thevillagernam www.thevillager.com.na Vol. 1 No. 103 | 26 November 2021

The Villager
wherever you are

MOTORING
PAGE 18



New variant may already be here - Shangula



■ Andrew Kathindi

The ministry of health and social services, Kalumbi Shangula, says that the B.1.1.529. which was this week discovered in South Africa, and Botswana may already be here in Namibia.

"As for Namibia, we are constantly monitoring variants through genome sequencing to find out what variants are circulating in Namibia. So far, we have identified the variant which is now circulating in South Africa and Botswana. Due to proximity to both countries, we cannot 100% exclude the possibility that it may also be in Namibia," he told The Villager.

Shangula was reacting to news that Namibia has been put on a red list along with Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Eswatini and Lesotho, banning travel to and from the UK.

Direct flights from the six countries will be banned from midday Friday until hotel quarantine is up and running from 04h00 Sunday 28 November.

The health minister said that although the decision by the UK seems unfair, it is their prerogative to take such a decision to protect their citizens.

"We have been doing very well in control measures and suppression of the transmission of infections. Each country takes a sovereign decision in how it protects its citizens. It's in that line that the UK has taken its decision."

"However, looking at the current situation in Namibia, I think to include Namibia in the list of countries where the virus has been identified, I would think it may not be fair, although it may be a precautionary

Continued on P2



FAREWELL... Friends of the widow of the late Honourable Ignatius Shixwameni, Louise Shixwameni (centre), walk with her before the commemoration at Rundu on Friday. Shixwameni collapsed and died on 10 November 2021 at the Parliament building in Windhoek. (Photo: MICT Kavango East)

Donate respiratory machine to parliament - Shixwameni's widow

■ Andrew Kathindi

The widow of the late Ignatius Shixwameni, Louise Shixwameni, says that she will donate a CPAP machine to parliament after her husband died of a heart attack in the parliament building on 10 November.

A continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine is a respiratory machine that sends a steady flow of oxygen into the nose and mouth when one is asleep to keep airways open and help breathe normally. It is also known to reduce the risk of heart attacks and stroke.

"I thought God has a reason for taking my husband and choosing where he must die. I, therefore, want to promise parliament today that I take it upon myself in honour of my husband to ensure that no member of parliament will die in the house," said

Continued on P2

Mahangu producers sleeping on the money

■ Nghiinomenwa Erastus

Namibian small-scale holders and households who produce mahangu are sleeping on the money, as only 5% of what they produce gets to be marketed.

This is despite a huge market for the grain in existence, locally and also abroad.

Mahangu is one of the subsistence crops grown in Namibia- and is the sixth important crop in the world after maize, rice, wheat, barley, and sorghum.

It is a staple food to more than 60% of the population and is a vital feedstock for cattle, goats, chickens, and baby food.

The Villager got in touch with the Agro-Marketing and Trade Agency (Amta), managing director, Lungameni Lucas, to update the mahangu market.

Lungameni explained that the small quantity of mahangu availed to the market by the small producers is not because of a lack of market to sell.

This is because most of the mahangu producers are producing for consumption, not necessary for the market.

"The formal market for mahangu is readily available, and in most cases, the market does not get sufficient quantities of mahangu from local producers and hence depends on imports," said Lungameni.

Therefore what gets in the formal market is the surplus.

The only 5% being marketed is the total available marketable surplus for the year from the producers.

The mahangu producers have options in the formal market to whom to sell, at Amta or to the millers, additionally to the informal market.

The total available capacity for government silos is 22,900 tons, of which 5,000 tons of silo capacity is allocated for mahangu storage at Okongo and Omuthiya.

On average, AMTA buys 1,200 tons of mahangu, representing 24% of the storage capacity of the silos allocated to mahangu.

Every year, there is a space of around 3 000 tons at the silos that can be filled with mahangu- if the farmers can increase their output for the crop.

AMTA took up 1 425,29 tons of mahangu, representing 39% of the locally purchased mahangu.

Millers took up the other 61%- that was the maximum available surplus marketed for the year.

Lungameni explained that the single biggest market for mahangu is the grain being sold to millers for further processing into flour.

"Hence, as far as the mahangu market is concerned, the market is currently not a problem but the availability of mahangu and producers' willingness to sell," he said.

Adding that millers and other buyers are willing to buy mahangu, but the grains are not available locally in the quantities to satisfy the market demand.

This also happens despite producers receiving a fair value in terms of producer prices that are paid to them, according to the Amta boss.

Lungameni advised the mahangu producers to consider the production of mahangu as a business and produce it commercially.

He said the government is committed to supporting local producers to ensure that their produces has access to the local market through the country market share promotion that involves closing the border when there is sufficient supply.

Lungameni also added that there is also a need for the commercial production of mahangu within Green Scheme irrigation projects and the commercial farming areas of the country.

He also indicated that youth participation in communal areas is key to taking over from the ageing communal farmers and ensuring sustainability.

Funding in the form of production loans for inputs or inputs subsidies, youth cooperative farming mechanisms, prior contracting of surplus producers are ways to incentivize the production of more mahangu.

While using hybrid cultivar (seed) to increase yield from the current average production of 350 kg/ha to at least 1,2 ton/ha production is recommended, advised Lungameni.

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na

Shangula

measure. But there should be some basis on which one can make an informed decision."

He argued that Namibia has the same rights, and the country had taken similar steps in the past, including when it instituted a no travel ban after the COVID-19 virus was first detected in March last year.

"Then, later on, we opened up. We said they must produce a PCR test. There is nothing really strange about it."

Chief executive officer of the Hospitality Association of Namibia (HAN) Gitta Paetzold said the decision by the UK was a huge shock for the local tourism industry, and it will have a negative effect on the whole of Southern Africa, including Namibia.

"It's a huge setback for our efforts towards tourism revival here in Namibia. At the moment, we're very shellshocked. We're very upset that these kinds of decisions are taken without full scientific evidence because it would seem as though not even the World Health Organization (WHO) has taken a decision yet or given guidelines."

Germany and Israel, among other countries, have since also joined the UK in adding South Africa to the travel ban list.

She says that the Namibian tourism sector is now at the mercy of Europe, despite low COVID-19 cases being reported locally.

"Tourism is very important for Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa for a country like the UK to decide, with their thousands of cases every day. South Africa has already proven that they're very good in terms of getting test results out because of the efficiency of the South African medical system. It's just that the virus was tested in South Africa. It doesn't mean it comes from there. It could very well have been imported from Hong Kong or even Europe."

She said that the sector was anticipating a very busy season, particularly between December and January.

"I heard that some tour operators had some really good bookings, twice as much as they used to have during this time of year. We do expect that we will find a lot of cancellations. Christmas is looking more than bleak this year."

Last year Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) CEO, Digu //Naobeb, said the board managed to generate N$17 million from levies between October 2019 and March 2020, compared to only N$3 million in levies from October 2020 to March 2021 at the height of the second wave in Namibia.

In September last year, the ministry of environment, tourism and forestry announced that the tourism sector recorded net cancellations of N$115.7 million.

Donate



Louise.

“I will donate a CPAP machine to parliament and will work with institutions to ensure that all parliamentarians are trained in first aid, and I commit to champion and advocate for first aid training in all institutions in Namibia.”

She made these remarks during the memorial service of her late husband held at the Trade Fair Centre in Rundu, Kavango East region.

She further said that she would be lobbying parliament to pass a law to make life-saving machines and first aid training available to all Namibians that want to take it.

“We need to help the government in ensuring that we value everyone's life.”

“My husband died in the presence of his fellow parliamentarians, who are also his friends and comrades. Two of the parliamentarians came to my home to tell me how sorry they were and how broken they were by witnessing his passing.”

“They were shattered, and they told me, ‘Meme, we are very sorry, we did not know what to do. None of us is trained on first aid, neither on resuscitating a heart’”

She said they did not know what to do, and there was no EID or CPAP machine in the parliamentary buildings.

Parliamentary spokesperson David Nahogandja said that there had been plans to set up a clinic for two years now, but it could not be implemented as there was no budget.

“We've been looking into it, the room already identified. Only that there are no resources like personnel and equipment to start operating.”

He said the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the whole thing.

“There are no nurses available to be seconded by the ministry of health.

Once you get a nurse, they will help us identify the material resources and machines we need, but the ministry should second them. The ministry is using all its nurses because of the pandemic. They even recalled retired,” he told The Villager.

“It's a matter of finding personnel resources plus material resources. Once it's found, the operation will be done.”

He said there are no timelines when this is likely to be done.

He also said he could not give figures on how much setting up the clinic would cost.

“We can't cost it because there’s no position for a nurse. The nurse has to be seconded. And at the moment, they don't have any resources.”

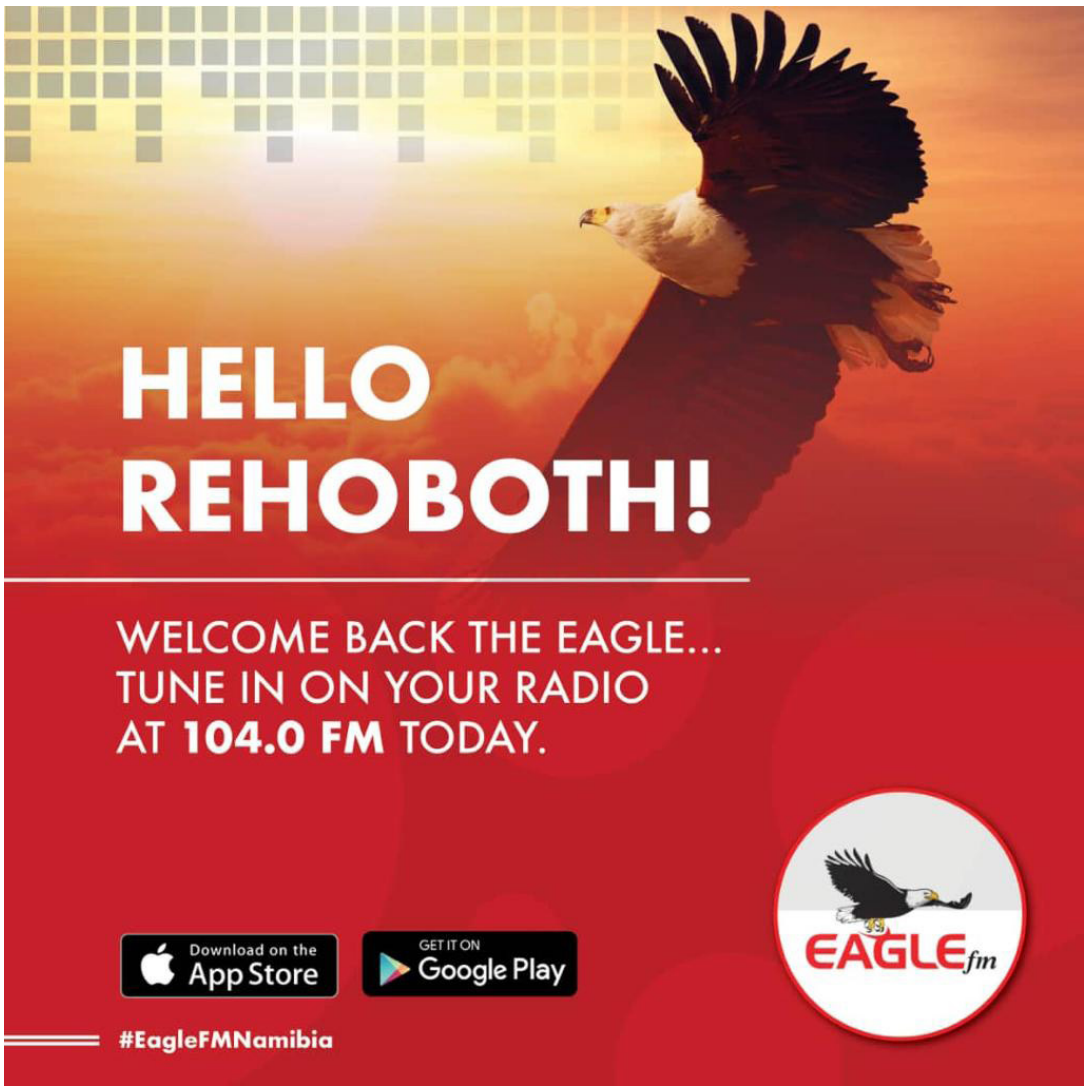
He said medical materials for parliament are currently not in the budget as we speak.

