

NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER WARNS AGAINST HARBOURING FUGITIVES

Story on Page 2



The Pigotts Primary School and the Antigua Girls High School received donations of books and other school supplies via a partnership between Hands Across the Seas and CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank. *Story on page 7.*

National Security Minister warns against harbouring Jamaican fugitives

Acting Prime Minister and National Security Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, has issued a warning to members of the public advising them not to harbour or in any way assist the two Jamaican nationals who are on the run from law enforcement.

The two females, Donnalie Samantha Salmon and Tiffanie Natalie Howell were placed in the detention centre at the Immigration Department awaiting deportation when they escaped through a window at the facility.

The Immigration Department issued a national Wanted Bulletin for information leading to the recapture of the escapees.

Sir Steadroy summoned a meeting on Monday with the senior officers of the Immigration Department to discuss the failures in the system that led to the women successfully escaping from the centre.

“Anyone who harbours these individuals or in any way provide them with material or other assistance is likely to have charges brought against them. This is a serious matter and we want the public to treat it as such,” he declared.

Additionally, the national security minister said the meeting recommended that a number of steps should be put

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Sir Steadroy Benjamin

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PM Browne wants more Chinese investments, tourists

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne was the featured speaker at the China-Antigua and Barbuda Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum hosted by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade on January 23, in Beijing, China.

During his remarks, Prime Minister Browne identified ten areas for investment to include transportation, agriculture, education, and medical care.

“China is a big shipping country, and we hope to expand cooperation in the shipping industry and attract related investments from China. China’s electric vehicles are very competitive in terms of price and quality, and there are opportunities for China to expand exports to Antigua and Barbuda. Currently, many goods at our ports are produced in China, and reducing intermediate links can not only enhance price competitiveness, but also benefit our people,” Prime Minister Browne told the over 100 Chinese investors.

“We not only welcome Chinese investors to invest in Antigua and Barbuda, but also welcome Chinese tour-



ists to come to Antigua and Barbuda for a leisurely vacation and enjoy the island lifestyle,” he said.

Prime Minister Browne also said that Antigua and Barbuda is negotiating with relevant countries on increasing direct flights, hoping to provide more international tourists with more direct flight routes.

“The last time I visited China was nine years ago. China has made great development achievements in these years,” the Prime Minister stated. He said that China not only benefits its own

people with its development, but also helps developing countries accelerate their economies and contribute to the United Nations’ 2030 goals. The country’s leader also showered praise on China for its promotion of a foreign policy of equality for all countries, big or small. He said that the cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and China is a model for cooperation between large and small countries.

“Although there is a big gap between the two countries in terms of population, land area, among others, our

two sides have deepened practical cooperation, closely coordinated and cooperated, and benefited our peoples with tangible cooperation results,” he said.

Antigua and Barbuda views China as an important international partner. Earlier this month, China and Antigua and Barbuda celebrated the 41st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Over one hundred Chinese business representatives from the fields of agriculture, food, finance, trade, equipment manufacturing, green energy, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, infrastructure, aviation and tourism participated in the China-Antigua and Barbuda Trade Conference Investment Cooperation Forum.

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in place to ensure that there is no recurrence of this situation.

The department is currently recruiting more officers to fill the gaps in the various teams of officers in place to enable them to function at a higher level of efficiency.

Other measures will also be put in place to make escaping from the centre much more difficult to achieve.

Meanwhile, the department is reporting that the two women are still on the run and it has renewed the appeal for information that would lead to their recapture.

PM Browne: China is an example for all developing countries

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, now on an official visit to China along with two senior ministers and other officials, has praised the strides made by the People’s Republic of China over the past several decades.

In an interview with Chinese Television, PM Browne noted that China has grown exponentially and it has been able to successfully lift its people out of poverty based on the level and the rapid rate of development currently underway there.

“My last visit to China was just over nine years ago and the changes in the landscape, the developments and transformation that I have seen in that short time here in Beijing are quite remarkable. I believe that China should serve as an example to all other developing states as we strive to attain the UN Sustainable Development Goals,” he remarked.

He added that with the world’s second largest population (second to India) China has demonstrated that with dedication, good governance and strong leadership, much can be achieved.

“With those in place, China has shown us that developing countries can surmount the challenges as we seek to achieve the SDG’s as we move towards securing sustainable prosperity

for our people,” he emphasised.

Accompanied by a team that includes Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and Non-Resident Ambassador to China, Brian Stuart-Young, the Prime Minister traveled to Beijing for the opening of an embassy for Antigua and Barbuda in the PRC’s capital.

The opening took place Tuesday. Antigua and Bar-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

buda will name an ambassador who will manage the embassy sometime in the near future.

