



President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (2nd R) casts his vote



Turkish ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) Istanbul mayoral candidate Binali Yildirim casts his ballot



Istanbul mayoral candidate of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) Ekrem Imamoglu (C-R) casts his vote with his wife Dilek Imamoglu (C-L) in Istanbul.



Turkish Finance Minister Berat Albayrak poses for photographs as he casts his ballot

Erdogan suffers major setback

● **Election authorities annulled the first vote in March after Erdogan's ruling party alleged corruption**

● **The city of 15 million is Turkey's economic powerhouse**

● **Imamoglu, of the secular Republican People's Party faced Binali Yildirim, a mild-mannered Erdogan loyalist**

Istanbul, Turkey

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suffered a major blow yesterday as the opposition candidate in Istanbul's controversial may-

oral election re-run romped to victory.

Ekrem Imamoglu won the first vote in March by a tiny margin of just 13,000 votes in the city of 15 million.

But after being stripped of that victory over controversial claims of fraud, he vowed a "battle for democracy" that turned him into a household name.

With more than 99 percent of ballots counted on Sunday night, Imamoglu was winning by more than 775,000 votes -- and had 54 percent overall.

"It was not a single group or party, but the whole of Istanbul and Turkey that won this election," Imamoglu said in his victory speech.

"Mr President, I am ready to work in harmony with you. I convey from here my request to meet with you in the shortest time possible," he added.

Critics accused Erdogan of refusing to give up control of Istanbul, Turkey's econom-



Surrounded by security, press and party supporters, Ekrem Imamoglu, candidate of the secular opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), leaves in a vehicle following his victory statement at the CHP offices in Istanbul

ic powerhouse and a crucial source of patronage for Islamic conservatives since he won the mayorship himself a quarter of a century ago.

But Imamoglu, a little-known district mayor at the start of the year, galvanised voters with a

relentlessly positive campaign under the slogan "Everything will be fine".

That was in stark contrast to the usual aggressive name-calling of Turkish politics and struck a chord with voters.

He faced the juggernaut of

the AKP, which has ruled Turkey since 2002 and remains the most popular political force nationwide.

The AKP's candidate, Binali Yildirim, a mild-mannered Erdogan loyalist who oversaw several huge transport projects and served as prime minister, had already struck a conciliatory tone earlier on Sunday.

"If we have wronged, knowingly or unknowingly, one of our fellow Istanbulites or our challengers, if we have done something unjust, I ask for your forgiveness," he said.

'Colossal defeat'

Conceding defeat later in the day, Yildirim congratulated Imamoglu and wished him good luck.

"It's a colossal defeat for Yildirim but also Erdogan. His gamble (in calling for a replay of the election) backfired," Berk Esen, assistant professor of international relations at Ankara's

Bilkent University, told AFP.

It comes as an economic slump and rising prices have dented the president's reputation for economic stewardship, with the AKP also losing the capital Ankara in March.

"The AKP elites will probably try to de-emphasise the election and act like it's no big deal," said Esen.

Erdogan has indeed already played down the importance of the re-run, saying last week that the choice of mayor was "only a change in the shop window" since the AKP controls almost two-thirds of the city's districts.

But it was a bitter loss for AKP voters, with some in tears at the party headquarters on Sunday night.

"Let them rejoice while they can, they will see..." vowed retired shopkeeper Mehmet.

Despite recent setbacks, Erdogan and his party remain the most popular force in Turkish politics.

WHD, UPF hold inaugural Trilateral Global Summit in London



Participants during a group photo session



During a honouring



One of the sessions

● **The summit revolved around the idea of enhancing "Trade for Peace"**

TDT | London

The inaugural edition of 'Trilateral Global Summit' was held in London promoting the

integration of the global economy and businesses as a pathway for peace.

The World Humanitarian Drive (WHD) in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hosted the summit held on 19th and 20th June.

The event provided a platform for diplomats, corporate heads, policy makers, investors and influencers from around

the globe to demonstrate their ideas to strengthen global ties for investments and knowledge sharing.

Participants from over 25 countries took part including from the UK, Portugal, Morocco, Bahrain and India.

The event revolved around the idea of enhancing "Trade for Peace" initiated by Abdul Basit Syed, the founder of WHD to support U.K's trade relations

globally.

"This summit has exceeded our expectations in term of the quality of the presentations most importantly trade and investments opportunities that it has enabled," said Syed.

CEO of Doha Bank Dr Raghavan Seetharaman, former Managing Director of World Bank Group Dr James Lee, Humphrey Hawksley former BBC Foreign Correspondent, AbdelMajid

Fassi Fihri M.P. Morocco, Angela Guerra M.P Portugal, Sandra Pereira M.P Portugal and Angelina Teny Former Minister Sudan spoke during the summit.

The summits honoured Dr Raghavan Seetharaman CEO Doha Bank Qatar, Maria Victoria M Acosta, Senior Vice President of Megaworld International Corporation from the Philippines, Ali Alderazi

Former M.P. and Fundament SPC Director, Bahrain with awards.

Baroness Verma hosted a summit session in the house of Lords in the presence of WHD Patron Chris Philp MP. Mayor of Croydon Humayun Kabir hosted a session in the Croydon Town Hall. Another session was held in UPF UK HQ.

Next Trilateral Global Summit will be held in June 2020.