He said first aid training is, however, given a wellness committee that works with members of parliament.

“Committee clerks have been trained on first aid. We don't have the machines. Training has been given to those who work closely with the MPs.”

Shixwameni is buried on Saturday afternoon, 27 November, at Sarusungu cemetery in the Kavango East region.





Nam plans to decarbonise by 2026

■ **Nghiinomenwa Erastus**

Namibia pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by 91% over the next five years, the country made this significant pledge at the COP26 meeting last month.

The country plans to be industrialised in the next eight years, but it also intends to assist its small existing industry in adopting and utilising green energy in its operation.

According to Simonis Storm's latest analysis, despite the bold move to go green, Namibia only emits 0,04% of global (greenhouse gases (GHGs) and does not contribute significantly to climate change globally.

Simonis Storm also highlighted added that with minimal contribution to GHGs, they do not see an urgent need to decarbonise our economy.

However, added that "be it as it may, it remains virtuous to pursue a cleaner and more environmentally sustainable economy for Namibia".

The big issue highlighted by Simonis Storm is the funding gap the country faces to enable the transition to clean energy or environmentally friendly operations.

The country is already struggling to fund its national budget nor stimulate domestic induced growth through the fiscal policy- for this financial year, it needs around N$30 billion to meet its commitments to the Namibian people.

According to Simonis Storm's analysis, "Namibia faces a significant funding gap to raise the US $5,3 billion needed to meet its climate commitments according to the National Determined Contributions (NDC) over the next five years".

At the current exchange rate, that is N$84,1 billion needed in the next five years for a successful emission reduction.

Simonis Storm's analysis pointed that the funding will not entirely fall on the Namibia government as public funding from developed countries will play a catalytic role in supporting adaptation investments.

This funding typically takes the form of grants or loans with very low-interest rates.

As a climatic change vulnerable country, Namibia needs adaptation finance, the Simonis Storm'S researchers highlighted.

However, developed countries have been playing hide and seek on fulfilling their pledges- with the latest COP26 ended but no signature penned down on financial commitment rather just voluntary pledges from the bigger polluters and emitters.

Scientists argue that it is not sustainable for the world to enjoy material comfort based on societies and economies powered by coal, oil, and gas.

According to Simonis Storm's findings, the biggest emitters in Namibia are the agricultural sector, followed by energy emissions due to the rising demand for fuel.

The third is the industrial processes emissions which increased due to production of zinc and cement commencing in 2003 and 2011 respectively.

Namibiainitially had no obligation to reduce GHG emissions due to its low contribution.

However, following discussions in 2014, the government reviewed and updated policies and strategies to change Namibia's development agenda into a green (low carbon) economic trajectory.

Namibia emits just over 20 million tonnes per year, which is 0.04% f global emissions.

In implementing its bold pledge, the country and any other country can benefit from the steady decline in renewable energy equipment and technology costs.

Simonis Storm's analysis found that prices at global auctions for renewable installations decreased by 60% and 80% for wind and solar over the last decade, respectively.

On the other hand, wind and solar equipment prices have decreased by 33% and 88% in the last decade.

However, the country has started with its decarbonisation process with the hydrogen project, with the feasibility to be undertaken very soon in the southern side of the country.

Namibia announced its intention of pursuing green hydrogen as a growth strategy, integral to the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, in March 2021

The country Southern Corridor Development Initiative (SCDI) is the driving mind on the green hydrogen project include a portfolio of key complementary assets and infrastructure projects in the Karas region.

The portfolio includes renewable energy plants, green hydrogen ammonia assets, wind turbine blade manufacturing plant, railway, deep water port, mining hubs, green steel and fertiliser plants, and agricultural assets.

The Karas Region (southernmost region) has the lowest population density and has the greatest potential for renewable energy generation, which is crucial for implementing the project.

By August, a tender was announced, and by early November, the successful bidder was appointed.

The global community applauded Namibia and the SCDI for their urgency in pursuing the initiative and conducting a highly efficient and well-organised tender process.

Simonis Storm added that Namibia's renewable energy initiatives are likely to assist other countries in decarbonising, given the domestic economy's low global contribution to GHG emissions.

With renewable energy being exported to regional partners and green hydrogen exported to developed countries- the country is likely to be a key/strategic partner for other countries in reaching their decarbonisation targets.

The investment advisor and stockbroker firm highlighted that if successful, the envisaged projects will place Namibia in good stead on the international platform.

Simonis Storm, however, cautioned that that green hydrogen is seen as a major solution to Namibia's economic woes.

"While green hydrogen is receiving a significant amount of attention and focus, we do caution that long-standing challenges and growth impediments remain in place," the analysis stated.

Not just to improve the economic recovery from the lockdown-induced depression and to achieve sustainable long-term growth, "but especially if we want the green hydrogen project to be successful," says Simonis Storm.

Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na



FirstRand initiate Namibian talent development drive

■ **Nghiinomenwa Erastus**

Namibian graduates without work can now access internship/on the job training experience and professional mentorship through the newly launched FirstJob Internship Programme.

The FirstRand Namibia initiative was launched this week in line with the financial services group's purpose.

The group plan to invest more than N$3 million for the first year to offer space to gain experience and mentorship.

The broader Namibian talent development drive is aimed towards addressing the cries of the many jobless graduates who are being asked for job experience but have nothing.

The programme provides a year of meaningful experience and an on-the-job internship in their field of qualification.

The graduate programme will also focus on developing entrepreneurial skills for many of the first job participants.

FirstJob, a programme focused on kick-starting a career with a 12-month internship contract for unemployed graduates, focused on improving successful candidates' employability.

Throughout the programme, previously unemployed graduates will have an opportunity to build workplace confidence and competence through contributing their learning and perspectives to business objectives and deliverables within RMB and FNB Namibia.

FirstRand Namibia chief executive officer Conrad Dempsey highlighted that opportunities for young, qualified graduates are extremely limited, especially when companies keep turning them down if they don't have experience.

"Lack of opportunities for graduates in Namibia have negatively impacted lifelong earnings ability, economic growth, and social cohesion, and exacerbate an increasing pension and healthcare funding gap," he said.

Dempsey explained that FirstRand Namibia recognises its responsibility to deliver financial value and positive social outcomes for the country.

In all business fields, people are the single most important resource. Despite being a digital banking and financial services group, Dempsey said they are committed to offering real help where needed most.

FirstRand will pour in more than N$3 million over the next year to fully engage the final 20 participants in this first pilot year of existence.

Dempsey stated that FirstJob's success would be primarily dependent on the various divisions within the group's commitments of time, effort, engagement and programme management daily to ensure that the time spent with the group is useful, meaningful and relevant.

In a year, FirstRand aims to share their FirstJobbers, having come through the programme, highly sought-after value contributors to Namibia's growth trajectory, he added.

The presidential advisor on youth and enterprise development, Daisry Mathias, who was at the launch, applauded FirstRand Namibia on the work-integrated learning programme for graduates.

She said it was aligned to one of the numerous initiatives the Government was driven to absorb the many trained, talented and capable young people into the formal labour market.

"Government is also looking at curriculum reform and establishing a stronger partnership between industry and the institutions of higher learning, and we want on-demand training," Mathias updated.

She said that she was not focused on youth unemployment but rather on solutions.

"The solutions are better education, work-integrated learning and transition from training into labour. The solutions are enterprise development and job creation and entrepreneurship," said the advisor

Applications to form part of the first-year pilot intake of 20 Interns to the FirstJob Programme are open to all unemployed but degreed Namibians between 18 and 31.

They must be in the fields of study of Finance, Business, Process Engineering, Project Management, Data Sciences/ Applied Mathematics, Marketing, Political Sciences, Economics, Banking, Robotics, Law, and Compliance Risk Management.

Applications are open until 6 December 2021, to begin at either RMB, FNB Namibia, in January 2022, and the call for applications will be advertised on social media and traditional media.

