



NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 25, 2026 - June 01, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

North Korea has demonstrated a heightened and aggressive security posture during the period of May 25 to June 01, 2026, marked by significant military provocations and a hardening of its diplomatic stance. The country conducted multiple ballistic missile and projectile launches into the Yellow Sea, showcasing new multi-purpose missile systems and tactical cruise missiles, which it claims are equipped with advanced warheads and autonomous navigation. Concurrently, Pyongyang has explicitly rejected denuclearization and formally codified South Korea as a "hostile state" in its constitution, abandoning the long-standing policy of reunification. Diplomatic efforts have focused on strengthening its "allied relations" with Russia, including formalizing troop deployments, while China seeks to reassert its influence amidst deepening Russia-DPRK ties. Cybersecurity threats from North Korean state-sponsored groups, such as Lazarus and Kimsuky, continue to target financial and military entities, indicating ongoing illicit revenue generation and espionage.

Key Security Developments

- Ballistic Missile and Projectile Launches

On May 26, 2026, North Korea launched multiple close-range ballistic missiles and other projectiles, including multiple rocket launch systems, toward the Yellow Sea from Jongju city on its west coast. These launches were described by state media as tests of a new lightweight multi-purpose missile launching system and a multiple tactical cruise missile weapon system, evaluating "special mission warhead of tactical ballistic missile" and "240mm controlled artillery rocket with expanded firing range which employed an ultra-precision autonomous navigation system." This marked North Korea's eighth weapons test in 2026 and the first since April 19, with missiles flying approximately 80 kilometers (50 miles). The launches were overseen by Kim Jong Un, who emphasized the upgrading of military force and significant technical progress. South Korea, the United States, and Japan immediately bolstered surveillance and maintained full readiness in response.

- Formal Rejection of Denuclearization

On May 28, 2026, North Korea unequivocally rejected calls for its denuclearization by the foreign ministers of the US, Australia, Japan, and India (Quad nations). An unnamed spokesperson for North Korea's Foreign Ministry stated that the country's denuclearization "will never happen forever" and condemned the Quad as a "political

and diplomatic tool serving the US strategy for unipolar domination." This statement underscores Pyongyang's hardened stance and its commitment to maintaining and advancing its nuclear weapons program.

- Constitutional Revision on Inter-Korean Relations

North Korea has revised its constitution to define its territory as bordering South Korea and to remove all references to the reunification of the Korean Peninsula. This revision, believed to have been adopted at a March meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly, codifies leader Kim Jong Un's policy of treating the two Koreas as separate, hostile states. The new Article 2 explicitly states North Korea's territory includes land bordering the "Republic of Korea to the south" and declares it "will never tolerate any infringement" of its territory.

- Deepening Russia-DPRK "Allied Relations"

On May 30, 2026, North Korea's Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui affirmed that her country shares "a common position" with Russia on all strategic issues, describing their relationship as "allied relations." This statement was made at a ceremony commemorating a late Russian ambassador in Pyongyang. This follows the comprehensive strategic partnership and mutual defense treaty signed between North Korea and Russia in June 2024, which includes a mutual defense provision. North Korea has also formalized troop deployment to support Russia in its war against Ukraine, with North Korean soldiers from ground, naval, and air forces participating in Russia's Victory Day military parade on May 9, 2026.

- Speculation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Visit

Throughout the period, there was significant speculation regarding a potential state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pyongyang in late May or early June 2026. Reports indicated that Chinese security and protocol officials had recently visited Pyongyang, suggesting preparations were underway. This potential visit is seen as an effort by China to signal that North Korea remains within its strategic orbit despite its deepening ties with Russia, and to demonstrate Beijing's diplomatic leverage in regional security.

- Continued Cybersecurity Attacks by Lazarus Group

On May 25, 2026, cybersecurity researchers revealed that the North Korea-linked Lazarus Group deployed a new cross-platform malware named RemotePE in attacks targeting financial and cryptocurrency organizations. This sophisticated malware is executed entirely in memory, leaving no filesystem artifacts, making detection more challenging. The attacks are part of a multi-stage chain involving loaders like DPAPILoader and RemotePELoader.

