

DEWANI WEDDING VIDEO SHOWS 'COUPLE IN LOVE'

THE family of a man accused of planning the murder of his new bride have hit back at the claims, saying he has been left "distraught and devastated".

Shrien Dewani, 30, of Bristol, is currently awaiting extradition proceedings to South Africa where authorities want to question him about his wife Anni's murder in a Cape Town town-

ship last month. His family insist he is innocent and believe that new police evidence showing the gun going off accidentally will clear his name.

A police report has suggested that the shot which killed Anni was fired in a panic after a robbery gone wrong, rather than a deliberate execution.

A spokesman for the family said: "It

suggests that the gun went off by accident in the panic of the attack when it looked like Anni was trying to fight them off."

Cab driver Zola Tongo claimed that Dewani paid him £1,300 to organise the killing, in a plea bargain which saw his sentence reduced by seven years.

Scotland Yard detectives have also

quizzed a gay German escort from Munich who claims to have been in regular contact with Dewani for months and to have been paid by him for sex.

The family have called these allegations "completely false and ridiculous" and say he has "never had a sexual relationship with a man in his life".

They have also released footage of

the couple dancing at their wedding in October which they say is further evidence that the couple were "madly in love with each other".

The family spokesman said: "He's tearful every day. He doesn't sleep and he is haunted by the trauma of it. He's made a shrine to Anni. He is just distraught and devastated."

Jail for Potter star's brother

THE brother of a *Harry Potter* star who assaulted her because she had a boyfriend who was not Muslim may face prison.

Manchester Crown Court heard that actress Afshan Azad, 22, who played Padma Patil in the hit films, was beaten, called a "slag" and "prostitute" and threatened with death for having a relationship with a young Hindu man.

Azad, who fled her home and is said to be living with friends in London, did not attend the hearing on Monday (20).

Her father Abul Azad, 53, and brother Ashraf, 28, were charged with making threats to kill and Ashraf was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

However, instead of going on trial the prosecution decided to accept a guilty plea of assault by her brother. He is due to be sentenced on January 21.

Plan to tackle hate crimes

A NEW network of centres has been set up for people to report hate crime as part of a city-wide campaign.

The Safer Leicester Partnership wants the eighteen new centres to give people in Leicester the opportunity to report crimes and get access to the right support services quickly.

Daxa Pancholi, the city council's head of community safety, said: "We want residents to report hate crime and to trust we will do something about it."

"We have made sure that our staff are available to provide support whenever needed."

■ To report hate crimes, contact Sergeant Julie Strong of Leicestershire Constabulary on 0116 229 3620 or visit www.leicester.gov.uk/reporthate

New look for Islamia school

COUNCIL chiefs have given the green light for rebuilding one of the best-known Muslim schools in Britain.

Islamia Primary School in Brent, north-west London, was given permission last Wednesday (15) for a new two-storey building, designed by London Eye architects Marks Barfield.

The school was founded in 1983 by Yusuf Islam, previously known as Cat Stevens, before converting to Islam. The rebuild costs of £8 million will be funded by Brent Council, the government and the school.

WISA RULE REPRIEVE

Verdict on migrant cap welcomed

by SOFIA MITRA-THAKUR

A COURT ruling that declared the temporary cap on economic migrants unlawful has been hailed as a "victory for democracy" by immigration experts.

Judges at the High Court last Friday (17) ruled that the interim measure introduced this summer by home secretary Theresa May had not gone through the correct parliamentary procedures which meant

that no lawful limits were in place for non-EU job applicants.

The legal challenge had been brought by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) and the English Community Care Association (ECCA), which argued the cap could have a "catastrophic" effect on immigration care workers.

Raman Purewal, a solicitor at legal firm Aston Brooke which acted for the ECCA, told *Eastern Eye* that the firm and its client were "very happy about the result".

"The ECCA is the largest association in the UK for home care providers and its majority of staff are senior carers from India, South Africa and the Philippines," he said.

"Its members felt strongly that the cap would put people's care businesses at jeopardy and the continuity of care for the frail and elderly would be jeopardised."

"We felt that the immigration cap from

the early days was imposed from a political agenda. Economic migrants come to the UK to work, provide services and taxes – they are not a drain to society."

Chief executive of JCWI Habib Rahman (*left*) added: "This is a victory for democracy and the rule of law. It has important implications for migrants in the UK who were affected by the imposition of an unlawful limit."

Amit Kapadia (*right*), executive director of the HSMP (Highly Skilled Migrant Programme) Forum, said the judgement would lay the foundation for future challenges in court against any immigration cap.

"This is a welcome judgement which makes it clear that the home secretary cannot exercise arbitrary power to reduce the cap as she likes without taking Parliament into consideration."

"A good aspect of it is that it

will make it very difficult for the Home Office to actually come up with any sort of figure for the cap and try to lay it in Parliament, because they will have to justify it and that makes it more difficult for them," he said.

Immigration minister Damian Green said: "This ruling is about process not policy – the policy of having a limit has not been found to be unlawful."

"We remain firmly committed to reducing net migration to the tens of thousands and will continue to do everything in our power to prevent a rush of applications before our more permanent measures are in place."

The government plans to impose a permanent limit on non-EU workers next April.



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