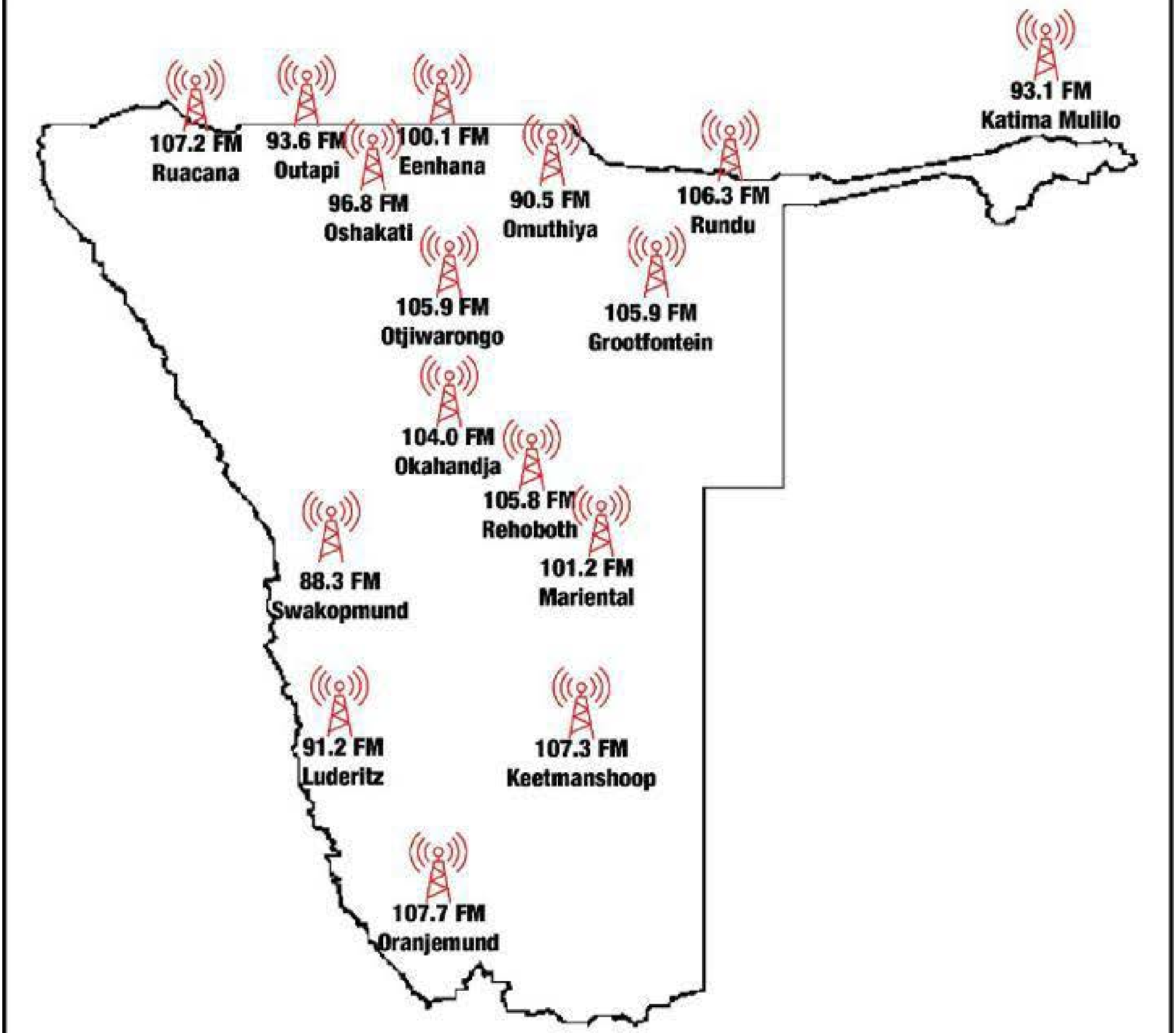
Email: erastus@thevillager.com.na

COVID-19 STATISTICS LATEST

Cumulative confirmed cases	**129 126**
Newly confirmed	**15**
Recoveries	**125 458**
Recovery rate	**97.2%**
Active cases	**85**
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine 1st doses	**358 599**
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine 2nd doses	**224 309**
Cumulative COVID-19 vaccine completed	**298 503**
COVID-19 Deaths	**3 275**
COVID-19 Related Deaths	**296**
Total Deaths	**3 571**
Total samples tested	**781 090**
Active contacts	**57**
Cumulative number of people quarantined	**82 516**
Number of quarantined people discharged	**82 347**
Number of people in quarantines	**169**

EAGLE fm
The Eye

Frequencies



Download Your App Eagle FM Nam on Android or Apple Store

www.eaglefm.com.na

Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services

GET VACCINATED

KICK COVID-19 OUT OF NAMIBIA



COVID-19 VACCINES

ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE

TO EVERYONE, EVEN THOSE WITH CHRONIC DISEASES, SUCH AS DIABETES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HIV, CANCER AND EPILEPSY.

#GetVaccinated | #KickCovid19OutofNamibia | #VaxUpNamibia

Toll-fee Number:0800 100 100

NATIONHOOD AND NATIONAL PRIDE PROGRAMME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

My NAMIBIA MY COUNTRY. MY PRIDE | LIBERTY In it with you | UNAM | CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD | NamibiaRedCross | UNITED NATIONS NAMIBIA

FNB | NaSIA Namibia Savings & Investment Association | ALLAN GRAY | Ninety One | STANLIB | OLDMUTUAL | Hollard.

GET VACCINATED TICK COVID-19 Out of Namibia! | USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Big Lips

Ignatius Shixwameni

All Expiring and Aspiring Politicians Must Learn Patriotism

The death of Ignatius Shixwameni should be an eye-opener to any aspiring or expiring politician in this country. People did not gather at Ignatius Shixwameni's memorial service at Rundu because he was Ignatius Shixwameni.

They gathered in hundreds because he was a nation builder. They gathered because his death touched people in different ways. The founding president Sam Nujoma sent a speech. The current president, too, sent a speech.

Listening to their speeches, I could not detect any pretence. That speaks to the kind of person Ignatius Shixwameni was. He grew up in Swapo. He left Swapo because he could not agree with what was happening.

He joined the Congress of Democrats and found once again that he did not belong. Had Ignatius Shixwameni been another politician, he could have thrown his mouth the wrong way, creating unnecessary animosity.

Ignatius Shixwameni was a fierce critic of the Swapo government. His motions and debating skills in the National Assembly were worth listening to. He never pretended to know it all. Neither did he act holier than others.

He contributed to nation-building. It was never for him or about him. It was about the people. About all tribes. In Ignatius Shixwameni, one saw depth. Reason and sense. He was never a loudmouth, nor was he a schemer.

This is why Ignatius Shixwameni's death saddens many people and why people from all walks of life who could attend his memorial at Rundu went there.

One hopes that all the aspiring politicians and those expiring before they have even begun must emulate Ignatius Shixwameni's example. They must learn that politics is just but a game. One day we will all be called, and when that happens, we need friends and colleagues.

But do we ever learn anything? Usual we do not because we think we are cleverer than the next person. We never learn because we believe that whatever we are doing will never end. We never assume that the power we wield and use against the powerless will one day be taken away.

Most of the speeches delivered showed what maturity in politics is. For years, Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila sat opposite Ignatius Shixwameni. In any case, Ignatius Shixwameni was one of Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila's critics when she was the finance minister.

But she attended the memorial and delivered President Hage Geingob's speech. The reason is not that she was asked to go and read President Hage Geingob's speech, but that for years as parliamentarians, they debated the future of Namibia amicably.

Ignatius Shixwameni was a seasoned politician who emerged from the students' politics. His calmness did not mean that he was weak. He confronted the apartheid regime fearlessly.

My question now is that why do others who walked the same path Ignatius Shixwameni walked behave as if they created students' politics? Is the students' politics Ignatius Shixwameni championed when there is no peace and stability in the country weaker than the one that spawned these leaders whose mouths stink when they open to speak?

A leader who is a nation-builder brings together people even in their death. Political foes and just enemies in ordinary life all are drawn to meet and for once sit in the shadows of great people who knew no tribe or nationality or colour.

Ignatius Shixwameni remained a committed cadre who never wavered from the principles of the struggle. He hated corruption and lived a straightforward life.

His wife summed up how Ignatius Shixwameni accepted differences. Although her husband was a leader of an opposition party, she never forced her to follow him. Instead, he allowed her to choose a political party of her choice.

Can you imagine then these inspiring and expiring politicians doing the same - allowing their wives to belong to an opposition party? Can they do such a thing when they cannot keep up with friends of another party?

I wish we could mourn and learn.

The Killing of Fishermen Inquest



Blow-by-blow Account by Witnesses

■ **Staff Writer**

An inquest into the fatal shooting of three Namibians and their Zambian cousin by the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) in November 2020 is ongoing at Kasane in Botswana.

The Namibians are brothers Tommy, Wamunyima, and Martin Nchindo. The Zambian is Sinvula Munyeme.

The four were shot and killed while they were fishing in the Chobe River on 5 November 2020.

The Villagers is serializing the witness accounts and today we carry the testimony of witness 36, an assistant commissioner in the Botswana Police Services, Kutwano Eanya.

His account

On November 6 2020, he received a report from Assistant Superintendent Fani, who was the Head Investigator and has since passed on.

The report detailed that a confrontation occurred between BDF and four males who were suspected to be poachers. The incident allegedly occurred at about 20h00 on November 5 2020.

The evening of November 6 2020, he left Francistown, his duty station to Kasane, where he joined a team of Botswana investigators. On his arrival, he found that the Botswana Kasane Police had collected all the evidence. The four suspected poachers were also already in the mortuary. At this point in time, the four deceased persons were not yet identified.

While he was in the process of possibly taking fingerprints from the four deceased persons for identification purposes, he received calls from Namibia that these deceased people could be Namibians. He communicated with Deputy Commissioner Evans Salwindi Simasiku to arrange that the Namibians travel to Botswana to identify the bodies.

On November 9 2020, Deputy Commissioner Evans Salwindi Simasiku came with three Namibians, namely Mr Cacious Mwala Mwala, Mr Ray Shamwanga and Mr Charles Nchindo. The family members that came to Botswana were taken to the mortuary to identify the bodies. The identification of the bodies led to the conclusion that the four bodies were those of Tommy, Martin, Ernst Nchindo and Sinvula Munyeme. He said the family members were not allowed to see the entire bodies of the slain fishermen other than their faces because the bodies were preserved as exhibits.

The bodies were then taken to Francistown for a postmortem examination that Dr Mabaka did. Namibia sent a medical doctor and two police officers as well two family members to observe the post mortem. Before the postmortem started, the four bodies were identified by Mr Charles Nchindo. As per Medical Ethics, the two family members were not allowed to be in the postmortem room.

During the postmortem, Inspector Josiah of the Botswana Police took pictures, and the Namibian Crime Scene Investigator Patrick Mafwila was not allowed to take pictures.

According to Assistant Commissioner Eanya, the Botswana law, which is the host country was the lead investigator. He could not point to particular pieces of such law in a court other than saying the law in Botswana does not allow for outsiders to take pictures of deceased persons in a joint investigation.

According to him, the visiting country were only invited to only observe and take notes. He could not mention the specific law that guided such practices.

He also went on to state that in 1996, he went to South Africa for a joint investigation and that the South African authorities did not allow him to take pictures. In 2010 he also said that he went to Zimbabwe for a joint investigation and was not allowed to take pictures. In the Zimbabwean joint investigation with Botswana, the court learnt that there was not a single deceased person involved; hence the nature of the joint investigation was different and thus could not be used as a yardstick to apply to the situation of the joint Investigation between Namibia and Botswana. Upon cross-examination, Assistant Commissioner Eanya could not explain how a Joint Investigation between Namibia and Botswana, which had terms of reference, failed to honour the terms of references. Mr Eanya denied such reference, at which point Honourable Matengu Simushi of Namibia produced a letter to that effect.

During the joint investigation by the two teams of Botswana Police and Namibian Police, he was present in a meeting where Namibian Police Officers were briefed of the investigations that Botswana had conducted in the initial stages of the investigation prior to the commencement of the joint investigation work.

Namibian Police officers were also taken to the scene in the Southern part of the Sedudu Island on the Chobe River. The Namibian investigators were also shown the following exhibits

1. Two canoes
2. 4 peddlers
3. Two spears
4. A 12. 5 white bag containing three suspected elephant tusks
5. Two black containers
6. A pliers
7. Clothes

The team agreed that a search be conducted at the scene by Scuba divers from both Namibia and Botswana. On November 19 2020, the scuba divers from both countries went to look for the alleged weapon that the slain fishermen used and could not find it.

According to Mr Eanya, the divers from Namibia and Botswana marked the area which was to be searched yet the Namibian divers testified earlier that the Botswana authorities had already marked the area to be searched.

It is amazingly strange that the Namibian divers could have marked an area that they did not witness any crime on

According to Mr Eanya, the search lasted only 15 minutes and stopped because of hippos. This part of evidence is in contrast to the one given by the Namibian divers who themselves that the search took almost two hours.

Upon cross-examination, Assistant Commissioner Eanya said he felt nothing about seeing the Namibian bodies at the mortuary during the day of the identification.

Mr Eanya also said BDF were not wrong in the shooting because they were on duty. Mr Eanya also said there was no need to keep the BDF rifles as exhibits in this incident because it was clear that the BDF were the killers. He failed to answer why metal fragments were not taken from the canoes compared to the BDF rifles. He also failed to explain how an alleged spent cartridge from the BDF guns allegedly found in the boat was never taken for analysis. In fact, he denied that such information was given to him.

He said that the Namibian Police team of investigators was at the mercy of the Botswana Police in the investigation. Namibia had no power whatsoever to dictate to Botswana how Botswana should conduct its investigation.

Assistant Commissioner Eanya was the last witness in the inquest of the Nchindo brothers and their cousin Sinvula Munyeme.

The Magistrate then announced that the date of her verdict will be January 20, 2022.