- Kimsuky Group Targets South Korean Entities

On May 29, 2026, the North Korean state-sponsored threat actor Kimsuky (also known as Velvet Chollima) was identified as being behind cyber attacks in March and April 2026 targeting South Korean military and corporate entities. Kimsuky employed tailored social engineering tactics, including spoofing security software installation pages and creating fake Webex meeting pages, to deliver a variant of HTTPSpy malware disguised as legitimate security software installers.

- South Korea's Response and Defense Modernization

Following North Korea's missile launches, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung called for intensified efforts to advance the country's military capabilities. He specifically emphasized the importance of artificial intelligence and drone capabilities, as well as the potential acquisition of a nuclear-powered submarine. This highlights South Korea's commitment to strengthening its own security and its alliance with the United States in response to North Korean threats.

- North Korea's Focus on Self-Reliance and Military Deterrence

Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, following a recent visit to Pyongyang, stated on May 29, 2026, that North Korea appears unwilling to engage with the United States or South Korea. Instead, Pyongyang is concentrating on strengthening its self-reliance and military deterrence. Balakrishnan also noted that North Korea has undergone visible economic development despite international isolation.

- Ongoing Military Development Plan (2026-2030)

North Korea is currently implementing a new Five-Year Military Development Plan for 2026-2030. This plan aims to introduce "new secret arsenals and special strategic assets," including "ICBM complexes of ground and underwater launching." The country has continued ballistic missile launches throughout 2025 and early 2026, including short-range ballistic missiles, multiple launch rocket systems, long-range strategic cruise missiles, and anti-ship missiles, in line with this plan.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's recent actions have significantly intensified regional tensions and reshaped the geopolitical landscape. The explicit rejection of denuclearization and the constitutional revision formally designating South Korea as a hostile state cement Pyongyang's hardline stance, effectively ending any immediate prospect of inter-Korean dialogue or denuclearization talks with the United States. This shift forces South Korea, the U.S., and Japan to further strengthen their trilateral security cooperation and defense capabilities, as evidenced by South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's call for advanced military assets like AI, drones, and potentially

nuclear-powered submarines. The repeated missile launches, particularly into the Yellow Sea, serve to test and refine North Korea's evolving missile technology and demonstrate its ability to evade regional defenses, directly threatening South Korea and Japan.

The deepening "allied relations" between North Korea and Russia, formalized through a comprehensive strategic partnership and mutual defense treaty, are a critical development. North Korea's provision of troops and weapons to Russia for the war in Ukraine, in exchange for military satellite technology and potentially other advanced military assistance, strengthens both regimes and poses a direct challenge to Western sanctions and security interests. This growing alignment creates a more formidable anti-Western bloc, complicating efforts by the U.S. and its allies to isolate Pyongyang. The participation of North Korean forces in Russia's Victory Day parade underscores the public display of this "blood alliance."

China's role in this dynamic is complex. While Beijing and Moscow jointly oppose "diplomatic isolation, economic sanctions, and military pressure" on North Korea, China is also reportedly seeking to reassert its influence over Pyongyang. The speculated visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pyongyang aims to signal that North Korea remains within China's strategic orbit despite its deepening ties with Russia, and to demonstrate Beijing's diplomatic leverage. This delicate balancing act by China reflects its desire for regional stability and its strategic competition with the U.S., as it seeks to prevent North Korea from moving too deeply into Russia's sphere while also avoiding an explicit China-North Korea-Russia axis that could increase U.S. strategic pressure. The overall strategic landscape is shifting towards increased bloc confrontation, with North Korea firmly entrenched in an anti-U.S. and anti-Western alignment.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military posture during this period reflects a clear and accelerated commitment to qualitative and quantitative enhancement of its defense capabilities, particularly in its nuclear and missile programs. The May 26, 2026, missile launches from Jongju city, involving both ballistic missiles and multiple rocket launch systems, demonstrate Pyongyang's ongoing efforts to diversify its strike options and improve precision. The emphasis on "special mission warheads" and "ultra-precision autonomous navigation systems" for its 240mm controlled artillery rockets indicates a focus on developing advanced tactical weapons capable of evading defenses and delivering specific payloads. This aligns with the broader objectives of the Five-Year Military Development Plan for 2026-2030, which aims to introduce "new secret arsenals and special strategic assets," including advanced ICBM complexes for ground and underwater launching.

