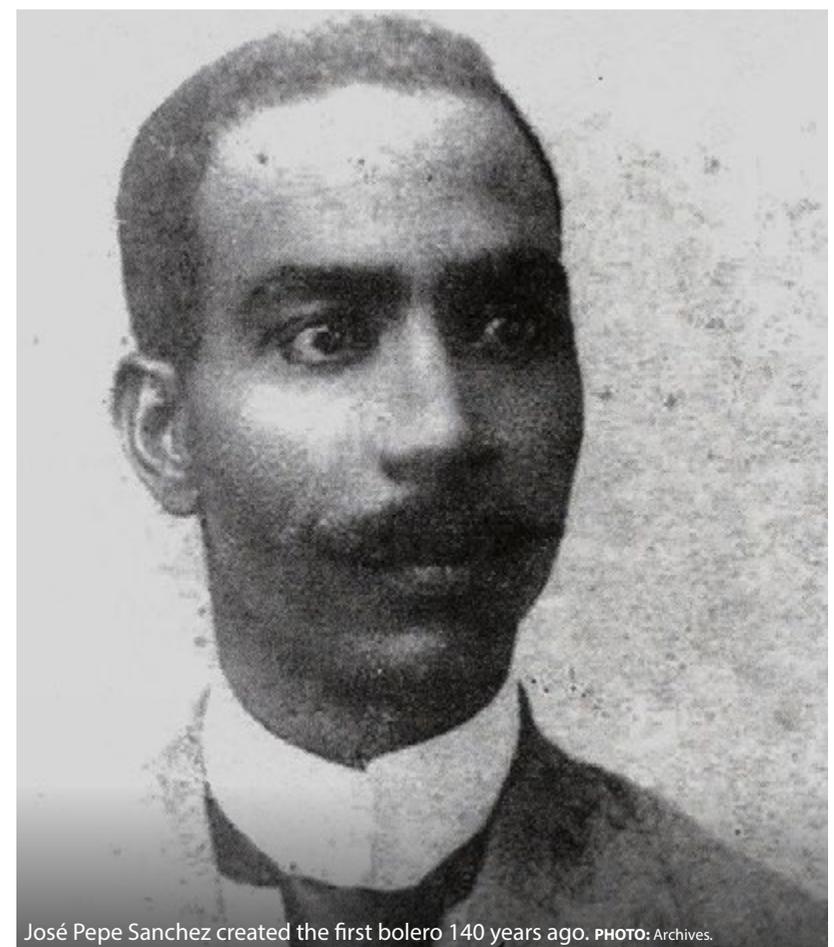
Sponsored by the Musicians Association of the Cuban Writers and Artists Association (UNEAC), the festival gathers singers, researchers, composers, artists and specialists in Havana every two years.

The galas and main performances of this year's edition were staged at Teatro Nacional de Cuba – being the Covarrubias Hall the main venue – and Teatro América, and included the participation of musicians from Colombia, Mexico, Spain, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Argentina, in addition to over 140 Cuban artists.

The Boleros de Oro Colloquium, headed by Alicia Valdés – author of the book *Diccionario de mujeres notables en la música cubana* (Dictionary of outstanding women in Cuban music), dealt with research work on the event's tributes and the evolution of bolero as a genre until present times.

In this context, the exhibition *Conversación en*

*tiempo de boleros* (Conversation in times of boleros) – organized by president of UNEAC's Visual Artists Association, Lesbia Vent Dumois – was opened.



José Pepe Sanchez created the first bolero 140 years ago. PHOTO: Archives.

