VOLUME 73
10 AUGUST 2026

NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

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GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION

Mexico to Debate About Digital Platforms' Impact on Children.



President Sheinbaum reiterated her intention to prevent children from being exposed to "endless scrolling" and addictive practices.

On Tuesday, the organization Mexicanos Primero endorsed the Mexican government's initiative to open a national debate on the impact of digital platforms and regulate their content aimed at Mexican children.

The organization proposed an educational policy on digital culture that involves schools and families to analyze the influence of devices, social media, and artificial intelligence (AI) on children and adolescents.

This proposal comes after the opening of the debate announced by President Claudia Sheinbaum, who reiterated her intention to prevent children from being exposed to "endless scrolling" and addictive practices.

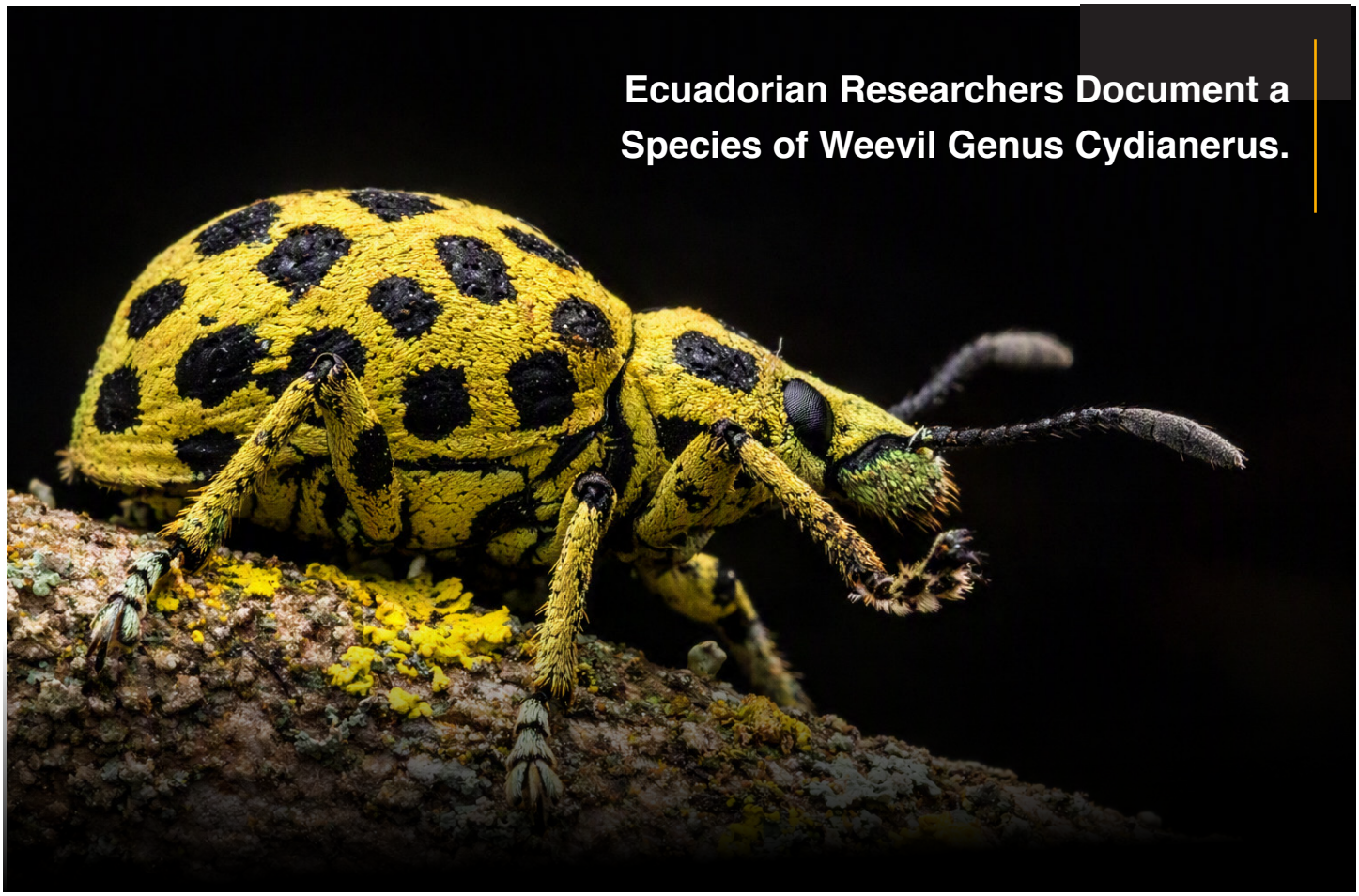
Mexicanos Primero believes that the focus of the debate should be designing a policy that promotes a balanced use of technology, which is useful as an educational tool but also poses risks to socio-emotional well-being.

