



KUNA photo  
Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid is seen off at the airport by the Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

**Estonian head ends Kuwait visit**

Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid wrapped up on Wednesday an official visit to the country during which she held official discussions with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-

Sabah. The Estonian president, along with her entourage, was seen off at the airport by Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

**'China import expo part, example of country's int'l economy boost'**

Kuwait lauds diversity of products

**BEIJING, Nov 6, (KUNA):** The second China International Import Expo represents the country's vital role in boosting economy and international development, said Kuwait's General Consul in Shanghai Mishaal Al-Shemali.

In a statement to KUNA Wednesday, Al-Shemali hailed the diversity of products, services and technologies presented in the event, noting that Kuwait is taking part in the expo which is considered "an international commerce platform."

The expo is also an opportunity to enter the Chinese market and promote local products globally, he said. He added that during the expo, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced his

country is moving towards open economy, attracting foreign investments as part of the event.

The expo is attended by leaders of different countries and 140 ministerial officials from around the world. Moreover, over 3,800 companies from 155 countries and 26 international organizations are taking part in the event.

**'Scrutinize transactions':** In response to a report on State properties published by Al-Qabas daily last Sunday, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Fahad Al-Shu'ala convened a meeting during which an agreement was reached to establish an administrative unit to scrutinize transactions related to State properties especially the plans and description certificates, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The meeting was held in the minister's office in the presence of Kuwait Municipality Director General

Eng Ahmed Al-Manfouhi, Municipal Council Chairperson Osama Al-Utairi and Assistant Undersecretary for State Properties and Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance Dr Ghazi Al-Ayesh.

A source who attended the meeting disclosed that this file is now in the hands of the minister who will address it soon. He said the meeting stressed the importance of coordination between the executive directorates at Kuwait Municipality, State Properties Department and the concerned ministries in order to expedite completion of transactions.

He added the Municipality was asked to present reports on the proposals submitted by the State Properties Department which the Ministry of Finance wants to develop, including the obstacles. These reports will be referred to minister and Municipal Council chairperson to find solutions and remove obstacles.

**DIWANIYA** ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

**'No action from govt, MPs'**

**'Anti-graft fight just lip service'**

"WHEN His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was the Prime Minister from 2003 to 2006, he issued his most famous statement, 'Camels cannot carry heavy corruption in the Municipality' and warned State officials on the importance of eliminating this social disease," columnist *Yousuf Al-Zankawi* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"During the meeting of the Council of Ministers on March 18, 2018, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah expressed his dissatisfaction with the decline of Kuwait's position in the Global Corruption Perceptions Index for 2017, which is an abuse of its status and reputation.

"Accordingly, the Cabinet issued a decision for the establishment of a committee headed by the Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Integrity) 'to review these indicators and prepare the necessary mechanisms and measures to modify the ranking of the State of Kuwait on the Global Corruption Perceptions Index in accordance with the standards of transparency, integrity and respect for the law and freedoms that Kuwait is keen to abide by and put Kuwait in the right place.'

"The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Marzouq Al-Ghanim himself, under the dome of Abdullah Al-Salem, referred several times to the extent of corruption in the country, which led to forgery of official documents including the nationality.

"Do these evidences not convince the Speaker of the National Assembly that corruption has become rampant in all joints of the State, which led His Highness, as head of the three authorities, to draw the attention to the severity of corruption in the Municipality, which is one of the official institutions groaning from corruption?"

"Is it not enough that the head of executive authority announced the formation of a supreme committee to follow up the reasons behind the decline of Kuwait's position on the corruption perceptions index to assure the head of the legislative authority that corruption is rampant in the state domains based on the testimony of a global body?"

"Is it not enough for the State to fight corruption through the establishment of a public authority so that everybody knows the suffering of our government and people from the scourge of corruption?"

"Therefore, we wonder: Did the Speaker personally or his assistants, or those around him not suffer from the poor road projects in Kuwait, due to corruption rooted in State institutions, which led to the transfer of many development projects from the Ministry of Public Works to the Amiri Diwan, a strange measure that should have drawn the attention of all the members of the legislature at that time to hold the government accountable for the reasons for this strange action, which did not happen in another country?"

