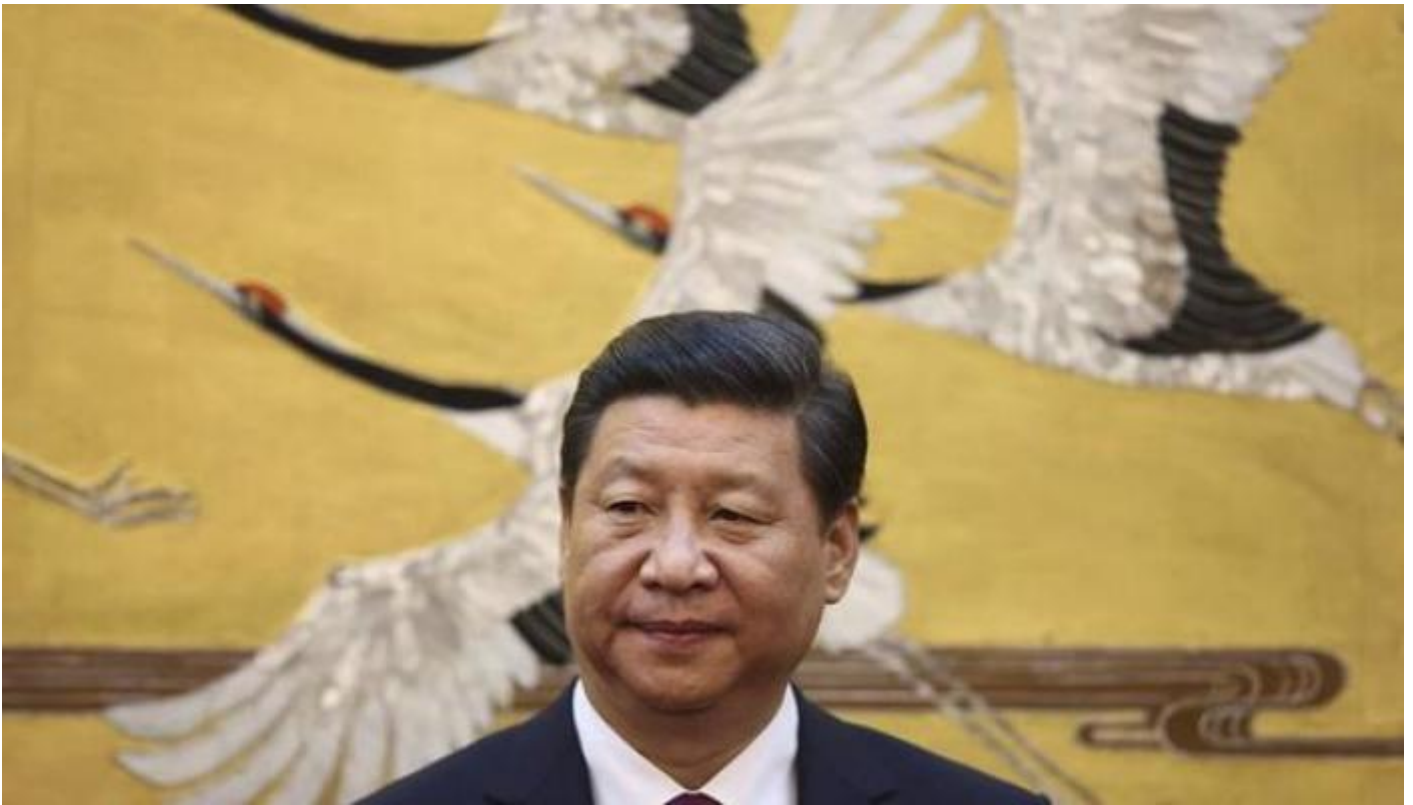


China, Argentina Upgrade Bilateral Ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership



Buenos Aires, July 19 (RHC-Xinhua) -- China and Argentina pledged on Friday to further consolidate their relations and boost bilateral win-win cooperation. Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Argentine counterpart, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, offered a joint press conference after their bilateral talks.

Bilateral relations have achieved remarkable progress since the two countries established a strategic partnership in 2004, they noted, adding that upgrading the relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership lifts the ever booming ties to a new high.

The two leaders agreed to keep frequent communication on bilateral relations and issues of common concern, and pledged to deepen political mutual trust and support the development paths and core interests of each other's countries.

The two leaders called for deeper cooperation in science and technology, nuclear energy, space and national defense, and closer exchanges between the two countries' legislative bodies, youths and local governments.

They also expressed their common view that the international community should take joint action to prevent speculative capital from hindering the restructuring of sovereign debt.

Argentina is the second leg of Xi's four-nation Latin America tour, which will also take him to Venezuela and Cuba. He visited Brazil earlier in the trip, his second to the region since he took over the presidency in March 2013.

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