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AIDS Secretariat Manager advocates for HIV positive persons to seek treatment

While the public awaits the official announcement of figures for the last year from the AIDS Secretariat, calls are being made by the body for persons who have tested positive for HIV to seek treatment.

Programme Manager Delcora Williams made the call during a recent media appearance.

“That person is more dangerous than any other person because the reality is if you are positive and do not access care the level of the virus in your blood increases and that makes it easier for you to infect someone else.

“We would like everyone out there who has ever tested positive to access care. They don’t have to come to the national program, they can go to their private doctors,” Williams said.

Over the years, there has been a decrease in a number of individuals testing positive, a trend Williams has welcomed.



Delcora Williams

For 2022, there has been a 30 percent reduction in new cases being reported at both public and private

health facilities in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with the total *cont'd on pg 6*

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CBH pauses fogging; continues other mosquito fighting methods

The Central Board of Health has placed a pause on its fogging anti-mosquito campaign due to high winds that have been forecast for the remainder of the week.

However, according to Acting Principal Public Health Inspector, Julianne Mannix the department is not letting up on its other methods used to rid the country of the aedes aegypti mosquito which spreads diseases such as dengue fever.

“Because of the high winds we decided not to continue our fogging operations this week. Under these circumstances, the fogging would be ineffective as the winds would just blow away the chemicals making them useless in the fight to eliminate the mos-



Acting Principal Public Health Inspector, Julianne Mannix

quitoes,” Mannix explained.

She added that the high winds cause the chemical not to get into con-

tact with the mosquitoes.

With the pause on fogging, the department will continue visits to homes to treat water catchments, stagnant water as well as to treat other stagnant water that are sited in various communities.

Mannix further explained that the fogging plays a major role in the anti-mosquito campaign especially in areas where there are reports of an outbreak in the dengue fever. The fogging is then used to help eliminate the mosquitos thereby reducing the chances of mosquitoes that are infected with the virus passing it on to humans.

The mosquito is the only conduit of transferring the virus from human to human.

cont'd from pg 5

cases that the country has seen since 1985 standing at 1390.

Males continue to lead in the majority of the cases in the country with 53 percent (750) of the total figure; females figures stand at 640 (47 percent).

There are still no records of transmission from mother to baby. A feat Williams and her team continue to celebrate.

She still however is admonishing the public not to become too complacent.

In an effort to tackle that complacency, the Sec-

retariat has increased its appointments and is looking at broadening the locations where testing can be done.

“What we have done is train healthcare providers and CSO’s (Clinical Support Officer) to be able to conduct an HIV test. We are hoping to roll out testing not

only at the AIDS Secretariat and the clinics but also in the CSO’s offices. We are trying to reduce the novelty of going into the Secretariat office or a lab to get a test.

“The other thing we have been doing is going to hotels, different work places to offer testing. We are like a fixture on some of these hotels where they know we will be in twice a year for testing.

“We also introduced another avenue where persons can call us and inform us, if they will like to be tested privately and we meet them. The only thing that we ask is that persons write us a letter and this is free of cost,” Williams added.

Training sessions are scheduled to take place next month as well.

Three people arrested for unlawful possession of firearm

Three persons have been arrested by the police for unlawful possession of a firearm.

On Tuesday, 23 January, the police executed a search warrant on a home in John Hughes and found a rifle in the possession of the occupants of the house.

The firearm was seized along with several other items of interest. The men were

arrested and taken into custody. Investigations are ongoing.

Less than a week ago, Jahmarie Joseph of Carlisle Estate was convicted and fined \$20,000 in the Magistrate’s Court for unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition. He was given until May 2024 to pay the fines.



CIBC/FCIB donates school supplies to two schools

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank, in partnership with Hands Across the Seas, have made several donations of books and other school supplies to two schools, one primary and the other secondary.

The bank said in a release that the donation of books is being done to support libraries across the OECS. Presentations were made to the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) and the Pigotts Primary School.

“The partnership between Hands Across the Sea and CIBC FirstCaribbean started over five years ago. To date the FirstCaribbean ComTrust Foundation has made donations in excess of one hundred and ten thousand US dollars (US\$100,000) to this worthwhile project across the OECS,” the release stated.

During the presentations, Vernest Mack, Literacy Link for the programme noted that CIBC has been a major contributor to Hand Across the Sea for a few years.

“Their timely donations have enabled Hands Across the Sea to purchase books for libraries in Antigua and Barbuda.

“This is greatly appreciated. As representatives for Hands Across the Sea in Antigua and Barbuda, my colleague Hyacinth Gonsalves Barriero and I, ensure the books are in the schools and they are being utilized to the maximum.

“This we have been doing since January, 2020. We extend sincere thanks to CIBC on behalf of Hands Across the Sea, and look forward to continued support,” she stated.

