

Senate okays Freeh as FBI director

WASHINGTON, Aug 7: The Senate voted Friday night to confirm US District Judge Louis Freeh as the nation's fifth FBI director, reports AP.

clearly the right person for the job," Clinton said Tuesday.



BOLIVIA: Cuban President Fidel Castro poses for a photograph with unidentified women on Thursday during a party held by outgoing Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora.

Lozada sworn in as president

LA PAZ, Aug 7: Mining executive Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada was sworn in as Bolivia's 78th president Friday.

Off the Record

Not married, just friends

MANILA, Philippines: John F. Kennedy Jr. and actress Darryl Hannah passed through Manila on Saturday but denied their Pacific tour was a honeymoon, reports AP.

He is happy in his seclusion

BANGKOK: Former military strongman Suchinda Kraprayoon, widely hated after soldiers killed pro-democracy demonstrators last year, says he is happy in his seclusion, reports AP on Saturday.

Marriage of Clinton's mother illegal?

KANSAS CITY: President Clinton's father might have married Clinton's mother before his divorce to another woman was final, newspapers reported Saturday, says AP.



Reform of Japan's political system seen as a must for Hosokawa

TOKYO, Aug 7: Japanese newspapers on Saturday warned newly elected Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa that he would either reform a collapsed political system or lose the people's trust, reports AFP.

Hosokawa appointed a close ally, Pioneer Party leader Masayoshi Takemura, as Chief Cabinet Secretary, saying he hoped to announce the rest of his new cabinet on Monday.

Hosokawa and the new cabinet are likely to be sworn in after Emperor Akihito's return Monday from the funeral of Belgium's King Baudouin.

The Sankei Shimbun urged the new Premier to disclose everything about his political stance and philosophy, as well as the way he is to change the country at the time when politics will change.

Russia's N-sub subs may cause accidents anytime

LONDON, Aug 6: Russia's nuclear-powered submarines and icebreakers pose a greater danger of nuclear accidents than do its atomic power plants, according to Jane's Intelligence Review, reports AP.

Naval reactors are more accident prone because their design is often more dangerous and they suffer from poor maintenance, according to an article by Tomas Ries, an expert on post-Soviet security at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs in Geneva.

These reactors are more accident prone because of a lack of funding and maintenance," Paul Beaver, senior publisher of Jane's Publications, said in an interview Friday.

The Soviet Navy was not provided with adequate resources to safely store thousands of tons of radioactive waste generated every year from nuclear-powered vessels, Ries said.

Fresh fighting in Sudan

Heavy fighting has erupted between Sudanese government troops and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan, the rebels announced here Friday, AFP reports from Nairobi.

Former Albanian DPM held

Former Deputy Premier Sokrat Plaka has been arrested and charged with abuse of power in a spreading investigation into allegations of massive mismanagement of aid spending in Europe's poorest country, AP reports from Tirana.

Akashi visits refugee camp

Cambodia's UN peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi yesterday visited a border camp of several thousand ethnic Vietnamese awaiting approval to return to Cambodia, a UN spokesman said, reports Reuter from Phnom Penh.

Quake hits Japan

A strong earthquake measuring 6.4 on the open-ended Richter scale shook the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa on Saturday, the Meteorological agency said, Reuter reports from Tokyo.

Storms kill or hurt 180 in China

More than 180 people were killed or injured in torrential rainstorms that hit China's northeastern coastal province of Shandong, a newspaper reported Saturday, AFP says from Hong Kong.

Two held with drug in London

London police Friday seized a record amount of the designer drug ecstasy with a street value of nearly 10 million pounds (15 million dollar) and arrested two suspects, Scotland Yard announced, AFP reports from London.

Riots erupt in Kenya

Many people were injured and several hotels and businesses were set ablaze when violent riots erupted in the Kenyan holiday resort of Lamu, press reports said here on Saturday, AFP quoted from Nairobi.

Taiwan's ruling party dissent forms party

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Aug 7: A prominent lawmaker of the governing Nationalist Party said Saturday that he and a group of breakaway members are forming a new party.



Terrorist Abbas Hamade (R), flanked by his brothers, arrives at Beirut airport on Friday after being released from prison halfway through his incarceration and expelled from Germany.

Thai army chief goes to Myanmar tomorrow

BANGKOK, Aug 7: Thailand's Foreign Minister said today he would visit neighboring Myanmar next month in the hope of strengthening relations, despite western opposition to close contacts with the ruling military there, reports Reuter.

US to attend confce on banning N-test

WASHINGTON, Aug 7: The United States reluctantly decided Friday to attend next week's UN conference on banning nuclear testing, overriding fears of offending France and China and doubts the Forum can end nuclear tests, reports AP.

20 rival clans sign accord in Somalia

KISMAYU, Somalia, Aug 7: Elders from 20 rival clans signed a UN-brokered peace accord Friday aimed at ending two years of fighting in this southern port city, reports AP.

Queen's palace opens to paying public to restore Windsor Castle

LONDON, Aug 7: Step right up, ladies and gentlemen, to get your very own authentic Buckingham Palace wine glasses, earrings of flower pot. Or perhaps you'd prefer a miniature replica of the royal residence to store your stationery in, reports AP.

The entry fee buys a walk around 18 rooms and halls with some of the world's richest late Georgian and early Victorian decor, a breathtaking array of Old Masters, marble sculptures, tapestries, porcelain and antique furniture.

palace is gross, man." Its critic described the state rooms as "a mixture between a tandoori curry house and an over-the-top Hollywood film set from the 1920s."

rich selection of Rembrandts, Rubens and Van Dycks in the 150-foot Picture Gallery. Another place to linger is the Green Drawing Room with its sumptuous Regency furniture and Sevres porcelain, where statesmen from Gladstone to Churchill paced as they awaited audiences with the monarch.

Indonesia won't try E Timor leader De Costa

JAKARTA, Aug 7: Captured East Timor rebel leader Antonio Gomes De Costa is to be released because he had been planning to give up his rebel activities, a news report said Saturday, says AP.