

CHRONICLE & REGIONAL NEWS

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Three men detained in St. Petersburg

Three young men, including one of Belgian Nationality, were detained on 28th July at around four in the morning, by the militia near the Prospect Prosveshcheniya underground station.

As informs the Journalist Investigation Agency, under preliminary information that two locals aged 18 and 20 and a 25 year old Belgian tried to break into a ventilating mine shaft in the Underground. It is understood those arrested were trying to take photographs of the un-

derground and subsequently, probably download them onto the internet. The three men were taken to the nearest police station following their arrest. To find out the reasons for what went on, employees of the special militia service and the UFSB within St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region have be-

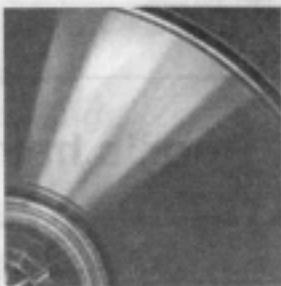
come involved. It should be remembered that Russia's underground system contains some objects of strategic importance and it is forbidden to photograph here, even on the escalators, let alone in the tunnels and the mine shafts.

Alexey Gorohov

Government clamps down on Pirates

New changes are being introduced by the Russian Government to the rules over the sale of goods to crack down on the illegal pirating of audio and visual programmes.

According to these changes, it will be forbidden for the retailers of audio and visual programmes to sell them at stalls or markets. Under the new legislation the trader will be obliged to provide the customer information on the audiovisual product was manufactured, the license number, the name of the manufacturer and data on the rights of the audiovisual pro-



duction. For the sale of videos, the retailer will be obliged to give additional information concerning the number and date of distribution on a laminated certificate, the basic information about the film (the name of the studio, genre, summary, director etc...) should be given, along with an age restriction limit, to help the prospective buyers.

Alexey Strigin

NEWS

Vikings Invade Zayachii Island

Swedish Vikings have descended on St. Petersburg for the festival, 'Villages of the Vikings'. The festival is a present from the ancient Varangian to celebrate the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg. They will arrive in St. Petersburg on seven boats, on the coast of the Neva, where a village will be set up on the beach by the



Peter-Paul Fortress. The Vikings invite all who wish to plunge back in time and experience the life of the ancient Varangians. Participating in the festival include various members of Swedish historical societies, who are going to reconstruct the way of life of the brave seafaring Vikings. They have also prepared an ethnographic show, 'One day in the life of an ancient Varangian', while also explaining how the Varangians rose to power, cooking traditional Varangian meals and incorporating battles between the Scandinavians and the Slavs. This is a unique opportunity for the people of St. Petersburg and visitors to the city to find out how the Viking long boats and weapons looked, while there will be the opportunity to see traditional Viking dress and the dwellings that they lived in. One can also try traditional Varangian cooking and look at the work of the various smiths and embroiders. Visitors to the festival will also be able to listen to authentic Varangian music, songs and dances. Aside from the Vikings, there will also be an exhibition on show from the Historical Museum of Stockholm, which will feature Norman crafts and runic stones, on the beach of the Peter-Paul Fortress. On Sunday 3rd August, the Vikings will start to dismantle the camp and head off in their boats, back to Sweden, which will signal the end of the festival programme.