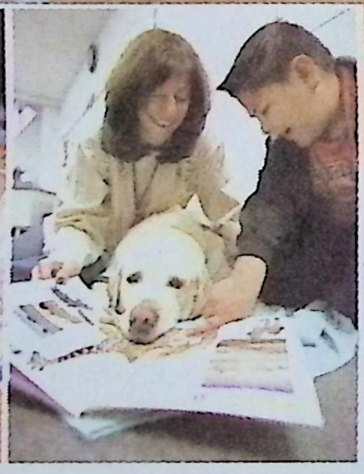


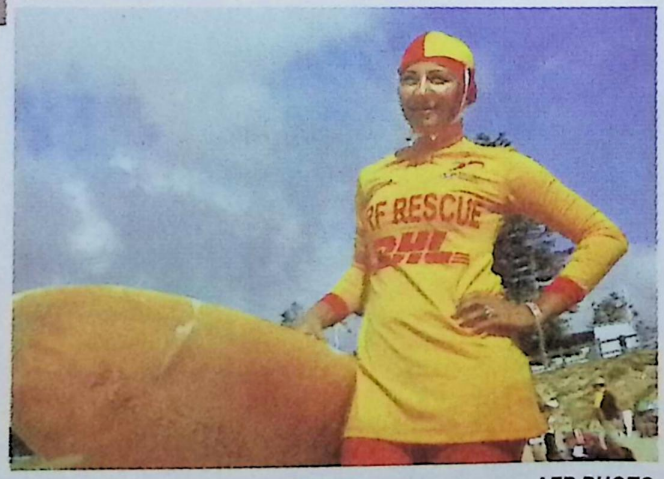
A youth pushes his horse-shaped cart, which he usually uses to earn his livelihood by entertaining children, to transport flood-affected residents in Jakarta. Floods blocked roads and railways in Jakarta and thousands of people abandoned their homes in low-lying areas as torrential downpours virtually paralysed the Indonesian capital.



A young girl writes a spring couplet with the help of her grandfather during a calligraphy event in Taipei. Spring couplets are Chinese characters depicting good wishes of prosperity, fortune and peace, that hung on both sides of a doorway and are usually made of red paper with black Chinese calligraphy written on them. According to the tradition, each household is to write their own spring couplets during Chinese New Year, which falls 18 February this year and his the year of the Pig.



Jeanette Golden (L) works with her specially trained 11-year-old labador retriever Dune at Chevy Chase Elementary School where they will combine their talents helping 3rd grader Arturo Gomez, 9, with his reading problems. As part of the READ program, dogs from the National Capital Thearpy Dogs Inc. program help relax some of the tensions some children have with reading.



Mecca Laa Laa wearing a full body covering known as the 'burqini', prepares for patrol at Sydney's Cronulla beach. Australia's first group of Muslim lifesavers hit the sands of Sydney's Cronulla beach, just over a year after mobs of whites attacked Lebanese Australians there in a bid to "reclaim the beach." The race riots, the country's worst of modern times, sparked a series of retaliatory attacks in which churches, shops and cars were trashed and left Australians of Middle Eastern appearance fearful of going to the beach.

AFP PHOTO