

## Pope canonises Australia's first saint

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Benedict XVI canonised Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop, at a mass in Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican yesterday in front of tens of thousands of cheering pilgrims.

"She dedicated herself as a young woman to the education of the poor in the difficult and demanding terrain of rural Australia," Benedict said at the ceremony, attended by Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd.

"For many years countless young people throughout Australia have been blessed with teachers who were inspired by the courageous and saintly example of zeal, perseverance and prayer of Mother Mary MacKillop," he said.

Pronouncing a solemn prayer in Latin, the pope also canonised Canada's Brother Andre and four others from Italy, Poland and Spain and declared that "throughout the Church they be honoured devoutly among all the saints."

Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon and Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski were among the worshippers and six giant images of the new saints hung from the facade of Saint Peter's basilica during the mass.

There were some 6,000 Australians and 5,000 Canadians, Vatican authorities said. Many wore Australian bush hats and waved Australian and Canadian flags.

As many as 80,000 people crowded into the square for the mass.

"It's just wonderful. We've always believed Mary was a saint," said Moya Campbell, one of 800 nuns in the crowd from the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, the order that MacKillop helped found.

"This is awesome," said Emilia Mourani, 36, who flew in from Sydney.

"I've prayed to her and she's helped me with my problems. That's why I'm here, I wanted to thank her," she said, visibly moved by the moment.

Rudd earlier paid tribute to MacKillop as "an extraordinary Australian."

There were nationwide celebrations in Australia for MacKillop (1842-1909) and her canonisation was preceded by a series of events in Rome including an open-air Aboriginal dance show at the

## Thorny border

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"We are continuing such surveys to see if accepting the Indian proposal will affect Bangladesh adversely in anyway," he added.

As per the understanding, India will erect single channel fences at those 12 areas instead of barbed wired double channel ones like it erected beyond the 150 yard zone within its own territory.

He made it clear that both countries are constructing the structures within their own boundaries.

Back in the early 1990s when India began erecting fences within permissible border areas on grounds of preventing smuggling and illegal migration among other reasons, it faced some problems.

It identified the 46 points at the total 4,156 kilometres (km) long border, where it could not erect fences beyond 150 yards from the zero line. For now, Bangladesh has accepted the Indian proposal for erecting the fences within the 150 yard zone at 12 of the points.

Bangladesh will decide about the remaining 34 places only after a joint verification in Assam and Meghalaya, said Bangladesh official sources.

Bangladesh foreign ministry sources said India told them that the fences will be erected over a period of time, and no timeframe has been fixed for completion of the joint survey. India however requested to expedite the verification process, they said.

The officials, quoting Indian sources, said only 248 km of the allowed 571 km of such fencing along the border between Bangladesh and the Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya has been completed.

Vatican museum with didgeridoo music.

MacKillop was an inspirational nun and teacher who fell out with Australian church authorities and was briefly excommunicated in 1871 in a fight over control of her order and after her denunciation of a paedophile priest.

"St Mary's canonisation highlights the central role of Christian faith in Australian history," Cardinal George Pell, the archbishop of Sydney, who helped celebrate the mass, wrote in Australia's Sunday Telegraph.

"Mary -- Saint Mary of the Cross -- was a fine Australian and an outstanding Catholic," Pell said, referring also to the "unprincipled opposition from bishops, clergy and even her own sisters" that she encountered.

Also among the spectators was Father Thomas Casanova, 43, a Catholic priest from Wagga Wagga in New South Wales.

"It's a momentous occasion. I've been looking forward to this since I was a child," said Casanova -- a distant relative of the new saint.

"She will help us have a greater perspective on life," he said.

A part-religious, part-nationalist, part-media frenzy has seized Australia for the canonisation, with "MacKillop" the musical playing to sold-out shows and a nightly projection of her image on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

MacKillop already has stamps and pop songs in her honour, along with merchandise including bumper stickers and key rings that is selling briskly. Her fans have also set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account in her honour.

Canonisation is only the end point of a long process of documentation and research into the life of would-be saints by Vatican authorities that often lasts several years and must include at least two proven miracles.

Brother Andre (1845-1937), a monk from the Canadian province of Quebec was credited with healing powers that were initially dismissed by senior clergy.

The six saints announced on Sunday bring to 34 the number of people canonised by Benedict XVI since his election to the papacy in 2005. His predecessor, John Paul II, recognised almost 500 saints.

