



Bahra 1 site in Al-Subiyah

## Subiyah settlement from 6th millennium BC more developed

Polish ambassador hosts conference of Kuwaiti-Polish Archeological Mission

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18:** HE Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Kuwait Pawel Lechowicz hosted a scientific conference of the Kuwaiti-Polish Archeological Mission in the premises of the Embassy. Representatives of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archeology, University of Warsaw and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters of the State of Kuwait participated in the conference.

Head of mission, Prof Piotr Bielinski from the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archeology gave a lecture presenting breakthrough results of research conducted in 2018 at Bahra 1 site in Al-Subiyah. A structure recently discovered at this site may be interpreted as a cultic building from the 6th millennium BC. The prehistoric settlement of Bahra 1 is the largest site associated with the Ubaid culture, known so far from the Arabian Peninsula. Recent discoveries show that this settlement from 6th millennium BC was more developed than any other site from this period known in the Gulf region", Prof Bielinski said.

HE Ambassador praised the archaeologists' efforts in pursuing their investigations and awarded Professor Piotr Bielinski for the work of his team. The Ambassador also awarded Dr Sultan al-Duweish, the Director of the Department of Museums and Archeology in the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, for his significant support provided for Polish archaeologists and expressed his hope to continue developing relations in various fields between Poland and Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti-Polish Archeological Mission was formed in 2007 as a co-operation between the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters of the State of Kuwait and Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archeology, University of Warsaw. It began its work in Northern Kuwait in the fall of 2007. Polish archaeologists are conducting excavations in Bahra 1 settlement since 2009, alongside initiating several other projects in Kuwait, e.g. on Failaka Island.



Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Kuwait Pawel Lechowicz awarding Professor Piotr Bielinski (left) and Dr Sultan Al-Duweish (right).

This year, the Kuwaiti-Polish Archeological Mission headed by Prof Piotr Bielinski from the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archeology, University of Warsaw in co-operation with Dr Sultan Al-Duweish, the Director of the Department of Museums and Archeology, and Dr Hamid al-Mutairi, Head of Excavations and Surveying Sector, discovered at this site a structure that may be interpreted as a cultic building. The Kuwaiti-Polish Archeological Mission informed of their discoveries during a press conference organized at the Polish Embassy in Kuwait City.

### Prehistoric

The prehistoric settlement of Bahra 1 is the largest of sites associated with the Ubaid culture, known so far from the Arabian Peninsula. The Ubaid culture, which first developed in Mesopotamia had a truly global sphere of interaction – objects characteristic for this culture, such as painted pottery, have been found at a large territory stretching from present-day Turkey to the coast of the UAE. This led to the creation of first cities in the following period. But the most important development of the Ubaid culture – a new, more complex type of social structure – is less visible in the archaeological record.

Excavations at Bahra 1 uncovered at least 10 structures in an area stretching for c. 180 m. They yielded over 16 thousand fragments of pottery fragments, most of which came from Mesopotamian Ubaid-type vessels. Now archaeologists have encountered another trace of the culture's influ-

ence – this time in the form of a building that has a different ground plan than any other structure excavated so far at Bahra 1. There are indications that this may be a building that had a cultic function, says Prof Bielinski. It combines elements characteristic for the local tradition with those of the Ubaid culture – he explains. If further research confirms these observations, this will be the oldest building of such function not just in Kuwait but in the whole Gulf region.

The current season was very fortunate for the Kuwaiti-Polish team, as it brought yet another discovery. In the vicinity of the "temple" excavations revealed a large fragment of an empty space surrounded by buildings. The size and regularity of this space bring to mind a plaza or village square. And this in turn indicates some sort of planning in the settlement's spatial organization, which is very surprising at a site of such an early date – Bielinski points out, adding that this is unheard of even at Ubaid-period sites in Mesopotamia.

The data from this year's fieldwork at Bahra 1 will need to be studied before they can be scientifically published, but even now they confirm an impression voiced by many scientists researching the birth of civilization, that the roots of urban life, a model of life as we know it today, should be sought in the Ubaid period. The site of Bahra 1 shows that the inhabitants of the Kuwaiti desert were part of a large cultural and economic zone of influence that stretched from the Arabian Gulf shores to the Mediterranean coast.

### Bid to make up for missed lessons

## MoE denies 'extension of school hours' rumors

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18:** The educational sector recently discussed ways for students to make up for lessons they missed due to the cancellation of classes when the country witnessed floods, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Some academicians suggested condensing lesson plans in the coming period in order to cover the missed lessons while others recom-

mended postponing exams until the beginning of January and shortening the Spring break. They pointed out that the role of the Education Ministry is to help students acquire the knowledge and attain educational progress rather than taking and passing the exams. They also stressed the importance of sticking to the specified hours for comple-

tion of the course as agreed upon by most countries around the world.

Meanwhile, the ministry denied rumors spread on social media regarding the extension of school hours in order to make up for the lessons missed.

The ministry disclosed there will be a meeting this week to lay down a mechanism for covering the missed lessons.

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on Saturday, November 24, 2018 at the American Embassy in Bayan, Al-Masjed Al-Aqsa Street, at the parking lot outside the front gate. Viewing begins at 8:00 am, and the Sale begins at 9:00 am. Sale items include used vehicles, used household/office furniture, office equipment, appliances, drapes, carpets, computers, and more. All items will be sold to the highest bidder, and all sales will be in Kuwaiti Dinars

(Cash or K-Net)

For more information:  
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KUNA photo  
 Chief of the Kuwaiti Army's General Staff Lieut Gen Mohammad Al-Khodr and visiting Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force Gen Alberto Rosso.

## Kuwait's army chief, Italian general meet

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA):** Chief of the Kuwaiti Army's General Staff Lieut Gen Mohammad Al-Khodr and visiting Chief of Staff of the Italian Air Force Gen Alberto Rosso and his accompanying delegation on Sunday discussed several issues of mutual interest.

They also considered ways of promoting and developing military relations between Kuwait and Italy, the Kuwaiti army said in a press statement.