The bank’s Country Head, Ladesa James-Williams, also spoke at the presentations and encouraged the students to fall in love with reading.

“I am delighted and honoured to be here and bring greetings from the management and staff of CIBC. We are pleased to continue our 5-year partnership with Hands Across the Sea to improve literacy in the OECS and



ensure that every child has access to quality books that are exciting and intriguing to read,” she explained.

The bank official added that in Antigua alone, over 100 library projects, from pre-schools through to secondary schools and community groups have also benefitted.

Amazon fined for ‘excessive’ surveillance of workers

By Sam Gruet

Amazon has been fined €32m (£27m) in France for “excessive” surveillance of its workers, including measures the data watchdog found to be illegal.

The CNIL said Amazon France Logistique, which manages warehouses, recorded data captured by workers’ handheld scanners.

It found Amazon tracked activity so precisely that it led to workers having to potentially justify each break.

Amazon said it strongly disagreed with the CNIL’s findings and called them “factually incorrect”.

France’s data protection agency investigated Amazon warehouses following complaints by employees as well as media coverage of conditions.

It outlined a number of areas where it found Amazon had breached General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

This included a system with three alerts in place to monitor employee activity, which the CNIL ruled to be illegal.

One alert triggered if an item was scanned too quickly or less than 1.25 seconds after scanning a previous item, increasing the risk of error.

Another signalled breaks of 10 minutes or more, while a third tracked breaks between one and 10 minutes.

The CNIL also ques-



tioned why Amazon needed to keep workers’ data for 31 days.

Responding to the findings an Amazon spokesperson said: “We strongly disagree with the CNIL’s conclusions which are factually incorrect and we reserve the right to file an appeal.

“Warehouse management systems are industry standard and are necessary for ensuring the safety, quality, and efficiency of operations and to track the storage of inventory and processing of packages on time and in line with customer expectations.”

A similar system for Amazon warehouses in the UK has been highlighted before.

Amazon’s Europe policy chief Brian Palmer told a parliamentary select committee in November 2022 that if an employee had three productivity flags on the system they could be fired. The on-

line giant later said they were not “fully correct”.

The subsequent report published by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee raised concerns about surveillance technology being used to set performance targets and monitor performance.

The report said there was evidence to suggest that Amazon’s surveillance practices were “leading to distrust, micromanagement and, in some cases, disciplinary action against its workers”.

The committee said it had written to Amazon outlining its concern the technology would put “undue stress on its workforce”.

Amazon declined to comment on its UK warehouses.

The CNIL said Amazon already had access to lots of data to achieve quality and safety in its warehouses, and called the system “excessive-

ly intrusive”. It also noted that tracking employees so closely could lead to them having to justify even a brief interruption of scanning.

Amazon also used data collected by the scanner to plan work in its warehouses, evaluate employees on a weekly basis and train them. The watchdog ruled Amazon did not need access to the smallest details of data collected by the scanners to do so.

The online shopping giant was fined for not properly informing workers and external visitors about surveillance, with the watchdog also found to have had insufficient security on its video surveillance.

Reacting to the ruling, the GMB union which represents Amazon’s UK warehouse workers, said the company’s staff were facing “bruising levels of scrutiny and surveillance”.

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China appears to U-turn on ‘obsessive’ gaming crackdown

By Imran Rahman-Jones

China seems to have backtracked on strict rules to combat what the regulator deemed “obsessive” gaming.

The National Press and Publication Administration (NPPA) had proposed regulations limiting the amount of money and time people spent playing video games.

However, on Tuesday the draft rules were no longer on the NPPA website.

China is the world’s biggest online gaming market, but the industry has had frequent run-ins with the authorities.

The new rules would have limited in-game purchases. Incentives such as daily log-in rewards for gamers would also have come under fire, while the introduction of a pop-up

warning players of “irrational” behaviour was proposed.

Share prices of Chinese gaming firms - including the world’s biggest gaming company Tencent Holdings and its rival NetEase - jumped after the apparent U-turn.

They had plummeted after the rules were first proposed in December, wiping nearly \$80bn (£63bn) off the value of the two companies.

However, analysts say the sector is still clouded by uncertainty about what the government might do next.

“I think this type of sentiment will probably last for quite some time, unless we get a very drastic turnaround in government rhetoric, or unless we get some super supportive policies,” said Ivan Su, senior analyst at Morningstar.

“We don’t know if it’s going to happen in a week, in a couple months, or in a couple of years.”

China’s largest crackdown on gamers came in 2021 when children were banned from playing for more than an hour on certain days.

That same year, the government stopped gaming licences from being granted for eight months.

