



**Snoopy joining Sony? Music unit buying stake in Peanuts**

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese electronics maker Sony Corp.’s music unit is buying a stake in Peanuts Holdings, the company behind Snoopy and Charlie Brown. Sony Music Entertainment said it signed a deal with DHX Media, based in Nova Scotia, Canada, to acquire 49 percent of the 80 percent stake DHX holds in Peanuts. Under the deal, Sony Music will own 39 percent and DHX 41 percent. Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, will continue to own 20 percent of Peanuts. The parties hope to complete the acquisition on or about June 30, according to Tokyo-based Sony. Sony said it sees Peanuts as “world class,” and hopes to use its character business expertise to strengthen the brand. Sony has under its wing a range of characters, including those from its PlayStation video games.

**Gap apologizes for China map t-shirt that omitted Taiwan**

HONG KONG (AP) — U.S. clothing retailer Gap has apologized for selling t-shirts with a map of China that didn’t include self-ruled Taiwan, the latest example of corporate kowtowing to Beijing. “Upon the realization that one of our t-shirts sold in some overseas markets mistakenly failed to reflect the correct map of China, we urgently launched an internal investigation across the group and have decided to immediately pull back this t-shirt from all the concerned global markets,” the company said in a statement, adding that the shirts had already been pulled from Chinese shelves and destroyed. The company took action after photos began circulating on Chinese social media of a t-shirt showing a map that didn’t include Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing regards as Chinese territory. The map also appeared to leave out southern Tibet and the disputed South China Sea, the state-owned *Global Times* said, adding that it drew hundreds of complaints on China’s Weibo microblogging platform. The photos were taken at a Gap shop in Canada’s Niagara region, *Global Times* said. The shirt could not be found on Gap websites and it wasn’t clear whether it was still being sold in shops in some countries.

**Americans freed one hour before flight out of Pyongyang**

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — After months of anticipation and drama, North Korea’s release of three American detainees played out amid high-stakes diplomacy and was only sealed about an hour before the top U.S. diplomat was wheels-up from Pyongyang. The three men — Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song, and Tony Kim — walked on their own from a van and onto the plane of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the end of his daylong visit to North Korea. After meeting leader Kim Jong Un, Pompeo had given a fingers-crossed sign when asked if there was good news. A North Korean emissary came to the hotel shortly after to say the detainees were being freed. The three men finally left custody at 7:45pm local time, and by 8:42pm they were flying home.

**Indonesia’s most active volcano erupts, spews ash into sky**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia’s most active volcano, Mount Merapi, erupted May 11, spewing sand and pyroclastic material and sending an ash column as high as 18,045 feet into the sky. The sudden eruption was accompanied by a rumbling sound with medium to strong pressure, Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said. People living within 3.1 miles of the crater evacuated to barracks set up for the displaced or left for other safe places. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Nugroho said Adi Sucipto airport in Yogyakarta was closed for about one hour due to the spread of volcanic ash. The eruption, however, did not raise the alert status of Merapi, which was at a normal level with no eruption expected in the foreseeable future. The 9,737-foot mountain between Yogyakarta and Central Java provinces is the most active of 500 Indonesian volcanoes. Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people and caused the evacuation of 20,000 villagers. Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 250 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” a horseshoe-shaped series of fault lines.

**Chinese tourists spark anger in Vietnam over map on shirts**

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — A group of Chinese tourists wearing t-shirts depicting the country’s territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea has sparked anger in Vietnam. The tourists arrived at the Cam Ranh international airport and after going through immigration, took off their coats to reveal t-shirts featuring the so-called “nine-dash line” demarcating Beijing’s claims to nearly the entire South China Sea. Vietnam is one of the rival claimants. State-run *Tuoi Tre* newspaper reported that Vietnamese authorities confiscated the shirts. Some readers commenting on the newspaper’s website called for the deportation of the Chinese tourists. “Deport them immediately, put them on the blacklist, and ban them from entering in the future,” reader Huynh Tan Dat wrote. More than 4 million Chinese arrived in Vietnam last year, accounting for about 30 percent of total foreign arrivals in the Southeast Asian country. It was not the first time the Vietnamese were enraged over the controversial maps. In 2016, a border agent at the Ho Chi Minh City airport defaced a Chinese passport with the words “f— you” scribbled twice over maps of the contested South China Sea. China issued new passports starting in 2012 with revised maps to include the “nine-dash line.” Some Vietnamese border agents have begun to issue separate visas rather than stamp Chinese passports to demonstrate that they do not recognize the new map. China and Vietnam have had long-running territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Other claimants include the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan.



**LOFTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.** Nepalese veteran Sherpa guide Kami Rita is seen in a photograph that shows the climber on Mount Everest during a past climb of the mountain. The photo is on display at his rented apartment in Kathmandu, Nepal. Kami Rita reached the summit the morning of May 16, 2018 with a team of foreign climbers and a fellow Sherpa guide and was already safely descending to a lower camp by the afternoon, according to Gyanendra Shrestha, a government official stationed at base camp. “My goal is to reach the summit of Everest at least 25 times,” Rita told *The Associated Press* before his latest climb, which was his 22nd summit. (AP Photo/Niranjan Shrestha, File)

**Two Sherpa guides scale Everest, set new records**

By Binaj Gurubacharya  
*The Associated Press*

**K**ATHMANDU, Nepal — A veteran Sherpa guide scaled Mount Everest May 16 for the 22nd time, setting a record for the most climbs of the world’s highest mountain, while a female Sherpa made it to the summit for the ninth time, shattering her own record for the most climbs by a woman.

Kami Rita reached the summit the morning of May 16 with a team of foreign climbers and a fellow Sherpa guide and was already safely descending to a lower camp by the afternoon, said Gyanendra Shrestha, a government official stationed at base camp.

The 48-year-old was among three men — all Nepalese Sherpa guides — who had tied the previous record of 21 successful ascents of the 29,035-foot peak.

Before leaving for the mountain in April, Kami Rita told *The Associated Press* that he wanted to scale Everest at least 25 times.

Mountaineering has been his family tradition. His father was among the first professional guides after Nepal opened to foreign trekkers and mountaineers in 1950. His brother has scaled Everest 17 times. Most of his male relatives have reached the top at least once.

Kami Rita first scaled Everest at age 24, and has made the trip almost every year since. He has also climbed many of the region’s other high peaks, including K-2, Cho-Oyu, Manaslu, and Lhotse. In the autumn, he guides clients to smaller peaks in Nepal.

Both of the other previous record holders are retired from climbing.

Apa, a 58-year-old guide who uses only one name, retired in 2011 and moved to Utah. Phurba Tashi, 47, retired from high-altitude climbing in 2013 but still works at Everest’s Base Camp helping organize expeditions.

From the Chinese side of the mountain, Lhakpa Sherpa, 44, reached the summit for a record ninth time, shattering the record for women she set last year.

Rajeev Shrestha of the Seven Summit Adventure agency in Kathmandu said he received a message from base camp about the successful climb. Lhakpa Sherpa lives most of the year in the U.S. state of Connecticut and has a son and two daughters.

Shrestha said a total of 94 climbers reached the summit that day because of good weather conditions.

The route to the summit was opened up by a team of Sherpa guides prior to the trips.

Meanwhile, a 69-year-old double amputee climber from China flew on a helicopter from Everest to Kathmandu, two days after climbing the mountain.

Xia Boyu is not the first double-amputee to reach Everest’s peak, but he is the oldest. He lost his legs after a failed Everest attempt in 1975.

His son, Xia Dengping, who was with him at the airport, told reporters his father is a hero.

He was taken to a hospital for a checkup but appeared to be in good condition.

More than 340 foreign climbers along with their local guides are attempting to climb Everest this month.

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Units per U.S. dollar as of 5/18

Bangladesh Taka	83.625
Cambodian Riel	4042.9
China Renminbi	6.38
Fijian Dollar	2.0797
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8499
Indian Rupee	68.01
Indonesian Rupiah	14156
Iranian Rial	42025
Japanese Yen	110.78
Laos New Kip	8331.6
Malaysian Ringgit	3.9722
Nepal Rupee	108.82
Pakistani Rupee	115.78
Papua N.G. Kina	3.2626
Philippine Peso	52.312
Russian Ruble	62.356
Saudi Riyal	3.7502
Singapore Dollar	1.3434
South Korean Won	1077.6
Sri Lankan Rupee	157.75
Taiwan Dollar	29.91
Thai Baht	32.195
Vietnam Dong	22597