

NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: November 02, 2026 - November 09, 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 demonstrated a heightened state of military readiness and continued its strategic weapons development program between November 02 and November 09, 2026, conducting multiple missile launches and tests of advanced defense systems. Pyongyang firmly rejected renewed overtures for dialogue from the United States, reiterating its demand for an end to "hostile policies" and dismissing accusations of large-scale cyber theft. Concurrently, North Korea engaged in high-level diplomatic exchanges with China, reaffirming bilateral ties amidst increasing international pressure. The period also saw a sharp rebuke from North Korea towards the European Union over a UN human rights resolution, underscoring persistent geopolitical tensions and a hardening of Pyongyang's stance against Western criticism.

Key Security Developments

- Reaffirmation of Nuclear Deterrent Policy (November 02, 2026)

North Korea officially declared that strengthening its nuclear deterrent is an "immutable" national defense policy, directly linking this acceleration to joint US-South Korean military exercises. Kim Jong-sik, first vice department director of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea's Central Committee, condemned the "Iron Mace" exercise (September 29 - October 02) as a "hideous nuclear war rehearsal" aimed at North Korea. This statement underscores Pyongyang's consistent justification for its nuclear program as a defensive measure against perceived external threats.

- Multiple Missile Launches Towards Sea of Japan (November 04, 2026)

South Korean military authorities reported that North Korea fired several missiles towards the Sea of Japan (East Sea) on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, from the Sondok area in South Hamgyong Province. These launches followed a series of tests in late October, including short-range ballistic missiles. The projectiles traveled less than 300 kilometers, and their exact type and specifications are under investigation by South Korean and US authorities.

- Test of New Air Defense Missile System (November 04, 2026)

State media, KCNA, reported on Thursday, November 5, that North Korea successfully test-fired a newly designed advanced air defense missile system on Wednesday, November 4. The test, overseen by General Kim Jong-sik, aimed to verify the system's technical specifications, including its guided mode, target identification, tracking capabilities, and detection-information processing device. This marks Pyongyang's

fourth weapons test in a week, highlighting ongoing efforts to modernize its air defense capabilities.

• Long-Range Strategic Cruise Missile Strike Drill (November 04, 2026)

Concurrently with the air defense system test on November 4, a firepower subunit of North Korea's long-range strategic cruise missile unit in the eastern area conducted a strike drill. This exercise involved a long-range strategic cruise missile targeting a virtual airport, simulating an operation to eliminate enemy air power. KCNA claimed the unit successfully carried out the simulated strike.

• Rejection of US Dialogue and Accusations of Hostility (November 03-06, 2026)

North Korea explicitly rejected the prospect of renewed diplomatic talks with Washington, with Kim Yo-jong, sister of leader Kim Jong-un, stating on November 3 that dialogue remains an option for peace but is not necessarily in North Korea's national interest unless the US abandons its "hostile policy." She cited US accusations regarding the Binance cryptocurrency theft and trilateral US-South Korea-Japan denuclearization commitments as signs of this hostility. On November 6, North Korea's Foreign Ministry further stated it would "never discuss with the enemy state in any case within our territory" and would defend its sovereign domain through "a thorough exercise of force."

• Denial of Binance Cryptocurrency Hack (November 02-03, 2026)

North Korea vehemently denied its involvement in the alleged theft of over $6 billion from the cryptocurrency exchange Binance. On November 2, Pyongyang dismissed the FBI's attribution of the hack to the North Korean hacking group "TraderTraitor" as a "trite provocation" and "absurd fabrications." Kim Yo-jong further rejected these claims on November 3, accusing the US of misleading international public opinion and attempting to portray North Korea as a "cybercrime state."

• High-Level Diplomatic Engagement with China (November 05-07, 2026)

A senior North Korean ruling party official, Kim Song-nam, a Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, held multiple high-level meetings in Beijing from November 5 to November 7. He met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Liu Haixing (head of the Communist Party of China's International Liaison Department), and Cai Qi (member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau). Both sides reaffirmed support for each other's policies and pledged deeper cooperation, with China reiterating its commitment to friendship with North Korea.

