

**PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)
PRESS WING**

(PR No. 70/2019)

Islamabad; May 03, 2019: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) have a long-standing partnership and Pakistan intends to continue to work closely with IsDB.

The president said this while talking to the President of the Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Bandar M.H. Hajjar, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Friday.

The President emphasized that the incumbent Government is undertaking reforms to steer the economy out of current economic challenges. In this regard, the Government is focused on fiscal consolidation, monetary policy and fiscal inclusion, he added. He underlined that the Government is also focusing on affordable Housing and Small Medium Enterprises sectors to boost employment opportunities and economic growth. He highlighted that the first phase of CPEC projects are near completion and now we are focusing on second phase, including establishment of Special Economic Zones which will transform Pakistan's transport network into an economic corridor. He pointed out that the investors from all over the world are keen to invest in Pakistan due to its liberal investment regime and rising economic opportunities.

The President appreciated IsDB's support for the Polio Eradication Programme. He also expressed confidence that the existing excellent bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and IsDB would further strengthen in the years ahead.
