Lanka's ruling party chief assassinated

COLOMBO, Dec. 23 (PTI) - The chairman of Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party (UNP) Mr. Sarath Fonseka was assassinated outside his home in Colombo early Sunday morning.

The UNP's chief strategist, Mr. Fonseka, was killed by an explosion in his car as he was driving to a meeting of party leaders. The explosion was caused by a bomb attached to the car.

Mr. Fonseka was a key figure in the UNP and was considered a potential candidate for the country's presidential election in 2015. He had been a vocal critic of the government's handling of the country's security situation.

The UNP has called for an investigation into the attack and has demanded that the government take steps to ensure the safety of its members.

Zahir Shah may get back throne

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (PTI) - Zahir Shah in Rome - two weeks after he was ousted from his position as king of Afghanistan - has received an invitation to return to his country from the new government led by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

The invitation was extended by the government to Zahir Shah, who was deposed in a coup in 1973, as part of a deal to secure international aid for the country. The invitation was welcomed by Zahir Shah, who said he was willing to return to Afghanistan to help rebuild the country.

It's a let-down by diplomats in Washignton

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI, Dec. 25 (PTI) - The Indian government has said it will not participate in the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, despite earlier indications that it might.

The decision was taken after consultations with the United States government.

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