



North Korea remembered the 10th anniversary of the death of Kim Jong-il, who ruled the country from 1994 until his death in 2011 from a heart attack.

His son and current leader, Kim Jong-un, attended a ceremony in the capital Pyongyang at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun mausoleum where the **embalmed** bodies of his father and grandfather Kim Ill-sung **lie under glass**.

The country also started an 11-day ban on laughing and drinking alcohol as a part of the **mourning**. People cannot engage in leisure activities and even celebrate their own birthdays if they fall within the mourning period, and grocery shopping is banned on the exact day of the elder Kim's death, December 17.

On Friday, multiple newspapers, all tightly controlled by the government, published articles praising Kim Jong-un. The government's growing nuclear weapons is the center of Kim's 10-year rule, and the newspapers describe him as a powerful treasured sword that stops potential problems from the US.

**Difficult words:** **embalm** (to treat a dead body with chemicals, drugs, or balsams to protect it from decay), **lie under glass** (to be under glass like a thing at a store or a museum), **mourning** (the feeling of being sad that a person died and to show somebody has died)..

**Discussion Questions****T**  
**opic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *embalm, lie under glass and mourning*
2. How long did the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, rule the country?
3. How did Kim Jong-il die?
4. Where was Kim Jong-il's 10th death anniversary ceremony held?
5. What were people banned from doing within the 11-day mourning period?
6. How did the North Korean government control the press?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do you think it was fair for the North Korean government to ban people from laughing, drinking, engaging in leisure activities and even celebrating their own birthdays during the mourning period?
2. Does your government ban people from anything during national special events?
3. Does the government in your country control what the press writes or reports about important politicians?