



A mother and her daughter walk holding a heart balloon on Valentine's Day at the Lychakiv Military Cemetery in Lviv, Ukraine, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

GAZA CEASEFIRE Abbas urges removal of all Israeli 'obstacles'

AFP, Addis Ababa

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas yesterday called for the removal of "all obstacles" he said Israel has imposed on implementing phase two of the Gaza ceasefire.

"We emphasise the need to lift all obstacles imposed by the Israeli occupation on the implementation of the provisions related to the second phase of the agreement," Abbas said, in a speech read by his prime minister Mohammed Mustafa at an African Union summit in Ethiopia. This included the work of a technocratic committee established to oversee the daily governance of Gaza, he added.

Removal of the obstacles was needed to "ensure continuity of services, coordinate humanitarian efforts and enable a swift recovery", the president said.

Abbas accused Israel of "continuing to violate" the ceasefire agreement.

"From the announcement of the ceasefire until today, more than 500 Palestinians have been killed (in Gaza), which threatens the durability of the truce and the full implementation of its second phase," he added.

Even though the US-brokered truce entered its second phase last month, violence has continued in the Palestinian territory, with Israel and Hamas trading blame.

'West's decline' not in US interest

Amid tensions, Rubio casts US as the 'child of Europe'

REUTERS, Munich

Secretary of State Marco Rubio cast the United States as the "child of Europe" in a message of unity yesterday, offering some reassurance as well as levelling more criticism at allies after a year of turmoil in transatlantic relations.

Rubio was addressing the annual Munich Security Conference, where Europe's leading powers have tried to project their own independence and strength while straining to keep an alliance with the US under President Donald Trump alive.

The speech delivered a degree of reassurance to European countries who fear being left in the lurch on anything from the war in Ukraine to international trade ructions in a rapidly shifting global order.

But it was short on concrete commitments and made no mention of Russia, raising questions on whether Rubio's more emollient tone than that of Vice President JD Vance at the same event a year ago would change the underlying dynamics.

"In a time of headlines heralding the end of the transatlantic era, let it be known and clear to all that this is neither our goal nor our wish, because for us Americans, our home may be in the Western Hemisphere, but we will always be a child of Europe," Rubio said.

"For the United States and Europe, we belong together," he said in a speech that drew a standing ovation at the end.

While European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she was "very much reassured" by the speech and German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl called him a "true partner", others struck a more cautious tone.

"I am not sure that Europeans

see the announced civilisational decline, supposedly caused mainly by migration and deindustrialisation, as a core uniting interest. For most Europeans, the common interest is security," said Gabrielius Landsbergis, former foreign minister of Nato member Lithuania.

"This was not a departure from the general position of the (Trump)

"The Americans often return to the topic of concessions and too often those concessions are discussed only in the context of Ukraine, not Russia," Zelenskyy said.

Asked about Russia after his speech, Rubio said the United States would not ditch its commitment to working on a peace deal but that it was not clear whether Moscow was serious about achieving this.

The Munich conference of top security leaders has been dominated this year by how countries are scrambling to adjust to a year of confrontations with Trump on issues from tariffs to his threat to wrest Greenland from fellow Nato member Denmark.

Speaking directly after Rubio, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned against "knee-jerk" calls for the United States to distance itself from China and said that despite some positive recent signs from the White House, some US voices were undermining the relationship.

While praising Europe's cultural achievements from the artist Michelangelo to the poet William Shakespeare, Rubio also touched on themes that have raised hackles, including criticism of mass migration and zealous action on climate change.

"We do not want our allies to be weak, because that makes us weaker," he said.

"For we in America have no interest in being polite and orderly caretakers of the West's managed decline, we do not seek to separate but to revitalise an old friendship and renew the greatest civilization in human history."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said he could see why Rubio's appeal to a common legacy had drawn applause.



Munich security meet dominated by changing world order

Zelenskyy says US asks Ukraine too often for concessions

China's Wang Yi warns against decoupling

administration. It was simply delivered in more polite terms," he said on X.

One particular area of anxiety is Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed hope at the conference yesterday, but worried that Ukraine was being asked "too often" to make concessions in the negotiations.

The Ukrainian leader said he was feeling "a little bit" of pressure from Trump, who had said Zelenskyy should not miss the "opportunity" to make peace soon.

Son of Iran's last shah urges US action against regime

AFP, Munich

The exiled son of Iran's last shah called on US President Donald Trump on Saturday to help the Iranian people, a day after the American leader said a change of power would be the "best thing".

US-based Reza Pahlavi, who has not returned to Iran since before the 1979 Islamic revolution that ousted the monarchy, added it was "time to end the Islamic republic" while speaking to reporters at the Munich Security Conference.

Outside, around 200,000 of his supporters thronged the streets near the gathering of world leaders, calling on them to ramp up pressure against the Islamic republic after the deadly repression of nationwide protests in January.

"Javid shah" (long live the shah)," the crowd chanted as they waved green-white-and-red flags with a lion and a sun - the emblem of the toppled monarchy.

"The Iranian regime is a dead regime," a 62-year-old protester originally from Iran who gave his name only as Said told AFP.

"It must be game over."

Pahlavi has urged Iranians at home and abroad to continue demonstrations against the authorities, calling on them to chant slogans from their homes and rooftops at 8:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, to coincide with protests in Germany and elsewhere.



Trump had said on Friday that a change of government in Iran would be the "best thing that could happen", as he sent a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East to ratchet up military pressure on Tehran.

He had earlier threatened military intervention to support a wave of street protests in Iran that peaked in January.

"To President Trump... The Iranian people heard you say help is on the way, and they have faith in you. Help them," Pahlavi told reporters in Munich.

"It is time to end the Islamic republic. This is the demand echoing from the bloodshed of my compatriots who are not asking us to fix the regime but to help them bury it," he added.



Revellers of a samba school perform during the carnival parade at the Anhembi Sambadrome in Sao Paulo, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক- পাববি/সংস্থাপন/২৮২/২১০ তারিখ: ১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৬ খ্রি.

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