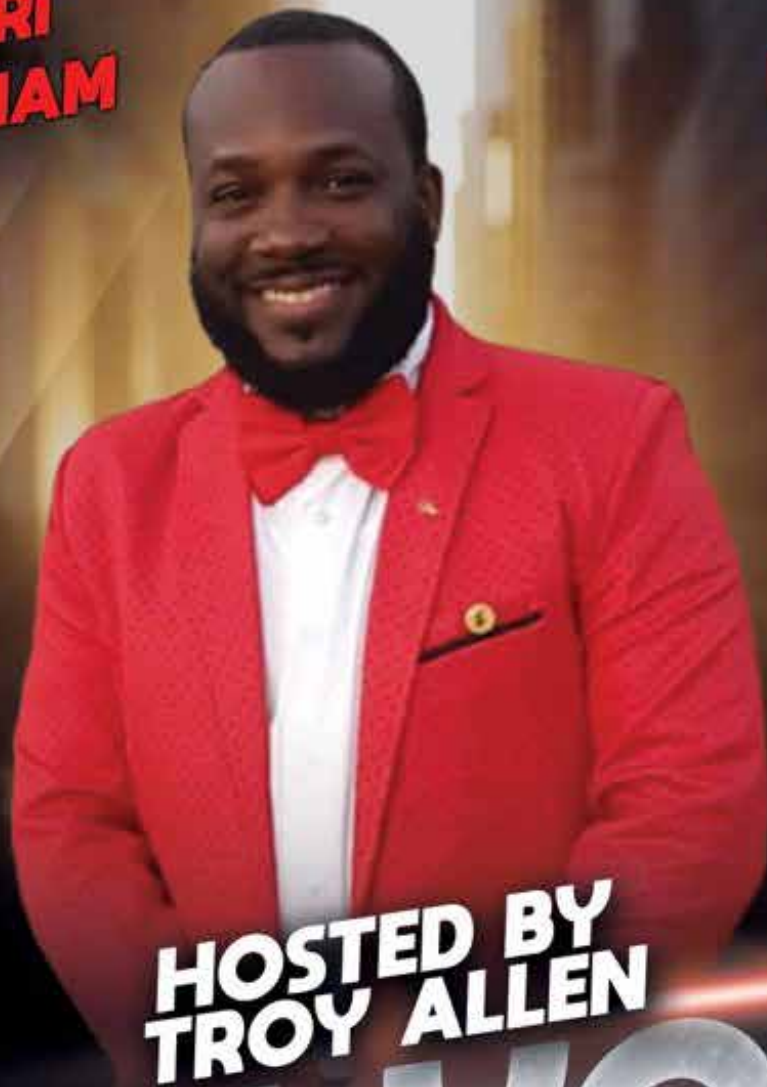
As a result, says Mr Su, “a lot of Chinese developers have started shifting their development pipeline toward overseas games”.

NetEase and Tencent acquired or invested in companies in the likes of France, Japan and the United States.

It remains to be seen whether the current uncertainty will prompt another wave of overseas expansion.



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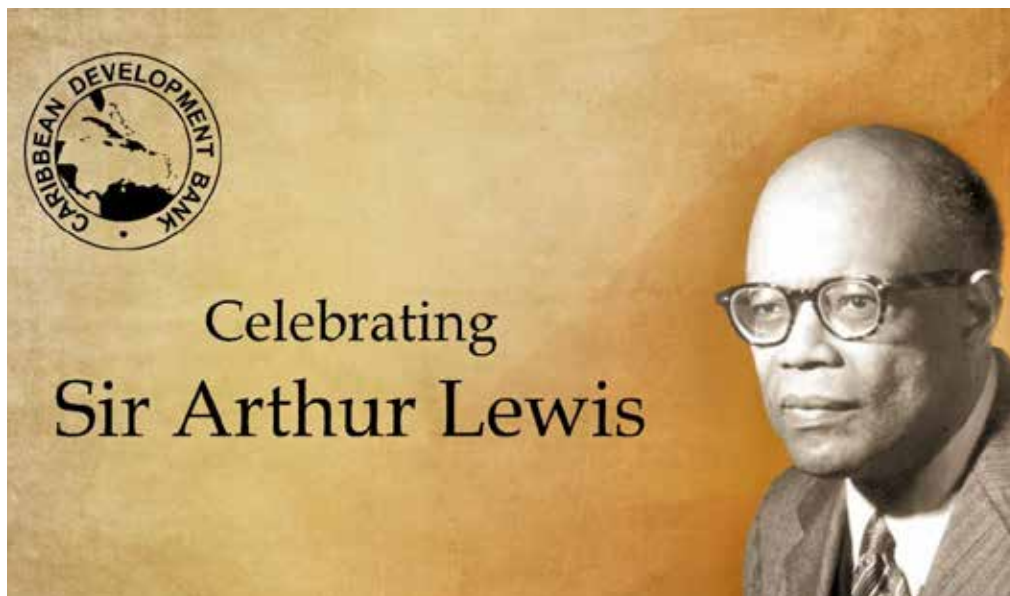
Regional News



CDB pays tribute to Sir Arthur Lewis on the anniversary of his birth

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) pays tribute to our founding President, Sir Arthur Lewis, a pioneer of regional development, who was born on January 23, 1915. A renowned scholar, innovator and winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize for Economic Sciences, Sir Arthur was instrumental in establishing CDB, which remains the only indigenous development bank in the Region.