# With his Feet in the Sky and his Soul in Cuba

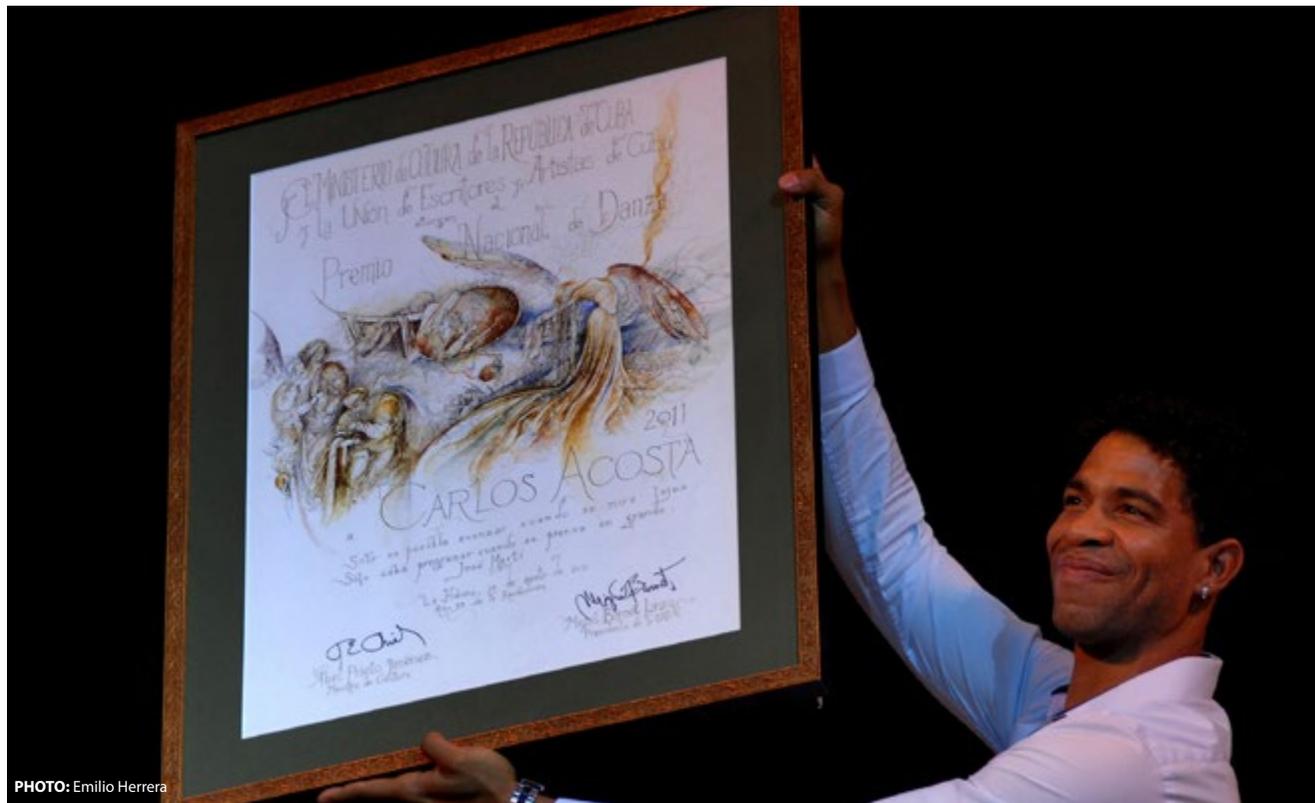


PHOTO: Emilio Herrera

By Adis**MARLÉN**

HAVANA.- Thanks to those feet that once touched the stage, Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta has achieved today one of the greatest achievements of a profession he turned into a part of himself and which he takes to the world with his Cuban soul.

Because of his father, Acosta took his first steps in this artistic expression – out of obligation, almost – that soon became an inseparable partner and an accomplice of his well-deserved achievements in the world of dance.

At the age of 50, which he recently celebrated, it is impossible to show a small part of his artistic life, as his endless awards and his career are a challenge to any narrator.

His virtuosity allowed him to graduate with the highest qualification of the National Ballet School in 1991 – a showcase for important companies that bet on him, going from the Cuban National Ballet or the English National Ballet to the Houston Ballet and the American Ballet Theater.

Before, his talent allowed him to dance in prestigious institutions such as the Compagnia Teatro Nuovo di Torino, in Italy and the Teatro Teresa Carreño company, in Caracas, Venezuela.

However, his career was especially relevant at the London Royal Ballet, an institution that gained prestige after his enrollment in 1998 and in which he was promoted to leading dancer invited in 2003.

With that company and because of his proven aptitudes, in 2014 he was granted the medal of Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II of England.

