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Employment Matters Most

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) launched a nationwide campaign to provide employment services to migrant workers, low-income groups and different employers with labor needs. Running from January 21 to March 31, this is one initiative courtesy of the Chinese Government to guarantee job security, a top priority on the central agenda. According to the MOHRSS, as of February 15, over 500 million yuan (\$78.62 million) worth in subsidies have been provided by local governments to employees working during Spring Festival, and a total of 10,000 job fairs hosted nationwide. Having an occupation is vital for a person's wellbeing and further determines overall economic development.

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic will make job security a serious topic in 2022, with the number of Chinese college graduates totaling at 10 million for the first time. In addition to the migrant workforce and others seeking work, local governments must make extra efforts to ensure their residents' employment in 2022.

The Central Government will better coordinate the employment-first strategy with the fiscal, monetary and industrial policies. The focus will be on hiring those difficult to

employ, like people with disabilities, plus women and workers in areas with unstable foundations for poverty alleviation.

The dynamic growth of new economic forms such as the platform and sharing economies has diversified types of employment; flex work arrangements have become a new choice for young people. The government is also improving the security system and related measures for those with non-standard work hours to protect their rights and interests in labor remuneration, social insurance and work environment safety.

The government has further urged local administrations to strengthen the assessment and forecast of the general employment situation in their areas to prevent large-scale unemployment. Tightened labor laws and regulations intend to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the job market.

Both China's employers and job seekers find it challenging to have their expectations met. The mismatch between labor supply and demand increases the probability of temporary unemployment. Consequently, a sound employment service system that facilitates matchmaking by granting all parties better access to more information is necessary to up employment rates. **BR**



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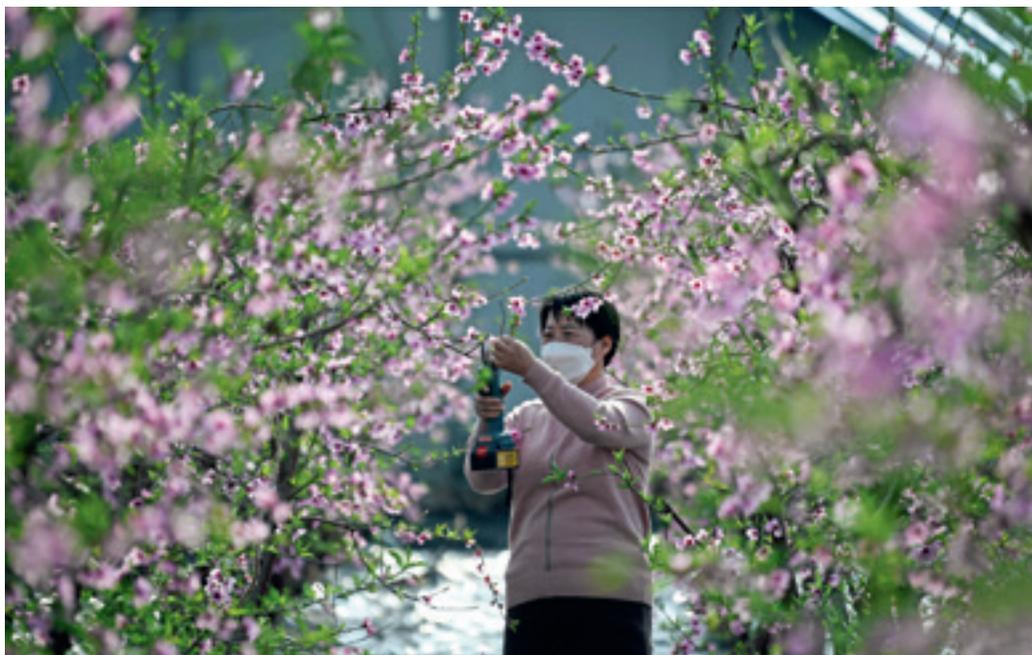
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A SPOT OF SPORTS

Children from a kindergarten in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, take a try at floor curling on February 16. The kindergarten set up different games like floor curling and floor hockey on the first day of the new semester, giving the kids a chance to learn about the Olympic Winter Games and experience the joys of sports.

