



Sept 9, 2009

中国日报 CHINA DAILY Today's Paper|Subscribe

User: Password: Login Re

Mobile News Email Newsletter

环球在线 中国在线 英语点津 新闻图片 新漫

+ PPH & KLCD %QJ & KLCD : PLOG 5 HUIURODO 2 SLQFQ 6 SPJW 6 KPZ1%QJ / UH & XQMUH) RUXP 9 LGHR (16 KPS

Site Search * R Advanced

Google

WORLD > Global General

- Global General
- Special
- Newsmaker
- Asia Pacific
- America
- Middle East
- Europe
- Africa

- Slides
- Photos

Related

- China removes ban on foreign leprosy sufferers
- Leprosy patients need more help
- Official commended for dedication to 'leprosy village'
- Octogenarian doctor aims to root out leprosy
- Vietnam targets leprosy elimination by 2010

Industry Info

Auto China

Monthly updated Output & Sales, New Models, Company Events & Analyses. Subscribe Online! www.bizchina.com.cn

China Steel

To help you completely know China's Steel Market, sign up! www.bizchina.com.cn

Skeleton shows earliest evidence of leprosy

(Agencies) Updated: 2009-05-27 14:41

Comments(0) Print Mail

WASHINGTON - Leprosy is one of mankind's most ancient scourges, mentioned in writing from ancient India to the Bible to the Middle Ages. Now researchers have uncovered what they say is the oldest case of the disease yet found. Analysis of a 4,000-year-old skeleton from India shows traces of leprosy, researchers report in Wednesday's edition of PLoS One, a publication of the Public Library of Science.

Related readings:

- China removes ban on foreign leprosy sufferers
- Leprosy patients need more help
- Official commended for dedication to 'leprosy village'
- Octogenarian doctor aims to root out leprosy
- Vietnam targets leprosy elimination by 2010

The skeleton was buried about 2000 BC at the site of Balathal, a large settlement in what is now Rajasthan, according to Gwen Robbins, an anthropologist at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Balathal thrived from about 3700 to 1800 BC.

While leprosy is infectious, it is relatively hard to catch, requiring prolonged association with someone who has the disease. It has only one other animal

host, the armadillo.

Scientists have speculated that leprosy originated in India or Africa and may have spread from Asia to Europe with the returning army of Alexander the Great.

Previous skeletal evidence for the disease has been dated to 300 to 400 BC in Egypt and Thailand.

While leprosy is relatively easy to treat today, the World Health Organization estimates there were about 212,000 new cases worldwide last year, a rate that has been gradually falling. It is a bacterial disease affecting the skin and nerves, especially of the hands and feet.

Robbins' team said the presence of leprosy at Balathal supports early texts that refer to the disease as early as 1550 BC in India and Egypt.

The research was funded by the American Institute of Indian Studies, the George Franklin Dales Foundation, the Fulbright Program and the University of Oregon Graduate School.

Comments(0) Print Mail

Popular in 24 Hours

- Parents of freshmen students sleep in gym
- Resignation of 'premier' sets up big reshuffle
- Training for National Day military parade
- Kilimanjaro's icy top may disappear within 10 years
- Schools gear up to fend off flu outbreak
- 天津 anniversary lights 天津 ready for testing
- Chinese in Kenya not involved in ivory poaching
- China issues world's 1st warrant for H1N1 flu vaccination
- Suicide bombing hits a NATO military base in Kabul
- Paying tribute to teachers, premier sits in on classes

Popular in 1 Week

Ads by Google

Leprosy Photos

Find Leprosy Photos at Great Prices.

www.Pronto.com

Cure a Child With Leprosy

Leprosy is a terrible disease But you can help change a life

www.leprosy.org

Public Health Degree

Learn about public health & disease & earn your college degree online.

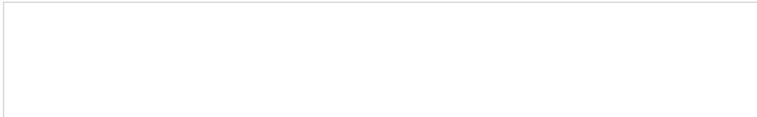
www.APUS.edu

Ethiopian History Exhibit

In NYC for a limited time. Original fossils of Lucy & Ida on display

www.Zvents.com/LucysL

- China's national flag to go up in White House on Sept 20
- Annual Notting Hill Carnival parade in west London
- Unique hairstyles to mark the National Day
- Chinese female fighter pilots get new suits
- Soldiers exercise for military parade on Oct.1
- The 66th Venice Film Festival kicks off
- NASA's photos unveil Mars surface
- Amateur inventor's homemade submarine
- Oil drops nearly 4% on China economy fears
- From womb to dorm, triplets all in a row



3 KPWK



9 LG-R



Fusing cont music with c instruments, group offers innovative & vibrant ener

& KLOD



The 2009 St Davos is set held on Sep Thursday.

%4 FKLOD



Next year's negotiations ore prices n jeopardy aft Tinto finally this year's t Chinese ste without agre just two mon before the 2 round was d begin.

0 X0P HED



Continuing t and recover Afghanistan to grapple w

[| About China Daily](#) | [| About Chinadaily.com.cn](#) | [| Advertise on Site](#) | [| E-Shop](#) | [| Legal Adviser](#) | [| Contact Us](#) | [| Site Map](#) | [| Job Offer](#) |

Copyright 1995 - 2009 . All rights reserved. The content (including but not limited to text, photo, multimedia information, etc) published in this site belongs to China Daily Information Co (CDIC). V
written authorization from CDIC, such content shall not be republished or used in any form. Note: Browsers with 1024*768 or higher resolution are suggested for this site.

Registration Number:
2010000002731

