## Sunday Observer 🔊

## **NIGHT OF THE** SCRIBES

It was a night of the scribes, for the scribes. Having written stories about other people, events and places all year round, it was the time of the year when they get a little space in the newspapers for themselves and their achievements. The Journalism Awards of Excellence organised by the Editors Guild of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Press Institute was held at Mount Lavinia Hotel on Tuesday night. The highlight of the annual event was the presentation of Lifetime Achievements medals and shawls to five veterans in the field who had been dedicated to the cause of journalism. Print journalists including

cartoonists, layout artistes and photographers working for newspapers published in all three languages received recognition for their hard work in 2015. Apart from the winners in most categories, to encourage others merit awards were also presented on the recommendation of the eminent panel of judges drawn from journalism and academia. Three lucky journalists who had won awards in three categories also received return air tickets from SriLankan Airlines. The awards night culminated with the presentation of the Mervyn de Silva Journalist of the Year Award and fellowship thereafter, away from the rush of newsroom deadlines.



B.A. Siriwardena Columnist of the Year (English, Merit), Rasika Jayakody (The Sunday Observer)





Lifetime Achievement awards winners Piyasena Ihalavithana, Neville de Silva (representative), Sarath Malalasekera, Veeragathy Thanabalasingham and Premasiri Abeysinghe.

B.A. Siriwardena Columnist of the Year (English) Padma Edirisinghe. (The Sunday Observer)

## Padma Edirisinghe Columnist of the Year

## By Ryhanna Salie

Veteran author, translator and journalist Padma Edirisinghe won the Excellence in Journalism Award at the 17th Journalism Awards ceremony organised by the Editors'Guild

of Sri Lanka (TEGOSL) and the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) as Columnist of the Year (English) for her column "Musings" published in the Sunday Observer. She was recognised "for her analytical commentary and satirical style.'

Padma began writing as a teenager, and as a schoolgirl she contributed to the youth section of the Daily News in the 1950s. Her university education took priority over journalistic work, and after completing her higher studies she began a professional career as a principal of teachers colleges. However her journalistic



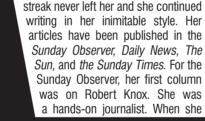
She has written more than 500 articles on historical subjects. She is also the author of several books such as From a Woman's Diary, Memoirs of Three Teachers Colleges, Long Ago Lanka, Truth Hurts, Story of a Slum Child, Those Who Know Nothing, Kuveni's Curse, Child and the Earth, Prince and the Demon, Tale of a City, Time Traveller and The Musings. She has also translated The Wonders of Asia, Dr. Ariyaratne's autobiography, The Changing Face of Colombo by Dr. R.L. Brohier, Clarity Amidst Chaos, K. Jayatilleke's autobiography







Mervyn de Silva Journalist of the Year K. Sanjeewa (Ravaya).



and Mahagedara by Ratnapala Wijesinghe.

Padma won the State Award for Literature in 2007, and the award for Best English Writer in 2015. She is currently compiling the second volume of The Musings which is a collection of her contributions to the Sunday Observer.

Pics: Vipula Amerasinghe and Sulochana Gamage.

Investigative journalist of the Year Namini Wijedasa (The Sunday Times)



Cartoonist of the Year Namal Madushanka Amarasinghe (Tamil Mirror)



Upali Wijewardena Feature Writer of the Year (English) Chandani Kirinde (The Sunday Times)



Photojournalist of the Year Heshan Fernando (Ada)



Subramaniyam Chettiar Social Development Reporter of the Year Sudharma Kumari Herath (IridaLankadeepa)



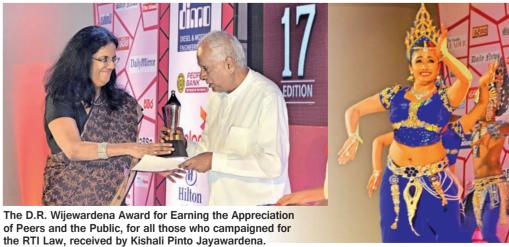
Feature Writer of the Year Sinhala Tharanga Rathnaweera (Irida Divaina)



Best Designed Newspaper of the Year (The Sunday Times).



Denzil Peiris Young Reporter of the Year Piyumi Fonseka (Daily Mirror)









Antony (Virakesari).



Sports Journalist of the Year Asela Withana (Divaina)



Business Journalist of the Year Chandeepa Wettasinghe (Daily Mirror)



Best Environmental Reporter of the Year K.A. Jagath Kumara (Divaina)