The Beijing 2022 Games have boosted public enthusiasm for winter sports. Many schools use the occasion to cultivate their students' winter sports skills. In areas without ice and snow, activities like floor curling are becoming popular.



Rural Development

A farmer prunes a peach tree in a greenhouse in Weiqiao Village, Qingtongxia City of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on February 15. The village, located in northwest China, has been developing fruit planting in recent years to promote rural tourism and increase farmers' income.

Timesaving Transportation

With the completion of the branch line for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, the capital city's rail-transit system had expanded to 27 lines by late 2021, running more than 10,000 trains and transporting nearly 10 million passengers every day, according to the Beijing Metro Network Control Center (BMNCC).

The data were shared with journalists from 36 domestic and overseas media outlets during a February 14 visit to the BMNCC, providing further insight into the Olympic host's transportation network.

Beijing's first subway line, also the first in China, started operating in 1969. Since then,

Beijing has gone on to establish a safe, convenient, efficient and green rail-transit system.

Line 11, which opened in 2021 to provide transport to the different Winter Olympics venues, is a smart rail-transit demonstration line featuring intelligent operation and maintenance systems.

Trains on 10 metro lines run at a minimum interval of two minutes during peak hours.

Compared with traveling by car, Beijing's rail-transit system reduces carbon emissions by 7.38 million tons per year, equivalent to the amount of carbon absorbed by 410 million trees, according to the BMNCC.

Avoiding Accidents

The Ministry of Emergency Management has launched a year-long campaign to ensure

the elimination of related risks during the relocation of hazardous chemical industries in China, ministry sources said on February 15.

The move comes as the country has accelerated the relocation of hazardous industries to its central, western and north-eastern regions from eastern coastal areas in recent years, Sun Guangyu, an official with the ministry, told a press conference.

The campaign will take place across 21 provincial regions involved in different moving projects, said Sun, adding more than 470 such undertakings are expected to roll out this year.

The sound management of safety risks is necessary to avoid accidents, Sun said.

The campaign seeks to strengthen the evaluation of new

and existing projects and take action on those that fail to meet safety standards, Sun added.

A total of 632 hazardous chemicals-related projects have been relocated since 2019.

Flower Bud Fossil

Chinese researchers have discovered a flower bud fossil, so far the world's earliest, in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The fossil contains a stem, a leafy branch, a bulbous fruit, and a tiny flower bud, measuring around 3 square mm in size, according to Wang Xin, a researcher with the Nanjing Institute of Geology and palaeontology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Jiangsu Province.

The flower bud is less than 4 mm long, shorter than a human fingernail, he said.

The fossil was found in Ningcheng County of Inner Mongolia. Scientists said the fossilized flower bud stems from the Jurassic period, about 160 million years ago, when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth.

The study has been published (online) in *Geological Society London Special Publications* journal.

Cold-Chain Food Imports

China has built 869 warehouses for the centralized supervision of imported cold-chain foods, the country's market regulator announced on February 14.

The warehouses will conduct unified disinfection and testing procedures for imported cold-chain foods, which can enter the market only after being certified at the warehouses, according to the State Administration for Market Regulation.

These warehouses will play an important role in cutting off

any potential COVID-19 transmission channels, facilitating the disposal of imported cold-chain foods in emergency cases and reducing costs, the administration further said.

A national platform to trace imported cold-chain foods went into operation in December 2020, involving key items such as livestock, poultry and aquatic products.

Fitness Program

Tibet Autonomous Region has released an implementation plan with set targets for its fitness development between 2021 and 2025, Xinhua News Agency reported on February 14.

The local sports bureau plans to build or reconstruct no fewer than 34 sports parks and 95 national fitness centers.

According to the plan, people who often exercise are expected to account for 38.5 percent of Tibet's population by 2025. Sports space per capita is scheduled to reach 2.6 square meters, with 2.16 social sports instructors for every 1,000 people by 2025.

