US regulators grant Boeing 737 MAX 7 certificate

AFP, *New York*

More than eight years after Boeing organized the maiden flight of the 737 MAX 7, the aircraft has won certification, US authorities announced yesterday.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced certification of the smallest version of the single-aisle MAX plane, a process that had been significantly prolonged by new requirements under federal legislation following two fatal MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019.

FAA approval follows "almost a decade of extensive review" following "years of sustained work to resolve complex technical issues," the agency said.

Boeing had originally intended to commence deliveries in 2019 on the 737 MAX 7, which has a maximum of 172 seats.

To win certification, Boeing completed 441 flight tests over 686 test flight hours.

A contributing factor to the two fatal MAX crashes was the poor design of an anti-stall system known as the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) that activated improperly and prevented pilots from regaining control of the planes.

US prosecutors charged that Boeing misled FAA regulators about MCAS, resulting in no reference to the system in manuals and pilot training materials.

Monday's announcement marks Boeing's first new aircraft certified since the safety problems that have engulfed the company in recent years.



Police detain Tibetan refugees near the Chinese Consulate in Mumbai yesterday, during a protest against China's 'Ethnic Unity and Progress' law. The Law aims to forge a "shared" national identity among ethnic groups, for example by strengthening the status of Mandarin as the official language.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel objects to Gaza plan

Demands 'verifiable' disarmament by Hamas, refuses to pull out troops

AFP, *Jerusalem*

Israel yesterday voiced objections over a plan promoted by President Donald Trump to end the Gaza war, with a cabinet member seeking to tear it up, defying pressure to end strikes and begin pulling forces from the Palestinian territory.

It was the latest sign of disconnect between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces a tough re-election fight in October and has heavily promoted his relationship with the US leader, whom he met again in Washington last week.

Netanyahu's office demanded "verifiable" disarmament by Hamas, which on Friday announced it would give up weapons under the Trump plan to a nascent Palestinian governing committee.

"Israel has conveyed its comments and concerns on the proposed framework to our



American counterparts. The version that has been made public does not reflect Israel's positions," Doron Spielman, spokesman for the prime minister's office, told AFP.

Incensing Netanyahu's hard-right allies -- upon whom his coalition depends -- the latest document released by the Board of Peace, the Trump-backed group in charge of implementing a Gaza plan, called for Israel to cease military operations "without delay" and lays out a "phased withdrawal" from the territory.

Saying that such language was "completely different" from what Israel understood, far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and a colleague demanded that Netanyahu's security cabinet "immediately" hold a new vote on the Gaza plan.

Israel still controls some 60 percent of the territory despite a ceasefire declared in October. An Israeli political source told AFP that Israel "will not retreat" from its current position in the Gaza Strip.

The 10-month-old ceasefire has reduced the level of violence, but Israeli strikes since then have killed more than 1,200 Palestinians, according to Gaza authorities.

No major strikes were reported Monday, although a security official in Gaza said that since early Sunday, Israeli attacks had killed 19 Palestinians, including women and children.

Heat triggers fire at arms depot in Iraq military base

AFP, *Baghdad*

Soaring temperatures caused a fire to erupt in an arms depot at a major military base north of Baghdad on Sunday, the Iraqi defence ministry said.

"A fire broke out in a warehouse at Camp Taji due to high temperatures," defence ministry spokesman Yehia Rasool said, adding that the depot contained "ammunition belonging to the 9th armoured division".

The government security media cell said "an explosion erupted inside Camp Taji and some ammunition detonated due to the heat". Firefighters are battling the fire, it said.

Camp Taji is a major Iraq military base that previously hosted troops from a US-led anti-jihadist coalition, before they vacated it, along with other bases.

The development came at time when tensions are rife in the region.

Explosions at military bases and munitions warehouses are relatively frequent in Iraq.

Safety standards in Iraq are often disregarded, and fires increase during the blistering summer months, when temperatures approach 50C.

Saudi Arabia and the US carried out strikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq last week.

PAK POLICE STATION ATTACK

Death toll hits 17

REUTERS, *Peshawar*

At least 17 people were killed in a suspected suicide bombing outside a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Sunday, a rescue group and a regional police official said, as the country battles widening insurgencies.

The explosion took place in the Kabal area of Swat, a district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A pro-police rally of local residents was taking place in the same area on Sunday evening, but it was not immediately clear whether the rally was the intended target.

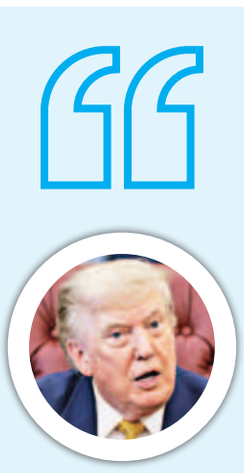
The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan militant group in a statement claimed responsibility for the attack. At least 34 people were wounded in the explosion, according to Rescue 1122.

