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This picture shows Takao Saito, Japanese manga artist whose work includes 'Golgo 13', one of longest-running comic series, has died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 84, a publisher said yesterday. — AFP

Japan manga artist Takao Saito, 'Golgo 13' creator, dies aged 84

Manga artist Takao Saito, who created the most prolific Japanese comic-book series of all time "Golgo 13", has died aged 84, his publisher said yesterday. "Golgo 13", the tale of a legendary professional hitman, was first printed in 1968 and has been adapted into anime series, video

games and two live-action films. The assassin Golgo, also known as Duke Togo, is of unknown nationality and carries out his hits around the world, with current affairs often inspiring its plotlines. Its 201st edition came out in July this year, breaking the Guinness world record for the most volumes ever

published of a single manga series. Saito, who wrote and illustrated the series, died on Friday of pancreatic cancer, according to Shogakukan, the publisher of the anthology magazine "Big Comic" in which "Golgo 13" is serialized. "We offer our heartfelt respect to Mr Saito's achievement and offer our

deep condolences," Shogakukan said. "We plan to continue Golgo 13 in cooperation with his staff, in accordance with his wishes," it added. Saito was born in Japan's western Wakayama prefecture in 1936, and made his manga debut in 1955 with the title "Baron Air". The success of another of his

works called "Typhoon Goro" in 1960 led him to move from Osaka to Tokyo to establish his own production company. He was also one of the founders of "gekiga", a realistic genre of manga aimed at adults which began in the 1950s. — AFP

New lizard species discovered in Peru

Scientists have discovered a new lizard species in Peru, the national conservation agency said Tuesday. The new species, called *Liolaemus warjantay*, was found in the Peruvian Andes at an altitude of 4,500 meters (14,700 feet), according to

a statement from the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State. "A valuable contribution of Peru's protected natural areas to the world is the recent discovery of a new species of lizard," the statement said.

The lizard's head is dark gray, and females have pale yellow eyelids. The discovery was registered a few weeks ago in cooperation with scientists from Argentina, Chile and Bolivia. The Cotahuasi Subbasin Landscape Reserve, where the lizard was found, is a protected area in the Arequipa region in southwestern Peru, with an area of 490,550 hectares (1,900 square miles). — AFP



In this file photo domestic cattle stand next to a dwarf cow named Rani, whose owners applied to the Guinness Book of Records claiming it to be the smallest cow in the world.



In this file photo people take pictures of a dwarf cow named Rani. — AFP photos

World's shortest cow gets posthumous recognition

A knee-high celebrity cow that became a sensation in Bangladesh has won posthumous recognition as the shortest on the planet just weeks after its untimely demise. Rani, just 50.8 centimeters (20 inches) high, became an instant internet celebrity with tens of thousands of people rushing to the farm she lived on outside Dhaka for a glimpse of the miniature cow. But just after its

owners applied to Guinness World Records, tragedy struck on August 19 when the beloved bovine suddenly died due to a sudden internal build-up of gas. The cow's owner Kazi Mohammad Abu Sufian said he received an email on Monday from Guinness World Records saying that Rani's application had been accepted. A statement on the Guinness website confirmed the miniature Bhutti world-record cow's

status, beating the previous holder, an Indian cow named Manikyam that stood 61 centimeters from hoof to withers.

"We sent several video of Rani in line with Guinness World Records prescriptions. We have also sent the post-mortem report to the Guinness authorities to see that there was nothing unusual about her death," Sufian told AFP. Sufian said he had also sent Guinness

Rani's medical records after they asked whether she had received hormone injections. "We have a mixed feelings after Rani got the recognition. We are happy that she got her due honors. But we are at the same very sad because she is no more with us," Sufian said. "Her carer burst out crying as soon as we told him the news." — AFP



Undated picture distributed by the Peruvian National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERANAP) of a *Liolaemus warjantay*, a new species of lizard discovered in the Cotahuasi Reserve, in Arequipa, Peru. — AFP

Unheard Lennon tape sells for nearly 50,000 euros at Danish auction

A 1970 tape of John Lennon singing a hitherto unheard song called "Radio Peace" and expressing frustration at his Beatles image to a group of Danish schoolboys sold for nearly 50,000 euros on Tuesday at an auction in Copenhagen. The 33-minute tape was recorded on January 5, 1970 when the former Beatle spent winter in a remote corner of Jutland in western Denmark with his wife Yoko Ono.

The buyer, who remains

unknown, made a telephone bid for 49,760 euros (\$58,000) for the cassette as well as accompanying Polaroid photographs of the schoolboys with Lennon and a copy of a school newspaper. Back in 1970, four eager boys, writing for their high school newspaper, braved a snowstorm in the hope of interviewing their idol.

They clinched the interview. The topics ranged from the couple's peace campaign, the Beatles, Lennon's hair and his frustration with his image as part of the "Fab Four". Lennon and Ono were famous for staging lie-ins and singing songs of peace as the Vietnam War raged. "We went into the living room and saw John and Yoko sitting on the sofa, it was fantastic. We sat down with them and were quite close to each other," Karsten Hojen, one of the tape's owners, told AFP.

"I was sitting next to Yoko Ono and John Lennon was sitting next to Yoko and we talked, we had a good time," said Hojen, who is now 68. "He stretched out his legs on the table with his woollen socks. It was just cosy," he added. Lennon and his wife arrived in Denmark in December 1969 to sort out the future of Ono's five-year-old daughter Kyoko, who was living with her father in northern Jutland. By then, the Beatles had recorded their last album, Abbey Road, and even though it was not official, the group had parted ways.

'Give Peace a Chance'

Although Lennon and Ono spent their first week in Denmark incognito, the press found out and the singer organized a news conference that coincided with the first day of the school term. Hojen and his friends convinced the head-

master to let them skip class to talk peace and music with the singer, a few months before the Beatles officially disbanded. Hojen and his friends said they decided to part with the audio cassette because they could not imagine sharing it among their numerous children. Labeled with the name "Skyrum Bjerger", the hamlet where it was made, the recording is of decent quality.

The tape also includes the song "Give Peace a Chance" but with different words. The buyer will not have the right to use the tape for profit. Although Hojen has recounted that winter day in detail to his children and grandchildren, he will no longer have any trace of it after the sale as the owners have not digitized the recording. — AFP



A cassette with the recording of four Danish schoolboys' interviews with John Lennon and Yoko Ono during the famous couple's winter stay in Thy, in Jutland, Denmark, in 1970, is being auctioned at Bruun Rasmussen Auction House in Copenhagen. — AFP photos



Seller Karsten Hojen of cassette with the recording of four Danish schoolboys' interviews with John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

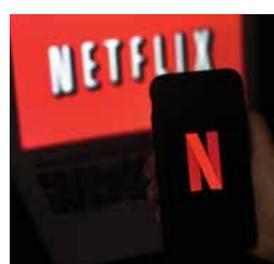
Netflix acquires first video game studio

Netflix has announced the acquisition of its first video game studio, as the streaming giant bids to expand its entertainment empire with a push into the lucrative gaming sector. The company announced Tuesday that it has bought the California-based Night School Studio, best known as the creators of paranormal thriller game Oxenfree. Netflix had indicated its intention to venture into video games in July, eyeing potential hits based on the storylines of popular TV series.

The company said Night School's "artistic excellence and proven track record make them invaluable partners as we build out the creative capabilities and library of Netflix games together". Night School co-founder Sean Krankel said in a blog post that it was "a surreal honor" to be the first games

developer to join Netflix. "Netflix gives film, TV, and now game makers an unprecedented canvas to create and deliver excellent entertainment to millions of people," he wrote. "There's a kaleidoscope of butterflies in our team's collective stomachs."

Netflix has already signaled that access to the games it develops will be included in customers' membership. The streaming giant said in August that it was starting limited testing of its gaming capabilities, with Android users in Poland able to try two games based on its "Stranger Things" horror series.



In this file photo illustration a computer screen and mobile phone display the Netflix logo in Arlington, Virginia. — AFP

Along with its interest in games inspired by television, Netflix has previously developed various TV shows and movies based on games. This week it announced it has commissioned a third season of "The Witcher", which is based on a series of fantasy novels and video games.

A kids' TV show based on "Sonic the Hedgehog" is due to be released next year, while a series based on multiplayer battle epic "League of Legends" is out in November. Netflix's expansion into video games comes as it appears to be reaching a saturation point in the United States in terms of the number of households it can reach. The company has openly said it competes with hit games such as Fortnite for people's online entertainment time, and analysts suggest offering games could help attract new subscribers. The global gaming market now exceeds \$300 billion, according to an April study by consulting firm Accenture. Netflix has recruited a video game veteran, Facebook's Mike Verdu, to lead its gaming team. — AFP

Barrymore keeps her kids off social media

Drew Barrymore keeps her kids off social media so they can enjoy being young. The "Charlie's Angels" star - who has Olive, nine, and Frankie, seven, with her ex-husband Will Kopelman - prefers to keep her kids' faces off her Instagram account, even though they love social media, because she wants them to be able to enjoy being kids and joked they "get in a bad mood" when they aren't in front of the camera. Speaking on the Armchair Expert podcast, she said: "I want them to be kids. And I don't put my kids on social media, I'm like a

Doberman about them. They watch TikTok, they love social media. They get in a bad mood when they realize they won't be put on camera, but they know good goddamn well why, because I'm like, 'I want you to be kids!'" Meanwhile, Drew recently revealed she "will never lie" to her children about her past.

The 46-year-old actress has been open about her battles with drug and alcohol abuse which she faced after being thrust into the spotlight as a child when she starred in "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" in 1982. And Drew has now insisted she won't hold back on telling her two daughters about her previous experiences, because she thinks it's important to show her children how much she has "grown". She explained: "I will never lie to my daughters, and I think it will give me ammunition to say, 'This is why I am this way'. I have come full circle to say being classy, treating people with kindness, trying to embrace who we really are and grow every single day, those are the life lessons I've really come to value ... "My 20-year-old self, I'm like, 'I totally embrace you,' and my 46-year-old self is who I want to be right now. I don't have one regret. I've just loved every minute that led me to this point."

— Bang Showbiz

