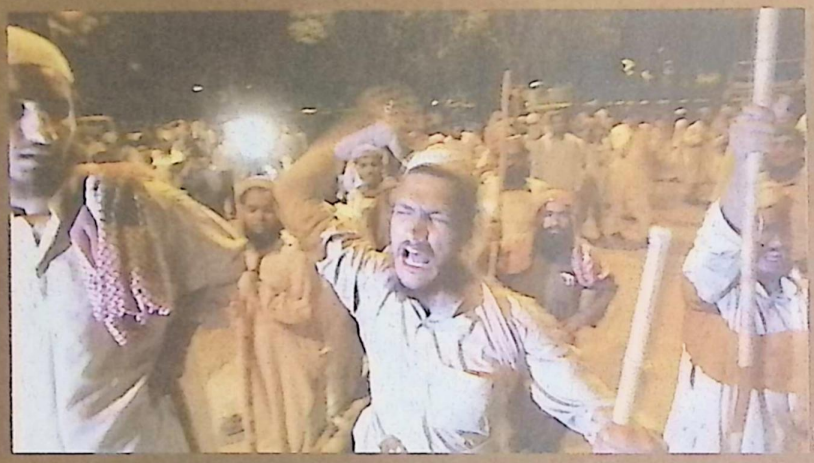


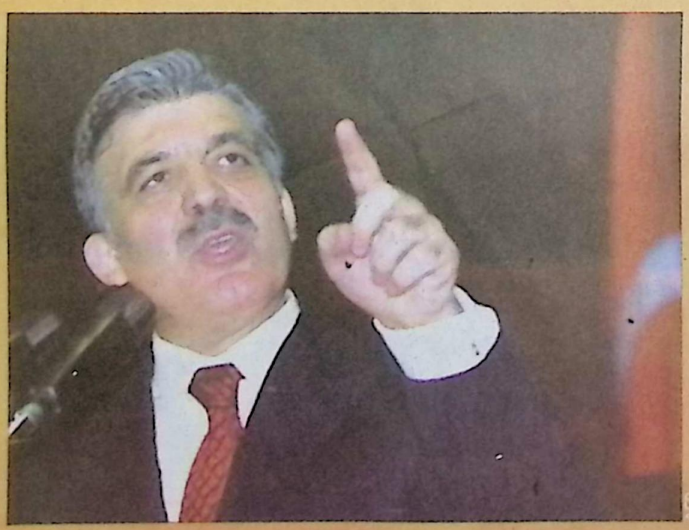
Musharraf's crisis

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf faces nationwide turmoil as 30 people die and over 100 are injured in pro- and anti-government clashes in Karachi on May 12. Violence erupts throughout the city following a visit by Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudry, who was suspended on unspecified charges by Musharraf in March triggering widespread dissent. Observers say this may be the worst political crisis of Musharraf's rule.

Afghans face 'friendly fire'

A Nato air strike kills at least 21 civilians, including women and children, according to the governor of the country's Helmand province. The US military later confirm there were civilian casualties during a coalition operation against Taliban militants in the area. The latest strike brings the rising number of civilian deaths from "friendly fire" by Western forces to a total of 90 in two weeks, according to Afghan officials.





Presidential elections divide Turkey

Abdullah Gul is forced to withdraw his candidacy for Turkey's presidency after a boycott by the opposition. Protests leading up to the presidential elections have exposed secular fears at having both a PM and president from the ruling Islamist party. However, the party's leader PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan is now calling for early parliamentary elections and electoral reforms, while Gul says he will stand for president again only if the people vote directly rather than parliament.