

RUSSIA 'WORRIED' BY IRAN WAR RISK

Sept 18, 07. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has expressed fears over the threat of war in Iran after talks with his French counterpart, Bernard Kouchner.

Iran's nuclear programme is topping the agenda of their meeting in Moscow.

On Sunday, Mr Kouchner raised tensions with Iran, saying: "We have to prepare for the worst, and the worst is war."

The head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Mohamed El Baradei, has said force should only be used as a last resort to resolve the dispute.

Mr Lavrov said there was no military solution to any modern problem, including Iran's uranium-enrichment programme.

"We are worried by reports that there is serious consideration being given to military action in Iran," Mr Lavrov said.

Full report > <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/7000549.stm>

IRAN CLAIMS MISSILES AIMED AT 600 ISRAELI TARGETS

Sept 18, 07. A website affiliated with the Iranian regime, Assar Iran, claimed Monday that Iran has more than 600 missiles pointed at targets in Israel. Missiles are also locked on United States positions in Iraq, according to sources in the Islamic Republic.

The missiles, identified as Shihab-3s, will be launched if either Iran or Syria are attacked, the website warned. The unmodified Shihab-3 ("Meteor" in Persian) is assumed to have a range of 1,300 kilometers (approximately 800 miles), capable of striking targets in Israel. Several years ago, Iran claimed to have increased the range of its missiles to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles). – ARUTZ SHEVA

READ REPORT > <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/123700>

SAUDI WOMEN CHALLENGE DRIVING BAN

Sept 18, 07. A group of women in Saudi Arabia is for the first time to lobby the kingdom's government for the right to drive cars.

Members of the Committee of Demanders of Women's Right to Drive Cars plan to deliver a petition to King Abdullah by Sunday, Saudi Arabia's National Day.

Correspondents say the demand is likely to be rejected, as conservatives argue if women are allowed to drive, they will be able to mix freely with men.

The issue of women driving has recently become the subject of public debate.

Read full story > http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7000499.stm