



By: TA | AP Brief

Russia sends 3 Iranian satellites into orbit



Russia on Sunday sent three Iranian communications satellites into orbit, the second such launch since July, Iranian state television reported.

The report said that a Russian rocket sent the satellites to circle the Earth on a 500-kilometer (310-mile) orbit from the Vostochny launchpad in eastern Russia. The three satellites are dubbed Paya, Kowsar and Zafar-2.

The report said that Paya, weighing 150 kilograms (330 pounds), is the heaviest satellite that Iran has ever deployed into orbit.

Kowsar weighs 35 kilograms (77 pounds), but the report didn't specify how heavy Zafar-2 is.

The satellites feature up to 3-meter resolution images, applicable in the management of water resources, agriculture and the environment. Their life span is up to five years.

Strategic partnership

Russia occasionally sends Iran's satellites into orbit, highlighting the **strong ties** between the two countries.

In July, a Russian rocket sent Iranian communications satellite Nahid-2 into orbit.

Russia, which signed a "strategic partnership" treaty with Iran in January, strongly condemned the Israeli and **U.S. strikes on Iran** that came during a 12-day air war in June and killed nearly 1,100 Iranians, including military commanders and nuclear scientists. Retaliatory missile barrages by Iran killed 28 people in Israel.

Iran from time-to-time launches satellite carriers to send its satellites into space

As a long-standing project, Iran from time-to-time launches satellite carriers to send its satellites into space.

The United States has said that Iran's **satellite launches** defy a U.N. Security Council resolution and called on Tehran to undertake no activity involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

U.N. sanctions related to Iran's ballistic missile program expired in 2023.