The rescue official said the death toll rose to 17 from 14 after three victims died in hospital. The victims included seven police officers and 10 civilians. One of the dead persons was believed to be the suicide bomber, Fida Hussain, a regional police official, told Reuters.



Visitors view an exhibition at the teamLab Borderless exhibition at the MORI Building Digital Art Museum in Tokyo yesterday, as teamLab Borderless celebrates over 4 million visitors since July 2026.

PHOTO: AFP



Nothing gets through to Iran unless we want it to, and nothing will get through unless a Deal, or Total Surrender, is accomplished.

DONALD TRUMP

11 killed in Russia in Ukrainian strikes

Drone attack on Black Sea resort kills seven

AFP, *Moscow*

Ukrainian strikes, one in a Russian Black Sea resort and another in the annexed peninsula of Crimea, killed a total of 11 people and wounded dozens, officials said.

The death toll from a drone attack on Russia's seaside village of Arkhipo-Osipovka rose to seven, with three children among them, the crisis task force for Russia's southern Krasnodar region said on social media.

Venyamin Kondratyev, the governor, said earlier that Ukraine had struck the Black Sea resort with a drone.

Unverified social media footage showed what appeared to be a drone crashing into a busy beach at Arkhipo-Osipovka, as tourists looked on from the shore and in the water.

Four people were also killed in a Ukrainian strike on Russia-annexed



Crimea.

The Black Sea coast and Crimea are both summer destinations popular among Russian tourists.

There has been an uptick in civilian deaths in the conflict throughout 2026, the United Nations has reported, as the four-and-a-half-year war grinds on with no sign of a peace deal.

Ukraine has in recent months intensified its counter-strikes on Crimea -- seized by Moscow in 2014 -- leading to electricity and fuel shortages this summer.

A Russian attack on Ukraine's Kryvyi Rig -- President Volodymyr Zelensky's home city -- killed three people, the governor of Dnipropetrovsk region Oleksandr Ganzha said Among the victims was an eight-year-old boy, he added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
National Pension Authority (NPA)
Finance Division
Ministry of Finance,
www.npa.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders: Hiring of Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 03 Microbuses) for National Pension Authority

1	Ministry/Division	Finance Division, Ministry of Finance	
2	Agency	National Pension Authority (NPA)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	National Pension Authority (NPA)	
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Hiring of Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 03 Microbuses) and Transport Facilities for NPA	
7	Invitation Ref No	**07.04.0000.001.07.001.23-353**	
8	Date	03.08.2026	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering (National) for non-consulting services	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	The Government of Bangladesh and the NPA	
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Tender Package No	**NPA/NCS-01/FY2026-27**	
13	Tender Package Name	**Hiring of Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 03 Microbuses) for National Pension Authority**	
14	Tender Publication Date	04.08.2026	
15	Tender Last Selling Date	19.08.2026 up to 04.00 p.m.	
		Date	Time
16	Tender Closing Date and Time	20.08.2026	2:00 p.m.
17	Tender Opening Date and Time	20.08.2026	2:30 p.m.
18	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address: National Pension Authority (NPA), 43, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.	
19	Selling Tender Document	Agent's/office Name: Attention: Alamgir Hossain, Accounts Officer Address: National Pension Authority (NPA), 43, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Telephone no: +8802226663316 E-mail address: accountant@npa.gov.bd	
20	NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS		
21	Receiving Tender Document	A Tender Box will be kept at NPA Premises	
22	Opening Tender Document	NPA Conference Room, NPA, 43 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
23	Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the Tender Documents	
24	Brief Description of Goods or Works	N/A	
25	Brief Description of services	Hiring Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 2018 Model or updated, Engine minimum 1500 cc; 03 Microbuses, 2017 model or updated, Engine minimum 2000cc) and Transport Facilities for National Pension Authority (NPA)	
26	Price of Tender Document (Taka)	1000.00 (One thousand) Taka only (non refundable)	

27	Package No	Identification of item	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Weeks / Months/Days
	NPA/NCS-01/FY2026-27	Hiring Six Vehicles (03 Sedan Cars, 2018 Model or updated, Engine minimum 1500 cc; 03 Microbuses, 2017 model or updated, Engine minimum 2000cc) and Transport Facilities for National Pension Authority (NPA)	Mainly Dhaka City and occasionally outside of Dhaka.	BDT 1,80,000.00	Within 12 months from the date of contract signing

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
28	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Md. Suratuzzaman
29	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Chairman, NPA
30	Address of Official Inviting Tender	NPA Office, 43, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000
31	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	+8802226665743, **chairman@npa.gov.bd**
32	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever	

03.08.26

Executive Chairman
National Pension Authority (NPA)
Finance Division.