A year later, he said goodbye to the famous group, but continued being present in the London stage, as since 2020, he is the director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet and a member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Ballet School. In Havana, the choreographer runs his company with passion, Acosta Danza, which conducts an intense agenda

of performances all over the world since 2015, combining elements of classic and contemporary styles together with features of the Cuban dance.

"Now we have this space, which also houses the academy. My great dream is to save the building of the

ballet school of the Higher Institute of Arts, (ISA), to establish the headquarters of the project there," said the performer in an interview.

The opportunities he was given when his name started to be known in this universe encouraged him to create the Carlos Acosta Dance Foundation in 2017, an institution that offers a free dance training program to young talents for a period of three years. By doing so, Acosta pays life and his father back with gratitude, for showing him the path to this expression, in which he found the salvation he so much needed at the beginning to finally carve out a world of dreams and achievements, without looking back, as he has personally stressed.

'No Way Home' is precisely the title of the book he wrote in 2007 and in which he described the ups and downs he experienced throughout his career.

The volume inspired filmmaker Paul Laverty to write the script of the film Yuli (2018) – the nickname he was given when he was a boy.

Directed by Iciar Bollain, the film was shot in locations in Havana, London and Madrid and takes place in a contemporary scenario in which the protagonist returns to the Cuban capital to stage a choreography on his life.

In control of an excellent performance that makes his movements unique, Acosta won the highest awards a dancer can hope to win, such as the Gold Medal at the Prix de Lausanne (1990); the Frédéric Chopin Prize (1990), and the Merit Prize at the Young Talent Competition, in Italy (1991).

Other prizes include the Dance Fellowship from the Princess Grace Foundation (1995); the Laurence Olivier Award (2006), and the National Dance Award (2011). In addition, he was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement 2023 of Lausanne, Switzerland, a symbol of success.

The dancer recently announced that he will return to the Royal Opera House of London, the United Kingdom, to celebrate his 50th birthday and thousands of people will dance with him in his homeland as a sign of love for a person who embraces the Cuban dance universe in his heart and feet.



His virtuosity allowed him to graduate with the highest qualification of the National Ballet School in 1991. PHOTO: Internet.

# The Sparks of the Xanadú Mansion

By Roberto **CAMPOS**

Photos Prensa **LATINA**

HAVANA. - An impressive house located in Varadero beach resort thrills tourists who arrive in Cuba due to its curious features and unique scenery: Xanadú.

Tour guides recall that Xanadú, Xanadu, Zanadu or Shangdu was the summer capital of Kublai Kan's Mongol Empire, which covered a large section of Asia.

In the case of Cuba, there is also a unique place named Xanadú that is linked to the practice of golf: a house built in 1928 by U.S.-French business executive, Irénée du Pont (1876-1963), chairman of the then DuPont Company.

The businessman chose one of the most parade-like and wonderful places at the Hicacos Peninsula – in the northern coast of Matanzas province – for his temporary residence: the San Bernardino Rock.

Designed in 1927 by architects Félix Cavarrocas and Evelio Govantes, the name of the house is linked to a poem that described the construction of the wonderful palace owned by Emperor Kublai Kan.

