

12TH ANNUAL

RAIGAM Tele Awards

A GLITTERING SHOW HONOURS TV'S BEST

By Maneshka Borham

The twelfth annual Raigam Tele'es, a star studded evening honouring talented television personalities and programs was held on June 3 at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena, Ministers and special other dignitaries. 53 awards were up for grabs during the elegant ceremony spanning all areas of the television industry. The awards ceremony also paid a special tribute to the trio Arun Dias Bandaranayake, Piyadasa Ratnasinghe and Ravindra Randeniya by presenting each a special award of appreciation for their talent and contribution to the industry.

Daskon, the historical tale of *Dakson Adikaram* telecast on Swarnavahini was the standout winner of the night bagging majority of the awards. Veteran actor and director Jackson Anthony won the award for best script, direction and production for *Daskon*. While a viewer's poll was held to choose the most popular actress, actor and teledrama actor Saranga Disasekara, Shalini Tharaka and *Uthum Pathum* telecast on Sirasa TV were the winners by popular vote. Roshan Ravindra, who plays the role of *Daskon* was the winner of the best tele drama actor award while Menaka Peiris was awarded the same for her outstanding performance in *Sath Pattini* as *Ranmenika*. They were presented with the awards by President Maithripala Sirisena. Swarnavahini was chosen the Channel of the Year also winning a total 17 awards in this year's Raigam Tele'es.

Speaking at the event President Maithripala Sirisena called for better producers of television programs to create quality and meaningful creations for the betterment of society. Expressing his views on the occasion President Maithripala Sirisena said, "program creators should produce good quality and meaningful programs without only covering the aspect of entertainment," adding that this will in turn lead to the advancement of society.



Most Popular Actor and Actress – Saranga Dissasekera and Shalini Tharaka



Best Actress Menaka Peiris receives her award from President Maithripala Sirisena



Best Musical Show – Dell Studio – awarded to Chinthaka Gamlath



Best Production, Script and Direction for the Teledrama *Daskon* awarded to Jackson Anthony



The band *Naadro* in action



Best Actor and Actress – Roshan Ravindra for *Daskon* and Menaka Peiris for *Sath Paththini*



Best Supporting Actor and Actress – Gihan Fernando for *Daskon* and Damitha Abeyrathne for *Vishnu Sankranthiya*

Pix: Thushara Fernando and Shanaka Rambukwella