

**Bailout package: new mission chief of IMF due on March 26**

New mission chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Ernesto Ramirez Rigo will be visiting Pakistan on March 26 to meet the Pakistani authorities and may hold discussions with them on a bailout package. Ernesto Ramirez Rigo has replaced Finger as new mission chief of the IMF.

Finance Minister Asad Umar told a few mediapersons after speaking as chief guest at the graduation ceremony of the 27th Advanced Diplomatic Course for foreign diplomats here Friday that the IMF new mission chief will be visiting Pakistan on March 26 while APG Group of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will be visiting Pakistan on March 25 as part of three years assessment of the country.

The IMF resident representative, Teresa Daban Sanchez, also confirmed to Business Recorder that new IMF mission chief will visit Pakistan on March 26. He will come to meet Pakistani team and talks are on track.

Sources in the Finance Ministry on condition of anonymity told Business Recorder that new mission chief who replaced Finger a month before would have talks with Pakistani authorities on new bailout package during his visit. "We are still in discussion," sources said while adding that hopefully talks with the IMF would yield fruitful results by the beginning of April 2019. This would enable the government to implement the reforms agenda in the budget for the next fiscal year.

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