



Festival of Colors • Indian children with their faces smeared with colors celebrate during Holi, the Spring Festival of Colors, in Calcutta, India. The festival is steeped in the lore of Lord Krishna, Hinduism's most popular god. It celebrates the harvest season and fertility with song, color and fire.

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said State Department contractors unnecessarily reviewed Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton's passport files. She said she would be "disturbed" if her file was viewed.

Passport Info Compromised

BREACHED FILES • The passport files of the three presidential candidates — Sens. Barack Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain — have been breached, the State Department said today.

OFFICIALS ALERTED • Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the breaches of McCain and Clinton's passport files were discovered Friday, after officials were made aware of the privacy violation regarding Obama's records.

REPRIMAND • The person who accessed Obama's files also reviewed McCain's file earlier this year. This contract employee has been reprimanded, but not fired, and no longer has access to such records.

REGRETS • Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke with Obama and Clinton today and expressed her regrets. She planned to speak with McCain as well. The information could allow critics to dig deeper into candidates' private lives.

IN OTHER TRAIL NEWS • The nation's only Hispanic governor has put his support behind Barack Obama for president, delivering one of the most coveted endorsements in the race for the Democratic nomination. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson joined Obama at an Oregon rally today and said the Illinois senator demonstrated his leadership abilities this week with his speech on race. Richardson gave up his own presidential bid in January.

COURT

Florida Dem's Suit Out, But Thrown a Bone

A federal appeals court dismissed a lawsuit against the Democratic National Committee over the party's decision to strip Florida of its delegates to its national convention.

But the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a ruling released Friday, said the lawsuit "raises a number of significant and potentially significant questions," and gave the plaintiff an opening to amend and refile the lawsuit.

A Democratic Party activist filed the lawsuit accusing the party of disenfranchising voters.

HUD

Dems Call for Secretary's Resignation

Two Democratic senators are calling for Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson to resign.

Patty Murray of Washington state and Chris Dodd of Connecticut say allegations of cronyism and favoritism against Jackson are a "worsening distraction" at the agency at a time when the nation needs a credible housing secretary.

Jackson has refused to answer questions about his role in a Philadelphia redevelopment deal.