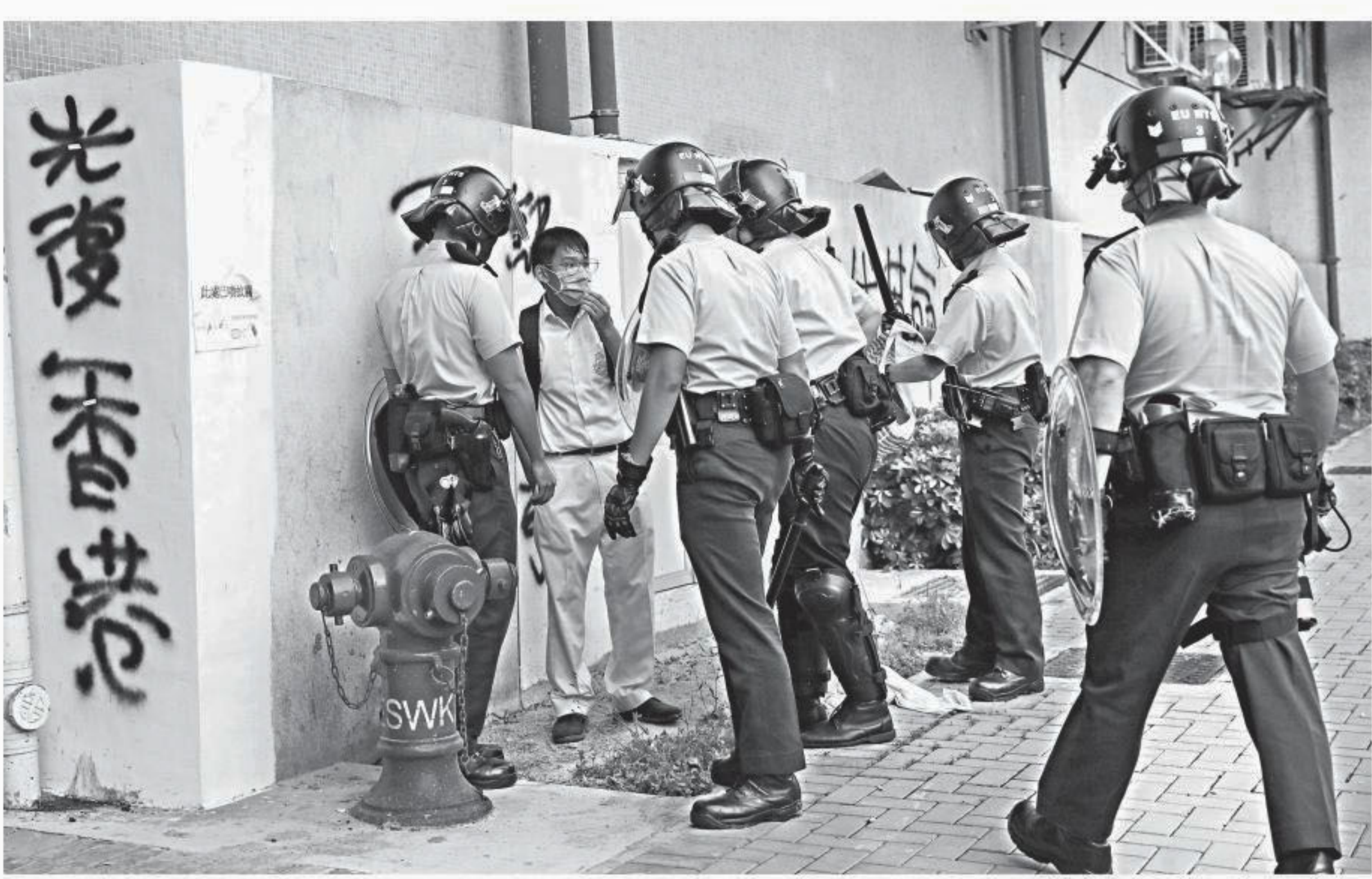


# Risky trips

FROM PAGE 16  
 said, "The channel is so narrow that we don't dare overtaking another vessel. There is a high risk of fatal accidents."  
 Almost all the vessels have modern equipment such as radar and sonar panel but no vessel has the technology to detect hidden islands, he added.  
 Talking to other vessel operators, The Daily Star learned that BIWTA conducts dredging operations in the area but drops the sand near the dredging point. As a result, the sand returns to its previous positions with strong current, raising the hidden islands again.  
 Contacted, BIWTA Executive Engineer (dredging) Md Sultan said Miar Char channel was about 250 feet wide before it was dredged in February. After the dredging the channel became 410 feet wide.  
 "The hidden islands were dredged. We will dredge again if necessary," said Abdul Matin, chief engineer (dredging) of BIWTA.  
 Asked whether they dumped sand near dredging point, he said they had a capacity of carrying sand only two-kilometre away from the dredging point.  
 "Before dredging, an engineer decided where the sand would be dumped," he said, adding that there was no permanent solution to the issue and they had to conduct at least one dredging per year.  
 According to a survey, conducted by BIWTA in August, the average depth of Miar Char channel was between two and three meters, which may drop to less than one meter in November. A large size launch needs at least two meters' depth to ply.  
 Md Shajahan, director (conservancy and pilotage) of BIWTA, said they had set up sufficient number of buoy lamps near the hidden islands to warn captains.  
 "To enforce the ban on illegal vessel movement at night, coastguards and naval police will keep watch," he added.  
 Md Rafiqul Islam, deputy director of BIWTA Barishal, said they already asked launches to use Kaliganj route instead of Miar Char channel but the vessel operators did not comply with them as the route takes half an hour more than usual.



**A masked student is seen surrounded by riot police as he walks around Po Leung Kuk Yao Ling Sun College, where students protest against the punishment of those students who fight to protect the Lennon walls, one of the symbols of anti-government protest, in Hong Kong yesterday.**  
 PHOTO: REUTERS

# Open-air museum planned at ruins

FROM PAGE 16  
 "But primarily, we are relying on books by eminent historians of Sylhet," he added.  
