# The Korea Times

★★★ CITY EDITION

Established 1950, NO. 22336 www.koreatimes.co.kr THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023





10 State visit
Biden arrives in N. Ireland to mark peace deal anniversary




## Danuri captures dark side of the moon

By Baek Byung-yeul
baekbg@koreatimes.co.kr

Danuri, Korea's first lunar orbiter, has succeeded in capturing photos of the dark side of the moon. The photos are part of scientific research to observe the moon from about 100 kilometers above its surface, according to the science ministry, Wednesday.

This is the first time that the Korean spacecraft photographed craters, valleys, basins and other traces of the moon's dark side, which is hard to observe from the Earth because it is tidally locked to our planet.

Using the Lunar Terrain Imager (LUTI), developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), Danuri captured high-resolution images of regions on the dark side or far side of the moon, such as the Tsiolkovskiy crater, the Vallis Schrodinger valley and the Szilard crater, the ministry said.

"Danuri photographed the Tsiolkovskiy crater area on March 22 and the Vallis Schrodinger area and the Szilard crater area on March 24. This is very meaningful in that the photos of the moon's far side are the first ones taken by Korea. The photos taken on March 24 are also of special significance because they were captured on the day the Danuri orbited the moon 1,000 times," the ministry said.

The ministry added that such high-resolution images are expected to serve as useful data to understand the composition of the moon's soil and the process of forming a collision sphere.

The photos clearly contain images of the towering peaks and recessed terrain in the collision zone and show that most of the impact zones were caused by meteorites.

The science ministry and KARI also released photos taken by the Polcam wide-angle polarimetric camera mounted on the Danuri to help determine the size and composition of topsoil particles with lunar polarization images. The ministry added it plans to unveil a polarimetric map of the moon for the first time in the world in January 2024.

Seen is Vallis Schrodinger, a long and narrow valley on the far side of the moon. The Danuri lunar orbiter took the photo of the valley on March 24. Courtesy of Ministry of Science and ICT

The magnetometer and the gamma-ray spectrometer on Danuri are also obtaining observational data.

The magnetic field variation data will be used to understand the structure of the moon and provide space environment data for future lunar exploration.

## N. Korea vows to initiate vibrant space projects

North Korea vowed Wednesday to pursue more space development projects on the occasion of the International Day of Human Space Flight, according to state media, amid concerns over its potential launch of a military spy satellite this month.

North Korea has an "unwavering" willingness to turn itself into a global space powerhouse as outer space belongs to all mankind, not something monopolized or possessed by a specific country, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The International Day of Human Space Flight is annually celebrated April 12 to mark the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet Russian cosmonaut. (Yonhap)