

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Loukaitis faces "rough road" at trial

1 EPHRATA, Wash. — It didn't take long for the state to legally change 15-year-old Barry Loukaitis from a child to an adult.

A judge ruled Friday that he should be tried as an adult for the shootings of a teacher and three classmates.

An hour later, Loukaitis returned to court to formally be charged with three counts of aggravated first-degree murder and one count of first-degree assault.

If convicted in what is likely to be a sensational trial, the slender, elfin-faced youth can receive only one sentence: Life in prison without possibility of parole.

The ruling by Superior Court Judge Michael Cooper capped a week of testimony that focused on the youth's mental health, and significantly reduced the prospects that Loukaitis will ever leave jail.

Bombing suspects to return to court

2 DENVER—Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, who forged a friendship on a shared distrust of the government, return to court this week as enemies blaming each other for the Oklahoma City bombing.

McVeigh's attorneys argue Nichols was the primary figure behind the bombing that killed 168 people and that McVeigh ingenuously trusted him. Nichols' attorneys say McVeigh's "violent extremism" appalled Nichols.

They hope to convince a judge that they should be tried separately, arguing that jurors will be unable to distinguish between the evidence admitted against each man and fairly judge them individually.

"The cases against Mr. McVeigh and Mr. Nichols differ dramatically in every relevant respect," said Nichols' attorney, Michael Tigar.

Consortium agrees on reactor site

3 SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea and a U.S.-led consortium have reached agreement on important details of a plan to replace the Communist state's existing nuclear program, which is suspected of weapons development, South Korean officials said Sunday.

The agreement would remove the final obstacle to building two new reactors and eliminate a program North Korea has allegedly been using to build nuclear bombs.

The officials declined to speculate on when North Korea and the Korea Energy Development Organization would officially close the deal.

North Korea's relations with a key member of the consortium, South Korea, were set back earlier this month when a North Korean submarine ran aground off the South's east coast.

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