

Our World Review

UN Secretary General to Visit Argentina, Chile and Brazil

Santiago, Chile, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will visit the Antarctic to watch the negative effects of global warming, during his tour of Argentina, Chile and Brazil, the ECLAC confirmed on Tuesday.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean informed that Ban would meet with Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and President-elect Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner in Buenos Aires on Wednesday.

In Santiago, the UN chief will attend the 17th Ibero-American Summit, which will be officially inaugurated by Chilean President Michelle Bachelet on November 8.

After a private meeting with Bachelet, Ban will take part in a roundtable discussion at the ECLAC headquarters. The meeting, entitled «Global Alliance for Development»,

will be moderated by ECLAC Executive Secretary Jose Luis Machinea.

Also attending the meeting will be President Bachelet and Spanish Head of Government Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

According to the ECLAC, Ban will visit Punta Arenas, in Chile's southernmost tip, which has been seriously affected by the hole in the ozone layer.

He will also travel to the Torres del Paine National Park, where global warming is melting the glaciers. In the Antarctic, Ban will be welcomed by scientists working at research stations.

The UN chief will travel to Brazil, where he will visit an ethanol plant and will meet with indigenous people and researchers in the Amazonia. He will conclude his official visit in Brasilia, where he will meet with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. •

Venezuelans Go All Out for Changes

Caracas, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) Defenders of the constitutional change in Venezuela, proposed by President Hugo Chavez, extend Tuesday campaign actions throughout the country to guarantee victory in the December 2 referendum.

Leaders from the Zamora Campaign Command advance to complete prior structures to take the YES message throughout the country.

Faced with the opposition's destabilizing attempts, the Republic's Vice President Jorge Rodriguez called to solve differences with the vote without disturbing public order.

When commenting on recent statements by former Defense Minister Raul Baduel against the change proposal and exhorta-

tions for a NO vote, Rodriguez recalled that as retired soldier, he has all rights to express his opinion.

In the framework of arrangements for the referendum to change the Constitution, today is the deadline so that the National Electoral Council registers organizations for the options included in the consultation.

According to preliminary reports, Socialist Battalions for the Constitutional Reform, the Communist Party of Venezuela and the Conscience of the Country and Liberal Movements registered for a Yes, while Democratic Action, R Action, Renovative Democracy, COPE, A New Era, Justice First, Republican Movement and the Movement for Socialism for a NO. •

Russia, China for Economic Teamwork

Moscow, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) The prime ministers of Russia, Victor Zubkov, and China, Wen Jiabao, inaugurated the second economic forum in this city on Tuesday, with efforts directed to reinforce and diversify trade relations.

Wen arrived in Moscow Monday to attend the 12th inter-governmental round, and the closing ceremony of the Year of China in Russia.



During the inauguration of the

business round, Zubkov called to increase both countries' presence in investments and border cooperation, and referred to timber processing as a sector with huge possibilities for bilateral trade.

Several contracts estimated at over 3 billion dollars are expected to be signed at the end of the meeting, Russia's Economic Development and Trade Minister Elvira Nabiullina informed.

Moscow and Beijing aim to diversify the foreign trade structure by exploring other fields for cooperation, mainly the Russian industrial machinery.

The parties plan to analyze the new joint action plan for strategic cooperation in the 2009-2012 period, according to the official program.

In the meantime, Wen plans to attend the closing of celebrations for the Year of China in Russia, with a concert tonight at the Palace of Kremlin. •

Peru May Leave Andean Community

La Paz, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) A possible withdrawal of Peru from the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) will be analyzed by a presidential council of the regional bloc during the XVII Ibero American Summit, the Bolivian chancellery confirmed.

David Choquehuanca, Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs referred to the Peruvian case and the possible reinsertion of Venezuela to CAN as key in the agenda of the Andean presidents in Chile from November 8 to 10.

Relations between Peru and CAN have been strained since President Alan Garcia decided to negotiate a Free Trade Treaty with the European Union, breaking a former agreement with the Andean community.

Garcia claimed that it would be impossible to achieve a beneficial collective agreement and threatened to withdraw from the alliance if it refuses to negotiate with Europe according to the US neo liberal model.

The threat provoked many expressions of diplomatic and business rejection in Peru, founder of CAN.

For his part, Choquehuanca, called for a dialogue and denied the existence of a rift with Peru and recalled that each country can move on certain points of an agreement with the European Union. •



US Magazine Demands Release of Cuban Five

Washington, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) A full-page advertisement demanding the release of five Cuban antiterrorists held in US prisons was published this week in the back cover of the magazine North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA).