"May these new saints accompany you with their prayers and inspire you by the example of their holy lives," Benedict told pilgrims.

km more, while for the remaining length there are objections either from Meghalaya or Bangladesh, they added.

India has so far fenced 3,300 km of the border beyond the 150 yard zone within its own territory in line with the boundary agreement.

According to BDR sources, the Indian authorities started erecting fences within 50 yards of the zero line at Azampur frontier under Akhaura of Brahmanbaria on Saturday.

They said the neighbouring country already placed alignment designs for the 12 places.

An official of the Bangladesh home ministry said, on condition of anonymity, that the government agreed to allow India to erect the fences within the 150 yard zone because of difficult terrain beyond that point.

Citing examples, he said there is a religious establishment within five yards of the zero line at Hili border, and there is a wall at the boundary pillar in Benapole.

## Govt steps

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incident over the last three to four days, our Noakhali correspondent reports after visiting different chars in Hatia yesterday.

Some people at Natun Bazar, however, complained that in recent weeks, different bandit gangs have harassed many shopkeepers at local markets demanding tolls.

Police and locals said after the death of Bashar Majhi, a listed bandit in the area, in a "crossfire" with Rab on June 6 this year, bandits of many Hatia shoals became disintegrated and occasionally keep on fighting among themselves.

## Israel detains Palestinian boy hit by settler's car

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli police have detained a stone-throwing boy who was struck by a car driven by a settler in a flashpoint east Jerusalem neighbourhood earlier this month, police said yesterday.

Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said Imran Mansur, 12, had been brought in on Saturday for questioning about the stone-throwing, adding that he was accompanied by his father at all times and would likely be released "soon."

Mansur, 12, and Iyad Gheit, 10, were wearing masks and throwing stones in the Silwan neighbourhood on October 8 when the car driven by David Beeri, a local leader of the hardline Elad settler organisation, rounded a corner and struck them.

Mansur was thrown into the air and bounced off the car's windscreen before crashing to the ground in the incident captured by AFP and other photographers. The car stopped briefly before driving off.

Mansur suffered a broken leg, while Gheit was taken to the hospital to have glass removed from his arm.

Jerusalem police identified the driver as Beeri and said they questioned him and released him on the day of the incident.

Beeri's Elad organisation encourages Jews to move into dense neighbourhoods in Arab east Jerusalem, which was captured by Israel and annexed in 1967 in a move not recognised by the international community.

Clashes have erupted in Silwan on a number of occasions in recent weeks, with Palestinian youths throwing rocks at settlers and police, who have fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse them.

## Girl attempts

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The couple had been in the middle of a fight in the morning when Ratna set herself ablaze in the heat of the argument, said Hasina. Pipul fled the scene immediately after the incident.

Hasina said Ratna lost her mother in early childhood. Since then, she had been looking after the girl as her own child, said Hasina in a voice choked with emotions.

Ratna had been working in Dhaka as a domestic help for the last four years. A few months ago she got a job at a garments factory and met Pipul shortly afterwards.

Kazi Ayubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kadamtoli Police Station said the police are investigating the matter. Filing of a case in connection to the incident is under process, he added.

## Fake medicine

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ethanol, each containing 60 litres.

The team found the workers putting labels of different homeopathy medicines of foreign and local brands on the bottles. Huge numbers of labels were also recovered from the site, added Maj Harun.

The arrestees admitted they used to supply the spirit to various homeopathy stores in different districts. They failed to produce any registration document before the team for running the factory and marketing homeopathy medicine.

The Rab official said they had information about drug addicts collecting such spirit from homeopathy medicine stores.

Hero Kamal rented the store as a godown, said a local trader, adding the owner and workers used to work inside it on weekends keeping doors closed.

## By-polls violence

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A founding member of MQM, Imran Farooq, who was living in exile in Britain, was brutally

murdered outside his north London home in September. MQM is a partner in the ruling coalition led by the Pakistan People's Party in the southern province of Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital.

The government has not released exact figures, but rights groups say more than 260 targeted killings were reported in Karachi during the first six months of this year, compared with 156 during the same period in 2009.

## Kiwis Tiger-washed

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international history. The Tigers earlier beat the Kiwis by 9 runs in the first one-dayer, won the third by seven wickets and the fourth again by 9 runs. The second match was washed out.

