



Tesla CEO Elon Musk holds a press conference to introduce the auto-driving system upgrade for Chinese Tesla owners in Beijing, China on Oct. 23, 2015. (AP)

American activists are appealing to Tesla Inc. to close a new showroom in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang, where officials are accused of abuses against mostly Muslim ethnic minorities. Tesla on Friday announced the opening of its showroom in Urumqi, the Xinjiang capital, and said on its Chinese social media account, "Let's start Xinjiang's all-electric journey!" The Council on American-Islamic

Relations, an American organization based in Washington, D.C., on Monday urged Tesla and its chairman, Elon Musk, to close the showroom and "cease what amounts to economic support for genocide." Pressure on foreign companies to take positions on Xinjiang, Tibet, Taiwan and other politically charged issues are rising. The ruling Communist Party pushes companies to adopt its positions in their advertising and on web-

sites. It has attacked clothing and other brands that express concern about reports of forced labor and other abuses in Xinjiang. "No American corporation should be doing business in a region that is the focal point of a campaign of genocide targeting a religious and ethnic minority," the group's communications director, Ibrahim Hooper, said in a statement. Activists and foreign governments say some 1 million Uyghurs and

members of other mostly Muslim minorities have been confined in detention camps in Xinjiang. Chinese officials reject accusations of abuses and say the camps are for job training and to combat extremism. On Friday, the ruling party's discipline agency threatened Walmart Inc. with a boycott after some shoppers complained online they couldn't find goods from Xinjiang in its Walmart and Sam's Club stores in China. (AP)

Ford jacks up production of electric F-150

DEARBORN, Michigan, Jan 4, (AP) — Ford says it will nearly double the annual production of its electric F-150 Lightning pickup truck based on a high number of advance reservations. The company said Tuesday that it will be able to build at a rate of 150,000 pickups per year at its electric vehicle factory in Dearborn, Michigan, by the middle of next year. Previously Ford had expected

to build 80,000 per year at the new factory, which likely will have to be expanded to handle the increased output. The company says nearly 200,000 people have put down \$100 refundable deposits on the trucks. It's now sending out emails asking customers to convert their reservations to actual orders by picking a dealer and agreeing on a price. Workers are now making pre-production versions of the trucks

that will be used for testing. Versions that will be sent to consumers are expected in the spring. The truck has a starting price of just under \$40,000 before any federal or state tax credits. In December, Ford announced that it would triple production of the electric Mustang Mach-E built in Mexico. It plans to have the ability to make more than 200,000 per year by 2023.

US new auto sales rebound during '21

Long way before full recovery

DETROIT, Jan 4, (AP) — U.S. new vehicle sales rebounded slightly last year from 2020's dismal numbers, but forecasters expect them to be more than 2 million below the years before the coronavirus pandemic.

The reason? Although there are plenty of customers who want to buy new vehicles at hefty prices, there still aren't enough computer chips available for the industry to fully crank up its factories. So supplies are short, prices are high, and many customers can't get what they want. "Demand is not off at all," said Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Cox Automotive. "What is off is sales, because the inventory doesn't exist." Cox expects 2021 sales to be 14.9 million vehicles, up 2.5% from 2020, the year the pandemic hit the U.S. and forced the industry to shut down for eight weeks. But over the five years before the pandemic, sales averaged 17.3 million. Most automakers will release December and full-year sales numbers on Tuesday. Analysts and industry executives expect chip supplies to

slowly improve this year, with more available in the second half. But it's not certain when they'll get back to pre-pandemic levels. The average gas-powered vehicle has about 1,000 chips, and electric vehicles can have more than double that number. IHS Markit analyst Phil Amsrud, who follows automotive chips, said supplies won't improve immediately. "We're seeing 2022 as being an improvement over 2021, but it's not going to start January third or fourth," he said, adding that the second half should be better than the first. There are signs that the number of vehicles on dealer lots is growing, though. It rose to more than 1 million last month for the first time since August, Krebs said. But that's still 1.5 million below 2020 and 2.5 million fewer than in 2019. Cox is predicting that U.S. new vehicle sales will increase by more than 1 million this year, to around 16 million. Amsrud attributed the vehicle inventory growth more to automakers managing the chip shortage better, rather than any dramatic growth in chip supplies. Many have diverted the chips they get to more expensive models with higher profit margins. Because of strong demand and low supplies, J.D. Power says the average new vehicle price rose to \$45,743 in December, 20% higher than a year ago and the first time it finished above \$45,000.



