

PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (PUBLIC)

PRESS WING

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**High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Bangladesh calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi**

**Islamabad; December 12, 2019:** Indian claims of being secular have been vociferously belied by the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 recently passed in Indian parliament, making it amply clear to the world that minorities in India, especially Muslims, are unsafe and under the sharp razor of discrimination, said President Dr. Arif Alvi, while talking to High Commissioner-designate of Pakistan to Bangladesh, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad today. He directed all High Commissioners/Ambassadors to highlight the true perspective of Kashmir issue and serious human rights violations at the hands of Indian forces.

The President said that both countries were bound by fraternal relations and religious affinity and shared history provided a solid foundation for this relationship. He emphasized that both countries needed to move ahead, as both Pakistan and Bangladesh had enough challenges to occupy their time and energy and the two could be source of strength for each other, he added.

The President highlighted that the current volume of bilateral trade between the two countries was not commensurate to the true potential. Therefore, both countries needed to utilize the existing established institutions/mechanisms to enhance bilateral relations and trade.

The President also directed the High-Commissioner-designate to strive to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations by enhancing high level interactions and to make efforts to get Bangladesh's cooperation to holding the next SAARC Summit in Islamabad. He also directed the High-Commissioner to exert all-out efforts to highlight the tourism potential in Pakistan.

He wished High Commissioner-designate a successful stay in Bangladesh and hoped that his tenure will bring more vigour and energy to the bilateral relations between the two countries.

