

# Head of 32,000-year-old wolf found in the Russian Arctic

The animal is believed to have been between two and four years old when it died

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

A first intact head of a gigantic adult wolf which died about 32,000 years ago and was preserved in permafrost has been found in the Russian Arctic, scientists said on Friday.

Covered with thick fur, the head was found by a local on the banks of the Tirekhtyakh River in Russia's remote Arctic region of Yakutia last summer.

**Well-preserved brain**  
It features a well-preserved brain, soft tissue and a set of powerful teeth and mea-



The head of an Ice Age wolf, which is covered with thick fur. \*AP

sures 41.5 cm in length.

By comparison, the torso of a modern-day wolf is between 66 and 86 centimetres long.

The head was handed to

local palaeontologists who teamed up with scientists from the Jikei University School of Medicine in Tokyo to study it.

"It is the first ever such find," Albert Protopopov, head of mammoth fauna studies at the Yakutia Academy of Sciences, said on Friday. "Only cubs have been discovered before."

**Pleistocene epoch**

Research shows the animal died about 32,000 years ago in the Pleistocene epoch, when the most recent Ice Age occurred.

The wolf is believed to

have been between two and four years old when it died.

The Pleistocene epoch was the time when megafauna such as woolly mammoths roamed the Earth.

Protopopov said the scientists from Russia, Japan and Sweden would continue to study the head.

"We are hoping to understand whether this was a separate subspecies," he added.

Several species of ancient wolf lived during the Ice Age, including now-extinct dire wolf that featured in the popular TV series *Game of Thrones*.

# Women across Switzerland rise up for equal pay

On average, they earn 20% less than men

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
GENEVA

Purple-clad protesters blowing whistles, banging pots and pans and brandishing feminist slogans filled the streets of Swiss towns and cities Friday, as women across the country went on strike for equal pay.

"I love badass women" and "Eliminate the patriarchy" figured among the messages on posters and banners, as women poured into the streets to vent their frustration with persistent gender discrimination and wage gaps in the wealthy Alpine nation.

The strike comes nearly three decades after women held the country's first nationwide strike for equal pay.



Purple to the fore: Women taking part in nation-wide strike for wage parity in Bern, on Friday. \*AFP

"Wage equality has not been achieved. That is a good reason to go on strike," Ruth Dreyfuss, who in 1998 became Switzerland's first female president, said.

Women in Switzerland on average still earn 20 percent less than men. And for men

and women with equal qualifications, the wage gap remains nearly eight percent, according to the National Statistics Office.

"We are here to make noise, because if we're not seen, we don't exist," said Socialist MP Ada Marra.

# Lost recording of Frida Kahlo released

REUTERS  
MEXICO CITY

Few Mexican icons have enjoyed greater recognition than the painter, Frida Kahlo. Only her voice seemed doomed to oblivion. Until Wednesday, that is, when the National Music Library of Mexico released a radio recording, apparently capturing the artist as she was reciting "Portrait of Diego", a text she wrote in 1949 about her husband, the painter Diego Rivera.

The Mexican government said that studies suggest the recording is of Kahlo but they were not able to confirm it. "It's a finding that has many elements that can be identified as the probable voice of Kahlo, but it isn't 100% certain," said Secretary of Culture Alejandra Frausta.



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