

No confusion on mode of language for single curriculum: Shafqat

From Our Staff Correspondent

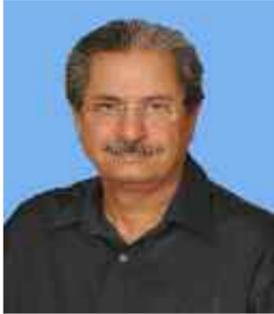
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood Wednesday said there was no confusion on the mode of language for the Single National Curriculum.

The teachers would teach in the same language in which a student feel comfortable to learn, he said while chairing 3rd meeting of National Curriculum Council held here at ministry.

The Provincial Education Ministers, Secretaries concerned, and representatives from Federal Government Educational Institutions, Army Public School, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, Private Sector Schools, Itehad Tanzeem ul Madaris Pakistan, Minorities and renowned educationists attended the meeting and presented their suggestions.

The minister informed that the material and key points of the curriculum would be the same while the English would be taught as a language.

The participants presented dif-



ferent suggestions regarding preparation of textbooks. Most of the participants expressed that the government should prepare a model text book which will be a benchmark for the provinces and other stakeholders.

Shafqat Mahmood said that provinces could introduce additional material, hence the children should not be further burdened.

The minister told that the basic aim of uniform education system was to end the injustices in getting education and to eliminate the classification distance in the field of

knowledge and education.

He said that Shah Abdul Lateef Bhittai should not be considered as hero of only Sindh but a hero of the entire nation which was only possible through uniform education system.

Shafqat Mahmood said that workshops were held in four provinces on Single National Curriculum, while a four-day workshop has also been organized at national level in which draft was prepared unanimously. This draft was sent to all members of National Curriculum Council.

During the meeting, all participants were agreed that the formulation of national curriculum was a right step in right direction of the incumbent government. They said that it was need of the hour.

Shafqat Mahmood said the initiative of Single National Curriculum was close to our hearts as it would be helpful in eliminating classification in our education system.

The minister thanked the participants for their valued suggestions and attending the meeting passionately.



KARACHI: A goat with four horns as merchant displays for selling purpose at Suhrah Goth Cattle Market. —Online

KP Minister directs strict implementation of SOPs in cattle markets

From Our Staff Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Livestock Minister, Muhibullah Khan has said that implementation of SOPs in sacrificial cattle markets will be ensured at all cost and entry of children and aged people will not be allowed into these markets.

He said no activity other than the sale and purchase of sacrificial animals will be allowed in cattle markets to ensure minimum presence of people so that protection from infections could be ensured.

He was presiding over a meeting that was attended by Secretary Agriculture, Dr Muhammad Israr, DG Livestock, Dr Alamzeb Mohmand and officials from concerned departments.

The meeting was told that anti-infectious spray against coronavirus and Congo virus has been carried out at all cattle market and awareness pamphlets have also been distributed. A team of experts and a special vehicle to carry out anti-viral spray has been arranged that would visit cattle markets across the province.

Moreover, the meeting was told that bamboo boundary walls have been erected around open cattle markets and all animals entering the market were being sprayed. Veterinary doctors and staff were also deputed at the cattle markets to provide protection against Congo virus.

Muhibullah Khan said implementation of SOPs must be ensured at cattle markets and people visiting these markets must be bounded to wear safety face masks. He also urged upon keeping social distance during Eid days.

He directed for establishing complaint cells and hand-wash points in cattle markets adding that establishing such market in areas other than specified by the government must not be allowed and stern action be taken against such illegal cattle markets. He said the officials of TMA must be present in uniform with display of their official cards at the cattle markets.

District administration to impose smart lockdown in two areas today

The district administration on Wednesday issued notification of implementing smart lockdown in two more localities of the provincial metropolitan due to fear of Coronavirus spread in the areas.

According to media cell of Deputy Commissioner office, a notification of smart lockdown in Takarkhel Bala Mattani and Canal Road Nasir Bagh has been issued from 4 pm on today (Thursday).

The notification says that that all kind of movement to and from these areas will remain closed during lockdown. The decision of smart lockdown is taken after reports of rapidly raising number of Corona virus cases.

APHC calls for strike tomorrow in IOK against Indian occupation

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Indian occupied Kashmir has called for complete strike tomorrow (Friday) to send a clear message to India that the people of Jammu and Kashmir reject its illegal occupation of their homeland.

