

Prince of Persia first game voiced in Farsi



The first version of video game 'Prince of Persia' in 14 years was released, called 'The Lost Crown,' and it is the first edition in the series, and the first videogame ever, to be fully voiced in Farsi.

The franchise draws heavily on Persian mythology and Iranian culture, but until now has always been in English, BBC reported.

The developers say they want to "depict and respect Persia and Iran".

Game fan Sam Mandi-Gohmi said it was "brilliant" that representation was being taken more seriously.

"When I saw the tweet announcing Farsi would be a full game audio option for 'The Lost Crown,' I half thought it was a joke," said Mandi-Gohmi, who lives in the UK.

"I grew up in England to an Iranian father, and often when I was younger we'd play games together, as it wasn't something that was significant in his childhood. "I rushed to show my dad it - he laughed and translated alongside in disbelief."

Sam said previous games in the series, released in the UK in the 1990s and 2000s, did not have characters who "appeared fully Iranian".

"Now, it's not 2003 anymore and representation in media is a significant consideration for developers - that's brilliant - but there is still basically zero Iranian representation within Western media," he said.

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Iran's cultural assets valuable enough to hit screen: Raisi



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (c) speaks at a meeting with officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the selection committee, artists, and the head of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran on January 16, 2024.

president.ir

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi highlighted the rich cultural assets of the Iranian-Islamic civilization, expressing a keen interest in presenting them to the world through cinema.

He made the statement during a meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the selection committee, artists and the head of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival on Tuesday.

Raisi underlined the importance of cooperation between the government and people involved in the arts and culture, according to president.ir.

President Raisi praised the organizers of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival and stressed the need to enhance strengths, while addressing any shortcomings.

He emphasized the significance of using the insights and experiences of veterans in the field, preventing their valuable contributions from being marginalized.

Acknowledging the significant increase in submissions from filmmakers of high-quality films, Raisi stated the government's role in promoting talent across all regions, including remote areas.

Addressing the report on the quantitative and qualitative improvements in this year's festival, Raisi expressed satisfaction and noted the potential for artistic, cultural, and literary works inspired by the Sacred Defense era.

He highlighted the vast capacities of bravery, resilience, and self-sacrifice during the eight-year period, suggesting art en-

thusiasts' activities should be included in creative endeavors.

Raisi praised the efforts of the country's youths, who, despite sanctions and restrictions, have achieved valuable milestones through innovation and creativity.

"These accomplishments, reminiscent of the spirit of Sacred Defense, possess significant potential to inspire artistic and literary works," the president reiterated.

Acknowledging the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's attention to the concerns and wishes of enthusiasts in the cultural and artistic fields, President Raisi said that their opinions, experiences, and capacities must be taken into consideration.

Concluding his address, Raisi underscored the significance of presenting artistic, cinematic, and literary works in neighboring and Islamic countries.

He noted the positive reception of such works in promoting the values of the Islamic Republic and called for constant support for the production and spreading culturally significant productions.

Iran objects to planned transfer of Cyrus Cylinder to Israeli Library

Iran raised objections to the British Museum's reported plans to transfer the ancient Cyrus Cylinder to the National Library of Israel, expressing deep concern about the potential risks associated with such a move.

Hadi Mirzaei, director general of the General Office of Museums, raised concerns in separate letters addressed to Amir-Hossein Ghareebnejad, vice president for Cultural Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ali-Akbar Mottakan, the secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, IRNA wrote.

Mirzaei expressed worries about the planned transfer, stating, "The transfer of this historical artifact will undoubtedly be inappropriate." The letter pointed out that the British Museum intends to move the Cyrus Cylinder, currently displayed in the US, to the national library of the occupying regime in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) from October 4 to November 28, 2024.

Mirzaei emphasized Iran's intellectual property rights over the Cyrus Cylinder and urged a ban on its transfer. He also called for legal action based on the 1945 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property. The Cyrus Cylinder, a relic from the Achaemenid dynasty, is recognized as the earliest and most ancient declaration of human rights, representing a significant part of Iranian identity and civilization.

The principles within the Cyrus Cylinder influenced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.



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Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



4,000-year-old wall found around oasis in Saudi Arabia

A giant wall dating back around 4,000 years was discovered surrounding an oasis in Saudi Arabia. The wall was originally nine miles (14.5 kilometers) long and surrounded the Khaybar Oasis, located near the city of Al-Ula. It was about 16 feet (5 m) high and 5.6 to 7.9 feet (1.7 to 2.4 m) thick, the team said in a statement. The wall originally had 180 bastions, points projecting out of the fortification. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal remains found during excavations indicate that the wall dates to between 2250

and 1950 B.C., the team wrote in a paper published in the Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports. The wall may have been used for a few centuries before being abandoned, Live Science reported. Today, only about 3.7 miles (5.9 km) of the 9-mile wall and 74 of the 180 bastions remain, the team said in the statement. The wall may have been constructed for several reasons. One likely purpose was mil-

itary defense "against raids from nomads," Guillaume Charloux, an archaeologist with the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and lead author of the paper, told Live Science in an email. In their paper, the scientists noted that the people who built the wall may have used it to demarcate their territory and to protect against flash floods. The team noted that other examples of fortified oases have been found on the Arabian Peninsula and may be a sign that populations were becoming more

sedentary. It would have taken 5.8 million cubic feet (164,000 cubic meters) of stone and brick and about 250 people working for four years to build the wall, Charloux said. Work in the Khaybar Oasis is ongoing, and Charloux said we can expect to hear of results discussing a sizable settlement that existed in the Khaybar Oasis. There "is another important publication to come," he said. Before the excavations were conducted, the site was analyzed using satellite surveys. The work on the fortifications was carried out between 2020 and 2023 by researchers with the Khaybar Longue Durée Archaeological Project.