 "According to some historians, the structures in the area were built in the middle age. Since no inscriptions or coins of any historical period has been found so far at the site, the age of the ruins cannot be confirmed," Ataur explained.  
 However, based on the architectural designs of the ruins excavated so far, the archaeologist team believes that the relics were built in 1500-1600AD, he said.  
 Ataur also said further excavation is scheduled to start next month.  
 According to "Shrihatter Itibritto", written by Achyut Charan Choudhury in 1920, Laur was part of the ancient Kamrup kingdom. As mentioned in epic Mahabharata, King Bhagadatta and his 19 descendants ruled the land for centuries in Puranic times.  
 Mentioning other versions about the history of the region, Achyut wrote that Laur kingdom was founded

by a person named Keshab Misra of Kanouj, who came here in 10th or 11th century, and later another king named Bijoy Manikya ruled the area.  
 According to other popular beliefs, the word Laur comes from Rarh implying that the ancient kingdom was set up by some people who were ousted by Muslim invaders from the ancient Rarh kingdom, now the present-day West Bengal of India.  
 The most recent history, mentioned by Achyut, refers to 16th century, when the kingdom came under Mughal rule during the reign of Gobinda Singh, who later took the name Habib Kha, and his descendant Umed Raja built a Haori or Rajbari here.  
 Abdul Hye Al-Hadi, anthropologist and coordinator of Save the Heritage and Environment, said, "The history of greater Sylhet is still based on the writings of historians, but to prove their claim archaeological research is a must."  
 He cited the East Pakistan District Gazetteers published in 1970, which

mentioned that an exiled queen from the ancient Kamrup kingdom, now the Indian state of Assam, had established a new kingdom in Sylhet.  
 One of her descendants, later divided the kingdom among his three sons Luddok, Gurak and Jayantak, who named their kingdoms as Laur, Gour and Jaintia, respectively.  
 Meanwhile, in fear of eviction locals of Halhalia and Brahmanaog village have been protesting and obstructing excavation, since it began last year.  
 According to officials of upazila administration and archaeology department, Laurer Garh is on khas (government-owned) land and people started living in the ruins and turning it into a village after the 1971 Liberation War.  
 Contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj Abdul Ahad said, "People, who have settled on the khas land, will not be evicted or relocated for the time being. Rather they will be employed in the development of archaeotourism in this area."

