

25 injured as students clash with police at Ashulia

Staff Correspondent

AT LEAST 25 people, mostly medical students, were injured in a clash between students of a private medical college hospital and the police at Gorat in Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, early Tuesday.

Police said the clash erupted when they went to rescue the confined managing director of Nightingale Medical College and Hospital Md. Humayun Zaman Choudhury around 4:00am.

The students kept him confined to a room of the medical college over a ban

on academic activities of the medical college.

Witnesses said several hundred students of the medical college kept Humayun Zaman confined since Sunday night, hours after government's declaration banning academic activities of the medical college among three.

As the students protested and barricaded the police, police charged the students with batons leaving 20 injured.

Officer-in-charge (investigation) of Ashulia police station Akbor Ali Khan said the students also pelted police with stones leaving five

policemen injured including a female constable.

On Sunday, health and family welfare minister Mohammed Nasim ordered suspension of academic activities of three medical colleges for violating rules.

The colleges are Northern Private Medical College in Rangpur, City Medical College in Gazipur, and Nightingale Medical College at Ashulia in Dhaka.

Students of NMCH said at least 600 students of home and abroad have been studying in the medical college.

If the college was closed, the authorities would be re-

sponsible for that, not the students, they said.

But the students would be the ultimate victims of the incident, they apprehended.

New Age tried to contact the medical college authorities but no official received phone call.

An official of the medical college, on condition of anonymity, said the authorities of the medical college could not fulfill some requirements set by the health ministry.

The medical college has approval for admitting 50 students, but they took 75-85 in each academic year, he said.