

The Paradise

By Politician

During end of last month (February), President Mahinda Rajapakse's led Sri Lankan government's main agenda was the face-face dialogue in Geneva with the Tamil Tigers, who withdrew from the peace talks about three-year ago. On behalf from the government there were fourteen delegates members led by Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva. Among others were Ministers Rohitha Bogollagama, Jeyraj Fernando, Ferial Ashrof, President's Councilor H.L. De Silva, Dr. Palitha Kohone, IGP Chandra Silva, Navy Commander Wasantha Karannagoda and several others.

There were 12-member delegation representing from the LTTE led by London based LTTE' Chief Negotiator Anton Balasingham and political Head S.P. Thamilchelvam, LTTE police Chief P. Nadeshan, a Military Leader Jeyam Ilancheniyam, Adela Balasingham and several others. A special 'Operational Room' had been set up at the Temple Trees to provide advice and any other supporting information to the Government delegation in Geneva, while negotiations are going on through out for two days. Time to time President Rajapakse went to the room and provided his advice to the Geneva delegation. Dallas Allahapperuma, one of close confidants of the President, has

coordinated the functioning of the operational room. Leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, Somawansa Amarasinghe, Wimal Weerawansa, Minister Mangala Samaraweera, Udaya Gammanpila of Jathika Hela Urumaya, senior officials of

and accused the government for working together against them. According to Balasingham, these armed groups were EPDP, EPRLF, PLOTE, Jihad and Karuna faction. He tried to prove that these groups having close links with the Government armed forces, using several maps and several other things. He also charged Karuna faction and the Government for every incident. Among

ment delegation for the Geneva talks and said "During the Presidential Election campaign I promised that if I am able to win the election, I would get all defeated parties for a discussion about the peace process. So now I have done it. And I have included UNP member Rohitha Bogollagama as a member of the delegation too".

Speaking at the conference, Deputy leader of the UNP, Karu Jayasuriya said that " all parties had come to one agreement about the peace process and to protect it, the government has full responsibility to hold an impartial election at the forthcoming local Government election. If it is not, the current situation will change".

"So you (President) have to promise us to hold the local poll free and fair", Jayasuriya said. In replying the President asked "we hold the last Presidential poll free and fair. So why should you have doubts about this election ?".

"We have some suspicion about on-going police transfers", Jayasuriya responded. "We only tried to give promotion, those who are deserved, otherwise we are not trying to gain anything. I promise you that the local government poll would be held free and fair, adding that the President said "and another thing the JVP and the JHU, who helped me are now contesting separately like your (UNP) party at the local poll". At that time JVP's Wimal Weerawansa said turning to President's side, "But Thondaman and Chandrasekaran, who were with Mr. Jayasuriya's party are now with you".

Death of 'Concrete' Kulasingha following the news of the death of Dr. A.N.S. Kulasingha, who introduced a new concept of building of construction to Sri Lanka using concrete, Minister Ferial Ashrof telephoned President Rajapakse.

"I am Minister of Housing, so I have a right to speak to you. We should give a State funeral to Dr. Kulasingha". In reply, the President said "Yes I have already decided to hold a State funeral". But several government officials did not like to give a State sponsored funeral to Dr. Kulasingha, as he was not qualified for that. But the President said "After Wimalasundaran, Dr. Kulasingha was the only and best Engineer of the country. Who else deserve, except Dr. Kulasingha, so I have decided to make it a State funeral", the President said.

Milinda and Mahroof in trouble UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe had appointed a two-member team to investigate into the rejection of the Colombo Municipal Council's nomination list. So far a large number of party members had been questioned about the matter. Accordingly, suspicion has arisen about two persons - one of the Secretary of the Opposition Leader and Private Secretary of UNP MP Milinda Moragoda. These two persons had allegedly removed the name of T.M.Sangadasa and written the name of Coordinating Secretary of Maharroof. So he had included an under aged person to the nomination list. So, the two-member team was considering whether to Moragoda and Maharroof should take the responsibility for rejecting the list.

Balasingham threatens to withdraw from talks

the Foreign Ministry, Defence Ministry and several others were in the room to provide every information to the Government team in Geneva. The Norwegian facilitators had drafted the Agenda of the talks in Geneva. According to the Norwegian's Agenda the opening speech had to be done by the Government delegation leader Minister Silva. But Balasingham wanted to make the opening speech leading to a small argument between two parties. However, later Minister Silva told Balasingham that he would restrict his first speech to only two minutes and after that the LTTE delegation can make their speech, which Balasingham agreed. During the negotiation, Balasingham explained the necessity of disarming all 'other' groups operating in North and East

them was, he said that Karuna had murdered 600 unarmed policemen during the President R. Premadasa regime. In response to that the government delegation had questioned Balasingham, " during that period was Karuna with your organization? So if Karuna done it, the LTTE organization should take the responsibility for the murders? On another occasion, Balasingham tried put the blame on the Karuna faction about the murder of former Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, but responding to that IGP Chandra Fernando had tabled an investigation report about the killing of Minister Kadirgamar. He also presented the finger prints of the LTTE suspects taken at the scene of the crime and said that they have indisputable evidence to prove that the LTTE committed that murder. The IGP also said that "the LTTE is making a vain effort to credit all their sins into the Karuna's account". The IGP also claimed that they are bound to protect law and order in the country and in that exercise they will not favour anyone whichever political party or paramilitary group the culprits belong to. He said all are equal before the law. IGP Fernando also pointed to Tiger delegate P Nadesan sitting before him and said he was a police constable in Jaffna when he (IGP) was the SP in Jaffna and he should know about the law enforcement system of the Sri Lanka police. He concluded saying that the armed forces have not given arms to any other armed group or nor do they maintain any other paramilitary group. Balasingham did not counter attack those remarks and the discussions moved forward. During the session, President's Councilor Dayasiri Gomin was explaining about a matter as a resources member, Balasingham had protested and warned that he would leave the discussions, accusing him taking a long time as a resources member. However, Norwegian representatives had intervened and solved the matter. Second All party conference The Second All Party Conference was held February 17 to discuss about the peace process presided by President Mahinda Rajapakse at the Temple Trees, where all party representatives except Sri Lanka Muslim Congress attended. First, the President thanked all the representatives and introduced the govern-

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