Join the **Infinity Club.**



LTE-INFINITY LITE

N$599

Per month excl. VAT

Get access to the world of limitless connectivity with Paratus' New LTE-Infinity Lite offering. Package includes a wingle.

Supply of telecommunications services to residential accounts (i.e. a natural person) are zero-rated supplies. Services are only available where Paratus has Network Coverage. T's & C's Apply.

Visit **na.paratus.africa** for more information or call any of our offices:
Head Office: +264 83 300 1000 | **Grove Mall:** +264 83 300 1002
Swakopmund: +264 83 300 1960 | **Walvis Bay:** +264 83 300 1850
Ongwediva: +264 83 300 1950

PARATUS
Always Prepared





New Covid variant: How worried should we be?

■ **James Gallagher**

We're back in familiar territory - growing concern about a new variant of coronavirus.

The latest is the most heavily mutated version discovered so far - and it has such a long list of mutations that it was described by one scientist as "horrific", while another told me it was the worst variant they'd seen.

It is early days and the confirmed cases are still mostly concentrated in one province in South Africa, but there are hints it may have spread further.

Immediately there are questions around how quickly the new variant spreads, its ability to bypass some of the protection given by vaccines and what should be done about it.

There is a lot of speculation, but there are very few clear answers.

So, what do we know?

The variant is called B.1.1.529 and is likely to be given a Greek code-name (like the Alpha and Delta variants) by the World Health Organization on Friday.

It is also incredibly heavily mutated. Prof Tulio de Oliveira, the director of the Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation in South Africa, said there was an "unusual constellation of mutations" and that it was "very different" to other variants that have circulated.

"This variant did surprise us, it has a big jump on evolution [and] many more mutations that we expected," he said.

In a media briefing Prof de Oliveira said there were 50 mutations overall and more than 30 on the spike protein, which is the target of most vaccines and the key the virus uses to unlock the doorway into our body's cells.

Zooming in even further to the receptor binding domain (that's the part of the virus that makes first contact with our body's cells), it has 10 mutations compared to just two for the Delta variant that swept the world.

This level of mutation has most likely come from a single patient who was unable to beat the virus.

A lot of mutation doesn't automatically mean: bad. It is important to know what those mutations are actually doing.

But the concern is this virus is now radically different to the original that emerged in Wuhan, China. That means vaccines, which were designed using the original strain, may not be as effective.

Some of the mutations have been seen before in other variants, which gives some insight into their likely role in this variant.

For example, N501Y seems to make it easier for a coronavirus to spread. There are some in there that make it harder for antibodies to recognise the virus and might make vaccines less effective, but there are others that are completely new.

Prof Richard Lessells, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, said: "They give us concern this virus might have enhanced transmissibility, enhanced ability to spread from person to person, but might also be able to get around parts of the immune system."

There have been many examples of variants that have seemed scary on paper, but came to nothing. The Beta variant was at the top of people's concerns at the beginning of the year because it was the best at escaping the immune system. But in the end it was the faster-spreading Delta that took over the world.

Prof Ravi Gupta, from the University of Cambridge, said: "Beta was all immune escape and nothing else, Delta had infectivity and modest immune escape, this potentially has both to high degrees."

Why do new variants of Covid-19 keep appearing? BBC's health reporter Laura Foster explains

Scientific studies in the laboratory will give a clearer picture, but answers will come more quickly from monitoring the virus in the real world.

It is still early to draw clear conclusions, but there are already signs that are causing worry.

There have been 77 fully confirmed cases in Gauteng province in South Africa, four cases in Botswana and one in Hong Kong (which is directly linked to travel from South Africa).

However, there are clues the variant has spread even more widely.

This variant seems to give quirky results (known as an S-gene dropout) in the standard tests and that can be used to track the variant without doing a full genetic analysis.

That suggests 90% of cases in Gauteng may already be this variant and it "may already be present in most provinces" in South Africa.

But this does not tell us whether it spreads faster than Delta, is any more severe or to what extent it can evade the immune protection that comes from vaccination.

It also does not tell us how well the variant will spread in countries with much higher vaccination rates than the 24% of South Africa that is fully vaccinated, although large numbers of people in the country have had Covid.

So for now we are left with a variant that raises significant concerns despite huge holes in our knowledge, and is one that needs to be watched closely and asks deep questions about what to do and when. The lesson of the pandemic is you can't always wait until you have all the answers.

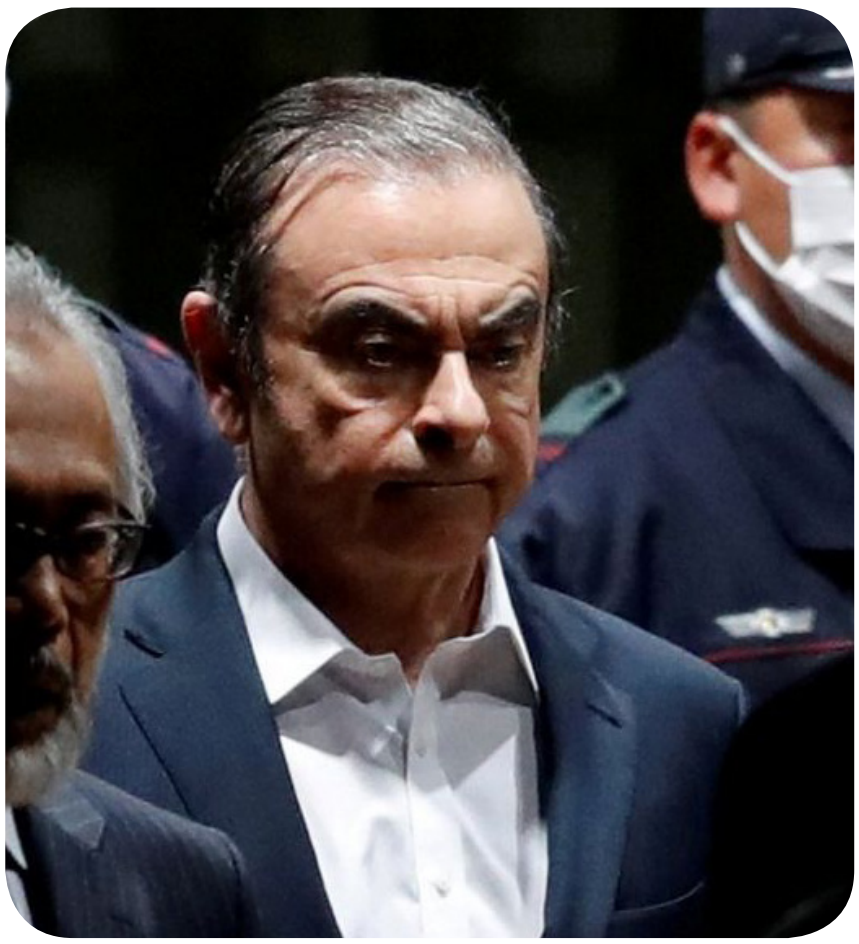
- BBC

CONTACT DETAILS
Eagle Media House
33B John Ludwig Street
Klein Windhoek
Office Tel: +264 832888400
Studio Tel: +264 832888 401
Email: news@eaglefm.com.na

TO ADVERTISE
CONTACT MONICA: Cel: +264 812703727 | Email: monica@eaglefm.com.na

Ghosn affair: The forgotten man in the Nissan scandal

■ **Theo Leggett**





The wife of a former top Nissan executive says her husband has become "collateral damage" in a dispute between the company and its one-time chairman Carlos Ghosn

Greg Kelly was arrested in Tokyo in November 2018 at the same time as his former boss.

Both were charged with financial crimes.

But while Mr Ghosn himself escaped from Japan in dramatic style, Mr Kelly now faces a possible jail sentence.

'Very dedicated'

For Dee Kelly, the three years since her husband's detention have been "devastating" for their family.

At the time of his arrest, Carlos Ghosn was one of the world's best-known businessmen, and something of a celebrity in Japan. Greg Kelly had a much lower profile.

He was, nonetheless, representative director of the company, a member of the Nissan board, and the right-hand man of the chairman.

"He gave 30 years of his life to that company," explains Dee.

"He was very dedicated. He never wanted fame or fortune, didn't want power, didn't want money - he just really wanted whatever was best for the company, Nissan."

Celebrity flight

In November 2018, the two men flew into Japan expecting to attend an urgent board meeting. Instead they were both detained - in Carlos Ghosn's case, in a blaze of publicity.

They were charged with financial crimes linked to the alleged under-reporting of the chairman's pay.

Just over a year later, Mr Ghosn escaped to Lebanon - hidden in a box carried aboard a private jet. Like his arrest, his flight created headlines around the world.

In a turbulent press conference, he accused people within Nissan of orchestrating his downfall, in an effort to overturn plans for a merger between the Japanese firm and its French partner Renault.

Nissan denies those allegations.

But once the media furore had died down, Greg Kelly became something of the forgotten man of the affair.

He remains in Japan, and this year went on trial facing charges of financial misconduct, which he denies.

Although he has been allowed out on bail, Dee Kelly says his detention in Japan has had a profound impact on the couple.

"When you're a young person and you lose three years of your life, it's sad, you've lost three years," she explains.

"When you're 62, you're not looking at much time after that down the road, and to have lost this much of our lives is pretty devastating.

"To Greg and myself, the most important thing in our lives is our family - and we have not been able to see our sons or our grandchildren for two years.

'Forgotten'

Dee has recently spent time in Washington, trying to generate political and diplomatic support for her husband.

"I think he's forgotten by some, especially in the media," she explains.

"When Carlos Ghosn was arrested, he was one of the most famous executives in the world, not only in the automotive industry but in all industry.

"I'd say definitely he [Greg Kelly] is collateral damage. He's left behind."

She thinks her husband's trial has become, in part, a trial by proxy of his former boss.

"I think the escape of Mr Ghosn embarrassed people in Japan - and Greg's there," she says.

"We would go through days of testimony, weeks of testimony, where Greg's name really didn't come up - which was kind of fascinating, since he was the defendant in the courtroom."

A verdict is expected in a few months' time. Prosecutors want him to be jailed for two years**. - BBC**



Covid: Shares hit as new variant rattles investors



Stock markets across the world have fallen sharply after the discovery of a new Covid variant raised fears over the economic recovery.

In London, the FTSE 100 share index dropped by 2.6%, while markets in Germany and France also declined following overnight falls in Asia.

Shares in airlines and travel firms were among the hardest hit.

The UK and other nations have introduced a ban on flights from six southern African countries.

UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said scientists were "deeply concerned" about the new Covid strain and its potential to evade immunity.

The UK has temporarily banned flights from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini from midday on Friday until 04:00 on Sunday.

What are the UK travel rules?

All six counties are being added to the UK's travel red list. It means that any British or Irish resident arriving from the countries after 04:00 on Sunday will have to quarantine in a hotel, with those returning before that being asked to isolate at home.

The FTSE 100 index opened sharply lower on Friday morning, with British Airways-owner IAG leading the fallers as its share price tumbled by more than 10%. Rolls-Royce, which makes engines for planes. also saw its shares drop, down 9.4%.

EasyJet was one of the biggest fallers on the FTSE 250 index, with its shares down 9%, as was Whizz Air. Travel firms such as cruise operator Carnival and Tui also recorded sharp declines.

"Fear has gripped the financial markets with the travel industry flying into another violent storm," said Susannah Streeter, senior investment and markets analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown.