The region aims to develop its specific fitness brand by continuing to stage activities such as the Tibet Mountaineering Conference and the Lhasa Half

Marathon, expanding participation among local farmers and herdsmen.

Tibet also plans to encourage investment from all sectors in the construction of sports venues and related facilities.

Soil Census

The State Council has decided to conduct the third national soil condition census from 2022 to 2025, according to a circular released on February 16.

The census aims to analyze soil types and distribution around the country, as well as the current status and changing trends of soil resources, while acquiring basic data such as quality, properties and utilization status, to improve protection and utilization of soil resources.

The census on saline-alkali soil will be completed in 2022.

In the first half of 2025, the census data will be sorted and reviewed, and in the second half, a report on national arable land quality and an evaluation report on national soil utilization suitability will be prepared, according to the circular.

Industrial Waste

China aims to reduce the generated intensity of industrial solid waste in steel, nonferrous metals,



Spring Farming

Farmers work the fields of Kangxiling Town in Qinzhou, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on February 10.

and chemical sectors by 2025, all the while improving the utilization of bulk solid waste, Xinhua reported on February 10.

According to a plan jointly issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology and seven other government bodies, China will see the all-encompassing development of its renewable resource sector by 2025. Its utilization rate of bulk industrial solid waste is set to reach 57 percent, said the plan.

Measures include enhancing technological and industrial

upgrades to reduce solid waste and promoting the standardized utilization of renewable resources such as scrap steel and plastics. Further actions include improving the recycling and application system of old power batteries.

Through strengthened legislation and supervision, China has achieved progress in preventing solid waste pollution.

The revised Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste first took effect on September 1, 2020.



Road to Health

Tourists pose for a photo on a newly paved footpath at the former site of Chongqing Iron and Steel Factory in Chongqing Municipality, on February 15. The track is one of 60 of its kind planned by local authorities in the mountainous city for people to go exercise.

Moderate Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, rose 0.9 percent year on year in January, down from the 1.5-percent increase a month ago, the National Bureau of Statistics said on February 16.

A breakdown showed that food prices dropped 3.8 percent, a decline of 2.6 percentage points higher than that in December 2021.

The price of pork, a staple meat in China, slumped 41.6 percent, compared with a 36.7-percent decrease a month ago.

Non-food prices rose 2 percent, eased from the 2.1-percent increase reported in the previous month.

The core CPI, which excludes food and energy prices, gained 1.2 percent, flat with a month ago.

The producer price index, which measures costs for goods at the factory gate, went up 9.1 percent in January.

FDI Influx

Paid-in foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Chinese mainland expanded 11.6 percent year on year to 102.28 billion yuan (\$16.14 billion) in January, the Ministry of Commerce said on February 15.

In U.S. dollar terms, the inflow went up 17.6 percent.

Foreign investment in the service industry amounted to 82.3 billion yuan (\$12.98 billion) last month, up 12.2 percent, while inflow to hi-tech industries surged 26.1 percent, the figures showed.

Investments from other Belt and Road Initiative participants and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations increased 28.4 percent and 29.1 percent, respectively.

With government policies aimed at stabilizing foreign trade and investments taking effect, China will continue to see notable foreign investment influx to hi-tech industries as well as the

central and western regions, Liu Xiangdong, a researcher with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said.

Yuan Funds

China's outstanding yuan funds for foreign exchange stood at nearly 21.3 trillion yuan (\$3.35 trillion) by late January, up 33.34 billion yuan (\$5.26 billion) from the previous month, according to the People's Bank of China on February 15.

As the Chinese yuan is not freely convertible under the capital account, the central bank must purchase foreign currency generated by a trade surplus and foreign investment in the country, adding funds to the money market. These assets are an important indicator of cross-border foreign capital flow and domestic yuan liquidity.

China's forex holdings came in at \$3.2216 trillion in late January, down \$28.5 billion, or 0.88 percent, from late 2021, data

from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange showed.

