



PROGRAMMANUS

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Alanna Leslie: Measles is one of those diseases that's become so rare in some countries that it's easy to just stop worrying about it. So why is it coming back? There's been a big outbreak in New Zealand and we're going to hear what's causing it. I'm Alana Leslie from London, and it's time for me to bring you Newsreel World, news from English-speaking countries all over the world.

Hong Kong

Alanna Leslie: But first, increasingly dangerous protests across Hong Kong. Hong Kong is a region within China with its own economic and political system. China is pushing for Hong Kong to become more integrated into their political system. But many locals worry that this will mean losing their democratic freedoms. To make protesting harder, the government have banned wearing masks that might hide people's identity. It's also becoming harder to stay anonymous online due to a practice called doxing. To tell us more. George Chan reports from Hong Kong.

George Chan: Since June, there have been a series of massive protests here on the streets of Hong Kong. The protests were initially triggered by a controversial government bill that will allow Hong Kong to extradite prisoners to mainland China. That bill has since been ditched, but the unrest has not stopped as protesters are now pushing for further demands, including the right to choose their own leader. There have been almost weekly violent clashes between demonstrators and police, leading to around 1,750 arrests and numerous injuries on both sides. But there's also been an online battle going on. Trolling misinformation and doxing on an unprecedented scale.

Sida Wong: The definition of doxing is er, which is, finding out personal information on a person and sharing it.

George Chan: Sida Wong is a young Chinese journalist who was covering the first month of the protests.

Sida Wong: When I find out my personal data be exposed on a few weeks ago on the internet, at that time I'm extremely scared and I afraid my personal data being exposed in everywhere. My safety and my family's safety and also my future action of protesting will be deterred. Police or some criminal enforcing some settlement on you which make you cannot go out to the street easily next time. So I think doxing is extremely serious damage to the protestor.



George Chan: The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data in Hong Kong has mounted an investigation after receiving complaints, but it is difficult to find the source or do much to stop the practice; which has become very part of the battle on both sides of these protests.

Ghana

Alanna Leslie: Now Ghana...What's your favourite kind of chocolate? Mine is white chocolate, although I tried to eat dark chocolate more often because it's healthier, it has more cocoa in it; you get the gist. But in our lifetime, chocolate could be extinct. No more. Gone. Ghana in West Africa is one of the world's top cocoa producers. From Accra, Ghana's capital city, Fifi Anaman has this report.

Fifi Anaman: 2019 marks the one hundred and fortieth year since the arrival of cocoa beans in Ghana. Cocoa has, over the years, grown to become a major cultural identity and economic force. But all of these benefits could be under threat. A recent Business Insider report said that cocoa seeds, the raw material behind chocolate production worldwide, could become extinct by the year 2050 due to the effects of climate change and disease.

Also, the rise in rates of global chocolate consumption is mounting pressure on countries like Ghana, now the world's second largest cocoa producer; to meet demands. So, what are solutions to the potential crisis? Earlier this year, a non-profit coalition of farmers called "A Fresh Look" begun advocating for the genetic modification of cocoa beans. The argument is that this would make the seeds drought and disease resistant while increasing crop yield. But this option could be problematic. Genetically modified foods have courted controversy and provoked opposition from environmentalists and consumers alike. Most young Ghanaians seem pessimistic about this way out.

Aniela: Prior to knowing that it has been genetically modified, I wouldn't know. So I'll just think that it's been, is regular cocoa beans chocolate. But then no, because if I had known before eating the chocolate, I'd have some primary concerns. If genetically modified cocoa has an impact on my health, then surely I should not be eating that. But if it has no clear adverse effects, I'm not sure that I would mind as much.

Terry: I think the answer is no, this is because I don't really know the ins and outs of the genetically made cocoa, so I can't risk my life like that. I don't know what er, scientifically they were doing, if there was a problem or something. I just have to go with the natural ones.

Mavis: Why not? We already have veggies [*vegetables*] that are being produced through that means already. And if I should get a lot of education about it, if there are side effects or not, yeah that will help.

Fifi Anaman: Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley have downplayed the fears of cocoa extinction. But while the debate about the future of the crop rages on, the general hope that cocoa continues to thrive as it churns out products enjoyed by millions worldwide.



Uganda

Alanna Leslie: Do you get on well with your older or younger sibling? It can be tough! But for Esther and Ezekiel Mutesasira from Uganda, they must do, because they sang their way to the final of a new TV show that airs across East Africa; East Africa's Got Talent. The prize for winning is fifty thousand U.S. dollars, so there were acts from all over East Africa competing to win it: including dancers, comedians, musicians and singers. Esther is 14 and her brother Ezekiel is 11; together they sang "when you believe" by Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey in the final. And...

Anne Kansime: The winner of East Africa's Got Talent 2019 is... Esther and Ezekiel!

Alanna Leslie: They won!

New Zealand

AL: Now, New Zealand... For a long time, measles was well-known as a horrendous disease that we didn't know how to treat. Millions of people would get it all over the world and many people died. But in the 1960s, a vaccine was introduced, and today, millions of children get vaccinated for measles every year. Over time, especially in wealthier countries, enough people were getting the vaccine, so it effectively died out in many places in the world. But now, in lots of countries, measles is coming back. Since the start of this year, New Zealand has seen over a thousand people become affected. And it's also already spread to Australia and the US. Let's go to New Zealand now to hear more...

Meriana Johnsen: Authorities in New Zealand are continuing to tackle the ongoing outbreak of measles across the country. Although most of those who catch the illness recover, it can lead to serious health complications. With over 1000 cases being reported in the city of Auckland alone, health officials are encouraging everyone aged 12 months and over to get vaccinated. Health experts in New Zealand and abroad are blaming the spread of measles on a drop in the number of people being vaccinated. In New Zealand, health officials are concerned that the spread of misinformation on social media, from so-called anti-vaxxers, has led to parents choosing not to vaccinate their children.

Dad in New Zealand: To be frank, people make all sorts of bad decisions about their children. And although that seems a profoundly bad decision, it's one that they're able to make. Well, it seems against the science and it seems a wrong decision about their children. But none of us, I wouldn't have thought, would want to see a position where medical treatment or medical approaches are forced on people.

Mum in New Zealand: With the amount of misinformation that's been around, possibly there needs to be a little bit more intervention from the government. But that could be better education and really limiting some harmful groups views. And then the other thing that be really great is just helping people who can't get to the doctor easily. So, making it as cheap and as free and as accessible as possible. And even rewards possibly for some people in really difficult areas like supermarket vouchers or petrol vouchers or whatever's appropriate, they could choose. I think that would be really great, I'd support that wholeheartedly.

Alanna Leslie: That's it for today. I'm Alana Leslie, let's catch up soon.