"With Europe still battling with the surge of a fourth wave of the virus, there are now fears that the highly mutated Covid strain discovered in states in Southern Africa will prompt fresh shutdowns around the world in an attempt to stop its spread, leading to another drag on recovery."

Despite the fall in the FTSE 100 on Friday, the index is still trading nearly 12% higher than it was a year ago.

A number of other countries - such as Germany, Italy and Israel - have banned flights from the six southern African nations.

Both Germany and France's leading stock market indexes fell by more than 3% on Friday.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen tweeted that other EU nations should also "activate the emergency brake" to stop travel from these countries.

Stock markets in Japan, Hong Kong and Australia also fell overnight as did indexes in India and South Korea.

Oil prices also declined on fears the new Covid strain could lead to restrictions and dampen demand. Brent crude dropped by 4.9% to $78.15 a barrel.

"The drop in the oil price is the market's way of saying it is worried about a reduction in economic activity," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

In London, shares in oil giant BP dropped by 5.3% while rival Shell also saw its share price fall by more than 4%.

But Mr Mould added: "The flipside of falling commodity prices is that a weaker oil price should provide some relief in terms of inflationary pressures.

"That may cause central banks to be more cautious towards raising rates in the near-term, however it does depend on whether the new Covid strain causes significant disruption or can be contained as best as possible in a rapid manner."

Mr Javid said more needed to be learned about the new Covid variant. Only 59 confirmed cases have been identified in South Africa, Hong Kong and Botswana so far.

However, he said the variant had a significant number of mutations, "perhaps double the number of mutations that we have seen in the Delta variant".

He said that adding the six countries to the red list was about "being cautious and taking action and trying to protect, as best we can, our borders".

BA said: "We'll be contacting affected customers with information about their flight."

It added it was advising passengers to monitor the latest travel advice with the UK government and on the BA website.

Virgin Atlantic said its flights from Johannesburg to London Heathrow would be cancelled between midday on Friday to early on Sunday morning.

"We're currently reviewing our schedule of South Africa operations for the coming week," it added.

The carrier said any customers booked to travel to or from South Africa with Virgin Atlantic should check on the company's website. If they have booked through third parties or agents, they should get in touch with them.

- BBC





ROADS AUTHORITY

SAFE ROADS TO PROSPERITY

NaTIS SERVICES AVAILABLE AT WINDHOEK SHOPPING MALLS

The Roads Authority (RA) is pleased to announce that, in preparation for the festive season, we will be offering NaTIS services to our clients on Saturdays at shopping malls from 9:00 to 16:30 in Windhoek on the following dates:

- Maerua Mall	20 November 2021
- Grove Mall	27 November 2021
- Wernhill Park	4 December 2021
- Katutura (Shoprite) Shopping Centre	11 December 2021

The following services will be offered:

- Vehicle license renewals
- Personalised License Numbers (PLN) Collections
- All NaTIS related enquiries
- Driving license card collections (for Driving licenses which were applied for at NaTIS Valley or Tal street in Windhoek)

PLEASE NOTE THAT PAYMENT WILL BE STRICTLY VIA CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ONLY.

Ogilvy | www.ogilvy.com.na

Roads Authority, Private Bag 12030, Ausspannplatz, Windhoek, Namibia, www.ra.org.na

Moi Will: Former president gave each of his three daughters Sh300 million



■ **Joseph Wangui**

The High Court has cleared an obstacle to the distribution of former President Daniel Moi's estate even as it emerged he gave Sh100 million to each of his three daughters.

A US-based Kenyan doctor and the family of a former Eldoret chief have failed to halt distribution of properties owned by Moi who died in February 2020.

Dr George Kiongera, together with Mr David Chelugui (son of ex-chief Noah Chelugui), wanted lawyer Zehrabanu Janmohamed, who is managing the late Moi's vast estate, stopped from distributing the properties.

For his part, Mr Chelugui lodged an application seeking to block the lawyer from receiving the confirmation of grant to enable her distribute the properties unless one billion shillings his family won in a 2019 land battle with the former Head of State is factored in.

Dr Kiongera, on the other hand, was opposed to implementation of Moi's Will in relation to a Sh2.5 billion parcel in Muthaiga, Nairobi.

But it emerged in the court proceedings that Moi had actually excluded the 19.7-acre Muthaiga land, registered as LR No. 12422/19, from his Will dated November 15, 2005.

"As far as this petition stands, LR No. 12422/19 is not one of the properties subject of the estate of Moi. This is because it was not mentioned in the Will or codicil (the rewritten Will), and it was not mentioned in the petition," said Justice Aggrey Muchelule. The Codicil is dated March 30, 2010.

Sh100 million inheritance

According to the Will, Moi left a 931-hectare parcel to be held by the Trustees of Kabarak University for the benefit of his five sons. The sons are listed as Jonathan Kipkemboi Moi, Raymond Moi, John Mark Moi, Philip Moi and Gideon Moi equally during their lifetime and upon their death for the benefit of their children.

According to the codicil, Moi gave Sh100 million to each of his daughters – Jenifer Chemutai Moi, Doris Chekorir Moi and June Chebet Moi.Moi appointed lawyer Janmohamed as the executor and trustee of the Will.

On October 9, 2020, the High Court gave the lawyer authority to manage and distribute the properties, having obtained the grant of probate of written Will.

However, on April 23, 2021, Dr Kiongera, through his company, Maestro Connections Health Systems Ltd, asked the court to halt the distribution and restrain the lawyer implementing the contents of the Will in relation to the Muthaiga property.

He argued in court that the ownership of the land was subject to a pending case at the Environment and Lands Court in Nairobi.

Disputed property

The court consolidated three matters involving ownership of the prime land that the former President reportedly sold to three different entities between 1988 and 2016.Moi, who died in February last year, is alleged to have sold the land to DPS International Limited in 1988 and thereafter to Muthaiga Luxury Homes Ltd in 2012.

The former President is said to have sold the same property again in 2016 to Maestro Connections Health Systems Ltd.The court battle started in 2016, with all the purchasers claiming to be the legitimate owners of the property.

But Moi, who was President from 1978 to 2002, had filed a counterclaim denying ever selling the disputed property. He argued that he was still the owner of the land that he had acquired in 1982.

Dr Kiongera had asked Justice Muchelule to suspend distribution of the estate until the dispute on the Muthaiga land was determined.He also sought an order compelling the lawyer to set aside from the estate and deposit Sh2.5 billion in court or an interest-earning account of the advocates, being the amount he is claiming in the land's case.

But the judge said the question of whether the parcel belonged to Moi or not was the jurisdiction of the Environment and Lands court.He ruled that the court could not be asked to halt distribution of the properties provided for in the Will and codicil.

The judge said Dr Kiongera's firm could not participate in the distribution process as it had not been shown to be a creditor to Moi's estate.

Concerning the chief's family protest dated April 26, 2021, the judge found that President Moi had filed an appeal against the Sh1 billion awarded by the Court of Appeal in Kisumu and that the matter was yet to be determined.

The former chief's family had urged the court to hold that the grant issued to Moi's lawyer should not be confirmed until the appeal was heard and determined.

But the lawyer argued that she had not sought confirmation of the grant of probate and that, in any case, the issue of whether or not the protester was a creditor to Moi's estate would eventually be settled by the Court of Appeal.

"All that I would like to say at this stage is that, when the lawyer will seek the confirmation of that grant of probate she will serve the protester who will formally file his protest to the application. At that stage the court will deal with the protest," said Justice.

– Daily Nation



Gambian commission urges prosecutions for Yahya Jammeh-era abuses



In a 14,000-page report handed to President Barrow gives details of nearly 400 victims of torture, killing and rape.

A long-awaited report into allegations of abuse committed during former Gambian President Yahya Jammeh's 22-year rule has recommended to the government to pursue criminal charges against those responsible.

Rights groups have long pushed for prosecutions for the litany of alleged crimes, such as the use of death squads and rape, committed during Jammeh's time in office, which ended in 2017.

The 14,000-page document was handed on Thursday by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) to President Adama Barrow, nine days before a presidential election in which the exiled Jammeh has urged his supporters to vote for an opposition coalition.

In all, 240-250 people died at the hands of the state or its agents, the commission said.

It recommended that the "persons who bear the greatest responsibility for abuses" be prosecuted, but did not name anyone.

"To forgive and forget with impunity the violations and abuses … would not only undermine reconciliation but would also constitute a massive and egregious cover-up of the crimes committed," the TRRC said in a statement.

The findings of the panel come after more than two years of hearings into Jammeh-era crimes. Nearly 400 witnesses gave chilling evidence about state-sanctioned torture, death squads, rape and "witch hunts", often at the hands of the "Junglers", as Jammeh's death squads were known.

Malick Jatta, an army lieutenant close to Jammeh, said the former president paid more than $1,000 each to members of his security service who killed newspaper editor Deyda Hydara in 2004, according to the Reuters news agency. Sergeant Omar Jallow told the commission that in 2005, Jammeh ordered the killing of 59 unarmed migrants that Jammeh thought had come to overthrow him. Fatou Jallow, the winner of a 2014 beauty pageant, testified that Jammeh raped her when she was 19.

Jammeh, who fled to Equatorial Guinea after refusing to accept defeat to Barrow in a 2016 election, has previously denied allegations of wrongdoing.

"There is this will among human rights lawyers to see Yahya Jammeh, who is now free and living in exile in Equatorial Guinea, to face justice for those crimes committed under his rule," said Al Jazeera's Nicolas Haque, who has reported extensively from The Gambia.

"There is more freedom for people to express themselves than during the time of Jammeh, but there is a sense that people now want to go further than just expressing their grievances – they wanna see the rule of law being enacted and justice being served."

Barrow or his successor will have six months to decide how to respond to the report. It could form the basis for criminal proceedings against Jammeh and others.

"I assure (the victims and their families) that my government will ensure that justice is done," Barrow said in a statement, "but I urge them to be patient and allow the legal process to take its course."

Even if Jammeh is found guilty, he may not face punishment. Under Gambian law, a former head of state cannot be prosecuted unless parliament approves proceedings by a two-thirds majority.

Rights groups, which were eagerly awaiting the report, welcomed the news that the TRRC has urged prosecutions.

Reed Brody, a human rights lawyer who works with Jammeh-era victims, said in a statement that "there is no doubt that Yahya Jammeh is at the top of the list of former officials whose prosecutions it is recommending."

Amnesty International also said in a statement that The Gambia must bring charges against wrongdoers to ensure that "state-sponsored human rights violations are never repeated".

Despite the magnitude of abuse allegations facing Jammeh, the 56-year-old retains a considerable following in The Gambia. Many supporters are pushing for his return from exile.

His influence has been a key issue in the run-up to a presidential election on December 4 – the first since Jammeh's departure.

Jammeh addressed a campaign rally remotely this month, arguing that Barrow had "rigged" the 2016 elections.

Barrow, for his part, sought an alliance with Jammeh's APRC party in September, a move viewed by some as an electoral ploy.

Rights activists denounced the alliance, which also stirred fears that it could lead to Jammeh's return. But Jammeh subsequently disavowed the electoral pact, which he said was made without his knowledge, and his supporters have formed a rival party.

– Al Jazeera

Danish patrol kills four pirates in Gulf of Guinea: Navy



Frigate Esbern Snare spotted the suspected pirate ship near several commercial ships, says Danish military.

A Danish naval patrol killed four pirates in an exchange of fire in the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of Nigeria, Denmark's armed forces say.

