

## Wolf that bit woman in German mall likely dead

AFP | Berlin, Germany

A wolf that bit a woman at a shopping mall in Hamburg, northern Germany, in late March -- in the first such incident since the species returned to Germany some 30 years ago -- is likely dead, local authorities said yesterday.

"Based on available evidence, the animal is likely dead," city environmental authority Bukea told AFP, confirming several news reports to that effect. A few days after its capture following the mall incident, the animal was released into the wild but fitted with a tracking device.

Since then, it left Hamburg for a rural area more than 150 kilometres (90 miles) away, Bukea explained.

ered "a malfunction or simple loss of the collar unlikely".

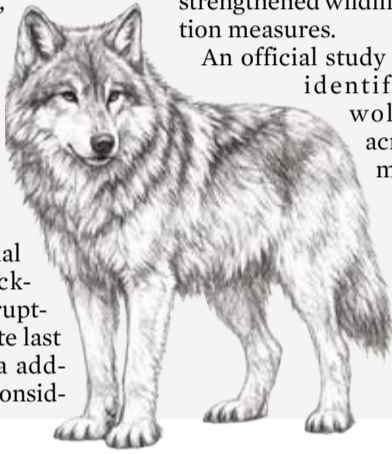
Experts have "searched a wide area" several times based on the geolocation, but "without success," the organisation added.

Regional public broadcaster NDR raised the possibility the animal could have been shot.

Wolves had virtually disappeared from Germany by the mid-19th century, mainly due to rewards being offered for their capture and to habitat destruction.

However, some wolves from Poland began to settle in eastern Germany after reunification in 1990, amid strengthened wildlife protection measures.

An official study last year identified 219 wolf packs across Germany.



## Russia says downed hundreds of drones from Ukraine

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia said yesterday it intercepted hundreds of Ukrainian drones including near Saint Petersburg, where Moscow is hosting a major economic forum, as Ukraine reported at least three people killed by Russian strikes.

Moscow and Kyiv have intensified drone strikes on each other in recent months as US-led diplomatic efforts to end the war, now in its fifth year, remain stalled over the conflict in the Middle

East.

The Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) -- once dubbed "Russia's Davos" -- ends on Saturday, a day after the event featured a speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Eighty-six UAVs have been shot down over Leningrad region. Combat operations continue," said Aleksandr Drozdenko, governor of the region whose major city is Saint Petersburg and which also includes key Bal-



tic ports.

On the first day of the summit, Ukrainian drones hit an oil complex and military base in Saint Petersburg, which is also Putin's home city.

Overnight, Russia's defence ministry said its air defence

downed a total of 376 Ukrainian drones "over Belgorod, Bryansk, Kaluga, Kursk, Leningrad, Novgorod, Oryol, Pskov, Rostov, Ryazan, Smolensk, Tver, and Tula regions, Moscow region, Crimea Republic, Abkhazia Republic, and over the waters of the Azov and Black Seas".

## US strikes radar installations in Iran

Trump says Iran has '22 percent' of missiles left

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States military said it attacked radar sites on Iran's southern coast Friday in the latest flare-up to threaten the ceasefire in the Mideast war.

US Central Command said in a statement that its forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones launched toward the Strait of Hormuz, then attacked Iranian coastal surveillance radar sites in the city of Gorkuk and on

### Frozen funds key to progress in US talks

AFP | Tehran, Iran

The release of frozen Iranian funds has become a key issue in negotiations between Tehran and Washington aimed at ending their war, a senior Iranian official said. Iran has been subject to asset freezes and

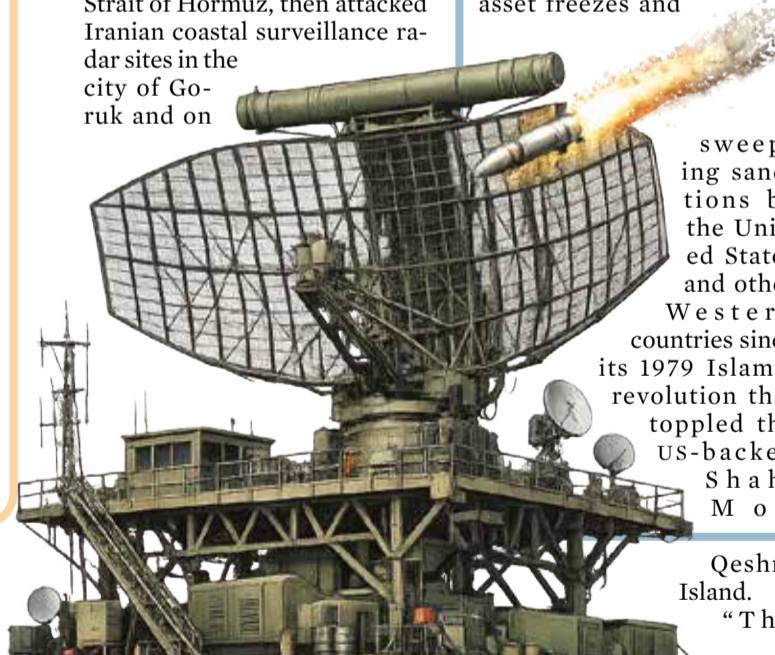
hammad Reza Pahlavi.

In an interview broadcast on Friday, Mohsen Rezaei, a former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, said the talks were failing over the release of Iranian assets.

"If he (Trump) wants to reach an agreement with Iran, this \$24 billion is a test of trust that Iran wants to have with Trump," he told CNN, according to an English translation of his remarks provided by the channel.

"This is a test that America must pass and the path will be opened," he said, adding that "this is our own money, not America's money".

While there is no official figure for the total amount of frozen Iranian assets, media reports have estimated the sum at between \$100 billion and \$123 billion.



sweeping sanctions by the United States and other Western countries since its 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the US-backed Shah, Mo-

Qeshm Island. The

attack drones posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic," while the strikes on ra-

dar installations "defend against further attacks," the statement said.

Iranian state broadcaster IRIB reported on Saturday that "several explosions were heard" in Sirik in southern Iran at around 2:30 am (2300 GMT Friday).

"No official source has commented on the origin of the sound or its details," the broadcaster said on Telegram.

A ceasefire has been in place between the United States and Iran since April 8, but subsequent talks to try to put a more permanent end to the conflict have so far been unsuccessful.

US President Donald Trump acknowledged in an interview with NBC News late Friday that Iran still has war-fighting capacity.

"They have some missiles, they have some drones. I would say, percentage wise, maybe 21, 22 percent of their missiles," Trump said.

Iran's military said Friday it had fired "warning missiles" at two US destroyers in the Gulf of Oman -- a claim promptly denied by the US military.

## SpaceX signs pre-IPO deal to provide AI computing to Google

AFP | Washington, United States

SpaceX on Friday signed a blockbuster cloud computing agreement under which Google will pay the Elon Musk-founded rocket company \$920 million per month for access to a massive cluster of AI chips, according to a disclosure in its initial public offering filing.

The deal, which will bolster SpaceX's finances ahead of its IPO on June 12, covers a computing infrastructure of approximately

110,000 Nvidia GPUs -- the crucial hardware needed to power Google's Gemini AI models.

The filing says Google will begin paying the full monthly rate in October 2026, with a reduced fee applying during a ramp-up period until then.

The agreement runs through June 2029, implying total payments of roughly \$30 billion over the life of the contract.

The deal resembles one struck with AI giant Anthropic, in which SpaceX leased compute capacity at its Colossus data centers in Memphis, Tennessee for \$1.25 billion a month.

The facilities were originally built to power Musk's rival AI venture, xAI



## Putin rules out meeting Zelensky and vows to pursue war goals

AFP | Saint Petersburg, Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday ruled out meeting his Ukrainian counterpart any time soon, a day after Volodymyr Zelensky called for a sit-down between the leaders to end the four-year war.

Speaking at an economic forum in his home city of Saint Petersburg, Putin said he saw "no point" in meeting Zelensky

until a possible peace deal had been agreed. Zelensky hit back saying the Russian leader was "weak" and "choosing war again".

Putin also vowed to press on with Russia's military offensive until its war goals had been achieved. Russia has demanded control of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region as well as sweeping political and military restrictions on its neighbour.



## North Korea's Kim stresses stronger naval nuclear deterrent

AFP | Seoul, South Korea

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the naval destroyer Kang Kon to oversee a navigation test, state media said yesterday, stressing the need to enhance the navy's capability to deter a nuclear war.

The Saturday report came as Beijing and Pyongyang announced Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit North Korea

from June 8 to 9, after Xi hosted back-to-back summits with US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin last month.

Kim has in recent years vowed to strengthen North Korea's naval capabilities, and in May last year oversaw the botched launch of the destroyer Kang Kon, which was later repaired and relaunched a month later. During the trip on Thursday,

Kim stressed the importance of rapidly developing the naval force into a force "capable of reliably taking charge of a part of the nuclear war deterrent", Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

Building a navy capable of delivering a "deadly blow" to enemies above and

below the water is a core goal of the ruling party's current five-year defence development plan, Kim said.

The North Korean leader visited the vessel with top officials and his daughter, Ju Ae, images released by Pyongyang's state media showed.

