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DISTRICT

Former cops recall distorted statistics

2 police lawsuits get new interest

BY MATT DELANEY

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Two lawsuits from former Metropolitan Police Department officers accusing the department of suppressing violent crime numbers are getting another look during the political rumpus over President Trump's deployment of troops to fight crime in the District of Columbia.

The Justice Department opened an investigation into the suspected manipulation of crime statistics by police brass to make the city appear less dangerous. The investigation also revived interest in the lawsuits from former officers who said they witnessed the malfeasance up close.

The lawsuits challenge the argument of the D.C. political class and congressional Democrats that violence is at a 30-year low in the city. In one lawsuit, an officer said the department downgraded violent crimes to lesser offenses. In the other, an officer said police leaders classified some homicides as accidental

The officers' lawsuits bolster Mr. Trump's claim that crime is out of control in the nation's capital as he exercises federal power to help police in the city. However, a judge blocked a full takeover of the police department.

The 2020 lawsuit filed by former Sgt. Charlotte Djossou said police leaders regularly downgraded violent offenses in official reports because "districts compete against each other to get the largest reduction in the crime statistics."

One example in her lawsuit, which was settled this month, said the case of a woman who sustained a deep cut to her face by an unknown object in 2019 was reported as "assault with a dangerous weapon" at the scene. Ms. Djossou said a police captain later changed the case to "sick person to the hospital."

The lawsuit told of another woman who dodged a knife thrown at her during a domestic assault in 2019. The filing said Ms. Djossou thought an assault

UKRAINE

Donbas deal risks fortifying Russian power



WHAT COST? Ukrainian troops have been holding positions in heavily fortified cities in Donetsk that would be handed over to Russia as part of a peace deal, as well as other areas of eastern Ukraine with significant mineral deposits underground.

DIPLOMACY

Zelenskyy remains wary but relieved by security pledge, European unity

By Guillaume Ptak

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

KYIV, UKRAINE | Ukrainians are feeling more optimistic after European leaders rallied to Washington this week to join President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House, easing the fear and disappointment stoked by the unexpectedly chummy summit Friday between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump-Putin meeting in Alaska.

"It is a humiliation for the United States. They talk to us about democracy and human rights and then bow to Putin," said Liudmila, a resident of the village of Kaniv. Russian bombs struck her community on Aug. 6, killing two people and wounding 10, including several children. "What can we do? I do not know what they will decide. But we must go on living; we have no choice," she said.

Although expectations were gener-In the southern region of Zapor- ally low for Mr. Zelenskyy's trip to » see **POLICE** | **A4** | izhzhia, emotions were raw after the the White House on Monday, some

Ukrainians found hope in the latest developments.

Mr. Trump said the U.S. is ready to help guarantee Ukraine's security as part of a peace agreement, though officials offered no details on legal scope

or enforcement. Mr. Zelenskyy called the outcome "a major step forward" and said potential guarantees could be formalized "within seven to 10 days."

Oleksandr Merezhko, chairman of

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Ceded land gives Putin Black Sea outlet, launchpad for further conflict

By BEN WOLFGANG

The ugly truth behind any deal that would cede a chunk of Ukraine's Donbas region to Moscow is that it could immediately strengthen the Russian military, providing a major win for one of America's leading adversaries in an era of great power competition.

In such a scenario, Ukraine would lose some of its most heavily fortified defensive positions. Russian President Vladimir Putin's generals would seek to deepen their substantial footprint in the strategically vital theater with new military bases. The Russian navy could gain even greater control over the Black Sea. The Russian government and its armed forces could take de facto ownership of the significant mineral deposits underground in eastern Ukraine.

The U.S., Ukraine and Europe likely will insist on a sizable buffer zone designed to prevent Russia from turning the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, which collectively make up the Donbas, into a military hub that could threaten Kyiv and other former Soviet nations in Eastern Europe. It's unclear how that scenario could be prevented, short of a permanent multinational contingent of ground troops stationed in the region willing to fight the Russian army if necessary.

NATO officials, including Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met Wednesday to discuss such a plan and held a "candid discussion," a senior alliance official told The Associated Press.

Alliance members, including the U.S., have given few, if any, indications that they are truly willing to engage in allout war against the Russians if, as many battlefield analysts fear, the Kremlin inevitably breaks whatever agreement is made to end the current conflict.

Questions are swirling around President Trump's push to end the war, including exactly what the U.S. military commitment would be to the stillundetermined "security guarantees" the West says it is willing to provide to Ukraine. Specialists say one thing is

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

India resets relations with China as Trump tariffs chill U.S. ties

Trade grows, direct flights resume

By Andrew Salmon

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Is the world's most powerful democracy about to lose the world's most populous democracy? It could be. In the past two days, India has reset deeply troubled relations with China while its relations with the United States are fraying.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Tuesday with China's top diplomat, Wang Yi. Mr. Modi hailed "steady progress" in improving bilateral relations and "respect for each other's interests and sensitiveness."

On his two-day visit, Mr. Wang also met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Key outcomes included eased

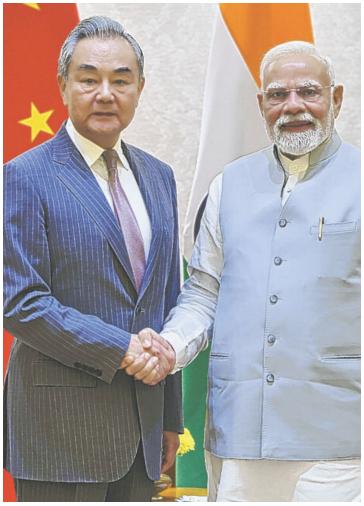
trade, resumptions of direct flights and issuances of visas to each other's reporters. Those are significant turnarounds.

Relations iced over after deadly military clashes on the two countries' Himalayan border in 2020. They were further damaged in May when Pakistani forces used Chinese weapon systems in an aerial border clash.

In New Delhi's words, the two sides also agreed to "a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution of the 'Himalayan' boundary question."

Mr. Modi is expected to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin, China, from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1. The economic roundtable, established in 2001, includes Belarus,

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MEETING OF THE MINDS: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi hailed progress in bilateral relations and "respect for each other's interests and sensitiveness."

ECONOMY

Fed signals rate cut as job growth falters, Trump pressure rises

Powell to address policymakers

By Tom Howell Jr.

The Federal Reserve is increasingly likely to cut interest rates at its meeting next month as worries about potential inflation compete with new concerns about a slowdown in hiring.

For months, President Trump has hectored Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell to give borrowers better terms through lower rates, only to be rebuffed by central bankers who fear price increases from White House tariff policies.

The Fed will be compelled to cut rates at its Sept. 16-17 meeting if it determines that weaker hiring is a bigger concern. The July jobs report showed a sharp slowdown in hiring.

CME FedWatch on Tuesday

projected an 85% chance that the Fed would cut its target rate by 25 basis points, or 0.25%. Investors will listen for hints when Mr. Powell addresses Fed policymakers at their annual conference this week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

The business world wants to know whether Mr. Powell is more concerned about tariffinduced inflation or the weaker job numbers as the central bank tries to fulfill its twin mandate of stable prices and maximum employment.

'The Fed has a dual mandate that contradicts itself. It has to keep inflation low and also keep unemployment low. Because of trade-offs, it can only pursue one of those goals at a time, and

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