1813 attacked in 14 dists

Diarrhoea claims 15 more lives

Diarrhoca elaimed another 15 lives and attacked 1,813 people in the 14 affected districts in 24 hours till 9 am Monday, reports UNB.

Control Room sources in Dhaka said the epidemic so far claimed 1,319 lives and attacked over 51,741 people defying government and nongovernment efforts to contain the discuse.

Since early January, a large number of people of the 14 districts, particularly in Laxmipur and eight southern districts, are falling victims of the water-borne bacteria every day, they added.

Of the fresh deaths, three were in Barisal, two in Patuakhali, three in Laxmipur. one in Barguna, two in Khulna, three in Jhalakati and one in

Bhola. District-wise break-up of attacks during the last 24

hours is: Barguna-147, Pirojpur-110, Bagerhat-83, Patuak halt-165, Khulna-138, Jhalakati-109, Bhola-107, Barisal 216, Narayanganj-37, Gopal ganj-38, Kishoreganj-36 Netrakona-18, Laxmipur-151 and in capital Dhaka-458.

So far, the highest number of 256 people died in Pirojpur district, followed by 208 in Laxmipur, 173 in Barguna and 172 in Patuakhali districts.

Death figures in other districts are: Bagerhat-138, Jhalakati-122, Bhola-86, Khulna-72, Barisal-54, Gopalganj-15. Kishoreganj-12, Netrakona-9 and Narayanganj-2.

Unofficial sources said that in Laxmipur, some 250 people died of diarrhoea and nearly 6,000 were attacked in last 11

The disease last year killed more than 5,000 people out of 5,68,000 afflicted across the

US, Russian subs

WASHINGTON, Mar 22: A US nuclear-powered submarine on routine patrol "accidentally collided," with a Russian submarine in the Barents Sea but no one was intured, the Defence Department acknowledged Monday, reports AP.

"The United States regrets the incident," the Pentagon said in a statement. "The Russian submarine is reported to be safe."

The incident, which occurred Saturday, was first reported by the Russian Navy in

Moscow A Russian Navy spokesman said its submarine sustained only a "small dent." The US vessel suffered minimal damage, the Pentagon statemen

The Pentagon identified its sub as the USS Grayling, a Sturgeon-class submarine that normally has a crew of about 140 men. Its home port is Charleston, SC.

Sturgeon is an older nuclear submarine class. It is 292 feet (89 metre) long, 32 feet (9.7 metres; wide and weighs 46

The collision occurred while the Grayling was on "routine operations" in international waters, some 100 miles (160 kilometres) north of the Murman coast region of the Kola peninsula, the Pentagon statement said

WB: Privatisation

From Page 1 Col 7 restructuring has been obvious for some time.

In the case of power companies, progress has been slow and the government's targets for improved performance are not being met, it says and goes Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is another parastatal which is in

need of urgent reforms. BWDB's system of accounting and financial management is weak to the point where the accuracy of expenditures is in doubt, the report says adding accounting was not applied for 2.1 million tons of wheat received under the Food for Work Programme (FWP) during the last 18 years and there seems to be a significant cumulative discrepancy between the amount received and the amount actually used.

The BWDB has a weak management structure, inadequate financial controls and an organisational structure that leads it to ignore vital operations and maintenance needs Yet, reform programmes for BWDB are not being implemented on schedule, it adds.

In all four cases, the report says, the government has developed appropriate policies and restructuring plans. But, the problem lies with the implementation of the govern ment's announced strategies, the Bank views.

Brief review of three other publicly owned entities — the gas companies, the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board and the Water and Sanitation Authorities -- illustrated the problems plaguing other parts of the public sector and the broader need to arrive at sensible and realistic reform agenda for those entities, the report mentions.

Saying that "privatisation is the most effective way of eliminating public enterprise losses and enhancing their efficiency," the report predicts, "a number of large enterprises are expected to remain in the public domain over the next few years."

The WB report has estimated the public enterprise losses at a striking 30 per cent of the annual project aid dis bursement diverting resources away from investment, operations and maintenance and other high-priority activities. Moreover, it adds, public enterprises are responsible for over 25 per cent of gross domestic capital formation and their efficiency has a direct impact on the level and quality of public investment.

