

Robbers take \$6 million in Sicily holdup

PALERMO, Sicily — Five armed robbers, three of them dressed as postal workers, bound and gagged six employees of a train station post office and escaped with \$6.42 million in cash and money orders, police reported Sunday.

The Saturday night robbery, believed the biggest in Sicilian history, was "certainly the work of professionals," said a police official. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Mafia might be involved.

This was the police account:

The five pulled up to the post office at Palermo's main train station at about 9 p.m. in a van of the type used by the postal service.

Once inside, they asked for the head of the office by name and forced him at gunpoint to lead them to the vault room. Three clerks were bound, gagged and left guarded by one bandit.

Salvatore Pileri, the head of the office, led the bandits to the third floor, where the clerk on duty was ordered to open the safes. One gunman removed the videotape from the closed circuit television camera.

The robbers emptied the safes, tied up Pileri and two other clerks and fled in the van.

Police were notified of the robbery an hour later in an anonymous telephone call. They found the van abandoned on the east side of Palermo, the Sicilian capital. It was stolen five days ago.

In Brief

Iraqi warplanes bomb Tehran

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iraqi warplanes destroyed an anti-aircraft defense network and a power plant in Tehran Saturday in the first air raid on the Iranian capital in seven months, state-run Baghdad Radio reported.

Other Iraqi fighter-bombers attacked military targets in northwestern Iran closer to the Iraqi border, the radio added.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, confirmed the raid on the power station. It made no mention of Iraq's claim that the jets destroyed surface-to-air missile bases.

It also acknowledged that the cities of Merivan, Rabat and Mosek in Kurdistan province were hit. The agency reported civilian casualties in those raids, but gave no figures.

The last Iraqi air strike against Tehran was May 7, in which the city's main oil refinery of Shahr Ray was the target and storage tanks were set ablaze. Eleven civilians were reported killed and 45 wounded in that attack.

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