A pair of 2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E are displayed for sale at a Ford dealer on Thursday, May 6, 2021, in Wexford, Pennsylvania. U.S. new vehicle sales rebounded slightly last year from 2020's dismal numbers, but forecasters expect them to be more than 2 million below the years before the coronavirus pandemic. (AP)

Burgan Bank announces the winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw

Congratulations to "Al Thuraya" Account winner **Abdullah Mohammad Alenezi**

10,000 KD

Contact us on: [Burgan Bank Official page](#) | [@burganbankgroup](#) | [Burgan Bank](#) | [@burganbankkuwait](#) | 1804080

بنك بروستان BURGAN BANK
driven by you

www.burgan.com

Burgan Bank, announced today Mr. Abdullah Mohammad Alenezi as the lucky winner of the draw prize of Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win KD 10,000 every month. Each account holder has one chance to enter the draw. The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option

to hold money in Kuwaiti Dinar and other major currencies and can access account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards, and benefit from the discounts and offers throughout the year. Customers wishing to open the Al-Thuraya account can do so by simply visiting the nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details, customers can also visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.

Boubyan Inks an Agreement With Visa to Implement Visa Card Enrollment Hub (VCEH)

The First Bank in Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa

Boubyan Bank has announced inking a collaboration agreement with Visa to implement Visa Card Enrollment Hub "VCEH" service, which allows the bank's customers to enroll directly to their favorite subscriptions and retailers from within Boubyan App or Boubyan Bank's online banking platform without the need to enter their card details.

The agreement was signed by the bank's CEO - Private, Consumer & Digital Banking, Mr. Abdulla Al-Tuwaijri, and Dr. Saeeda Jaffar, Visa's Group Country Manager for GCC in the presence of a number of leaders from both entities.

Al-Tuwaijri commented on the agreement by stating: "In Boubyan Bank, we always seek to offer innovative simple solutions that help cement our relationship with customers and provide them with excellent services. This can be done by offering creative and innovative solutions to them. Hence, Boubyan Bank is much focused on this aspect in order to provide outstanding banking and non-banking services to customers. It is safe to say that Boubyan Bank has succeeded in changing the traditional-service idea about the banking sector."

Al-Tuwaijri went on to add: "Banking services across the wider GCC region are a major driver behind the boom of the banking industry

Jaffar:
We are delighted to see Boubyan be the first bank in the region to launch Visa Card Enrollment Hub

worldwide in terms of the digital products and services being offered to customers. Our aim is to propel Islamic digital banking towards a more innovative future where the priority is customer convenience by providing all services digitally."

On her part, Dr. Saeeda Jaffar, Visa's Group Country Manager for GCC, said: "We are delighted to see Boubyan be the first bank in the region to launch Visa Card Enrollment Hub. This is an important achievement in our shared mission to help more consumers in Kuwait access the digital economy. It will also enable businesses in the country to offer the secure and seamless experiences and engagements our Kuwait cardholders increasingly expect and deserve."

Substance of the Agreement

"We are pleased to announce this partnership with one of the leading companies worldwide in the field of digital payments, which has been witnessing an accelerated growth over the past years. Boubyan Bank's management will definitely continue cooperating with many companies that support digital services." Al-Tuwaijri



Al-Tuwaijri and Dr. Saeeda Jaffar after agreement

elaborated on the agreement. He added: "Boubyan is the first bank in Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa to implement Visa Card Enrollment Hub (VCEH). This means that Boubyan is giving its customers the opportunity to have access to superb products and services that makes them on an equal footing with the customers of international banks in advanced economies."

