

Giscard d'Estaing faces runoff in French election

PARIS (AP) — Pres. Valery Giscard d'Estaing led a field of 10 candidates Sunday in the first round of the French presidential election and headed for a runoff rematch with Socialist Francois Mitterrand, the Interior Ministry announced.

Giscard d'Estaing, running for a second seven-year term, defeated Mitterrand in a runoff in 1974 by a slim 1.6 percent margin.

Computer projections made for French radio and television gave Giscard d'Estaing 28.9 percent of the vote to 25.1 percent to Mitterrand, who is making his third bid for the presidency.

Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, mayor of

Paris and a former premier under Giscard d'Estaing, was third with 17.7 percent followed by Communist Party chief Georges Marchais with 16.0 percent.

Because no candidate won an absolute majority, voters will return to the polls May 10 to choose between the two top candidates.

Freezing rain on the French Riviera and a dusting of snow elsewhere limited the turnout. The Interior Ministry estimated that 80.7 percent of the more than 36 million registered voters had cast their ballots, compared with 84.2 percent in 1974. Observers blamed the weather.

Rioting spreads in Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Hundreds of rioters battled hundreds of police in Belfast and London Sunday in support of jailed IRA guerrilla Bobby Sands, reported at a skeletal 98 pounds in the 57th day of a hunger strike. Prison officials denied widespread rumors he had died.

About 500 Sands' supporters demonstrated at a subway station and near Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 10 Downing Street residence in London. Thirty-eight people were arrested, and three ambulances carried away an undetermined number of injured.

Police forced the demonstrators into a street behind the posh Savoy Hotel and split them into two groups. After scuffles and shouting, the demonstrators dispersed. Thirty-eight people

were reported arrested and three ambulances carried away an undetermined number of injured.

British police warned members of Parliament and other public figures to be wary of a possible letter-bomb campaign by Irish Republican Army guerrillas.

They issued the warning after Barry Porter, a 41-year-old Conservative Party legislator, received an incendiary device through the mail Saturday. The device did not go off even though he started to open it.

In Belfast, rioters pitched firebombs at a bus depot in the Roman Catholic Ardoyne district of Belfast, then hundreds of youths broke away from some 6,000 people attending a rally for Sands and hurled bricks, stones and lead pipes.

Polish Catholic leader suffering from illness

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, leader of Poland's influential Roman Catholic Church and a voice of moderation in the labor conflict, will require "lengthy treatment" for medical problems, the church announced Sunday.

The 79-year-old primate has been ill for several weeks and was unable to conduct public Mass during this year's Easter celebrations. Church officials said he was suffering from digestive problems, but did not elaborate.

Announcement of Wyszynski's condition was made during the broadcast of Mass over Warsaw Radio. The state-run radio has broadcast Mass every Sunday since September as a concession to the independent trade union Solidarity, which has close ties to the church in this communist-ruled nation.

"The secretariat of the Polish episcopate informs us that the primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, is still being treated at his residence," the announcement said.

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