

Students-employees clash at Pangu hospital, 30 hurt

Students clashed with employees in the capital's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) on Thursday, leaving some 30 people from both sides injured, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Police detained 10 students and one teacher from the scene on charges of taking part in the violence at the medical facility, which is popularly known as Pangu hospital.

The two groups traded blames on each other to begin the violence.

Students of the physiotherapy department had long been demanding establishment of a separate college for physiotherapy

students and recognised them as doctors.

The students said Director of NITOR Dr MA Ishaq asked them to come up with an application detailing their demands in the morning. The students then went to the conference room of the hospital at about 10:00 am to take necessary preparations for that.

"Suddenly, the 3rd and 4th class employees of the hospital locked the collapsible gate and started beating us indiscriminately inside the conference room," said a female student of the physiotherapy department.

She claimed at least 30 students were injured in the attacks by the employees. She blamed the hos-

pital director for provoking the employees against the students to suppress their demands.

She said the director allegedly wanted to build a dormitory for orthopedic students on the spot, which is basically earmarked for establishing the Physiotherapy College inside the hospital.

"The government allocated Tk 30 crore for Physiotherapy College in the current fiscal year. But the director is trying to siphon off a portion of the amount, using his influential accomplices," she alleged.

Meanwhile, some employees rejected the statement by the stu-

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Students

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dents. They alleged the students first started beating some doctors indiscriminately after locking the collapsible gate from outside in the morning.

They said they interfered after some doctors sought their help to protect themselves from the students' wraths. A ward boy said excesses by the students triggered the clash at around 11:00 am.

The ward boy pointed his finger at Humayun Kabir, a teacher of the physiotherapy department, for backing the students.

Officer-In-Charge of Tejgaon police station Lutfar Rahman said they saw the physiotherapy students were vandalizing the hospital equipment and confined its director to his room.

The employees then rescued the director.

"We have detained 10 students and physiotherapy teacher Humayun Kabir from the scene," he said.

Later, the physiotherapy students at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) condemned the attacks on them and demanded establishment of a separate physiotherapy college, which had already been approved by the Health Ministry.

They also demanded unconditional release of the students and teacher Humayun Kabir.