

## Wide Angle



Joel Indrupati

## What do I think of 'The Crown'?

**I**t does not matter to 'The Crown' what I think. But I suppose I can still express my thoughts on it.

I am not talking here about Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 'The Crown' and the powerful head of the now jaded and faded British Empire.

I am talking about the TV series 'The Crown' made on her life.

In July, I had set a one-month goal to complete watching this Netflix TV series, and I am glad I accomplished it.

All the ten episodes - set during 1947-1955, spanning the time of her engagement to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, to the time of her differences with her sister Princess Margaret, over her sister's affair with Peter Townsend - are extremely engaging.

The TV series covers the period of British Empire under Prime Ministers Clement Attlee, Winston Churchill (during his second term) and Anthony Eden.

In the background, we see the diplomatic problems related to the independence of India, 'the jewel in the crown' of the British Empire; And also to the times of US President Dwight Eisenhower and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

We see a few flashbacks. Of her interesting exchanges with her father King George VI, and with her uncle King Edward VIII who abdicated the throne -- to marry the twice divorced Miss Wallis Simpson of USA.

The TV series gives us a peek into what could have transpired, behind closed doors, in palaces and parliament buildings.

It gives us a keyhole view, into The Crown's interactions with her family members and with her Prime Ministers.

It gives us her innocent misdemeanours, as a novice - she was only 25 when she became the Queen - and also her clever manipulations, as she understands her role as the Queen.

It gives us her private struggles and her public triumphs.

Not everyone may agree with Peter Morgan, the writer of the series. Some critics say he was not accurate in the portrayal of the world's most famous royal family.

But "They're still living, and you have to take that stuff really seriously," he said in an interview to 'The Hollywood Reporter' (THR, 14 August 2017); which shows he must have researched a great deal, before surmising some of these scenes.

No wonder this drama is nominated for an Emmy this year. And some are predicting a six season series of 'The Crown'.

Claire Foy, as 'The Crown', did not seem like a good actress at first, but as the series progressed, I began to love her performance. Vennesa Kirby, as Princess Margaret, was beauty and spirit personified.

Initially, I felt Sir Winston Churchill was caricatured a bit. But then, I realized that this was set during his later years, when he was very old, and when he refused to let go of his office.

The locations, of English countryside and palace interiors, are very beautifully shot.

As an Indian, I am angry that India had suffered under 'The Crown' of British imperialism. But Britain's advances in communication and transportation, long before telegraphy, and its administrative effectiveness, across continents, cannot be denied.

I write this piece, sitting in a coffee shop in London, near Buckingham Palace, after a visit to some historic places here. And I must say I am awed at the beauty and the grandeur of this place; a place from where the once famous British Empire was run.

This TV series shows us how 'The Crown' had struggled, how it succeeded at times and failed at times, and how it had affected the politics of far-flung countries across the globe.

But, most importantly, it shows us how 'The Crown' actually affects the person wearing it.

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)*

# Nile dam to benefit all: says Sudan

## Khartoum

**Sudan's President** Omar al-Bashir said yesterday that the construction of Ethiopia's controversial Grand Renaissance Dam on the Nile River would not impact water supplies to Egypt as feared by Cairo.

Visiting Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, for his part, said the project was a "win-win" for the peoples of all three countries if it was not politicised.

Construction of the massive dam on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia has poisoned relations between Cairo and Addis Ababa, with Egypt fearing its share of water from the Nile will be hit once the project is completed.

"We are fully committed to ensure that the Egyptian

share of the Nile water will not be affected because of the building of the Renaissance Dam," Bashir said at a joint press conference in Khartoum with Desalegn.

Egypt, which is almost totally reliant on the Nile for agriculture and drinking water, says it has "historic rights" to the Nile guaranteed by treaties from 1929 and 1959.

The treaties grant it 87 percent of the river's flow, as well as the power to veto upstream projects, according to Cairo.

The Blue and the White Nile rivers converge in Khartoum and from there run north into Egypt as the Nile.

Desalegn called for the issue of the dam not to be politicised.

"This is more of a technical issue and it is not political," he



Omar al-Bashir

said. "If we don't politicise it, then we will reach a conclusion that is a win-win for all our people."

Bashir said Khartoum too had concerns initially about the safety of the dam, which when complete will be the largest in

Africa.

"If anything happens to the dam, it will be crisis for Sudan because of the huge amount of water the dam will be storing," said Bashir.

"But Ethiopia has made some changes to the dam's structure, and now we are satisfied."

French firms Artelia and BRL are currently carrying out technical studies on the project.

The dam is designed to feed a hydroelectric project that would produce 6,000 megawatts of power -- tantamount to six nuclear-powered plants.

Ethiopia began building the dam in 2012 and initially expected to commission it in 2017. Ethiopian media reports say that only about 60 percent of the construction has so far been completed.

## Missing Pets



**MAX** - Male, 7 yrs, wearing red collar - no ID tag, watched by friend at farm in Sanad and escaped out door (near Taawon School & Saadeddin Pastry Shop), owner lives in Hidd - so could be trying to go back home, 2/8/17. **39833933/39611992/36663559**



**POPPY** - Female Miniature Poodle, 2 yrs, micro-chipped, wearing black collar w pink paw print ID tag, has health issue, possibly STOLEN, Budaiya (Beach Villas/by new road works/back of farmers market), 10/3/17, REWARD 200BD, **36636955 or 36366128**



**LEXIE** - Female terrier/poodle mix, 4 yrs, missing from inside villa compound wall - gate closed but dog missing, perhaps stolen, wearing collar w wife's friends name/number, Galali (near Mumtaza supermarket), 30/4/17. **38302789**



**ROLLY** - Male, 1 yr, bent tail, brown eyes, all black, ran away when owner was out of country, not wearing collar or ID tag, owner has very special bond with Rolly, Isa Town (near Isa Town Club), 15/5/17. **33157048**



**BUBBLES** - Female, 4 yrs, spayed, owner was away - always let out in garden for a bit - but this time did not come back, not wearing collar or ID tag, Nuwaidrat (behind Jawad), 200BD REWARD for safe return, 26/06/17. 39448662 or 33787650