Force posture along the inter-Korean border is also a critical area of focus. Kim Jong Un's earlier directive to strengthen military preparations and transform the frontier into an "impregnable fortress" highlights a defensive, yet potentially escalatory, strategy. This involves increasing practical combat drills and redefining military operational concepts, likely incorporating lessons from recent global conflicts regarding drones, precision weapons, and electronic warfare. The formal designation of South Korea as the "first hostile state" provides the ideological justification for these military buildups and a pre-emptive nuclear strike capability under the newly formalized "Haekpangasoe" (nuclear trigger) concept. Defense spending trends are implicitly on an upward trajectory, driven by Kim's orders to step up missile production and construct more munitions factories to meet the military's growing needs. The reported exchange of military satellite technology and potential nuclear-powered submarine capabilities from Russia further indicates a significant modernization program, leveraging external assistance to overcome technological gaps.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, North Korea is highly likely to continue its pattern of weapons demonstrations, potentially including further missile launches or even a high-profile test of a military reconnaissance satellite. Given the explicit rejection of denuclearization and the constitutional changes, diplomatic engagement with the U.S. and South Korea is expected to remain stalled, with Pyongyang prioritizing military deterrence and self-reliance. The deepening military and strategic alignment with Russia will likely be further solidified, possibly through additional exchanges or public displays of cooperation. Cybersecurity attacks by state-sponsored groups against financial and military targets in South Korea and beyond are also expected to persist as a means of illicit revenue generation and espionage.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Yellow Sea and the inter-Korean border remain critical flashpoints. North Korean missile launches into the Yellow Sea, coupled with its constitutional claim over bordering territories, increase the risk of maritime incidents. Any perceived infringement of its newly defined territorial boundaries could trigger a disproportionate response. The heavily fortified border, with North Korea's emphasis on creating an "impregnable fortress" and conducting practical combat drills, presents a constant risk of accidental or intentional escalation. Furthermore, the potential for a military satellite launch carries a high risk of international condemnation and could prompt stronger countermeasures from the U.S., South Korea, and Japan, potentially leading to further North Korean provocations. The ongoing cyber campaigns also pose a significant threat to financial stability and critical infrastructure in the region.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of North Korean missile tests, particularly any attempts at satellite launches or tests of new strategic weapons systems. Statements from North Korean state media regarding military development, diplomatic engagements with Russia and China, and rhetoric towards South Korea and the U.S. will provide insights into Pyongyang's strategic intentions. The outcome and details of any potential visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Pyongyang will be crucial for understanding the evolving dynamics of the China-DPRK-Russia alignment. Monitoring the activities of North Korean cyber threat groups and any new advisories from cybersecurity agencies will also be important.

Strategic recommendations: Given North Korea's hardened stance, a multi-faceted approach is necessary. For the U.S. and its allies, strengthening deterrence through enhanced military readiness, intelligence sharing, and joint exercises remains paramount. Continued investment in advanced defense capabilities, including missile defense and counter-cyber measures, is essential. Diplomatic efforts should focus on maintaining a united front among allies and engaging China to leverage its influence for de-escalation, even if direct talks with Pyongyang remain elusive. Sanctions enforcement against North Korea's illicit activities, particularly cybercrime, must be rigorously pursued to curb its funding for weapons programs. Finally, preparing for potential contingencies along the border and in maritime zones through robust crisis management protocols is crucial to prevent escalation from incidents.

```
```json
{
 "threat_level": "High",
 "hotspots": [
 {
 "label": "Jongju City",
 "detail": "Site of multiple ballistic missile and projectile launches into the Yellow Sea on May 26, 2026.",
 "lat": 39.6333,
 "lng": 124.7833,
 "intensity": 4
 },
 {
 "label": "Yellow Sea",
 "detail": "Area where North Korea launched multiple missiles and projectiles, increasing maritime security concerns.",

```

