



INSIDE

- Relics back Chinese '5,000 years' > p10
- China's children among safest in Asia > p10

Sino-Kyrgyz partnership upgraded

Presidents agree to boost security cooperation as the two countries enter comprehensive strategic agreement

By AN BAIJIE

anbaijie@chinadaily.com.cn

China and Kyrgyzstan should upgrade security cooperation and jointly fight the "three evil forces" and cross-border organized crime, President Xi Jinping said on June 6.

Xi made the remark in a meeting with his Kyrgyz counterpart Sooronbay Jeenbekov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The "three evil forces" refers to terrorism, extremism and separatism.

Jeenbekov was in China on a state visit. He later attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Qingdao, East China's Shandong province, on June 9 and 10.

The two presidents signed a joint declaration on June 6 to upgrade the bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Witnessed by the two leaders, China and Kyrgyzstan signed a number of cooperation documents covering areas including energy, economy, technology, trade, health and media.

With efforts made by both sides, China-Kyrgyzstan ties have developed at a fast pace and have reached their highest level, Xi said.

Xi pointed out that high-level exchanges between the two countries have been enhanced continuously and mutual political trust has been strengthened.

Their cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative has resulted in early outcomes, which will bring real benefits to the people of both countries, Xi said, adding that he is confident about the future of China-Kyrgyzstan relations.

The two countries should enhance their connection regarding development strategies and policy coordination and they should plan for key cooperation areas and projects, Xi said.

The president spoke highly of Jeenbekov's efforts to deepen relations with China, saying that the two countries are good neighbors, friends and partners.

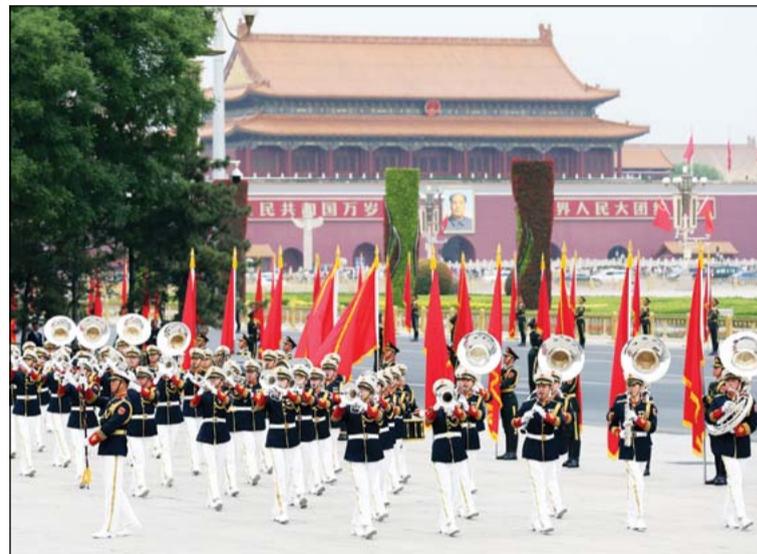
It is the common goal for the two countries to achieve development and progress, Xi said, adding that he would like to work together with his Kyrgyz counterpart to develop a stronger friendship between the two countries that will benefit the people of both.

This year marks the 26th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kyrgyzstan.

Mentioning that it is his first state



President Xi Jinping escorts visiting Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov at the Great Hall of the People (left), where a welcoming ceremony with new uniforms and formations debuted on June 6 (right). PHOTOS BY XU JINGXING, FENG YONGBIN / CHINA DAILY



3

'evil forces'

Refers to the focus of the joint fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism

visit to China as president of Kyrgyzstan, Jeenbekov said the two countries have a high degree of mutual understanding.

The two countries could enjoy fruitful and strengthened cooperation on the basis of friendship and mutual trust, he said.

Kyrgyzstan firmly upholds the one-China policy, Jeenbekov said, adding that he would like to enhance cooperation with China in trade, economy and people-to-people exchanges.

Kyrgyzstan would like to work with China to fight the "three evil

26

years

Since diplomatic relations were established between China and Kyrgyzstan

forces" and safeguard regional peace, stability and security, he said.

Praising the Belt and Road Initiative, Jeenbekov said it will definitely move the common development of the region forward.

Jeenbekov said that China has supported Kyrgyzstan with assistance, loans and technological aid, which he said have played big roles in advancing the economic and social development of his country.

The Kyrgyz president spoke highly of Xi's contribution in helping the development of Kyrgyzstan-China relations.

New welcoming ceremony makes debut

The new welcoming ceremony for state visitors was introduced on June 6 when President Xi Jinping welcomed Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Among the changes are the addition of a 55-member women's guard formation joining the guard of honor, and a different musical arrangement and uniform for guards in the marching military band's performance.

Experts said they consider the changes to be part of China's

reform in its diplomatic protocol.

Such protocol is practiced universally among different countries but can be displayed differently due to various cultures, political systems and national conditions, said Zhou Lijia, a professor of diplomatic studies at China Foreign Affairs University.

The changes to the welcoming ceremony feature grandeur and solemnity and conform to the concept of major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics proposed by Xi, Zhou said.

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