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**BANGLADESH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER PAYS COURTESY CALL ON
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

Freetown – As he continues with his three-day visit to Sierra Leone, the Bangladeshi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Morshed Khan, yesterday paid a courtesy call on the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) in Sierra Leone, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji.

Mr. Morshed Khan praised the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for the “impressive work undertaken in such a short time,” not only in peacekeeping but also, in bringing social and humanitarian assistance. Describing his tour of UNAMSIL deployments as “mind-boggling,” Minister Morshed said his first encounter with UN peacekeeping operations offered him a “better understanding of the investment” his country was making in bringing peace to Sierra Leone.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Adeniji expressed the United Nations gratitude for Bangladesh’s commitment to UNAMSIL. As a member of the Security Council for 2000-2001, Bangladesh, the SRSG recalled, played a “leading role in Sierra Leone” at a time when the security conditions on the ground necessitated the Mission's rapid reinforcement. Ambassador Adeniji outlined the successes of the peace process and expressed the hope that the “troop-contributing countries will maintain their pledge” in order to “secure the international community’s investment” in Sierra Leone.

The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh said he was opportune to feel the “rumor and dynamic of Sierra Leone” and strongly believed that the Mission’s continued existence was “critical” at this point of the Sierra Leonean peace process. Further stressing that “the international community should have the patience to witness the dividends of its investment in Sierra Leone,” Minister Morshed renewed his country’s commitment to UN peacekeeping operations.

The minister was accompanied by the Bangladeshi Ambassador accredited to Sierra Leone and based in Morocco, Maj. Gen. Anwar Hussein, and UNAMSIL Sector 4 Commander, Brig. Gen. Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan.