

NDB Best Speaker winners

## 'Bonsoir Diaries' reborn as an 'Audio Book'

The gala launch of the Audio Book of Kumar de Silva's Bonsoir Diaries was held at the Harold Peries Gallery recently with Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, and Guests of Honour - State Minister for Defence Ruwan Wijewardene and French Ambassador Jean-Marín Schuh in attendance. Launched as part of the current French Spring Festival presented by the Embassy of France in Sri Lanka and the network of the Alliance Française in Sri Lanka, the App is produced by Lisn, Sri Lanka's first-ever audio book company (<http://lisn.audio/>)

Tracing Franco-Lankan relations which go as far back as 1672, Minister Samaraweera paid a glowing tribute to author Kumar de Silva, Yasmin Rajapakse and the Bonsoir Team for their pioneering efforts in those early days of television. He recalled how Bonsoir had a captive audience and took the French language and culture to the remotest parts of Sri Lanka. "The Bonsoir archives do not exist for reasons beyond my comprehension and that's what made me write the Bonsoir story in diary form. The book is almost entirely sold out and the next logical step was this mobile app", Kumar said, while thanking Shanaka Mendis and the team from Lisn, Sri Lanka's first-ever audiobook company, for this laudable project.



Veinert and Yolanda



Shanaka



Sudarshini and Priyanthi



Anoma with Anarkali



French Ambassador Jean Marin Schuh with Minister Mangala Samaraweera



French Embassy Cultural Counsellor Michel Treutnaere and State Minister Ruwan Wijewardene



Anjalika, Swarna and Upeka



Jayanthi and Nihara