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*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE  
(UNAMSIL)*

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER WELCOMES NEW CONTINGENT  
OF BANGLADESHI PEACEKEEPERS**

*Freetown* - The Force Commander of United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Opande, on 4 September visited Lungi International Airport to welcome a new contingent of Bangladeshi peacekeepers. The peacekeepers, Bangladeshi Battalion (BANBATT) 7, which is based at the airport, replaced BANBATT 4 who recently returned to Bangladesh following the end of their tour of duty with UNAMSIL.

In his welcoming remarks, the Force Commander commended the troops for settling down quickly and adapting to the prevailing situation in their area of responsibility. He urged them to adhere to the UN code of conduct for peacekeepers more especially as they are deployed in a strategic area that serves as gateway to Sierra Leone and UNAMSIL.

In his briefing to Lt. Gen. Opande, the Commanding Officer of BANBATT 7, Col. Salah Uddin, said the newly inducted troops underwent pre-deployment training before their deployment in the mission area. He informed the Force Commander that the situation in the area was calm despite demonstrations by local youths the previous week against the awarding of a contract to run the airport restaurant. The issue has since been resolved.