• Condemnation of EU Human Rights Resolution (November 05, 2026)

North Korea condemned a European Union draft resolution on its human rights record at the United Nations, calling it a "politically motivated provocation." State media KCNA reported on November 5 that North Korea's UN mission urged the EU to "mind

its own business" and address its own internal issues, such as alleged police violence in European cities. This highlights a continued point of friction in North Korea's relations with the EU.

- Focus on Asymmetric Capabilities and Unmanned Systems (November 04-05, 2026)

Analysis from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) on November 4 and 5 indicated that North Korea is likely improving its ability to coordinate strikes from long-range missiles, artillery, and drones, drawing lessons from the Ukraine war. Pyongyang aims to develop asymmetric capabilities to mitigate US and South Korean conventional superiority, with leader Kim Jong-un previously describing unmanned systems as a "primary military asset."

- Reinforcement of Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) Border (Ongoing, noted October 20, 2026)

North Korea has been actively reinforcing its side of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) with mines, barriers, and fencing since 2024, in what it describes as establishing a permanent border. South Korea's Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Ju Il-suk noted on October 20 that North Korea has made "various changes" to military forces facing South Korea's border islands, prompting Seoul to step up surveillance. This ongoing fortification contributes to heightened border tensions.

Cyber Threat Landscape

During the period of November 02 to November 09, 2026, the cyber threat landscape concerning North Korea was dominated by accusations from the United States regarding a massive cryptocurrency heist. The FBI publicly attributed the theft of over $6 billion from the Binance cryptocurrency exchange to a North Korean hacking group known as TraderTraitor. This incident, which occurred prior to the reporting period but was officially announced and reacted to within it, is considered potentially the largest cryptocurrency theft in history, with the stolen amount estimated to be nearly a quarter of North Korea's estimated annual GDP. The US State Department subsequently labeled North Korean cybercrime as a "global problem," asserting that Pyongyang increasingly relies on such activities to evade international sanctions and fund its illicit weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ballistic missile programs.

North Korea, through statements from Kim Yo-jong, sister of leader Kim Jong-un, vehemently denied these allegations, dismissing them as "a trite provocation" and "absurd fabrications" designed to portray the country as a "cybercrime state". While the specific threat actors Higaisa and Gelsemium were not explicitly named in the news for this period, the extensive coverage of TraderTraitor highlights the persistent and financially motivated cyber operations attributed to North Korea. There were no

significant reports of exploited vulnerabilities affecting North Korean organizations or specific government cyber policy responses beyond the denial of involvement in the Binance hack.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's actions during this period significantly exacerbated regional stability and complicated its relations with major powers. The series of missile launches and tests of advanced defense systems, including a new air defense missile system and a long-range strategic cruise missile drill, underscore Pyongyang's unwavering commitment to military modernization and its nuclear program. This aggressive posture directly challenges the security interests of the United States, South Korea, and Japan, who view these tests as provocations and a direct threat to regional peace. The US Pacific Command acknowledged the missile launches and consulted with regional allies, reiterating its commitment to defending American territory and its allies.

Pyongyang's outright rejection of renewed dialogue with Washington, coupled with its insistence on the US abandoning "hostile policies," signals a continued diplomatic stalemate. This stance, particularly after the US midterm elections, creates a dilemma where the US President might seek foreign policy achievements, but North Korea shows less confidence in any agreements without tangible concessions like sanctions relief. Meanwhile, North Korea's high-level diplomatic engagements with China, including meetings between Kim Song-nam and top Chinese officials, indicate a strengthening of bilateral ties. China's reaffirmation of friendship and commitment to deeper cooperation provides Pyongyang with crucial political and economic support, potentially mitigating the impact of international sanctions and complicating efforts by the US and its allies to isolate North Korea.

The deepening military and economic cooperation between North Korea and Russia, though not directly detailed in this period's news, remains a significant concern for the international community, as highlighted by recent EU sanctions (October 2026). This alignment allows North Korea to potentially acquire military technology and resources, further fueling its weapons programs. The ongoing reinforcement of the DMZ border and the severance of military communication lines with South Korea also heighten the risk of accidental clashes, maintaining a state of elevated tension on the Korean Peninsula. The overall strategic landscape is characterized by North Korea's determined pursuit of military capabilities, its reliance on cybercrime for funding, and its strategic alignment with China and Russia, all contributing to increased instability and a complex security environment in Northeast Asia.

EU Relations and Implications

North Korea's relations with the European Union during this period were marked by significant friction, primarily stemming from human rights issues. On November 5, 2026, North Korea strongly condemned a European Union draft resolution on its human rights record at the United Nations, labeling it a "politically motivated provocation". Pyongyang's state media, KCNA, reported that North Korea's UN mission advised the EU to "mind its own business" and address its own internal problems, such as alleged police violence in European cities. This incident highlights the persistent ideological and political chasm between North Korea and the EU, with human rights remaining a contentious point in their limited diplomatic interactions.

The security and cyber developments, particularly North Korea's continued missile tests and its alleged involvement in large-scale cyber theft, have significant implications for EU interests. While there were no direct reports of EU-funded cooperation projects (Peace & Security, Humanitarian, Education & Skills, Development Cooperation) being impacted during this specific week, the broader context of North Korea's illicit activities directly undermines international peace and security efforts, which are core EU interests. The EU had already expanded its sanctions list in October 2026, targeting individuals and entities for supporting North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and its cooperation with Russia. The ongoing cyber activities, such as those attributed to TraderTraitor, which fund WMD programs, pose a global financial threat and directly contradict the EU's efforts to curb proliferation and maintain financial stability. These developments reinforce the EU's stance on maintaining and potentially strengthening sanctions, making any meaningful security or digital cooperation with North Korea highly improbable in the current climate.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military and defense posture during this period was characterized by an intensified focus on modernizing its strike capabilities and strengthening its defensive systems. The country explicitly stated its "immutable" national defense policy to accelerate the strengthening of its nuclear war deterrent, directly in response to perceived threats from joint US-South Korean military exercises. This indicates a continued reliance on its nuclear arsenal as the ultimate guarantor of its security.

The series of weapons tests conducted, including multiple missile launches from the Sondok area on November 4, a test of a new advanced air defense missile system, and a long-range strategic cruise missile strike drill against a virtual airport target, demonstrate a concerted effort to enhance both offensive and defensive capabilities.

These tests, part of a broader trend of increased weapons testing, suggest a push towards developing asymmetric capabilities to counter the conventional superiority of the US and South Korea. North Korea is reportedly integrating lessons from conflicts like the Ukraine war, particularly in the large-scale deployment of unmanned systems, and aims to modernize its strike complex to include long-range missiles, artillery, and drones. Furthermore, reports of Kim Jong-un's visit to the Nampo shipyard, where a significant military vessel is under construction, signal ongoing efforts to strengthen the North Korean fleet, potentially including a 10,000-ton missile cruiser. The continuous reinforcement of the DMZ with mines, barriers, and fencing since 2024 also points to a strategy of physically solidifying its borders and enhancing tactical defense postures. Defense spending trends are not explicitly available for this period, but the rapid pace of weapons development and modernization suggests substantial investment in its military industrial complex, likely funded in part by illicit cyber activities.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): North Korea is highly likely to continue its aggressive military modernization and testing schedule. The rejection of US dialogue and the hardening stance against "hostile policies" suggest that Pyongyang will prioritize demonstrating its military strength over diplomatic engagement in the immediate future. We can anticipate further missile launches, potentially including new types of ballistic or cruise missiles, and continued tests of advanced conventional weapons systems. Cyber operations, particularly financially motivated attacks, are expected to persist as a critical revenue stream for the regime, especially given the explicit US accusations and North Korea's denial. Diplomatic engagement with China will likely remain robust, serving as a counterweight to international pressure and providing a channel for political support. Tensions along the inter-Korean border, including the DMZ and maritime zones, will remain elevated, with a risk of localized incidents due to ongoing fortification efforts and severed communication channels.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Yellow Sea (West Sea) and East Sea (Sea of Japan) remain critical maritime flashpoints, particularly given North Korea's frequent missile launches into these waters and its ongoing naval development. The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the Northern Limit Line (NLL) are also high-risk areas due to physical fortifications, lack of communication, and potential for miscalculation. Any significant joint military exercises between the US and South Korea will almost certainly trigger a strong, potentially escalatory, response from Pyongyang. The ongoing cyber conflict, particularly large-scale cryptocurrency thefts, could lead to further international condemnation and targeted sanctions, increasing financial pressure on the regime. The potential for North Korea to provide further military

assistance to Russia, or to receive advanced military technology in return, also presents a significant risk to regional and global security.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and type of North Korean missile tests, particularly any advancements in solid-fuel technology, hypersonic capabilities, or submarine-launched systems. Statements from Kim Jong-un or Kim Yo-jong regarding diplomatic overtures or military policy will be crucial. The nature and frequency of high-level exchanges with China and Russia should be closely watched for signs of deeper military or economic cooperation. Monitoring the activities of known North Korean cyber threat actors, such as TraderTraitor, for new campaigns or targets will be essential. Any changes in rhetoric or actions from South Korea, the US, or Japan regarding their joint defense posture or sanctions enforcement will also be important.

Strategic recommendations: For the international community, a coordinated and firm approach is essential. This includes maintaining and rigorously enforcing existing sanctions, while also exploring new targeted measures against entities facilitating North Korea's WMD programs and cyber activities. Diplomatic channels, while currently stalled, should be kept open for potential future engagement, but without offering premature concessions. Strengthening cyber defenses globally and enhancing intelligence sharing to counter North Korean cyber threats is paramount. Regional allies, particularly South Korea and Japan, should continue to bolster their joint defense capabilities and surveillance along their borders and maritime zones. Furthermore, efforts to expose and counter North Korea's human rights abuses should continue, despite Pyongyang's strong objections, to maintain international pressure on the regime.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: NK News

• US blacklists Seychelles-based crypto exchange over North Korean laundering (2026-11-09 05:49)

The U.S. Treasury Department has moved to cut a Seychelles-based cryptocurrency exchange off from the American financial system for facilitating at least $16.7 billion in transactions linked to illicit activity, including North Korean money laundering. The department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued an order on Friday prohibiting U.S. financial institutions from processing transfers to [⋯]

• US says no changes in conditions for OPCON transfer: South Korean lawmaker (2026-11-09 05:04)

The U.S. has reaffirmed that there have been no changes in conditions for the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to South Korea, according to an ROK lawmaker, amid questions about Seoul's readiness to lead allied defenses against North Korea. Jin Sung-joon of the ruling Democratic Party made the remarks during a press briefing on [⋯]

• Russia used North Korean KN-23 missiles in Ukraine energy site strike: Zelensky (2026-11-09 05:02)

Russia used North Korean short-range ballistic missiles to strike a key Ukrainian energy facility on Saturday, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, appealing to allies for more interceptor missiles. "According to preliminary findings, at one of the key energy facilities that was damaged, the Russians used KN-23 missiles manufactured and supplied by North Korea," he [⋯]

• Why a road link to Russia is North Korea's newest 'bridge to nowhere' (2026-11-06 09:52)

For over a decade, the New Yalu River Bridge linking China and North Korea was known as the "bridge to nowhere" on account of sitting unopened and unused. But following that bridge's long-delayed grand opening last month, another new span on the other side of the DPRK border arguably has a better claim to the [⋯]

• North Korean wrestler suspended over suspected doping (2026-11-06 09:44)

A North Korean wrestler has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned substance, a month after he was suddenly removed from the 2026 Asian Games without explanation. In a press release Tuesday, the International Testing Agency (ITA) said it notified Ro

Yu Chol of an “adverse analytical finding” after finding traces of furosemide […]

• How actor Lanny Joon brought Call of Duty’s North Korean character to life (2026-11-06 08:58)

Editor’s note: This article includes spoilers for the game “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4.” For Lanny Joon, playing one of the central characters in “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4” was a lifeline after nearly three years without work and a way to honor the father he lost last year. Now in his 20th […]

• Belarus’ top diplomat to North Korea makes first public appearance in Pyongyang (2026-11-06 05:28)

The interim chief of the Belarusian Embassy in North Korea made his first public appearance in Pyongyang this week after the mission opened its doors and Belarus ratified a friendship and cooperation deal with the North. Valery Bahdanouski, the Belarusian charge d’affaires, attended a sports event hosted by the Russian Embassy on Wednesday to mark […]

• Brazil’s first ambassador to North Korea in a decade takes up post in Pyongyang (2026-11-05 09:36)

Brazil’s newest ambassador to North Korea appears to have taken up his post in Pyongyang after a decadelong vacancy, according to the Chinese Embassy in the capital city. According to a Chinese Embassy announcement on social media, Brazilian Ambassador Ricardo Primo Portugal paid a courtesy visit to Chinese Ambassador Wang Yajun in Pyongyang on Wednesday. […]

• UNESCO body backs North Korean taekwondo listing without South’s involvement (2026-11-05 08:28)

A UNESCO evaluation body has recommended inscribing taekwondo as an intangible cultural heritage representing the DPRK, paving the way for its recognition as a standalone North Korean heritage listing ahead of a final decision next month. The recommendation, published Thursday by the evaluation body of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural […]

• North Korea tests anti-aircraft missiles, conducts attack drill on airport: KCNA (2026-11-05 00:08)

North Korea launched surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) and cruise missiles during separate tests on Wednesday, according to state media, claiming to have developed new “intelligent” guidance and targeting systems. Photos published in Thursday’s Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) report on the exercises also show that the cruise missile test involved dropping cluster munitions on a runway […]

• North Korean loudspeakers visible at border, but no broadcasts heard (2026-11-04 08:54)

North Korean propaganda loudspeakers were installed at two locations along the inter-Korean border on Wednesday, NK News observed, though no broadcasts could be heard from the South Korean side. Loudspeaker installations were visible on the North Korean side of the border from both the Odusan Unification Observatory in Paju and from the Key Observatory in [⋯]

• Cargo vessel becomes stranded off North Korea's coast, possibly to be scrapped (2026-11-04 08:05)

A cargo vessel appeared to become stranded off North Korea's eastern coast last month, satellite imagery shows, in what one expert described as a possible operation to scrap the boat for parts. The ship measuring roughly 100 meters in length appeared outside the Chongjin port between Oct. 16 and 19, Planet Labs satellite imagery shows, [⋯]

• Senior North Korean party official visits China on heels of Kim Jong Un trip (2026-11-04 07:24)

A top North Korean party official overseeing foreign affairs arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, 10 days after accompanying leader Kim Jong Un on a visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong. Kim Song Nam, the director of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) International Department, arrived for "an official visit" upon an invitation from [⋯]

• Hyunseung Lee on Kim Jong Un death rumors and North Korea's succession (2026-11-04 02:50)

North Korean escapee and Global Peace Foundation lead strategist Hyunseung Lee joins the podcast to discuss his recent article examining what the first seven days after Kim Jong Un's death might look like, following the spread of false rumors about the North Korean leader's condition. Drawing on his experiences living through the deaths of Kim [⋯]

