

Stories of the Day

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY

NO PAY DELAY FOR 'JAZZ'

Signed, seal, delivered. That's how chairman of the Tobago Festivals Commission George Leacock summed up payments to local artistes who performed at the Tobago Jazz Experience on the weekend (April 28-29). Only three cheques, Leacock said, are waiting at the Commission's Scarborough office to be collected. "Some people got their cheques before

they went on stage, and everybody else signed," the chairman explained at a press conference yesterday (May 1). "There was somebody sitting backstage with the cheques, and when [the artistes] signed they received their cheques..." Leacock was also asked whether "Jazz in the East", which took place at the Speyside Recreation Ground on Saturday (April 28) and was free to patrons, could have an en-

trance fee in the future. He said although this "seems a logical and reasonable next step", the Tobago Jazz Experience needs to be looked at from a bigger perspective. "...If the overall effect is to move the kinds of numbers of people in Tobago that we want to move, I can see the possibility of there being a cost attached," he noted. "But the cost on its own will not lead to absolute recovery of the cost of staging [the event]"

TOBAGO AUTHOR CHADBAND SHARING HIS GIFT

Imo Chadband has a unique gift of expression. It's brought the young author success over the past five years. In fact, the Black Rock resident said he's been told by others that his work has inspired them to deal with the daily struggles of life. Chadband recently released his second novel, entitled "Eclipse", and the title is a reflection of the difficulties we all face in life daily. "A lot of people are going through stress, disease and I wanted to speak on all of that so the name 'Eclipse' was a dark theme, illustrating that I will be speaking on the dark truths, throughout the world that we all go through," he explained. Chadband said he has had strangers confide in him because of his writing, which is why he has dedicated a lot of his time to helping others. The former Bishop's High School and UWI student has also delved into the world of poetry with his book "Caterpillar".



COCOA REVIVAL: The URP Agriculture Team at Roxborough extracting cocoa seeds on Thursday (April 26, 2018). This forms part of the Assembly's Cocoa Rehabilitation Project.

URP JOINING COCOA REVIVAL EFFORTS

As of Monday (April 30), the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) has harvested 145 pounds of cocoa. Just last week, the Programme's agricultural workers began harvesting 20,000 square

miles of cocoa fields at Roxborough as part of the Tobago House of Assembly's Cocoa Rehabilitation Project. In fact, the URP is expected to play a critical role in rehabilitating Tobago's cocoa crop and increasing

the yield. Cocoa seeds extracted from the crop will be supplied to local and national chocolate producers. Cocoa beans in Tobago are in demand for their fine flavour in both national and international markets.