



LI MIN / CHINA DAILY

AT WAR WITH POVERTY

Government's all-out attack on hardship is yielding remarkable results throughout China

By **HOU LIQIANG**
houliqiang@chinadaily.com.cn

Few people used the narrow road in the mountain town of Moudao before 2011. People in the area could barely harvest enough food to eat from the limited

farmland, which supported only potatoes and corn.

This forced 80 percent of adults to move away to make a living, says Qin Taixiang, a local writer who has chronicled the town's development for many years.

>>ON THE ROAD, PAGE 6

“The methods of poverty relief used in the past no longer work when it comes to the most impoverished families. Targeted relief and customized policies are needed to help each household.”

WANG HOUJUN
poverty expert at Renmin University of China

An artist discovers inner spirit at early age

By **ZHAO XU**
zhaoxu@chinadaily.com.cn

When I was 5, my mother took me to a painting class at a nearby “cultural palace” — a three-story building made up of a ground-floor movie theater and many rooms open to children during the school holidays. There I received my first art “message”, not in my own class but the one next-door.

Before that day came, I had done plenty of doodling on sheets of paper my mother brought home from school.

(In the mid-1980s it was a minor luxury for an average wage-earning Chinese family to provide their child with an unlimited amount of good-quality painting paper.)

I can't recall how the idea of attending a painting class came to me, but the moment I realized that there was a possibility to do so, I begged my parents. They agreed, despite their meager income.

So that sunny Sunday morning my mother sat me in a class where a teacher, colorful felt-tip pens in hand, was drawing on a sheet of paper pasted on the blackboard. The children followed him in drawing simple lines and filling demarcated blocks to produce an outlandish potpourri of colors. At the end of that class, everyone handed in a disc-faced owl with feathers like a tropical parrot.

>>ART, PAGE 16



A VISITOR at a recent museum exhibition. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY