Jamaica’s James wins Booker Prize

‘Seven Killings’ full of ‘sweeter pleasure of language’

LONDON, Oct 14 (Agencies): Marlon James’ novel has won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction Tuesday with a tragicomic depiction of crime and violence in Jamaica.

He has become the first Jamaican to win the 50,000-pound ($78,000) prize, which is presented in recognition of a writer’s merit and achievement.

The novel tells the story of alto saxophonist William Tusker, who is implicated in the disappearance of a wealthy Jamaican man, and who is later shot dead in a Botswana village.

It is the first Jamaican novel to win the prize, and it is the first time the winner has been a writer from the Caribbean.

James’ book, “The Brief History of Seven Killings,” was shortlisted for the award last year, but it was not a favorite of the judges.

The other finalists were British writer Zadie Smith, who won the award in 2000 with her novel “White Teeth,” and American writer Colson Whitehead, who won the award in 2016 with his novel “The Underground Railroad.”

James is also the first black writer to win the prize.

He has been a star since his first novel, “A Brief History of Seven Killings,” was published in 2014.

James told the Associated Press that he was “very happy” to have won the prize.

“I’m just trying to be humble about it,” he said.

The author also said publishing was “a very funny” moment in his career.

He added, “I hope it brings more attention to what’s coming out of Jamaica.”