

'Global chip shortage crisis'

Many Bahrain automobile retailers are struggling to deliver new cars on time, say sources

● **Waiting period reaching as high as two-three months for some cars**

● **Demand for cars also increased since the beginning of the New Year**

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Acute microchip shortage across the global automobile manufacturing markets are causing a huge delay in the delivery of cars in the Kingdom.

Sources within the retail car segment told The Daily Tribune that the "delivery delay" is unprecedented with the waiting period reaching as high as two-three months for some cars.

"Bahrain is a small market for automobiles and it remained unaffected when the microchip shortage crisis first affected all big markets a little over a year ago. But, now the crisis has trickled down to the Kingdom and we face huge delays in delivery of



The chip crisis is threatening the global automobile market recovery cycle

cars to our customers," a source explained.

He added that demand for cars also increased since the beginning of the New Year, compounding the issue.

The shortage cost the global auto industry about \$210 billion in lost revenue in 2021, according to many estimates.

After being hit hard, the auto segment was recovering from the pandemic shock when the chip crisis threatened the recovery cycle and now it is prolonging, a manager with a leading car retailer in the Kingdom, told The Daily Tribune, on grounds of anonymity.

"Initially, the chip crisis was

taken lightly by the auto sector. But now it has become wider and deeper than initially considered," he said.

It is estimated that the 11.3 million units of production were cancelled last year because of chip shortage.

The Daily Tribune visited many car showrooms in the

Kingdom only to find vacant display places offering a striking sight.

According to forecasts, the impact will continue in 2022 and 2023 with the production of seven million units and 1.6 million units getting cancelled respectively.

According to leading auto news site Motortrend, the crisis dates to March 2020 when the pandemic forced automakers to shut down plants and temporarily halt orders from suppliers.

"At the same time, the electron-

\$210b

The amount lost by the global automobile majors last year owing to the chip crisis



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ics industry faced increased demand for cell phones, televisions, computers, games, and home appliances from customers abiding by stay-at-home orders. Chip-makers rerouted their supply to the electronics industry, which also showed a willingness to pay more for the silicon wafers.

"When the auto industry came back online faster than expected in the summer of 2020, it found the chips needed weren't available and suppliers were content to keep their more lucrative contracts with others. Big orders can't be met quickly; it takes about three months to make even the simplest of semiconductors. The auto industry only represents five percent of the chip industry, so it lacked much clout to get what it needs."

انتخابات
غرفة البحرين
2022
BAHRAIN CHAMBER
ELECTIONS

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Announcement

Bahrain Chamber calls all members to renew their membership and update their data ahead of the elections for the Chamber's (30th) Board of Directors

The Elections Committee for the (30th) Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber calls all BCCI members to renew their membership and pay the annual subscription fee and any other financial obligations to the Chamber, in addition to visiting the Client Care Department, should they need to have their names added or edited in the Voters' List or to update their information, to be able to exercise their right in voting in the elections of the 30th Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber, scheduled to take place on Saturday 19th March 2022 at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center. Receiving applications for insertion in the Voters' List and data amendment will continue until Monday 14th March 2022 at the new Client Care Department located on the ground floor of Bahrain Chamber's Building "Bait Al Tijjar."

The accuracy of a voter's data in the Voters' List is the sole responsibility of the voter him/herself, according to Article (51) of the Chamber's Executive Bylaw issued by Resolution No. (156) for the year 2013, which stipulates that members whose names were negligently dropped from the Voters' List or those with errors in their recorded data, may appeal to have their names included and/or corrected, as the Elections Committee will not allow any voter whose data is not available or incomplete on the Voters' List to participate in the elections. Voters' participation in the elections will be according to their data as in the Voters' List, which should match their data in the Commercial Registration at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism.

The Elections Committee for the (30th) Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber spearheaded by Mr. Adel Hussain Al Maskati, held last Thursday its 8th meeting, and endorsed allowing all voters to have access to the car parking spaces at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center, in a bid to facilitate the elections process. Noting the importance of adhering to all precautionary measures as per the national taskforce for combating the Coronavirus (Covid-19), which are as follow:

1. Wearing face masks at all times
2. Practicing social distancing
3. Anyone with respiratory symptoms will not be allowed
4. Refraining from crowding at entrances and exits points
5. Refraining from shaking hands

It is in line with all precautionary measures that the Elections Committee decided not to designate any spaces for the candidates inside Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center, nor allow candidates' advertisements on the elections day.

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HH Shaikh Nasser receives advisor to Nogaholding's board



HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oil and Gas Holding Company (Nogaholding), His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday received Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza, following his appointment as Advisor to the Board of Directors of Nogaholding. Nogaholding's Board of Directors member, Abdulla Jihad Al Zain, and Acting Managing Director, Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah, were present. HH Shaikh Nasser commended the great experience acquired by Dr Mirza throughout his long service in the government field, stressing that his new post will support the efforts of Nogaholding's board of directors to develop the company.

Labour Minister receives UK Ambassador



Labour and Social Development Minister Jamil bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan receives UK Ambassador to Bahrain Roderick Drummond. The two sides reviewed cooperation and exchange of expertise and experience with the aim of strengthening practices in support of human rights. They discussed the ministry's mechanisms in protecting children's rights, as the ministry is concerned with child protection and following up on physical and psychological abuse, neglect and sexual assault.

BDF announces live ammunition firing

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The BDF General Command announced that the Royal

Bahraini Navy Force (RBNF) will implement a live ammunition firing at the "Hair Shtaya" area tomorrow at 10am and

Thursday at 4pm.

The BDF cautioned all people to keep away from the aforesaid firing zone for their safety.