Al-Tuwaijri pointed out: "VCEH service allows consumers to enroll directly to their favorite subscriptions, and retailers from within their banking App or portal without the need to enter their card details."

"Boubyan Bank is currently in the leading position in terms of expanding its digital services

and making life easier for its customers by employing many digital channels and services that help them in their day-to-day lives. With VCEH, our customers will have a better customer experience when they use their cards," he added.

Simplicity & Ease

Al-Tuwaijri continued: "This partnership complements Boubyan Bank's accomplishments in the field of digital payments. As we can see, the bank's outstanding digital services moved Kuwait up to the ranks of the most advanced countries in the field of digital banking services. This was achieved through the bank's many secure contactless payment services such as UTap, which was first launched in Kuwait by the bank. The services is available in the

Al-Tuwaijri:
The Agreement Offers a Wholesome Experience to Boubyan Customers When It Comes to Using Their Cards on Boubyan's Various Digital Channels

bank's App, and enables our customers to make payments or cash withdrawals using their Android-powered smart phones as a part of other services."

"Contactless payment service using Fitbit, Garmin, and Samsung smart watches for Boubyan debit, credit, and prepaid Visa cardholders are part of our NFC-enabled services offered inside and outside Kuwait," he added.

Al-Tuwaijri went on to stress: "Our innovation and creativity in our services and products stem from our realistic understanding of our customers' needs, and our interest in meeting their expectations, namely, to cope with modern-day requirements and the accelerating developments witnessed by the world."

"The future is full of challenges, however, in Boubyan we are confident that we will be ready for such challenges and that we will overcome them using our creativity, innovation, the ability to serve our customers in the desired manner, and meeting their demands," he concluded.

Risks to air safety cited

AT&T, Verizon delay new 5G service for two weeks

WASHINGTON, Jan 4, (AP) — AT&T and Verizon said Monday they will delay activating new 5G wireless service for two weeks following a request by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who cited the airline industry's concern that the service could interfere with systems on planes.

The announcement reversed the companies' decision just a day earlier to reject any postponement in new 5G service. In a statement Monday night, AT&T also repeated its promise to further reduce power of the networks around airports - an approach used in France - for six months to give regulators more time to study potential interference with aviation.

"We know aviation safety and 5G can co-exist and we are confident further collaboration and technical assessment will allay any issues," AT&T spokeswoman said in a statement.

A Verizon spokesman said the two-week delay would ensure "the certainty" of rolling out the new service later in January. AT&T and Verizon had planned to launch the new 5G service on Wednesday in many U.S. cities.

On Friday, Buttigieg and Stephen Dickson, head of the Federal Aviation Administration, asked the companies to delay their C-band 5G rollout for up to two weeks. They warned that without a delay, there would be "unacceptable disruption" to aviation because flights would be canceled or diverted to other cities to avoid potential risks to air safety.

The officials' warning followed a request by a major airline trade group to delay the 5G rollout. Airlines for America told the Federal Communications Commission that using C-band 5G near dozens of airports could interfere with devices that measure an airplane's height above the ground. The group said it had raised the issue before but was given little attention by the FCC.

Other aviation groups also raised alarms. Joe DePete, president of the Air Line Pilots Association, said Monday night, "It's clear that this irresponsible rollout of 5G wasn't ready for takeoff."

The conflict between telecommunications companies and airlines - and between the FCC and the FAA - involves a type of 5G service that relies on chunks of radio spectrum called C-Band, which wireless carriers spent billions of dollars to buy up last year.



A China Airlines cargo jet lands at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Saturday, March 14, 2020, in New York. On Monday, Jan 3, 2022, AT&T and Verizon said they will delay activating new 5G wireless service for two weeks following a request by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who cited the airline industry's concern that the service could interfere with systems on planes. (AP)