• North Korea's Kim Yo Jong says talks with US are possible but not a necessity (2026-11-04 02:12)

The North Korean leader's sister Kim Yo Jong said Wednesday that Pyongyang is open to talks with the U.S. but does not consider them necessary for its "national interests," again rejecting Washington's accusation that the DPRK stole a record $6.36 billion from the crypto exchange Binance. In a statement carried by the Korean Central News [⋯]

• North Korea fires 'several missiles' east into the sea: South Korean military (2026-11-04 01:13)

North Korea fired "several missiles" toward the East Sea (Sea of Japan) on Wednesday, according to South Korea's military. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) initially reported its detection of an "unidentified projectile" at 9:52 a.m. KST, while Japanese authorities made no announcements about the launch. In a second update at 11:49 a.m. KST, the [⋯]

• North Korea teases new warship under construction larger than destroyers (2026-11-03 23:00)

North Korea published the first photos of a new class of warship under construction on the west coast on Wednesday that is larger than two destroyers the country built in recent years, appearing to confirm work on a third destroyer at the Nampho Shipyard was abandoned, according to NK News analysis. The Korean Central News […]

• North Korea's surprising economic success will be short-lived, report suggests (2026-11-03 09:21)

North Korea's relatively strong economic growth in recent years is a temporary phenomenon driven heavily by military production related to Russia's war in Ukraine, according to a new analysis, warning that living standards could suffer once wartime demand wanes. A recent report by the Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS), a think tank affiliated with […]

• Romania appoints new charge d'affaires to North Korea after reopening embassy (2026-11-03 08:53)

Romania has appointed a new charge d'affaires to North Korea, two months after reopening its mission in Pyongyang for the first time since the pandemic. Romanian charge d'affaires Bogdan Marian Anghel marked the start of his posting by making a courtesy visit to the Chinese Embassy in North Korea and meeting Ambassador Wang Yajun on […]

• Call of Duty's North Korean invasion scenario hits a nerve in the South (2026-11-03 07:06)

Editor's note: This article includes spoilers for the game "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4." Kim Jong-soo, a former South Korean soldier who served on the front lines of the inter-Korean border, was initially shocked to see his peers dying on a city street as North Korean bombs rained down. But his fear turned to […]

• Seoul launches new drone development agency to counter North Korean advances (2026-11-03 06:56)

Seoul has launched a new agency to steer the military's drone and counter-drone development, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attended a drone expo that highlighted growing threats from the DPRK's unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The Defense Drone Agency (국방드론본부) launched on Monday replaces the Drone Operations Command (드론작전사령부), which was established in […]

• North Korea claims first test of smaller cluster warheads on cruise missiles (2026-11-02 22:49)

North Korea tested strategic cruise missiles equipped with cluster warheads on Monday, according to state media, days after testing similar capabilities on short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs). The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Tuesday morning that the latest cruise missile test involved a "middle-sized dispersal warhead" that is "capable of turning

into ashes a target [⋯]

• Kim Yo Jong denies North Korean involvement in $6B Binance crypto theft (2026-11-02 22:07)

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates. Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, denied the country's involvement in the recent operation to steal over $6 billion from the cryptocurrency exchange Binance, according to state media on Tuesday morning. In a statement released via the Korean Central News [⋯]

• North Korea slams US-ROK drills, accusing allies of rehearsing nuclear use (2026-11-02 08:32)

North Korea has slammed U.S. and South Korean military exercises in a series of statements in recent days, accusing the allies of rehearsing to use nuclear weapons against Pyongyang. In a statement released by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Monday morning, a top official in the DPRK's munitions industry took aim at the [⋯]

• North Korean cluster warheads could threaten targets as far as Busan: Experts (2026-11-02 08:28)

North Korea's latest test of a cluster warhead signals that the military is moving toward operational deployment of the weapon, according to experts, warning that their use on tactical missiles could put even the South Korean coastal city of Busan within reach. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Sunday that North Korea's Missile Administration [⋯]