Terming the "implementation of public enterprise re-

forms slower than expected, the report observes some progress on worker retrenchment is being achieved, but suggests more needs to be done if the objective of a reduction in excess staff in the order of 15-20% is to be reached in current fiscal year.

The Railways' target is to reduce staff by 15,000 of which 10,000 are to be retrenched and the remaining 5,000 by normal attrition.

A voluntary separation package has been offered to Railways employees and by early December last year some 8,350 workers had already applied for this package, it

According to the Bank re port, the government's objective is to retrench 20,000 workers in the jute sector and during the first three months of this fiscal year 1758 workers were retrenched from the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) at a total cost of Tk 133.6 million and additional 626 workers have been identified for re trenchment but are stil awaiting their separation pack-

However, "very little progress has been achieved" in reducing the staff of the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (IBJC) and no action whatsoever was taken to downsize the BADC, the report mentions.

System loss in the power sector remains at unaccept ably high levels despite government efforts to reduce it.

Faced with a grave situation in the power sector, the government introduced institutional reforms aimed at strengthening the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA). Those reforms have led to some positive results as system loss in the sector fell from 42.8% in January 1992 to 36% in November of the same year However, this reduction is still below the government's shortterm target of 32-34%, says the report.

The WB report only finds positive results in the reforms of Railways which it says has lowered losses. "But it is too carly to assess whether the government objective will be met fully," comments the re-

Evaluating the Railways reforms, the Bank report points out, the Railways' net loss of Tk 1.5 billion in 1991 dropped to an estimated Tk 1.1 billion in 1992 as a result of "better control over labour, fuel and maintenance costs and a 14% increase in fares."

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.

Brig Nuruzzaman I laid to rest

Brigadier A N M Nuruzzaman, Bir Uttam, was laid to cternal rest at the Banani graveyard Monday afternoon after his Namaz-e-Janaza at the Dhaka Cantonment Central Mosque after the Zohr prayers, reports UNB.

Brig. Nuruzzaman, Bangla desh Ambassador to Sweden, died in Stockholm on March 16 following a massive heart attack. His dead body was flown home earlier in the morning.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohammul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Altal Hossain Chow dhury, Swedish Ambassador and Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, senior armed forces officers including PSOs, high civil dignitaries. political leaders, freedom fighters, relations and well wishers of the deceased attended the Namaz-e-Janaza.

Qulkhani of the late Brig. Zaman will be held at the Siddeswari High School Mosque after the Zohr prayers tomorrow (Wednesday).

Police attach property of 31 absconding accused

JAMALPUR, Mar 22: Bakshiganj police today attached the household goods of 31 people, including a former upazila chairman, for fishing in a pond in Sadar thana violating a court injunction, reports

The court injunction came after Thana Nirbahi Officer and Thana Revenue Officer filed a case with local police against ex-Upazila Chairman Abdur Rouf Talukdar and 30 others.

Rouf, who claimed the ownership of the pond, and his men allegedly injured the TNO and TRO who tried to prevent them from fishing in the pond which, they said, is owned by the government on March 16. All the accused were absconding.

Tk 3.56 lakh medicines seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs officials seized contraband medicines worth about Tk 3.56 lakh at Zia International Airport (ZIA) Monday.

The seized items were 2,300 pieces of Tegrentol tablets of Tk two lakh, 19,000 pieces of Lente injections of Taka 95 thousand and 6,200 pieces of Cavinton tablets of Tk 31,000, said a Customs source.

The medicines were seized from a Bangladeshi passenger A K M Fakhruddin Ahmed who arrived at the ZIA from Russia by a Russian Airlines, SU 549, at around 4:40 pm yesterday.

A Customs surveillance officer said that the medicines were banned in the country and found in a luggage belonging to Ahmed.

A departmental case was lodged in this connection but Ahmed was not arrested, said the officer.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8 leaders and workers of Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League and Sramik League have been kept detained because of 'political hostility'.

"Although the government is giving lip services to parliamentary democracy the ruling party is harassing its political opponents following the policy of past dictators," she said.

