



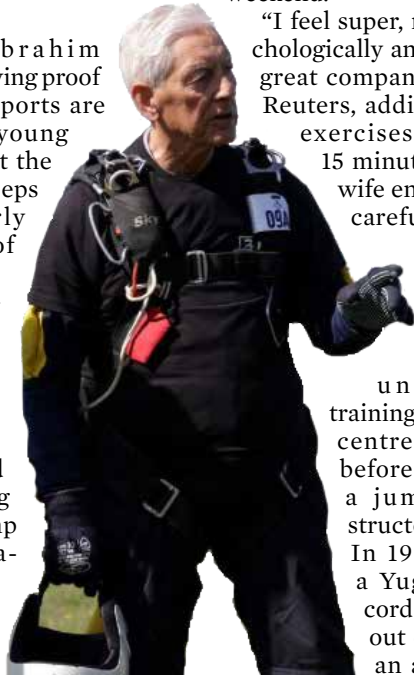
Ibrahim Kalesic, 88-year-old parachuter, jumps from airplane during Para Challenge Cup in Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Skydiving keeps 88-year-old Bosnian in the pink

Reuters | BIHAC, Bosnia

Bosnian Ibrahim Kalesic is living proof that extreme sports are not always a young man's game - at the age of 88 he keeps fit by regularly jumping out of aeroplanes.

"It's an excellent feeling," Kalesic, who was introduced to the sport more than 70 years ago, said after completing his 1,487th jump during a parachuting competition in the western town of Bihac at the



weekend.

"I feel super, rested psychologically and enjoying great company," he told Reuters, adding that he exercises daily for 15 minutes and his wife ensures he is careful with his diet.

As a young man, Kalesic underwent training at a flying centre in Serbia before becoming a jumping instructor himself. In 1963, he set a Yugoslav record by leaping out of plane at an altitude of



Ibrahim Kalesic, 88-year-old parachuter, waits to jump

5,500 meters.

"I am the oldest active parachuter in Europe," the white-haired Kalesic said with a smile. "I wish to go on with this for

another 10 years so to get into a Guinness book of world records as the Bosnian parachuter."

Kalesic made 21 jumps in five days last month during a competition in the northwestern town of Prijedor. The Prijedor aeroclub will lend him a parachute as long as he has a valid health certificate.

His biggest wish is to get his own parachute and another one to use for training young jumpers.

"I am a pensioner without means to buy a parachute and I would love to have one to train my students who would then replace me in jumping competitions," Kalesic said.

He has a simple recipe for keeping fit at his age.

"Parachuting is an extreme sport and requires concentration. To be well concentrat-

ed, one has to sleep well, and to sleep well one has to have a clear consciousness that one has not offended or harmed anyone, and then one may sleep without nightmares and be able to jump."

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Early parachutes were made of silk. The most common fabric today is nylon. A parachute's canopy is typically dome-shaped, but some are rectangles, inverted domes, and other shapes. The oldest modern parachute was designed in the 1470s in Renaissance Italy to help people escape from burning buildings.

India's push for home-grown navigation system jolts smartphone giants



Reuters | New Delhi

India is pushing tech giants to make smartphones compatible with its home-grown navigation system within months, worrying the likes of Samsung, Xiaomi and Apple who fear elevated costs and disruptions as the move requires hardware changes, according to two industry sources and government documents seen by Reuters.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive for self-reliance, India has over the years expanded the use of its regional navigation satellite system called NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

The Indian government wants to reduce dependence on foreign systems, including the widely used U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), and says NavIC provides more accurate domestic navigation and that its use would benefit the economy.

China, the European Union, Japan and Russia have their own global or regional navigation systems to rival GPS. Operational since 2018, NavIC's uptake is minimal; it is mandated in public vehicle location trackers, for example.

But government and industry documents show Modi's administration and space officials want to broaden its use, and have this year pushed smartphone giants to make hardware changes to support NavIC, in addition to GPS, in new phones they will sell from January 2023.

Philippines to shut 175 offshore gambling firms, deport 40,000 Chinese workers

Reuters | Manila

The Philippines will stop operations of 175 offshore gambling firms and deport about 40,000 Chinese workers, a justice ministry official said yesterday, part of a crackdown on the notoriously opaque online gaming industry.

The sector emerged in the Philippines in 2016 and grew exponentially.

At their peak, Philippine off-



shore gambling operators, or POGOs, employed more than 300,000 Chinese workers, but the pandemic and higher taxes have forced many to operate

elsewhere.

"The crackdown was triggered by reports of murder, kidnapping and other crimes committed by Chinese nationals against fellow Chinese nationals," justice ministry spokesperson Jose Dominic Clavano said.

The POGOs targeted for closure had licenses that either expired or were revoked, for violations like non-payment of government fees, Clavano said, adding the deportation of the Chinese workers would start next month.

The government generated 7.2 billion pesos (\$122.21 million) in POGO fees alone, according to the finance ministry. Economists estimate considerably larger amounts are being spent on taxes, workers' spending and office rental.

China's embassy in Manila in a statement said Beijing supports the deportation and crackdown on POGO-related crimes, adding the government "firmly opposes and takes tough measures to combat gambling".

The Philippines regulator, which recently said there were 30 licensed POGO firms versus 60 before the pandemic.

Real estate consultancy Leechiu Property Consultants estimates that a complete exit of the POGO industry would leave vacant 1.05 million square metres (259 acres) of office space - a third of the size of New York's Central Park - and 8.9 billion pesos (\$151 million) in foregone annual rent.

The sector employs 201,000 Chinese and 111,000 Filipinos.

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French authorities on Saturday closed the airport in the southern city of Montpellier after a cargo plane overran the runway and ended up in a lake. Images showed the West Atlantic Boeing 737 tilting, with its nose in the lake and body perched on land. The three crew escaped the accident in the early hours of Saturday unhurt, local authorities said. The prefecture for the Herault region said the airport would be closed to passenger and cargo planes until a specialised firm could take the plane away.