

CHINA

Spirit of Lei Feng

Volunteers of Young Pioneers of China participate in a charity market at Lei Feng Square in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Monday. Organized by Qingbo subdistrict of Hangzhou's Shangcheng district, the event features charity sales, donation drives, cultural exhibitions and folk activities, promoting the spirit of Lei Feng, a martyr known for his selfless service, through hands-on community engagement.

LIN YUNLONG / FOR CHINA DAILY



Gansu rolls out chartered buses to ferry migrant workers directly to new jobs outside province

By **HU YUMENG** in Dingxi, Gansu and **MA JINGNA** in Lanzhou

About 50 migrant workers from Longxi county in Gansu province recently boarded a free bus bound for Nanjing, Jiangsu province, to begin new jobs under a "point-to-point" labor transfer program designed to streamline the return to work after the Spring Festival holiday.

Similar buses organized by the Youzhi Recruitment Human Resources Co have been departing since Feb 22, sending more than 400 migrant workers to jobs outside the province, according to Xue Liaojun, head of the company.

"Before March 8, more than 2,000 workers are expected to head to provinces including Jiangsu, Anhui, Zhejiang, Sichuan and Shandong for employment," Xue said.

Organized by local human resources and social security authorities, the trips form part of this year's "Spring Breeze Action", a nationwide campaign aimed at stabilizing employment and safeguarding livelihoods during the post-holiday return-to-work peak.

Zhang Xiaobing, who boarded the free bus, said it was his first time taking a job outside his hometown. As an accompanying father who had been staying in the county to support his child's schooling, he previously relied on temporary local work that offered little stability. He learned about the opening through a village WeChat group.

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Zhang Xiaobing, a migrant worker from Longxi county who boarded a free bus

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Shao Dongbing, another passenger, signed up after watching a livestream hosted by human resources companies in the county during the Spring Festival holiday. The job in Nanjing offers a monthly salary of up to 8,000 yuan (\$1,167), along with free meals and accommodation. "I hope to improve myself and provide better living conditions for my family," Shao said.

According to Longxi's human resources and social security authorities, 4,378 workers were transferred in 2025 through organized "point-to-point" services by bus and rail.

Employment support has also been strengthened in disaster-affected areas. In Jiuzhuangou village, one of the villages in Yuzhong county that were struck by severe mountain floods in August, 83 households have moved into newly built resettlement homes.

Wang Jianwu, 63, said 14 rooms in his home were destroyed in the disaster. "We ran to higher ground without even taking our phones," Wang said. Now living in a 125-square-meter newly built apartment, he described his current life as "very satisfied".

After the flood, local authorities identified 697 affected residents with employment needs and organized five dedicated job fairs, providing more than 7,600 positions. A total of 231 temporary public service posts and 50 urban public welfare jobs were created in Yuzhong county, according to Wang Cheng, deputy director of the county's employment service center.

The temporary posts mainly involve cleaning and greening work at resettlement sites, road maintenance and material handling, with a monthly salary of 1,000 yuan and a service period of six months. The urban public welfare positions offer more stable employment for up to three years, with wages aligned with the minimum wage standard of Gansu.

Wang Jianwu took on temporary work during the construction of the resettlement project. He was responsible for heating the stoves in the 83 newly built houses to dry the wall bricks and speed up construction. Paid 200 yuan per day, he worked for one month starting in October, earning a total of 6,000 yuan.

His daughter-in-law, Ren Guilin, was later hired for an urban public welfare position to maintain public facilities at the resettlement site, earning a monthly salary of

2,130 yuan. Another villager, Wang Yinghua, 38, previously worked as a laborer at the site. After the houses were completed, she was hired for an urban public welfare position.

"The work is lighter and more flexible. I can take care of my family," Wang Yinghua said.

Zhang Xiaodong, head of the Gansu government's labor affairs office, said the province is advancing rural infrastructure projects and expanding employment support workshops to create more jobs locally. By the end of 2025, Gansu had established 2,605 rural enterprises and employment factories, absorbing workers unable to seek jobs far from home.

The province has also fostered 75 provincial-level labor brands, including Lanzhou beef noodle makers and Jingning apple growers, to boost incomes through skills development.

During the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), Gansu transferred 26.13 million rural laborers, generating 781.15 billion yuan in income. In 2025 alone, 5.153 million people were transferred, creating 171.61 billion yuan in labor income.

