

off to Disneyland in America with his kids. Besides Victor is an intellectual and he edits the left paper called Ravaya. I also bought a copy of his other book entitled "Pansale Viplavaya".

Let's get to the subject Chaura Regina is a scathing attack on the alleged doings and misdoings of our former President. The allegations if proved in court can surely take her to jail. Two things surprise me, firstly, why there is no demand either by the government or opposition for a special Commission of Inquiry into the last regime. Apart from meting out punishment, such a public inquiry would keep all future Presidents on their lose.

Actually, Victor Ivan states in the preided that the purpose of his book is to create a tradition of investigating the conduct of Presidents at least after the latter are out of power. The presidential immunity clause in the JR constitution prevents any enquiry during the regime of a President. A tradition of post-regime investi-

gation would serve to warn
Presidents that they are going
to have a hard time at least
after their rule ends. I take this
point of the author of "Chaura
Regina" as a valid objective.

The second thing that surprises me is why
Chandrika has not instituted action for libel
when so much has been
said about her varied
deals and about her
personal love life.
Newspaper reports

alleged that she had requested the President to ban the book. It is in the



President's interest to ignore such a request quite apart from the practicality of such action.

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The Sri Lankan Book
Publisher's Association held
a most successful
International Book Fair at
the BMICH last September.
One event stole the whole
show at this fair and that is
the launch of Victor Ivan's
book on former President
Chandrika Bandaranalke
Kumaratunge. When I was
in Sri Lanka last month, a
publisher told me that this
book sold at the rate of two
copies a minutel It is still
selling like hot cakes and I

book store. I read it and I am still aghast!

could not resist buying

myself a copy from a Kandy

Is this a portrait of the abuse of power? A case study for all to read and learn a lesson? Lord Acton famously said "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely". Is Chaura Regina about that? Or is it the vengeance of a writer?

Victor Ivan was one of the original JVP hotheads who put his neck under the movement and lost an arm when a bomb that he handled exploded. That vintage of JVPers were a far cry from the current affluent-seeking types like Wimal Weerawansa who has a special hair crop at a luxury saloon, and who recently took

The current constitution creates the path for a monstrous President who cannot be challenged while in power unless by the operational dynamics of Parliamentary power -play. In the latter sense, President Rajapakse is somewhat hamstrung by the possibility of provoking the UNP and the JVP. Yet, the potential for abuse prevails.

I must say that some of Victor's allegations are not adequately substantiated in the book, which, therefore, appears as a polemical tirade rather than a serious exposition. Other charges provide something in the nature of circumstantial evidence, that requires further investigation. Be that as it may, the charges are of a

very serious nature that bring Chandrika into disrepute.

Victor Ivan had been closely associated with Chandrika until the early stages of her Presidency. The latter had been a key campaigner and mentor for her during the 1994 and 1999 elections. When friends fall out it can be dangerous. In Chandrika's case, Chaura Regina is the outcome. The story about the 11/2 acres of crown land in Madiwela, which she wanted to keep for herself, appears to have substance. It was Victor Ivan who blocked the deal with a count order.



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Chandrika is also implicated with the accidental deaths of Ashroff and Kumar Ponnambalam, the murder of Rohana Kumara the journalist, the attacks on filmstar Anoja Weerasinghe and singers Rukhantha and Chandralekha.

According to the author, CBK did run a mafia in the President's office comprising Baddegana Sanjeewa, Dhammika Perera Moratu Saman, and Tara Aiith and it was these people who carried out the criminal program. Victor Ivan makes the point that Chandrika loved to live dangerously and go for the risk. In support of this, he gives the Suriyakanda mass burial ground episode as illustration. However, even Surivakanda she had not followed up to its logical conclusion because all she had been interested was to take political advantage of it with her "Mother Protest Meetings" that helped bring her to power. In fact it was Victor Ivan that had brought Surivakande to her attention. The book gives details of fraud said to have been perpetrated by the former President. According to the book her inner cabinet comprised Ronnie Peiris, Rajan Brito, Tara De Mel, Rajan Aseervathan, Udaya Nanayakkara, Kusumsiri Balapatabendi, Sanath Gunatilleka and, later, Harry Jayawardena. The Emirates deal and the Katunayaka Highway deal are among the

major citations. These assertions seem mere speculation to me but the author categorically nails the charge on Chandrika's door.

Chaura Regina is also explicit and specific about Chandrika's love life with Sanath Gunatilleke and openly charges that Sanath used her 'sexual hunger'. Marke money and go places. "Although he (Sanath) was not a cabinet minister he was more powerful than such a person", states the author. "When a minister receives a liquor licence he (Sanath) receives four". It is also stated that when Sanath visits a foreign country the Sri Lankan ambassador comes to the airport to receive be.

Chandrika, Sanath Gunatilleka, and the "inner cabinet" have enough material for libel action. Why are they silent in the face of Victor Ivan's outrageous allegations?

I don't know why

## ୟିଥର୍ଣ ବ୍ୟବ୍ୟବର



"සීයාන්, ඇත්තක් උනත් හැම තැනදීම කියන්න නොඳු නෑ" නෙන් " "මොනවා - ආ?

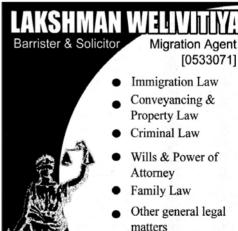
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- විකසිත



4/766-768, Springvale Road, Mulgrave, Victoria 3170 Tel: (03) 9574 8492 Fax (03) 9574 8492 Mob: 0431 685 479 Iwelivitiya@yahoo.com.au

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