The Kiwis, for their part, made a complete mess of chasing a moderate 175 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, faltering with their score on 171 runs in 49.3 overs.

With eight runs from six balls needed to win, tail-ender Kyle Mills guided Rubel's misguided full-toss to the boundary. A ball later though, the paceman returned the faith of captain Shakib Al Hasan by knocking back his leg-stump and picking up his fourth wicket, sending the Tigers and the 25,000-strong holiday crowd into wild celebrations.

Rubel, the boy from Bagerhat, had a say from the beginning of the New Zealand innings, sending back openers Brendon McCullum and Jesse Ryder cheaply and forcing Kane Williamson, the previous match's centurion, to guide one to the hands of second slip. After Bradley Watling's run-out, a lot depended on Ross Taylor but he too failed, missing a straight one from Abdur Razzak as the Kiwis collapsed to 20 for five.

It could easily have been 41 for six in the 13th over but Junaed Siddiqui dropped a simple catch at slip offered by Daniel Vettori's late cut off Mahmudullah Riyad. The New Zealand skipper latched on to that life as he added 86 runs for the sixth wicket with Grant Elliott.

The partnership threatened to take the game out of the Tigers' reach but again, one player's determination turned the tide.

In the 31st over, Vettori, on 43, chipped the ball between long-on and deep mid-wicket, only for Shafiqul Islam to run 15 yards and dive full-length to his right to pull off a phenomenal catch. It instantly brought back memories of the same player's blunder during a

## Hunger challenge

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food and financial crisis. "Around 65.3 million Bangladeshis still do not have enough food. In addition to this, the rate of underweight children is the highest in South Asia and one of the highest in the world," the study revealed.

It mentioned that the country's food production would fall by 3.9 percent every year due to climate change.

It lauded the government for the budgetary allocations for the absolute poor through extended safety net programmes that partly cover nutrition, subsidised food and employment programmes.

Terminating land a critical issue, the report suggested wide scale introduction of sustainable agriculture and land reform.

India, an emerging country in the world economy, ranked 21st in the ActionAid scorecard. Nearly a quarter of the world's starving population live in India

## Hindus bid farewell

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Charanjee, joint secretary of the Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee.

In the capital, streets leading to Waiz Ghat on the Buriganga were thronged with thousands of Hindu devotees and others to observe immersion of the idols.

The Dhakeswari National Temple Committee brought out the traditional Bijoya Dashami procession from Banani. Devotees joined the procession with idols from puja mandaps at Kalabagan, Dhanmondi, Badda, Uttara, Mirpur, Tongi and Ashulia, and immersed those at BIWTA Ghat at Ashulia, said a press release.

The procession paraded different city streets and ended at Waiz Ghat around 6:30pm.

Earlier, the puja committee organised different programmes marking Bijoya Dashami and arranged a blood donation programme at Dhakeswari Temple.

Besides, Gulshan-Banani Sarbojanin Puja Parishad brought a Bijoya Dashami procession from Banani. Devotees joined the procession with idols from puja mandaps at Kalabagan, Dhanmondi, Badda, Uttara, Mirpur, Tongi and Ashulia, and immersed those at BIWTA Ghat at Ashulia, said a press release.

The government took tight security measures on the occasion. A large number of law enforcers including mem-

Twenty20 final last season.

Soon though, Nathan McCullum took advantage of Junaed's slippery fingers as the Rajshahi lad misjudged one inside the circle at square-leg. But the older McCullum failed to make Bangladesh pay, failing to connect a charge towards Shakib Al Hasan a few balls later.

Elliott, witnessing the mayhem from the other end, reached his fifty through another dropped catch (by Mahmudullah) but he too, gave it up soon after getting a life. The right-handed batsman known for getting the Kiwis out of trouble, holed out at mid-on for 59 off 105 balls.

It was then left to the last pair of Mills and Hamish Bennett as they crawled towards what looked like an unlikely victory for the Kiwis. They added 26 with Bennett going unbeaten on nought from 24 balls.

Apart from Rubel's four, Razzak and Shakib got two each while Shrawardit Shuvo picked up one wicket.

But there weren't as many twists and turns earlier in the day as the Tigers flattered to deceive with the bat, being bowled out for just 174 runs in 44.2 overs.

