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Philippine villagers smear mud on their bodies to show devotion



MUD PEOPLE FESTIVAL. A boy walks towards the church of St. John the Baptist during the mud festival at Bibiclat, Nueva Ecija province, northern Philippines, on June 24, 2024. Well before daybreak in Bibiclat, devout Catholics ventured into the fields to smear mud over their bodies and then soak dried banana leaves in the mud. The practice, commonly referred to as “Taong Putik,” or Mud People Festival, has been passed on from generation to generation in the community as a way of showing devotion to their patron saint, St. John the Baptist. See story on page 20. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



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