According to Kashmir Media Service, an APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar strongly denounced India's attempts to change the territorial integrity

and demographic composition of occupied Kashmir, provision of domicile certificates to non-locals and construction of more than 200,000 houses to settle them, killing and arrest of youth and other human rights violation by Indian troops in the territory.

He said that on the day, pro-freedom slogans would be raised from mosques and shrines and a complete blackout would be observed from Maghrib to Isha prayers against the Modi government's plan of settling non-locals in the territory and granting of domicile certificates to them.

The spokesman strongly reacted to the reports that people across the territory especially living near military camps were being forcibly evicted from their lands and steps were being taken for the construction of around 200,000 houses for RSS goons and non-Kashmiri workers on the grabbed land.

He reiterated his strong opposition to such coercive moves, saying that India was following the Israeli policy in occupied Kashmir and was snatching land from the Kashmiri people and settling the armed Hindus brought from India on this land.

Australia's Victoria state reports record new cases of coronavirus

SYDNEY: Australia's second most populous state of Victoria reported two new deaths from the coronavirus and logged a record daily increase of 484 new cases compared with 374 cases a day earlier.

Two men in their 90s died overnight from the virus, Premier Daniel Andrews said in a media briefing in Melbourne.

The state recorded its previous one-day high of 428 cases last week.

The Victoria government has asked residents to wear face masks when they step outside their houses or risk fines, and enforced a six-week partial lockdown in the city of Melbourne.

Melbourne residents will be required to wear masks outside from midnight - making the city the first place in Australia to mandate face coverings in public - in a new effort to slow the virus spread.

But Andrews said "further behaviour change" would still be required, after analysis showed almost nine in 10 people diagnosed with COVID-19 over the two weeks to Tuesday did not self-isolate between feeling sick and seeking a coronavirus test.

The outbreak has left Australia rattled and dampened hopes of a speedy economic recovery.

Australia reported a record 501 new coronavirus infections Wednesday, nearly four months after the pandemic supposedly peaked in the country.



Australia's daily new infections previously peaked on Mar 28 when 459 cases were reported, according to data compiled by AFP, before the country appeared to bring the virus under control and began easing harsh restrictions.

It has now recorded almost 13,000 cases of COVID-19 and 128 fatalities in a country of about 25 million.

An inquiry into how the virus spread in Melbourne heard this week that many cases were likely linked to infection control breaches at hotels

used to quarantine residents returning from overseas.

Victoria has effectively been sealed off from the rest of the country in an effort to contain the virus, but new cases have been detected in the neighbouring New South Wales state.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian described the coming weeks as "the most critical" since the height of the last lockdown.

Our comprehensive coverage of the coronavirus outbreak and its developments —Reuters

UK details path to citizenship for Hong Kong applicants

LONDON: Britain's route to citizenship for almost three million people in Hong Kong will open in January 2021, and applicants will not need a job to come to the country, interior minister Priti Patel said.

"We are planning to open the Hong Kong BN(O) (British National Overseas) Visa for applications from January 2021," Patel said in a written statement to parliament.

"There will be no skills tests or minimum income requirements, economic needs tests or caps on numbers. I am giving BN(O) citizens the opportunity to acquire full British citizenship.

"They do not need to have a job before coming to the UK - they can look for work once here. They may bring their immediate dependants, including non-BN(O) citizens." Britain suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong on Monday, despite Chinese warnings that it was making a grave foreign policy error and risked reprisals. Diplomatic ties between London and Beijing have been frayed by the security law, which Western powers see as an erosion on civil liberties and human rights in the finan-



cial hub. China threatened unspecified counter-measures after Britain relaxed immigration rules for Hong Kongers with British overseas passports, and the potential of citizenship.

Adding to the tensions have been British criticisms about China's treatment of the Uighur ethnic minority group, and the blocking of telecoms giant Huawei from its 5G networks.

Beijing has accused London of being a puppet to US foreign policy over Huawei, after Washington slapped

French claims on Uighur rights are 'lies', says China

BEIJING: French claims about the imprisonment of ethnic and religious minorities in China's Xinjiang region were unacceptable, Beijing said criticising the accusations as "false".

China's response came a day after Paris demanded it let independent human rights observers visit the north-western region, where rights groups and experts estimate over one million Uighurs and other Turkic-speaking minorities have been rounded up into a network of internment camps.