So far in 2026, nearly 1,800 online and offline job fairs have been held across the province under the Spring Breeze Action, offering more than 900,000 vacancies. More than 800 chartered buses and 150 special train services have transported over 30,000 workers back to their posts, underscoring Gansu's continued efforts to stabilize employment.

Contact the writers at huyumeng@chinadaily.com.cn

Courts step up protection of women, minors

Judiciary supports the country's zero tolerance stance on domestic violence

By **CAO YIN**
caoyin@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese courts have issued more than 25,000 personal safety protection orders over the past five years, providing judicial support to victims of domestic violence, an official with the Supreme People's Court said.

Chen Yifang, chief judge of the Supreme People's Court's First Civil Division, said on Monday that harmonious families are essential to social stability and reiterated a policy of "zero tolerance" toward domestic violence.

To address difficulties in collecting evidence in domestic violence cases, the SPC has clarified what type of evidence is admissible and strengthened the effectiveness of personal safety protection orders by lowering the standard of proof required, Chen said. The orders, similar to restraining orders in Western countries, are designed to create a "wall of separation" between perpetrators and victims.

By releasing details of landmark cases, the SPC has also clarified that psychological harm constitutes domestic violence. Minors who are abducted, concealed or who witness domestic violence are recognized as victims, she said. "All these clarifications are intended to firmly protect the legitimate rights and interests of women and children," Chen said.

Courts nationwide have upheld a "children first" principle and adopted multiple measures to support minors involved in divorce cases, aiming to safeguard their physical and mental well-being. While efficiently handling domestic violence cases, courts at all levels have also

focused on other livelihood-related issues, including employment, food, medicine and consumer rights, to address public concerns and enhance people's sense of security, fulfillment and happiness, she said.

According to SPC data, Chinese courts have concluded nearly 86.74 million first-instance civil and commercial cases over the past five years. They have also issued judicial guidance on issues such as betrothal gifts and the boundaries of artificial intelligence use.

Betrothal gifts, also known as bride price, are a traditional marriage custom in which the groom's family gives the bride's family money as a sign of respect. Historically, the practice was intended as a gesture of goodwill toward the newlyweds, said Wu Jingli, deputy chief judge of the division. However, exorbitant bride prices can place a heavy financial burden on the paying family and trigger disputes that undermine marital stability and may even lead to criminal cases, Wu added.

In response, the SPC has publicized notable cases and issued judicial interpretations reaffirming the principle of "prohibiting the extortion of property through marriage" and standardizing adjudication criteria in areas that have been highly disputed in practice.

In one disclosed case involving fraud through a sham marriage to obtain a bride price, the SPC underscored that individuals who defraud others by demanding a bride price and misappropriating property, thereby committing a crime, must compensate victims for their losses and bear corresponding criminal liability.

Alert sounded as rain and snow forecast this week

By **ZHAO YIMENG**
zhaoyimeng@chinadaily.com.cn

China is on alert as a fresh wave of rain and snow is expected over the next three days, potentially causing travel and tourism disruptions following the Spring Festival holiday. While less widespread and intense than recent weather events, the precipitation warrants attention.

On Sunday, significant snowfall affected Shanxi, Hebei and Henan provinces, while heavy rains drenched much of southern China. The National Meteorological Center forecasts an eastward shift in snowfall, bringing light to moderate accumulations to the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, eastern and northern North China, most of Northeast China and the northern Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang province may experience heavy snow and localized blizzards.

Simultaneously, South China is bracing for heavy rainfall, with moderate to heavy precipitation expected in the southern provinces of Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region and Taiwan. Localized downpours and possible thunderstorms are also anticipated.

Offshore, strong winds will affect eastern sea areas due to an intensifying cyclone entering the sea near Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. On

Tuesday, gusts reaching 24.5 meters per second are predicted for the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Taiwan Strait and parts of the South China Sea.

Despite these localized events, forecasters predict no large-scale rain or snow across China this week, with precipitation expected to be scattered and generally light.

However, persistent rain in eastern Southwest China will create slippery roads and reduce visibility, requiring public vigilance during travel.

Northern China will experience a brief warming trend before a cold front arrives on Wednesday and Thursday. Conversely, the south will cool down, providing relief from recent warmth. Daytime highs in Haikou, Hainan, are expected to drop to 20 C by Wednesday.

In addition, most of China's northern winter wheat region is projected to experience near-average temperatures and 10 to 30 millimeters of rainfall over the next 10 days, which will improve soil moisture and aid the resurgence of winter wheat growth, according to agricultural forecasts.