"No Danish soldiers were injured, but five pirates were shot," the military said on Thursday.

"Four of the pirates died. One was injured," it added.

The incident happened outside Nigeria's territorial waters, a spokesman said.

The incident occurred on Wednesday when the frigate Esbern Snare, which has been patrolling the area since early November, attempted to board the pirate boat.

The Danish forces fired warning shots, and the pirates immediately fired back.

"The Danish soldiers acted in self-defence and returned fire," the statement said.

It was the first time the frigate opened fire during the current mission to the Gulf of Guinea, the spokesman said.

The remaining four pirates were taken on board the frigate, the military said. After the shooting, the pirate ship sank.

A piracy hotspot stretching 5,700 km (3,540 miles), from Senegal to Angola, the Gulf of Guinea saw 195 attacks in 2020.

The same year, 130 of 135 hostage-takings at sea occurred in the region, according to the International Maritime Office.

The Danish helicopter-equipped frigate and its 175 sailors "are fulfilling an important task by protecting Danish and other commercial vessels in the region", Defence Minister Trine Bramsen told news agency Ritzau.

Copenhagen in March announced it was sending the vessel to patrol the zone, where some 40 Danish ships operate daily.

Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and main opposition lawmaker Jakob Elleman had both planned to visit the frigate during a visit to Ghana on Wednesday and Thursday.

Danish tabloid Ekstra Bladet reported on Thursday they had not been on board the frigate during the incident.

The frigate will operate in the gulf until April next year. – Al Jazeera



Black Friday: Will you get the tech you want for Christmas?

■ **Shiona McCallum**

As people rush to snap up their Black Friday deals, there are mounting worries that some gadgets won't be available for Christmas.

Silicon, which is in most products, is in short supply because of high demand and manufacturing problems since the start of the pandemic.

The world now faces one of the most extreme chip shortages it has seen.

It means that this year, people may be disappointed when it comes to giving and receiving tech as presents.

According to technology experts Trusted Reviews, the Nintendo Switch is the UK's most wanted piece of tech this year.

Earlier this month, Nintendo revised its sales forecast because of "the effects of the global semiconductor shortage".

Chip designers ARM warned the scarcity could delay Christmas gifts like the Switch being delivered on time and said that, in some instances, the wait for chips is taking 60 weeks.

The PS5 and the Xbox Series X and Series S have been extremely difficult to buy since they launched last year. Demand for these new consoles would have been high regardless of the chip shortage. When they are occasionally restocked, they often sell out in minutes.

The situation has created a community of console hunters who aim to identify those rare times when stock is delivered, so they can pass the news on to their followers.

One is YouTuber Jake Randall, who says he has contacts with many employees across various retailers, who tell him when new batches are going into shops.

He also looks for clues on websites, such as Amazon talking about special deals for consoles for Prime customers which can be swiftly followed by new stock appearing online.

Jake told BBC's World Service Tech Tent: "It's extremely difficult to get a games console right now. This is probably the hardest it's ever been - even more so than launch day or even earlier in the year.

"A lot of people have waited to get one because they thought it would get easier, but these companies cannot manufacture anywhere near enough to meet demand."

The market is not helped by a community of people who use bots to buy up consoles and sell them at inflated prices, he added.

Apple's iPhone is also a much wanted gift for Christmas, after its latest generation model was released in September.

The company recorded a 54% increase in revenue in the first three months of 2021, when compared with the same period last year.

But it faced "larger than expected supply constraints" between June and September, and said that the chip shortage is now affecting "most products".

Apple chief executive Tim Cook previously warned investors that it could affect sales of the iPhone and the iPad.

There are less handsets available too. Apple had originally planned to produce 90 million iPhones in the final months of this year, but cut that figure by 10 million because there were not enough available parts.

There are also reports that Samsung and OnePlus are struggling to keep up with demand for their phones.

Earlier in the year, Google was forced to limit its Pixel 5a launch to only the USA and Japan.

Good news if you want a laptop

There is some good news though, as the big online retailers do seem to have stock of both laptops and tablets.

The pandemic created huge demand for laptops, because people needed kit to work from home.

Tech company Philips also said memory chip producers were not able to keep up, and that ships transporting products were backed up in ports.

Laptop manufacturers like Dell, Acer and HP say that they are selling models as fast as they can make them, and with the recent launch of Windows 11, competition for stock is even fiercer.

However, Argos has assured its customers that they will have access to a range of deals and products, although it made no guarantees.

"Availability in some product categories may vary, but alternatives are available and stores continue to receive deliveries daily," a spokesperson said.

And Currys said it has been "working hard" to ensure that its customers can get hold of the goods they want.

"Thanks to our preparations and strong relationships with the biggest brands, we already have more stock in the business than we did last year," a spokesperson told the BBC.

"There are inevitably some products that will be hotter than others, but we're confident we'll have plenty of choice for everyone."

When will this shortage end?

Experts have predicted the shortage could go on for another year or so.

Pedro Martins, co-founder of IT company Totality Services, said: "The reality is, the silicon chip shortage has been ongoing for some time now, it just wasn't visible to the general public.

"It's more prominent now because of the sheer volume of user devices that require chips. In the past it was mainly servers, workstations and laptops that needed the chips, that's no longer the case.

"The reality is, no-one actually knows when the shortage will end, but it will without a doubt improve in the short term."

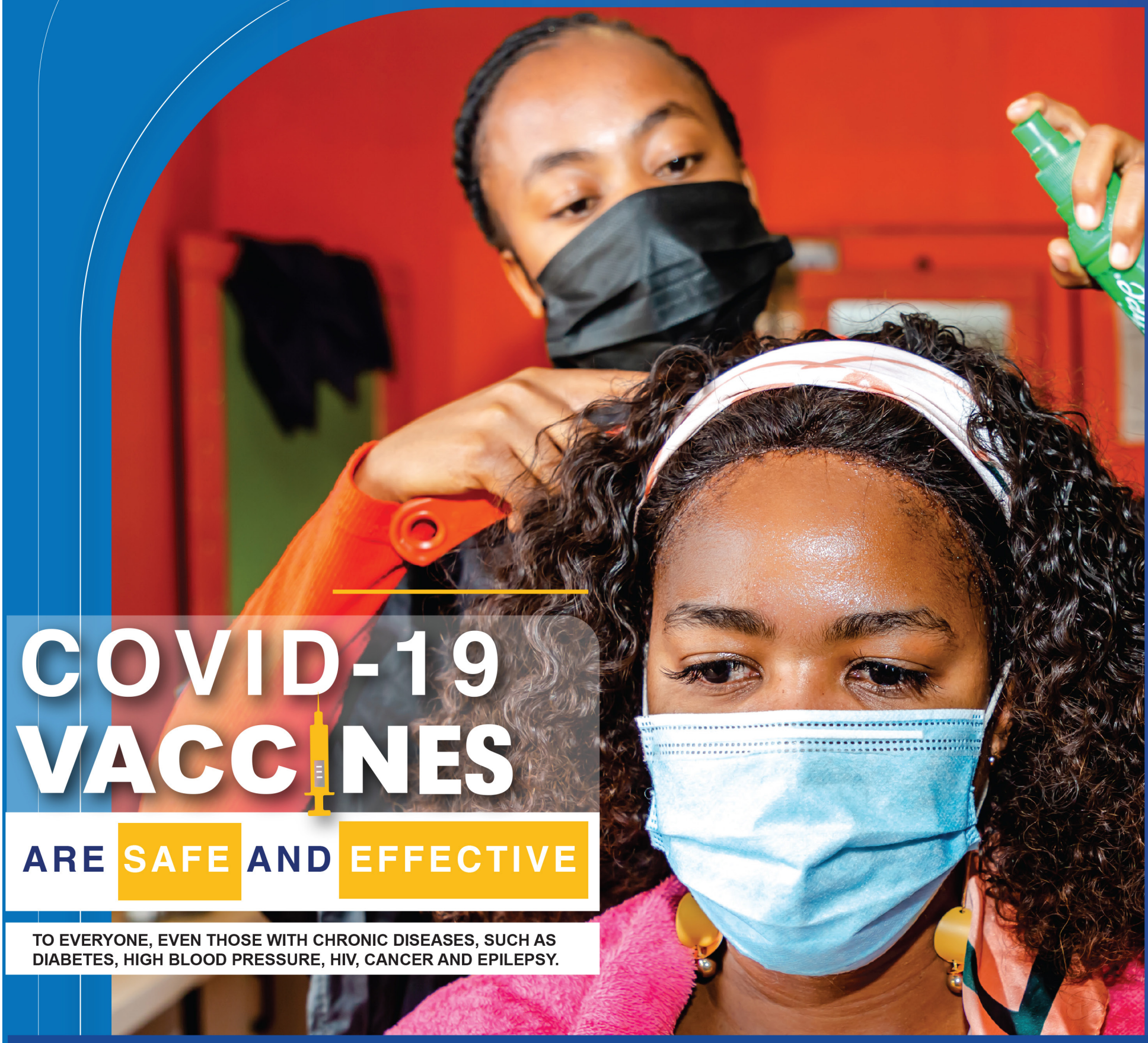
- BBC



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Health and Social Services

GET VACCINATED

KICK COVID-19 OUT OF NAMIBIA



COVID-19 VACCINES

ARE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE

TO EVERYONE, EVEN THOSE WITH CHRONIC DISEASES, SUCH AS DIABETES, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, HIV, CANCER AND EPILEPSY.

#GetVaccinated | #KickCovid19OutofNamibia | #VaxUpNamibia

Toll-fee Number:0800 100 100

NATIONHOOD AND NATIONAL PRIDE PROGRAMME

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

My Namibia – My Country. My Pride | Liberty – In it with you | UNAM | Cardiff University – Prifysgol Caerdydd | NamibiaRedCross | United Nations Namibia | FNB | NaSIA – Namibia Savings & Investment Association | AllanGray | Ninety One | Stanlib | Old Mutual | Hollard | Get Vaccinated Kick COVID-19 Out of Namibia! | USAID From the American People



For British Asians, the word P*ki is haunting and painful

London, United Kingdom – Most British Asians can remember when they were first called "P*ki" or which time being hit with the word hurt most.

For Adam Hussain, 25, that moment was in Edinburgh.

He was walking in the Scottish city when two drunk men followed him. One pushed Hussain into the street – and towards an oncoming bus.

When the man's friend asked why he had done that, the man replied, "I was trying to save you from a bomb."

The friend told the man to calm down, provoking another abusive response, "He's a P*ki, what do you expect?"

A software engineer who now lives in Bristol, England, Hussain grew up in a disadvantaged area of Glasgow and was used to being racially abused.

"I always used to get called Saddam Hussein or a terrorist. There will always be bomb jokes, – or I'll be called P*ki," Hussain told Al Jazeera.

The use of that last slur, P*ki, a shorthand for Pakistani but spewed by racists to describe anyone of South Asian origin, has stirred up English cricket in the last few weeks — and prompted a wider discussion about identity among people of Asian origin in the UK.

Azeem Rafiq, a former player for Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC), has testified that he was repeatedly called the word during his time at the club, and faced racism so profound, it led him to consider suicide.

> "A software engineer who now lives in Bristol, England, Hussain grew up in a disadvantaged area of Glasgow and was used to being racially abused."

In its wake, many British Pakistanis are sharing their own experiences.

Hussain dealt with abusive classmates by mocking the comments and laughing at them.

"I guess it was just a way for me to integrate," he said. "I [wanted] to not stick out too much."

