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PRESS RELEASE

FORCE COMMANDER COMMISSIONS FOOTBRIDGE IN KOIDU

The Force Commander and Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL, Maj Gen Sajjad Akram, on December 16 commissioned a footbridge in Koidu, Eastern Sierra Leone. The footbridge, which connects Pakistani Logistic III and the Pakistani VIII camp, is part of the peacekeepers' (Pakcon 3) humanitarian assistance to the people of Koidu.

Gen Sajjad also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a five-classroom block at the Girls Primary School in Koidu. The building is expected to be completed in March 2004.

At the school, the Force Commander said, "this project is one of the 20 Quick Impact Projects by UNAMSIL peacekeepers throughout Sierra Leone". He thanked the Pakistani peacekeepers for their efforts.

The projects are initiated not only to assist but also to win the hearts and minds of the people of Sierra Leone so as to consolidate peace in the country, he said.

He added that the Pakistani peacekeepers had carried out a number of humanitarian projects including the construction of mosques, churches and the skills acquisition center building in Koidu. The contingent has also donated food items, clothes, drugs, books and provided free medical care such as eye surgery as well as free eyeglasses to the local population.

On arrival in Koidu, Major Gen Akram was received by the Commander, Sector East, Brigadier General Ahmed Sajjad Bakhshi.

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