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Programmanus av Artemis Irvine

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

Today we're talking about New Zealand, Kenya and the USA

ALANNA LESLIE: But first...

Protests are taking place in Jamaica in response to the murder of the social media influencer Aneka Townsend.

It comes amid concerns that femicide – which is the murder of women and girls as a result of their gender – is on the rise on the Caribbean island.

Ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women later this month, Giovanni Dennis has this report.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

A song about the afterlife by Reggae singer Gramps Morgan.

This was late October at a vigil in Kingston Jamaica for social media influencer, Aneka 'Slickianna' Townsend. Her body was found floating at sea 3 days prior, in what is widely believed to have been an act of intimate partner violence. Police have arrested the man she went to visit.

Sheena was a close friend of Aneka.

SHEENA:

I've always been concerned about it but now that it has hit home, it's like a real eye opener for me.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

How so?

SHEENA:

Because it shows that you're not really safe with our men and you can't really trust anybody.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

Data from the Caribbean Policy Research institute reveal more than 1 in 4 Jamaican women now experience intimate partner violence. In the last 2 months alone there has been a spike.

PROFESSOR OPAL PALMER ADISA:

You know, it's very bad. And it's not just the last two months. If we look at the data prior to COVID, it has gotten worse. It has been exacerbated by COVID.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

Professor Opal Palmer Adisa is a gender expert and the outgoing director of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies.

PROFESSOR OPAL PALMER ADISA:

So we have one of the highest murder rates in the world, and obviously some of that spills over. We are not a people known to be able to do conflict resolution, and I think we are also a very aggressive society just by nature. And also, I think because of our history, because we have had to fight so hard to be free. And now that we are independent, I don't think we have pulled back and done some healing.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

For youth leader Amelia, women don't feel safe and not enough is being done.

AMELIA:

When stuff happened, femicide, for example, we shed light on it for a day, and then by the next day, it's like nothing happened. So in the moment we show up for it. And then after that, it's nothing again, until the next case.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

There are similar concerns in Iran, where a 22-year-old woman died in police custody in September after being arrested for not properly wearing her hijab.

PROFESSOR OPAL PALMER ADISA:

Because of patriarchal dictates and because that woman's body have been police and women have been seen, or deemed, to be subservient to men, in a lot of societies like Iran and other societies where women have very little say in terms of their autonomy, in terms of how they can go out, there is a lot of intimate partner violence and a lot of domestic violence in those societies as well.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

It has sparked violent protests and widespread condemnation. It comes just weeks before the November 25 observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It's also the beginning of the annual Global 16 Days campaign, an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from November 25 to December 10, Human Rights Day. Professor Palmer Adisa now works with UN Women and the European Union on the Spotlight Initiative to bring attention to violence against women year-round as she believes 16 days are insufficient.

PROFESSOR OPAL PALMER ADISA:

This can't be a one-day thing. It has to be year-round. And I believe the only way you effect long lasting change is through the education system. You have to teach the young boys and girls how to respect and love each other.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

For women in Jamaica, this cannot happen soon enough. Sheena believes government can do better.

SHEENA:

I think more drastic penalty towards them. I think a lot more can be done protecting our women and children.

GIOVANNI DENNIS:

Reporting for Newsreel World from Kingston, Jamaica, I am Giovanni Denis.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Giovanni

ALANNA LESLIE:

The new CEO of Twitter Elon Musk has announced the website will charge verified users \$8 a month to keep their blue tick.

The billionaire businessman, who is the richest person on the planet, described the move as "Power to the people!" and said the old method of blue tick verification was a "lords and peasants' system".

But critics say the blue ticks are an important way of verifying reliable sources – such as academic researchers, journalists and experts – in an age of misinformation.

ALANNA LESLIE:

The government of New Zealand is proposing a tax on cow and sheep burps in a bid to reduce the country's agricultural carbon emissions.

Methane is the gas produced by livestock when they burp or fart and is a significant contributor to global warming worldwide – but New Zealand is the first country to suggest charging farmers for the amount they produce.

Farmers who take action to reduce their emissions by, for example, giving their animals special methane-suppressing feed, will be rewarded by the government.

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

ALANNA LESLIE: That was a short clip of 'Friday Fever' by Hong Kong artist Lagchun.

It's an example of city pop, a Western-influenced genre of music that started in Japan in the 1970s and 80s and is characterised by the use of jazz and R&B, said to have an "urban" feel.

Lagchun, who sings in a combination of English and Cantonese, describes his sound as "unapologetically 80s, with modern influences".

ALANNA LESLIE:

Women's football is on the rise in Kenya despite the country's football administration being in crisis.

The Kenyan national women's team were forced to withdraw from a major international match against Uganda earlier this year after it emerged that the country's federation was to be banned.

Michael Kaloki spoke to young female footballers in Nairobi to find out more.

SUZANNE ANIVA:

My name is Suzanne Aniva I play in defence. The challenges I feel as a woman in football is lack of support from the government, easily speaking, lack of football equipment, jerseys, balls, all that.

MADINA ABUDAKAR HUSSEIN:

My name is Medina Abubakar Hussein. I'm a midfielder, defensive midfielder, I'm 19 years old. I like football because it has been helping me a lot since I was a kid. I don't know what I would do without it. I want it to take me places not only to play for Kenya, but also to play for other teams.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

Looking at the sports scene in Kenya, it seems that women's football is on the rise. Now, when I was a young lad in primary school, football wasn't on our radar. But things have changed drastically since then.

CATHERINE ARINGO:

My name is Catherine Aringo, and I love playing football because first it's a God-given talent to me and also, it's helped me, there's free scholarships. I finished my school with a free scholarship.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

Just last year, the Kenyan Football Federation came up with a major plan to promote women's football around the country. But the results of this plan are yet to be seen.

The Federation was disbanded by the government last year for alleged misappropriation of funds, but FIFA disagreed with the government's interference and since February have banned Kenya from taking part in any international tournaments.

Despite the disruption to the country's football governance, it seems that women's football has been garnering interest. 21-year-old Kenyan Sauda Abbas made the headlines recently for her footballing prowess, and she's been invited to trial for a French team.

Gentrix Murunda is a coach at the Uweza Foundation, a football academy for boys and girls based in Nairobi. She told me that before she started coaching, there were few women teams, but this has since changed.

GENTRIX MURANDA:

Before, there were less teams compared to today. Today there are a lot of teams, women's teams, and competition is very high. In our community, it was a taboo for a lady or a girl to play football. They regarded this as a men's talent.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

However, Gentrix says that her community's perception, like many others in the country, has changed, and they now regard her role as a football coach with pride.

GENTRIX MURANDA:

Whenever I go back to my community, even my name change, they can call me a name, they call me "coach, coach!" I think they are proud of me.

MICHAEL KALOKI:

So it seems that if their interest in the sport continues and things are managed properly, we just might see a continued rise of women's football in Kenya.

For Newsreel World, this is Michael Kaloki.

ALANNA LESLIE: Thanks Michael.

That's all from me today, speak to you soon, bye!