

Slain candidate's widow takes over. (1994, October 26). *The Ottawa citizen.*

A8 The Ottawa Citizen, Wednesday, October 26, 1994

## WORLD

### SRI LANKA

# Slain candidate's widow takes over

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The widow of Sri Lanka's top opposition leader was named Tuesday to replace her husband as a candidate for president, two days after he died in a bombing.

Two more people died of injuries Tuesday, raising to 54 the number killed in the bombing Sunday.

The discovery of pieces of a cyanide capsule at the bomb scene cast more suspicion on Tamil Tiger rebels. The rebels, who often wear cyanide capsules around their necks to prevent being captured alive, have denied responsibility

for the bombing.

Investigators say the bombing was a suicide attack. The severed head of a woman who may have been the assassin was found 30 metres from the platform where Gamini Dissanayake had just addressed the crowd. Dissanayake was the main opposition candidate for Nov. 9 presidential elections. His widow was chosen by his United National party to replace him.

Srima Dissanayake has little experience in politics. But she may pose a tough challenge to the governing party — whose presidential

candidate is Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Kumaratunga's government opened peace talks with the rebels earlier this month but suspended them after the bombing. A state funeral for Dissanayake is planned for Saturday. On Tuesday, thousands of mourners stood in line to file past his body.

Kumaratunga's People's Alliance ousted Dissanayake's party from the government in parliamentary elections in August, ending the United National party's 17 years in power.