Forestry Plan

China aims to establish a relatively complete modern forest and grass industry system by 2025, with total output value reaching 9 trillion yuan (\$1.41 trillion), read a development plan.

The country also strives to establish itself as a leading force in the international trade of forest and grass products, with annual import and export volume hitting \$195 billion by 2025, according to the outline for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period, released by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration.

The document specified 12 key sub-sectors for development during the period, including economic forestry, wood processing and ecological tourism.

It also identified forest and grass planting areas to ensure that no arable land or permanent farmland is occupied.

NUMBERS

(\$1=6.33 yuan)

China's Comprehensive Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)



China should cultivate and rationally utilize forest and grass resources, promote the deeper integration of industries, and increase the effective supply of quality forest and grass products, the plan further noted.

Stock Connect

The securities regulator has unveiled revised provisions of the Stock Connect program between domestic and overseas stock exchanges to expand its scope.

Previously, only companies listed on the Shanghai and London stock exchanges could participate in Stock Connect. According to revisions released by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) on February 11, eligible companies listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange will be included, along with stock exchanges in Switzerland and Germany.

The provisions, which already entered into force, introduce arrangements to allow overseas

issuers to raise capital in the Chinese market through China Depository Receipt (CDR) offerings and adopt a market-inquiry pricing mechanism.

Better and more flexible arrangements are in place for annual report disclosure requirements plus the disclosure of changes in shareholding, according to the provisions.

Considering the quota for eastbound and westbound business remains ample, the total cross-border capital quota for the existing interconnected depository receipt business remains unchanged.

The quota for eastbound business (London-listed companies listing CDRs on the Shanghai Stock Exchange's main board) stays at 250 billion yuan (\$39.26 billion), while that for westbound (Shanghai-listed companies listing global depository receipts on the London Stock Exchange's main board) continues at 300 billion yuan

(\$47.34 billion).

Adjustments will be made in terms of business situations and market demands, the CSRC said.

Stronger Insurers

The total assets of Chinese insurers amounted to 24.9 trillion yuan (\$3.91 trillion) by last December, up 11.5 percent from the beginning of 2021, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission said.

Specifically, the total assets of property insurance companies, life insurance companies and reinsurance companies went up 6 percent, 12.4 percent and 22.2 percent, respectively.

Last year, insurers' premium income increased 4.1 percent year on year to 4.5 trillion yuan (\$710 billion).

The comprehensive solvency adequacy ratio of insurers, a key metric to measure their ability to meet debts and other obligations, stood at 240 percent at the end of

last September. The average core solvency ratio was 227.3 percent, data showed.

Positive Balances

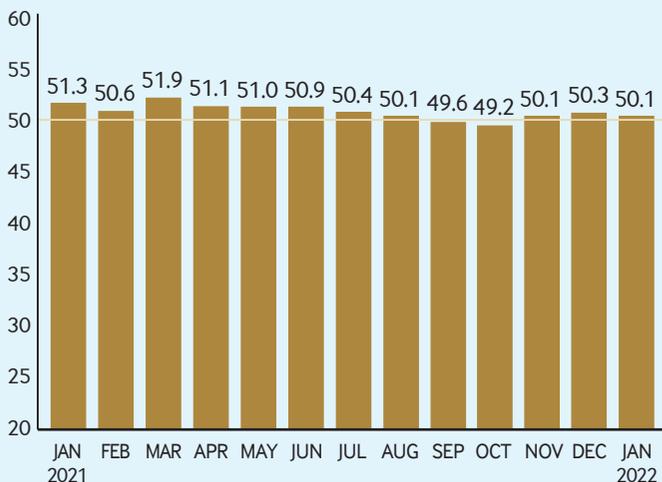
China reported a current account surplus of \$315.7 billion in 2021, accounting for 1.8 percent of its GDP for the year, Wang Chunying, a spokesperson for the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said on February 11.

Trade in goods posted a surplus of \$554.5 billion, up 8 percent from the previous year.

