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## Clashes in HSC exam centre

## Student killed in police firing

COMILLA, May 17:—A student was killed in police firing during the HSC examination at a centre of Barura thana in the district today, triggering a violent public protest, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, angry protesters went on rampage, clashed with police and smashed vehicles, leaving at least 30 people injured after the death of Ohidur Rahman, 21.

Ohidur, son of Moulana Ali Azam of Shinguria village in Barura thana, was hit by a bullet in his head and died on the spot at the Payelgacha Postgraduate College centre at about 12:30 p.m.

Another source, however, said the victim, who appeared at last year's BA examination, died at Comilla Medical College Hospital.

They said Ohidur went to the HSC examination centre, about 25 kilometre southwest of Comilla town, as guardian of his younger sister. He reportedly exchanged hot words with a police constable on a trifling incident.

At one stage, the sources said, the police constable became angry and suddenly opened fire when the bullet hit Ohid.

Officials, however, said police opened fire when a group of people started proceeding towards the examination halls violating the examination rule half an hour before the exam was over.

UNB Comilla correspondent said the bullet-struck student was taken to Comilla-Sadar Hospital after about one hour. Then he was shifted to

Comilla Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

After the shooting, students and local people who were present at the examination centre confined all the on-duty police personnel.

The examination over, angry protesters went on massive violence, damaging furniture and fixture of the

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## Student killed

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college.

Local people along with students also set ablaze a motorbike of Thana Agriculture Officer and damaged the vehicle of Barura TNO Sarder Abir.

Getting the news, Additional Police Super and other high officials along with paramilitary BDR and additional forces rushed to the spot at about 5 p.m.

But the outrage continued, and witnesses said thousands of people gheraoed all the officials, college principal, some 60 security personnel and other concerned. The siege continued till 7 p.m.

At one stage in the evening, police lobbed tear-gas shells and resorted to lathi charge to disperse the mob. But they failed to free themselves from the confinement. At least 30 people were injured in the police action and retribution.

The students and angry people protesting the killing barricaded the Comilla-Chandpur road at a number of places.

Tension mounted in the entire Barura thana and its adjoining areas.