



Egyptian novelist wins Nobel prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 13: Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz won the 1988 Nobel Literature Prize, the first Arabic language writer to do so, reports Reuter.

The Swedish Academy of Letters said the 77-year-old writer won the award for "works rich in nuance, now clear sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous."

The citation said the academy was awarding the 2.5 million crown (\$90,000 dollar) prize for work which formed an Arabian narrative art that applied to all mankind.

"His production has meant a powerful upswing for the novel as a general and for the development of the literary language in Arabic-speaking cultural circles."

"His work speaks to us all," the academy said.

The decision by a committee of 18 Swedish writers and academics, famed for their controversial, sometimes quirky choices, came as a total surprise.