

656

Ali ibn Abu Talib elected the 4th Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate

1527

Pánfilo de Narváez departs Spain to explore Florida with five ships and 600 men; by 1536, only four men are still alive

1631

Mumtaz Mahal dies during childbirth. Her husband, Mughal emperor Shah Jahan I, then spends more than 20 years building her tomb, the Taj Mahal



1837

Charles Goodyear obtains his first rubber patent

Israeli minister strips Palestinians of control over Hebron holy site

Palestinian Authority fiercely condemns Israel's unilateral move as a direct breach of international law

● Far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich led move

● Hebron municipality loses powers

● Annexation concerns intensify

AFP | Hebron

Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said yesterday he had stripped Palestinians of authority over the site of the Cave of Patriarchs, known to Muslims as the Ibrahimi Mosque, in the occupied West Bank.

The move to transfer management of the site to an Israeli committee controlled by the far-right minister, drew swift condemnation from the Palestinian Authority.

In a statement posted on his Telegram channel, Smotrich said the site will no longer be administered by the municipality authority in the West Bank city of Hebron.

"The meaning of this decision is that many authorities previously granted in Hebron and at the holy sites -- including the very foundation of our existence, the Cave of the Patriarchs -- are



Israeli settlers, accompanied by Israel's far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich, raise a large Israeli flag during a cornerstone laying ceremony for a new settlement on Mount Tarousa, near the town of Dura west of Hebron

no longer under the control of the Hebron Municipality," Smotrich said.

Smotrich posted his remarks as he attended an event marking the laying of the foundation stone of a new Israeli settlement near Hebron.

"This is much more than a planning step, it is a step... of practical sovereignty, of governance," Smotrich said, according

to footage of the ceremony released by his party.

Hebron is the largest city in the West Bank, the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

The Cave of the Patriarchs sits inside H2, an Israeli-controlled sector of the city housing roughly 40,000 Palestinians alongside some 200 Israeli settler families. It is venerated by Jews, Mus-

lims and Christians alike as the burial site of Abraham and other biblical patriarchs.

A 1997 protocol left management of most of the complex in Palestinian hands, an arrangement Palestinian officials say Israel has steadily eroded in recent years.

"What Smotrich did is he controls the Higher Planning Council, which set a meeting last

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KNOW WHAT

The Cave of the Patriarchs is venerated by Jews, Muslims and Christians alike as the burial site of Abraham and other biblical patriarchs, and has been under a 1997 protocol managing its oversight

Wednesday where they decided that these responsibilities in Hebron will go from the Palestinian municipality of Hebron to Israel," Yonatan Mizrahi, co-director of Peace Now, an Israeli settlement watchdog, told AFP.

Minutes from the planning meeting confirm this decision.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, led by president Mahmoud Abbas, rejected the move outright.

"Such unilateral measures are rejected and condemned, and constitute a violation of signed agreements with the Israeli side, as well as a breach of international law," Abbas's office said.

G7 finds 'unity' on upping Russia pressure to end Ukraine war

AFP | Evian

G7 leaders agreed yesterday to intensify pressure on Russia to end more than four years of war against Ukraine, with US President Donald Trump saying Moscow should "make a deal" and indicating Washington could re-impose waived sanctions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky joined the summit at the French resort of Evian, with both increased sanctions and the possibility of a face-to-face meeting between the Ukrainian leader and Russian President Vladimir Putin in discussion.

Analysts say Ukraine is increasingly holding up well on the battlefield but its cities are still the target of deadly Russian attacks in a conflict that has now lasted longer than World War I.

The summit of the G7 group of world powers notably brought Zelensky together with Trump, who has sought to reach out to Putin but also showed signs of losing patience with Moscow.

"Russia should make a deal" to end the war against Ukraine, Trump said after meeting Zelensky.



Participants pose for a family photograph during the G7 summit

He pointed to the high casualties on both sides in the conflict, the deadliest on European soil since World War II.

"The whole thing is ridiculous. So, yeah, I'm going to do whatever I can," Trump added.

He said the US will soon be able to reimpose sanctions against Russian oil after Washington imposed and then extended a sanctions waiver for Russian oil cargoes already at sea, troubling European allies.

"Soon we will be able to do that as the oil is now flowing" through the Strait of Hormuz after the deal with Iran to end the Middle East war, Trump said.

'Things are changing'

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said all the G7 powers were "in the same place" and there was "a real sense of unity in the G7, a sort of shared consensus that things are changing".

"Ukraine has shown that it's able not just to defend itself but to take territory back and inflict quite significant losses on Russia," he told Times Radio.

Starmer said Britain was imposing a raft of new sanctions against Russia, including on tankers that transport LNG, in a bid to pressure Moscow into halting the war against Ukraine.

US military to build war-ready stockpile in Australia: documents



Australia's landmark Opera House (background R) is seen past an MH-60 Seahawk flown by Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23 on the flight deck of the US Navy's USS Tripoli (LHA-7) amphibious assault ship while docked at fleet base in Sydney

AFP | Sydney

The US military is planning a permanent war-ready weapons stockpile for its Marine Corps on Australia's south-east coast beyond the range of most Chinese missiles, tender documents show and officials confirmed to AFP.

The development of the stockpile, a first for the Marine Corps in Australia, comes as the United States is keen to leverage the continent's strategic location in the South Pacific

to counter China's rapid military build-up, analysts said.

The US Marines Corps began global prepositioning of military supplies during the Cold War - using floating stores on ships and caves in Norway where weapons, ammunition and vehicles to sustain thousands of troops are kept.

The first land stockpile in the Asia-Pacific is expected to open in 2026 in the Philippines, close to potential flashpoints in the South China Sea.

My thoughts are with the victims, their families, and the entire Edwards Air Force Base community impacted by this tragic incident. Grateful to the first responders and emergency crew currently on the ground.

@CAGovernor

04



The lives of children continue to be upended by the impact of heatwaves, wildfires, droughts & floods. Strengthening systems that children rely on, including health & education, can protect them from today's climate threats & help secure their future.

@unicefchief

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Securing a just and lasting peace for Ukraine and Europe. That's our focus this morning at the G7 Summit here in Evian, France.

@MarkJCarney

02



The President has been clear from day one: Iran will never have a nuclear weapon. Once again, President Trump's efforts to establish peace have paid off for the American people, despite countless attempts to thwart it by people who hate America and President Trump.

@VP

03