Serving as President from 1970 – 1973, he played a key role in shaping the strategy and structure of the institution and devising the policies and procedures to ensure its effectiveness in promoting economic development in the Caribbean. Recognising that the evolution and growth of the Region would require a skilled workforce, his tenure was marked by an emphasis on developing human capital with the Bank prioritising investments in education and skills development to support economic growth.



A national of Saint Lucia, Sir Arthur believed that collaboration and joint efforts were essential to address common challenges and played a critical role in fostering integration and cooperation among Caribbean countries. As President he encouraged member countries to work together and leverage the resources and expertise of the Bank

to achieve shared goals.

CDB honours his legacy through our commitment to accelerating the social and economic development of Caribbean nations and our ongoing efforts to mobilise the capital and resources needed to achieve the best future for the Region and the people we serve.

May his legacy endure.

Trial of former premier of British Virgin Islands delayed again

CMC – A Miami judge has postponed to January 29, the trial of the former premier of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Andrew Fahie who is facing charges of drug smuggling, money laundering and racketeering.

The trial was due to have started on Monday after being pushed back by two weeks on January 8. But Justice Kathleen Williams announced in a paperless motion that the been moved back by a further



Andrew Fahie week.

The judge was expected to hear arguments from

both sides about introducing foreign law jury instructions and expert witnesses

into the trial, the issue of hearsay testimony, a possible entrapment defence and other matters that recently arose.

Fahie's attorney, Theresa Van Vliet, asked the court to dismiss what she described as the prosecution's 'eleventh-hour' motions that were filed three weeks before the start of the trial. She argued that the motions raised several crucial issues for the first time.

Fahie was arrested in *cont'd on pg 13*

Bermuda: Man found not guilty of killing national footballer

CMC – A 12-member jury has acquitted a Devonshire resident who had been accused of murdering a 23-year-old member of the national football team in 2021.

Raheem Wray, 25, had been charged with a single count of murder in connection with the fatal stabbing of Osagi Bascome in the early hours of December 18, 2021. But the jury consisting of 10 women and two men, returned a not guilty verdict after deliberating for seven hours.

Family members of both the accused and the deceased in the gallery broke down in tears as the verdict was read and Wray himself fought back tears as he thanked the judge, Justice Mark Pettingill, who oversaw the trial, for his release.

He left the courtroom escorted by police and surrounded by his family.

During the trial, the Supreme Court heard that

Bascome was involved in an altercation outside a party when he suffered two stab wounds to his left side. He was taken to hospital in a car by other partygoers, but one of the two injuries punctured his heart's left ventricle, causing his death.

The court heard that no one called 911 from the party and one witness, who cannot be identified because of a reporting restriction, said that he had heard what he believed to be a punch and turned to see Bascome looking shocked.

He said he then saw Wray stab Bascome with a poking motion before leaving the area in a car.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Cindy Clarke, told the jury that although there was no forensic evidence, the Crown's case was "rock solid".

She said that there were three strands of cir-



Former national footballer, Osagi Bascome, who was stabbed to death outside a party in 2021. (Photo credit: CMC)

cumstantial evidence that the jury should focus on – opportunity, the behaviour of the defendant before the stabbing and his behaviour immediately afterwards.

The DPP told the jury that identification was "at the heart of this case" and pointed to the evidence of witnesses who had seen Wray involved in the altercation and one who had seen the stabbing itself.

But Wray's attorney, King Counsel Jerome Lynch, argued that police had failed to consider other suspects after the defendant was arrested and charged.

He said that there was tension between another person and the victim over a drug debt that Bascome had refused to pay, and that, according to the victim's brother, the other person was "hyped and angry" on the night of the killing.

The person was identified by one independent witness as the man involved in the initial fight with Bascome, and Lynch told the court that the person in question left the island last year and his whereabouts are not known.

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April 2022, along with former BVI Ports Director Oleanvine Maynard after he allegedly conspired with Maynard and her son, Kadeem Maynard and agreed to allow large amounts of cocaine to pass through the ports of the British Overseas Territory.

Us prosecutors say that the scheme was part of a multi-million dollar deal the former premier allegedly made with an undercover informant of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who

was posing as a drug trafficker at the time.

