STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said many clues relating to the August 21 grenade attack were revealed during the investigation.

"The probe has unearthed the conspiracy behind the attack," he said, adding that the trial court concerned may deliver its verdict in September, as placing arguments in connection with the case is now at the final stage.

The law minister was speaking as the chief guest at a programme organised by "August 21 Bangladesh", an organisation for victims of August 21 grenade attack, at Jatiya Press Club

in the capital. The discussion was organised demanding speedy trial of those involved in the August 21 carnage and also repatriation of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and exe-

cution of the punishments. With Dhaka University's former Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair, the law minister said, once the court delivers its verdict, all will get to know the real culprits of the grenade attack.

The court so far recorded testimonies from 225 SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Animal waste : to be removed: with in 24hrs

Says DSCC mayor UNB, Dhaka

The animal waste accumulated on the Eid day will be removed from the capital within 24 hours, said Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday.

He said this while talking to reporters after a meeting with the waste management committee members at

Dhaka South Nagar Bhaban. The mayor also called uponcity dwellers to sacrifice animals at designated spots under DSCC. Some two lakh waste bags will also be distributed among city dwellers under DSCC,

Besides, a hotline --0961100099 -- will be

he said.

Prices of sacrificial animals high, say buyers

Traders trying to make up for last year's loss

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

People of Dhaka city started purchasing their sacrificial animals yesterday. Markets, however, have not reached their peaks yet due to prices being high. Traders of cattle markets

blamed last year's loss and increased cost of fodder for the high price of the cattle this year.

They are expecting good profits which would cover up last year's loss.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the high prices, many customers said that traders are charging Tk 10,000-30,000 higher for mid-size bulls compared to last year.

"I have purchased a bull for Tk 75,000. A similar sized bull cost Tk 52,000 last year," said Nazmul Hasan, a resident of Kazipara, who was at Kachukhet cattle



With Eid-ul-Azha around the corner, thousands of cattle are arriving in Dhaka. Above, A boatful near Postogola bridge. Top-right, At Amin Bazar, one of the main entry points, truckloads are headed towards Dhaka. As the temperature soars, many traders at Babu Bazar cattle market take their animals to the nearby Buriganga river and let them

year," said Mosharraf Hossain, a trader from Horina Kundo of Jhenaidah, who brought 31 bulls to Dhupkhola cattle market.

Justifying the higher prices this year, Rashid Bepari, a cattle trader from Pabna, said that on an average he had to spend Tk 120 per day for fodder last year, but this year the expenditure has gone up to Tk 200 per day. The price of a bundle of hay

which was Tk 70 last year is now Tk 150, and the price chickpea, which was Tk 70-75 per kilogram is now Tk 85, said Hamidul Islam, a trader from Sirajganj who brought 19 bulls at the cattle market near Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground.

However, government statistics show that the local supply will meet the demands for sacrificial animals this year.

According to Department of Livestock (DLS), the country including 44.57 lakh bulls cattle were brought from neighbouring ing to



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1: cool off. The photos were taken yesterday.





data provided by National Board of Revenue. Traders last month brought 63,000 animals from neighbouring countries.

ABM Khaleduzzaman, assistant director of DLS, said that about 1.10 crore cattle would be sacrificed during this Eid-ul-Azha. Last year the number was 1.04 crore.

Abul Hashem, manager of Gabtoli cattle market, said that a good number of sacrificial animals have arrived at the market but the turnout of customers was still

He hoped that the number of customers will increase today and tomorrow.

EXCESSIVE HEAT

Many bulls at different cattle markets were unwell from their long and arduous journeys in the harsh

Taiful Islam, a cattle trader from Kushtia, said that he brought 30 animals to Gabtoli few days back; one of them died due to the excessive heat and five more fell ill.

"I have incurred a loss of Tk 45,000 but I am still hopeful as the prices of sacrificial animals are high at the moment," he said.

Taiful said that he had already around Tk 25,000 profit.

A bull, half of which is covered with

MALINGA BULL

curly hair, was brought to Dhupkhola cattle market -- drawing attention of customers. The name of the breed is

A farm in Keraniganj raised the bull for three years. It was brought from Chennai, India, said Md Faruk, one of the owners of the

He said that the asking price of the bull is Tk 6.20 lakh, and they have already received a Tk 3.80 lakh offer.

CATTLE MARKETS ON STREETS

This year two city corporations have given permission to run 24 makeshift cattle markets. DSCC gave permission for 15 while DNCC is allowing nine.

But most of the cattle markets have been occupying parts of roads which is hampering vehicular movement.

During a visit to the cattle markets, including the adjoining open space of Sadeque Hossain Khoka playground, open space at the eastern side of Kamalapur Stadium, and open space at Gopibagh it was found that most sold three mid-size bulls and made of the roads were occupied by sacrificial animals.

There would be no slums in the capital: PM

BSS, Dhaka

The existing slums in the capital would be replaced by multi-storied buildings to allow the inhabitants to live in a healthy and better condition, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday. She made the announcement while laying the founda-

tion of Dasherkandi Sewerage Treatment Plant in a programme at Sonargaon hotel in the capital.

"There would be no slums in the city; rather, 20-storied buildings would be constructed for slum dwellers where they would live by paying rent on daily, weekly or monthly basis," she said.

"Poor people come to cities for many reasons and live in shanties... we need them every day in our daily work. So, they need a better atmosphere to live," she said. Hasina said slum residents will be able to live in flats in

exchange for the same amount they now pay for living in slums. "Benefit of the country's economic progress would not

only go to the well-off; poor people should also get the benefit of development," she said. The multi-storied housing facilities would be extended

to Dhaka's suburban areas to reduce pressure on the capital, she said. The Dasherkandi Sewerage Treatment Plant is being con-

structed at a cost of about Tk 332 crore with Chinese government's support as part of Dhaka Wasa's master plan to bring the city under pipeline sewerage system by 2025. Four more sewage treatment plants will be constructed in Dhaka city to put in place a sustainable and environment-

friendly water management and sewage system under the

master plan. Two of the sewerage plants would be constructed at Pagla and Uttara with World Bank's support and two others at Rayerbazar and Mirpur with assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB). She said the Dasherkandi Sewerage Plant would help

giving modern sewerage services to about five million people living in Hatirjeel, Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Basundhara, Sangsad Bhaban and adjacent areas.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Calls grow louder for release of arrested students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of female professionals yesterday demanded immediate release of female students who were detained for demanding road safety and reformation in the quota system.

Signatories of a written statement condemned the attack on and arrest of the female students, and expressed concern over violence and harassment against them.

Twenty-nine female professionals issued the statement, including human rights activists Alena Khan, social worker Shirin Azizi, author Farida Akter, singer Anusheh Anadil, women's right activist Sayda Akter and professor Dr Naila Zaman Khan.

In another statement earlier in the day, the Supreme Court Bar Association also demanded of the government to immediately release students who were detained for demanding road safety and reformation in the quota system in civil service and to withdraw cases filed against them, so that they can celebrate Eid-Ul-Azha with their families.

A total of 42 students arrested in connection with the quota reform and road safety movements were granted bail yesterday. However, none of those granted bail yesterday were female students.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