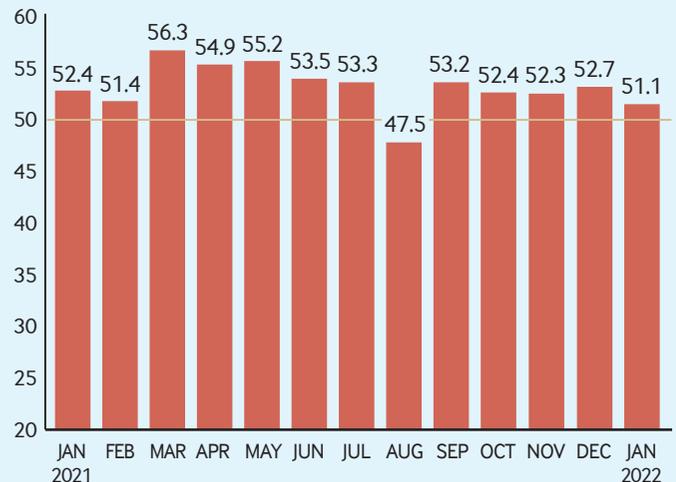
Trade in services saw a deficit of \$97.7 billion, down 33 percent year on year. The deficit in the travel sector declined 15 percent to \$99.3 billion due to the COVID-19 pandemic's continued impact on cross-border tourism and studies abroad, Wang said.

She projected that China's international payments, despite external instabilities and uncertainties, will remain generally balanced.

China's Manufacturing PMI



China's Non-Manufacturing PMI





MEXICO

The Angel of Independence monument in Mexico City is lit up in Chinese red on February 14 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of China-Mexico diplomatic relations



FRANCE

A performer gives flowers to the audience at the Battle of the Flowers parade during the 2022 Nice Carnival in Nice on February 13. The event runs from February 11 to 27, themed King of Animals



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung (center) of the Democratic Party attends a campaign event in Seoul on February 15. The election is set for March 9



BRAZIL

A man removes silt from the streets following heavy rains in Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro State, on February 16. The death toll from landslides and floods in the area rose to 78 that day



AFGHANISTAN

Former President Hamid Karzai urges the U.S. administration to return his country's assets at a press conference in the capital of Kabul on February 13.

U.S. President Joe Biden has ordered to compensate victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 with America's frozen Afghan assets, without the consent of the Taliban-led caretaker government



UKRAINE

Lawmakers sing the national anthem during a Day of Unity gathering outside the parliament building in the capital of Kiev on February 16. Ukraine celebrated the day to unite people amid the country's crisis



THIS WEEK PEOPLE & POINTS

↓ FOUR-TIME OLYMPIAN GRABS GOLD IN WOMEN'S AERIALS

Xu Mengtao claimed the women's aerials freestyle skiing gold medal at the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022 on February 14.

The four-time Olympian received 108.61 points for her final jump with three somersaults, which had a degree of difficulty of 4.293—the highest for female athletes. Hanna Huskova of Belarus took silver with 107.95 points, followed by Megan Nick of the U.S. with 93.76.

Xu already had 27 World Cup golds under her belt. She managed to bring home a silver medal from Sochi 2014.

Xu ruptured a ligament in her right knee when landing during China's 2007 National Championships. She finished sixth and ninth at Vancouver 2010 and Pyeongchang 2018, respectively. Beijing 2022 marked Xu's fourth Olympic appearance.



An Olympic Window Into TCM

**Yangcheng Evening News
February 16**

Acupuncture, cupping, herbs... The presence of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) elements in the Olympic Games has been one increasingly felt over the past years. During Pyeongchang 2018 and Beijing 2022, volunteers specialized in TCM offered their high-quality healthcare services.

Athletes have come to understand the traditional methods and for good reason. TCM

boasts of a unique theoretical system that can produce effective outcomes, a boon for those suffering muscle or joint trauma. The traditional medicine can also help relieve, or remove, any dull pains plaguing these athletes. Sometimes, this means they can perform better or even extend their athletic careers by several years.

TCM has been able to showcase its unique appeal in sports medicine thanks to the Olympic stage. But what it has shown there is only a tip of the iceberg. Hopefully the Games and similar events can lift the longstanding tried and tested methods to a modern, global level.