```
"lat": 36.0,
"lng": 123.0,
"intensity": 3
},
{
"label": "Inter-Korean Border (DMZ)",
"detail": "North Korea ordered stronger military preparations, aiming to turn it into an
'impregnable fortress', increasing risk of incidents.",
"lat": 38.3083,
"lng": 127.275,
"intensity": 4
},
{
"label": "Pyongyang",
"detail": "Center of North Korea's diplomatic and military policy, with potential
high-level visits and ongoing military development.",
"lat": 39.0333,
"lng": 125.75,
"intensity": 3
},
{
"label": "Cyber Domain",
"detail": "Ongoing and sophisticated cyberattacks by North Korean state-sponsored
groups targeting financial and military entities.",
"lat": 0.0,
"lng": 0.0,
"intensity": 4
}
]
}
```

---

## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: NK News

- [ROK, Japan discussed potential military logistics agreement, Seoul says](#) (2026-05-31 07:22)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back told NK News on Sunday that he discussed a potential bilateral Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) with his Japanese counterpart a day earlier, signaling growing consideration of deeper logistical cooperation between Seoul and Tokyo amid shared concerns over North Korean threats. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the [...]

- [South Korea, Japan stress Korean Peninsula security, resume maritime drills](#) (2026-05-30 13:07)

Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back and Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi agreed Saturday that bilateral and trilateral cooperation with the United States remains essential for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and across the region, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry. The meeting on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore came about an [...]

- [Seoul says North Korea arms buildup is fueling global instability](#) (2026-05-30 10:54)

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back on Saturday warned that North Korea is emerging as a growing security threat beyond the Korean Peninsula as its military ties with Russia deepen, while outlining Seoul's plans to build a more technologically advanced and "self-reliant military." Speaking during the fourth plenary session of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, [...]

- [Hegseth praises Seoul's defense commitments, omits reference to North Korea](#) (2026-05-30 04:04)

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday praised South Korea's commitment to higher defense spending and taking greater responsibility for its own conventional defense, but did not mention North Korea once during his opening address or subsequent question-and-answer session at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. Seoul's defense commitments received direct attention among other U.S. regional [...]

- [ROK institute pushes to jump-start research on North Korea's rare earth reserves](#) (2026-05-29 08:58)

South Korea's state-funded geological research institute is exploring ways to resume research into North Korea's mineral resources, seeking to identify deposits of rare earth metals that are

key to an array of modern technologies. However, experts say prospects for cooperation with the DPRK are slim amid its rejection of all inter-Korean ties, while other countries [...]

- [North Korea imports \\$4M worth of Russian rye wheat flour through April: Data](#) (2026-05-29 08:48)

North Korea procured \$4 million worth of rye wheat flour from Russia from January to April, becoming one of the top importers of the product, official data shows. The Agroexport Center, an export promotion arm of Russia's Agriculture Ministry, did not clarify the size of the delivery in a social media post on Friday, only [...]

- [Shoigu discusses intelligence links with North Korean secret police chief](#) (2026-05-29 07:44)

Russia's top security official Sergei Shoigu stressed the importance of intelligence cooperation in a meeting with the head of North Korea's secret police this week, following Pyongyang's move to revamp its surveillance apparatus. Shoigu met Ri Chang Dae on the sidelines of the International Security Forum in Moscow on Thursday, Russian state media and television [...]

- [Seoul prosecutors set to probe minister over remarks on North Korean nuke site](#) (2026-05-29 05:20)

South Korean prosecutors are set to investigate Unification Minister Chung Dong-young over allegations that he disclosed confidential information about a suspected North Korean nuclear site. "The complaint filed against [Chung] was transferred to us from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office," a spokesperson for the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors' Office told NK News on Friday. [...]