Imrul Kayes, who made 34, held fort after southpaws Junaed and Shahriar Nafees departed early. Shakib again made an effort to get the Tigers moving with his enterprising 36 but once his fifth-wicket partnership with Mushfiqur Rahim ended in the 29th over, things unravelled fast.

The Kiwis were better in the field and showed an aggressive intent that was missing in the three previous outings but with the bat in hand, they fell flat as the Tigers put the foot down and in the words of coach Jamie Siddons, "The whitewash became possible".

The New Zealanders already left Dhaka last night and their next assignment is an away series in India. On the other hand, Bangladesh await Zimbabwe for a five-match one-day series over December 1-15.

with the number of the hungry increased by 53 million between 1990 and 2005, the report said, predicting that the country would not be able to half this hunger rate before 2083 -- nearly 70 years after the MDG target date.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Lesotho and Pakistan are the worst achievers in the hunger reduction chart.

Pakistan is reeling from massive floods. Its food situation continues to look deteriorating and the country is in need of a comprehensive system of social protection, the report said.

ActionAid called on the nations to increase investment in agriculture and smallholder farming at the national and international levels.

The United Nations will hold a summit next week on the Millennium Development Goals.

bers of Rapid Action Battalion were deployed at puja mandaps and places of immersion of ideals.

Bijoya Dashami is an occasion for firming peace and good relations among people. Members of Hindu community visited each other's house and shared sweetsmeats on the day.

Durga Puja is the worship of "Shakti" [divine force] embodied in goddess Durga. It symbolises the battle between good and evil where the evil forces eventually surrender to the good ones.

The state-run and private television channels and radio aired special programmes while newspapers brought out special supplements on the occasion.

A Chittagong correspondent reports: Durga Puja celebrations ended yesterday with the immersion of idols at five points of in the port city and on its outskirts.

With colourful Bijoya Dashami processions, devotees immersed the idols at three points in the Bay of Bengal -- Patenga, South Kattoli and Parki -- and two spots in the Karnaphuli -- Gangabari and Avoymitra Ghat.

Patenga immersion point saw the largest crowd with 160 idols immersed there. Around 30 idols were immersed at South Kattoli and 20 in the Karnaphuli, said Mahanagar Puja Udzapan Parishad.

## Israeli air strike kills 2 Palestinians

AFP, Gaza City

Two Palestinians were killed and a third wounded in a pre-dawn Israeli air strike north of Gaza City, Palestinian medics said yesterday.

Adham Abu Selmiya, an official in the Hamas-run health ministry, said one of the men was killed immediately while the other succumbed to his wounds after being brought to a hospital. Both were in their early 20s.

The Israeli military said the air force had struck a "squad of terror operatives who were preparing to fire rockets from the northern Gaza Strip into Israel."

The number of rockets fired from the Hamas-ruled territory declined sharply in the wake of a massive 22-day Israeli offensive in December 2008 and January 2009 during which some 2,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis were killed.

But since the start of this year more than 165 rockets and mortar rounds have been fired at Israel from Gaza, according to the military.

The rockets are believed to have been fired by smaller and more extreme factions within the territory, while Hamas itself has taken steps to rein in such attacks.

The makeshift projectiles rarely wound anyone or cause damage.

## CHILE MINE Rescued men attend service of thanks

BBC ONLINE

About 12 of the 33 miners freed after 69 days underground in northern Chile have returned to the mine to attend a ceremony celebrating their rescue yesterday.

A service of thanksgiving was held at the mouth of the San Jose copper and gold mine where the miners were trapped.

The miners were mobbed by reporters on their arrival at the camp, despite their complaints about media intrusion.

Doctors say all the miners are in good health; only one remains in hospital.

The service of thanksgiving was jointly led by an evangelical pastor and a Roman Catholic priest.

Some of the rescuers who helped bring the miners to the surface, on Wednesday, were also attending.

## BSF kills 1

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group of cattle traders when they were entering India through the no man's land of the border at about 8:30pm.

Latif died on the spot while two of his associates sustained bullet injuries, he added.

One of the injured Sentu, 32, was admitted to a local clinic.

Bangladesh Rifles strongly protested the killing and sent a protest letter to the BSF.

## 14 AL men

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named, among others, in the complaint.

Md Shahidullah Sheikh, father of critically injured journalist Sheikh Tofazzul Hossain, filed the complaint.

