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lollipops from a house in Alessandria, Italy.

The candy had been bought for a toddler in the house, and was discarded by the burglars after being half-eaten. When police found the lollipops, they managed to match up vital DNA evidence contained in saliva.

A police spokesman said: "Officers found the lollipops just a few yards away from the house they robbed."

It later turned out that the gang had been behind 78 robberies in the area over the previous three months.

Dead Body in Drinking Spree

A stolen hearse got two South African men in hot water when it turned out they'd stolen the car along with a dead body in the back. They'd taken the car from outside the driver's house in Soweto, intending to visit a few bars, but ran out of gas on route.

They had asked three women they had met at a drinking den to help push the hearse, but the women got cold feet and told the police.

The hearse's driver told The Sowetan newspaper he was shocked at the theft. Siphwo Mkhize said he had parked the hearse outside his house while he went inside to get money to buy fuel.

"It is a shocking thing to realise there are people who could steal a hearse with a dead person inside," he said.

"Going shebeen-hopping with a corpse takes the cake. What kind of people are these?"

John Dlomo from the Community Policing Forum in the township of Soweto said the men appeared to be drunk when they were arrested.

Swiss Soapy Jail Break

Four convicts were able to break out of a Swiss jail using nothing more than soap.

Bert Bruegger, aged 20, stripped naked and lathered soap all over his body, before squeeze through the food hatch in his cell door.

Once outside he opened the doors for three of his mates in the neighbouring

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Scotiabank's Dominican Expansion

Sotiabank (owned by Canada's Bank of Novia Scotia) announced in September that it has agreed to buy a controlling interest in Spain's BBVA operations in the Dominican Republic.

BBVA companies in the DR consist of BBVA Crecer AFP, the country's third largest pension manager with 6.23 billion pesos (US\$190 million) assets under management, and BBVA Seguros, the country's fifth largest life insurer.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval.

BBVA Crecer AFP and BBVA Seguros have a total of 99 employees together. BBVA Seguros was formed as recently as 2006 to provide life and disability insurance to BBVA Crecer AFP affiliates.

The Canadian bank will pay around US\$50 million for almost a 100% ownership interest in each company according to a Scotiabank spokesperson.

The Spanish group held a 60% ownership interest in pension manager BBVA Crecer through Provida Internacional (25%) and BBVA (35%), while Schaffer controlled 38.4% as of June 30, according to data from pension regulator Sipen.

BBVA stated that it will be selling its Provida Internacional 25% stake in BBVA Crecer to Scotiabank for US\$11.4mn, in its filing to Chile's securities and insurance regulator SVS.

"The expansion of Scotiabank Group's operations in the Dominican Republic is indicative of the opportunity that we see within this dynamic and growing market," said Oscar Zimmerman, President and CEO Scotia Life Insurance Company.

"As an international financial services provider with more than 175 years of experience, the Scotiabank Group is optimistic about the future in the Dominican Republic and confident this

acquisition will complement the financial services we currently offer our customers," said Nicole Reich de Polignac, Senior Vice-President and Country Manager for Scotiabank in the Dominican Republic. "Scotiabank Group is known throughout the region for our stability, strong customer focus, and our commitment to our employees and to the communities where we live and work."

In press release, BBVA said it was selling its pension unit in the Dominican Republic as it is not strategic for the group.

A Scotiabank spokesperson said that they expect to close the transaction in October.

Are children who act in rated 'R' movies allowed to see them?

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Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here and drink what comes out"?

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