

KILLED IN 'SHOOTOUT' 2 identified as students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two youths, who were killed in a "shootout between them and Rab" near Manik Mia Avenue in the capital early yesterday, were students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute.

Mohammad Zinnah Ali was a 6th semester student of mechanical engineering and a resident of Zahir Raihan Dormitory while Mohsin Sheikh was a final semester student of electrical engineering.

Students of the institution yesterday termed the killing a "planned killing by law enforcers" and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits after an impartial investigation. They made their demand before the principal of the institution.

Students and teachers of the institute said Zinnah and Mohsin were members of Bangladesh Chhatra League but they neither had any crimi-

nal records nor were they involved in any unethical activities.

Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station sources said they found no cases or general diaries filed with the police station against them.

Mohammad Shamsul Alam, principal of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, told The Daily Star that four factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League are active in the institution and they clash often over establishing supremacy on campus.

Many cases have been filed against Chhatra League activists by their rivals but these two were not accused in any of those cases, he added.

Mohammad Aminur Rahman, roommate of Zinnah, said Zinnah joined politics only to have a seat in the dormitory. He was a brilliant student, he added.

Zinnah around 9:30pm Wednesday night went out of his dormitory room to have

dinner, Aminur said, adding that the next morning he watched his body on television news.

Campus sources said Mohsin used to stay in a room of Latif Hall.

Police said the bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said the bodies had several bullets in the throat and chest.

According to a press release of Rab-2, Rab personnel, who set up a check-post near Manik Mia Avenue, challenged the two students but the "two tried to run away shooting at Rab personnel around 12:30am".

The Rab personnel returned fire that led to a gun battle, the press release says, adding that Rab found the bodies after the five- to seven-minute firefight.

They claimed they recovered two seized and four bullets from the spot.