Kadeem was recently sentenced to 57 months in prison after accepting a plea deal for his role, while his mother, who has also pleaded guilty and accepted a plea deal, is expected to be the prosecution's main witness.

Fahie faces a possible life imprisonment if convicted on the charges brought against him and has been confined to his daughters' home in Miami, as part of his one-million-dollar bail.

Illinois mass shooting suspect dies in Texas - police

By Jaroslav Lukiv

A gunman suspected of killing eight people in the city of Joliet, Illinois, has died after a confrontation with law enforcement officials, police say.

Police in Joliet said Romeo Nance, 23, is believed to have fatally shot himself after the confrontation near Natalia, Texas.

He is suspected of killing eight people at multiple locations in Joliet.

Seven of the victims were found in two nearby houses by police on Monday. The eighth was found earlier on Sunday.

The identities of the seven victims discovered on Monday have not yet been released.

The discovery of the bodies sparked a manhunt for the suspect, who authorities warned "should be regarded as armed and dangerous".

In a statement, Joliet police department said Mr Nance had been located by US Marshals near Natalia at approximately 20:30 local time on Monday (2:30 GMT on Tuesday).

At that point, it said, "it is believed that Nance took his own life with a handgun following a confrontation with Texas law enforcement officials."

It added: "Identification of the victims and manner of death will be determined



by the Will County Coroner's Office. This remains an active investigation."

Natalia - which is just outside San Antonio is more than 1,000 miles (1,600km) from Joliet by road. Driving between the two locations would take at least 18 hours.

It remains unclear why he travelled to Texas or whether he has any connections there.

Earlier, Joliet police chief Bill Evans told a news briefing that police were notified at 12:04 local time on Monday that several people had been found shot dead.

After arriving at the scene on West Acres Road, officers discovered seven bodies. Five were found in one house, and two in the other, Will County Sheriff's deputy chief Dan Jungles said. It is believed they

were all part of the same family.

The motive for the attack was not immediately clear, but the suspect is believed to have known the victims.

"I've been a policeman 25 years. This is probably the worst crime scene I've ever been associated with," Mr Jungles said.

Before Mr Nance was located in Texas, investigators said they believed he was driving a red Toyota Camry and had urged anyone with information about the attack, 40 miles (64km) south-west of Chicago, to contact them.

Separately, authorities said they had been notified of two shootings a day earlier at different locations in Joliet.

They said a car with the same number plate as the one linked to the dis-

covery of the seven bodies on Monday was spotted in both locations.

One of the shootings resulted in the death of a 28-year-old man, who was shot in the head, authorities said.

He was identified by police as Toyosi Bakare, who was originally from Nigeria and had been living in the US for the past three years.

Police do not believe that Mr Bakare was related to any of the other victims, but was connected to Mr Nance.

Police said a 42-year-old man was shot in the leg at a separate location earlier that day, resulting in non-life threatening injuries.

Video of the incident shows the victim exchanging words with the driver of a red Camry, which pulls away and returns before gunshots are heard.

US appeals court revives Mexico's \$10bn lawsuit against gunmakers

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

A US appeals court has ruled that a \$10bn lawsuit filed by Mexico against US gun manufacturers can go ahead, reviving a long-running legal battle.

Mexico's government argues that the "flood" of illegal guns across the border is a result of "deliberate" business practices by the US gunmakers.

A lower court had dismissed the case in late 2022, prompting an appeal from the Mexican government.

The gun industry's trade association has denied any wrongdoing.

Among the companies named in the lawsuit are Smith & Wesson, Glock, Beretta, Barrett, Sturm and Ruger.

Mexican authorities allege that tens of thousands of US-manufactured guns are trafficked south across the border each year, providing drug cartels with easy access to massive arsenals used to fight each other and the Mexican government. Some estimates put the total at over half a million weapons each year.

More than 30,000 people were murdered last year in Mexico, which has extremely restrictive gun laws.

The country is home to only one gun shop, housed in a Mexico City military complex.



Mexico claims that as many over 500,000 US guns are trafficked into Mexico each year.

The lawsuit, which was first filed in 2021 in a federal courthouse in Massachusetts - where several of the companies are based - argued that the manufacturers knew that guns were being sold to traffickers fuelling violence in the country.

But in 2022 a US federal judge dismissed the case on the grounds that the gun manufacturers were protected by a 2005 law known as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

The law, also known as the PLCAA, shields gunmakers from damages "resulting from the criminal or unlawful misuse" of their products.

Mexico's government swiftly appealed, arguing that the law only applies to injuries that take place in the US and does not pro-

tect the defendants - which include seven manufacturers and one distributor - from liability.

On Monday, a US appeals court ruled that the Mexican lawsuit "plausibly alleges a type of claim that is statutorily exempt" from the PCLAA, which only covers lawful gun sales.