The Yangtze River Delta, South China and Southwest China are expected to see near-average or slightly above-average temperatures with 10 to 50 mm of precipitation, benefiting reservoir storage and providing water for spring planting, it added.

NATIONAL VISION, LOCAL ACTION

Free genetic screenings benefit expectant mothers

By **YUAN HUI** in Hohhot and **CHEN MEILING**

A government-funded screening program is helping families in the city of Ordos, Inner Mongolia autonomous region, identify potential health risks long before a child is born, or even conceived.

The free package, valued at 4,286 yuan (\$622.7), includes genetic screening before pregnancy, prenatal testing, newborn disease screening and follow-up health checks for children up to the age of 6. By expanding prevention measures across the entire early life cycle, the city is shifting its healthcare focus from treating illness to preventing it.

While many other cities in China offer similar services, Ordos is pioneering in the breadth of screening categories, the scale of government financing and the number of beneficiaries.

"The aim is to help people of reproductive age make scientifically informed childbirth decisions and reduce birth defects at the source," said Li Li, head of the maternal and child health section of the city's health commission.

Before pregnancy and during the early stages of gestation, residents can receive free carrier screening for 151 recessive single-gene diseases. During pregnancy, noninvasive prenatal testing evaluates risks for chromosomal conditions including

trisomy 21, trisomy 18 and trisomy 13, or Down syndrome, Edwards syndrome, and Patau syndrome, respectively.

After birth, newborns undergo gene screening for 247 high-incidence diseases, and receive personalized medication-related gene testing to guide safer treatment. Children under 6 years old can also receive congenital heart disease screening.

Nationwide, most regions' free screening services cover only common diseases and typically end 42 days after childbirth. Similar packages are usually priced at about 1,000 yuan, with additional items requiring out-of-pocket payment.

In Ordos, the expanded coverage removes financial barriers and enables earlier intervention.

"According to our survey, some families failed to complete key screenings because of economic difficulties or insufficient health awareness, making birth defects a potential risk to family well-being and population quality," Li said.

Since its launch in 2025, the program has benefited about 55,000 pregnant women, newborns and children. Early detection has enabled the timely treatment of conditions such as congenital hypothyroidism and phenylketonuria, preventing intellectual and physical developmental disorders. For many families, the screenings have provided clarity and reassurance.

A woman surnamed Fan chose noninvasive prenatal testing after learning it was safer and more accurate than traditional screening methods. The result indicated a high risk of trisomy 21, which was later confirmed through diagnostic testing, allowing her to make an informed medical decision.

In another case, a young couple surnamed Miao and Qin underwent free genetic carrier screening despite having no family history of inherited disease. The test revealed that both carried a pathogenic variant of the GJB2 gene, one of the most common recessive genetic causes of congenital hearing loss. That meant their child would face a 25 percent risk of being born deaf.

Further prenatal diagnosis showed that the fetus did not carry the gene variant. "This screening was like a beacon, guiding us away from a potentially difficult path," Miao said. "With the follow-up diagnosis, we could enjoy the pregnancy without fear."

The maternal and child screening program is part of a broader preventive healthcare strategy in Ordos. The city was the first in China to offer free HPV vaccination for eligible girls in 2020, years before the vaccine was included in the national immunization program. It also provides free cervical and breast cancer screening for women aged 35 to 64.

Those efforts have produced measurable results. The vaccination rate among eligible girls has risen from less than 1 percent to 45 percent. According to officials, the early diagnosis rate of cervical cancer has reached 95.3 percent, and the treatment rate for cervical cancer and precancerous lesions exceeds 95 percent, "truly achieving early detection and early intervention".

"We overcame major challenges, including the vast territory, difficulties in extending services to the grassroots level and low public awareness in the initial stage. Through measures such as deploying mobile screening vehicles, we ensured that the policy reaches every woman," Li said.

The city's entire life cycle health service programs have driven a sustained increase in the birth rate, with many health indicators outperforming national averages. The city's birth rate was 6.87 per 1,000 in 2024, compared with 6.77 per 1,000 nationwide.

Yang Xia, head of the population, family and aging division of the city's health commission, said the core of the "Ordos Experience" lies in systematic planning, integrated resources and a prevention-first approach, deeply embedding health governance into urban development.

Contact the writers at chenmeiling@chinadaily.com.cn



Residents enjoy the winter scenery and play in a park in Xingtai city, Hebei province, on Monday, after three straight days of rain and snowfall left the area blanketed in white. WANG LEI / FOR CHINA DAILY