- [Singapore's top diplomat briefs Seoul officials on his North Korea visit](#) (2026-05-29 04:33)

Singapore's top diplomat briefed his South Korean counterpart on Thursday about his recent visit to Pyongyang, agreeing to work to create conditions for dialogue with North Korea. Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan held the meeting with Foreign Minister Cho Hyun in Seoul, concluding a weeklong trip that included stops in Beijing and Pyongyang, according to statements [...]

- [How Seoul can transform inter-Korean ties by abandoning the name 'North Korea'](#) (2026-05-29 03:07)

Editor's note: The following article is an opinion piece by Dan Gudgeon, a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna. Views expressed in opinion articles are exclusively the author's own and do not represent those of NK News. South Korea's Unification Minister has attracted attention — and sharp [...]

- [North Korean man faces hefty fine for trying to bribe Russian cop](#) (2026-05-28 08:29)

A North Korean man has found himself in legal trouble for attempting to bribe a Russian police officer in the Far East, facing a fine 12 times larger than the bribe itself. The Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk

City Court found the DPRK citizen guilty of attempted bribery and ordered the defendant to pay a fine of over \$4,230 [...]

- [Seoul denies OPCON transfer will lead to dissolution of joint US-ROK command](#) (2026-05-28 07:43)

South Korea's defense ministry has dismissed a news report suggesting the premature transfer of wartime operational control from the U.S. will lead to the dissolution of the military command responsible for deterring North Korean attack, calling the assertion "speculative" and "unfounded." "South Korea and the U.S. will continue to maintain the current Combined Forces Command [...]

- [North Korea is marching deeper into Moscow's orbit, and aims to stay](#) (2026-05-28 02:06)

Editor's note: The following article is an opinion piece by Benjamin R. Young, a researcher and analyst of North Korea and U.S.-East Asia relations. Views expressed in opinion articles are exclusively the author's own and do not represent those of NK News. North Korean soldiers marched in Russia's Victory Day Parade for the first time [...]

- [Why some experts fear ROK missile sites could incentivize North Korean strikes](#) (2026-05-28 01:39)

South Korea's military appears to have deployed more than 300 short-range ballistic missiles in fixed concrete bunkers near Seoul, an arrangement that suggests it could be used as a first-strike weapon against North Korea, two U.S. security analysts have assessed. But some ROK experts contend that the missile bases are aimed at rapidly responding to [...]

- [Singapore, North Korea pledge deeper cooperation on global issues](#) (2026-05-27 07:00)

The top diplomats of North Korea and Singapore met in Pyongyang on Tuesday and called for the development of "friendly and cooperative relations" between the two countries, according to DPRK state media. Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan met with his DPRK counterpart Choe Son Hui and discussed strengthening bilateral ties through closer ministerial cooperation in [...]

- [Seoul lays out plans to build nuclear sub by mid-2030s to counter North Korea](#) (2026-05-27 06:55)

South Korea has announced plans to build its first nuclear-powered submarine by the mid-2030s, saying the vessel will play "a pivotal role" in countering North Korea's growing submarine-based nuclear and missile threats. During the inaugural Future Defense Strategy Committee meeting on Tuesday at the southeastern naval hub of Jinhae, Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back unveiled Seoul's [...]

- [Pro-North Korea organization in Japan nixes support for unification](#) (2026-05-27 04:32)

A pro-North Korea organization of ethnic Koreans in Japan has removed references to unification from its charter, appearing to belatedly reflect Kim Jong Un's declaration that the two Koreas are separate states. The General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, better known as Chongryon, held its 26th General Assembly in Tokyo over the weekend, according [...]

- [Russian drug company says it shipped \\$74K worth of medication to North Korea](#) (2026-05-27 04:18)