In its November-December 2007 issue, the publication defended the right of Adriana Perez and Olga Salanueva to visit their husbands, Gerardo Hernandez and Rene Gonzalez, respectively, who are doing time in US prisons.

A communiqué from the National Committee for the Release of the Five recalled that NACLA is an independent unprofitable organization founded in 1966.

Its main work is to publish a bimonthly magazine that has become the most read English-language magazine on Latin America in the United States.

NACLA provides members of the government, analysts, academics, activists and religious groups with information about

major changes in Latin America and the region's relations with the United States.

The advertisement informs readers about Washington's refusal to grant visas to Adriana and Olga, and calls them to send letters to the State and Justice departments.

It also urges readers to write to senators and congress people, demanding visas for Olga and Adriana, to whom Washington has denied the entry permit eight times.

Previously, the National Committee for the Release of the five Cuban antiterrorist had announced a new campaign in several cities of the country to demand their release.

The actions include lectures in Illinois and Indiana to boost community support for Gerardo Hernandez, Rene Gonzalez, Ramon Labañino, Fernando Gonzalez and Antonio Guerrero.

The Five, as they are known internationally, were arrested on December 12, 1998, for reporting to their country about terrorist actions organized in Florida. •

Stellar performances at World Creole Festival in Dominica

ROSEAU, Dominica: A spanking new US\$35 million world class Windsor Park Sports Stadium in downtown Roseau, Dominica was the venue for the recently concluded World Creole Music Festival.

The impressive facility was a gift from China to Dominica and thousands of music lovers poured in over the weekend to see performances by some of the hottest bands from across the Francophone Caribbean and beyond.

The featured acts included Beres Hammond and Beenie Man from Jamaica, Grammacks International, Triple Kay, Kadans, Kassav, Michelle Henderson, Midnight Groovers and Bamboolaz, alongside Shurwayne Winchester from Trinidad, Top Vice from Haiti and King Mensah and Djunny Claude from Africa.

Nearly all the bands sizzled to a captive and appreciative audience over the three-night jam, a significant accomplishment considering the wide range of musical styles that the festival attempted to showcase.

The angelic voice of Michelle Henderson was priceless. Michelle is already a star on the island of Dominica and it may only be a

matter of time before she gets signed to a major label and explodes to become the next Rihanna from the Caribbean.

Kassav is a well-established band out of Guadeloupe & Martinique and they threw down a glittering performance that brought Time Square New Year's Eve energy to the stage. That energy ricocheted throughout the jam-packed venue as the audience howled for more and more. With 30 albums to their credit, delivering the goods was easy for Kassav.

And a local Dominican band, Grammacks International could do no wrong as they drove the audience to evangelical frenzy with a spine-chilling performance.

Placing a dancehall artist like Beenie Man in the middle of a Creole music lineup is a tricky challenge- the outcome could be either a resounding success or a dismal disaster. Beenie Man, being the consummate performer that he is pushed those concerns aside.

He clearly did his homework, learning as much as he could about Dominica and the

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Iran Reopens Kurdish Iraq Mission

Teheran, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) The Iranian consulate in the Iraqi city of Erbil was reopened Tuesday by Iranian ambassador in Baghdad Hasan Kazemi Qomi and local and national authorities, after it had been closed in January.

That date, US troops attacked and took the diplomatic mission, and arrested five officials for alleged cooperation with the resistance.

The reopening coincided with statements by the spokesman of the US army in Baghdad, Gregory Smith, that the Iranian diplomats will be released in January 2009.

Smith affirmed they pose no threat for national Iraqi security or US troops deployed in the Arab nation.

The Iranian consulate is reopened at a time of high tension along the Turkish-Iraqi border, due to clashes between rebels of Kurdistan Workers' Party and the Ankara army. •

Tabasco, Mexico Drying Out

Mexico, Nov 6 (Prensa Latina) The Governor of Tabasco, Andres Granier, called to reactivate life, trade and services, foment agriculture and rebuild infrastructure damaged by recent floods.

Granier called to revive the state-run sector to secure supplies and restore communications but admitted that reconstruction will be the toughest task ahead in coming months.

The banks located in Villahermosa, capital of Tabasco, were damage free and resumed services, generating long lines at their offices and ATM machines.

Over 10,000 small and medium size businessmen said the \$20 million aid offered by President Felipe Calderon wasn't enough and urged the Economy Ministry to release emergency funds and set a six-month tax exemption to make up from losses.

Juan Antonio Torres, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Tabasco, said it was still premature to issue damage estimates. •