INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UNIT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**



MARCH M T W T

ISSUE 6/2021

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SECTION: SCHOOL



Mar 1 [Channel News Asia] China bans harsh punishments in schools. BEIJING: China has banned school teachers from meting out any punishment that can cause physical or mental trauma, after a string of student deaths linked to harsh discipline in recent years. **LINK**



Mar 3 [Channel News Asia] Primary 1 registration framework under review to possibly increase Phase **2C places.** SINGAPORE: The Primary 1 registration framework is undergoing a review on whether the number of places set aside for students without priority admission can be increased, said Minister for Education Lawrence Wong on Wednesday (Mar 3). LINK



Mar 5 [Liverpool Echo] Education Secretary says school year could be split into five terms to help kids catch up. The school year could be split into five terms with shorter summer holidays under plans being considered by government ministers. LINK



Mar 5 [Clare] Education Minister Says No Parents In Clare Will Be 'Left Out Of Pocket' For School Transport. The Minister for Education says parents across Clare and elsewhere will not 'be left out of pocket' for school transport that has not been used. **LINK**



🍇 Mar 7 [Guardian] The schools pandemic recovery plan must ensure the attainment gap does not widen. First and foremost, I am a teacher. In the classroom, or outside it as the years have gone by, my priority has always been children and young people – particularly the most disadvantaged. LINK



🍇 Mar 7 [Guardian] England's school catch-up scheme 'chaotic and confusing', say headteachers. The government's scheme for helping disadvantaged pupils catch up after the disruption of coronavirus is chaotic and confusing, headteachers have told the Guardian, ahead of Monday's full reopening of schools across

England. LINK

SECTION: STUDENT



Mar 1 [Channel News Asia] 'A lost generation': COVID-19 takes emotional toll on Indonesia's young. JAKARTA: It was the sudden loud cry of 10-year-old Indonesian Aisyah that caught her neighbors' attention in South Tangerang, Banten province, one day in January. LINK



Mar 3 [Channel News Asia] Mental wellness curriculum launched at polytechnics and ITE colleges. SIN-GAPORE: Polytechnics and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) colleges have launched a new mental wellness curriculum for all Year 1 students to raise awareness of mental health and encourage people to seek help early. LINK



Mar 3 [Malay Mail] 'Targeted intervention' for Primary 1 students with social, behavioral needs in all schools by 2026. SINGAPORE: Primary 1 students with social and behavioral needs will get "targeted intervention" in all schools by 2026, announced Minister of State for Education Sun Xueling on Mar 3. LINK



Mar 3 [Asia One] Homework ban for Chinese pupils sparks backlash online. An education authority in China is facing a backlash over its efforts to limit the amount of homework given to young students. LINK



Mar 4 [Bay Today] STEAM students recognized by Education Minister. A trio of grades 9 and 10 students at West Ferris Secondary School have caught the eye of Stephen Lecce, Ontario's Minister of Education. LINK

SECTION: EXAMINATION



Mar 5 [Malay Mail] Report: Education Ministry to investigate SPM leak claims if more information emerges. KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon said an investigation will be carried out over claims that Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) History Paper was leaked if they received more information. LINK



Mar 6 [BBC News] Teachers told to report 'improper pressure' over exam grades. Teachers must report any "improper pressure" from parents or pupils seeking to influence GCSE, AS or A-level grades. LINK

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SECTION: DIGITALISATION



Mar 5 [Free Malaysia Today] Stop the 'backward class' label in schools, says education minister. PUTRAJAYA: The classification of students according to their academic performance will have a psychological effect on schoolchildren and the education ministry is not happy with the practice. LINK



Mar 5 [Open Access Government] Digital learning transformation programme. As the enormity of COVID-19 was emerging within the UK, the focus for Health Education England e-Learning for Healthcare (HEE e-LfH) was on the provision of education and training for the workforce on the frontline responding to the pandemic. **LINK**

SECTION: TVET



Mar 4 [University World News] Promises not enough to tackle TVET assessment gaps. Technical and vocational education and training or TVET is recognised as a major component of the education system in Ethiopia. <u>LINK</u>



Mar 5 [University World News] Sunyani Technical University urges government to provide incentive for students to read Science, TVET programmes. The Vice-Chancellor of Sunyani Technical University (STU), Prof. Ing. Kwadwo Adinkrah-Appiah is urging the government to consider a policy direction to provide incentives for students to read Science and TVET programs. LINK



Mar 6 [News Straits Times] Focus on technology. PUTRAJAYA: The Education Ministry is committed to improving education in Malaysia by bolstering the curriculum and enhancing teaching and learning through the use of digital technology. <u>LINK</u>

SECTION: TEACHERS



Mar 1 [Channel News Asia] Commentary: Teachers can focus better if subjective, irrelevant factors removed from annual appraisals. SINGAPORE: I saw first-hand the dedication of our teachers last month when my daughter Ella started her Primary 1 journey. LINK



Mar 7 [World] Education Minister: Consultation Under Way on Vaccinating Teachers First. South Korean Education Minister Yoo Eun-hye said on Sunday that the government is in consultation with health authorities on vaccinating teachers and school support staff first. LINK

SECTION: UNIVERSITIES



Mar 4 [University World News] Challenges are mounting for Algeria's universities. Algeria's universities face major problems returning to calm. Already deeply shaken since 2019 by continuing popular protest, universities have had to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic with no extra resources. LINK



Mar 4 [Dhaka Tribune] Accused of corruption, BRU VC blames education minister. The vice-chancellor of Rangpur Begum Rokeya University has alleged that the education minister was responsible for all the recent controversies centering around the university. <u>LINK</u>



Mar 4 [University World News] PhD graduates protest over employment rights. Unemployed Moroccan PhD holders have vowed to continue with a sit-in in front of the education ministry in Rabat as part of ongoing protests against their exclusion from public service employment, including universities and science centres. LINK



Mar 5 [Guardian] Ignore this manufactured crisis: free speech is alive and well in our universities. Political and press interest in what happens in universities is intense and the freedom of speech issue is at the centre of the culture wars being fought by this government. <u>LINK</u>

SECTION: SPECIAL NEEDS



Mar 7 [Guardian] Special needs pupils in England living in dread of returning to the classroom. While many parents are desperate for their children to return to school after months of home-learning away from friends, some children with special needs are facing the end of the best educational experience they have had in years. LINK

SECTION: BOOK FAIR



Mar 5 [India Education Diary] Union Education Minister Inaugurates The New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 – Virtual Edition. New Delhi: Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 – Virtual Edition today. LINK