**A Shared River
Outlook Weekly
February 14**

The Yangtze River is an important cradle of the Chinese nation. It used to be among the seven most bio-diverse rivers in the world, but due to years of overfishing and pollution, it had almost no fish roaming the water left.

Xuejiawa, a natural port on the eastern

“The U.S. is playing up the so-called ‘China threat’ in order to suppress and contain China’s development. This fully exposes its deep-rooted Cold War mentality and ideological bias.”

Zhao Lijian, spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, at a daily news conference on February 11

“Led by persons with disabilities, we can—and will—forge partnerships, expand access to inclusive, quality education and decent work, ensure healthy lives, and create a more inclusive, just and sustainable world for all.”

UN Secretary General **António Guterres**, at the opening of the Global Disability Summit via video link from UN headquarters in New York on February 16

bank of the Yangtze in Anhui Province, was once a hub for illegal piers and polluting factories. Its dirty and chaotic pictures were ubiquitous, but today, tourists are flocking to its clean waters and thriving flora.

A 10-year fishing ban seems to have caused economic losses to the region, but the decade did suffice for two to three generations of fish in the river to multiply, critical to the restoration and protection of the stream's overall ecosystem.

For such a big river, its upper and lower reaches are closely intertwined. They must shoulder the ecological costs together and dividends, too, are shared. Provinces through which the Yangtze, or its tributaries, flows, have jointly constructed clean water facilities, treated pollution and improved the general environment. For example, upstream, reservoirs were put in place to block floods and store water; midstream, adjustments were made so that flood storage areas could function effectively; downstream, channels to navigate floods into the sea are underway.

To respect Mother Nature, ceding ground to other beings and developing suitable agriculture today jointly paint a harmonious scroll picture along the river.

Sports Class Becomes Pressure Exercise

Guangming Daily

February 16

During the first winter vacation following last year's newly adopted policy to ease the burdens of excessive homework and off-campus tutoring for students in compulsory education, ads for all kinds of sports training began popping up everywhere.

For the most part, the students' sports fever stems from today's physical exercise scores having secured a spot on many a senior middle

school admission test. But as the importance of sports is on the academic rise, so are the training fees.

The purpose of easing the burdens of homework is to encourage students to develop in an all-round way, not a shift to athletic tutoring. Moreover, huge demand entices many unqualified institutions to enter the market, posing a threat to students' physical health and safety.

All in all, training for the sake of passing an exam is unlikely to make physical exercise a real habit.

↓ FIRST MALE SKATER GLIDES TO OLYMPIC GLORY

Gao Tingyu became China's first male Olympic speed skating champion when he took home the gold in the 500m event, setting a new Olympic record at the Beijing 2022 Games on February 12.

Gao, one of China's flagbearers during the opening ceremony on February 4, clocked a winning time of 34.32 seconds at the National Speed Skating Oval, beating the previous Olympic mark of 34.41 seconds set by Haavard Holmefjord Lorentzen of Norway at Pyeongchang 2018.

Born in Yichun, Heilongjiang Province, Gao started skating at the age of 8. After making his mark in the junior ranks, he soon emerged as a strong contender on the international stage. He secured a bronze medal at Pyeongchang 2018.

On February 12, Gao raced in the seventh of 15 pairs, his Olympic record launching him to the top of the rankings.



“Tighter global financial conditions and shallow domestic debt markets in many developing countries are crowding out private investment and dampening recovery.”

World Bank Group President **David Malpass**, sharing his views as a new World Bank report was released on February 15

“Part of the reason why the Belt and Road Initiative got as far as it did is because China was filling a vacuum that the U.S. and others had created.”

Jennifer Hillman, senior fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations, during a recent webinar evaluating the initiative

无畏挑战 勇往职前

2022届上海高校毕业生秋季招聘会



COVER STORY

FLEXING THE JOB MUSCLE

Nearly 200 million Chinese people opt for non-traditional forms of employment

By Lu Yan