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Citizens foil bank hold-up... on Police Day

KARL STAGNO-NAVARRA

THE police are reportedly investigating an attempted hold-up on the HSBC Bank branch in Birkirkara a few weeks ago.

The hold-up was timed to coincide with activities to mark the

195th anniversary of the Malta Police Force, when most officers were in Valletta for the police parade.

Sources have confirmed that the attempted hold-up was in fact foiled by passers-by, who noticed a parked car close to the bank with three men inside.

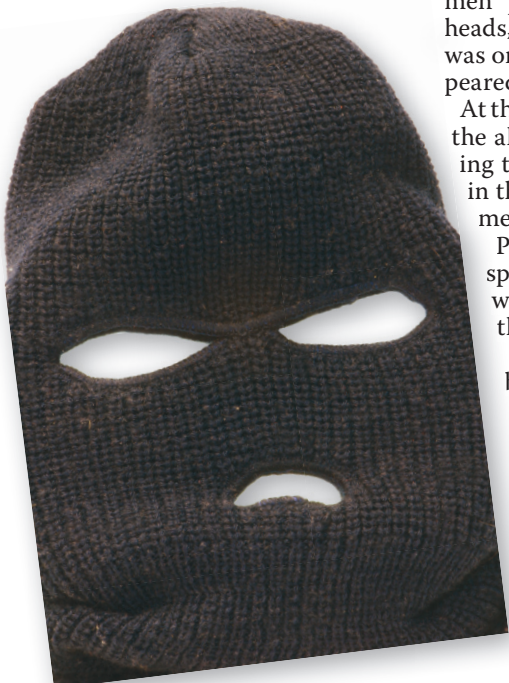
One passer-by observed the three men putting balaclavas to their heads, while one of them, who was on the back seat of the car, appeared to be loading a weapon.

At that point, the passer-by raised the alarm by shouting and catching the attention of other people in the street, who also noted the men in the car.

Panic ensued and the men sped off with their car, which was later found abandoned by the police.

While the alarm was raised, bank employees shut the door and an emergency procedure was put into place to secure the bank and its surroundings.

The police arrived soon afterwards but the suspects had long since fled the scene. They have to date not been identified.



BusinessToday takes a SUMMER break with MALTATODAY



Throughout the summer period starting next Wednesday, until 23 September, Business Today's summer edition will be distributed free of charge with sister paper MaltaToday Wednesday edition. The decision has been taken in line with our commitment to keep on bringing the latest business news to our readers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers and wish them a happy summer.



Swine Flu less deadly than ordinary flu

Health experts discover that the mortality rate of the AH1N1 virus is only 0.1% - page 2

IMF: ECONOMY TO SHRINK BY 2% IN 2009 - page 2



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