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### In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

## Iran's Right to Upgrade Range and Precision of Projectiles

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Recent reports from our eastern neighbours speak of the test-firing of the ever-increasing range and precision of their ballistic and cruise missiles, which neither raised the eyebrows of politicians the West nor made headlines in the western media, unlike their reactions whenever the Islamic Republic of Iran upgrades its missile defence system.

Pakistan, which is perpetually embroiled in an arms race with its Subcontinent rival, India, said it has successfully test-fired the surface-to-surface "Shaheen III" ballistic missile with a range of 2,750km.

For its part, India, which has border tensions with China, has started a flurry of tests of supersonic cruise missiles, such as the "BrahMos", and with the support of the US is developing the long range "Agni V" ballistic missile (reportedly 5,000 km) that brings important Chinese cities within its reach.

Pakistan and India are among the eight nations of the world with stated nuclear weapons capability. The two countries are not members of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and moreover their nuclear weapons-manufacturing facilities, like that of the US, Russia, China, France, Britain, and the illegal Zionist entity, are not under supervision of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In contrast, NPT member Iran, whose peaceful nuclear project is wholly for civilian purposes and under round-the-clock IAEA cameras, is not in rivalry with any of its neighbours, and as per the dynamic laws of Islam, considers it "haram" (religiously forbidden) the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction – whether nuclear, chemical, or biological.

In accordance with international laws, however, the Islamic Republic, which for the past 42 years has been the target of the hegemonic designs of the US and went through the bitter experience of the 8-year devastating war imposed in the 1980s by Washington through Saddam of the now defunct repressive Ba'ath minority regime of Baghdad, has every right to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity through effective conventional means of defence.

As per this inalienable right, Iran has developed an impressive system of ballistic missiles and other sophisticated armaments that give second thoughts to any would-be invader.

The question that arises is: Why has Iran limited the range of its "Shehab III" "Qadr-110", "Sijil", "Emad", "Khorramshahr", "Ashura" and other missiles (including the cruise "Mishkat") to under a mere 3,000 km, when its avowed enemy, the US, has hypersonic nuclear capable intercontinental ballistic missiles of 13,000 km range (e.g. "LGM-30 Minuteman")?

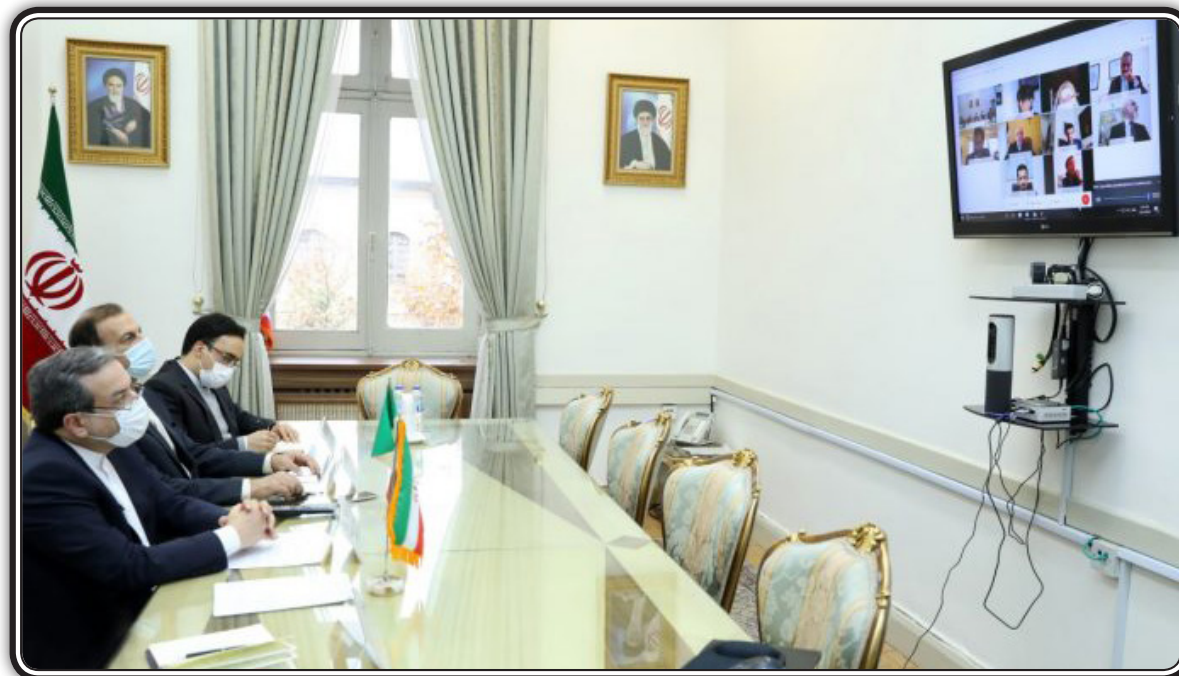
The Islamic Republic abhors wars, but at the same time for the sake of peace and stability, it has to be fully prepared to deter any satanic design by its cowardly arch-enemy, which resorts to terrorists and terroristic regimes with no roots and legitimacy in the region, for threatening Iran.

