# India accuses Pakistan of promoting terrorism

#### **INTERNATIONAL**

prime minister has decided to halt dialogue with Pakistan, accusing the area in suburban Toulouse, evacuated president of the neighboring country of promoting terrorism, a leading Indian newspaper said Fridav.

The Times of India quoted Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as saying in an interview that neither he nor his foreign minister, Jaswant Singh, will honor invitations to visit Pakistan in the foreseeable future.

In the interview, Vajpayee reacts strongly to Pakistan President Pervais Musharraf's speech on Wednesday that accused India of offering to help the United States fight terrorism to profit from the international crisis and get Pakistan declared a terrorist state.

Vajpayee says Musharraf's remarks were "a serious setback to the India-Pakistan dialogue process.'

Officials in the foreign ministry and the prime minister's office, including the prime minister's spokesman, Ashok Tandon, said they could not immediately confirm that India was halting the dialogue.

TOULOUSE, France—Ahuge explosion ripped through a petrochemical plant in Toulouse on Friday, blowing out windows across the city in the south of France. ATV station reported that three people were killed.

Officials blocked off the industrial

Missouri and Sen. Pat Roberts of Kan-

sas have warned that the 40-plus fed-

eral agencies responsible for battling

"It didn't get a very high blip on the

radar screen," said Roberts, a Repub-

lican who presided over a series of

hearings before a special subcommit-

tee on potential terrorist threats. "It

coordination to prevent and respond to

terrorism. The report was the 15th in a

four-year series of General Accounting

Office reports, and it called for a single

sure as hell is now.

terrorism must harness their efforts.

Lawmakers frustrated

that warnings ignored

### NEW DELHI, India – India's ap news capsules

schools and the subway and told people to stay home. There were fears that plumes of smoke drifting across the city could be toxic.

LCI television reported that three people had died. Other media reports said the blast seemed accidental.

Phone lines were heavily disrupted to the Toulouse area and officials were difficult to reach.

It was not clear whether there was one blast or several. The main explosion apparently took place at a plant that manufactures rocket fuel for Arianespace, the European Space Agency's commercial arm. French radio also reported explosions at a plant owned by Groupe SNPE, a French industrial group with two core businesses, propellants and explosives.

#### NATIONAL

HOUSTON-Apsychologist testified that a woman accused of drowning her five children is mentally ill, but is competent to stand trial.

Dr. Steven Rubenzer, testifying for the prosecution Thursday at a competency hearing for Andrea Yates, said Yates is just now starting to come to terms with her mental illness.

When he tested Yates in July,

Rubenzer said, she passed two parts of a three-part test but did poorly when it came to "her ability to appraise her situation within the court system. Her score on that scale was very low."

But he said she's improved.

"As far as I know, her psychotic features are in full remission," he said, but added, "Her depression is not in full remission."

Under cross-examination, Rubenzer acknowledged he still questions Yates' ability to appreciate her situation.

DIAMOND BAR, Calif. — More than 400 Los Angeles-area dry cleaners showed their opposition to plans that would make them the first in the country forced to give up their industry's most commonly used chemical.

At a meeting with air quality officials Thursday, dry cleaners said that they have greatly reduced their use of perchloroethylene — or perc — and insisted their operations are safe. They also disputed officials' claims that suitable alternatives exist.

"You're going to wipe out the business," Jason Do, owner of Golden Cleaners in Cerritos, said through a Korean interpreter.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District is proposing to phase out the use of perc within a decade. It has been identified as a likely human carcinogen and linked to chronic kidney, liver and gastrointestinal problems.

The state classifies perc as a toxic air contaminant. Just over half of perc same person.

emissions come from dry cleaners. MODESTO, Calif. - The new bor-

ders of Rep. Gary Condit's district are set and the deadline for launching a run for the seat is fast approaching, but no Democrat, including Condit himself, has declared his candidacy.

The curiously shaped district, tailored by Democrats for Democrats, snakes its way more than 100 miles through the San Joaquin Valley. The district's borders were finalized last week by the California Legislature.

Both Democrats said to be interested in the seat have held off on deciding whether to run, in part because they said they'll forgo the race if Condit seeks re-election. And neither Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza nor state Sen. Jim Costa has criticized their longtime friend for his relationship with missing Washington, D.C., intern Chandra Levy.

With the Democrats, including Condit, considering their options, the focus on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has removed the congressman from the national media spotlight.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON - U.S. banks discovered accounts believed to be connected to last week's hijackings and investigators made more arrests as they tried to trace the terrorist attacks back to the source.

In Chicago, the FBI arrested a man with the same name as someone with ties to a jailed associate of the suspected mastermind of the attacks, Osama bin Laden.

The FBI said it was trying to determine if the man in custody was the

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that large and small banks around the last week's attacks, seem likely to slash country found accounts held by several of the 21 individuals wanted by the bureau in connection with the hijackings, a banking source said Thursday.

SunTrust Banks Inc. in Florida was providing the FBI with information about the summer activity on nine checking accounts connected to people believed involved in the attacks, bank spokesman Barry Koling said.

WASHINGTON—In a political sea change, members of both parties say they have no hesitation about digging into the federal surplus to finance America's response to terrorism.

But a likely huge price tag, plus a tax cut and the weaker economy.

The FBI has told banking regulators tottering economy slowed further by next year's expected surplus to a fraction of its once mighty size, perhaps even to force a return to annual deficits.

Though no one knows how much the government will spend for defense. rescue operations and other costs of the strikes in New York and Washington, some congressional estimates are that they could approach \$100 billion.

As recently as last May, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected the 2002 surplus to be \$304 billion.

CBO downgraded that estimate to \$176 billion last month when it factored in the costs of President Bush's



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WASHINGTON (AP)—For years, person or council to oversee all efforts such lawmakers as Rep. Ike Skelton of to combat terrorism.

The GAO reviews accompany similar work by think tanks, the Pentagon and the bipartisan national Hart-Rudman commission, which said after three years of work that a catastrophic attack would take place on U.S. soil by the year 2026 and recommended a new agency to oversee the fight against terrorism.

A presidential directive in May 1998 Days after hijacked airliners crashed created a national coordinator within into the World Trade Center and the the National Security Council for se-Pentagon, a study by Congress' invescurity, infrastructure protection and tigative arm urges better leadership and counterterrorism.

But the coordinator was never assigned a job description, neither by the White House nor by Congress, the recent GAO report said.



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