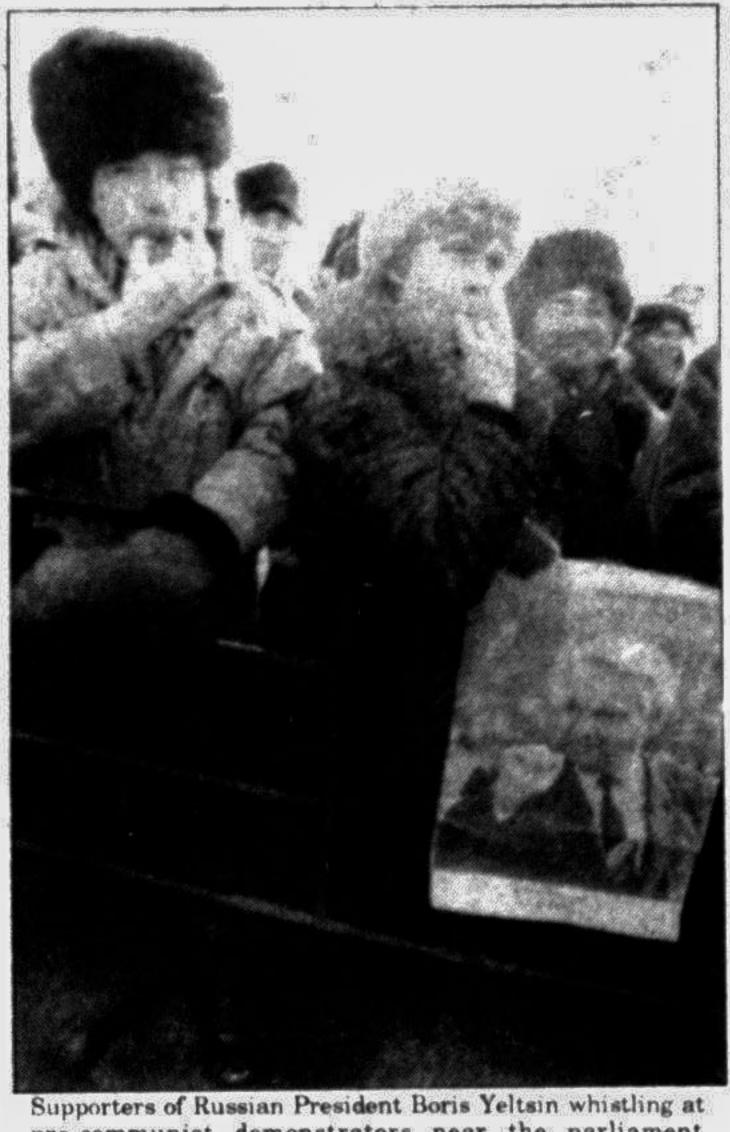
She said Hemayetullah Auranga, MP, Mustafizur Rahman, MP, Dohar thana Awami League president Dr Abdul Awal, general secretary Fazlul Haq, organising secre tary Abdul Qader and many others have been charged with false cases to meet the politi cal vendetta.

Hasina asked the govern ment to give up the path of political hostility in the interest of effective functioning of parliamentary democracy and release the detainees on humanitarian ground before Eid festi-

From Page 1 Col 8 espionage was detected by the concerned government officials, police and port sources

Port police arrested them Saturday night from their residences on receipt of order from the Home Ministry.

The involvement of those two port personnel in antistate activities was unearthed after investigation by the concerned officials of the government and it was followed by their removal from service and the detention order.



pro-communist demonstrators near the parliament - AFP photo building in Moscow Sunday.

Presidential Rule

From Page 1 Col 5 one attempt to 'constrain journalists from publishing or not publishing information or for any violations of freedom of the

The decree was published two days after Yeltsin declared he would rule by decree for the next 34 days until a referendum could be held on whether the president or the conservative-dominated parliament should lead the country and on the shape of a new constitution.

· News of the decree came as the parliament issued a statement condemning the way Moscow state television has been reporting the power

struggle with Yeltsin. A statement issued by the parliament's press service and

carried by Itar-Tass singled out the weekly television news programme 'Itogut' which on Sunday characterized parliament's rejection of Yeltsin's move as 'ridiculous'.

The parliament accused the government-controlled television of carrying out a propaganda campaign aimed at sowing confusion' among the population.

