

Al-Jarida



Al-Anbaa

MAHFOUZ AJAB

By Saleh Al-Shayji

It is not a matter of iconic or very well-known writers because writing is the right of everybody, opinion is freedom and freedom is a necessity. Those who make very good careers in journalism and writing may not necessarily be very good human beings as well - they may be the exact opposite. No writer is immune or beyond accountability.

Two days ago, the iconic Arab and probably international journalism star Mohammed Hasanin Heikal passed away after assuming that prestigious position for around seven decades. A lot has been said and written about him. Many stories and novels were written about him. The most important novel about him was titled 'The Man Who Lost His Shadow' by Fathy Ghanem, which tells Heikal's story through the hero Mahfouz Ajab, a young opportunist Machiavellian journalist who would do anything to achieve his goal regardless of the price he had to pay.

This character is definitely that of Heikal, the most important Arab journalist and the one who most affected Arab minds. He was an entire institution rather than an individual - he probably was a state in himself rather than an institution. Gamal Abdul Nasser have him access to all Egyptian state facilities and granted him control over them, which made him actually and literally form Nasser's personality from A to Z.

He was the only one from outside the 'free officers' organization to attend its meetings before they took over, and that provoked the organization's leader Mohammed Naguib. So much has been said and written about suspicions around his life, human and journalistic behavior. He used to beg a lot until he reached his goals, then turn up against whoever had helped him and start enjoying torturing him as a prey while he used to kiss his hand and feet a short while earlier.

That was what he did to his mentor and benefactor Mustafa Ameen when he framed him as a US spy and had President Nasser jail him. Death does not erase sins and mistakes of those who die and each dead person carries them all to his grave. Death is not a sort of catharsis and cannot turn black into white - it does not cover history with roses nor does it spray rosewater on any person.

Heikal had hated us in the GCC and it was he behind Nasser's hate of us as well. That is why we hate him and we even hate him more for his personal characteristics and his ill-natured personality as a human being. Well, to readers who will say I should only mention good things about dead people, I already started by mentioning his good points before the bad ones, and I am even praying to bestow mercy on his soul!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

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Crime

Report

CRACKDOWN IN CENTRAL PRISON

KUWAIT: Central prison authorities launched a campaign described as 'one of the largest in recent years' in coordination with special task forces and riot police, to uncover banned and illicit material within the prison. The campaign took approximately five hours and included cell searches. It resulted in the discovery of a bounty of banned material, including more than 100 mobile phones, chargers and Wi-Fi devices. The campaign also uncovered hidden caches of shabu (meth) and other drugs. The campaign reportedly came in response to the beating of an officer by several inmates in the central prison after he discovered banned substances in their possession.

Teacher insults student

A citizen accused a Kuwaiti teacher of insulting his daughter, claiming that she told her "You are trash coming out of trash." A complaint was lodged at Saad Al-Abdullah police station.

Ex hubby robs citizen

A citizen accused her former husband of breaking into her house and stealing two air conditioning units while she was away. The incident took place in Saad Al-Abdullah area.

Kidnapped youth freed

Ahmadi police freed a Kuwaiti youth who was detained by two men in a Nuwaiseeb area chalet. A security source said that a call for help came from an unknown man inside a chalet, so several Ahmadi officers responded, and broke the front door to release him. The boy said that he had been detained for two days.

Cars vandalized

An unknown person broke into and stole the contents of four cars owned by citizens while parked in a Saad Al-Abdullah area school parking lot. A security source said four citizens came in the police station at different times and said their cars were broken into. All the vehicles had broken glass, and the owners said that they did not know who had done it. Stolen material include mobile phones, money and civil IDs. Police are investigating.

Ex-convicts arrested

Farwaniya detectives arrested two ex-convicts who specialized in thefts, as well as possessing weapons, ammunition. Two shotguns and two pistols were found hidden in cars found in the farm.

Digger arrested

Rabiya police noticed a man digging a hole in the ground near the police station. When questioned, the man said he was looking for a weapon he had hidden in that area.

Expat hanged self

The body of an Asian man was received by the coroner after he was found hanging from a ceiling fan inside a room he shares with others in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. A security source said the deceased was in his thirties, and his roommates said he was suffering from financial problems in his home country. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa