



Men examine a traditional new year decoration inscribed with the word 'luck' at an outdoor market in Beijing selling handicrafts for celebrations ahead of the coming Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. Chinese the world over will celebrate the arrival of the Year of the Dog.

An elderly Slovenian passes the finish line after competing in the "Old Fashion Winter Olympics" slalom race in the northwestern Slovenian village of Krupa. The olden-days ski club named "Wooden" organised the 10th jubilee anniversary competition in winter sports as it would have appeared 100 years ago. From the total of 10 disciplines, the most



coveted ones were slalom, downhill and ski jumps - for which the winner received a special trophy, a roasted pig's head. Some 72 men, women and children participated in today's "Old Fashion Ski Olympics".



A model takes to the catwalk displaying one of the latest creations by Saudi designer Amro Abd Al-Latif during the preview of his spring and summer 2006 collection in Beirut.

An Iraqi Kurdish man sells carpets bearing images of Imam Ali (L), cousin of Prophet Mohammed, and his son Imam Hussein (R) at a market in Arbil, 350 kms north of Baghdad. Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Kurdish regional president Massud Barzani signed an agreement the previous day that paves the way for a single administration to run their autonomous northern region.



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