Shahidullah mentioned that his son, along with other journalists, went to Bonpara on October 8 to collect news and photos of a programme of local BNP.

When Babu and his fellow activists proceeded from uzapla parishad to Bonpara Bazar to welcome the guests of the programme around 11:30am, a group of ruling party activists repeatedly hit Babu.

As Tofazzal started taking photographs of the incident, the offenders snatched his camera and beat him severely, leaving him critically injured. Seriously injured journalist, who works for Daily Destiny, Sonali Sangbad and Banglar Chokh photo agency, was first taken to Natore Adhunik Sadar Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was moved to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Rezaul Karim Reza, general secretary of Natore Press Club and journalist leaders of Natore and Baraigram were present during the filing of the complaint.

Officer-in-charge of Boraigram Police Station, Anwar Ali said police received a complaint but could not file a case as he was away from the duty station. The case will be recorded after his return, he added.

## Somali pirates

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chances for the fishermen's safe release.

Seoul's Yonhap news agency reported the ship had been fishing for crab in the area for about one month before being seized and taken to a pirate stronghold in northern Somalia. The ship with GPS equipment left the stronghold on Saturday and was sailing south, Yonhap reported later yesterday citing the vessel's agent in Kenya. Its destination and reason for moving weren't known.

It identified the ship as the Keummi 305 and the two abducted South Koreans as the 54-year-old captain and a 67-year-old engineer, both surnamed Kim.

Yonhap said the area has been considered relatively safe because it is about 250 miles (400 kilometers) away from the nearest pirate base and Kenya's navy regularly patrols the site. It said the pirates were believed to have raided the ship and taken control of it at night.

Kim, the captain, owns the ship but he was forced to shut down his head office in the southern South Korean port city of Busan in 2007 due to financial troubles, Yonhap said. The report said the pirates haven't contacted the ship's agent for any possible negotiation.

Noel Choong of the International Maritime Bureau's anti-piracy office in Malaysia could not immediately confirm the attack.

Kidnapping for ransom is common in Somalia. Hostages are rarely hurt and usually freed after a ransom is paid. Somalia, which has had no functioning government since 1991, is the world's top piracy

## Cost estimate

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Prof Chowdhury said the expert committee requested the consultant to bring the cost down to 30 percent of what they had estimated. But the consultant had argued their payment was already made and it required additional fees to do the job, he added.

According to Prof Md Shamsul Hoque, another committee member, the per kilometre cost of recently built Tejgaon overpass was less than Tk 100 crore. Tk 76 crore for 1.6-kilometre Khilgaon flyover, Tk 80 crore for proposed Kuril interchange (flyover), and Tk 135 crore for proposed Jatrabari-Gulistan Flyover while Tk 80 crore for the proposed Mirpur-Zia Colony flyover.

The government, as its equity share, will provide the concessionaire with the land, facilitate handover of the route, carry out relocation of utility services, remove any occupancy and rehabilitate the affected people.

The expert committee decided that the government would not invest any fund but do everything to hand over the route to the concessionaire.

The government will hand-over one-third of the route at the time of signing the agreement, one-third after six months and the rest after one year of the signing.

The Buet team including civil and structural experts will carry out environmental impact

## Indian PM

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impact assessment study has been undertaken".

His views, however, have drawn sharp reaction from Indian Power Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. Sushil said while the government is committed to protect environment, the proposed power projects or those under construction are equally important.

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Dorjee Kangdu also wrote a letter to Singh on October 11 seeking to counter all major concerns voiced by Ramesh over the projects.

Opponents of Ramesh have also stepped up their campaign and three lawmakers from Arunachal had met India's External Affairs Minister S M Krishna last week to protest Ramesh's stand.

Bangladesh's concerns over the Tapaimukh project on the Barak river was conveyed by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Manmohan Singh during her visit to New Delhi in January this year.

Singh had assured her that India will not do anything on Tapaimukh that will hurt the interest of Bangladesh.

A section of environmentalists both in Bangladesh and India oppose the project, as they believe it will bring down the flow of water in its tributaries Surma and Kushira in Bangladesh.

hot spot, with armed gangs seizing cargo and holding crew for ransom.

In April, a South Korean-operated oil tanker was also hijacked by Somali pirates with its 24-member crew. They still haven't been released.