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(UNAMSIL)

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PAKISTANI CONTINGENT ORGANIZES SPORTS GALA IN KONO DISTRICT**

*Freetown* – The Pakistani contingent serving with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) on 26 April organized a peace march and a colourful two-day sports gala for schoolchildren in the eastern town of Koidu in Kono District. The gala was part of activities to mark Sierra Leone's 41<sup>st</sup> Independence Day on 27 April.

Thousands of Koidu residents gathered at the recently renovated Sports Stadium on the evening of 26 April to witness children participating in various sports competitions. Schools represented included RS Boys, Ansarul Islamic School, KDEC Keyor and KDEC Mboma.

The Pakistani peacekeepers also organized a peace march on Saturday as part of activities to mark the national day of Sierra Leone. Hundreds of people gathered along Koidu streets, with others watching from the roofs of their houses, to witness the march, which was led by the military band of the Pakistani Contingent.

The two-kilometre march started from centre of the town at the Cotton Tree, passed through main road in front of the Opera House and ended at the Community Centre Ground. Paramount Chiefs, senior government officials, schoolchildren and a large number of locals participated in the peace march.

Other activities included a volleyball match in Yengema between the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) and the Pakistani Quick Reaction Unit teams.

Meanwhile, PAKBATT 3, which is deployed in Daru, also hosted a reception for the RSLAF and their families in Daru and Pendembu.