

Reviving the Glory of Golden Fibre

by Intiaz Ahmed Rumez

JUTE and jute-goods have been considered as one of the prime sources of foreign exchange earnings worth \$ 333.00 million compared to \$155.79 million earned in the garments sector.

zyme by which low quality low-grade jute and jute fibres could be developed into high quality fibres. The mills concerned at the initial stage would be able to produce 200 litres of enzyme per day to improve about eight tons of jute fibres.

Assistance (EMA) for the members of the BJA at the rate 10 per cent on FOB prices against jute yarn and jute twine exports for three years as is available for the exporters in India. He also expressed his hope that Bangladesh could control 70 to 80 per cent share of the international market in jute yarn and twine if only proper steps were taken in time.

Bengal due to drought and flood. High prices of seed and fertiliser are another reason. In the pre-Liberation period, jute was called the golden fibre of the country and was the main foreign exchange earner in the region.

The minimum wage in the public sector has an adverse effect on the private sector. The nationalised mills are having surplus labourers. Sometimes the denationalised mills have to pay salary, gratuity, bonus and other benefits to the surplus labourers which made the industry sick.

The Western countries are becoming very conscious about the environment. So, environment-friendly products like jute goods are making a comeback. In the textile sector, the process 'eco-labelling' has been developed.

Indian Perspective

Why Student Indiscipline?

Amrik Singh writes from New Delhi

STUDENT indiscipline continues to be a problem. For about four decades now, it has seen many ups and downs. But the problem has not disappeared. As far as one can judge, it would continue to stay with us. The question is: can we do something about it? The brief answer is that the problem would not disappear for quite some time. But it is possible to make it less troublesome. How, if one may ask.

Election: A Recent Roman Experience

Almost Invisibly, the Italians Swung Left

The new government in Italy is the 55th administration since the Second World War ended more than 20 years of fascism. It is also the first drawn from the Left. Extraordinarily, in a country notorious for political turbulence, this watershed election was almost invisible.

Derek Ingram writes from Rome

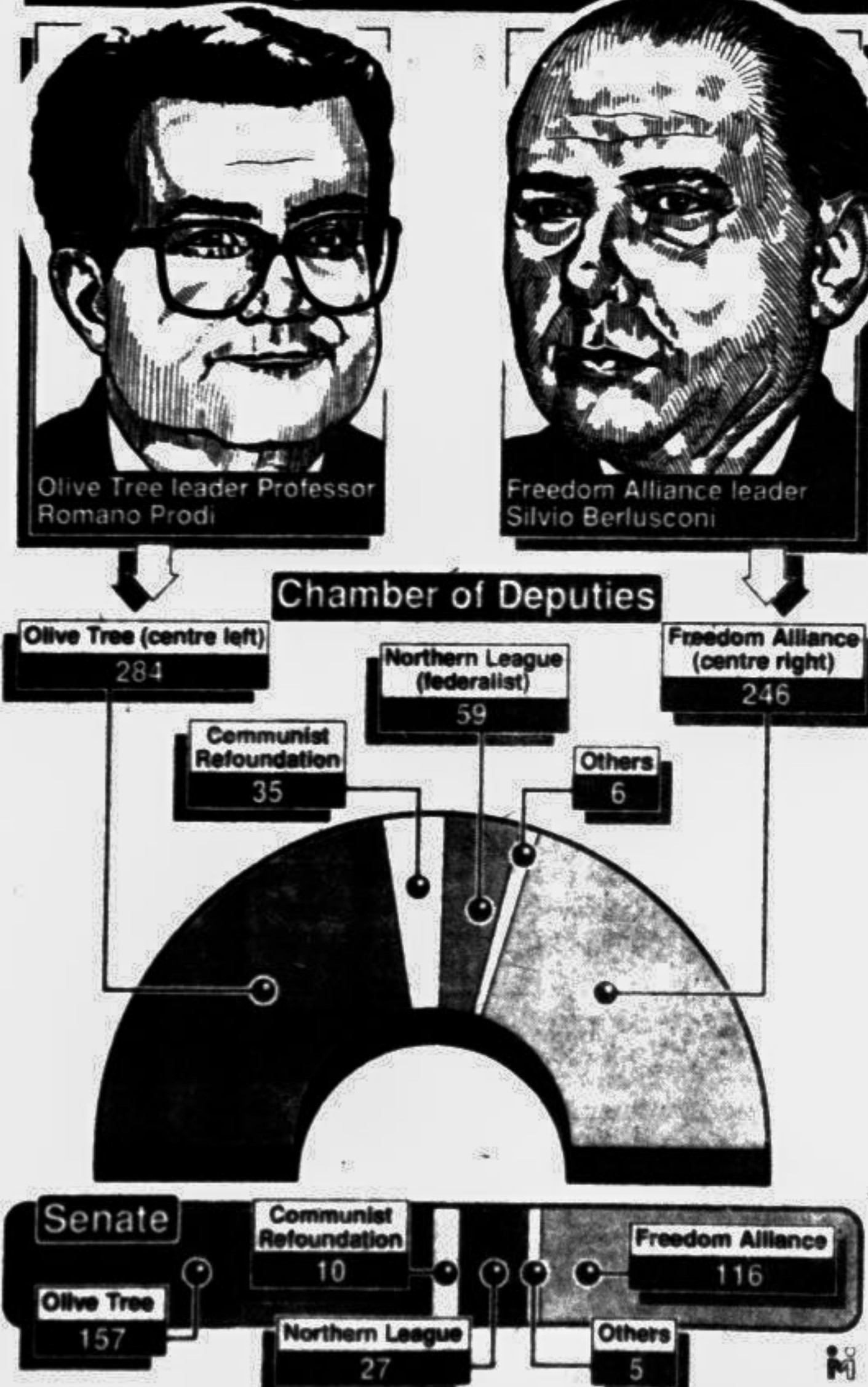
FOR the first time in half a century Italians have voted for a left-wing government and the day it happened you could almost have heard a pin drop in Rome. Well, almost. Italy holds its elections on a Sunday and this was the third in four years. It was a brilliant spring day, the bougainvillea spilling everywhere over the walls of a city centre that is surely one of the world's most beautiful.

only three. None of them seemed to be doing much business, yet by the evening it emerged that the turnout had been 82.7 per cent—high by the standards of any democracy. The voters seem to have crept in after dawn, on their way to the coast. In the evening, crowds gathered in the Piazza del Popolo and waved huge flags. But they were uncharacteristically quiet. Most people were in front of their television sets.

ions, hankering after the days of the dictator Benito Mussolini. It was a volatile mix. As the Christian Democrats fell apart through corruption, each government was a shaker coalition than the last and soon collapsed. Right-wing newspaper proprietor Silvio Berlusconi seemed for a moment to offer stability as a huge drive to clean-up corruption got under way. He ruled for only a few months, then himself fell victim to charges of corruption and scandal.

Berlusconi likes grand limousines and helicopters. Prodi prefers to cycle to work and to ride in the campaign bus. Italian politics are something special in Europe. Unreconstructed Communists still sport the hammer and sickle emblem while in Naples the far-right grand-daughter of Mussolini, Alessandra, has been swept back to victory. In the North a separatist movement, the Northern League, headed by Umberto Bossi, commands considerable support.

How Italy voted



The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Entertainment guide listing TV programs on channels like CHANNEL V, ZEE TV, SONY ET, DD7, EL TV, BBC, STAR PLUS, STAR Sports, STAR MOVIES, and PTV. Includes a Garfield comic strip and a James Bond comic strip.