

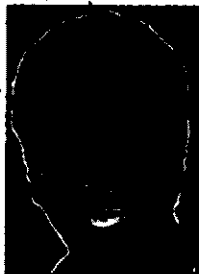
BCL leader shot dead at RU dormitory

Criminals enter his room, shoot him point blank

ANWAR ALI and MA SAYEED

A Chhatra League leader was shot dead inside his dorm room in Rajshahi University yesterday afternoon.

Rustom Ali Akanda, 22, a resident of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall, was the hall unit joint secretary of Chhatra League and a fourth-year student of political science department of the university.



Rustom Ali Akanda

RU Chhatra League called an indefinite strike on the campus protesting the killing.

RU Chhatra League publicity secretary Abdullah Al Galib, whose room is close to Rustom's room-230, said he and Chhatra League activist Selim Hossain, a second-year student of history, were in Rustom's room

for quite some time yesterday.

Galib said he had left the room and according to Selim, Rustom had sent Selim out to recharge his phone with credit. Galib said when Selim returned he found Rustom in a pool of blood and he called Galib in over the phone for help.

Selim could not be reached for comments.

Students of the dorm said they heard a gunshot and found Rustom smeared in blood in his room around 1:30pm and Galib and Selim were there.

Some Chhatra League leaders took Rustom to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and he was declared dead at 2:00pm.

Debasis Biswas, the on-duty doctor at the

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hospital, told The Daily Star that the bullet entered Rustom's left side of the chest and exited through his shoulder.

A number of Chhatra League leaders seeking anonymity told The Daily Star that the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall unit of Chhatra League was supposed to hold a council to form a new committee on April 10. Rustom was a president candidate.

They said other factions of the Chhatra League unit, collaborating with Shibir cadres, could have had Rustom killed.

RU Chhatra League unit brought out a protest procession on campus demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

Later at a rally, Chhatra League RU president Mizanur Rahman and General Secretary Tawhid-Al-Hossain Tuhin blamed Shibir cadres for the killing and said Shibir men had been threatening Rustom for a few days.

Condemning the killing of Rustom, organising secretary Shyeb Shahriar of RU Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student body, denied the allegations.

He said internal feud of RU Chhatra League might have got Rustom killed.

RU Proctor Prof Tarikul Hasan said they had directed the law enforcers to arrest the killers immediately and Proloy Chisim, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that police were investigating the murder.

Meanwhile, Chhatra League central, the pro-Awami League student body, yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum for the law enforcers to arrest the killers of Rustom.

In Sadullapur of Gaibandha, hundreds of Chhatra League activists brought out a procession demanding arrest and capital punishment of Rustom's killers.

Rustom hailed from Chawk Narayan village of Sadullapur in Gaibandha.