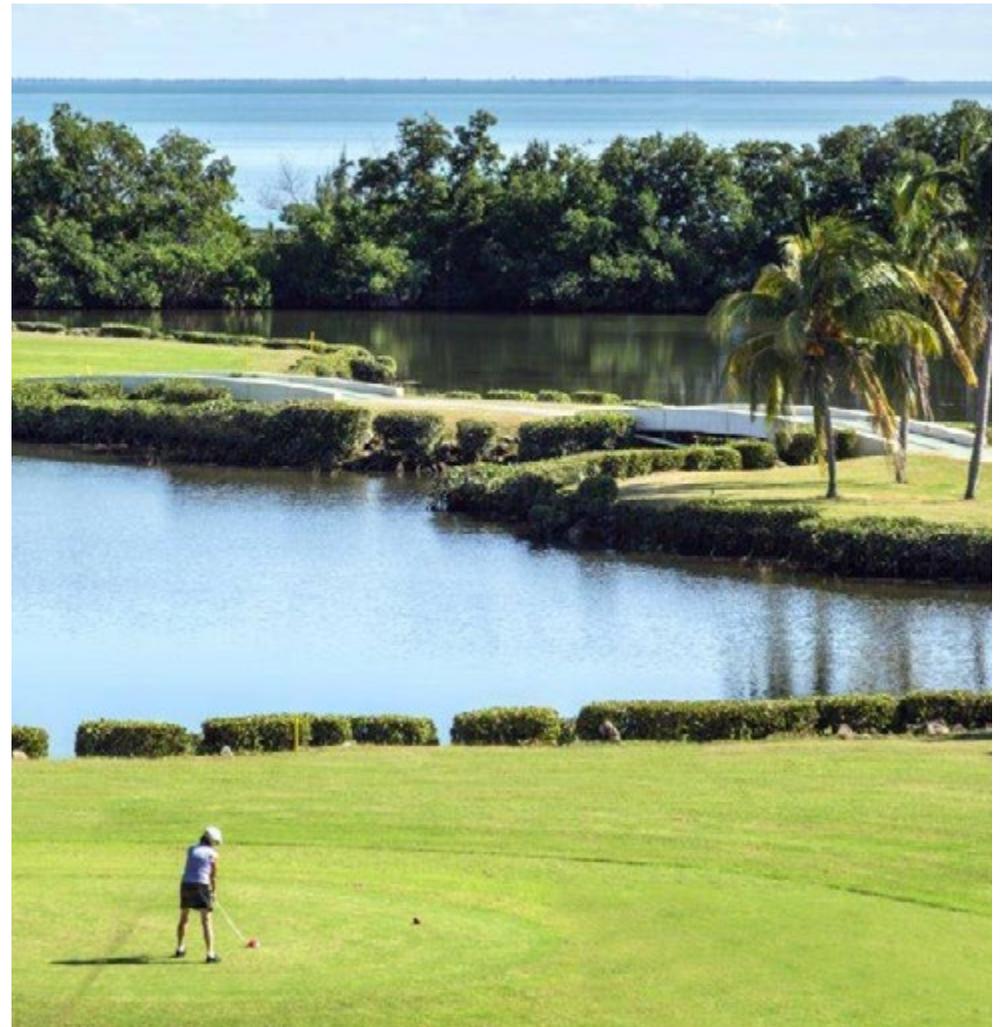
For the construction of the facility, that stands out for its location in an excellent beach area, precious wood was used, including mahogany, cedar, jiquí (Malpighia obovata) and sabicú (Lysiloma Sabicu), in addition to marble from Cuba, Spain and Italy.

Built on the abovementioned rock, it was Varadero's first stone building, with three floors, seven rooms, three terraces (one of them a bar at present), seven balconies, a peer, a nine-hole golf course (18 at present) and a wine cellar.

The mansion was built in the area where Cuba's most beautiful beach is located: Varadero, about 140 kilometers east of Havana, the Cuban capital.

At present, the Xanadú Mansion includes the Varadero Golf Club Hotel and Club House. This luxury accommodation is a real architectural wonder that, from all seven balconies, affords an impressive view of the sea and the golf course.

The property was carefully restored and repaired following the original construction plan.



# A Deep Look at ELN-Colombian Government Peace Talks

By Odalys **TROYA**

BOGOTÁ. - The agreements reached in the last round of talks between the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) on a ceasefire and citizens' participation are the most important achievements of the peace policy promoted by president Gustavo Petro.

"They are, without a doubt, good news for Colombian society and also for the Government of President Gustavo Petro, who can show some progress in the development of his total and comprehensive peace policy," academic and political expert, Jairo Estrada, told **The Havana Reporter**.

It is also good news for the ELN, which reiterates with facts its willingness to make progress toward a political solution, without affecting its peace vision and loyal to its political project, he added.

In relation to the ceasefire agreement, Estrada points out that it should be said that everything that leads to alleviating the daily life of the population, directly affected by violence and the persistence of the armed conflict, should be considered as highly positive.