"Therefore, what prompted the Speaker of the National Assembly at the opening of the fourth regular session of the 15th legislative term, before His Highness the Amir, the President and members of the Government, the representatives of the nation (deputies), senior State officials and the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps, all of whom know the extent of corruption we are experiencing in Kuwait to say in his speech: 'For years we have been witnessing systematic and frantic attempts to foment a culture of complaining and exaggerating individual things and portraying them as rampant phenomena and unresolved incurable diseases'.

"This culture unfortunately tries to portray Kuwait as the capital of global corruption, and the hotbed for chaos, and that all Kuwaitis are involved in corruption and this culture is promoted in an orderly and planned manner through various means with daily condemnation of Kuwait as corrupt in its suspicious attempts that defame the people, their reputations and their honor.

"This strange man (Speaker) who is trying to portray the dissatisfied people, including the writer of these lines, as if they are non-Kuwaitis, came from another planet to distort the image of Kuwait, as if a conspiracy is woven abroad, or as if Kuwait is no different from the utopia or is free from corruption, and that those who complain and who portray Kuwait as corrupt are themselves corrupt.

"Wasn't His Highness the Amir, may God protect him, honest when highlighting the extent of corruption in the Municipality, which is one of a long list of government institutions, complaining about corruption? Wasn't the Prime Minister honest when he formed a committee to follow up the decline of Kuwait in the rank of corruption perceptions index in an honest attempt to raise the ranking of the State of Kuwait on this list?"

"Mr Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Speaker of the National Assembly, you must know very well that those who complain about the corruption running deep in Kuwait are all Kuwaitis, and they know very well that its intensity and size are increasing, without being matched by a positive performance from both the authorities.

"Neither the government has eradicated corruption nor has the Parliament blamed it for its mismanagement, to the extent that all Kuwaitis agree that the two worst authorities (legislative and executive) in the history of constitutional life are the current ones.

"The complainants do not portray Kuwait as corrupt. The country cannot be corrupt, but some of its administrators are corrupt. Corruption has become an unresolved phenomenon which can be cured only by dissolving the two authorities and preventing their members from running for political life.

"It must also be known that the complainants do not portray Kuwait as the capital of global corruption and the hotbed of chaos, and God forbid, they do not mean to brand it as corrupt nation, but point to the hotspots of corruption in its institutions, demanding eradication.

"The complainants never said that all Kuwaitis were involved in corruption, and never promoted such a culture, but we heard this tone in strange speech, even if it was made in good faith. We agree with the Speaker that the patriot will not give up his homeland and the reformer will continue with the reforms, and those who dream of a beautiful homeland will not wake to the bitter reality.

"Honest Kuwaitis feel the fight against corruption is just lip service because nothing is seen in deed because no parliamentarian is seen acting in this direc-

tion - unfortunately."

**Also:**

"The government has failed, as usual, to create an appropriate climate and create the right atmosphere for the existence of a strong and solid opposition - the opposition which respects the rules of the political game with its strength and solidity and work to prevent mistakes that may have a bearing on the stability of the country and the life of the people, but we will not be exaggeration if we say the government has closed all doors in the face of this kind of opposition," columnist *Muhammad Al-Sabri* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Of the politicians given the current situation in the country we can say that either you are a political brat gathering 'haram' wealth from supposedly political practices or you are an opposition that does not know the red lines of the political work, as a result this action becomes semi-revolutionary or close to it, leaving the government no choice.

"Of course, it is not within the responsibility of the government to create a logical opposition, but its responsibility is also not to spoil political life or make it like what we call 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy'. Its responsibility is to shun the practice of buying loyalty that has become the best and fastest means for the politicians to accumulate tons of wealth within a short time.

"In fact, the government needs more than the people to have a solid and logical opposition movement, even if some of its practices fall outside the real political borders, but the need for any government for such an opposition is no less than the need of the members of the community for the common good. We can say that the opposition is the impetus for any government to work hard and correct mistakes.

