

Bomb guts children's store

A love triangle involving a foreign football player is reported to be the cause behind a bomb explosion that gutted a Limassol store early on Wednesday morning.

The bomb exploded in the side entrance of a children's store in the Enaerios area at around 4.40am, causing concern amongst residents in nearby flats.

It ignited a fire which was put out by members of the Fire Services but led to significant damage to the store as well as to equipment.

The shop belongs to a woman from Kazakhstan, who is reported to be dating a Cypriot team's foreign football player.

She told Criminal Investigation Office that she suspects a Russian woman to have been behind the incident. She is said to have told police that she has repeatedly received threats from the Russian because of her relationship with the footballer. The suspect is sought and police have issued an arrest warrant.

Last December there was an unsuccessful bomb attempt at the same store. The owner had again suspected the Russian but after examination by the police no evidence was found to support the arrest.



DELIGHTED: Winners pose with Judges at LMAS third Annual Talent Show

Let me entertain you

The Limassol Theatre Arts School held its third annual talent show recently, enabling 62 young acts in junior, intermediates and senior age ranges to showcase their talents in a fiercely contested competition.

The top prizes included a summer school scholarship place to attend the Musical Theatre Summer School at renowned Pineapple Performing Arts Studio in London's Covent Garden and a fully produced cover recording and video, offered by top recording studio, Soundscape Studios, worth in excess of €3,600.

Other prizes included cash awards and LTAS vouchers to attend workshops and specialised coaching sessions.

The industry professional judges, specially flown in from the UK to adjudicate the show were Laura Meaton, Joanne

Davies and Richard Roe. All three judges are talented performers in their own right with West End and musical theatre backgrounds and with numerous successful stage shows and TV credits between them.

"The standard was extremely high. It was tough comparing vocalists with gymnasts and musicians; in the end though our decisions were unanimous in each of the three categories," said the organisers.

Finalists for the Musical Theatre Summer School prize were: Iliana Agathocleous, Iman Arnous, Katherine Konnaris and Kate Pavli. The judges chose 11-year-old Iman Arnous as the overall winner of this scholarship. Sixty two acts competed on the day ranging from solo and group singing to ballet, modern and hip hop dancing, gymnastics, solo harp, guitar and piano, a band, musical theatre, mime and

comedy acts.

Junior Section - 16 acts competed, winner: Artemis Georgiou. Runner up: Nicoletta Christoforou Intermediate Section - 29 acts competed, winner: Alison Ioannou. Runner up: Pauline Blyum Senior Section - 17 acts competed, winner: Michalis Antoniou. Runners up: Anastasia Dalahanina and Andreas Foklas

Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) aims at providing young people with high quality training and performance opportunities through the world of dance, music, drama and theatre arts. Now in its fourth year, the school continues to expand its repertoire of classes to a growing number of students aged from four to 18 years of age. For more information about LTAS visit the website: www.limassolarts.com

LIMASSOL NOTES

Say 'Cheese'

It's a bit confusing being in London during Orthodox Easter and not hearing firecrackers exploding around me or bonfires being lit in celebration (of what exactly? I can't remember the symbolism here). And perhaps it's to be expected that the shops have sold out of all their chocolate eggs what with the Catholic and Orthodox Easters being so far apart this year; that said, and in spite of the amazing hospitality and love bestowed on me by my UK friends/hosts (abundant and generous to a tee), I'm a tad upset. I'm afraid I did not have a single slice of flaouna, not one koulouraki or hard-boiled dyed egg to accompany my regular cups of tea throughout my stay. (Just warning you Nerys and Peter, I'll be making a note of the above on my feedback form). So all in all I've really been looking forward to getting home to mum's cheesy pastries after my trip. But as it turns out, I'm getting quite a cheese fix in London, flaounas or

not. In fact, everywhere I turn I am seeing, smelling, tasting cheese. I don't remember cheese having quite such an impact on my life previously; of course like most people I'm partial to a slab of mature Cheddar, a slither of tangy creamy Stilton and a crumbly cranberry stuffed finger of Wensleydale. All traditional favourites and permanent fixtures on the UK cheese scene.

But what's new to me is the rather unique and splendid sight of an International Cheese Shop franchise, now on several mainline station concourses. As I trundled from my platform through to the underground, I was derailed by the inviting aroma of pungent cheeses. Quite unexpected, and a real treat to be able to sample a slice of Jarlsberg again after nine years in the Limassol wilderness (I've yet to find a

stockist for this particular cheese, my favourite, in Cyprus). So having availed myself to the manager, Daniel, and his cheerful assistant Sara, for long enough to sample some of the in-house delights, I was pleased to see my other favourite cheese, Halloumi, proudly displayed in their chiller cabinet. Don't you just love this squeaky, salty, slightly minty concoction? What especially appeals is how adaptable it is; it doesn't disintegrate through cooking, is equally delicious

hot, cold, sautéed, marinated, chopped, grated, BBQ'd, grilled, roasted... endless permutations. And it's Cypriot. Or is it? The ongoing dispute about whether it should be granted PDO status (Protected Designation of Origin) continues apace, widely reported even here in the British press. An

innocuous dairy product caught up in the political maze of territorial rights; is it a Turkish or Greek Cypriot cheese? Apparently the British Foreign Office said the EC decision must "take account of inter-community relations" as reported in The Independent on May 4, following Turkey's objections to Cyprus' PDO application.

So what now? Cheese wars? Amid all this rhetorical bickering aren't we missing the point? Whether it's called 'Halloumi' or 'Hellim', does the name matter? I sometimes think my sons had the wisest child-minder in the world. She would often say "pick your battles carefully (with the children)" meaning not every issue is worth arguing over, and I think it's a lesson worth remembering now. Protecting the cheese and farmers/producers is what counts surely, not how the cheese is spelt. Why not just use both names on the application? Sorted.



By *Andrienne Philippou*