

On the occasion of its 25th independence day will take place at the residence of the ambassador, "Bangladesh House", 24, Escent, Colombo 7 at 10.00 a.m. today.

## President felicitates Bangladesh

President Chandrika Bandaranaike in a message to Bangladesh President Anwar Hossain Biswas said:

"On the happy occasion of the National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the people and the Government of Sri Lanka extend to you and to the people of Bangladesh our warmest greetings and good wishes.

"I sincerely desire that the close and cordial relations between our two countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come."

"I extend, my personal wishes for Your Excellency's personal health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

"I accept, Excellency, the assurances of my devotion."

## Greetings to PM

President Chandrika Bandaranaike in a message to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said:

"On the occasion of the National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, I have great pleasure in extending our sincere greetings and good wishes to you and to the people and Government of Bangladesh."

"The traditionally close and friendly relations between our two countries are a manifestation of long-standing cultural ties. The warm gestures of cooperation in the recent years have helped to strengthen our relationship which I am certain will continue to help our peoples in their aspirations to realise their economic goals.

"I accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal health and happiness, and the assurances of my devotion."

## Good wishes from Kadirgamar

Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in a message to Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. S. M. M. Hossain said:

"I have great pleasure in extending to you my warmest wishes and best wishes on the occasion of the National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh."

"I extend with confidence to the further development of the cordial and friendly relations between our two countries in the coming years."

"I accept, Excellency, the assurances of my devotion."

## Lovi SETHA 28

96.03.25			
Winning Numbers			
25	18	30	57
Prize Structure:			
Direct Rs.	1,640,346.34	--	--
Direct Rs.	10,000	30	--
Direct Rs.	500	1760	--
Direct Rs.	20	36541	--

Commission on the tea trade and industry, said Sri Lanka should increase exports of value-added tea as prices were higher. This would bring more foreign exchange to the country and more profits to exporters and producers.

"Production of value-added teas also helps to create more jobs in the tea packaging, bagging and packaging business," he told Reuters.

Bulk tea prices were lower and also fluctuated, affecting producers badly, he said.

"Prices of consumer products like tea packets, bags, instant tea, and herbal and scented teas fluctuate less than raw material commodities," Kelegama said.

Small Sri Lankan tea exporters found it difficult to break into the consumer products market and compete with established brand names of multinationals who command millions of dollars for advertising campaigns, he said.

"Names like Lipton and Brooke Bond have been household names for generations," he said.

Tea experts said there was growing interest in tea, the market for which is estimated to be around \$3 billion a year, as consumers became more aware of its

health qualities.

Kelegama however said he felt current high prices fetched by Sri Lanka could be temporary unless Russia continued to buy on the same scale as before.

"The general trend is that there is an oversupply of tea in the world market," Kelegama said.

"If we can sell direct to supermarkets that would solve the problem," he said. "Profit margins are very high for blenders and wholesalers in Europe and the United States."

## Tigers ... Contd. from page 1

the exchange will adversely affect residents of the area.

In another incident, a civilian was reported killed on Sunday during a skirmish between the Special Task Force (STF) and Tigers on the Ampara-Batticaloa road.

A group of terrorists had fired at the STF personnel who had effectively retaliated causing the Tigers to flee. One civilian caught in the crossfire was killed. The STF suffered no casualties.

## High standard at All-Island Best Speaker contest '95

A HIGH standard was maintained at the All-Island Best Speaker contest - 1995 (English) for the Bartle Challenge Trophy at Trans-Asia Hotel on Sunday evening.

The contest was presented by the Colombo Toastmasters Club in association with Trans-Asia Hotel and the 'Observer'.

There was a close tussle for the honours with the seven contestants vying closely with one another for the coveted trophy. A significant feature of this year's contest was the keenness

of each competitor to come off well with their delivery of the prepared and impromptu speeches. They all gave the judges a rather hard time to pick the winner and the two runners-up. It was an entertaining evening.

The judges of this year were Dr. Vijaya Corea, Ms. Shariya de Zoysa, Lt. General Denis Perera, Mr. Manzoor Ghouse and Mrs. Bamunusinghe.

Mr. Chris Perera, Director Bartle Group of Companies was the chief guest and gave away the trophy to the

winner Daya Seneviratne while the runners-up Michelle Perera and David Ven Eyck received their awards from Mr. Percy Wickramasekera and Mr. S. Sirikananathan, Director Operations and Legal Consultant and Director Financial Consultant respectively of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd.

Dayan Seneviratne, a Thomian who won the coveted award told the 'Daily News' that this was the second time he was lucky. For it was only a few days ago that at a similar contest at the

Galadhari he was picked Toastmaster of the year and a cassette recording of his speech sent to Masters International, USA.

At last year's best speaker contest Seneviratne was the runner-up. Now I am glad I have made it to the finals," he said.

Seneviratne is a tea planter. He had taken to a planting career when only a teenager. He had the distinction of being the youngest superintendent and visiting agent and the recipient of the most number of commendation awards by the then State Plantations Corporation.

A sportsman, Seneviratne plays cricket and badminton and also takes part in motor racing. He has raced up Mahagastota.

First runner-up Michelle Perera works at TNL Radio and is a past pupil of Holy Family Convent, Bamalapatiya. She who has been interested in elocution and speech and drama - is awaiting entrance to the university this year.

David Van Eyck is distribution manager at International Irrigation Management Institute and is also a part-time news caster on television.



Dayan Seneviratne receiving the Bartle Challenge Trophy from Mr. Chris Perera, a director of Bartle Group of Companies at the conclusion of the All Island Best Speaker Contest 1995 (English) at Trans-Asia Hotel on Sunday. Seneviratne was the winner out of seven contestants. The contest was presented by the Colombo Toastmaster's Club in association with Trans-Asia Hotel and the Observer. (Picture by Roland Perera)

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