The NGO recommended training teachers in the use of digital devices and AI, and that each educational institution have clear guidelines on these technologies to guide their pedagogical application.

The organization also suggested providing families with simple, evidence-based information about the effects of excessive screen time, social media, and artificial intelligence use on minors.

The organization emphasized the need to reduce inequalities in digital literacy and close gaps in connectivity, infrastructure, and access to resources.

With this debate, the country joins international discussions such as those in Australia and France, which have already banned social media for minors.



Ecuadorian Researchers Document a Species of Weevil Genus Cydianerus.

During fieldwork, a pair was observed mating on a cacao leaf in Esmeraldas.

A study documented the presence of the weevil genus Cydianerus in Ecuador for the first time, after identifying the species Cydianerus ornatus, a brightly colored beetle whose distribution ranges from the humid Choco region to the Amazon and the dry forests of southern Ecuador.

The University of Azuay conducted the research, along with the National Institute of Biodiversity (INABIO) and the Hidden Treasure Reserve Foundation, combining fieldwork, review of scientific collections, and citizen science observations on iNaturalist.

One of the most significant contributions is the first description of the external anatomy of the male Cydianerus ornatus, with clear differences compared to the females in size, coloration, and facial shape, key information for future taxonomic research.

During fieldwork, a pair was observed mating on a cacao leaf in Esmeraldas, although it cannot yet be confirmed that cacao is a host plant for this species.

The study also highlights the role of private reserves in biodiversity conservation, as two-thirds of the confirmed records come from protected areas managed by conservation organizations.

For researchers, this finding demonstrates how much remains to be discovered about insect diversity in Ecuador and the need to increase scientific exploration efforts.

INABIO emphasized that this discovery not only expands taxonomic knowledge but also provides elements for designing more effective conservation strategies in the country.



Pachamama Month Begins in Bolivia with Traditional Offerings.

The offerings are made both in homes and urban businesses, as well as at sacred sites of Andean culture.

On Saturday, the month of Pachamama, Mother Earth, began with traditional offerings that include sweets, medicinal plants, incense, and dried llama fetuses, symbols of gratitude and prosperity.

August marks the end of the first Andean agricultural season, and according to Indigenous communities, Pachamama "opens her mouth" to receive offerings that reciprocate the fruits already given and those she will give in the future.

The offerings are made both in homes and urban businesses, as well as at sacred sites of Andean culture, such as La Cumbre, a mountain pass at 4,200 meters that connects La Paz with Los Yungas.

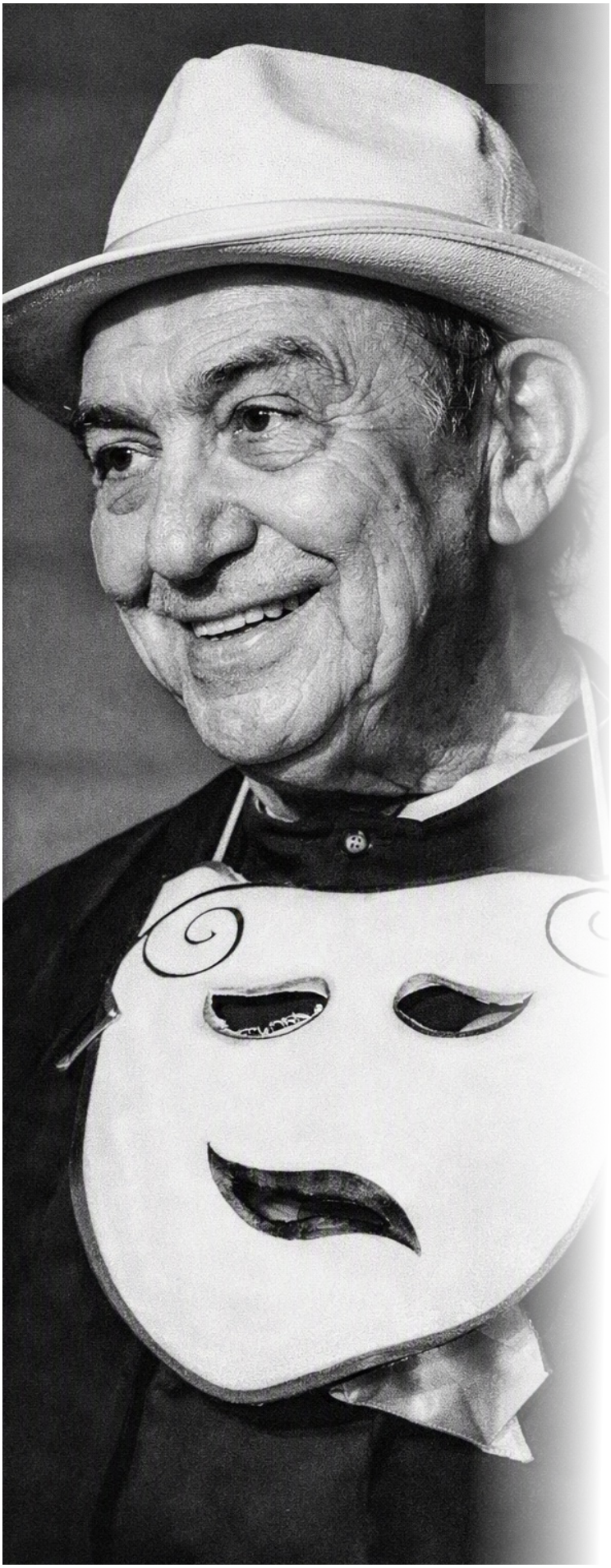
At La Cumbre, people begin rituals at dawn, waiting for the sunrise to "recharge" their energy with the prepared offerings.

