

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRUNEI DARUSSALAM





### **SECTION : FEATURES**



March 22 [Today online] Commentary: Tackling 'educational regrets' among youth over post-secondary choices requires a radical mindset shift. "Students who chose the A-level route wish they enrolled into polytechnic instead, while others wished they had selected a different course of study," said the author Trivina Kang. Reasons for educational regrets are multifaceted. It could be driven by gaps between performance and expectations of success, concerns with employability, or even peer comparisons. Fleeting response to uncertainty between aspirations, expectations, and reality is also not uncommon in this life stage. LINK



March 23 [The Straits Times] Lessons on school and life from a K-drama. "Our day starts early. We raise our voices before daybreak. We already feel worn out as we begin our day, but we keep plugging away, believing in 'no pain, no gain'. "We pursue higher income, education and grades in order to enter high society. That's where Korea stands to-day." Many students in Singapore also tie happiness to scholastic success, but is it healthy? causing negative levels of competition between each other. LINK



**March 23 [ALJAZEERA] Afghanistan school year starts without millions of teenage girls.** Since the Taliban's takeover in 2021, only girls aged 12 and under have been allowed to go to school. Afghanistan's schools have reopened for the new academic year, but hundreds of thousands of teenage girls remain barred from attending classes as Taliban authorities ban their attendance in secondary school. Education Minister Habibullah Agha confirmed in a statement that schools up to grade six "will currently be open for girls", effectively retaining a ban on high school for female students. LINK



**March 24 [The Guardian] 'It broke the link': how the pandemic disrupted children's relationship with school.** One in five pupils in England were reported as persistently absent during the last school year. Anne's daughter is just nine, but feels constantly overwhelmed by school. Like many children, she found the pandemic very difficult, her mother explains. "She would stop talking for periods of time – we'd find her curled up and feeling low. I don't think she's ever really recovered from that." LINK



**March 24 [Troy University] Jobs in Education: Teaching Adult Learners.** Not all learning takes place in a classroom. Practical experience learned in the workplace can be just as valuable as more traditional educational qualifications. As the workforce ages, skilled workers must pass their knowledge and experience on to the next generation to ensure business continuity. This creates opportunities for people with practical skills to fill a range of jobs in education. However, knowing how to do a specific task is very different from being able to teach someone else how to do it. LINK



**March 24 [Wbur] Special education planning form gets revamp in Mass. for first time in 20 years.** When Evan Gabovitch was a public school student, the annual meetings to review his special education plan always felt stressful. It was hard to hear teachers at Lexington Public Schools list the things he couldn't do. Even when he wanted to inject ideas into the conversation, he said he received pushback, especially in middle school. <u>LINK</u>

# SECTION : TECHNOLOGY



**March 22 [BBC News] Bill Gates: AI is most important tech advance in decades.** Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates says the development of artificial intelligence (AI) is the most important technological advance in decades. "It will change the way people work, learn, travel, get health care, and communicate with each other," he said. He was writing about the technology used by tools such as chatbot ChatGPT. Developed by OpenAI, ChatGPT is an AI chatbot which is programmed to answer questions online using natural, human-like language. LINK



March 24 [The Indian Express] High-speed internet: How will India develop a 6G network?. For regular users, 6G could be a huge opportunity. At present, the total annual purchase of smartphones is greater than 16 crore smartphones for about 30 crore Indian households, the document said. As part of its 6G mission, India will identify priority areas for research by involving all stakeholders including industry, academia and service providers spanning theoretical and simulation studies, proof-of-concept prototypes and demonstrations and early market interventions through startups, the vision document said. LINK

#### **SECTION : LIFELONG LEARNING**



March 25 [VOA News] For Some Retirees, It's Not Time to Stop Learning. For those attending classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Washington, D.C., retirement is not a time to slow down. And it surely is not a time to stop learning. OLLI offers its members classes in 10 different fields. The courses for this spring include the History of Slavery in America, the Ancient Mediterranean, Color Theory, Play Writing, and The Ups and Downs of Weather. Classes meet once a week for seven to 10 weeks. LINK



March 25 [Daily News Egypt] JICA organizes hybrid event titled 'Promoting Social and Continuous Learning in Egypt and Japan'. The event will bring together NGOs that have supported social education in Egypt and those involved in Japanese-style schools, community centers, and Egyptian community centers to hold sessions based on hybrid and innovative approaches. Moreover, the event will shed light on the importance of deepening the understanding and the collaboration between NGOs in both Egypt and Japan with the aim of improving the quality of social education and continuous learning. LINK

#### **SECTION : HIGHER EDUCATION**



**March 20 [BBC News] 'I did not send my child to university to die'.** University of Edinburgh student Romy Ulvestad died at her parents' London home four days after her 21st birthday. She had killed herself after staff failed to provide additional support, despite repeated warnings that she was struggling with her mental health. Now her mother is adding her support to a campaign for the UK government to create legal duty of care for students. <u>LINK</u>



**March 23 [USA Today] With Biden's student loan debt forgiveness in limbo, lawmakers consider colleges' role.** Amid a clash Thursday over President Joe Biden's beleaguered student loan forgiveness plan, one theme emerged that at least some members of Congress could agree upon: Colleges need to take more responsibility for the debt crisis. The two-hour hearing, the subcommittee's first meeting this session, consisted Republicans decried the burdens debt forgiveness places on "hardworking Americans" and the prospect of creating a culture of overreliance on. loans. LINK



**March 24 [BBC News] Recovery flat to help Birmingham students battling addiction.** A "recovery flat" where students with different addictions live together to help them complete their studies has opened at the University of Birmingham. It is part of a programme being pioneered at the university to try to help students stay addiction free. Yusuf, a mature student eight years in recovery, is the peer manager. He describes the role as being a bit like a big brother to the others, but he also has to enforce the rules of the flat. LINK



**March 25 [Longview News Journal] The reward for higher education should not be a lifetime of debt.** Those who are thinking of entering college, those who are already there and even those who have graduated might want to review their notes on the political theory of an Englishman by the name of John Locke. Today, upon graduation, the graduate is confronted with a mountain of debt when the decree was supposed to lead to better employment and financial enhancement. <u>LINK</u>

## **SECTION : SCHOOLS**



March 21 [USA Today] 'They're just tired': Ohio school district goes to 4-day week to save burned out teachers. In an effort to support teachers, a small school district outside Cincinnati has become the first in the state to go to a four-day week for in-person learning, the district superintendent said. Beginning Aug. 15, students will attend school in person Tuesday through Friday. On Mondays, those students will have schoolwork to complete, but that work will be self-directed. LINK



March 24 [The Straits Times] Forum: Excerpts from readers' letters. Schools still having mid-year "exams". As part of the effort to shift the focus from academic grades and tests, in 2023, schools will remove mid-year examinations for all primary and secondary school students. However, some schools have replaced this with mid-year assessments instead. Assessments are in effect mini exams and another form of testing. If schools are still obsessed with grades, there are indicators of competencies in students' daily classroom work, spelling tests, informal assessments and homework assignments. LINK



**March 24 [The Guardian] Schools' Stem diversity problem needs systemic solution, say MPs.** Report finds students from black Caribbean backgrounds in England 'acutely' underrepresented in Stem. Fewer black Caribbean students studied triple science than students of any other background, the report said. It also highlighted the lack of diversity in the teaching workforce, pointing out that an additional 15,655 black teachers would be needed in order to bring teacher diversity in line with that of pupils. LINK