

THE FRONT LINE;

THE INVESTIGATION

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Body

Attorney General John Ashcroft said there is no progress to report in finding who has been sending anthrax or in preventing further mail attacks.

The FBI official overseeing the investigation of the Sept. 11 attacks and the anthrax mailings will retire at the end of November, the agency said. Thomas Pickard planned to retire last year but was urged to stay on.

Federal authorities have reportedly issued 60 subpoenas for records to anthrax research facilities nationwide in an effort to determine whether the bacteria used in deadly mail attacks may have been pilfered from a lab.

Three Arab men who lived in Michigan are believed to have had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Ashcroft said. The men have been apprehended by law enforcement agents.

Ashcroft announced a new immigration crackdown, designating 46 terrorist groups whose members and supporters will be banned from entering the country.

The government may not be able to track the tens of thousands of students who come to the United States each year, even if Congress insists on an improved student visa program, a top immigration official said Wednesday.

FBI agents and customs officials boarded a Northwest Airlines flight from Tokyo at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Wednesday and removed two men in response to a biohazard threat. A sweep of the plane found no signs of hazardous material. Another Northwest flight from Tokyo was similarly detained in San Francisco.

Pakistan has arrested three of the country's leading nuclear scientists and held them for questioning in connection with U.S. concerns that nuclear weapons technology could have found its way into the hands of Osama bin Laden, officials said.

Federal officials Wednesday denied knowledge of a story Knight Ridder reported Tuesday that authorities had questioned and released six Middle Eastern men in the Midwest. Story, Page 7A

Notes

AT A GLANCE INFORMATION ON THE WAR

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Person: OSAMA BIN LADEN (57%)

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