"In the case of the ELN, it is the first time it reaches a bilateral ceasefire agreement with

the Colombian State; on this occasion, for six months and with the possibility of being extended, if the conditions that made it possible remain in place," he stressed.

In the expert's opinion, for the good of the peace process and its reception by the population, it is better if negotiations move forward in an environment of extreme limitation or even absence of direct armed confrontation.

"The opening of the spectrum the ceasefire provides will for sure represent progress in

parallel on the negotiation table, and it is also an opportunity for the government to show and take action – beyond the speech – linked to the progressive and popular contents it says it is inspired in," Estrada said.

The expert also highlighted that the peace concept the ELN has is closely linked to structural changes and they cannot be achieved only with the president's good rhetoric resources.

On the second agreement, less often commented in the media, it was the one

that defined the path on the topic of citizens' participation.

He said that the guerrilla cannot be understood as an agency and that part of the nature of its insurgency to create new possible conditions for politics and these must come from a deep and intense national dialogue.

On that agreement, he warned about the result of the persistence of an idea formulated decades ago on the National Convention, with other scopes now, but essentially within the same logic.

Estrada, who is also a professor at the Political Sciences Department and Academic Coordinator of the master's degree course on Latin American Political Studies at the Colombian National University, said that the governmental counterpart should show its willingness to consider an open concept of participation.

The director of the Revista Izquierda publication considers that beyond formalities in relation to this point, it remains to be seen what forces and social sectors are to be really committed to that process, on the one hand, and on the other, what new contents are to be developed and especially what specific routes are to be agreed on for its implementation.



The last round of talks between the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army in Havana. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

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# G-77 + China's Intense Agenda

By Lisván **LESCAILLE**

HAVANA. - Cuba overcomes huge global challenges as part of its pro tempore presidency of the G-77 + China, about to hold its summit of Heads of State and Government in this capital.

The meeting, to take place on September 16 & 17, marks an intense agenda of political exchanges to reach unity of action

in the group, which gathers 80 percent of the world's population and over two thirds of United Nations member countries.

The island assumed the role amid a complex international scenario, Cuban Foreign Ministry sources said, mentioning a series of factors and events resulting from the world's crisis caused by the pandemic of COVID-19.

The Group's concerns include war and international socio-political conflicts;

deficit of raw materials and consumer goods; food price hikes, and follow-up on the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Seeking the broadest consensus of the integrating block, Cuba develops an intense agenda of top-level contacts and political meetings that took Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel to a European tour of Italy, the Vatican, Serbia and France.

In the latter, in his capacity as President of the G-77 + China, he attended the Summit for a New World Financial Pact, held in Paris on June 22 & 23.

Before, the Cuban President and his Serbian counterpart, Aleksandar Vucic – pro-tempore President of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) – explored joint actions between NAM and G-77 + China to preserve peace and establish a new international economic order.

At the time of its presidency of the Group of 77 plus China, Cuba drew up clear objectives, such as promoting international solidarity and cooperation to support the post-pandemic recovery of developing nations.

Cuban Foreign Minister's aide, Abelardo Moreno, recently told the Cuban President's website that despite the complex scenario, the island is recognized by the block because of its influence in multilateral forums, such as NAM.

The main topic of the next Havana summit, called by President Miguel Díaz-Canel, is "Current development challenges: the Role of science, technology and innovation."

The head of the Cuban State called the event, convinced that world leaders should focus on changing the socio-economic and scientific-technical alienated scene that overwhelms so many nations, especially in the South.

Founded in 1964, in the heart of the Non-Aligned Movement, the group promotes the strengthening of unity among member countries, in order to take joint and practical action to better face contemporary challenges.



## Cooperation Relations with Iran

By Melissa **KING**

HAVANA. - Cuba and Iran analyzed the state of their bilateral relations and expressed their willingness to strengthen cooperation in areas of common interest during the recent visit to Havana of Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

In official talks with his Cuban counterpart, Miguel Díaz-Canel, the president of the Persian nation highlighted that bilateral links have taken new shape and have strengthened since their establishment, 44 years ago, especially during the pandemic of COVID-19, with scientific exchanges in the fields of biotechnology and vaccine production.