The slur gained momentum in the UK in the '60s, continuing throughout the '70s and '80s.

It is often associated with "P*ki bashing", when groups of people carried out violent attacks against people of South Asian descent, opposed to their immigration to the UK.

As a child, Umair Akbani played for a predominantly white football club in Bradford, a northern English city with a large South Asian population, where he grew up.

From the day he started to the day he quit, he was called "P*ki", "terrorist", and "curry-muncher" by other children in the team, as adults stood by and did nothing to intervene.

But Akbani counts his experience while attending medical school in Liverpool, England as the "most humiliating."

He remembers crossing a road with friends in the city when two white men in a car driving past rolled down their windows and yelled to Akbani, "You stupid f****ing P*ki!"

"There's a special type of humiliation when you're insulted about something that you have absolutely no power over," said Akbani.

Now 25 and working as a doctor in Manchester, he does not have many overt racist experiences. But he still suffers feelings of otherness, he said, sometimes because of comments by his medical colleagues.

Akbani got married a few months ago. His wife is also a doctor.

"Was it a forced wedding? Is your wife going to do all the cooking for you? Are you going to let your wife work?" his colleagues asked shortly after he tied the knot.

Akbani added that they were also full of false ideas about his British Pakistani identity.

"[It's] very disappointing when you receive [racist stereotyping] from other doctors because you assume that they're more educated," said Akbani.

People are often surprised to find out that his wife and mother are both doctors who wear the hijab.

They have not been called hateful words such as P*ki, Akbani said, but they do face assumptions that they are "oppressed".

British Asians are the largest ethnic minority in the United Kingdom. Major waves of migration took place in the post-World War II years and after the breakup of the British Empire.

For Akbani, there is a sense of irony of the British Pakistani experience.

"Our parents came to this country to give us economic opportunity. Funnily enough, the reason why they had to come was because … they were colonised by the British," he said.

"We were robbed of economic opportunity [back there]."

In those post-war years, Hussain said his parents were beaten or chased down the street, simply "for being brown".

"My aunt wasn't allowed to go out of the house by herself because they were so afraid of her being attacked," he said.

Some, however, have managed to escape the harshest forms of abuse, but still recount being made to feel different.

Maha Khan, 24, had not realised the word P*ki was a slur until she watched the 2018 movie Bohemian Rhapsody, a biopic of Freddie Mercury, Queen's lead singer who had some South Asian roots.

"I just remember being … shocked that someone was using that as an insult," said Khan, who works in food marketing in London.

She grew up in a relatively wealthy and predominantly white neighbourhood in the city of Reading, just outside London.

She said she was "the only brown kid in class" and often faced questions such as: "Where are you from?"

As the cricket racism scandal continues to unfold, Khan said she has been surprised to learn how her fellow British Pakistani friends – and her father – have suffered from racist abuse.

When she asks them about it, they say, "It just happens."

Back in Bristol, Hussain is hopeful that things are changing. The previous generation's experiences, he said, were much worse.

– Al Jazeera

Unrest continues in Solomons with PM blaming foreign powers



Foreign countries are responsible for stoking the disaffection that has led to three days of violent protests in the Solomon Islands, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said on Friday, as police pushed back protesters who again took to the streets.

Tear gas was deployed in Chinatown where looting and the burning of buildings continued on Friday morning, and pushed back a crowd that tried to reach Sogavare's private residence, the AFP news agency reported, citing its journalists at the scene.

Police commissioner Mostyn Mangau urged people to make "the right choice" and not join the unrest.

"I am respectfully calling on all community leaders to help us spread the message that 'Enough is enough'," he said on a statement on the government website. "There is no more need for protests on the streets."

Sogavare on Wednesday declared a 36-hour curfew in Honiara, the country's capital, but protesters have paid little heed to the lockdown.

Many of them come from the most populous province of Malaita, and were opposed to Sogavare's abrupt decision in 2019 to break off diplomatic ties with Taiwan and establish formal links with China instead. Malaita's leaders still maintain contact with Taiwan and receive outsized aid from Taipei and Washington.

Sogavare said the anger had been stoked by unnamed foreign countries.

"I feel sorry for my people in Malaita because they are fed with false and deliberate lies about the switch," Sogavare said in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"These very countries that are now influencing Malaita are the countries that don't want ties with the People's Republic of China, and they are discouraging Solomon Islands to enter into diplomatic relations and to comply with international law and the United Nations resolution."

The Solomons were among a dozen Pacific islands that recognised Taiwan until the 2019 decision, with Taipei accusing Beijing of using "dollar diplomacy" to pressure countries into cutting ties with the self-ruled island. Only 15 countries continue to maintain formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

Taiwan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou said in a statement to Reuters news agency: "We have nothing to do with the unrest".

Solomon Islands resident Transform Aqorau said more than 100 people in Honiara were looting shops before Australian police and restored the peace. The first Australian police officers arrived in the country on Friday, after Sogavare requested help.

"The scenes here are really chaotic. It is like a war zone," Aqorau told the Reuters news agency by telephone. "There is no public transport and it is a struggle with the heat and the smoke. Buildings are still burning."

In a statement, the government advised civil servants based in Honiara to stay at home and ensure they have sufficient supplies given the "uncertainty" of the situation in the capital.

The Solomon Islands, which lie east of Papua New Guinea, have struggled with unrest and political violence since gaining independence from Britain in 1978.

Rivalry between the most populous island Malaita and the Guadalcanal-based central government has repeatedly led to clashes, with Malaita complaining that it has been neglected.

– Al Jazeera



Channel migrants: Why politics is dominating the debate on migrants

■ **Katya Adler**

In France, in Brussels and the UK, there have been expressions of remorse and sadness at the loss of human life in the Channel. Yet, at the same time, politics is interwoven into the migration and asylum debate wherever you look.

First: domestic politics. Boris Johnson promised to "take back control" of UK borders after Brexit, but the influx of dinghy arrivals across the Channel doesn't exactly scream watertight borders. And the EU is keen to point out that the "skinny" Brexit deal Mr Johnson wanted, keeping Brussels very much at arms' length, didn't allow for a migration agreement that might have come in useful now.

As for Emmanuel Macron, he is heading into a hotly contested presidential election in France. Under pressure from the political right and the far right, he's keen to come across as a security-conscious nationalist. That's why he cited "national sovereignty" when he once again refused the British offer of joint patrols on French beaches and waters. His government mutters that the UK should understand the sovereignty argument in the light of its Brexit vote.

The UK Home Secretary Priti Patel says she'll send officials and law-enforcement officers to Paris on Friday to intensify joint cooperation and intelligence-sharing. But you need trust to work hand-in-hand and, right now, UK-French relations are frosty to say the least.

France was perceived as bad cop by the UK during the often fraught Brexit negotiations with the EU. Post-Brexit, the two sides are at loggerheads over a small number of fishing permits France accuses the UK of holding back on (the UK denies the allegation). And there's bad blood between the two over the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol, signed by the EU and UK as part of the Brexit divorce deal to safeguard peace and avoid a hard customs border down the island of Ireland.

Adding to those tensions, France is still smarting from the recent security agreement between the UK, US, and Australia, which it only found out about at the very last moment - and which cost Paris a lucrative submarine contract.

Combating people-smuggling and deterring the desperate from risking their lives at sea becomes even more complicated, when you stand back a bit more.

President Macron sees the Channel crossing dilemma as a pan-European challenge, as much as a bilateral issue with the UK.

He may have spurned UK offers of extra boots on the ground along France's sprawling northern coastline, but he has called on Brussels for help. After all, says Mr Macron, the asylum-seekers and others in Calais, hoping to head for the UK, didn't appear by magic. They will have crossed other EU countries to get here.

Mr Macron knows that "irregular migration", as it's often referred to, is all-too familiar at the EU's various external borders. Remember the 2015 refugee and migrant crisis, affecting the bloc's southern rim? And recently Poland asked for EU help in the East along the border with Belarus.

Irregular migration to richer countries is not going to disappear as long as there's poverty, war, persecution and environmental refugees in other parts of the world.

So yes, the issue is well-known to Brussels, but so is the year-on-year failure of member states to agree on what should be done.

Germany has been open to taking in large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers. Its government-in-waiting, taking over from Angela Merkel, wants to promote more legal migration as a means of deterring men, women and children from making perilous sea-crossings in flimsy, overcrowded dinghies. But Hungary and others in central and eastern EU states favour the "fortress Europe" option, making external borders as impenetrable as possible.

In the meantime, NGOs, human rights lawyers, members of the public sickened by the tragic loss of life and a big chunk of French media - take the popular Le Monde newspaper for example - are saying enough is enough. They demand that France, the UK and other EU member states put aside politics, roll up their sleeves, and actually do something together to save lives.

- BBC



2022 Volkswagen Jetta GLI: Gaining Confidence

■ **Aaron Gold**

For years, Volkswagen's Jetta GLI has tried to be—with varying levels of success—a GTI with a trunk, but for 2022, that's no longer the case. The eighth-generation Volkswagen GTI has moved on and left the Jetta behind—and we think there are plenty of buyers who will want to stay back with the 2022 Jetta GLI. The GLI may lag on numbers compared to the GTI, but the latest iteration of VW's speedy sedan is the sort of good, simple fun that made VW sportsters so easy to fall in love with in the first place.

GLI And GTI, Back To Back

We drove the updated 2022 GLI on the same twisty North Carolina roads where we tried out the all-new 2022 Golf R and Golf GTI, and we were surprised at how different the GLI felt compared to the Golfs—different, but no less enjoyable. Actually, in some ways the Jetta was more enjoyable, and we'll talk about why in a minute.

A little explanation is in order. While the 2022 GTI is an all-new car, the GLI is, from a mechanical standpoint, mostly carryover: same 228-hp, 258-lb-ft 2.0-liter engine, same six-speed manual or seven-speed dual-clutch automatic transmissions, same front strut and multilink rear suspension setups, and the same previous Golf R brakes as the outgoing model. One notable new component is an exhaust system with a loud mode. It doesn't change engine output, but the deep, throaty note—all natural, not electronically enhanced, praise be!—is itself a good enough excuse to buy this car.

We tried GLIs with both the six-speed stick and the seven-speed DSG dual-clutch automatic, and came to the conclusion that you can't go wrong with either transmission. We loved the manual; its shift linkage is a bit sloppier than the new GTI's, but it's still a lovely gearbox with a near-perfect clutch. Meanwhile, the DSG gives that same immediate power response as the stick, while putting instant gearchanges literally at your fingertips via the paddles. The Jetta GLI is equally enjoyable with either gearbox, and there aren't a lot of cars about which we can say that.

> “The Jetta GLI is equally enjoyable with either gearbox, and there aren’t a lot of cars about which we can say that.”



Sloppier Handling, Bigger Grins

Handling-wise, the GLI trails the new GTI, which is grippier, a bit better balanced, and more willing to rotate. But that doesn't mean we enjoyed the GLI less—quite the opposite, in fact. With the GTI, we left a margin between our driving and its prodigious limits, but behind the wheel of the Jetta GLI, we went hell-for-leather, tires squealing and sliding through every turn. Think of the slow-car-fast rule, though it's not as if the Jetta GLI could even remotely be described as slow. It's good fun to feel like you're pushing a car as hard as it will go, but only if the car feels good when you push it—and not all cars do. The GLI seemed to be almost as gleeful about our pace as we were. The GTI is more of a technician; the GLI feels like it has loosened its tie and is on its second beer.

