



PHOTO: STAR
 An exhibition of paintings by Md Zakir Hossain Pulak began at Zainul Gallery at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday. The exhibition titled 'Sorry! We R Busy' will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm daily up to August 21.

Turn unemployed people into human resources: Moeen

UNB, Gaibandha

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed has emphasised the need to turn the unemployed people in 'monga'—, flood- and erosion-affected areas of the northern districts into productive and skilled manpower through training.

Only providing relief goods for the affected people during monga, flood and river erosion is not a permanent solution to the problem, he said while inaugurating a training programme on 'Sweater knitting and linking machine operating' at the Youth Development Training Centre here.

General Moeen called for eradicating 'monga' for ever from the region by training people through sustainable and effective planning. "There is no scope left for us now to look backwards, we've to go ahead towards development," he said.

He also stressed the need for utilising the trained workers in the industrial sectors, including garments. "Thus we can earn foreign currency alongside eradicating poverty and ushering in economic progress," he said.

General Moeen informed the training programme that the BGMEA would train at least one person from each family in this area and arrange employment for them. He called upon local youths to avail of this opportunity.

Deputy Commissioner Kazi Mohammad Anwarul Hakim, DG of Youth Development Department Mohammad Ismail Hossain and BGMEA President Anwarul Alam Chowdhury Parvez also spoke.

Bangladesh army with the assistance of Youth Development Department and BGMEA are imparting training to 88 male and

female unemployed youths on sweater knitting and linking machine operating.

An initiative was also taken to set up a permanent training centre in the district.

Earlier, General Moeen visited the flood-affected Godarhat and east Komronoi areas in Sadar upazila and distributed cash, rice, pulses, salt, saree and lungi among 450 destitute families as well as aman saplings, seeds and fertiliser among farmers.

6th SAFMA confce begins tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka

The sixth regional conference of South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) will begin in Colombo, Sri Lanka tomorrow.

This time the theme is 'Media peace and poverty alleviation'.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa will inaugurate the conference as the chief guest while noble laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus will be the keynote speaker, SAFMA source said.

A total of 150 journalists from eight SAARC member countries will attend the event.

A sixteen-member Bangladesh media delegation led by SAFMA President Reazuddin Ahmed left Dhaka yesterday evening for Colombo to attend the conference.



PHOTO: PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION
 Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Bashir Khan Baber hoists the national flag of his country on the occasion of the 60th Independence Day of Pakistan on the Pakistan High Commission premises in the city on August 14.