In the framework of an intense visit to Cuba, six agreements were signed, including a comprehensive cooperation agreement between both governments; a political consultation pact between the Foreign Ministries of both nations; a cooperation

contract in telecommunications, information technology and portable information and services, and two memorandums of understanding on customs and between the Justice Ministries.

The agreements are aimed at promoting experiences and technological-scientific

knowledge in those sectors, in addition to the formation of specialists from both countries.

The head of the Persian State attended a Cuban-Iranian business forum held in Havana in which he highlighted that both nations have made significant progress in the field of biotechnology and can also cooperate in areas, such as electricity generation, mining and technological exchange.

He said that an intergovernmental joint commission will be held in the next months,

offering new opportunities of cooperation to Cuban and Iranian companies based on knowledge.

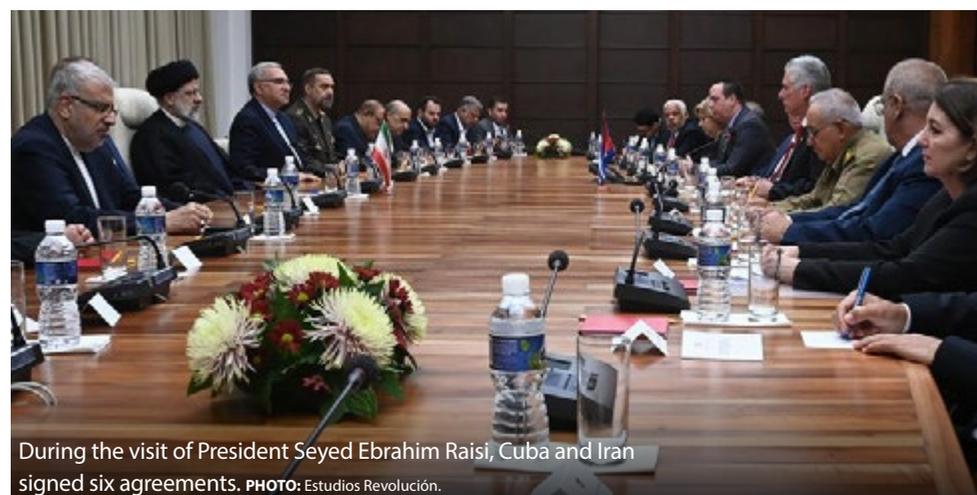
The Iranian President also visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center, where he learned about the progress the island has made in the field of biotechnology and current potentials for mutual development in the sector.

Ebrahim Raisi was also welcomed by the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Raúl Castro. In the meeting, both leaders reiterated their nations' willingness to continue strengthening friendship and relations of cooperation, in addition to a high-level political dialogue.

Raúl Castro thanked the support of the Iranian government for Cuba's struggle against the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States.

Cuba was the last leg of Raisi's visit to Latin America, which included Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The Iranian President described relations with all three nations as strategic and stressed that such a tour is a turning point in the strengthening of ties in the economic, political and scientific fields.



During the visit of President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Cuba and Iran signed six agreements. PHOTO: Estudios Revolución.

# Paris Summit stresses urgent need to change

By **Waldo MENDILUZA**

PARIS. – A well-known and denounced reality echoed here at the Summit for a New World Financial Pact: the urgent need to change the financial architecture to face challenges, such as poverty and climate change. The result of the forum, called by French President, Emmanuel Macron, with some 40 heads of State and Government attending, was not surprising. After

all, the event's name suggested it, the question is whether those responsible for and most benefitted with the current order are willing to respond to the claim.

No country must be forced to choose between reducing poverty and protecting the planet, the host president said at a top-level dialogue that put an end to the summit held at the Paris Stock Exchange Palace, where, without surprises, the Bretton Woods institutions received the most critical statements.

Macron considered the meeting a sign of the beginning of the road toward the construction of a new architecture, "with new instruments and methodologies, more money and changes in its institutions."

However, nothing really points to the fact that the countries of the South, trapped in poverty, underdevelopment and the lack of resources to fight climate change, can describe the summit as successful or assume that things will be different as of today.

Almost always smiling, the Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva, stressed the need to go step by step, before the risk of rushing, when African leaders demanded more financing for developing nations, plus the 100 billion dollars promised to the poorest.