Carlos Martinez, a regular participant, expressed that gratitude should be given with faith and affection, emphasizing that it is not only about receiving, but also about giving to Mother Earth.

Wara Condori, a "master advisor" and specialist in preparing offerings, explained that the month of Pachamama signifies offering the ritual table as a gesture of gratitude for all that nature produces and provides.

The table includes sweets, sugar "mysteries" with images, the sacred plant wira k'oa, incense, copal, llama fat, fruits, flowers, cinnamon, and sugar, in addition to the traditional sullu.

The elements are placed on paper and wood, blessed with alcohol in the "ch'allar" ceremony, and then set alight until reduced to ashes, which are buried or kept.



Paraguayan Actor Tito Jara Roman Dies at Age 92.

His contribution was fundamental to the professionalization of independent theater in Paraguay.

On Wednesday, Paraguayan actor and playwright Tito Jara Roman, a leading figure in independent theater, passed away at the age of 92

Jara founded the Asuncion Experimental Theater (TEA), a key institution for the development of the performing arts in Paraguay. The National Secretariat of Culture highlighted his commitment and legacy in the training of artists.

The National Fund for Culture and the Arts (Fondec) and the El Cabildo Cultural Center of the Republic expressed their condolences, describing him as “one of the most important figures” in Paraguayan theater and film.

Jara trained at the Roque Centurion Miranda Municipal School of Performing Arts in Asuncion, under the tutelage of writer and playwright Josefina Pla.

His contribution was fundamental to the professionalization of independent theater in Paraguay. He participated in Paraguayan film productions such as “Thunder Among the Leaves,” “Blood and Seed,” “Freedom,” “Cicada Moon,” and “7 Boxes,” the country’s highest-grossing film.

Cultural institutions highlighted that his work left a “profound mark” on the nation’s artistic history, inspiring new generations and strengthening Paraguayan cultural identity.

His passing marks the end of a career spanning more than six decades dedicated to art, with national and international recognition for his talent and social commitment.



Cuban Actress Paula Ali Dies at 90.

She Was a Beloved Figure of Cuban Stage and Screen for More Than Six Decades.

On Monday, popular Cuban television, film, radio and theater actress Paula Ali died in Havana at the age of 90, according to the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC).

Ali, who received the 2026 National Television Award on July 22, was “one of the most emblematic and beloved figures in Cuban entertainment, with a career spanning more than six decades,” the UNEAC said.
The organization mourned the actress’s death and said that her passing leaves “an immense void in the culture of the largest island in the Antilles.”

“Her face became familiar to several generations of Cubans through her roles in soap operas, comedy programs, feature films and theatrical productions. The news has shocked the artistic community and the people,” the UNEAC said.
Ali entered the entertainment world in 1959 as a television model, and in 1965 she began her association with Teatro Marti before joining the Teatro Estudio company in 1970. She was also a member of other theater groups, including El Publico.

The Cuban actress also brought her art to international stages through tours in Portugal, Yugoslavia, Spain, Ecuador, Venezuela and Colombia. She received other national and international honors, including the Distinction for National Culture, the Meritorious Radio and Television Artist designation (2012), and the Best Actress award at the Cartagena de Indias Film Festival (2003) for the film Nada.


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