Mexican and gun control advocates in the US quickly claimed the ruling as a victory, with Mexican Foreign Minister Alicia Bárcena calling it "great news" on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

In a statement, Jon Lowy, the president of Global Action on Gun Violence - who serves as Mexico's co-counsel on the case - said that the ruling is a "huge step forward in holding the gun industry accountable for its con-

tribution to gun violence, and in stopping the flood of trafficked guns to the cartels."

"Not only did the Court recognize the right of another country to sue U.S. gun companies, it also pierced the unfair legal shield that gun companies have been hiding behind since 2005," he added.

Larry Keane, the senior vice-president and general counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade group that represents the US firearms industry, defended the manufacturers.

"Mexico should spend its time enforcing its own laws [and] bring Mexican criminals to justice in Mexican courtrooms, instead of scapegoating the firearm industry for their unwillingness to protect Mexican citizens," he wrote on X.

Sports News



Ministry of Sports postpones remaining matches in Schools' football league

The Ministry of Sports has postponed this week's matches that would have brought the 2023 Secondary Schools Football League to a conclusion.

The five remaining matches were scheduled to take place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Wednesday, January 24, and Friday, January 26.

However, according to a press release from the Ministry of Sports, the

games have been rescheduled to take place at the same venue on Wednesday, January 31, and Friday, February 2.

The Ministry of Sports indicated the matches have been postponed due to the poor condition of the ARG playing field following the staging of the One Nation Concert at the venue on Saturday, January 13.

The media release states, "Due to the uncleanliness and the amount

of broken bottles on the field at the ARG, the organizers are forced to postpone the semi-finals of the secondary schools' competition to Wednesday, January 31, and the finals to Friday, February 2.

"Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted, as the safety of the players, officials, and spectators takes priority."

Three of the five divisions have already been completed, and the com-

petition, which began in October last year, will conclude with the crowning of champions in the Under-20 Boys and Under-16 Girls divisions.

All Saints Secondary, which captured the runners-up position last season, will face Antigua State College at 4 pm in the second of two semi-final matches in the Under-20 Boys Division at the ARG on Wednesday, January 31.

Ottos Comprehensive School and Irene B. Williams Secondary will clash in the other semi-final encounter at 2 pm.

The winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final, which will be played at the same venue on Friday, February 2, at 4:15 pm.

The Under-20 Boys Division final will be preceded by a playoff for third place between the two losers in the semi-finals at 1 pm.

Princess Margaret School (PMS) and Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) will clash in the final of the Under-16 Girls Division on the same day at 3 pm.

Princess Margaret School will be seeking their fourth title this season after winning the under-14 and 16 boys division league competitions as well as the under-20 girls championship.

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Players of the Pigotts Bullets football team. (Photo courtesy Pigotts Sports Club)

Bullets and Garden Stars draw Premier League encounter

Pigotts Bullets and Garden Stars shared points in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday.

Both sides battled to a 1-1 draw in the last eighth-round fixture at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

Following a goalless first half, Wilden Cornwall Jr. scored in the 59th minute to give the Garden Stars the lead.

Garden Stars were reduced to 10 men in the 67th minute when Tarek Charles was given a red card by the referee for violent conduct.

The Pigotts Bullets capitalized on their one-man advantage to draw level nine minutes later. Kimon Harrigan scored the Bullets' equalizer in the 76th minute.

As the game was coming to an end, the referee gave Garden Stars coach Astel Joseph a red card in the fourth minute of added time (90+4 minutes).

Garden Stars advanced to 11 points from seven matches but remained in sixth place, while Pigotts Bullets moved on to six points from the same number of games and also

remained in 11th place in the 15-team competition.

The ABFA's domestic programme will continue with four matches in the Second Division league today.

English Harbour will host Young Warriors at English Harbour, and Sea View Farm will entertain West Ham at Sea View Farm at 4:30 pm.

TAMO FC will face Soccer Academy in the first game of a double header at the ABFA Technical Center at 4:30 pm, and Lingies CPTSA Wings will clash with Belmont FC in the second game at 6:30 pm.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER



Coach Bryan 'Hollywood' Matthew talks to the players of the St. Joseph's Academy team during a timeout in their Miniboys Secondary Division game against Antigua Grammar School in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, January 22, 2024. (Photo courtesy Schools Basketball Unit)

SJA make winning start in defense of Miniboys Secondary title

St. Joseph's Academy (SJA) made a successful start in defense of their Miniboys Secondary Division title in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships on Monday.

St. Joseph's Academy trounced Antigua Grammar School (AGS) in the opening game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Joshua James sank 14 points, and Nathan Matthew converted 11 points for the defending champs, and Giovanni Hodge scored four points for Antigua Grammar School.

Matthew, who plays the point guard position for his team, said St. Joseph's Academy committed some errors but also did some good things to come out victorious.

