

McLaren comes to Bahrain...

By MANDEEP SINGH

ONE of the world's biggest sports car manufacturers is set to open a state-of-the-art showroom in Bahrain.

McLaren Automotive has announced plans to set up the facility next to the Bahrain World Trade Centre, which aims to offer customers the latest in design and technology.

"Like all of McLaren's showrooms, this will also stand out as a landmark next to one of Bahrain's most well-known icons," said McLaren Bahrain dealers Al Ghassan Motors regional director AUF Abdulrahman Al Delaimi yesterday.

"Work on the facility has already started and the showroom is expected to open by November."

Mr Al Delaimi was speaking on the sidelines of a McLaren drive event and briefing held exclusively for the GDN at the Bushido Restaurant, Seef.

"The brand represents exclusivity and that is what we are presenting in Bahrain as well," he said.

"The showroom will overlook the highway and display the McLaren signage prominently."

During a presentation about the company, McLaren Automotive Middle East and Africa regional marketing and public relations manager Tom Pryor said it was looking to promote its flagship high-performance MP4-12C as a "car for the road" as it seeks to redefine the parameters for high-performance sports car design.

● Showroom to open in November



■ Mr Pryor during the presentation

He said the brand was "not just a car but a fully fledged new high-performance sports car company and a full range of high-performance sports cars".

"We are already well-established in the Middle East and have special plans for Bahrain."

Mr Pryor said the Middle East was selected to be its first regional retail network and would complement retail outlets in Dubai, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE as well as a service centre in Lebanon.

"It is only a year since we started operations and launched the MP4-12C, but the brand is already well-established in the racing circuit. We now want it to be a car that one can drive in city conditions and feel comfortable," he said.

Mr Pryor revealed the

McLaren Production Centre in Woking, England, will allow production to increase to around 4,000 cars once the range is complete.

"These cars will be mid-engine highly efficient, high-performance sports cars," he said.

Bahrain owns a 42 per cent stake in the McLaren Group through the Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company – the government's investment wing, and also owns 50pc of McLaren Automotive.

Mr Pryor said the company has been successful in transferring Formula One technology to the road with the MP4-12C featuring a 3.8-litre twin turbo V8, seven-speed gearbox with a top speed of 330km/h.

"All of which means that the MP4-12C can accelerate from 0-100 km/h in just 3.1 seconds on hot-weather Corsa tyres, making it even quicker than the legendary McLaren F1 road car, acknowledged by many experts as the best car ever built," he said.

"The 0-200 km/h figure is an equally breathtaking 8.9 seconds."

"More importantly, when it comes to occupant safety, the new McLaren is equally adept at coming to a halt – it can brake from 100 km/h to standstill in just 30.5 metres, equivalent to less than seven body lengths," said Mr Pryor.

McLaren Automotive Middle East and Africa region-



■ From left, Mr Pryor, Mr Harrison, Mr Al Delaimi and Ms Renton at the presentation

al director Mark Harrison and brand specialist Gemma Renton also attended the presentation. Al Ghassan Motors McLaren Renton also attended the pres- mandeep@gdn.com.bh

Jailed gunman files appeal

By NOOR ZAHRA

A GUNMAN convicted of pointing a loaded gun at an officer's head and threatening to kill him has lodged an appeal against his conviction.

The Bahraini was also armed with a metal bar when he walked into the Northern Security Directorate in Hamad Town on September 9.

He was jailed for three years by the High Criminal Court, which also fined him BD500. He was convicted for possessing an unlicensed firearm and damaging property at the police station.

He lodged an appeal against his conviction at the Supreme Criminal Appeals Court, which reviewed the case yesterday.

The 38-year-old was allegedly drunk when he arrived at the security directorate to complain

about police showing up at his house to arrest him for failing to make court-ordered maintenance payments to his wife and children.

Defence lawyers earlier claimed the defendant was suffering mental problems, but medical tests performed at the Psychiatric Hospital showed he was sane.

Lawyer Siham Slaibekh yesterday argued her client attempted to commit suicide in 2010, but failed.

She also requested another check-up for the defendant, claiming previous reports were incorrect.

Judges accepted her request and adjourned the appeal to December 14 for review.



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