



Today, the controversy over Sarath Fonseka has gained more attention in the United States and some of the European countries than in Sri Lanka. This campaign gets the fullest support from the expatriate supporters of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) and the Tamil diaspora, especially the recently reorganized pro-LTTE elements of the Tamil expatriates.

The speakers at the recent demonstration held in New York in support of Sarath Fonseka were very critical on the state media in Sri

similarity to some of the events in neighbouring countries.

The moment Sarath Fonseka announced his desire to contest against his supreme commander in the Presidential Election of 2010, an Australian organization pointed out the folly in his decision. Ranjith Soysa of SPUR has written a joint appeal to Sarath Fonseka together with a large number of Sri Lankan expatriate organizations in a number of countries. He said that Fonseka's decision would be extremely

Commander-in-5Chief? It is reasonable if somebody has serious doubts on his move and to suspect it to be a part of a conspiracy. Is this conspiracy has been hatched by the JVP and the UNP or is it the Western powers that are trying very hard to spread their influence in the region of the Indian Ocean? Or is it a combination of all these forces?

The basic reason behind Sarath Fonseka's decision was the voting figures shown to him was very convincing. It was not at all difficult to show the possible voting patterns and

in the final count.

Addressing the last two public rallies at Galle and Panchikawatta on January 24, the last day of polling campaign, he said, "Defence Secretary has ordered the CID officers to summon my son-in-law Danuna Thilakeratne and question him. But the CID officers refused to abide by these orders of Defence Secretary by stating that they were ready to remove their uniforms and go home rather than accepting such orders". It boomeranged on him unexpectedly. He seems to have under the impression that rajapaksa will not be able to answer because campaigning came to a close on that day. Although no political campaigning could be taken place on January 25, there were no restriction for the Police to inform the public on their actions.

Police held a press briefing and said that the CID has summoned Danuna Thilakeratne and produced a fax message received from Danuna Thilakeratne requesting the CID to postpone the questioning by few days as he was busy with the election campaign of his father-in-law. Police has acceded to his request and agreed to summon him on another date. Thus, even on the day before the elections, Fonseka lost votes because of his utterances of untruths.



Military rule Vs Democracy

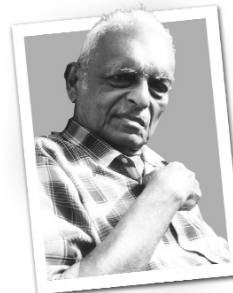
Lanka. According to the reports received here, these harsh criticism has raised several legal and ethical issues.

Another issue I wish to discuss in this article is whether it is necessary to comment on the court cases filed against Sarath Fonseka and his relatives and to insult the members of his family when there are more than sufficient reasons to criticize the actions of Sarath Fonseka himself? I would also like to briefly discuss the role of Sarath Fonseka and its

harmful to Sri Lanka. He pointed out that Fonseka's decision was described by the pro-LTTE Tamil websites as 'Dogs eat dog meat'.

Why did Fonseka, who praised the role of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa in a series of media interviews after the end of the conflict, suddenly decided to contest against President Rajapaksa, his

convince a person by showing statistics. When you look at it,



By S Piyasena

Now, let us compare Fonseka's political role with that of several other leaders. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was one of the most formidable democratic leaders of Pakistan. He fought the Pakistani military rulers in his struggle to establish democracy in the country. In 1971, as a result of authoritarian rule of General Yaheya Khan Pakistan was divided into two and the East Pakistan became an independent nation under the name Bangladesh. Immediately after that Bhutto succeeded in forcing Yaheya Khan to resign from Presidency and restore democracy.

New democratic Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto appointed General Zia-ul-haq as the Army Commander. However, the military leaders who enjoyed power under military dictatorships for a long period did not want to stay out of power. General Zia-ul-Haq imprisoned Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the man who appointed him as military chief and took control of the country. Bhutto was tried on murder charges and hanged him despite the appeals of clemency made by hundreds of international leaders.

When Bhutto was hanged the Pakistani cricketers who were playing a cricket match in Sri Lanka observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect for the departed leader.

Most of the time since gaining independence in 1947, Pakistan was ruled under military dictatorships and few democratic governments did not last long in that country. Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, who was hailed by Bangladesh as Father of Nation became the Prime Minister of the new nation in 1971. But he was killed in a military coup on August 14, 1975.

The world has seen the governance under democracies as well as military dictatorship and the accepted belief is, 'even the worst democracy is better than the best military dictatorship'.

If you want to imagine what would have happened to Sri Lanka if the result of the 2010 Presidential Election reversed, you could do that by closely studying the statements of the common candidate Sarath Fonseka.

you think it as logical conclusion. In 2005 Presidential Election, Mahinda Rajapaksa won by a majority of less than 200,000 votes. That was with the fullest support of the JVP. Hence, it will a cake walk to defeat President Rajapaksa when the JVP is campaigning against him. Furthermore, there will be enough funds from abroad to ensure a certain victory for Sarath Fonseka, they argued. They managed to convince Fonseka by this 'definite mathematical calculations'.

However, there were several other factors. Either, Fonseka did not have capacity to understand or he simply ignored them. Fonseka has underestimated the gigantic image of Mahinda Rajapaksa as the leader who brought in a great victory by withstanding local and international pressures with display of tremendous courage. Secondly, many UNP heavyweights who opposed Rajapaksa in 2005, have joined him this time. JVP has also split and a substantial section remained with Rajapaksa when the party decided to support the opposition common candidate.

From the beginning of the election campaign, Fonseka behaved like a military dictator. His public addresses were extremely arrogant and provocative. He showed his indifferent attitude to democracy by using the words like polecat (Kalavedda), outcast (Paharaya) and licker of discarded bones (Katu Levakanna) and his statement that 'all the opponents will be sent to prison with rolled up mats and pillows (peduru, kotta akulagena).' All these boomeranged on him

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE !! WONDERLAND CAFE SRI LANKAN CUISINE & TAKE AWAY

FABULOUS 'RICE & CURRIES' WHICH BRING BACK YOUR MEMORIES
OF SRI LANKA - WITH REAL SRI LANKAN FLAVOURS
'JUST PERFECT' FRESH & HEALTHY HOME COOKED STYLE TASTY MEALS

TAKE AWAY AND CATERING* (BULK FOOD ORDERS)
FOR YOUR FUNCTIONS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS
WE PROVIDE A RANGE OF SPECIALITIES AND MENUS
FOR YOUR SELECTION. * Conditions Apply

VISIT OUR WEB SITE OR PHONE US FOR FURTHER DETAILS



TRADING HOURS

Monday - Wednesday : 11.00am - 7.00pm | Thursday - Saturday: 11.00am - 8.00pm,
Sunday : closed

WONDERLAND CAFE

4/52 Outlook Drive
Dandenong North VIC 3175

MELWAY REF 81 E9

TEL: (03) 9701 0005
M - 0416 457 359

www.wonderlandcafe.com.au