

## This Day in History

(January 4)

Today is Thursday, 14th of the Iranian month of Dey 1396 solar hijri; corresponding to 16th of the Islamic month of Rabi as-Sani 1439 lunar hijri; and January 4, 2018, of the Christian Gregorian Calendar.

Over three lunar millennia ago, on this day, the Thamoud tribe of the al-Hijr region in the fertile northwestern part of Arabia, was afflicted with divine wrath for the abominable sins of its members, after having been given a lengthy respite to repent and reform, which the sinners spurned and instead committed the cardinal crime of killing the she-camel that had miraculously emerged from a splitting rock in answer to the supplication of Prophet Saleh to Almighty God when the Godless stuck to their demand for a supernatural miracle. The place is believed to be “Mada’ en Saleh” between Medina and the Levant, in the Hejaz. Only a few people especially the poor believed in the monotheistic message of Prophet Saleh, while the majority, particular the rulers, laughed at him and refused to heed his words of guidance. The special camel would give abundant milk every day for the poor to drink, and they were very happy. The sinners became angry and brutally killed the camel. They then threatened Prophet Saleh with death, but before they could carry out their murderous plot, divine wrath struck them, as black clouds gathered in the sky, covering the moon and the stars. Valleys and mountains were as dark as night. At midnight strong thunderbolts struck, while an earthquake occurred to obliterate the sinners, while Prophet Saleh and the believers had already left for a safe place.

**1073 lunar years ago**, on this day in 365 AH, the 4th self-styled caliph of the Fatemid dynasty of North Africa-Sicily, al-Mo’ez le Din-Arallah, died in his new capital Cairo (Qahera in Arabic), after a reign of 23 years during which the centre of his caliphate was moved from Mansuriyya in Tunisia to the newly conquered Egypt. The Fatemids, who claimed descent from Imam Ja’far Sadeq (AS), the 6th Infallible Heir of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny), but did not adhere to the teachings of the last six of the Prophet’s 12 Infallible Successors, had thrown off the yoke of the Abbasid caliphate of Baghdad. Their Shi’ite Muslim Sicilian general, Jowhar as-Saqali, conquered Egypt from the Abbasids and on the orders of Caliph Mo’ez founded the city of “Qahera” (Victorious) to commemorate the victory. Mo’ez soon founded the famous mosque and academy known as al-Azhar in honour of “Zahra” (Radiant), which is an epithet of the Prophet’s daughter, Hazrat Fatema (peace upon her). For the first time in Egypt the “Azaan” was recited in the Shi’ite Muslim manner with proclamation of the name of the Prophet’s First Infallible Successor, Imam Ali (AS), after testifying the Oneness of God Almighty and the Mission of Prophet Mohammad (blessings of God upon him and his progeny). For over two centuries, al-Azhar was the site of Ismaili Shi’ite learning until the fall of Egypt to the Kurdish general, Salaheddin Ayyubi, who forcibly converted the country and its people to the Sunni sect.

**973 lunar years ago**, on this day in 465 AH, the Iranian mystic Abdul-Karim ibn Hawazin al-Qushayri, died in his hometown Naishapur in Khorasan, northeastern Iran. Known as “Sheikh al-Islam”, following the death of his teacher and father-in-law, Abu Ali ad-Daqaq, he became the master and teacher of the mystical order called al-Qushayriyya. He was an authority on theology, philosophy, hadith, and exegesis of the Holy Qur’an. He has left behind a large number of books, including the treatise titled “Risalat al-Qushayriyya” on Islamic mysticism.

**783 lunar years ago**, on this day in 655 AH, Shajarat ad-Durr, the widow of the Ayyubid ruler, Sultan as-Saleh, died in Egypt. She played a crucial role after the death of her husband in repelling the Seventh Crusade launched against Egypt by Europeans. She was of Turkic slave origin, and her becoming Sultana (Queen), marks the end of the rule of the Kurdish Ayyubid Dynasty over Egypt and the start of the era of the Mamluks that lasted for two-and-a-half centuries.

**500 solar years ago**, on this day in 1517 AD, the Battle of Ridhaniya near Cairo, led to the total victory of the Ottoman Turks of Sultan Salim I over the Turkic Mamluk dynasty of Egypt and the killing of Sultan Bay. In this battle, the Ottoman commander, Grand Vizier Sinan Pasha, who had the engineered a resounding victory over the Mamluks in the decisive Battle of Khan Yunus in Gaza on October 28, lost his life. This last phase of the Ottoman-Mamluk wars started in August 1516, when Sultan Salim, two years after his narrow victory at Chaldiran in Azarbaijan over the Shah of Persia, Ismail I, suddenly invaded Syria, since he greatly feared the Iranians might reorganize and counterattack in view of the widespread influence of the Safavids in Syria and Anatolia (modern day Turkey).