# EU urged to share refugees

AFP, LUXEMBOURG  
 A nucleus of four EU countries was yesterday trying to coax more reluctant member states to take a share of rescued asylum-seekers, a day after another Mediterranean migrant boat tragedy.  
 Germany, France, Italy and Malta were seeking support from colleagues in an EU interior ministers' meeting in Luxembourg for an agreement they worked out September 23 in Malta meant to serve as a six-month, stop-gap plan pending a long-delayed reform of the EU's asylum policy.  
 The meeting came after a boat packed with around 50 migrants capsized Monday off Italy's island of Lampedusa, resulting in the drowning deaths of at least 13 women, some of

them pregnant.  
 The aim of the so-called Malta declaration is to avoid such tragedies in the future, and to find a solution for NGO rescue ships filled with migrants often being refused entry to EU waters for weeks.  
 "Listen to me, we cannot continue like this, with what is happening in the Mediterranean," the EU commissioner for migration, Dimitris Avramopoulos, said as he arrived for the meeting in Luxembourg.  
 He added, however: "We cannot try to find only ad hoc solutions, we need a permanent mechanism."  
 The temporary agreement wants to ease the burden of first-call countries such as Italy and Malta which currently are required to host the migrants arriving by sea while their asylum cases are looked at.

# Loan defaulter

FROM PAGE 16  
 190 crore from BCBL's Dilkusha branch.  
 Meanwhile, Crime Investigation Department (CID) conducted an investigation where it found Shahjahan's involvement in a money laundering case.  
 The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) also found evidence of his involvement in the export scam.  
 The central bank usually takes report from BFIU to check whether the awardees for remittance award have any record of money laundering. Interestingly, the intelligence agency gave clearance to the central bank for awarding Shahjahan with this year's remittance award.  
 BFIU did not performed its role in verifying Shahjahan's previous financial record, which gave him a chance to be awarded, said two Bangladesh Bank officials seeking anonymity.  
 Janata Bank was also responsible for the selection process as it had sent the name of Shahjahan to the central

bank as one of its top remitters.  
 Md Serajul Islam, spokesperson and an executive director of the central bank, did not respond to a request for comment.  
 The central bank should have verified the nominated persons and institutions before announcing the awards, said Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor of the central bank.  
 Such steps of the central bank turn the significance of the awards valueless, he added.

# RMG worker

FROM PAGE 16  
 driver's help, whose identity is yet to be known, Jahangir tied the woman's hands and mouth with towels, the police official said.  
 The victim was taken to the house of one Halim Mia, who was not at home at that time, in Taltola area and the accused raped her, the police official added.  
 When Halim returned home yesterday morning, he found the victim.  
 Halim then informed police of the matter. Police rushed to the spot and sent the victim to Narayanganj General Hospital.  
 During primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted their involvement in the rape, said Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station.

# Thai activist charged over royal history post

AFP, Bangkok  
 A Thai pro-democracy activist has been charged over an "inappropriate" social media post, police said yesterday, as authorities use a tough cyberlaw against perceived critics of the powerful monarchy.  
 Police arrested 25-year-old Kan Pongprapan late Monday and charged him with violating the Computer Crimes Act after a Facebook post touching on the turbulent lives of world-famous royal families.  
 The charge carries up to five years in jail.  
 Kan, who was later released on bail, did not mention Thailand's ultra-wealthy monarchy, which is shielded from criticism by one of the harshest royal defamation laws in the world.  
 The law heavily restricts reporting on cases involving the monarchy inside a country where all media must self-censor when discussing the unassailable institution.

