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Programmanus av Will Yates

ALANNA LESLIE:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to a new series of Newsreel World.

Today we're dropping in on India, Australia and South Africa.

But first...

People in Nigeria are gearing up for a general election later this month.

Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa. Over 90 million people are registered to vote – and just under 40 percent of those voters are aged between 18 and 34. So the youth vote is expected to have a big say in the results.

John Iwodi has this report from the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

JOHN: In Nigeria, it's only a few weeks to the 2023 presidential elections and millions of young Nigerians are ready to vote.

Fola: My name is Fola.

Rock: My name is Rock.

Sonny: My name is Sonny Matthews.

JOHN: There are a lot of issues that are critical to Nigeria right now, like security, economy, education, healthcare.

Fola: So, I think security is just one of those, is one of the most paramount things.

Rock: The most important for me I can say is insecurity.

Sonny: You know they have to tackle the issue of unemployment. The obvious side where people are gainfully employed no one would be thinking about these negative vices.



JOHN: There are nearly 20 candidates running for president and each one has their own views on how they will run the country and tackle some of these issues.

What do you think about our presidential candidates?

Rock: For me as a youth of this country, I believe in people who are ready to develop this country.

Sonny: They are all ok but if you ask me as a young person who I would vote for I think I would go for Peter Obi. And it has nothing to do with tribe, it has nothing to do with religion. Basically, it has to do with competence.

JOHN: The youths are ready to vote but the question is: will their vote matter? To find out, I spoke to political expert Nabilah Usman.

Nabilah: Do the youths have the numbers? Perhaps, but it does depend on the extent to which they will come out and how exactly will they vote. The 2019 voter register had a youth population of over 42 million people and that was about 51 percent of the total registered voters. And when you look at the number of people who came out to vote, less than 28 million actually voted in the 2019 elections and that already tells you that there's a significantly less number of people going out to vote. It means that the youth population is not necessarily carrying as much sway as you would think that it is.

JOHN: According to our political expert, youths in urban areas are saying they want change, they want a different government that focuses on development. But will youths in the urban areas come out to vote or will they be easily distracted?

There is speculation by one of the opposition parties that the new season of the reality show *Big Brother Naija* is sponsored by a leading party to distract young voters. *Big Brother Naija* is the number one reality competition television show in Africa and has an average audience of over 300 million viewers across Africa. I asked the young Nigerians I met if they think *Big Brother Naija* will be a distraction from voting.



Sonny: I don't think it will be a major factor – considering the fact that a lot of Nigerians are tired with what's going on right now – they want to vote.

Rock: As for me as a youth, I'd advise the youth – look at our future.

I'm John Iwodi reporting from Abuja, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

Alanna: Thanks John.

The multi-billionaire Bill Gates has invested money in an Australian start-up company that's working on ways to reduce methane emissions of cow burps.

Methane is the most common greenhouse gas after carbon dioxide.

The co-founder of Microsoft has been very critical in the past about the environmental impact of meat production.

He's now backing the Perth-based company Rumin8 which is developing food supplements which they say limits the amount of methane in cow burps.

Their products are based on scientific studies which show that cows fed on seaweed produce less methane when they burp.

One of the first women referees to officiate at the Men's World Cup has been physically threatened by fans at a football match in Rwanda.

The Rwandan football authorities have launched an investigation after Salima Mukansanga was continually called a prostitute and threatened with violence during a game between Kiyovu Sport and Gasogi United in January.

Salima was recently named one of the most influential and inspiring women in the world in the BBC's 100 Women of 2022. And in Qatar in November, she was part of the first team of three female referees to ever officiate a male world cup game.



That's a quick snippet of the Ndlovu Youth Choir performing *We Will Rise* at a special All-Star edition of the US TV show *America's Got Talent*.

The choir are from a remote area of Limpopo in South Africa. They were formed by a local childcare community group in 2009 and were finalists in series 14 of *America's Got Talent*.

They were invited back on the show last month, where one of the judges, Howie Mandel, described them as "his favourite choir that has ever been on the programme".

Alanna:

The Indian music industry has been dominated for decades by Bollywood, the Hindi film industry which produces the vast majority of Indian movies.

But now, the country's music scene is witnessing a revolution. Independent musicians, also known as indie artists, are breaking away from the traditional music industry and making a name for themselves.

Here's Ayushi Shah to tell us more.

AYUSHI: Indie artists are typically not signed to a major label and instead release their music through distribution services or aggregators and small record labels.

Kanishk Seth is an indie musician whose music is primarily electronic.

So, Kanishk, how has the music industry changed for indie artists like you?

KANISHK: Definitely because of Instagram reels and, you know, digital platforms like YouTube and everything else. You know, it really helped us reach a lot of, you know, listeners. And even because of Spotify. Spotify kind of stood out for independent artists because they were also promoting independent artists, as you know. Like you could see them making posts on Instagram and, you know, they're so that's why everybody was more excited about, you know, you know, Spotify sharing something.



Ayushi: The proof is in the numbers. Independent artists have gained a massive following in the country over the last few years.

Today, Indie artist Anuv Jain has 4 million plus monthly listeners on Spotify and singer-songwriter Prateek Kuhad has more than 3 million monthly listeners.

It's not just streaming platforms; social media has also played an enormous role in this rise. I ask music journalist Vijayalakshmi Narayan about this.

Vijayalakshmi: *When a song blows up on Instagram reels, it definitely leads to immense discoverability and a rise in listenership for the artist. Because especially in a very diverse country like ours, where commercial music is still paramount and is still largely overwhelming and takes over a lot of the space, it definitely does wonders for Indian independent music to, you know, find its place, find its footing and get discovered and find new listeners.*

Ayushi: The rise of independent music in India is not only good news for the musicians, but also for fans of music. Vishruti Bindal loves the idea of exploring music that is beyond the mainstream.

Vishruti: *Indie music really represents a lot of current issues and and just it's a good reflection of what's happening in India right now. So, I really like listening to it, supporting it, and supporting a lot of communities through listening to their voices, through their music.*

Ayushi: With an increasing number of indie musicians making it big and gaining recognition, it's clear that the indie music scene in India is on the rise. It's an exciting time for music lovers, as there is a diverse range of new talent emerging.

This is Ayushi Shah reporting for Newsreel World from Mumbai in India.

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