

Jewel thieves strike it rich

By ANIL SINGH

JEWEL thieves are back and cops have warned jewellers to be alert.

In recent weeks, several jewellery businesses have been robbed in Durban and surrounding areas.

The latest incident happened at the weekend when a gang of thieves broke into Jewel Exchange and escaped with R3 million worth of gold and diamond

jewellery.

Owner Peter Booysen said he could not understand how the thieves managed to blow up the strongroom without attracting attention.

"The store has an alarm system which is monitored by Chubb Security. When the alarm went off, the armed response company checked out the premises but could not find any signs of a break-in.

"Guards from Enforce Security who work in the arcade where my business is said they heard nothing," said Booysen.

The cops are investigating and Booysen has also hired private investigators to help catch the thieves.

Reggie Horne, chief investigator for Justicia Investigations, said they are working closely with the cops to solve the case.

"There is a R200 000 reward for informa-

tion that can lead to the arrest and conviction of the thieves," said Horne.

He said they were also investigating the case in which jewellery was snatched from a man who was in the parking lot at the Riverside Hotel. He was taking the jewellery to an auction at the hotel.

Anyone with information is asked to call Superintendent Willie Olivier on 082 772 2341 or Horne on 083 375 5350.