# 20 new moons

FROM PAGE 16  
 small moons around the giant planets," Sheppard said. "They play a crucial role in helping us determine how our Solar System's planets formed and evolved."  
 Two of the moons with a pro-grade orbit, or one moving in the same direction as the planet, complete a single orbit of Saturn every two years. They are closer to the planet than some of the other newly discovered moons. Other prograde and distant retrograde moons complete a single orbit every three years.  
 "Studying the orbits of these moons can reveal their origins, as well as information about the conditions surrounding Saturn at the time of its formation," Sheppard said.  
 These outer moons fall into three categories, based on the angle of their orbit. The outermost group, which includes two of the pro-grade moons, has an orbit angled at 46 degrees and are named after Inuit mythology. The researchers believe all of these moons may have once been part of a larger moon that broke apart.  
 The retrograde moons were also likely part of a larger body, and their name are derived from Norse mythology.  
 One of the prograde moons has an angle of 36 degrees, similar to the other prograde moons close to Saturn named for Gallic mythology. But the newly discovered moon is farther out than the others. It may be part of the inner moon family or its orbit was affected, pushing it further out.  
 "This kind of grouping of outer moons is also seen around Jupiter, indicating violent collisions occurred between moons in the Saturnian system or with outside objects such as passing asteroids or comets," Sheppard said.

# Trio wins Nobel Physics Prize

FROM PAGE 16  
 shoot outwards into space.  
 Using theoretical tools and calculations, he drew a link between the temperature of the radiation emitted after the Big Bang and the amount of matter it created.  
 'REVOLUTION IN ASTRONOMY'  
 His work showed that the matter known to us -- such as stars, planets, and ourselves -- only make up five percent, while the other 95 are made up of "unknown dark matter and dark energy."  
 "This is a mystery and a challenge to modern physics," the academy said.  
 Peebles is Albert Einstein Professor of Science at Princeton University in the United States, while Mayor and Queloz are both professors at the University of Geneva. Queloz also works at the University of Cambridge in Britain.  
 Using custom-made instruments at their observatory in southern France in October 1995, Mayor and Queloz were able to detect a gaseous ball similar in size to Jupiter, orbiting a star around 50 light years from our own Sun.  
 Harnessing a phenomenon known as the Doppler effect, which changes

the colour of light depending on whether an object is approaching or retreating from Earth, the pair proved the planet, known as 51 Pegasus b, was orbiting its star.  
 The Nobel jury noted that the discovery "started a revolution in astronomy" and since then over 4,000 exoplanets have been found in our home galaxy.  
 'SIMPLY EXTRAORDINARY'  
 "Strange new worlds are still being discovered," challenging our preconceived ideas about planetary systems and "forcing scientists to revise their theories of the physical processes behind the origins of planets."  
 In a statement, the two astronomers hailed their win as "simply extraordinary", saying the discovery was "the most exciting of our careers".  
 The prize consists of a gold medal, a diploma and the sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about \$914,000 or 833,000 euros).  
 The trio will receive the prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament.

In 2018, the honour went to Arthur Ashkin of the US, Gerard Mourou of France and Donna Strickland of the US for laser inventions used for advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and in industry.  
 This year's Nobel prize season kicked off on Monday with the Medicine Prize awarded to Americans William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza, and Britain's Peter Ratcliffe.  
 They were honoured for research into how human cells sense and adapt to changing oxygen levels, which opens up new strategies to fight such diseases as cancer and anaemia.  
 The winners of this year's Chemistry Prize will be announced today.  
 The Literature Prize will follow on Thursday, with two laureates to be crowned after a sexual harassment scandal forced the Swedish Academy to postpone the 2018 award, for the first time in 70 years.  
 On Friday the action moves to Norway where the Peace Prize is awarded, with bookies predicting a win for Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg on betting sites such as Ladbrokes.  
 The Economics Prize will wrap up the Nobel prize season on Monday, October 14.

# Experts see

FROM PAGE 16  
 was confusion whether it was to draw 1.82 cusec of water or more.  
 "If they withdraw 1.82 cusec of water, it will not have much impact downstream. But, if they withdraw 1.82 cumecc instead, it will be a disaster for us because 1.82 cumecc is 35 times higher than 1.82 cusec. So, the government should make it clear about the signed MoU," said M Inamul Haque, Chairman, Institute of Water & Environment.  
 According to the joint statement of Hasina's official visit to India, it is mentioned that 1.82 cusec of water will be withdrawn. A copy of the MoU, however, is yet to be made available on public domains.  
 In regards to monitoring, JRC member Anwar said, "Now India will invite Bangladesh to oversee the withdrawal activities jointly with them. They will set up water pumps to withdraw the water, while officials of Bangladesh and India will jointly monitor the activities," he said.  
 "The officials will monitor some issues like whether the withdrawal activities cause any harm to the river, so it does not cause any erosion on the river bank," he said.

