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Launches lying idle at the Sadarghat terminal yesterday afternoon. A lack of passengers due to the ongoing nationwide blockade has left the vessels anchored for the past couple of days. Read more about the blockade on Page 16.

## Hold dialogue without any conditions

US writes to 3 major political parties

STAR REPORT

US Assistant Secretary Donald Lu has written to the Awami League, BNP, and Jatiya Party, urging them to engage in talks without any conditions to unlock the political stalemate.

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader disclosed this after a meeting yesterday with US Ambassador Peter Haas at the JP chairman's office in Banani where the diplomat handed over the letter of the US assistant secretary at the Bureau of South and

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## SPORT

Following Bangladesh's disastrous World Cup campaign, The Daily Star Sports took a deep dive to dissect from different angles the maladies that plagued the recent campaign and are eating away at the sport in general.

ARTICLES ON PAGE 14, 15

## Probe rights abuses, protect civil rights

UN member states urge Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations member states yesterday urged Bangladesh to investigate rights violations by law enforcers, protect civil rights and ensure free and fair trials.

The recommendations were made when the UN's Human Rights Council in Geneva reviewed Bangladesh's human rights situation as part of its four-yearly Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

A delegation from Bangladesh, comprising high officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, law, and Chattogram Hill Tracts affairs and led by Law Minister Anisul Huq, is currently in Geneva.

As part of the recommendations, the US urged Bangladesh to ensure free and fair trials.

"We urge the government to restore transparent and democratic processes, and ensure a safe space for dissenting voices. We recommend that Bangladesh protect the ability of the citizens of Bangladesh to vote and choose their government in a peaceful manner," said the USA representative at the UPR.

He also asked the government to ensure that journalists, and human and labour rights defenders are not prosecuted for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

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