

1. Mark the parts that confuse you. Make a marginal note to explain how it confuses you. (**Bold, underlined** words in bold must be annotated.)
2. Use what context clues you can to make a guess about what confuses you.
3. Comment on the text by connecting to personal experience or previous knowledge.
4. Answer the questions at the bottom

N. Korean leader gets new title; 3 BBC journalists get boot

Washington Post

Comprehension

Comments

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea’s ruling-party congress on Monday announced a new title for Kim Jong Un — party chairman — in a move that highlights how the authoritarian country’s first congress in 36 years is aimed at **bolstering** the young leader and **ushering** in a new era of leadership. The new title was announced Monday during the roughly 10 minutes that a small group of foreign media, including The Associated Press, was allowed to watch the congress in the **ornate** April 25 House of Culture.

It was the first time since the congress began Friday that any of the more than 100 foreign journalists invited were allowed to view any of the proceedings. Earlier Monday, three BBC journalists were expelled for allegedly “insulting the dignity” of North Korea. [...]

The event includes what for the North is a relatively large **contingent** of foreign journalists, but Monday marked the first time any of them were allowed inside the venue. Instead, officials have kept the foreign media busy with trips around Pyongyang to show them places North Korea wants them to see. Only about 30 of the more than 100 invited journalists were allowed into the congress Monday. Before that, the only window any of them had on the proceedings was through the lens of state media.

North Korea on Monday expelled BBC correspondent Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, who had not among journalists covering the congress. He had covered an earlier trip of Nobel laureates and had been scheduled to leave Friday. Instead, he was stopped at the airport, detained and questioned.

O Ryong Il, secretary-general of the North’s National Peace Committee, said the journalist’s news coverage **distorted** facts and “spoke ill of the system and the leadership of the country.” He said Wingfield-Hayes wrote an apology, was expelled Monday and would never be admitted into the country again.

The BBC said Wingfield-Hayes was detained Friday along with producer Maria Byrne and cameraman Matthew Goddard, and that all were taken to the Pyongyang airport. “We are very disappointed that our reporter Rupert Wingfield-Hayes and his team have been deported from North Korea after the government took offence at material he had filed,” the BBC said in a statement. “Four BBC staff, who were invited to cover the Workers Party Congress, remain in North Korea and we expect them to be allowed to continue their reporting.” The BBC was among the media organizations allowed into the congress Monday.

The congress was expected to go on for a couple more days, though no date has been announced, and surprises can never be ruled out. Mass rallies will likely be held to mark its conclusion in a celebratory fashion.

Questions

1. What is Kim Jong Un's new title? What do you think is the significance of this?
2. Why was Wingfield-Hayes expelled from North Korea?
3. Why do you think North Korea has been so secretive about the congress beforehand?