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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Tension mounts between India, Pakistan

■ CONFLICT: A strip of land called Kashmir has caused years of fighting

POONCH, India (AP) — After two weeks of intense gun battles across one of the world's most dangerous frontiers, Maj. Gen. G.K. Duggal was in a foul mood. Pointing toward a Pakistani outpost on a nearby mountain peak, Duggal said the soldiers there had fired three small rockets at his base along the Kashmir cease-fire line.

"The Pakistanis plan to target our posts again," probably with heavier anti-tank missiles, he said. "If that happens, it will be an act of escalation."

Pakistan and India have fought two wars over Kashmir, which was divided between the two countries when they were formed at the end of British colonial rule in 1947. The Indian part of Kashmir, Jammu-Kashmir state, is the only majority Muslim state in India.

But the recent fighting was some of the worst in years, and it comes at a time of rising tensions between the two archenemies.

Twenty-five people were killed before the fighting tapered off last week, including 20 who died when a rocket hit a village mosque across the border. Each

side says the other fired the rocket; U.N. observers are investigating.

The conflict is especially significant because each country is believed to have a well-developed nuclear weapons program — and each is building up its arsenal.

Ignoring warnings from the United States, India test-fired its new Prithvi ballistic missile on Jan. 27. The missile, with a range of 155 miles, is capable of carrying a nuclear bomb to Pakistan.

U.S. spy satellites reportedly picked up signs in late December that India was planning an underground nuclear test blast, and President Clinton warned that if that happened the United States would cut off virtually all aid and urge other donors to do the same.

India denied that it was planning a nuclear test, but the main opposition party, which has been gaining ground in state elections, is pro-nuclear and polls indicate that most Indians would approve of a nuclear test.

Pakistan is believed to be capable of building nuclear weapons. India accuses China of helping Pakistan develop nuclear capability.

At about the same time as the missile test, Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao proudly

displayed the nation's new Arjun tank. Pakistan, meanwhile, is developing a battle tank with help from the Chinese.

The tensions in Kashmir make the arms race all the more ominous.

At a V-shaped section of the frontier known as "the chicken neck," Border Security Force officer K.S. Vohra warned that fighting could resume at any moment because talks last week failed to reach an agreement.

At the talks, he said, Pakistan demanded that India drop a plan to build a fence along the entire front line. When India refused, he said, Pakistani negotiators warned: "If you put up a single picket, we will open fire."

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called a one-day strike Monday in support of separatist rebels in the Indian part of Kashmir. Stores and financial institutions were closed, and city buses stayed off the streets.

Government and opposition politicians held rallies in major cities, and in Islamabad, the capital, demonstrators burned effigies of Rao.

The two countries haven't had high-level talks about their problems since early 1994, and the fighting over the last two weeks indicates things are getting worse.

Greece enjoys recovery of ancient treasures

■ MUSEUM: The New York gallery said the artifacts came from a Swiss collector

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Gold jewelry and artifacts buried before the Trojan War were unveiled Monday in Athens, coming home after a New York art gallery returned what Greece said grave robbers had stolen.

The Michael Ward Gallery, in an out-of-court settlement, agreed to hand over the relics in December 1993, seven months after Greece sued for their repatriation. The Culture Ministry said thieves had stolen the cache from Mycenaean tombs at Aidonia, near Nemea, on the Peloponnese peninsula.

The treasure includes 312 pieces made of gold, semiprecious stones, glass and amber dating mainly from 1500 to 1400 B.C. It includes gold signet rings, necklaces and clothing ornaments of thinly pressed gold.

"This is a very special day for our country, a rare one for our cultural heritage. It is the first time that after a legal battle one of our treasures returns to the land of its birth," said Culture Minister Stavros Benos.

The treasure, which arrived in Athens on Sunday, was unwrapped before archaeologists and journalists at a ceremony at Athens' National Archaeological Museum.

The Mycenaean Age is named after a citadel near Nemea that was home to the legendary King Agamemnon, whose exploits are known from Homer's epics, the Iliad and the Odyssey, and

ancient Greek tragedy.

Heinrich Schliemann, a German-born archaeologist, discovered Mycenae in 1876, revealing a civilization that had been known only by its myths and legends.

American archaeologists Ricardo Elia of Boston University, James Wright of Bryn Mawr College and Stephen G. Miller of the University of California-Berkeley tipped off their Greek colleagues when the Michael Ward Gallery presented the treasure in a catalog in 1993. It was asking \$1.5 million.

All ancient items found in Greece are supposed to be reported to the Culture Ministry. It is illegal to possess them without a license or to export them.

Michael Ward said he had bought the hoard from a Swiss collector. Archaeologists noted that the items were very similar to those found in graves at Aidonia. Part of the site had been plundered before official excavations began in the late 1970s.

Greece based its claim on this argument.

Ward, a scholar and dealer, agreed to donate the treasure to the Washington-based Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage, enabling him to recoup an undisclosed amount through a tax deduction.

"I think we did what was best to celebrate a great victory over antiquity theft and its international network," said Giorgos Thomas, the Culture Ministry's general secretary.

The hoard will go on display at the Athens museum in March before being sent to its permanent home, the museum at Nemea.

Beatles single to be released on Valentine's Day

■ MUSIC: "Real Love," will be the second new single to come out since John Lennon was killed

LONDON (AP) — The Beatles are back — again.

"Real Love," the second Beatles single to be released in 25 years, will hit the airwaves on Valentine's Day, the Parlophone record company said Monday.

The group's first new single, "Free as a Bird," was constructed around a chorus the late John Lennon played into a cassette recorder around 1977. The surviving Beatles — Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr — wrote additional music

and verses.

After the single's release in November, some critics questioned the value of using the original Lennon recording, saying his voice is practically inaudible.

By contrast, Lennon recorded "Real Love" in a studio. A solo version of the song was released in 1988 on the soundtrack album of the Lennon tribute movie, "Imagine."

The new version, recorded last year, features the surviving Beatles playing and singing backup.

"It was good fun doing it," the Parlophone press release quoted McCartney as saying. "Unlike

"Free As A Bird," it had all the words and music, and we were more like sidemen to John, which was joyful, and I think we did a good job."

"Real Love" has already been broadcast once, on last year's "The Beatles Anthology" television documentary.

After radio stations start playing the song on Feb. 14, the single will be available in stores in March. It also will be included in the second volume of the three-volume Anthology series, also to appear in March.

The Beatles broke up in 1970. Lennon was shot and killed in New York by an obsessed fan in 1980.