



NEWSREEL WORLD

2021-02-06

Programmanus

av Alanna Leslie

ALANNA LESLIE: Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie, and welcome to the first Newsreel World of 2021.

Today, we're heading to India, Liberia and Scotland.

The coronavirus pandemic has affected every facet of life and elite sport has not been impervious.

Many sports have managed to adapt, including the Australian Open.

But making the event function amidst the pandemic has caused tensions between tennis fans, players and the Australian public, as Olivia Rosenman reports.

Olivia: The Australian Open is one of the most important events on the global tennis calendar.

Taking place in January and February each year, it's the first of four annual Grand Slam tournaments.

Covid-19 has dramatically changed this year's Australian Open.

While the Australian Government is currently enforcing 14 days of hotel quarantine for all international arrivals, the tennis players were allowed a special dispensation; the ability to leave their rooms for five hours a day to train.

Jess Tran, a high-school student, can understand why the government has allowed some tennis players quarantine exemptions.

Jess Tran: "I don't think it's that unsettling that tennis players have special rules in regards to the activities because it is their livelihood and they've trained really hard for the opportunities that they've achieved."



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Olivia Rosenman: But when three of the flights were found to have been carrying passengers with Covid, everyone on those planes was required to enter a full quarantine, locked into their hotel room for 14 days.

Many of these players took to social media to voice their dissatisfaction. Novak Djokovic, the world number one player, wrote a list of demands including that the players be moved from hotels to private houses with tennis courts and better food.

But they didn't get a lot of sympathy from Melburnians who themselves endured 112 days of a severe lockdown last year.

For Jess Tran that time had a deep impact.

Jess Tran: "The Melbourne lockdown was a really strange and very anxiety-driven period because it was so jarring to suddenly change your whole routine as a community."

Olivia: Tom Jordan found it to be extremely isolating.

Tom Jordan: "The Melbourne lockdown for me personally was pretty rough. Not being able to go out and see your friends and, you know, having a curfew for a period was quite difficult and I can totally see why there was a huge backlash against the tennis players."

Olivia: Tom is not the only one who thinks the tennis players don't have any right to complain. James Parkinson thinks no one should get special treatment when it comes to health and safety.

James Parkinson: "Players making demands and wanting to be treated differently, I think that's nonsense. I think they should follow the guidelines and do what they're told, for everyone's health and safety."

Olivia: Jess thinks their complaints are completely out of line.



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Jess Tran: “The complaining by some of the players is honestly extremely childish in their behaviour. Because it seems like they have no regard for people involved in the community and Melburnians as a whole and it ruins the reputations for a lot of tennis players because it makes them seem really ignorant and ungrateful.”

Olivia: But James thinks it’s possible to do it safely.

James: “When you look at the precedent of the NBA and the bubble they had in Florida last year, I think that shows that major sporting events can be held safely and effectively.

If everyone does the right thing, then the Australian Open can be held in the right way, and can be a safe event, and give us a little bit of something to look forward to.

Olivia: This is Olivia Rosenman reporting for Newsreel World in Australia.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks, Olivia.

ALANNA LESLIE: In India, a new political party is promising to pay people for household chores that currently count as unpaid labour.

This new party is called Makkal Needhi Maiam and was founded by Indian movie star Kamal Hasaan.

India has around 160 million people whose role within their family is to look after the home, doing things like cleaning, cooking and managing family finances.

And the majority of people doing this unpaid domestic labour are women.

For example, four-fifths of women are said to be engaged in some level of unpaid chores in India, compared to only a quarter of men.



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ALANNA LESLIE: A Ugandan court has ordered the military and police to leave the home of Uganda's opposition leader, Bobi Wine.

Ballot or Bullet by Bobi Wine and Buju Banton

ALANNA LESLIE: Before entering politics, Wine was a famous musician and he uses his music to communicate his message.

Wine has been under house arrest since the end of Uganda's recent election for claiming the election results were rigged in favour of his rival, President Yoweri Museveni.

But the High Court in Uganda has ordered the security forces to leave Wine's house and let him be free.

Uganda's Electoral Commission have claimed the election vote was peaceful and lawful, but the EU, the United Nations and several human rights groups have raised concerns after dozens of people were killed during the campaign.

ALANNA LESLIE: Palm oil is found in everything from processed food to makeup.

A decade ago, the industrial palm oil industry promised to be a major source of income, jobs and prosperity for the people of Liberia, as foreign investors flocked in to set up plantations.

But people are asking whether encouraging the development of smaller businesses might be a better way of strengthening Liberia's struggling economy, as well as being better to protect the environment.

From Liberia, Hariette Gaye reports.



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HARIETTE: Compare these sounds of an unspoilt rainforest....

...to the stillness of an oil palm plantation.

Environmental activists and consumers around the world are worried about the negative impact of palm oil as tropical forests are cleared to make way for plantations.

But Liberia also has wild palm trees which produce oil that is harvested by local farmers and used in food and local beauty products. We met the founder of a socially conscious Liberian business dealing in palm oil.

MAHMUD: Hi, my name's Mahmud Johnson and I'm the founder of J-Palm Liberia.

HARIETTE: His company buys palm oil from farmers and makes skincare products using oil extracted from palm kernels.

MAHMUD: I had grown up in Liberia and seen the war and seen all the devastation that had happened. So when I graduated from college I was thinking about how to be part of this reconstruction effort.

HARIETTE: He's providing farmers with milling machines that will enable them to produce more oil from the palm fruits, faster.

MAHMUD: This new model is going to be a lot more sustainable than the standard industry in several ways. Number 1: there's no external input into this; there's no fertiliser that is being used, no pesticides or anything like that. This is pure, hundred percent organic, natural palm oil. Number 2: if you think about sustainability also in terms of the socio-economic side of it, all of the money goes directly into the hands of smallholder farmers.

HARIETTE: So how do young Liberians feel about running their own businesses instead of being employed by big companies like industrial palm oil producers?

GRACE: I would prefer to work for big companies, especially international ones. They would expose me to the outside world; how people do things outside.

HARIETTE: The volumes of palm oil produced by J-Palm's farmers are just a drop in the ocean of the total global supply. But Mahmud is showing that there are small-scale alternatives to plantation-grown oil that are better for both the environment and local economies.



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This is Hariette Gaye in Monrovia, Liberia reporting for Newsreel World.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks, Hariette.

THE WELLERMAN

ALANNA LESLIE: That's "The Wellerman" being sung by Scotsman Nathan Evans.

Nathan works as a postman in the town of Airdrie in Scotland.

Back in July last year, Nathan uploaded a video to TikTok of him singing a sea shanty and it kicked off the genre becoming hugely popular, with sea shanty videos having more than 70 million views on TikTok alone.

Many sea shanties are centuries old, and they were sung by sailors as they carried out work tasks on ships such as hoisting sails.

Speaking to the BBC, Nathan explains why he thinks they've become so popular:

Nathan Evans: "So I think it's the fact that it gets everybody involved. Everybody can join in. You don't need to necessarily be able to sing to be able to join in; anybody can join in with a shanty. The words are simple and it's just a beat and then the voices. So I think, I think it's a bit of everything."

ALANNA LESLIE: That's all from me today. Speak to you soon, bye!