**218 solar years ago**, on this day in 1809 AD; French educator, Louis Braille, who developed a tactile form of printing and writing, known as braille, since widely adopted by the blind, was born. He himself knew blindness from the age four, following an accident while playing.

**205 solar years ago**, on this day in 1813 AD, Isaac Pitman, an English teacher who developed the most widely used system of shorthand, known now as Pitman shorthand, was born in Britain. He first proposed this in Stenographic Soundhand in 1837.

**140 solar years ago**, on this day in 1878 AD, the Muslim city of Sofia was seized by the Russians from the Ottomans and turned into the capital of the newly established principality of Bulgaria, after ethnic cleansing on a large scale that saw expulsion of thousands of Muslims and destruction of mosques. It was in 1382 that Sofia had been liberated by Muslims and made seat of the newly created Sanjak of Sofia 1393. In the next century it became the capital of the Ottoman Province of Rumelia and for more than four centuries was a thriving city. Today nothing exists of the rich Islamic heritage, and only a very small number of Bulgarian Muslims survive in their homeland, after being forced to renounce their Islamic identity and religion over the past century.

**88 solar years ago**, on this day in 1931 AD, Mohammad Ali Jauhar, the Indian Muslim leader, activist, scholar, journalist and poet, passed away at the age of 53 while on a visit to London. He was buried in the city of Bayt al-Moqaddas in British-occupied Palestine. He and his younger brother Showkat Ali, were among the leading advocates of independence from British rule, and was elected to become the President of Indian National Congress party in 1923. Later he became one of the founders and presidents of the All-India Muslim League that campaigned for the division of India and creation of Pakistan.

**70 solar years ago**, on this day in 1948 AD, Burma, also known as Myanmar, gained independence from British colonial rule after a century of occupation, following two major wars and annexation to India. In 1937, it was separated from British India, because of nationalistic sentiments. During World War II it was occupied by Japanese forces, and after the war re-occupied briefly by the British before achieving independence. Myanmar covers an area of 670,000 sq km and is situated in Southeast Asia. It shares borders with China, India, Laos, Bangladesh, and Thailand. The current regime is notorious for is indifference to the genocide of its Muslim minority, especially the Rohingyas.

**52 solar years ago**, on this day in 1966 AD, the Tashkent conference was held with the mediation of the Soviet Union to broker peace between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the 1965 war. Pakistan was represented by President Ayub Khan and India by Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, who died of a heart attack in Tashkent shortly after signing the accord.

**11 solar years ago**, on this day in 2007 AD, Afro-American Keith Ellison of Minnesota’s 5th District became the first Muslim member of the US Congress, and he took oath of allegiance by placing his hand on the holy Qur’an.

**9 solar years ago**, on this day in 2009 AD, in Iraq, US-Saudi supported Takfiri terrorists blew up through remote control an unsuspecting woman by handing her an explosive-filled and then sending her in the midst of pilgrims to the holy shrine of Kazemain near Baghdad, resulting in the death of some 50 men, women, and children, and injury to almost a hundred others.

**7 solar years ago**, on this day in 2011 AD, Tunisian vendor, Mohammad Bouazizi, died 18 days after self-immolation in the city of Bouzid, in protest to state oppression. His funeral triggered nationwide demonstrations serving as a catalyst to the Islamic Awakening that triumphed ten days later on January 14 with the collapse of the 23-year dictatorial regime of President Zain al-Abedin bin Ali. The historic chain of events soon changed the authoritarian regimes in Libya, Egypt, and Yemen, and has continued to rock Bahrain.

(Courtesy: IRIB English Radio – <http://parstoday.com/en>)

# Excavations Reveal 45,000-Year-Old Stone Tools, Animal Bones in China



stone\_tools

BEIJING (Dispatches)-Archaeologists have unearthed thousands of artifacts from a cave in Xinjiang, China including stone tools, bronze and iron artifacts and animal fossils. Some of these

artifacts date as far back as the Paleolithic Age, making them roughly 45,000 years old, according to the Institute of Archaeology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Around 2,000 artifacts were recovered at the excavation site Tongtiandong Cave, which is the first ever Paleolithic cave recorded in Xinjiang province.

