

Chip Shortage
Creates Chaos
For Carmakers

Auto Production Cuts
Hamper Recovery

By JACK EWING
and NEAL E. BOUDETTE

Around the world, auto assembly lines are going quiet, workers are idle, and dealership parking lots are looking bare.

A shortage of semiconductors, the tiny but critical chips used to calibrate cars’ fuel injection, run infotainment systems or provide the brains for cruise control, has upended automaking.

A General Motors plant in Kansas City, Kan., closed in February for lack of chips, and still has not reopened. Mercedes-Benz has begun to hoard its chips for expensive models and is temporarily shutting down factories that produce lower-priced C-Class sedans. Porsche warned dealers in the United States this month that customers might have to wait an extra 12 weeks to get their cars, because they lack a chip used to monitor tire pressure.

The French automaker Peugeot, part of the newly formed Stellantis automaking empire, has gone so far as to substitute old-fashioned analog speedometers for digital units in some models.

The disruption could not come at a worse time. Demand for cars has bounced back strongly from the pandemic slump, with consumers ready to spend money they saved over the past year, eager to avoid airplanes by taking



JEFF ROBERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Vehicles at a General Motors plant in Wentzville, Mo.

road trips. The supply of semiconductors is depriving carmakers of a chance to make up sales they lost.

“We have already a robust demand situation being more held back by the semiconductor issue than anything else,” Ola Källenius, the chief executive of Daimler, said in an interview.

Some automakers, like Renault, have begun to triage their chips, reserving them for more costly models that bring more profit.

“We’re trying to find an intelligent way to prioritize cars with the higher margins,” Clotilde Delbos, Renault’s deputy chief executive, told analysts on Thursday.

Some buyers may be lucky

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VICTOR MORIYAMA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
Brazilians lined up for soup and sandwiches in downtown São Paulo. About 117 million people nationwide are facing food insecurity.

As Talks End,
U.S. Must Sell
Climate Goals

By SOMINI SENGUPTA

Now comes the hard part.

President Biden’s summit meeting on climate change ended on Friday with the United States promising to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and help other countries do the same. But the real test will be Washington’s ability to steer the rest of the world toward cleaner energy fast enough to avert catastrophe.

The limits of America’s influence were clear. Australia, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Russia made no new pledges to cut down on oil, gas or coal. Some countries said that they were being asked for sacrifices even though they had contributed little to the problem, and that they needed money to cope.

Away from the summit, the Chinese foreign minister demonstrated the difficulties the Biden administration faces in working with the country most crucial to lowering global greenhouse gas emissions.

The minister, Wang Yi, warned that Chinese cooperation would depend on how the United States responded to Beijing’s policies regarding Hong Kong, Taiwan and Xinjiang Province.

“Our two countries still have many differences, but still, President Biden’s summit was a positive step,” Wang said.

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Millions Go Hungry as Virus Rips Through Brazil

By ERNESTO LONDOÑO
and FLÁVIA MILHORANCE

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rail-thin teenagers hold placards at traffic stops with the word for hunger — *fome* — in large print. Children, many of whom have been out of school for over a year, beg for food outside supermarkets and restaurants. Entire families huddle in flimsy encampments on sidewalks, asking for baby formula, crackers, anything.

A year into the pandemic, millions of Brazilians are going hungry.

The scenes, which have proliferated in the last months on Brazil’s streets, are stark evidence that President Jair Bolsonaro’s bet that he could protect the country’s economy by resisting public health policies intended to curb the virus has failed.

From the start of the outbreak, Brazil’s president has been skeptical of the disease’s impact, and scorned the guidance of health experts, arguing that the economic damage wrought by the lockdowns, business closings and mobility restrictions they recommended would be a bigger threat



CHRIS O’MEARA/ASSOCIATED PRESS
Leaving Gravity Behind
A SpaceX craft carrying four astronauts to the International Space Station took off Friday in Florida.

New York City Jail Records Show
Guards’ Brutality and Cover-Ups

By JAN RANSOM

One New York City Correction officer struck a jailed person in the face for no legitimate reason. Another put a detainee in a banned chokehold several times. A third failed to stop subordinates from using unnecessary force, according to newly released discipline records.

But what was equally notable was what happened after the encounters: In each case, the guards lied or provided inaccurate information about what had occurred.

In fact, more than half of the officers in New York City’s jail system who were disciplined over a 20-month period gave false, misleading or incomplete accounts on

official forms or in statements to investigators, according to a New York Times analysis of records recently made public after a long court battle.

The data suggests pervasive attempts by guards to cover up uses of force or other infractions at a time when the city has tried to rein in violence in the jails.

Councilman Keith Powers, a Manhattan Democrat who heads the criminal justice committee, said the data “highlights how broken this process is and a need to make real efforts to reform it.”

“It’s a turning point to providing more visibility to an often hidden world,” Powers said.

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Trump Out of Office, a U.K. Agitator Shifts His Focus to Russia

By JANE BRADLEY
and MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ

LONDON — Two days after supporters of former President Donald J. Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol, but failed to reverse his election defeat, a defiant shout sounded from across the ocean. Tommy Robinson, Britain’s loudest amplifier of anti-Islam, far-right anger, insisted the fight was not over.

“You need to pick yourselves back up,” Mr. Robinson said in an online video viewed tens of thousands of times. “As Donald Trump says, it’s only just beginning.”

A former soccer hooligan and founder of the English Defence League, one of Britain’s most notorious nationalist groups, Mr. Robinson has largely been a pariah in his home country but Trump loyalists embraced him much the way they embraced many of the American extremist groups whose members would join the Capitol riot, including the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers.

Mr. Robinson appeared on Fox

Pariah Who Inspired
Far Right in U.S.

News and Infowars. A right-wing U.S. research institute even bankrolled a 2018 rally in London that foreshadowed the violence at the Capitol: Mr. Robinson’s supporters attacked police officers in a street fight near Parliament. A month later, Representative Paul Gosar, Republican of Arizona, flew to London to speak at a second rally for Mr. Robinson.

His message? Keep fighting.

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The French president traveled to the state funeral, highlighting the country’s strategic importance to Paris. PAGE A9

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Three weeks in, the Russian opposition leader said he had accomplished at least some of his goals. PAGE A12

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Drugs killed more people in the city last year than the coronavirus did. Some blame a culture of tolerance. PAGE A21

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