Granted, we were inclined to like the 2022 Volkswagen Jetta GLI even before we started the engine. The GTI and Golf R have Volkswagen's new touchscreen interface, which, while perhaps not worthy of condemnation in the absence of familiarity, is a very big change. The Jetta's interior is what we must now begin to think of as old-school VW, with rotary-dial climate controls and a volume knob on the stereo. Before you accuse us of being Luddites, think of the safety factor: When you're driving the Jetta GLI hard (or even in congested traffic), you want to be able to change the car's temperature or turn down the fan without having to look at the controls. Thanks to the menu system, that's now all but impossible in the Golf GTI, no matter how well you know the interface. But anyone can do it in the Jetta GLI; the dials are always in the same place.

Best Jetta GLI Interior Ever?

Not that the Jetta GLI eschews all things modern: A digital dash is now standard, and we were pleased to see it has a minimal number of different display modes as opposed to the two billion the GTI has. We did miss the dynamic g-meter in the GTI's dash, but aside from that, we were happy with the Jetta's digitized version of an analog tach and speedo.

The bulk of the changes to the 2022 Jetta GLI are cosmetic—new grille details, bumpers, wheels, and the like. To us, the Jetta GLI still looks like a Jetta GLI, and that's all that matters. But there are some trim changes on the inside well worth noting: The black leather upholstery (now standard) has a red underlay that shows through the perforations, and the trim on the dash and doors is glossy gray wood with strands of red in the grain. Together with red accents and stitching, these details make this one of the best-looking interiors we've seen in a sporty VW. It's jazzy, and the excellent GTI and Golf R look almost staid by comparison.

Jetta GLI (Almost) Holds The Line On Price

While the outgoing Jetta GLI was available in two trim levels, the 2022 Jetta GLI only comes in top-of-the-line Autobahn trim, priced at $31,990 with a manual transmission and $32,790 with the DSG automatic. That's a mere $250 price increase over the 2021 GLI Autobahn. There's no doubt the new GTI is a better car, but the updated Jetta GLI represents what Volkswagen has always done best. That's why we love it.

– Motor Trend





Edouard Mendy: The unemployed outcast who became one of world's best at Chelsea

■ Steve Sutcliffe

Edouard Mendy had a relatively low profile when he arrived at Chelsea in September 2020 as competition for the world's most expensive goalkeeper.

The Senegal international was even viewed by some as a temporary alternative to the error-prone Kepa Arrizabalaga, with his £22m move from Rennes a fraction of the £71m outlaid on the Spaniard.

But a little more than 12 months on, Mendy has a Champions League winners medal and is the man behind the Premier League's meanest defence.

And his form has even earned him a major upgrade in the latest ratings update on Fifa22.

So how did Mendy go from consecutive relegations and several months of unemployment earlier in his career to a position where he is now, perhaps, the best goalkeeper in the world?

Mendy has kept nine clean sheets in all competitions so far this season and made a number of pivotal saves to ensure Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea sit top of the Premier League with the division's best defensive record.

He has managed 25 clean sheets in all competitions since the start of 2021, a figure which is higher than the number of goals he has conceded (24) in the same period.

> "The manner in which Mendy reprimanded team-mate Hakim Ziyech in Chelsea's recent Champions League victory at Malmo - for allowing an opponent the space to create an opportunity - underlined his commanding presence."

And it is easy to see why his impact has been compared with those of Alisson at Liverpool and Ederson at Manchester City, with both arriving in England and helping their clubs to Premier League titles.

Speaking on Sky Sports, former Manchester United defender and pundit Gary Neville said: "If you're going to win a title, there are going to be games where you don't play well, you don't deserve to win the game but your goalkeeper makes two or three world-class saves.

"He has made that difference. If you think of Kepa in goal for Chelsea when Frank [Lampard] was there, it was a big problem - they were conceding too many goals.

"It's a lot more difficult to score against Chelsea, not just because of the change to the back five, which Tuchel brought in, but also the goalkeeper."

The manner in which Mendy reprimanded team-mate Hakim Ziyech in Chelsea's recent Champions League victory at Malmo - for allowing an opponent the space to create an opportunity - underlined his commanding presence.

Former Chelsea and Scotland winger Pat Nevin, a BBC Radio 5 Live pundit, said: "There have been very few times he has had to do it but he is growing in stature.

"He is also in same boat as everyone else because Kepa has improved so he will be aware that he has to be on top of his game.

"As a shot-stopper he is brilliant, his reactions are good and he is incredibly brave. He certainly had some decision-making issues at the start. He has been more reticent about coming out but he has good people there working with him from Petr Cech down and he has improved with his feet.

"All the areas where there were questions, he is answering. You can see him growing in every part of his game. He has control of his box."

Fellow pundit Rio Ferdinand calls Mendy a goalkeeper who "instils confidence in a backline", while former Chelsea forward Tony Cascarino says he is one of the club's "best-ever signings".

How does he compare with Europe's best?

As well as being the Premier League's in-form goalkeeper, Mendy's impressive statistics compare favourably with the most celebrated number ones in European football.The 29-year-old has a higher save percentage domestically than Bayern Munich and Germany great Manuel Neuer (70%).

And he is also well ahead of Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois (71%), Paris St-Germain's Gianluigi Donnarumma (69%) and Atletico Madrid's Jan Oblak (54%).

The only surprise it seems, from both inside and outside the Chelsea camp, is that Mendy was not one of the five Blues players to be included on the 30-man list for the prestigious Ballon d'Or.

Asked if his keeper merited inclusion after playing a starring role in the October's win at Brentford, Tuchel replied: "Yes. But, you know, I'm happy. And it's more important that he performs like this than that he's on any list.

"I hope it does not bother him, because it does not bother me too much. He's not too influenced by that. I think we could be on that list as a whole team - we won that competition as a team."

Out of work and ready to quit the game

Mendy's journey to the top has been far from easy.

The 29-year-old, who was born in the French city of Le Havre, began his career at third-tier Cherbourg in 2011, where he suffered successive relegations before his contract came to an end.

Waiting for an agent to fulfil an offer from an English League One club that never came, he ended up out of work at the age of 22 and registered with France's unemployment agency, as he seriously considered his future in the game.

After a year unemployed, Mendy was offered a one-year amateur deal in 2015 as fourth choice at Marseille on a minimum salary, doing enough in the handful of matches he played to earn another year.

From there, he earned a move to Ligue 2 Reims and, after helping them to promotion, joined Rennes in 2019. The rest is history.

- BBC

Felix Afena-Gyan:



Jose Mourinho out of pocket after Ghanaian teen nets for Roma

Roma boss Jose Mourinho has bought Felix Afena-Gyan a new pair of shoes after the teenager scored his first Serie A goals on Sunday night.

The 18-year-old came off the bench in the 75th minute of Roma's game at Genoa, and netted a late double to give the Giallorossi a 2-0 win.

Ghanaian Afena-Gyan ran to the bench to celebrate with his manager after breaking the deadlock when he slotted in a pass from Henrikh Mkhitaryan in the 82nd minute.

"I promised him a very expensive pair of shoes, for 800 euros, and he came to me to make sure I didn't forget," Mourinho told broadcaster DAZN.

"I really like his coldness, his physicality but above all his humility."

Afena-Gyan then added a stunning long-range strike in injury time to wrap up the points at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris and move Roma up to fifth in the table.

Mourinho made good on his promise and presented the youngster with the shoes on Monday.

After the match in Genoa Afena-Gyan spoke of his "great feelings" as he thanked his family for their support.

"I have to say a big thanks to God Almighty for what he has done for me tonight," he told the Roma website.

"I dedicate the goals to the club, to the supporters, to everyone, to my family and to my mum. Mum... thank you so much for how far you

Afena-Gyan was handed his senior debut by Mourinho from the bench against Cagliari on 27 October, and he also featured as a half-time substitute against AC Milan before the international break.

The teenager's progress is being closely monitored by Ghana's national set-up.

He was called up by the Black Stars for their World Cup qualifiers against Ethiopia and South Africa this month, but turned down the chance to join the squad.

Afena-Gyan paid tribute to the Portuguese, who he describes as a "great person", following his goalscoring exploits.

"He is teaching me a lot and I am learning a lot from him," he added.

"He is someone who has achieved a lot during his career and he is a great person. I am glad to be working with him.

"He encourages me day-in and day-out to do everything that will help me improve in future. So I am happy to be working with Jose Mourinho. I thank him very, very much."

Elsewhere in Italy, Ghana midfielder Alfred Duncan scored the opener as Fiorentina beat AC Milan 4-3, and Nigerian striker David Okereke scored the only goal as Venezia won 1-0 at Bologna. **- BBC**

Enock Mwepu: Yaya Toure is Brighton midfielder's 'African idol'

■ **Mimi Fawaz**



After opening his Premier League goalscoring account for Brighton & Hove Albion, there could be much more to come from Enock Mwepu if the midfielder can emulate the man he calls his "African idol".

The 23-year-old grew up with a keen eye on Yaya Toure, and Mwepu's strike at Liverpool before the international break was one the former Manchester City and Ivory Coast star would have been proud to call his own.

Mwepu deceived Reds keeper Alisson with a stunning first-time attempt from 25 yards out, which curled and dipped just below the crossbar and out of reach of the Brazilian's fingertips.

The Zambia international says the inspiration behind the shot came from studying footage of Toure, who scored 79 goals in 316 appearances during an eight-year spell at City - winning three Premier League titles in the process.

"I think I scored that goal on the bus when we were going to the stadium," Mwepu told BBC Focus on Africa TV.

"I was watching Yaya Toure's highlights on YouTube. He has actually been my inspiration. So when I saw his goals, I was like 'whenever I get a chance like this, I will try to strike it'.

"Thank God it went in. It was unbelievable. It was really brilliant for me getting a goal at Anfield."

Then-Manchester City boss Manuel Pellegrini and Yaya Toure with the Premier League trophy

Yaya Toure (right) left Manchester City after their Premier League title-winning campaign in 2017-18

For Mwepu, the players he saw on television as a youngster have had a big impact on his style of play.

"I watched a lot of Premier League when I was growing up," Mwepu said. "Steven Gerrard was also one of my idols, because I used to support Liverpool.

Can Daka, Mwepu & Sakala revitalise Zambia?

"But Yaya Toure has been my African idol that I have looked up to. So many people have actually compared me to him, so I watch him and most of his goals and I try to do what he used to do.

"I just look forward to score more goals in the Premier League and live my dream."

Mwepu 'passionate' about working with Potter

Nicknamed 'The Computer', Mwepu has had to be patient since joining Brighton from Austrian champions RB Salzburg in July.

He started Brighton's first game of the season at Burnley but had to wait until the trip to Liverpool on 31 October to make his second league start. However, Mwepu has enjoyed his first few months working under Albion boss Graham Potter.

"Graham is a great manager and is very patient with players," Mwepu said.

"Coming from Austria to the Premier League, he knew that it won't be easy. He has been patient with me, telling me so many things I need to learn.

"He knows I'm a hardworking guy and what I can offer to the team. He is just trying to help me get involved in the squad and get to know the team. He has really helped me and I feel really passionate about working with him."

As for his nickname, that was bestowed upon him by a youth coach back in Zambia.

"When I was young, I really loved football and wherever I used to go I was always with a ball," he said.

"How I used to dribble and play the game was just different from other kids, and that's how the coach actually named me the computer. I was very young, maybe six or seven, something like that. It is surprising how it has grown until now."

- BBC