It said the media does not have the right to try and convince the people that nothing has happened and that the country has seen nothing or heard nothing."

Meanwhile, Yeltsin also began to woo Russia's regions on Monday as signs of discontent emerged over his weekend announcement of presidential

BNP programme to celebrate Independence Day

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate the Independence and National Day, reports BSS.

According to a party press release the programme include hoisting of national and party flag atop the BNP Central Office at 5 pm, assembly of party leaders and workers at party Central Office at 6 pm and placing of wreath at the National Mausoleum at Savar, ziarut of the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and placing of wreath there.

All BNP office allover the country have been asked to observe the day with due honour.

Oli leaves Myanmar

YANGON, Mar 22: Communication Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, special envoy of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, left here yesterday for Bangkok on way back home, reports BSS.

The minister who was on a four-day official visit to Yangon at the invitation of Myanmar's Transportation Minister, U Win Yein is expected to return to Dhaka from Bangkok

Col Oli was seen off at the Yangon airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw and his wife Daw Khin Kyi, Director-General and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bangladesh to the Myanmar

Mostafa Faruque Mohammed. Earlier in the morning, the Communications Minister and Begum Ahmed visited the People's Square, Pyidaungsu Aye Yeiknyein and the park it-

Receiving dignitaries Pak SC restricts

involvement of children to two From Star Special

Correspondent

KARACHI, Mar 22: The Supreme Court of Pakistan, continuing its hearings in public interest litigations, has directed that no more than two children, male and female, could be taken on ceremonial occasions to greet or receive dignitaries, including foreign guests.

The directive has come from a bench of the court while passing an interim order in a matter pertaining to forced labour from children.

The court also said that its order will be subject to the condition that the dignity of the children concerned in the matter of dress, conveyance and the job, is fully observed.

The bench also directed that children should not be employed in displaying designs of large scale motifs like those at stadia during sports meets or during ceremonial occasions and exhibitions.

Children should not also be employed for mass labour exercises like cleaning or digging of canals or doing other public works.

Melandah college VP joins BCL

JAMALPUR, Mar 22: The Vice-President of Melandah Government College has joined Awami League-backed Chhatra League, party sources said today, reports UNB.

Hafiz Rowshan Kajal was elected VP of the college on February 15 as an independent

Pak telephone

From Page 1 Col 6 Corporation, the parent organ-

isation which now controls all telecommunications activities. The two manufacturing units of the PTC, too, will be outside the purview of the privatisation scheme.

The future investor will

have to meet certain targets set by the government. These, among others, are to increase access lines to 4.9 million by 1998, to increase public call offices to 28,600 by 1995 and 48,500 by 1998 and to drastically reduce call failure rates etc. The investor will also have maintain the existing level of tariffs in real terms for seven years.

BNP iftar party

From Page 1 Col 6 Barrister Aminul Hug attended the function.

Witnesses said the trouble started after the Mayor had left the meeting venue.

A group of youth blasting hand bombs and firing shots attacked the local BNP office. Five people received injury, of them one Nazrul Islam was Dhaka." admitted to Dhaka Medical The city dwellers enjoy va-College Hospital, hospital ricties of Indian goods as it is sources said

considered one of the smug Police arrested two people gling zones of the country. who were identified as Akbar

and Kibria from the spot When contacted, Mohammadpur thana police contheir beds covered with Indian firmed the incident of trouble sheets," one resident quipped. but did not give any details.

at Jurain

Swash unit

Fire damages

By Staff Correspondent A unit of Swash Group of industries Limited at Jurain Medical Road in the city was damaged as fire broke out there Monday.

The fire broke out at around 9:30 am at Sharp Fitting Industry

A huge quantity of raw materials and machinery of the industry was gutted in the fire incident

Four units of firemen from the Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters and Postagola Fire Station rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control at around 10:30 am, said a headquarters

Cause of the fire and total estimate of the loss could not be ascertained immediately.

Muggers shoot one, snatch belongings

Muggers shot at a rickshaw passenger and snatched his belongings at Lalbagh in the capital Sunday midnight. reports UNB.

Golam Mostafa (18) was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wound on his back.

Family sources said Mostafa was attacked by the miscreants near his house at 34/A Rajar Deuri Lane, Lalbagh when he was returning home after Eid shopping.

