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Posted as language officers, teachers fume

Decision to affect academics, govt must make fresh recruitment, demands union

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FARIDKOT, NOVEMBER 21

The state government's move of deputing language officers in 15 districts has deprived about 2,000 school students of their Punjabi language teachers.

In its move to implement the State Language Act, the state government last week had announced to depute 15 district language officers (DLOs). However, instead of making new recruitment, the Higher Education and Languages Department has chosen 15 Punjabi teachers from 10 districts and issued orders to post them as DLOs on deputation. Among these 15 teachers, ordered to be posted on deputation as DLOs, three are from Faridkot, two from Fazilka, Bathinda, and Patiala (each), and one each from Mansa, Kapurthala, Moga, Ferozepur, Mohali and



The government has posted 15 Punjabi teachers from 10 districts as language officers. FILE PHOTO

Ludhiana districts.

While the School Education Department has issued directions to the District Education Officers (DEOs) to relieve these teachers from their present post of lecturers in the Government Senior Secondary Schools for their posting as DLOs, some of these teachers are reluctant to join at faraway places.

"At a time when the annual examinations are approaching, depriving students of their subject teacher seems to be illogical. It would have been better if the government made direct recruitment on these posts or made some alternative arrangement in case of deputation of teachers," said Surinder Kumar Puari, state president,

Government School Teachers' Union, Punjab.

The DLO posts had been lying vacant for the past about 25 years. The last recruitment was carried out in 1996. Since then, the vacancies kept cropping up upon retirements but were not filled in the department that came into existence on January 1, 1948.

ILLOGICAL MOVE

At a time when the annual examinations are approaching, depriving students of their subject teacher seems to be illogical. The government could have made direct recruitment on these posts. Surinder Kumar Puari, HEAD, GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TEACHERS' UNION

In 2008, the Punjab Government had also enacted the Punjabi Language Act to ensure the mandatory teaching of Punjabi from Class 1 onwards in all schools of the state. The Language Department was established to promote Punjabi in the state to ensure all official works were done in Punjabi in all government offices.

Nigerian student ends life at varsity hostel

AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 21

A Nigerian national studying at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) allegedly died by suicide in his hostel room on Saturday. The incident came to light when his friends informed about it to the authorities last evening.

The police took the body of the deceased into custody and started inquest proceedings. Alex (25) was a student of computer science at Baba Buddha Sahib Bhawan at the GNDU complex. He allegedly ended his life by hanging with a ceiling fan.

Sub-Inspector Gurmeet Singh said no suicide note was found from the hostel room. The victim's friends expressed ignorance on why he took the extreme step. Gurmeet Singh said the Nigerian Embassy was informed about the incident and further action would be taken once his family members arrive here. —TNS

Coaching centre head held in fake degree case

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ABOHAR, NOVEMBER 21

The Rajasthan Police arrested Amar Setia (30), a resident of Riddhi Siddhi Enclave, in connection with a fake degree scam, which was reported seven months ago.

The accused had been running a distance learning centre on the Abohar-Hanumangarh road. Dr Hanuwant Singh Rajpurohit, incharge, Rajnagar police station, said Setia reportedly admitted during preliminary investigation that he had arranged fake degrees (BA, BCom, DCA and BCA) for 60

Forged marksheets for 60 persons: Police

garh district.

Khungar, who allegedly got a government job in 2018 in the Education Department in Jhunjhunu district by using the fake degree, was arrested last week and facilitator Pradeep Saharan was arrested on November 19. Dr Rajpurohit said Saharan had been running a coaching centre in Hanumangarh from 2010 to 2013. He revealed during interrogation that Jodha and his wife Sunita Bhatti had

Councillor's husband booked on graft charge

FATEHGARH SAHIB, NOVEMBER 21

The Mandi Gobindgarh Police have registered a case against Rajiv Verma, husband of a local councillor, under Section 7A of the Prevention of Corruption Act on the complaint of Tarandeep Singh, a resident of Dalip Nagar area. An inquiry was conducted by the Vigilance Department while further investigation has been marked to the Amlah DSP.

Tarandeep Singh alleged a year ago, a police case related to a quarrel was registered against him at the Mandi Gobindgarh police station but he obtained anticipatory bail from the High Court. He

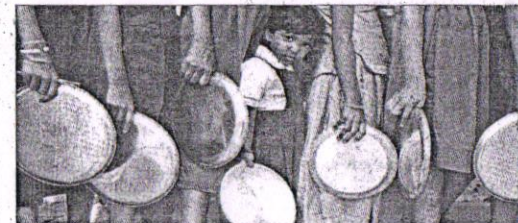
Finally, govt releases ₹54 cr for mid-day meal scheme

Cooking had been suspended due to mounting dues

FARIDKOT, NOVEMBER 21

After 20 days of suspension of mid-day meals in most of the government and government-aided schools, the state government has released about Rs 54 crore as cooking cost to 19,700 schools.

The schools get cooking cost at the rate of Rs 4.97 per student for primary classes and Rs 7.45 for upper primary classes per student from the state government. The cooking cost under the scheme involves purchase of cooking oil, pulses, vegeta-



WORKERS PROTEST IN MORINDA

- Morinda: Demanding an increase in their wages, mid-day meal workers staged a protest on Sunday
- The protesters said they were paid a mere ₹2,220 per