



North Korean leader Kim Jong-il died 10 years ago, and last week, there was a special **ceremony** to remember him.

His son and current leader of the country, Kim Jong-un, was at the ceremony, which happened in the capital city Pyongyang. It was in front of the Kumsusan Palace where the bodies of his father and grandfather still lay under glass, as people can see them. There was a **ban** on many things which lasted for 11 days. People could not drink alcohol, celebrate their own birthdays, or enjoy free time activities. They could not even laugh for the 11 days, and they could not buy food on the day when Kim Jong-il died.

The government controls all the newspapers, and many of them wrote articles about Kim Jong-un. They said that he was a **powerful** man who kept the country safe from US attacks.

**Difficult words:** **ceremony** (a special event to celebrate something), **ban** (to officially make something illegal), **powerful** (someone who is very strong, and he can control many people or things).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the word: *ceremony, ban and powerful*
2. When did Kim Jong-il die?
3. Where did the ceremony for Kim Jong-il take place?
4. Who is the current leader in North Korea?
5. What were people ban from doing for 11 days in relation to Kim Jong-il's memorial ceremony?
6. Is there freedom of the press in North Korea?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Do you have any special ceremonies to remember the national leaders in your country who have died? Are people banned from doing things during these ceremonies?
2. Do you think it was fair for the North Korean government to ban people from drinking alcohol, celebrating birthdays and enjoying free time activities while remembering Kim Jong-il's death?
3. Does the government in your country control the press?