A Russian pharmaceutical firm says it has shipped its first batch of heart and blood pressure, dementia and hair loss drugs to North Korea for an expected sale date in June. The shipment covered nearly 20,000 packages of various medicines worth some \$74,300, the St. Petersburg-based drugmaker WERTEX announced in a press release on Tuesday. [...]

- [North Korean club soccer team wins AFC title during rare trip to the South](#) (2026-05-27 01:52)

This week, NK News Correspondent Jooheon Kim joins the podcast to discuss a North Korean soccer team's rare trip to the South. The Naegohyang Women's Football Club made the journey for the AFC Women's Champions League semifinals, marking the first visit by a DPRK sports delegation in nearly eight years and the first by a [...]

- [North Korea tests new modular missile launcher and 'tactical cruise missiles'](#) (2026-05-27 00:55)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a missile test on Tuesday featuring a new modular missile launch vehicle and a "multiple tactical cruise missile" system to be deployed at the South Korean border, according to state media. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Wednesday that one transporter erector launch vehicle (TEL) for each [...]

- [North Korea bans smoking while driving, jaywalking, walking pets without collar](#) (2026-05-26 09:33)

North Korean media this week has promoted a sweeping revision to traffic laws that bans smoking while driving, jaywalking and walking pets without a collar, hinting at growing problems due to a boom in private car ownership and electric bicycles. The state-run Korean Central Television (KCTV) aired a two-episode segment on the Road Traffic Law [...]

- [Bus carrying 30 North Koreans crashes in western Russia: Reports](#) (2026-05-26 08:36)

A bus carrying around 30 suspected North Korean workers crashed in western Russia on Monday, according to reports. Police in the city of Nizhny Novgorod confirmed the accident and released photos of the crashed bus, stating that the driver sustained minor injuries and that the passengers were unharmed. The authorities did not disclose the passengers' [...]

- [Singapore's top diplomat to visit North Korea before talks in South](#) (2026-05-26 06:51)

Singapore's top diplomat is scheduled to visit North Korea on Tuesday, two days before talks with his South Korean counterpart in Seoul, according to the city-state's foreign ministry. Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan is departing for the DPRK following his three-day visit to Beijing, the ministry said in a news release. The release provided no [...]

- [North Korea fires 'unidentified projectile' westward: Seoul](#) (2026-05-26 04:30)

This is a developing news story. Please check back for updates. North Korea launched an unidentified projectile west toward the Yellow Sea on Tuesday, just after 1 p.m. KST, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Seoul typically provides updates in the hours following an initial alert about detecting a missile test, including [...]

- [China tight-lipped about Xi Jinping's reported plans to visit North Korea](#) (2026-05-26 03:54)

China has remained tight-lipped about leader Xi Jinping's potential visit to North Korea, following reports that it could take place as early as this week. At a press briefing on Monday, Beijing foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that she had "no information" at this time on when Xi would pay a state visit to [...]

- [Families of South Koreans detained in North launch group to advocate for release](#) (2026-05-25 10:13)

Family members of South Koreans detained in North Korea for over a decade have established a new association to advocate for their release, amid renewed attention on the prisoners' plight. The ROK Hostages' Families Association (ROKHFA) plans to call on the ROK government and international organizations to verify the conditions of detainees and seek their [...]

- [North Korean soccer team defeats Japan to win women's championship](#) (2026-05-25 10:07)

A Pyongyang-based women's soccer team defeated a Japanese opponent 1-0 to clinch the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Champions League title over the weekend, concluding a rare visit to South Korea for a series of matches. The Rodong Sinmun party daily described Saturday's game between Naegohyang Women's FC and Japan's Tokyo Verdy Beleza as "a [...]"

- [Why military strikes on North Korea's nuke program would have made things worse](#) (2026-05-25 10:07)

The U.S. war with Iran has raised questions about whether America's bombing campaign can truly eliminate Iranian nuclear facilities, reawakening a debate about whether military strikes could have stopped North Korea from going nuclear decades ago. In an editorial published in April, The Wall Street Journal argued that Washington had an opportunity to halt the [...]

