

Old Conflict  
Is Intensified  
By New Tech

Drones Widen Front in  
India and Pakistan

By ANUPREETA DAS and SALMAN MASOOD

NEW DELHI — India and Pakistan, old enemies, are engaged in their most expansive military conflict in decades, and with continued shelling and drone attacks, they are using new tools of war to enhance their ability to attack and spy on each other.

Early Saturday, a day after India said that Pakistan had sent waves of drones toward Indian airspace, the Pakistani military accused Indian forces of launching air-to-surface missiles that targeted at least three air bases across Pakistan. Among them was a key installation near the capital, Islamabad.

The reported attack, four days into the two countries’ armed confrontation, appeared to be a sharp escalation in tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors. Eyewitnesses in Rawalpindi, the garrison city near Islamabad, reported hearing at least three loud explosions near the Noor Khan air base, with one describing a “large fireball” visible from miles away.

“Now, you just wait for our response,” Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the Pakistani military’s chief spokesman, said in a televised statement. He accused India of pushing the region toward a “dangerous war.”

On Friday, Indian defense officials said Pakistan’s military had attempted aerial intrusions in 36 locations with “300 to 400” drones to test India’s air-defense system.

A day earlier, Pakistani military officials said they had shot down 25 drones belonging to India, including in Karachi and Rawalpindi, the headquarters of Pakistan’s main intelligence body. Pakistani officials also told U.S. officials that India was engaging in “drone terrorism” by targeting civilian areas, according to a statement. India has not commented on the drones.

Although many countries now have drones in their arsenals, this is the first time the unmanned aerial vehicles are being used by the two countries against each other. The use of drone warfare may have been inevitable, but it could reshape the way the world views hostilities between India and Pakistan, much as it did after the two countries became nuclear powers in the 1990s.

The conflict began after militants killed 26 people last month in India-controlled Kashmir. India accused Pakistan of being behind

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VATICAN Pope Leo XIV, in the Sistine Chapel on Friday, will try to shape a church that is more open.



CHICAGO Pope Leo served as an altar boy at St. Mary of Assumption, which has long been closed.



PERU Worshipers in the city of Chiclayo, where Pope Leo served as a bishop for nearly a decade.

For a Divided Church,  
Pope Leo’s First Mass  
Is an Echo of Francis

Pontiff May Provide  
Contrast to Trump  
on U.S. Values

By TYLER PAGER

WASHINGTON — Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost’s ascension to the papacy marks an extraordinary moment for American leadership on the world stage at a time when President Trump has transformed the country’s reputation abroad and fueled distrust among longtime allies.

But while two Americans now sit in positions of enormous global influence, Pope Leo XIV may offer the world a different view of U.S. values from Mr. Trump’s America First approach, which he has executed through stiff tariffs, imperialist musings and vast cuts to foreign aid.

When he was introduced to the world, the new pope — who speaks five languages and is a naturalized citizen of Peru — emphasized his pluralistic background, making a point of speaking in Italian (representing his new constituency) and Spanish (his old one). He spoke no English and made no reference to the United States, even as some Catholics in St. Peter’s Square excitedly waved U.S. flags. (On Friday, he spoke briefly in English when he delivered his first homily.)

There are indications that the first American pontiff disapproves of some of the Trump administration’s hard-line stances. A social media account under his name has reposted messages critical of the president’s positions on issues including immigration, gun control and climate change. In February, the account shared a link to an article in The National Catholic Reporter titled “JD Vance Is Wrong: Jesus Doesn’t Ask Us to Rank Our Love for Others.”

“We have this powerful moral voice that is going to be able to potentially confront the other most powerful American voice,” said Charlie Sykes, an anti-Trump conservative who is Catholic. “Donald Trump bestrides the world as the ugly American, and now we

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Pledge to Align With  
‘Ordinary People’  
and to Heal

This article is by Jason Horowitz, Elizabeth Dias, Emma Bubola and Richard Pérez-Peña.

ROME — Leo XIV, the first pope from the United States, presided over his first Mass as leader of 1.4 billion Roman Catholics on Friday, pledging to align himself with “ordinary people” and not with the rich and powerful. He also called for missionary outreach to help heal the “wounds that afflict our society.”

The election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, a native of Chicago, as pope represents a singular moment in the history of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. But some of the cardinals who selected him said his life of service to the poor in Peru and his senior roles at the Vatican mattered far more in the conclave than his nationality.