The muggers shot at him, took away Tk 1,000 and some ready-made garments he had bought from Gulistan, they

Attending doctors said Mostafa was operated upon and he was improving. Police said they were not

aware of the incident. Meanwhile, Federation of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association Monday demanded arrest of the snatchers involved in killing of shop em-

ployee Kamal at a city Market. Kamal was stabbed to death during a scuffle with a group of snatchers Sunday at the Nawab Yusuf Market.

In a statement, Federation Chairman Amir Hossain Khan, Senior Vice-Chairman M A Zaman Manju and Secretary General S A Qader Kiron condemned police "inaction" about the case.

They also condemned the raiding and harassment of shop owners at Khulna by Task Force in the name of antismuggling drive.

Bombay blasts

From Page 1 Col 8

charges, Police Commissioner A S Samra said Monday, without giving further details. "We have been looking for this kind of person," Samra told reporters. He said the three had been arrested in the past two days but declined to

would compromise further investigations. The police chief said another of the men detained was believed to have helped to plant the deadly bombs, and described the third as an

reveal details on ground that it

assistant in the whole opera-The arrests bring to 14 the number of suspects held in connection with the bombings, the worst terrorist act ever in an Indian city. Some 300 people were killed and about

1,250 injured in the blasts. Samra said there was as yet no indication that a foreign government or agency had been involved in the explosions which ripped through prominent Bombay landmarks. Police have blamed the bombings on Muslim members

glers. Yaqub and Ismail Memon, who fled to Dubai and then flew on to an undisclosed destination after the attacks. Samra said empty cartons seized from a garage used to store explosives had Urdu-language markings which had been partly erased. He said po-

lice had been able to decipher

of the Bombay underworld and

are seeking two alleged smug-

the name of the Pakistani city of Lahore. Master plan From Page 1 Col 3

noticeable "development of the city. The corporation also started repairing work of some

"Upashahar", a housing

project completed by a local housing estate, was the excep tion among the residential ar-Living is less costly than

that in some district towns, one resident said adding, that "you can rent a house here at Tk 1400 - which would cost you more than Tk 4500 in

The city dwellers start the day brushing their teeth with Indian toothpaste and have

The Midnight File

Clinton won't change summit location with Yeltsin

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas), Mar 22: President Bill Clinton said on Monday he has no plans to change the location of the summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Earlier on Monday in Washington, Clinton spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the White House would consider moving the summit to Moscow if Yeltsin deemed it necessary - but had no current plans to do so, reports Reuter.

the quick reaction force it sent to Kismayu last week to keep the peace, officials said Monday. The 500-man Army unit, ac companied by 13 helicopters, was dispatched to the southern port city after a clash last Tuesday between followers of Mohamed Said Hirst, known as Gen Morgan, and backers of

Pakistan plans to

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Mar 22: Pakistan is exploring the possibility of purchasing frigates following the United States' insistence that the Pakistani navy return nine leased US naval vessels, re-

"We are trying to seek extension of the leases but at the same time we are also considcring alternatives," Minister for Defence Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani told a news conference. "We will be able to secure frigates from other sources to fill the gap if

Bijarani said the lease on one US supplied vessel had al-

buying battle tanks from Britain, Russia, Slovakia or Poland, Bijarani said.

dustry in Pakistan," the minister told a news conference. He said a final assembly line was being set up at the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex located some 70 kilometres (45 miles) northwest of here

to start manufacturing the

Karakoram-8 with locally fabri-

cated parts by the end of 1994

the Defence Production Minis-

and developed by Nanchang

Aircraft Manufacturing Com-

pany and Pakistan's Aircraft

Manufacturing Factory (AMF)

was flown from China to

Pakistan over the mountains

Friday, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani

of the joint venture is a step-

ping stone towards establish

ing an indigenous aviation in-

"The successful completion

The Karakoram-8, designed

ter said today, reports AFP.

It was planned to achieve the capacity to manufacture the complete structure of the aircraft locally by 1998. Bijarani said.

Socialists routed

From Page 1 Col 3

west of Paris.