"We made a lot of turnovers, but we did a lot of other things right, and

we ended up with the win," Matthew said.

Antigua Grammar School was able to achieve success in the senior boys category. Antigua Grammar School launched their campaign in the senior boys division by romping to an emphatic 56-20 victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Najee Simons shot a game-high 14 points, and Rowan Christopher converted 10 points for Antigua Grammar School. Hezekiah Payne sank nine points, and Shaquan Bishop scored seven points for Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Although he led the Antigua Grammar School in scoring, Simon believes he should have converted a lot more of his shots.

"I feel that I could have performed better because I missed some

easy layups. But my team played well in defense, and so we are glad the team was able to win," Simon stated.

Payne felt Sir Novelle Richards Academy could have performed much better in their opening of this year's competition.

"We could have done much better if we had good teamwork. I think we should practice more and have better communications," Payne said.

The competition will continue with three games in the Junior Boys Division today (Wednesday).

Ottos Comprehensive School will face Irene B. Williams Secondary; Antigua Grammar School first team will take on St. Anthony's Secondary School; and the Antigua Grammar School second team will face Princess Margaret School.



**MON - FRI
10AM - 12PM**

HOSTED BY CARLENA KNIGHT

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Hayley Matthews

Pooran, Matthews featured in ICC's 2023 teams of the year

Nicholas Pooran and West Indies Women's ODI and T20I Captain Hayley Matthews were the only West Indians selected as the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday completed announcements of the five ICC Teams of the Year across formats for men and women as part of the ICC Awards 2023.

Pooran and Matthews

were named in the ICC Men's and Women's T20I Teams of the Year.

The announcement of the five teams - the ICC Men's and Women's T20I Teams of the Year, the ICC Men's and Women's ODI Teams of the Year and the ICC Men's Test Team of the Year - was made in a staggered manner over Monday and Tuesday and

featured players from 11 teams selected on the basis of international performances through the calendar year.

Teams were identified from selections submitted by the specialist panel of media representatives that make up the ICC Voting Academy.

The esteemed panel made their selections based

on player performances during the calendar year, nominating their playing eleven to include a captain and a wicketkeeper.

The ICC Awards 2023 announcements will continue Wednesday and Thursday, when 13 individual award winners will be declared.

ICC Men's Test Team of the Year: Usman Khawaja (Aus), Dimuth Karunaratne (SL), Kane Williamson (NZ), Joe Root (Eng), Travis Head (Aus), Ravindra Jadeja (Ind), Alex Carey (WK, Aus), Pat Cummins (Capt, Aus), R Ashwin (Ind), Mitchell Starc (Aus), and Stuart Broad (Eng).

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his first delivery.

As captain Kraigg Braithwaite and Tegenarine Chandernaul stand out as the team's premier batsmen, the West Indies will be banking on an improved performance from their opening pair in Brisbane.

Australia stands tall as the preeminent

cricket team globally, while the West Indies, though not the formidable force of yesteryear, face an uphill battle.

However, a potential hurdle for the Aussies this week is the capricious Brisbane weather. A forecast of up to 80mm of rain on Saturday and Sunday poses a challenge for Pat Cummins and his team.



Australia's players gather to congratulate Nathan Lyon after he took the wicket of West Indies' Justin Greaves on the second day of their cricket test match in Adelaide, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024. (AP)

Australia seek clean sweep of West Indies

The culmination of the Australian cricket summer is poised to unfold at The Gabba this week, featuring a day-night spectacle as Australia aims for a clean sweep against the West Indies in the second Test on Thursday (Tonight Caribbean Time).

Following a commanding 10-wicket triumph in Adelaide, the home team arrives in Brisbane riding a wave of momentum, propelled by Travis Head's match-winning innings.

The vice-captain notched an impressive 119 runs off 134 balls, setting the stage for Josh Hazlewood to dis-

mantle the Windies' top order with a remarkable five for 35 in the second innings, leaving a modest target of 26 runs for Australia in the final innings.

Despite the comfortable victory, the Aussies seek enhanced batting productivity in Brisbane after posting a modest 283 in Adelaide against a relatively inexperienced West Indies attack.

The team is expected to remain unchanged, although concerns linger over Usman Khawaja, who retired hurt in the second innings after facing a bouncer to the jaw during the run

chase.

The West Indies, disappointed in Adelaide, owe a debt of gratitude to debutant fast bowler Shamar Joseph, whose contribution prevented a more lopsided outcome.

The team was dismissed for 188 in the first innings, with Joseph scoring 36 off 41 balls. Kirk McKenzie was the sole West Indies batter to surpass 50 in the match, reaching just that.

Joseph showcased his prowess with the ball, claiming five for 94, including dismissing Steve Smith with

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