At a news conference in Rome on Friday, some cardinals said discussion of Cardinal Prevost’s American background was, in the words of Cardinal Robert McElroy, the new archbishop of Washington, D.C., “almost negligible.”

The conclave was not a “continuation of the American election,” said Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C. He added, “It was a desire to strengthen the Christian faith among God’s people.”

In Leo’s persistent advocacy for the poor, migrants and a “synodal” church that seeks input from parishioners rather than simply directing them, many people saw a continuation of his predecessor, Pope Francis, though Leo is seen as quieter and less charismatic.

“It matters a lot that we have a pope and a spiritual leader whose heart is for migrants,” Cardinal Pablo Virgilio Siongeco David of the Philippines said at the news conference. “And I think he will sustain the direction of Pope Francis.”

Risky but inevitable predictions of what kind of papacy his will be were plentiful, inside and outside

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More on the Election of the 267th Pope

**FONDLY REMEMBERED** In Peru, where the pope lived for many years, residents have claimed him as one of their own. PAGE A8

**L.G.B.T.Q. OUTREACH** The new pope has said little publicly about the community’s place in the Roman Catholic Church. PAGE A7

Trump Signals Openness to Cut Tariffs on China

This article is by Alan Rappeport, Ana Swanson and Alexandra Stevenson.

President Trump suggested on Friday that he was open to sharply reducing the tariffs that the United States had imposed on China, as American and Chinese negotiators prepare to meet in Switzerland this weekend for high-stakes trade talks.

Trade tensions between the United States and China have roiled international markets and the global economy. The negotiations on Saturday and Sunday are intended to de-escalate the situation and help set the stage for a broader trade pact between the two economic superpowers.

In a post on social media, Mr. Trump said that an 80 percent tar-

Ahead of Trade Talks,  
Says a Reduction to  
80% ‘Seems Right’

iff on China “seems right,” adding that it would be “up to Scott B,” an apparent reference to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

An 80 percent tariff would be a big drop from the current 145 percent that Mr. Trump imposed on Chinese imports in recent months. But that high a level would still shut off most trade between the countries. Chinese data released on Friday showed shipments from that country to the United States plunged 21 percent in April from the same period a year ago.

The White House press secre-

tary, Karoline Leavitt, said on Friday afternoon that the 80 percent figure was one that Mr. Trump “threw out there” and that a reduction would only happen as part of a negotiation.

“The president still remains with his position that he is not going to unilaterally bring down tariffs on China,” Ms. Leavitt said. “We need to see concessions from them as well.”

It’s also unclear if the talks will lead to any short-term resolution for two governments that have serious economic disputes and have taken a harsh tone toward the other in recent months.

The Trump administration has been racing to strike trade deals with other countries ahead of a self-imposed deadline for adding

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Republican Justice Who Aligned With Liberals

By LINDA GREENHOUSE

David H. Souter, a New Hampshire Republican who was named to the Supreme Court by President George H.W. Bush and who over 19 years on that bench became a mainstay of the court’s shrinking liberal wing, died on Thursday at his home in New Hampshire. He was 85.

His death was announced on Friday morning by the Supreme Court, which did not cite a cause, saying only that he had died “peacefully.”

A shy man who never married and who much preferred an evening alone with a good book to a night in the company of Washington insiders, Justice Souter re-



Justice Souter in 2003. He was on the court for 19 years.

tired at the unusually young age of 69 to return to his beloved home state. His retirement at the end of the court’s 2008-09 term gave President Barack Obama a Supreme Court vacancy in the opening months of his presidency. The president named Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the seat.

By the end of his second year on the Supreme Court, Justice Souter had acquired the label that would stick for the remainder of his tenure. He was the justice who surprised the president who appointed him; who left conservative Republicans bitterly disappointed; whose migration on the bench from right to left led to the cry of “no more Souters” when an-

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A Times reporter’s first-person account of how a Moscow parade was used to conflate the memory of World War II with Russia’s militarism today. PAGE A10

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**A G.O.P. Thicket Called SALT**  
A small group of Republicans is threatening to torpedo President Trump’s fiscal package over the state and local tax deduction. PAGE A13

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**A ‘Manosphere’ for Women?**  
Dear Media, a podcast company known for chatty celebrity and lifestyle shows, is also tapping into women’s interest in alternative health. PAGE B1

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**Challenging Time for Stanford**  
In the era of name, image and likeness deals, the academically elite university has struggled to adapt, and is now playing catch-up. PAGE B7

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**Michelle Goldberg** PAGE A23