Upon speaking at the meeting in the name of the Group of 77 + China, Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel, dealt with the situation's urgency and the necessary political will by decision-makers to change the prevailing scenario.

"I'm not revealing any secret if I say that the most disastrous consequences of the current international anti-democratic, speculative, and excluding economic and financial order weigh most heavily on developing nations," warned the pro-tempore president of the block which gathers 134 of the 193 U.N. member States.

In that sense, he called for rethinking the current basis that define North-South relations and coexistence on the planet, and urged leaders to not go down in history as those who could not mark the difference in a common destiny.

The World Bank and IMF are really disappointing concerning what people expect, let's be clear, he lashed out at them, sitting beside Macro at the closing of the forum for a New World Financial Pact.

The summit is already history, and the aspiration is that it will certainly be a starting point toward a more just and solidarity order to face urgent challenges, but old players and major powers will have to show concrete signs that they are willing to accept a change of rules.



The forum, called by French President, Emmanuel Macron, was not surprising. PHOTO: Internet.

## Extensive participation at Expocaribe 2023

By **The Havana Reporter Staff**

SANTIAGO DE CUBA. – The 18 International Fair ExpoCaribe 2023 wound up with the attendance of 29 countries, more than 160 Cuban state-owned, 43 micro, small and medium-sized and various foreign companies. Cuba's second most important fair organized some 190 business encounters dedicated to the agricultural and food, health, tourism and technology sectors, with emphasis on export, product linkages and foreign investment.

The meeting in the eastern Cuban city, which wound up on June 24, gave participants current information on production lines and services in the country, as well commercialization process at home and abroad.

According to Cuban Foreign Investment and Trade Minister, Ricardo Cabrisas,

Expocaribe 2023 was an attractive space to develop business as part of the updating of the Cuban economic model.

The current upgrading includes new players with an important role in the development of processes, aimed at seeking collective efficiency, along with the socialist State enterprise.

Cabrisas toured several stands and talked with business executives of entities, such as Biocuba Café, Cuba Ron, Santiago de Cuba's Poultry Enterprise (Viscu), and the Electric Vehicle Production and Sales Company (Vedca).

Cuba's also First Deputy Prime Minister said at the opening that the event enabled them to make more visible the eastern region's potential, in order to firm up relations with the Caribbean. He also talked about the implementation of actions aimed at increasing food production, taking

advantage of idle productive capacities, increasing foreign exchange revenues and a greater participation of foreign capital, which he considered essential to improve the supply of goods and services and control inflation.

During the closing, Saint Lucia's Trade, Industry and Business Development

Minister, Emma Hippolyte, who is also a representative of the Caribbean Community, said that Expocaribe favored the development of the region's nations, which should support each other, because together they are stronger.

As it was announced, the 19 ExpoCaribe Fair will be held May 26/29, 2024, with the aim of boosting trade relations between Cuba's eastern region and the rest of the world.



Minister Cabrisas toured several stands and talked with business executives. PHOTO: Trabajadores.

# El Salvador's Central American and Caribbean Games



Judoka Idalys Ortiz won the Central American title for the third time. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.

By Diony **SANABIA**

SAN SALVADOR.- The efforts made by El Salvador as well as its willingness made the XXIV Central American and Caribbean Games possible, following Panama's impossibility to organize the world's oldest multiple sport regional event last year.

Panama was chosen, in principle, as the venue of the games, which the country hosted in 1938 and 1970; however, the impact and consequences of COVID-19 forced a change of plans in the important event's organization.

Then, San Salvador – the host of the ones in 1935 and 2002– said that “it is time to stand out” and that slogan gained strength in the region.

Beyond words, in one year and a half, the so-called ‘Little Thumb of the America’s’ was able to do what a country should usually do in a four to six-year period. On June 23rd, the games officially opened.

Without a doubt, the efforts of Salvadorans multiplied day and night to have the sport facilities ready, which once again will witness other feats, until July 8th (the closing date).

In addition to the host country, the Dominican Republic also deserves credit, as it's hosting as a sub venue 7 of the 37 disciplines called, in an event that welcomes over five thousand competitors from 37 delegations (countries and territories).

