

# Erdogan wins highly-contested runoff



Women wave Turkish flags on the day of the second round of the presidential election in Istanbul, Turkey May 28, 2023.  
● AP

## International Desk

Turkey's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won the country's runoff election on Sunday. Erdogan declared victory Sunday in his country's runoff election, extending his rule into a third decade. With nearly 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal

Kilicdaroglu, AP reported. In his first comments since the polls closed, Erdogan spoke to supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul. "I thank each member of our nation for entrusting me with the responsibility to govern this country once again for the upcoming five years," he said. "The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said. Meanwhile, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi extended his congratulation

to his Turkish counterpart. In Istanbul, Erdogan supporters began celebrating even before the final results arrived, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, and honking car horns. Turkey stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO. Erdogan, 69, defied opinion polls and came out ahead with an almost five-point lead over Kilicdaroglu in the first round on May 14. But he fell just short of the

50% needed to avoid a runoff, in a race with profound consequences for Turkey itself and global geopolitics. His unexpectedly strong showing amid a deep cost of living crisis, and a win in parliamentary elections for a coalition of his conservative AK Party (AKP), the nationalist MHP and others, buoyed the veteran campaigner who says a vote for him is a vote for stability. Polls closed at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) after opening at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT). The outcome is

expected to start becoming clear by early evening local time. Polling stations were reportedly quieter in many places than two weeks ago, when turnout was 89%. The election will decide not only who leads Turkey, a NATO-member country of 85 million, but also how it is governed, where its economy is headed after its currency plunged to one-tenth of its value against the dollar in a decade, and the shape of its foreign policy.

## Russia launched 'largest drone attack' on Ukrainian capital before Kyiv Day



Smoke rises in the sky over the city after a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine, on May 28, 2023.  
● GLEB GARANICH/REUTERS

Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of the war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding on Sunday. At least one person was killed, but officials said scores of drones were shot down, demonstrating Ukraine's air defense capability, AP reported.

Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight Saturday with what Serhii Popko, a senior Kyiv military official, claimed were Iranian-made drones. Iran has always rejected the allegations that it supplied Russia with domestic drones.

The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defense reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of the city's official founding.

### Attacks against Russian border

Russia's southern Belgorod region, bordering Ukraine, also came under attack from Ukrainian forces on Saturday, local officials said. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov reported Sunday that a 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy were wounded in the shelling. Drone attacks against Russian border regions have been a regular occurrence since the start of the war in February 2022, with attacks increasing last month. Earlier this month, an oil refinery in Krasnodar was attacked by drones on two straight days.

## Over 1,500 arrested at climate protest in Netherlands

More than 1,500 people were arrested during a protest by the Extinction Rebellion climate group in The Hague on Saturday, Dutch police said. Activists blocked a section of a motorway during the afternoon in protest against Dutch fossil fuel subsidies, AFP reported. Police said they had used water cannon to disperse activists blocking a major road in the city, and arrested "a total of 1,579 people... 40 of whom will be prosecuted" on charges including vandalism.

One of the activists bit a policeman during his arrest, police said. According to Extinction Rebellion (XR), some 7,000 people gathered to join the demonstration. The protest marks the seventh organised by XR in the same section of motorway at The Hague, close to the parliament and main ministry buildings. But Saturday saw the highest number of people arrested at a protest yet, according to Dutch news agency ANP. The environmental campaign group, shortened to XR, has become known for the disruptive and headline-catching stunts which have become their trademark. In recent years the group has caused huge disruption, hitting



XR activists blocked a section of a motorway in the centre of The Hague in protest.  
SEM VAN DER WAL/AFP

roads, airports and other public transport networks with direct action protests against climate change.

But in January it called a temporary halt to its high-profile stunts, and instead promised to mobilise huge numbers against what it sees as government inaction against global warming.

In April it held four days of action in London, including mobilising thousands to rally outside the UK parliament.

In recent months it has also rallied at airports across Europe, including protests at Eindhoven airport in The Netherlands in March. This week it joined other groups in demonstrating against Europe's biggest private jet sales fair in Geneva.

Some activists chained themselves to the planes on display, and air traffic was briefly disrupted at the airport due to people on the tarmac.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nigeria's departing president defends legacy



AFP - Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari defended his political record on Sunday, the day before he steps down, saying he leaves the country in a better state than when he took power in 2015. Today, he will hand over the reins of Africa's most populous nation to the new head of state, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who was elected in February despite the opposition claiming massive electoral fraud.

### U.S., Saudi Arabia call for extended Sudan ceasefire



REUTERS - Saudi Arabia and the United States called on Sunday for the extension of a ceasefire deal that has brought some let-up in a six-week war between military factions but little humanitarian relief for civilians. Clashes could be heard overnight and on Sunday in the capital Khartoum, residents said, while human rights monitors reported deadly fighting in El Fashir, one of the principal cities in the western region of Darfur.

### Israeli settlers storm Al-Aqsa Mosque again



PRESS TV - Dozens of extremist Israeli settlers, heavily guarded by the regime's forces, have once again broken into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of Al-Quds. The extremist settlers entered the courtyards of the holy site through the Moroccan Gate, also known as the Mughrabi Gate, under protection and strict security measures of Israeli forces on Sunday morning.