A point to note is that the US, despite its sabre rattling fears retaliation and for this reason insists that independent countries ought not to develop sophisticated means of defence, including missile and drone technology.

The reason the US desists from any foolish military action against North Korea is the range of Pyongyang's nuclear capable missiles, such as the KN08 (range 12,000 km), which can target any city in North America.

In view of these facts, there is no question of any talks on Iran's means of defence, and on the contrary the Islamic Republic should strive to increase the range and precision of its projectiles by relying on not just supersonic speed but hypersonic in order to guarantee regional security.

## Deputy FM Araqchi Tells Italy's la Repubblica: Iran Not Interested in Direct Contact With U.S.



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, right, holds a video conference with and Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Elisabetta Belloni in Tehran, December 7, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – A senior Iranian diplomat says the Islamic Republic has had no contact with the administration of new U.S. President Joe Biden, stressing that any possible talks could only be held within the "right format" of a 2015 multilateral nuclear agreement signed between Tehran and major world powers.

"Currently, we are not interested in making any direct contact and we think that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is the right format, and [any possible] talks should be conducted in that framework," Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said told Italy's la Repubblica published on Saturday.

Iran, he said, has "realistic" demands from Biden's administration, which are the lifting of sanctions by Washington and returning

to the nuclear deal.

"I don't see other alternatives. We have negotiated in good faith and implemented the JCPOA in good faith. It is now up to the new administration to correct the mistakes of their predecessors. The U.S. is the party that has abandoned the agreement: it is up to them to decide what to do," he said.

To re-enter the agreement they must remove all the sanctions they have imposed on Iran, Araqchi said. "We are ready to fulfill all our commitments as per the JCPOA provided that the Americans live up to their obligations and lift sanctions."

Araqchi touched on efforts by the European signatories to the nuclear deal – Britain, France and Germany – to include non-nuclear issues in the JCPOA, in what the German

foreign minister has characterized as a "nuclear deal plus".

"There will be no JCPOA plus, there will not be another agreement, there will not be new negotiations on the JCPOA," Araqchi said.

He also rejected calls for inclusion of Iran's missile power in any talks.

The Iranian diplomat said Tehran has no "particular stance" on the transfer of power in the U.S. as it is just waiting to see how the new president intends to correct former President Donald Trump's wrong positions.

Trump unilaterally pulled Washington out of the JCPOA in May 2018.

After abandoning the deal, Washington reimposed the sanctions (Continued on Page 7)

## Saudi FM's Contradictory Iran Remarks Spark Speculation

RIYADH (Dispatches) -- Saudi Arabia's foreign minister has said Riyadh stands ready for rapprochement with Iran, but claimed that the Islamic Republic does not commit itself to de-escalating tensions.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran in January 2016 following angry protests outside its embassy in Tehran over Riyadh's execution of a prominent cleric. Ever since, the country has followed a hostile policy which intensified in line with former U.S. president Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" on Tehran.

