

A birthday celebration with a difference



The *Daily News* Birthday cake.

Pictures by
Saman Sri Wedage
and
Sumanachandra
Ariyawansa

It was a poignant moment as the *Daily News* celebrated its 89th year in publication with a simple donation of gift packs to around 50 senior citizens of the Gamini Matha Elders Home in Slave Island, Colombo. Instead of a lavish party, the *Daily News* opted to share the joy with the elders spending the evening of their lives at the Home, with many of them having already passed the 89th milestone. Significantly, the *Daily News* birthday cake was cut by a senior citizen of the Home who was 89 years. The presence of Ranjit Wijewardene, son of the *Daily News* founder D.R. Wijewardene as well as editors and journalists from other English, Sinhala and Tamil newspapers was especially significant. They all gathered there with the noble aim of recognising and rewarding an increasingly marginalised section of society - the elders.



Daily News Internet Editor Damith de Silva and VDT Typesetting operator Chandima Wijerathne escorts a senior citizen.



Some of the elders at the Gamini Matha Elders Home.



Journalist Anjana Samarasinghe hands over a gift pack.



Bertram de Silva, a former journalist now domiciled at the Home, reads the *Daily News*.



Two elders talk to Razeena Razick, the youngest member of the *Daily News* staff



Daily News Foreign News Editor Rohana Ariyaratne and Editor's Secretary Champa Perera in conversation with Director of the Sri Lanka College of Journalism Arjuna Ranawana, a former editor of the *Daily News*.



Deputy Editor E. Weerapperuma and journalists Rajmi Manatunga, Lasantha Abeywardane and Anjalie Garnier in conversation with a senior citizen.



Deputy News Editor Manjula Fernando greets Wijeya Group of Newspapers Chairman Ranjit Wijewardene as *Daily News* Editor Bandula Jayasekara looks on.



Two elders.



Deputy Editor Gary Garnier and staffer Pramodaka Fernando with a senior citizen.



Two elders with their gift packs