

TEHRAN — Iran and Sudan have resumed diplomatic ties to help the interests of both nations, the two countries announced on Monday.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation which will fulfill the interests of both nations and ensure security and stability in the region. It said the resumption of ties will be based on mutual respect for the sovereignty of each other.

TEHRAN -- The CEO of Iran's national flagship Iran Air said Monday an unknown person sent an email to the German police, claiming that a bomb had been planted on a flight heading to Hamburg from Tehran.

Shamseddin Farzadipour said the plane landed safely and all passengers were safe. According to reports, the person who had made the threat is an Australian national and is under arrest.

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Viewpoint

US Advised Against any Suicidal Bid on Behalf of Tottering Israel

Iran Vows 'Crushing Response to Any Foolish Move'

TEHRAN — Iran on Monday rejected as unfounded allegations it had a role in the massive assault on Israel by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

"The accusations linked to an Iranian role... are based on political reasons," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani told reporters.

The Islamic Republic, he said, does not intervene "in the decision-making of other countries, including Palestine."

Iran, which does not recognize Israel and has made support for the Palestinian cause a centerpiece of its foreign policy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, was one of the first countries to hail the Hamas operation.

The Palestinians had "the necessary capacity and will to defend their nation and recover their rights" without any help from Tehran, Kanani said.

"Talking about an Iranian role aims at turning public opinion (away from the facts) and at justifying the potential future actions" of the occupying entity, the spokesman added.

Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations also denied allegations the Islamic Republic had any role in the Hamas attack, in a statement issued overnight.

On Sunday, President Ebrahim Raisi said Iran supported the Palestinians' right to self-defense and warned the Zionist regime must be held accountable for endangering the region.

Raisi — who has spoken with the leaders of Hamas and the Gaza-based Islamic Jihad group since the Hamas attack — also urged Muslim governments to "support the Palestinian nation."

On Monday, the Zionist military said there was no evidence of Iran's role.

"Iran is a major player but we can't yet say if it was involved in the planning or training," said military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

U.S. officials also said the Biden administration has not found any evidence linking Iran directly to planning and executing the operation.

"In this specific instance, we have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack," Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday.

Construction of Second Reactor Gains Momentum



Iranian Jiu-Jitsu Fighters Shine in European Championship



Several Airlines Suspend Flights to Israel After Hamas Operation



Gallant: 'No Electricity, No Food, No Water, No Gas' for Gaza Strip

'Beastly' Tactic Against Gazans



An airstrike destroyed buildings and cars around Jabalia in Gaza, on Monday.

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) — The occupying regime of Israel on Monday stepped up its ferocious pounding of the besieged Gaza Strip as its troops struggled to clear out Hamas fighters more than two days after they burst across the fence from Gaza and overran Zionist bases.

Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said he has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel.

Israeli warplanes, meanwhile, bombed a densely populated

neighborhood at the Jabalia refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

The Gaza Health Ministry said the death toll from the Israeli attacks had reached 510, including 91 children and 61 women, with 2,751 others injured.

In a statement, the Israeli air force said it had dropped some 2,000 munitions and more than 1,000 ton of bombs on Gaza in the last 20 hours.

"The Zionist enemy's military targeting and bombing of homes

inhabited by women and children, mosques and schools in Gaza amount to war crimes and terrorism," Hamas official Izzat Reshiq said in a statement.

Power outages left hospitals and medical facilities in a tight spot, amid a shortage of medicine and medical equipment.

According to rights groups, Israeli attacks have killed multiple members of several families in Gaza.

The strikes have also led to the displacement of more than

123,000 people in the Gaza Strip, according to the United Nations.

"Over 123,538 people have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes," the UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA, said on Monday.

More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, some of which have been designated emergency shelters.

Adnan Abu Hasna, a spokesman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said he expected the numbers to increase further.

Gaza, home to over two million Palestinians, has been under Israeli siege since June 2007. The tight blockade has caused a decline in the standards of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

War minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday Israel is escalating measures against the Gaza Strip to a "total blockade" including a ban on admitting food and fuel, describing this as part of a battle against "beastly people."

"We are putting a complete siege on Gaza... No electricity, no food, no water, no gas -- it's all closed," Gallant said in a video message, referring to the enclave that is overcrowded with 2.3 million people.

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Death Toll Nears 3,000

Iranian Relief Teams in Herat to Aid Quake Victims

HERAT, Afghanistan (Reuters) -- Afghan rescue workers scrambled to pull survivors and bodies from beneath the rubble on Monday, two days after the deadliest earthquakes in years hit the northwestern city of Herat and surrounding villages.

The Taliban administration said the death toll was approaching 3,000, with many more injured in the quakes, which were among the world's deadliest this year after tremors in Turkey and Syria, in which an estimated 50,000 people were killed.

Periodic aftershocks continued to shake the affected areas on Monday, officials said, forcing already scared people out of their homes.

Neighbors Pakistan and Iran have offered to send rescue workers and humanitarian aid, while China's Red Cross Society offered cash relief. A technical team from Iran has arrived in the area, Mullah Janan Sayeeq, spokesman for the Ministry of Disaster Management, said during a press conference.

"I ask all countries, to help us in this crucial time," said Sayeeq.

He said people were trapped under rubble in two villages and teams were working to free them.

The spokesman for Herat's governor, Nissar Ahmad Elyias, told Reuters that more than a dozen villages around Herat had been hit.

Many buildings in Herat city were relatively unaffected, but the mediaeval minarets of its famous mosques sustained some damage, photographs on social media showed.

"Many of our family members have been martyred, including one of my sons, and my other son is also injured," Herat resident Mir Ahmed told Reuters at a hospital that was treating survivors.

"Most of the people are under the rubble."

Hemmed in by mountains, Afghanistan has a history of strong earthquakes, many in the rugged Hindu Kush region bordering Pakistan.

Death tolls often rise when information comes in from more remote parts of a country where decades of war have left infrastructure in a shambles, and relief and rescue operations difficult to organize.

In a statement late on Sunday, the UN Humanitarian Office put the death toll from the quakes at 1,023, with an additional 1,663 people injured, and more than 500 missing. It said all the homes in the Zindajan district of Herat had been destroyed.

Afghanistan's healthcare system, reliant almost entirely on foreign aid, has faced crippling cuts in the two years since the Taliban took over and much international assistance, which had formed the backbone of the economy, was halted.

Diplomats and aid officials say concerns over Taliban restrictions on women and competing global humanitarian crises are causing donors to pull back on financial support. The Islamist government has ordered most Afghan female aid staff not to

work, although with exemptions in health and education.

Sayeeq, the disaster management department spokesman, said that aside from those killed and injured, thousands had been affected with 20 villages - made up of over 1,900 houses of around 10,000 people - destroyed.

Many survivors remained under the open sky as medical and food aid reached them.

The World Health Organization's head of emergency response, Alaa AbouZeid, told Reuters in an interview that there was a huge need for shelter as temperatures drop.

"We have cases who receive treatment and should go back home, but, unfortunately, they do not have (a home to go back to)," he said, adding that people were even afraid to enter partially damaged homes.

A majority of the casualties were women and children, AbouZeid said, given that at the time of the quake, 11 in the morning, most men were away from home.