

A composite image. On the left, a close-up of a North Korean soldier wearing a dark uniform and a peaked cap with a red band and a gold emblem. He is looking off to the side. On the right, a rocket is being launched from a green metal launch structure. A large orange crane is visible at the top of the structure. The background shows a hilly landscape with bare trees.

Today in History

April 12, 2012

▲ **North Korea launched a rocket to send a satellite into orbit on the 100th birthday of state founder Kim Il-sung, but it blew up seconds after launch**

2002: Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez was toppled in a coup but was returned to power two days later

2003: WHO officials visiting Beijing revealed that SARS cases had been seriously underreported

2010: The deepest ever undersea volcanic vents, or “black smokers”, were discovered in the Caribbean

2011: Japan raised the situation at the Fukushima nuclear power plant to Level 7, the same as Chernobyl