"We are isolated," said former Premier Michel Rocard one of the Socialists' most prominent leaders - who was in danger of losing his parliamentary seat in his district

"It's a bad defeat," said Pierre Mauroy, also a Socialist ex-premier. "We are witnessing an unfurling of the right; this is a bad day for the Socialists."

No ministers were reelected to their seats in the first round. Finance Minister Michel Sapin lost his, and oth ers probably will. Conservatives and centrists

were gleeful. "This is the end of Socialist leadership," said former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. "It's a net success. A new premier to replace

From Page 1 Col 5 tickets of buses and minibuses at double the prices at Gabtoli and Sycdabad, blackmarketeering at the Kamalapur Railway Station appears to be

marginal. The Railway police in formed that they had arrested more than 15 notorious blackmarketeers from the station premises last week to stop the blackmarketeering.

However, The Daily Star correspondent found that at least one black marketeer was carrying out his job. "We are having a hard time," he confessed, "police have arrested 13 of my men and I'm hardly carning my bread and butter."

The Railway authorities had begun selling tickets from March 12.

At Kamalapur ticket counters, tellers were seen asking for "Eid bonus" from the passengers. Some passengers were also paying them Tk 5 to Tk 10 extra in addition to the ticket prices.

"Since they (the tellers) are not forcing the buyers to pay the extra money, you can not call it blackmarketeering or bribe," a Railway official said when asked about the situa

The Railway authorities have, meantime, taken mea sures to bar passengers from riding on the roofs of the coaches.

The Launch Owners Association has also taken initiatives against extra loads. The association officials said, if the launches were found carrying ticketless passengers they would be stopped in mid-Buriganga and the passengers will be compelled to buy tickcts from Sadarghat terminal. They would, then, reach the launches by boat

However, at the Sadarghat terminal yesterday evening, all launches were seen overloaded with passengers.

US withdraws force from Kismayu

MOGADISHU, Mar 22: The United States has withdrawn Col Omar Jess, reports AP.

buy frigates range after which it is named

ports AFP

the US does not agree.

ready expired, while the leases on the eight others would run out by the end of next year. Pakistan is also considering

Another report says, a jet trainer aircraft jointly built by Pakistan and China has successfully made its first test flight across the Karakoram

> Former Finance Minister Edouard Balladur was considered a prime choice if the trend holds. RPR and UDF candidates began striking agreements to

stituencies where they both qualified for Round Two. "We should reassure voters of our capability to work together," said Gerard Longuet,

field one candidate in con-

president of the Republican Party, a UDF component. The RPR, which won 42 seats Sunday compared with the UDF's 36, said in a statement that the partners should respect each other's perfor-

mance and withdraw when ap-It said the voters had already rejected the Socialists, and that 'a single candidate would dramatically demonstrate the willingness of the

bitration of the Socialist Party and its supporters." The far-right National Front, which opposes immigration, maintained a solid presence with 12.5 per cent of

 twice its current number. followed by a series of political

exists today is no longer credible," said Environment Minister Segolene Royal. "But what frightens me is the rightist bulldozer. Joined by the Communists, who captured 9 per cent of

the ballots, they pleaded for

other parties to band together

izens to vote. The abstention rate was about 31 per cent, lower than

legislative elections in 1988. The poor performance of the two ecologist parties however proved a major surprisc They had been considered a driving new political force, but obtained only 7.63 per

Stubborn in defeat, the

wide margin of victory, rightist leaders called for more votes in the second round to ensure a solid front against Mitterrand, and try to persuade him to resign.

"neither compromise nor concession: Mitterrand, 76, and suffer-

ing from prostate cancer, has vowed to see his mandate to its end in 1995.

Pierre Beregovoy was likely to RPR and UDF to refuse the arbe drawn from the ranks of the RPR, which was leading the Home bound people the vote. But the score would

give it no more than two seats Soaring unemployment, which has doubled since the Socialist came to power in 1981, is seen as the chief reason for the Socialist rebuke,

scandals. "The Socialist Party as its

in a counter-force, and for citthe 34 per cent in the last

cent of the vote.

ecologists announced they would maintain candidates where possible in the second Despite their expected

The right lived through a difficult period of 'cohabitation" with Mitterrand during a two-year stint in government from 1986-88. Chirac has repeatedly warned that this time there would be