



Guy with Sidon Mufti Salim Soussane at the launch of the "Sidon 5,000 Years" documentary on Wednesday.

## Film documents history of Sidon from 3,000 BC

**Mohammed Zaatari**

Daily Star staff

SIDON: "Sidon 5,000 years" is the title of an archaeological documentary launched by the British Museum at the Sidon Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture Wednesday with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the ancient history of the Southern port city.

Project director Claude Serhal said the 40-minute documentary "shows all aspects of the excavation and the material culture discovered since 1998, when excavation works started in the Frere School area."

The launching ceremony was held in the presence of British Ambassador Frances Guy, MPs Michel Moussa and Pierre Serhal as well as Sidon Mayor Abdel-Rahman Bizri.

"The documentary relates the history of Sidon i.e. the stages of city's development from the third millennium to the first millennium BC," Serhal said.

Serhal said the excavations had been conducted by the British Museum and the Directorate Ge-

neral of Antiquities in Lebanon.

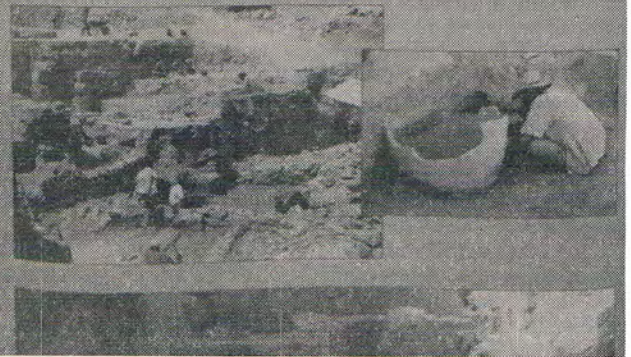
"Ten years of exploring the remains of the ancient city of Sidon have proved to be exceptionally rewarding," she said. "The discoveries that have been uncovered confirm that the city has been inhabited without interruption for thousands of years."

Serhal said the film was first shown at the British Museum in London in autumn 2007.

"Tonight the British Museum takes great pleasure to bring the film to Beirut where a Lebanese audience will finally have the opportunity to see for themselves the wealth and uniqueness of Lebanon's historical past," she added.

Praising the film, Guy said: "Probably none of you have been a tourist visiting Sidon but I have and I think this site has tremendous potential to be developed into one of the tourist stops on the walk between the citadel on the sea and the citadel on the land, passing through the souks of Sidon, and the soap museum and then traveling back 5000 years."

## SIDON BRITISH MUSEUM EXCAVATIONS 1998 - 2007



A poster advertising the launch ceremony.