Bangladesh Seeks New IMF Loan Support

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Bangladesh has requested a new financial assistance program from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to continue its ongoing economic reform efforts, according to IMF Mission Chief for Bangladesh, Ivo Krznar.

In a statement released on Wednesday (June 3), the IMF said discussions are underway with Bangladeshi policymakers regarding the possibility of a new support package. The talks are focused on the country's economic reform agenda and future policy priorities.

The statement noted that IMF loan programs approved in January 2023 helped support Bangladesh's economy during a difficult period. However, major changes in the country's economic and political landscape in recent times have created the need for deeper reforms aligned with the current reality.

According to the IMF, weaknesses in the banking sector and lower-than-expected revenue collection are now among Bangladesh's key economic challenges. The organization said long-term and effective reform measures will be necessary to address these issues.

The IMF added that Bangladesh's request for a new program creates an opportunity to establish a revised framework that reflects the current economic situation and gives importance to the government's priorities.

The statement also mentioned that any potential new assistance program would require strong policy commitments, realistic reform plans, and approval from the IMF Executive Board.

The IMF further said that a staff mission may visit Bangladesh soon to review the latest economic conditions and hold discussions with policymakers on future challenges and necessary policy actions.

At the same time, the organization reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Bangladesh in achieving sustainable economic stability, strengthening institutional capacity, and ensuring inclusive growth.