



PARIS: Models remove a cover to unveil the new Porsche Panamera at the Paris Auto Show in Paris, France, Friday. Many major automakers are finding the Paris auto show, held in a city whose mayor wants to ban diesels to reduce pollution, as a fine place to show off new zero-emission electric cars. —AP



PARIS: Members of the public attend the Paris Motor Show at the Porte de Versailles Exposition Centre in Paris yesterday. The Paris Motor Show runs from October 1 until October 16. — AFP

FROM FERRARIS TO SUVs: 5 CARS THAT SHONE AT THE PARIS SHOW

PARIS: An obscenely powerful hybrid sports car, a family-friendly SUV with enough space for seven adults, and an electric vehicle that promises to keep going for over 300 miles (500 kilometers) on a single charge - these are some of the notable vehicles shining on the display stands under bright overhead lights at the Paris auto show.

Executives at this year's show are talking about how the industry can adapt to - or, better yet, profit from - disruptive change such as electric engines, networked vehicles, car sharing, and autonomous driving. All that could start coming together between 2020 and 2025, some think.

Right now, however, they have some cars they want to sell.

Here are five of the vehicles getting the most attention at the Paris Mondial de L'Automobile, which opens to the public Saturday and runs through Oct. 16. If you are lucky enough to be in the City of Light, an adult ticket costs 16 euros (\$17.90).

LAFERRARI APERTA

This limited edition of the Ferrari's

LaFerrari supercar offers the pleasures of open-top driving in a car that performs pretty much like a Formula One racer. It's a hybrid, meaning its electric motor assists the monster 12-cylinder internal combustion engine to add even more powerful acceleration. The car does 0-100 kph (0-62 mph) in less than three seconds, and offers a top speed of 350 kph (217 mph). With the top off, aerodynamic design channels away the airflow so that the two occupants can conduct a conversation even at high speeds. That's if they're not relishing the finely tuned roar of the engine, or its "soundtrack," as the company puts it, promising "full, harmonious sound that's more intoxicating than ever." All 200 are already sold at prices of 1.8-2.0 million euros (\$2.0-\$2.2 million).

PORSCHE PANAMERA 4 E-HYBRID

It's a comfortable four-door sedan. No, it's a high-performance sports car. If it's the Panamera, it's a little bit of both. The all-wheel drive car draws on the technology used in the company's 918 Spyder supercar so that the electric motor continually adds

power; the car accelerates to 100 kph (62 kph) in just 4.6 seconds and reaches a top speed of 270 kph (168 mph).

It can go up to 50 kilometers (31 miles) on just the battery - making the vehicle a little quieter than, say, the company's 911 sports car - and emits a relatively low 56 grams per kilometer of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed by scientists for global warming. The vehicle goes on sale in November. The price in France is 110,222 euros (\$123,680), including value-added tax.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER DISCOVERY

The first complete redesign of the Discovery in 12 years, this family oriented large SUV has room for seven adults in three rows. The seats can be rearranged remotely through a smartphone app even when the operator is outside the vehicle, and the second and third rows can fold flat in 14 seconds. The suspension automatically lowers the car 4 centimeters (1.5 inches) to make it easier to get in and out. There are six charging points, places to store iPads, 9 USB ports, and a 4G WiFi hotspot that can handle up to

eight devices. There's no shortage of power for towing, with three diesel variants of 180, 240 and 258 horsepower and a 340 horsepower gasoline engine. Prices start at 50,900 euros and head north to 74,300 euros.

OPEL AMPERA-E

This is the European version of the Chevrolet Bolt five-door hatchback going on sale this year in the United States and early next year in Europe. It has attracted attention by getting a range rating of 238 miles (383 kilometers) under the U.S. standard on a full charge; the company promises a 310-mile (500 kilometer) range as measured by the European standard. It claims drivers can add 150 kilometers (93 miles) in 30 minutes of charging.

Those distances may not be equaled in everyday driving, with the European test standard, for example assumptions relatively gentle acceleration. Many obstacles remain before all-electric vehicles reach widespread acceptance. Will this car be a significant jump toward making electrics seem more practical to price-conscious regular car buyers? As

always, the market will provide the answer. The U.S. manufacturer's suggested retail price is \$37,495, which doesn't count the tax break of up to \$7,500.

BMW X2

BMW showed off a potential new addition to its X-series of SUVs and crossovers, this one offering a sportier take with a flat roofline and big air intakes giving the grill a wider, more aggressive look. The company calls it a "sport-activity coupe," referring to its lower roofline - more like the sloping shape of a coupe than a boxier SUV. BMW tweaked the trademark kidney shaped twin grilles, flipping them upside down so that they narrow from bottom up. The look is enhanced with a different slant to the windshield and lower stance. "The BMW X2 is really tapping into a new market, the sort-of coupe style SUV. It is showing that SUVs are not just about being practical, they can be fun and they can be sporty as well," says Jim Holder, editorial director of Autocar, automotive magazine. It's still a concept car, meaning no date for it to go on sale or price information. — AP

WILL GERMANY DEUTSCHE BANK BECOME THE NEXT LEHMAN?

FRANKFURT: Germany's biggest bank is looking shaky and some investors fear it could collapse and endanger the wider financial system.

Some even wonder whether it might become the next Lehman Brothers, the US bank whose failure heralded the worst of the global financial crisis in 2008. Experts warn against drawing such quick conclusions. Deutsche Bank's shares are down 51 percent so far this year and it's negotiating a multibillion fine in the U.S. that it could have trouble paying.

But it's exactly because it is so big and important that it is unlikely to be allowed to simply fail, the way U.S. authorities did with Lehman.

Here are some questions and answers about the bank and what it might mean for the rest of the world.

WHAT'S AILING DEUTSCHE BANK?