On this occasion, the number of gold medals to be granted stands at 447, in addition to a similar number of silver medals and 540 bronze.

## Cuba will Fight to shine in the Games

By Luis **BEATÓN**

SAN SALVADOR. – The President of the National Sports, Physical Education and Recreation Institute (INDER), Osvaldo Vento, said that Cuba will fight to shine in the XXIV Central American and Caribbean Games and will not give up the objective.

In statements to **The Havana Reporter**, the official talked about aspects of the Cuban participation, the efforts made by El Salvador to save the games and Cuba's unquestionable support for training specialists and athletes from other nations that are now challenging Cuba in the international arena, among other aspects.

The Cuban delegation has “a high spirit of victory and success, and our young athletes are working hard, understanding that these are their games and they should enjoy the competition, because this is also an important continental sport fiesta,” he said.

Vento spoke about El Salvador's performance as host of the XXIV Central American and Caribbean Games, which he considered courageous. “In a short period of time, they created the minimum conditions to be able to hold the competition,” he noted.

The region's sport movement will always be grateful to Salvadorans because they saved the event and made it possible for athletes to attain their objectives, which are also their dreams, he commented.

Vento also recalled that several sport events included in the games' schedule give tickets for the Pan-American Games, “so it is important for us that everything occurs as planned.” Likewise, INDER's President reiterated that Cuba maintains its wish to surpass the plan of over 70 gold medals in the games.

We also fully trust our athletes, who take the competition very seriously and are doing their best, and despite the difficulties the country faces, they focus on their objectives, as great Teófilo Stevenson taught us, putting the extra of champions and putting their heart in what they do, he pointed out.



Cuba won Gold in 4X200 meter relay. PHOTO: Prensa Latina.



On June 23rd, the games officially opened. PHOTO: Internet.

# India and Latin America Share Common Interests

By Livia **RODRÍGUEZ**

NEW DELHI.- In recent years, India implemented an effective policy to increase its links with the world by strengthening relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, a region that is thousands of kilometers away from the subcontinent but shares common interests.

The region has become a market with an increasing potential for the Asian nation, which shares important synergies in the field of trade and businesses, as a result of New Delhi's renovated approach to attain a higher bilateral economic commitment, according to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Because of that objective and as a result of the steps taken in recent years, FICCI evaluated a growth potential of over 100 billion dollars for 2025, with the support of big economies from the Latin American and Caribbean region, such as Mexico and Brazil, which according to the Indian Chamber of Commerce, have similar inclusive growth imperatives and models.

In that sense, a specialized team follows up new ways of collaboration for Indian



FICCI evaluated a growth potential of over 100 billion dollars for 2025, with the support of big economies from the Latin American and Caribbean region. PHOTO: Internet.

companies in sectors such as information technology, telecommunication and digitalization.

Other areas include the development of pharmaceutical and chemical products, renewable energies, food security and energy, in addition to the aerospace sector, naval construction, infrastructure and housing.

Through FICCI, the Indian government also promotes the strengthening of relations

with Latin America and the Caribbean in sectors such as health, defense and textile industry.

India's exports to some Latin American countries are higher than those of neighboring countries or traditionally important commercial partners, which, according to the Indian Foreign Trade Ministry, is a recent trend.

In relation to key sectors, from March 2022 to April 2023, the export of automobiles to

Latin America reached 2,225,000,000 dollars, which indicates a substantial increase in comparison to the amount reached in 2021-2022 (1,793,000,000). The said figure also represents a third of India's automobile exports to the world.

Another sector that shows a significant growth is the pharmaceutical industry, which increased the export of supplies to the region by 1,450,000,000 dollars, being Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador the main destinations.

Trade with the region also increased in the oil by-products, chemical, iron, steel, aluminum, rubber and textile sectors, in addition to machineries, cotton and plastics. In recent years, Indian companies started joining projects in the region in the fields of energy generation and renewable sources of energy.

Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's recent visit to Guyana, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva ratify the steps New Delhi has taken to strengthen its commercial relations with Latin America and the Caribbean.



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