

NEWSREEL WORLD

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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 the United States, India and Jamaica.

But first...

Tanzania is to ban the use of charcoal and firewood by 2025 in a bid to clean up the country's energy and improve public health.

Data produced by the Ministry of Energy last year showed that charcoal and firewood were having profoundly detrimental impacts on people's health, causing up to 33,000 deaths annually.

Children in particular are vulnerable to contracting respiratory diseases as a result of breathing in the fumes produced by the fuel when it's burnt.

Charles Kombe has this report from Pwani, Tanzania.

CHARLES KOMBE:

Burning charcoal and firewood for cooking and heating releases harmful pollutants such as carbon monoxide which can have serious health effects on both children and adults.

Young people are particularly vulnerable to these pollutants, as their bodies are still developing and they breathe more air per unit of body weight than adults do.

I met John Orio in the Pwani region, which is located a few kilometres from Dar es Salaam.

John is a Form Two student who lives at home. He shared that the use of charcoal and firewood for cooking is a challenge for him.

JOHN ORIO:

The use of firewood at home is causing me eye problems to the extent that sometimes I struggle to read properly due to the itching. My chest is also affected at times, and I cough a lot and get the flu. Looking at my family's situation and our living conditions at home, we don't have any other affordable options.



CHARLES KOMBE:

High gas prices in Tanzania have led to 90% of households using charcoal or firewood for cooking. This poses health risks and contributes to rapid deforestation in the country.

To address the health and environmental risks caused by the use of charcoal and firewood, the Tanzanian government plans to ban their usage, starting with public and private institutions. Seleman Jaffo is the minister for environment.

SELEMAN JAFFO:

I order all institutions that serve not less than 100 people to stop using firewood and charcoal by January 31, 2024, and those institutions serving 300 people will stop using the energy source on January 31, 2025. Instead, these institutions will be required to use clean and alternative energy for cooking purposes.

CHARLES KOMBE:

Environmental activists in Tanzania say more needs to be done to prominently eradicate the effects that these hazardous energies are causing to the people.

Venance Majula is an environmental activist.

VENANCE MAJULA:

The use of charcoal and firewood contributes to greenhouse gas emissions that have direct implications to the climate crisis that has proven to be a threat to humanity, especially to youth. The recent ban on charcoal and firewood for institutions in Tanzania is a very good start to save our environment but also to fight against the impacts of the changing climate.

CHARLES KOMBE:

In the meantime, the Tanzanian government's commitment to ending the use of charcoal and firewood marks a significant step towards promoting cleaner energy and safeguarding the health of its population, particularly the young who are most impacted by indoor air pollution.

Charles Kombe, Newsreel World, in Pwani, Tanzania.



ALANNA:

Thanks Charles

New York City has hired its first “Rat Tsar” to help control the city’s spiralling rodent population.

It’s often said that New York has as many rats as people – 8 million – but a recent study estimated the number to be more like 2 million – still enough for them to pose a health concern to the city’s residents.

The Tsar’s job advertisement said the City was looking for someone who is “highly motivated and somewhat bloodthirsty”, as well as having a “swashbuckling attitude, crafty humour, and general aura of badassery.”

ALANNA:

A Kenyan chess player has been caught cheating in a women’s tournament by dressing in a burka and spectacles and disguising himself as a girl.

Stanley Omondi registered himself as Millicent Awour and won several matches before organisers started to suspect him.

After he was caught Stanley told organisers he was “ready to accept all consequences”, but that he had done it for financial reasons, having been tempted by the tournament’s \$3,000 prize.

ALANNA:

That was a short clip of Machi Bhasad (Expect a Riot) by the Indian heavy metal band Bloodywood.

The group formed in 2016 and started off doing parodies and covers of Bollywood songs. Now, their blend of metal and traditional Indian music, in Hindi and English, is building a big fanbase around the world and they’re headlining festivals.

Raoul Kerr, the band’s rapper, has said “I think whether or not people know it, there’s a bit of metal in everyone.”

ALANNA:

For our final feature for this season of Newsreel World, I’m home in Kingston Jamaica and I’ve been to one of the most popular sporting events in our nation’s calendar – The ISSA Grace Kennedy Boys and Girls Championships, or, as it’s more commonly known, CHAMPS.



The five day tournament is Jamaica's biggest school athletics event and has often been where the island's most famous athletes – like Usain Bolt – have first come to prominence.

ALANNA:

That's the sound erupting from the stands at the National Stadium in Kingston Jamaica. Today is the final day of Champs, the spirits are high and celebrations are lively. I caught up with two of the athletes competing amongst hundreds of students here from various schools across the island.

RICELDO HUNTER:

Hi I'm Riceldo Hunter. I attend Kingston College and I participate in the 800m.

ALANNA:

Can you tell me a little bit about your training and preparation for CHAMPS?

RICELDO HUNTER:

Well, I started training back in August in the summer and now we're in, like, April. Basically we did, like, endurance work back in the summer, and then we hit, like, December, gym, and then when we're coming up the Championship we just start to unload, less gym, more endurance work and more lactic work also. On Saturdays we start, like, 7.30 and finish by 8 or 9.

ALANNA:

7.30am to 8pm?

RICELDO HUNTER:

Yes Miss.

ALANNA:

Wow! That's a long one.



TAVANE STEWART:

Alright, my name is Tavane Stewart, I attend the Herbert Morrison Technical High School and I'm 15 years old. For this year's Championship I was training for the 100m and 200m, Miss.

ALANNA:

Tell me a bit about what how it went for you this year at Champs.

TAVANE STEWART:

I think I've done pretty well; I've made the 100m finals, I came fourth. Didn't make the 200m finals because of personal things, injuries and things like that. But I think I could've done better if – if I didn't have a problem, I could've done better throughout this Championship.

So, injuries are going to come. That's why coaches, parents, all of them say you have to have the education. I do expect injuries and other things to come, I just got to be prepared for them and make sure I always have a back-up plan.

ALANNA:

Hubert Lawrence is considered to be the guru on Champs in Jamaica. He explained the role the event has played in the development of Jamaican track and field athletes over the last century.

HUBERT LAWRENCE:

A large percentage of the people who go on to become heroes and heroines for Jamaican track and field come through Championships. It's a test for the athlete, a test for the coaching staff, a test for the schools to get ready for an objective, which is what sporting life is like down the line.

Of course, what is more broadly available is that for the large body of the athletes who won't become Olympic champions and world champions, is that there was a chance to impress upon people to provide them with scholarships. And that's the big victory that sometimes gets underplayed in how we look at Champs.

It's part of the sporting machine in Jamaica where we graduate people, matriculate them, from early stages, right up to Champs. And so when they go to the Olympic Games, they already have been accustomed to competing in front of big crowds for something important. And I think that is a real fulcrum of the system.



ALANNA:

For some athletes, Champs has been a pathway to gaining recognition, educational scholarships and sponsorship. For the elite few it's served as an early training ground for future world record holders and if this year is anything to go by, it doesn't look like Jamaica's dominance in Track and Field will be slowing down anytime soon. Alanna Leslie, reporting for Newsreel World.

ALANNA:

That's all from me today. See you next season, bye!