France's foreign affairs minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said China's actions were "unacceptable" and said they "condemn them firmly". Beijing has defended its strategy in Xinjiang as necessary to avoid extremism.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular press briefing on Wednesday that "China has repeatedly responded to and clarified false reports and accusations on Xinjiang-related issues". He added that Xinjiang issues were not about human rights, religion or ethnicity but about "countering violent terrorism and separatism". "About so-called lies that Xinjiang restricts religious freedom and suppresses Muslims... the truth is that recently. —AFP

How 'green' is the EU's recovery deal?



BRUSSELS: European Union leaders clinched a deal for a huge stimulus package which the European Commission has said will make fighting climate change central to Europe's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Climate advocates said the final deal - a €1.074 trillion EU budget for 2021-27, plus a 750 billion euro recovery fund - was a mixed bag, with large sums earmarked for green investments, but cuts to key climate programmes and insufficient rules to ensure cash does not support polluting investments. Here are the climate elements of the deal. The deal earmarks 30 per cent of the entire package for climate protection and says all spending must contribute to EU emissions-cutting goals.

This could see nearly €550 billion spent on climate from 2021 to 2027 - a massive sum, but far below the €2.4 trillion in investment researchers say is needed to meet EU climate goals.

The EU's flagship fund for weaning countries of fossil fuels received €17.5 billion - less than half of what was previously proposed. The conditions for accessing it were also watered down. Countries that have not signed up to an EU-wide target to become "climate neutral" by 2050 will only get half of their share of the Just Transition Fund.

Previous proposals would have forced countries to commit to climate neutrality at a national level - but EU officials said this was a "red line" for Poland, the coal-heavy country expected to receive the biggest chunk of the money. Money was also shaved off InvestEU and Horizon Europe, two programmes earmarked for sustainable investments, as EU leaders conceded cuts to appease frugal northern countries. —AFP

COVID-19 crisis to 'get worse before it gets better': Trump

WASHINGTON: A somber President Donald Trump warned that the coronavirus crisis in the United States is likely to "get worse before it gets better."

"Some areas of our country are doing very well," Trump said at his first formal White House virus briefing since the end of April.

"Others are doing less well," the president said. "It will probably unfortunately get worse before it gets better."

He said there had been a "a concerning rise in (virus) cases in many parts of our South."

Trump urged Americans to wear facemasks to help prevent the spread of the highly contagious virus which has left more than 141,000 people dead in the United States.

"We are asking everybody that when you are not able to socially distance, wear a mask," he said.

"Whether you like the mask or not, they have an impact. They will have an effect and we need everything we can get." Trump said the goal is "not merely to manage the pandemic but to end it." "The vaccines are coming and they're coming a lot sooner than anyone thought possible," he said. —AFP

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Mr. M. Nawaz Naib Tehsildar Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Safdar etc V-S Asjid etc Suite for Divide property agriculture Application.

The name of M. Amjad S/O Atta Muhammad Resident of Chak No.250 GB Toba Tek Singh Present Resident UK. You are deliberately avoiding receiving the summons in this case and are escaped. Therefore this ad is being issued for you. If you would not appear on 29-07-2020 at 8:00 am in the court then the processing would be done one sided and after that no excuse or objection would be accepted. This ad is being issued with the stamp and sign of this court. Issued dated: 22-07-2020

Switzerland expands COVID-19 quarantine watchlist

ZURICH: Switzerland has expanded to 42 the number of territories on its watchlist of coronavirus hot spots, new arrivals from which must enter a ten-day quarantine, health authorities said.

New entries as of Thursday include Bosnia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mexico, Montenegro, the Palestinian territories, Suriname and the United Arab Emirates.

The authorities removed Belarus and Sweden from the list.

Since July 6 people entering Switzerland from a country with an increased risk of infection have been legally mandated to go into quarantine or face a 10,000



Swiss franc (US\$10,724) fine.

Swiss health authorities have reported more than 33,800 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and nearly 1,700 deaths from the respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Switzerland last month phased out most of the restrictions it imposed to contain the spread of the virus, declaring the country better equipped to handle any

fresh flare-ups.

New cases have dwindled to dozens a day, allowing schools, shops and borders with fellow members of the Schengen passport-free travel zone to reopen as life returns to near-normal. Passengers on public transport however still have to don facemasks.

Our comprehensive coverage of the coronavirus outbreak and its developments. —AFP