## Shahid Behesthi, French Universities Sign MoU on Health Law



TEHRAN (MNA) – Medical Law Research Center of Shahid Beheshti University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with University of Montpellier Center for Health Law.

Medical Ethics and Law Research Center of Shahid Behesthi University of Medical Sciences signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the healthcare the Center for Health Law of the University of

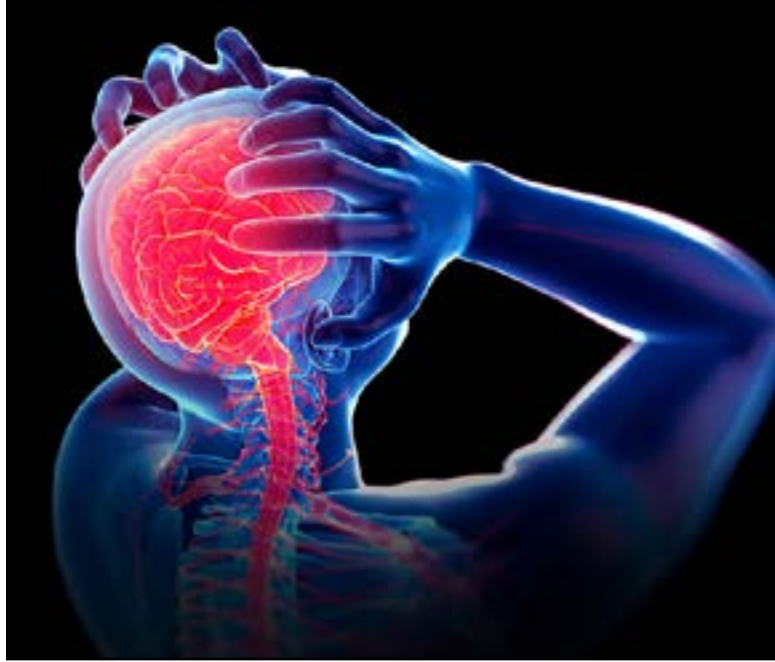
Montpellier, France, on science, education and research.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Dr. Mahmood Abbasi and Professor Francois Viala the heads of the two institutes on the sidelines of the first international congress on health law.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to expand cooperation in science, education and research with a

focus on bioethics and health law. The MoU facilitates the exchange of professors and students between the two universities and provides join PhD programs in health law.

Cooperation between the two centers has started since three years ago and is going to be expanded and promoted within the framework of this new Memorandum of Understanding.



## Migraine Surgery Produces ‘Dramatic Improvements’ in Functioning

AMSTERDAM (Dispatches) - In addition to reducing headache frequency and severity, surgical treatment for migraine leads to significant improvements in everyday functioning and coping ability, according to a new study.

Surgery has become recognized as an effective treatment option for selected patients with chronic, severe migraine headaches who do not respond to standard treatments. Developed by plastic surgeons who noticed that some migraine patients had fewer headaches after cosmetic forehead-lift, migraine surgery procedures address trigger sites linked to certain headache patterns.

However, most studies evaluating migraine surgery have relied on migraine-specific questionnaires. “Pain questionnaires used in the evaluation of better-understood and more common pain syndromes have not been applied to migraine surgery,” American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) member Surgeon William Gerald Austen, Jr, of Massachusetts General Hospital says.

The study evaluated the performance of one such questionnaire -- the Pain Self Efficacy Questionnaire (PSEQ) -- in migraine surgery patients. The PSEQ has been used to study treatment outcomes in patients with a wide range of pain conditions. It provides information not only on pain scores, but also on functional disability and ability to cope with pain when performing normal daily activities.

Before migraine surgery, the patients had “extremely poor” PSEQ scores, indicating a high level of disability. Preoperative pain coping scores in migraine patients were substantially lower than reported for patients with other types of chronic pain -- for example, neuropathic (related to nerve

damage) pain, arthritis, or lower back pain.

One year after migraine surgery, the patients had a very large percent improvement in average PSEQ score: on average, 112 percent higher than baseline. That was much higher than in studies of patients with other types of chronic pain: for example, an average 19 percent improvement after nonsurgical treatment for low back pain.

## Picture of the Day



Shevi or Tale Zang Waterfall is one of the greatest and most beautiful waterfalls in Iran which is located in Zagros Mountains and in Sardash Area of Dezful located in the country’s southwestern province of Khuzestan.

Courtesy: Tasnim News Agency