



# Paradise

## By politician

Since the last presidential election a set back for the main Opposition United National Party, as the internal crisis within the party developed step by step due to not reshuffling the party, mainly the Leadership of Ranil Wickremesinghe. The crisis reached its highest level as a large number of senior UNP Parliamentarians crossed over to the

coming just to get the portfolios and other facilities". The President in replying told "I have already told them that up to now I can offer two ministerial portfolios and rest of them had to wait for two or three months to give any portfolio. I am still telling the JVP that you can also join the government and take several portfolios".

JVP's General Secretary Tilvin

Silva said that "We are satisfied with the government". Though the President repeatedly appealed to the JVP to join the government, the JVP had rejected the offer promising the President to support the government as done previously. January 23, Opposition Whip and Kalutara District UNP Parliamentarian Mahinda Samarasinghe and Kandy District UNP MP Keheliya Rambukkalle joined the government. On the same evening they took oaths

to the place. He came with some UNP members from 41 Provincial Councils. After seen the crowd the President said "hereafter the SLFP would not lose the Kandy district"

### CBK delays return the island

Recently, Police Chief Chandra Fernando got a foreign call from former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, who was in London during a private visit.

"Chandra I am at the Heathrow Air Port (London), and I heard that Thamilchelvan had died in a bomb blast, is that true", the ex President asked the IGP.

The former President referred that an incident, in an un-cleared area in Mannar, in mid January, where a huge series of explosions had taken place. There was speculation that LTTE political Head S.P.Thamilchelvan was among the large number of LTTE members who were

will hold in Oslo or not". Then the President said, "I am not ready to go to Oslo, but I am ready to go to country like Switzerland, Turkey, Rumania for talks. Solheim said, "You honestly and openly have answered my questions and Thank you".

After the discussion President Rajapakse held talks with the JVP about his meeting with Solheim. During the discussions with JVP, Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva questioned whether the LTTE will agree to meet the government outside Oslo. "No, they (LTTE) has to agree to the place, I want", the President said. In the mean time, JVP Propaganda Secretary Wimal Weerawansa asked how the President is going to tell the people about it. "Before the Presidential poll, I told that we would win the election, so we won, and you can see this time too, confident President said. On Wednesday 23, January, the President met Chief Editors of the all Tamil language newspaper to discuss their safety after

# 'we are satisfied with the government, we will back from outside' JVP tells President

Government ranks. End of January a group of thirteen UNP Parliamentarians have informed President Mahinda Rajapakse that they are ready to join the government. Following the request, the President immediately summoned the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna leaders to get their views about the development. During the meeting, the JVP leaders told the President "as a party we don't mind if those members are ready to work with the government according to 'Mahinda Chinthanaya', but we are against if they are

as government Ministers. Mahinda Samarasinghe has been appointed as Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, while Rambukkella has been appointed as Minister of Policy Planning & Implementation. After taking oath as Minister, Samarasinghe told the President "I am also from your area, and my father was also from Beliatta. So hereafter we can work together". "Ok, Mahinda joins with Mahinda, I gave this ministry as you have knowledge about these subjects", the President replied. At that time Keheliya Rambukkella came

dead..

"Madam, there is talk which says that he had died is spreading here, but it is not confirmed yet", IGP Fernando answered. Then the President questioned about the consequences of his death?". In replying the IGP said "Some time, the LTTE will go for a big target, like killing a VVIP in Colombo".

"Then I will stay here for some time until the situation is calm", the President said.

killing of Sudar Oli newspaper journalist. While the meeting was going on, the President got a call on his mobile. After answering the call, the President informed the newspaper editors "it was from the Peace Secretariat, the Tigers have agreed for the talks in Geneva after dropping their Oslo demand". Soon after the meeting with Editors, President Rajapakse personally spoke to Colombo based diplomatic missions led by United States for their support to solve the problem of the talks with the LTTE.

Solheim satisfies with President On January 24, Norwegian envoy and Minister Erik Solheim met President Rajapakse to discuss the current stage of the peace process and his next day's meeting with the LTTE Leader V. Prabhakaran. The talks went on for nearly two hours. The President said, "I am even ready to go to Wanni to meet Prabhakaran. I did everything for the sake of peace. But I am disappointed Prabhakaran could not understand that".

"In previous occasions when a government came to power, Prabhakaran had not engaged in hostilities for some period. But soon after I became the President, he started to attack. Please tell Prabhakaran that if I respond to those attacks, it would be a major tragedy", the angry President told. After listening to that, Solheim asked that the only current problem was about the venue for the talks ", whether the talks

Burns here to warn LTTE Last week of January, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera had arranged a function in view of touring American under Secretary (Political) Nicholas Burns in Sri Lanka. Burn came to the function with a news copy of a pro-LTTE Tamilnet Website, which stated that "Burn will be in Sri Lanka to correct a statement made by US Ambassador in Colombo, who warned the Tigers should stop their violence or face consequence".

Showing the news copy to Minister Samaraweera, Burn said "I am here not to correct the Ambassador's statement, but to 'confirm' the statement. We will take every action against the LTTE if they fail to stop their violence in the future, that is why I am here".

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