"The frustration shown by the people at forums and meetings which the government criticizes is also its responsibility. It is either a result of poor performance or exaggerated by fictional stories of corruption. The government has a duty to genuinely respond to such rumors if they are not true, but the government media is preoccupied with other issues."

"The entire world has been on high alert in anticipation of terrorist attacks by ISIS after its leader was killed in a US raid recently. This terrorist group would want to show the world that the death of its leader does not render the group inactive but would instead motivate it to prove their existence, if not their strength," *Waleed Khalid Al-Mutairi* wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"When comparing ISIS with al-Qaeda, the activities of the latter became limited after its leader Osama bin Laden was killed also in a US raid in Pakistan. Even with the leadership going to the second-in-command of al-Qaeda, its activities significantly weakened and its influence diminished in most of the places where it had influence.

"What is left is for the information media to distance those extremist and fanatic groups away from Islam. A testimony to that is the fact that most of its victims are Muslims, and the attacks they carry out are in mosques and religious places. Therefore, those who support such groups, whether countries or institutions, due to political or financial gains will not continue to hide for long under the democratic curtains. Collective effort is need to ensure the snake will not return to bite."

"Former MP Saleh Al-Mulla launched a hashtag on Twitter to inform about his presence at Erada Square aimed at expressing his rejection for corruption that is widespread in the country and continues to chisel the pillars of the state," *Eng Tareq Jamal Al-Derbas* wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"The hashtag 'enough with corruption' is a sincere message emanating from the reality groaning, rendering it to attract the attention of huge audience. This initiative has received huge acceptance and many people are seeking to converge at the Erada Square. It seems as if the public was waiting for this move for quite some time.

"Despite being an individual initiative, this hashtag has managed to hurt those who thrive on corruption, expressing their disapproval of Mulla's initiative and personal attack on him.

"Nonetheless, I still find it futile to have a movement like this without a vision, let alone the fact that the objectives of this movement is unclear, whether it will be desirable or not. However, we all agree on the fact that all the campaigns that reject corruption and strive for reforms are considered positive as it comes from a society that is alive and seeking the best."

"In the initial and quick reading of public reaction, it appears to me that the number of protesters on Wednesday will be massive to the extent of filling the eyes if people are not intimidated and scared by rumors, prohibitions, criminal and unlawful methods," *Muhammad Al-Wushaehi* wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"I do not think we need to be reminded that gathering does not violate laws of the State. However, the important question here is this: What do the protesters want? In other words, what is the result they want from it? Let us imagine that thousands of protesters converge at Erada Square, what will happen?"

"Will the demonstrators demand for increase in the number of bed spaces in hospitals? Will they demand for holding accountable contractors handling roads, public facilities and utilities? Will they demand for the general amnesty law? Is it about war against bribery? Is it about fighting nepotism? Or, or, or...?"

"This is what people wrote on social media and here is a big puzzle, because some people have been confusing reasons for public anger and provocations with objectives of the public demonstration. The only thing mentioned is about accumulated reasons leading to people's fury and subsequently going out of their homes to public squares, but the demands are something else.

"Demands have specifications and conditions, including the need to be clear and specific, while it should be minimal, linked to time, major not minor, and all protesters must agree on it, etc. This is the reason why it is impossible to split demands of protesters to become subdivisions or temporary issues, so it is better to be generally major. Examples of this are dissolution of the parliament and government, restoring the electoral law to its previous state, steering government away from interfering in elections and influencing it."

— Compiled by Ahmad Al-Shazli

Limited Time Only

**Grab it!**

**Special Offer**

**ARAB TIMES**

**Subscribe Now...**

or Renew Your Subscription

for 1 year only **K.D 35** & get:

NHE 3.1 CHANNEL HIFI NH-01

&

MIDEA TABLE BLENDER BL2516A-2

For Subscription call: **55633276**

www.arabtimesonline.com

arabtimeskuwait