

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Jury decides child killer should die

1 SAN JOSE, Calif. — The man who kidnapped and murdered 12-year-old Polly Klaas nearly three years ago should be executed, a jury decided Monday, ignoring defense pleas to show mercy for his troubled childhood.

Polly's father, Marc Klaas, clenched his fist in victory and said an exultant "Yes!" as the sentence was read.

Richard Allen Davis showed no emotion.

He spoke quietly to his attorney after the sentence was read and did not repeat the obscene gesture he made in view of television cameras when he was convicted.

Davis, 42, was convicted June 18 of murdering Polly after kidnapping her from a slumber party in her bedroom on Oct. 1, 1993.

Israel ready to enter peace negotiations

2 AMMAN, Jordan — In an unexpected overture toward peace with Syria, Israel's prime minister said Monday he is prepared to enter into negotiations on "all outstanding matters" between the two countries.

Benjamin Netanyahu even suggested possible flexibility on the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967 and Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to keep.

"We believe if there is good will on the side of Syria we can resume negotiations and are prepared to do so in the near future," he said.

Until now, Netanyahu had indicated any talks with Syria would focus on a limited agreement to end hostilities in Lebanon, which is dominated by Syria except for an Israeli-controlled strip in the south.

Japanese adventurer succeeds in solar-powered boat trip

3 TOKYO — Japanese adventurer Kenichi Horie completed the first solar-powered voyage across the Pacific on Monday, a bit thinner than 138 days earlier but still in good health.

Horie arrived at a Tokyo pier after traveling more than 10,000 miles from Ecuador in a 31-foot boat made from recycled aluminum and powered by 130 square feet of solar panels.

He brought along 120 cans of beer — one for each day of the trip's projected length — and a tiny refrigerator to chill them two at a time.

When it became clear that cloudy weather would extend the voyage, Horie began to abstain. He had five or six cans remaining when he arrived in Tokyo.

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