

# Semi-final begins



BY MAHES PERERA

**Y**esterday (Oct. 22) was an important date for all the contestants who sent in their applications for the *Sunday Observer* Singer Asian Fashion Designer 2011. They trooped into the Grand Oriental Hotel nursing positive hopes and carrying large files containing their precious sketches that were scrutinised critically by the panel of judges who were Dilusha Rajapakse, Sumith Gopura,

Kaushalya Piyasiri, Professor Ranjith de Silva, Deepthi de Alwis, Ajit Dissanayake and Princy Butani.

The creativity by the contestants displayed in their sketches for the seven categories, was remarkable as expressed by the judges. Theirs was an unenviable task, trying to ensure that only the best were selected for the finals.

On behalf of the presenters here's hoping that the contestants despite their trepidation were happy with the conduct of the interviews and the valuable comments of their sketches which no doubt will be useful in the years to come.

Next week the names of those applicants who were selected as finalists will be published, together with their sketches and short interviews, to enable our readers to get to know them better.

When the finalists are announced next week the *Sunday Observer* Most Popular Contest will begin to unfold. This special feature will be something that all our readers can look forward to.

The coupon will be published in this page and the winner will be announced at the pageant on the final day.

