

TRUMP NAMES HOMAN FOR IMMIGRATION, ELISE FOR UN

Hardliner Stephen Miller named as deputy chief of staff for policy

WASHINGTON

US president-elect Donald Trump said late on Sunday he was bringing back headline immigration official Tom Homan to oversee the country's borders in the incoming administration. The 78-year-old Repub-

lican tycoon has pledged to launch - on day one of his presidency - the largest deportation operation of undocumented immigrants in US history.

"I am pleased to announce that the Former ICE Director, and stalwart on Border Control, Tom Homan, will be join-



Tom Homan Elise Stefanik

ing the Trump Administration, in charge of our Nation's Borders ("The Border Czar"),"

Trump posted on his social network Truth Social. "I've known Tom for a long time, and there is nobody better at policing and controlling our Borders."

Trump said Homan will be in charge of "all Deportation of Illegal Aliens back to their Country of Origin".

Homan, who led immigration enforcement during part of Trump's first administra-

tion, appeared at the Republican National Convention in July, telling supporters: "I got a message to the millions of illegal immigrants that Joe Biden's released in our country: You better start packing now." Trump - who never conceded his 2020 loss - sealed a remarkable comeback to the presidency in the November 5 vote, cementing what is set to be more

than a decade of US politics dominated by his hardline right-wing stance.

He will not be inaugurated until January, and so far has only made one cabinet appointment, naming his campaign manager Susie Wiles - who he calls "ice baby" due to her supposedly unflappable temperament - as his White House chief of staff. Late Sunday,

Trump told the New York Post he has offered Republican Congresswoman Elise Stefanik the job of US ambassador to the United Nations. Stefanik, in her fifth term in office, told the newspaper she had accepted the role and was "truly honored".

"Elise is an incredibly strong, tough, and smart America First fighter," Trump said. AFP/AP

India must adopt more robust Met system: WMO chief



SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA EXPRESS IN BAKU

INDIA has to enhance its meteorological infrastructure and adopt a more robust multi-hazard early warning system to avoid loss of lives and minimise the impact of climate change, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Celeste Saulo told this newspaper on Monday.

The WMO State of the Climate 2024 was released during the United National Climate Conference (COP29), which began in Baku, Azerbaijan, earlier in the day. The report issued a red alert as 2024 is on the track to be the warmest year on record. From January to September this year, the average global temperature was 1.54°C above pre-industrial level. However, seen from a long-term perspective, the average warming is below 1.5°C.

Saulo said WMO works very closely with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), whose Director General of Meteorology Mrutyunjay Mohapatra is one of the three vice-presidents of WMO. "India is very active and making good investments to enhance meteorological services.

But, India being such a large country, there is a lot of scope for improvement. Especially, in bringing the Met services into the value

CURRENT STATUS OF MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Despite progress, gaps remain with only 55% of countries reporting the existence of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) as of March 2024

Where MHEWS exist, there may be substantial gap along the value chain. For example, 98 countries reported the existence of 'Warning dissemination and communication', but only 53 countries reported on 'Disaster Risk Knowledge'

Gaps are most pronounced in countries in special conditions. 20 Least Developed Countries (LDC) have reported having MHEWS (44% of all LDCs), compared to 14 Small Island Developing States (38%), and 20 Landlocked Developing Countries (63%)

MHEWS coverage is notably lower in the Americas and the Caribbean region as well as the Africa region. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) from LDCs include MHEWS as a priority

88% of LDCs have included EWS in their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) thus far

chain. Active engagement between the Met department and other ministries like agriculture, health and disaster management is vital," she told this newspaper on the sidelines of the WMO presser.

When asked about events like the Wayanad landslide disaster, which killed over 400 people, the WMO chief said this is where multi-hazard early warning system will come in handy. "There are many things happening at the same time. We need to analyse and react in a holistic way. We need the Met services as well as other agencies to work closely so as to understand the risks."

India is also facing a serious

threat of sea level rise, given its long coastline and dense population near the coasts. Saulo said, in March, the WMO will release a more detailed report, which would look at the region-wise impact due to sea level rise.

The WMO report says from 2014-2023, the global mean sea level rose at a rate of 4.77 mm per year, more than double the rate between 1993 and 2002. The El Niño effect meant it grew even more rapidly in 2023. Preliminary 2024 data shows that with the decline of El Niño, it has fallen back to levels consistent with the rising trend from 2014 to 2022.

The sheer pace of climate change in a single generation, tur-

'Israel unable to occupy a single village in Lebanon'

BEIRUT

HEZBOLLAH said on Monday that the Israeli military has been incapable of occupying even a single village in Lebanon since launching cross-border ground operations six weeks ago. "After 45 days of bloody fighting, the enemy is still unable to occupy a single Lebanese village," Hezbollah spokesman Mohammad Afif told a news conference in south Beirut, a stronghold of the movement and a repeated target of Israeli air raids.

On Monday Hezbollah spokesman Afif said the group's fighters had repulsed Israeli troops in Khiam, about six kilometres (four miles) from the border. He said the Israelis also failed in attempts "to penetrate on several fronts at Bint Jbeil", about 17 kilometres southwest of Khiam.

Aff denied that Israeli strikes on Lebanon had diminished the group's missile stock. He asked how that could be the case "when we targeted the suburbs of Tel Aviv several days ago" and employed for the first time Fateh missiles.

The group announced on November 6 that it had begun to use Fateh-110 Iranian-made surface-to-surface guided missiles. Asked about ceasefire prospects, Afif said that since the election of Donald Trump last week to the United States presidency, there were "contacts between Washington, Moscow, Tehran and other capitals".

But he said, "according to my information nothing official has reached Hezbollah or the Lebanese state." AFP

Def min hopes to finalise SCS code

MALAYSIA: Malaysia hopes to finalise the South China Sea (SCS) Code of Conduct, when it chairs Asean next year, The Star reported. "... a procedural code to prevent conflicts and tensions in the South China Sea, will be finalised during Malaysia's chairmanship of Asean next year," Defence Minister said.

Prabowo's endorsement draws flak

INDONESIA: President Prabowo Subianto's endorsement of a candidate running for Central Java governor in the upcoming regional elections has raised questions on his impartiality among netizens, CNA reported.

PNB Punjab National Bank logo and address: Circle Sastra Centre, Vaishnavi Towers, Kumarichantha, Ambalathara P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-695026, Ph: 0471-2960608, Email: cs8326@pnb.co.in

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