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# UN rights chief urges Australia to overhaul detention policies

AFP, Sydney  
 The UN's top rights official yesterday urged Australia to reform its criminal and refugee detention systems, just days after the country's prime minister took a veiled swipe at the international body.  
 Speaking in Sydney, United Nations Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet said she had been "shocked" to learn that the country's age of criminal responsibility was just 10 years old, calling on Australia to raise the age to the "internationally accepted level" of 14 years.  
 The policy disproportionately affects indigenous children, who make up 70 percent of those aged under 14 held in Australian jails.

# US adds 28 China firms to blacklist

FROM PAGE 16  
 John Sullivan decrying "China's rights issues" as claimed by the United States," said foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang yesterday.  
 "These accusations are nothing more than an excuse for the United States to deliberately interfere in China's internal affairs."  
 The ban comes amid heightened tensions between the US and China, particularly over trade policy and Beijing's actions in the western Xinjiang region.  
 The world's two biggest economies are in the midst of a trade war, having exchanged punitive tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars in bilateral trade.  
 On Monday, the White House announced that talks between the two countries were set to resume on Thursday, with Beijing's top trade envoy Liu He due to meet US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.  
 The US has meanwhile stepped up its rhetoric against Beijing over its policies in Xinjiang.  
 Rights groups say China has detained around one million Uighurs and other Muslims in re-education camps in the region -- actions that Washington has said are reminiscent of Nazi Germany.  
 During last month's United Nations General Assembly, the State Department organised an event to highlight the plight of the Uighurs, with the US's second-highest diplomat

to re-examine based on the principle of fairness, justice and non-discrimination, and remove Hikvision from the entity list," it said in its response to the listing.  
 Artificial intelligence firm Megvii, which is backed by e-commerce giant Alibaba, said in a statement it "strongly" protests against the decision, which it said "reflects a misunderstanding of our company."  
 The company said its technology had "a positive impact on society."  
 Megvii said only one percent of its revenue in 2018 was from projects in Xinjiang, while no revenue at all was generated from Xinjiang in the first six months of 2019.  
 AI company SenseTime said it was "deeply disappointed" and would "work closely with all relevant authorities to fully understand and resolve the situation."  
 The blacklisting of the companies follows Washington's earlier move to stop technology giant Huawei and other Chinese firms from obtaining government contracts.  
 Hikvision was also included in that ban, which will preclude any US federal agency from purchasing telecom or technology equipment from the firms and comes amid concern that Huawei is linked to Chinese intelligence.  
 The US fears that systems built by Huawei could be used by Beijing for espionage via secret "backdoors" built into telecom networking equipment.  
 "We" call on the US government

to re-examine based on the principle of fairness, justice and non-discrimination, and remove Hikvision from the entity list," it said in its response to the listing.  
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 "We" call on the US government

# Hindus say goodbye

FROM PAGE 1  
 on both days indicates the fate of the days to come.  
 This year, Durga chose horse for both her arrival and departure. According to Hindu mythology, journey by horse signifies social and political unrest and natural calamities.  
 Durga Puja, which began on Friday, was celebrated at 31,398 permanent and temporary puja mandaps across the country this year.  
 Devotees recited mantras and offered pushpanjali (flowers) to the Goddess Durga and prayed for her blessings on the last day of Durga Puja. Families visited each other to share sweetmeats during the Dashami

festivity.  
 In the capital, thousands of men, women and children joined the traditional idols immersion procession. It ended at Waizghat after parading through different city streets. In the evening, the idols were immersed in the Buriganga and Turag rivers amid sadness and tears.  
 Yesterday was a public holiday. On the occasion, President Abdul Hamid hosted a reception for the Hindus at the Bangbhaban.  
 In Chattogram, idols were immersed in the port city's Patenga and Khalurghat sea beach areas with the presence of a large number of people of the Hindu community of all ages.