Stephen Miller appointed as Trump's WH chief of staff

WASHINGTON, Nov 7 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Friday said Stephen Miller was replacing Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff, days after Republicans lost control of Congress in the midterm elections.

Miller, long a key member of Trump's inner circle, is a key architect of the administration's hardline immigration policies. He is one of Trump's closest and longest-serving advisers, joining his long-shot 2016 presidential campaign as a speechwriter. He currently serves as White House Deputy chief of staff for policy and oversees a broad portfolio, though he is best known for his role in Trump's immigration policy.



Stephen Miller

The staff shuffle signals that Trump, now staring down a combative Congress that will soon be controlled by Democrats, is resisting a conciliatory approach after the grand old party's midterm thrashing on Tuesday.

Miller is a dogged defender of Trump and his "America First" principles, and has built a deep and sophisticated understanding of a President's executive power and how the federal Government operates, portending a potential burst of executive actions in the final two years of Trump's presidency.

Wiles gave Trump her resignation on Thursday night, a person familiar with the events said,

(Contd on page 3)

Rajnath calls for highest military preparedness

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI)

INDIA'S Armed Forces must maintain the highest level of operational readiness to effectively counter any threats to national security, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday, delivering his message from a key airbase near the frontier with China in the Eastern sector.



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh offers sweets to IAF personnel during his visit to Air Force Station Bagdogra, ahead of Diwali festival, in West Bengal. (PTI)

Addressing air warriors at the Bagdogra Air Force station, Singh, without naming any country, said the adversary avoids direct confrontation but seeks to exploit certain "vulnerabilities", emphasising that the security landscape has become increasingly complex.

"Often, the adversary avoids direct confrontation and instead seeks to exploit our vulnerabilities. Through social media, the adversary may attempt to sow doubt in the minds of the local population and our soldiers by spreading misleading information," he said.

"In such a scenario, your role extends beyond that of an ordinary soldier," he said.

Iran distributes iodine tablets amid US strikes on nuclear sites

TEHRAN, Nov 7 (ANI)

IRAN has begun handing out iodine tablets to populations living in the vicinity of its nuclear facilities, as the country braces for the possibility of potential strikes by the United States, The Times of London reports, citing an Iranian Health Ministry official, as per Al Jazeera.

"Yes, we are distributing iodine," the official was quoted as saying. "Trump can no longer be trusted. He may go through with this crime," as per Al Jazeera.

According to the official, the Iranian administration has consistently distributed the preventive medication within a radius of 2 to 3 kilometres around its nuclear installations during times of heightened military conflict.

Iodine tablets are deployed as a defensive countermeasure to protect the human thyroid gland from radiation.

Furthermore, Al Jazeera reported that an Iranian political journalist disclosed that state officials were informed during a recent briefing that a potential US strike on Iran's heavily fortified Pickaxe Mountain nuclear site is being given serious consideration.

US military carries out fresh targeted strikes

WASHINGTON, Nov 7 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said the US military on Friday carried out new limited strikes on Iran, targeting an Iranian air defence system.

Iran state media reported the sound of two explosions in the Suza area of Qeshm Island, which is in the crucial waterway for oil shipments.

Trump in an exchange with reporters described the military action as "minor".

China says discussions over Xi-Trump-Putin meet on

WASHINGTON, Nov 7 (AP)

BEIJING has confirmed for the first time that it is discussing a historic meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Mao Ning, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said at a press briefing this week in Beijing that China "is in communication with relevant parties regarding a meeting between the three heads of state." Nothing is set, but the three-leader gathering would take place this month on the sidelines of a regional summit in Shenzhen.



The meeting would take place this month on the sidelines of a summit in Shenzhen, China.

If it happens, it would be historic. Experts, however, say the three leaders are unlikely to discuss anything substantive because their interests are at odds, but they would gather for a photo, with China carefully choreographing the meeting.

"I think it will happen. The question is the format and the content," said Sun Yun, director of the China programme at the Stimson Center. "China wants the image but not the costs." Beijing is the host of this year's leaders summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, a 21-member grouping that includes the US and Russia. Trump is expected to travel to Shenzhen to meet Xi for the third time this year, maintaining a fragile trade truce that is set to expire in January.

Paraguay votes to impeach President Santiago Pena

ASUNCION, Nov 7 (ANI)

PARAGUAY'S Senate on Friday (local time) has voted to impeach and remove President Santiago Pena from office, stripping him of his immunity amid an escalating criminal investigation into the collapse of a prominent bank tied to him, 'CNN' reported. Following the vote, Vice President Pedro Alliana was sworn in as the country's new head of state to lead the executive.

The Senate voted 44 to 1 on Friday in favour of ousting Pena, following a fast-tracked trial. The political crisis was triggered after Ueno Bank—a financial institution with which Pena had established business ties—was abruptly shuttered overnight due to a severe solvency crisis, cutting off millions of depositors from their savings, *CNN* reported.

Paraguay's Attorney General has since opened three separate criminal cases against Pena and several former officials in connection with the financial implosion, as per *CNN*.

Peña had pre-emptively announced his resignation in a video statement on Thursday as lawmakers debated charges against him.