QUOTE OF THE DAY

IF YOU ARE WORKING ON **SOMETHING THAT YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PUSHED. THE VISION PULLS**

STEVE JOBS

News in brief

◆ A Taiwanese army unit yesterday removed a "corroded" unexploded 227-kilogram bomb from a construction site for a TSMC semiconductor plant in the island's south, authorities said. The "severely corroded" bomb was found at the Nanzih Technology Industrial Park in Kaohsiung where the Taiwanese chipmaking giant is building a new fabrication plant. Construction workers were briefly evacuated from the site while the army bomb disposal unit recovered the bomb. The 500-pound bomb appeared to be from an "early period" but its exact vintage could not be determined due to its "unclear



Unexploded 'corroded' bomb found at TSMC construction site in Taiwan

serial number", 8th Field Army spokeswoman Kung Chiung-yu told AFP. The bomb was later taken to a secure storage facility where it will be destroyed, Kung said.

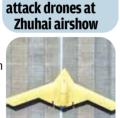
The Kremlin yesterday denied a US media report that Russian President Vladimir Putin and US president-elect Donald Trump shared a call about the Ukraine conflict. The Washington Post reported Sunday that Trump had urged

Kremlin denies call between Putin and Trump

the Russian leader not to escalate the war in Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists that the report was "simply false information", denying any phone call took place. The Post, citing several people familiar with the call who spoke on the basis of anonymity, reported that Trump had reminded Putin of the sizable US military presence in Europe.

They said Trump also expressed an interest in further conversations to discuss "the resolution of Ukraine's war soon." Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, did not confirm the exchange, telling AFP in a written statement that "we do not comment on private calls between President Trump and other world leaders.

◆ China will unveil a new stealth fighter jet and attack drones at a major airshow this week, with stealth jet and analysts and rival powers watching closely for rare clues on Beijing's military hardware development. The country's close ties with Moscow will also be on display at Airshow China, which showcases Beijing's civil and military aerospace sector every two years in the southern city of Zhuhai. This year it coincides with the 75th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), and advancements in its fighting strength have taken centre stage. Beijing has poured resources into modernising and expanding its aviation capabilities as it faces off against the United States



China to unveil

and others around regional flashpoints like Taiwan. The new J-35A, described as a "medium-sized stealth multi-purpose fighter", looks similar in design to a US F-35, analysts say, though details are few.

SPOTLIGHT

'Only \$1 mn': Iraqi PM adviser suspected of bribe-taking

AFP | Baghdad, Iraq

 $I^{\text{raq's anti-corruption agency}}_{\text{yesterday announced an in-}}$ vestigation into a prime ministerial aide over an alleged audio recording in which he referred to a bribe as being too small.

lons of power often evade ac-recording attributed to him countability. The aide, Abdel led to accusations that he had Karim al-Faisal, denied the granted tax reductions. accusation and has denounced on Facebook the "fabricated" tion, a source with the Comaudio clip.In the recording mission of Integrity told AFP, obtained by Iraqi media, a under cover of anonymity. man alleged to be Faisal criticised his interlocutor, during a tegrity commission himself phone call, for the bribe being was fired, only to be given an mission of Integrity anti-graft ministry. body said in a statement it was acting under a directive from thorities in September had Prime Minister Mohammed announced a probe into the Shia al-Sudani in opening "an integrity commission chief investigation into an audio re- over alleged audio recordings cording attributed to the head attributed to him and related of the Commission of Advis- to suspected bribery. ers to the Prime Minister's Office"

"in coordination with a criminal court judge handling an- gest-ever corruption cases inti-corruption cases".

ticate the recording.

have shaken Iraq.



the state institutions of oil- an investigation opened folrich Iraq, but the top eche- lowing such a leak. An audio

He was also placed in deten-

The former head of the in-"only \$1 million". The Com- advisory post at the justice

This came after judicial au-

It is not unknown in Iraq for public officials to try to settle It added that it was acting scores by trading accusations.

