

**Saudi Arabia releases third and last \$1 billion tranche**

Saudi Arabia on Friday released third and last tranche amounting to \$1 billion of bailout package to build up Pakistan's depleting foreign exchange reserves. Saudi Arabia announced a bailout package of worth \$6 billion for Pakistan in October last year. This comprises \$3 billion of placement with Pakistan for one year and \$3 billion for deferred oil payment facility.

Out of \$3 billion of financial assistance, two tranches of one billion dollars arrived in November and December 2018. On Friday, Saudi Arabia released third and last tranche of \$1 billion of pledged amount to help Pakistan to ease a persisting balance of payment crisis.

Overall, the country has received some \$2 billion in the last two days as; on Thursday, one billion dollars was deposited by Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) under an agreement for placement of overall \$3 billion to support Pakistan for international payments.

With arrival of \$2 billion inflows from the UAE and Saudi Arabia, foreign exchange reserves held by State Bank of Pakistan are estimated to reach \$7.5 billion end of this week. While, the country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves are likely to touch \$15 billion mark, if no major external debt servicing is scheduled. The inflows from the UAE and Saudi Arabia will reflect in the next foreign exchange report to be issued on Thursday, January 31, 2018.

**RECORDER REPORT**