• North Korean coal officials tour Chinese mining firm amid modernization drive (2026-11-02 08:22)

A delegation from North Korea's coal ministry toured a Chinese smart-mining technology company on Wednesday, suggesting Pyongyang is actively seeking China's support to modernize its antiquated coal industry. More than 20 experts and officials from the North Korea's State Academy of Sciences and coal industry toured Shaanxi Coal Meilianmei Smart Energy to observe its smart-mining [⋯]

Source: NK Pro

• North Korea remains silent for domestic audience on flurry of weapons tests (2026-11-06 06:43)

North Korea's missile tests and Kim Yo Jong's multiple statements this week went unreported in domestic-facing news outlets — the silence suggests Pyongyang is aiming its military portrait outward while showing its own citizens a calmer picture focused on their livelihoods. State media highlighted troubles in capitalist countries while portraying friendly countries, such as China [⋯] The post North Korea remains silent for domestic audience on

flurry of weapons tests appeared first on NK PRO.

• North Korea expands warship construction project to third shipyard (2026-11-06 06:40)

A third North Korean shipyard has joined efforts to build a large new class of warships, according to NK Pro analysis of satellite imagery, under leader Kim Jong Un's shift to focus on ships bigger than the two 5,000-ton destroyers completed this year. Planet Labs imagery shows that the Chongjin Shipyard on the northeast coast [⋯] The post North Korea expands warship construction project to third shipyard appeared first on NK PRO.

• Uptick in North Korean ships at Russian port suggests coal smuggling scheme (2026-11-05 06:14)

Multiple North Korean cargo ships have mysteriously sailed near a coal terminal in the Russian Far East over the past month, an NK Pro investigation has found, likely pointing to an illicit operation to conceal coal exports or other shipments. At least 13 DPRK-flagged vessels — including several subject to sanctions — broadcast their location [⋯] The post Uptick in North Korean ships at Russian port suggests coal smuggling scheme appeared first on NK PRO.

• What the Democratic landslide in the US midterms means for Kim Jong Un (2026-11-05 05:51)

On the surface, the Democratic Party's landslide victory in the U.S. midterm elections appears to limit the chances for a revival of diplomacy between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A Democratic-controlled Senate makes ratification of a formal peace treaty highly unlikely for one, and Trump cannot unilaterally repeal statutory sanctions [⋯] The post What the Democratic landslide in the US midterms means for Kim Jong Un appeared first on NK PRO.

• North Korea in October 2026: A month in review and what's ahead (2026-11-03 09:44)

About the Month in Review Every month, NK Pro conducts an in-depth analytic review of news on the Korean Peninsula. This Month in Review covers the period of Oct. 1, 2026 to Oct. 31, 2026. In addition to an executive summary providing top-line findings, the following review includes detailed analysis on a wide range of [⋯] The post North Korea in October 2026: A month in review and what's ahead appeared first on NK PRO.

• How North Korea turned its tech talent into a global money-making machine (2026-11-02 09:27)

Editor's note: This is Part 1 of a two-part series exploring North Korea's IT worker program through the experiences of former IT workers. North Korea's army of remote information technology (IT) workers has become notorious in recent years for infiltrating some of the world's biggest companies, raking in millions to finance Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions. But [⋯] The post How North Korea turned its tech talent into a global money-making machine appeared first on NK PRO.

- FBI confirms North Korea behind record $6.36B Binance crypto heist (2026-11-02 06:21)

The FBI has confirmed that North Korean cybercriminals stole over $6 billion from the cryptocurrency exchange Binance last week, the largest virtual heist in history, publicizing hundreds of wallet addresses linked to the heist to support efforts to reclaim the proceeds. But new revelations suggest freezing the stolen funds could prove difficult due to the [⋯] The post FBI confirms North Korea behind record $6.36B Binance crypto heist appeared first on NK PRO.