

16 JUL 1996

DR M AND AKAYEV ATTEND JOINT M'SIA-KYRGYZ CONCERT

BISHKEK, July 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mahathir Mohamad and his host Kyrgyz president Askar Akayev attended a joint performance by a 28-member Malaysian troupe and Kyrgyz cultural performers at the state concert hall here this evening.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali and Madam Akayev were present as well as members of the prime minister's official and business delegations.

Earlier, when delivering his speech accepting an honorary professorship conferred by the Kyrgyz State University, Dr Mahathir said there was scope for the university to cooperate with Malaysian universities and establish linkages for mutual benefits.

"I personally hope these linkages will come to fruition soon," he said, adding that with the facilities available today there were exciting prospects for universities in the republic to be in touch with centres of higher learning in other countries.

Dr Mahathir said the Kyrgyz State University, which was established over four decades ago, like other universities in developing countries, must be conscious of its particular relevance to a developing economy by producing professionals, educators and good technocrats. -- BERNAMA

RN JK