



Dr. Ruwani Moragoda receiving the Journalist of the Year Award from the Chief Guest D.B. Nihalsinghe on behalf of her sister, Sonali Samarasinghe (inset) — Editor of *The Morning Leader*. Samarasinghe also bagged the Scoop of the Year Award and Columnist of the Year Award.



The D.B. Dhanapala Best Journalist of the Year (English) award being presented to Raneer Mohamed of *The Sunday Leader*. Looking on is Director, College of Journalism, Arjuna Ranawana



The award for Business Journalist of the Year (English) being presented to Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema of *The Sunday Leader*

When journalists made news

THE BMICH was the venue of an impressive happening — the appreciation of talent and hard work. Journalists who usually feature the work of others became the chief players on stage as the Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Press Institute honoured outstanding journalists of the print and electronic media with awards of excellence. This unique event made news for the newsmen and women from the Sinhala, Tamil and English mediums who gathered at the event — some to be awarded and others to applaud. *The Sunday Leader* once again topped the awards, bagging five of the best. Sonali Samarasinghe of *The Sunday Leader* won the Journalist of the Year, Scoop of the Year and Columnist of the Year Awards. Raneer Mohamed won the Best English Journalist Award with Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema winning the Business Journalist of the Year (English) Award.

Five gold medallists honoured by the Editors' Guild and the Sri Lanka Press Institute for their contribution to the profession and for their excellence was a touching gesture which was followed by awards and certificates for their younger counterparts whose successes made news on this day.

Speaking of the largest number of applications received this year — over 400, the organisers went on to say that the judges had a difficult task at hand. Some awards were not given away due to the required standard not being met.

Dr. D.B. Nihalsinghe, the son of veteran journalist D.B. Dhanapala, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Photos by Thushara Dassanayake



Television News Story of the Year awarded to News First. Director MTV/MBC Susil Kindelpitiya receiving the award.



Dileesha Abeysondera of *The Irudina*, the sister paper of *The Sunday Leader*, receiving the Denzil Pieris Young Reporter of the Year Award



Best Designed Newspaper of the Year award to Thilina Alahakoon of the *Mawbima* newspaper



The Sepala Gunasena Award for Defending Press Freedom in Sri Lanka being presented to Sunanda Deshpriya of the Free Media Movement



D.R. Wijewardene Award for Earning the Appreciation of Peers and Public to Dharmaratnam Sivaram. Award being accepted by a loved one.



Gold medalists: Veterans of the profession being honoured with medals, garlands and applause



Merit award for Swarnavahini's *Live @ 8* being received by Director/General Manager/Director News — Rosmand Senaratne