- [North Korea to convene major party meeting on ‘important issues’ in late June](#) (2026-05-25 03:49)

North Korea will convene a major party meeting in late June to review the implementation of annual plans and “a series of important issues,” state media announced on Monday. In a two-sentence article, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported the politburo adopted a resolution on holding the second plenary meeting of the Ninth Central […]

## Source: NK Pro

- [North Korea’ s spring drought had only limited impact on crops, data suggests](#) (2026-06-01 04:20)

A lack of rain in North Korea this spring resulted in lower soil moisture levels, though the dry spell appears to have had a limited impact on crop growth, according to NK Pro analysis of satellite data. The findings — based on data from NASA, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the European Space […]

The post North Korea’ s spring drought had only limited impact on crops, data suggests appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korea appears to be prepping for leader summit amid reports of Xi visit](#) (2026-05-29 07:56)

North Korea appears to be preparing to welcome a foreign leader at a special ceremony in central Pyongyang, according to NK Pro analysis, following reports that Chinese leader Xi Jinping could visit soon. Satellite imagery also shows that the Pyongyang International Airport has cleared space for the arrival of a foreign fleet, much like it […]

The post North Korea appears to be prepping for leader summit amid reports of Xi visit appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korea gives a hero’ s welcome to victorious women’ s soccer squad](#) (2026-05-29 04:40)

North Korean state media hyped a series of international sporting victories as vindications of the country’ s political system this week, reporting that these “patriotic offerings” brought joy to a population carrying out Ninth Party Congress goals. The women’ s soccer players took titles at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-17 Women’ s Asian Cup and Asian Women’ s […]

The post North Korea gives a hero’ s welcome to victorious women’ s soccer squad appeared first on NK PRO.

- [Satellite images capture North Korean destroyer sailing on west coast Tuesday](#) (2026-05-28 07:49)

North Korea’ s largest modern warship appeared to be sailing in the waters of Nampho Bay on the west coast around midday Thursday, according to NK Pro analysis of satellite imagery, possibly as part of a test involving missile launches and the DPRK leader. The activity comes after leader Kim Jong Un said earlier this month […]

The post Satellite images capture North

Korean destroyer sailing on west coast Tuesday appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korean showroom selling Lexus, Mercedes luxury cars for up to \\$250K](#) (2026-05-28 01:55)

A car showroom in Pyongyang is selling luxury vehicles from Japan, Germany and China at prices of up to \$250,000, according to photos reviewed by NK Pro. The images taken in early 2026 and provided by an informed source show vehicles on display alongside Korean-language price cards listing model year, specifications, mileage and asking price. [...] The post North Korean showroom selling Lexus, Mercedes luxury cars for up to \$250K appeared first on NK PRO.

- [The problem with labeling every North Korean missile launch a ‘provocation’](#) (2026-05-27 02:57)

North Korea has conducted a spate of military demonstrations of late, from mortar firing competitions, cruise missile launches and cluster munitions testing to Tuesday’s ballistic missile test. Predictably, South Korea and its allies have labeled many of these provocations. But while there is broad agreement that such drills and launches reflect a steady enhancement of [...] The post The problem with labeling every North Korean missile launch a ‘provocation’ appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korea builds first large-scale solar farm to address ‘energy problem’](#) (2026-05-25 06:14)

North Korea has built its first large-scale solar energy farm in the southern coastal city of Haeju, satellite imagery shows, as state media continues to report on the country’s “strained energy problem.” NK Pro analysis of Planet Labs satellite imagery reveals that construction on the new solar farm started last June and that straight rows [...] The post North Korea builds first large-scale solar farm to address ‘energy problem’ appeared first on NK PRO.