The recent turmoil was triggered by a demand by US authorities that Deutsche Bank pay \$14 billion to settle an investigation in mortgage-backed securities, the investments that turned out to be duds and helped trigger the global financial crisis. That sum is about the same as Deutsche Bank's entire market value as of Friday.

It's unlikely the bank would pay the full amount - industry peer Goldman Sachs paid \$5 billion in a similar investigation. But the fact that it could get hit with a big bill increased the possibility that it may have to tap investors to raise the cash. That would dilute shareholders' stakes and send shares down even farther.

IS THAT IT?

No, Deutsche Bank also has more fundamental problems. It is loaded with risky financial trades called

derivatives and has struggled for years to turn its business around, particularly its investment banking unit. Before the financial crisis of 2007-2008, it earned much of its money from investment banking. New regulations have pushed banks to hold larger financial buffers and reduce their risky investments. That has made investment banking less profitable. And compliance with all the rules has imposed costs as well.

Like other European banks, its profit margins have been squeezed by record low benchmark interest rates. Low rates reduce the difference at which a bank can borrow money and lend it out.

The International Monetary Fund said in June that Deutsche Bank was the biggest source of systemic risk among the globe's big financial institutions.

WILL IT NEED A BAILOUT?

It's too soon to tell. One of the things that unnerved investors this week is that the German government has refused to say it would rescue the bank, if needed. But that's likely because there's a general election next year in Germany and politicians don't want to be seen promising taxpayer money to save a bank after spending billions during the financial crisis.

If push comes to shove, experts say, the German government would be under pressure to step in to help. Deutsche Bank is the country's biggest financial group and has links to many other banks. As such, it is considered systemically important - its failure could conceivably endanger the stability of the European or even global financial system.

Yet new European rules on bank bailouts could limit the government's choices and expose investors to losses. The rules, which went

into effect Jan. 1, are intended to protect taxpayers from failing banks. In some circumstances they require shareholders and creditors to take losses before a bank can turn to taxpayers.

WOULD ITS COLLAPSE BE ANOTHER 'LEHMAN MOMENT'?

That's the big question, but analysts say probably not.

Lehman Brothers was, like Deutsche Bank and other major financial groups, closely connected to other banks. But Lehman's finances were, by some accounts, far shakier. After Lehman imploded, inquiries showed that the company used accounting tricks to mask \$50 billion in debt, making it look like it was in better shape than it really was. Deutsche Bank has passed a "stress test" this year that has required it to open up its books to regulators. It has more reserves it can readily tap - over 200 billion euros (\$224 billion) - whereas Lehman had trouble paying back customers who wanted their money back.

Also, the European Central Bank can make available big, ultra-cheap, short-term loans for banks if the system as a whole gets into trouble.

THEN WHY ARE INVESTORS WORRIED?

Burned by the experience of the financial crisis, it seems investors may be faster to respond to perceived dangers. "In banking, perception is everything, and in times of stress investors tend to shoot first and ask questions later," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

At the very least, it looks like Deutsche Bank will have to raise capital, and that tends to hurt the share price. The bank has tried to bring in money this week by selling a subsidiary for 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion). But analysts say that ultimately it will likely have to tap shareholders for cash. Others have suggested it merge with another weak German group, Commerzbank, which this week announced it was cutting thousands of jobs to save on costs.

More broadly, Deutsche Bank's problem highlights how weak many European financial groups still are. Unlike in the U.S., where banks were made to restructure aggressively in the wake of the financial crisis, European banks have been slow to clear out soured investments from their books and to readjust their business models. — AP



The campaign visual

KFH ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS 11TH DRAW 'USE KFH CARDS AND YOU MAY WIN MERCEDES AND CASH PRIZES UP TO \$200,000'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced 7 winners of the 11th draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUVs and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Ahmad Aladwani, Meshari Almutairi, Abrar Alalush, Abdulaziz Alsaedi, Salem Alshebani, Ahmad Alenezi and Marwan Aday.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for

the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefiting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards. KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.



FRANKFURT: In this Jan. 27, 2016 file photo a sign reading "cash point" stands near the headquarters of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, Germany. Worries over the financial stability of Deutsche Bank returned to the fore Friday sending shares in Germany's biggest bank into a tailspin and to a record low. — AP

HISTORIC TAKEOVER OF PUERTO RICO'S FINANCES BEGINS

SAN JUAN: A federal control board on Friday took over Puerto Rico's finances and several government agencies for the first time in the US territory's history in a bid to haul the island out of an acute economic crisis. The seven-member board met in New York and was briefly interrupted by protesters who yelled, "This is slavery!" and "Stop pilaging Puerto Rico!" The meeting was livestreamed over the internet following pledges that the board would operate with transparency.

It ordered Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla to produce a fiscal plan in two weeks and submit weekly and monthly revenue reports

that detail how the government is adhering to its budget. Members also voted on which Puerto Rico government agencies would come under the board's oversight. They include the island's central government, its largest public university, its heavily indebted utility companies, a Government Development Bank that is running out of cash and a public pension system underfunded by more than \$40 billion.

"We're working as quickly as possible," said Jose Carrion III, who was elected board president, to reporters after the meeting.

The board was approved by Congress in June and is charged in part with helping

restructure a portion of a nearly \$70 billion public debt that Garcia has said is unpayable. Carrion is one of four Republicans on the board, along with three Democrats. Also on the board is a representative of Puerto Rico's governor who is barred from voting. During a televised address on Thursday, Garcia urged the board to make the public pension system one of its priorities. He also requested that the board consider intervening in a trial in which a federal judge is expected to soon rule on whether Puerto Rico will have to pay its debts even though the U.S. legislation signed in June also protects the island from lawsuits through February 2017. — AP