In an interview with Al Arabiya TV channel, however, Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud alleged that Tehran is "not serious about talks with Riyadh".

"Our hands are outstretched for peace with Iran, but it does not commit itself to agreements," he said.

The remarks came two days after Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif welcomed his Qatari counterpart's call for the Persian Gulf Arab countries to hold talks with Iran, saying Tehran has long demanded neighborly cooperation towards establishing a strong Middle East.

Tehran has on many occasions announced its readiness to hold talks with its neighbors directly. It has already put forward an initiative called the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE) to promote security in the Persian Gulf and facilitate such neighborly negotiations.

Prince Faisal claimed that Iran's "calls for dialogue are meant to

divert attention away from its own crises".

Riyadh acted as one of the main forces behind Washington's 2018 withdrawal from the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Tehran, after which the U.S. returned its draconian sanctions against Tehran.

Commenting on the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the top Saudi diplomat claimed that new U.S. President Joe Biden had pledged to include Persian Gulf allies and Israel in any future talks that focused on Iran's nuclear program as well as its missiles and regional role.

The JCPOA was "weak" because there was a lack of coordination with the countries in the region, Prince Faisal said.

"We will consult with the U.S. regarding the agreement so that it will be a strong basis," he added. "The European countries understand that the previous agreement with Tehran has flaws."

Iran has categorically dismissed negotiating the nuclear deal with the regional countries. Tehran has also rejected any renegotiation of the JCPOA, saying the U.S. must lift the sanctions before returning to the nuclear deal.

### Open to Political Solution in Yemen?

Elsewhere in his interview, the top Saudi diplomat indicated his country's readiness to reach a political solution on Yemen, but

threw the ball in Houthi's court.

"The Houthis will facilitate reaching a solution if they decide that the interest of Yemen is the most important," Prince Faisal said.

The conciliatory remarks come as Yemeni forces, including Houthi fighters, are going from strength to strength against the Saudi-led invaders, Press TV wrote.

Riyadh is additionally worried by the exit of the Trump administration which was a staunch supporter of the kingdom and its war on Yemen, the Tehran-based television channel added.

Biden pledged in his campaign to reassess ties with the kingdom, demanding more accountability over the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Riyadh's Istanbul consulate and calling for an end to U.S. support for the Yemen war.

The Saudi foreign minister, nevertheless, voiced optimism that relations with the United States would be "excellent" under Biden.

"The Biden administration will see that we have common goals with regards to the situation in Yemen," he said.

A spokesperson at the U.S. State Department said Friday Washington has started a review of a decision by the Trump administration to designate Yemen's popular Houthi Ansarullah movement as a foreign terrorist organization.

Prince Faisal, however, defended the blacklisting, saying it was "justified".

(Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

The idolaters have no right to visit the mosques of Allah while bearing witness to unbelief against themselves, these it is whose doings are null, and in the fire shall they abide.

The Holy Qur'an (9:17)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	17:43
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:43
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:09

## FM Zarif Heading to Caucasus, Russia, Turkey

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Monday begins a five-nation tour of regional countries to hold talks with senior officials on the latest developments and ways to promote peace.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Saturday that Zarif will travel to Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, Georgia and Turkey at the head of a delegation.

The top Iranian diplomat is about to discuss bilateral issues, the latest developments in the Caucasus, joint projects and ways of promoting peace and stability in the region with his counterparts and other top officials.

The Iranian foreign minister had planned to travel to the Russian and Azerbaijani capitals in November to talk about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, other regional issues, and bilateral matters, but the trip was postponed.

The visit comes after the worst fighting in South Caucasus in decades, which flared up in late September and lasted for 44 days.

The hostilities ended after the sides agreed to a Moscow-brokered ceasefire on November 9, which secured territorial advances for Azerbaijan in Karabakh and seven surrounding districts and led to the deployment of Russian peacekeepers to the region.

Iran, an immediate neighbor to both Armenia and Azerbaijan, has voiced its readiness to do its utmost to help consolidate the ceasefire.

Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but has been populated only by ethnic Armenians since 1992 when the enclave broke away from Baku in a war which claimed more than 30,000 lives.