One of the country's bigvolved the theft of \$2.5 billion AFP was not able to authen- in public funds from 2021 to 2022. At the end of August, In the past few weeks sever- the judiciary issued arrest al leaks of alleged recordings warrants for a businessman alleged to be the main suspect Last month, the chief of the in that case, and for a former tax bureau, Ali Alawi, was government official.

UAE says Mideast needs 'robust' US leadership



Rescuers from the Lebanese Red Cross search for victims and survivors at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the village of Rasm El-Hadath in the eastern Lebanese Bekaa valley

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emir-

The Middle East needs "robust leadership" from the United States as the region faces multiple wars and crises, a top UAE official said yesterday as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to return to

UAE presidential advisor Anwar Gargash, speaking at the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate conference, urged the new Trump administration to prioritise a "comprehensive" strategy instead of a "reactive and piecemeal" approach. Trump has suggested that as president, he would give freer rein to Israel as it battles Palestinian and Lebanese militants.

Gargash, in his keynote address, said that "as we navigate through turbulent times, US leadership and partnership remain indis-

ically played a pivotal role in the considerations alongside strategic and stability." Middle East, and its involvement interests." is critical, especially during crises we are witnessing today.

ognise that involvement is never meal policies at the expense of said.

to occupy any Lebanese villages

has been incapable of occupying even a single village in Lebanon

Israeli troops on September 30 began what the military called "localised and targeted raids" against Hezbollah in Lebanon's non. southern border area, a week after escalating air strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

ing, the enemy is still unable to bollah began cross-border fire, occupy a single Lebanese vil- which it described as support lage," Hezbollah spokesman for Hamas Palestinian militants Mohammad Afif told a news in Gaza, more than a year ago.

"However, it is essential to rec- we must avoid reactive and piece- ly-based relationship," Gargash

conference in south Beirut, a stronghold of the movement and Hezbollah said on Monday a repeated target of Israeli air that the Israeli military raids.

Hezbollah, armed and financed by Iran, had on October since launching cross-border 23 issued a similar statement ground operations six weeks ago. that said Israel's army "has not been able to fully establish its control or completely occupy any village" in southern Leba-

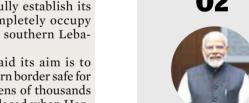
Israel has said its aim is to make its northern border safe for the return of tens of thousands "After 45 days of bloody fight- of Israelis displaced when Hez-

enough. We need robust leader- a comprehensive approach that "The United States has histor- ship that prioritises humanitarian aims to maintain regional security

"The UAE will continue to work Gargash said that "with an in- closely with the United States in coming American administration, this strategic and institutional-

Hezbollah says Israeli army 'unable'

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon



Glad to meet Rus-sia's First Deputy PM Denis Manturov today. Happy to see that teams on both sides are working together to implement decisions taken during my recent visits and meetings with Pres ident Putin to further strenghen India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

ny Republican Sen-

Aator seeking the

coveted LEADERSHIP

position in the United

States Senate must agree

to Recess Appointments

(in the Senate!), without

which we will not be

able to get people con-

firmed in a timely man-

ner. Sometimes the votes

can take two years, or

more. This is what they

did four years ago, and

we cannot let it happen

again. We need positions

filled IMMEDIATELY!

Additionally, no Judg-

es should be approved

during this period of

time because the Demo-

crats are looking to ram

through their Judges as

the Republicans fight

over Leadership. THIS

IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

@antonioguterres

THANK YOU!

@narendramodi



onald Trump's new-Dy named "Border Czar" Tom Homan to Democrat Governors and Sanctuary Cities: "If you don't want to help us, get the hell out of the way because we're coming.'

@IsraeliPM

Flood-damaged vehicles are gathered on a plot after removing them from the streets of Alfafar, region of Valencia, eastern Spain, in the aftermath of deadly floods. Spain announced an aid package worth 10.6 billion euros (\$11.5 billion) to rebuild regions devastated by its worst floods in a generation that have killed 219 people.

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)