

## Murder charge for teen killing

FOUR men appeared in court on Monday (22) accused of beating and stabbing a teenager to death.

Adil Basharat, 16, was battered to death last Friday (19) outside the gates of Kingsbrook School in Deanshanger, Northants, in a horrific attack witnessed by his friends, including BBC Radio presenter Liz Kershaw's son.

He died in Milton Keynes Hospital last Sunday (21).

Adam Moore, Freddie Wilson and Daniel Anderson, all 19, and Jake Batten, 21, all believed to be from the Milton Keynes area, appeared before Northampton magistrates charged with murder.

They were remanded in custody and were due to appear before Northampton Crown Court on Wednesday (24).

## Teacher jailed for student sex

A FEMALE teaching assistant who had a sexual relationship with two male pupils has been jailed for 16 months.

Hina Patel, 37, was supposed to be supervising the "disruptive" 15-year-olds but started flirting with them, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

Patel, who worked as a classroom assistant and swimming teacher at Birkdale High School, invited the youngsters back to her home where she had sex with one boy and the other a few hours later.

Patel had admitted two counts of sexual activity with a child at North Sefton Magistrates last month.

At her sentencing on Monday (22), Martin Decker, prosecuting, said the single mother of two was employed to provide support and supervision for pupils who had been disruptive in class.

Decker said that was how she came to meet the two year 11 boys in February this year and during a one-to-one supervision, she exchanged mobile phone numbers with them.

Describing an exchange of text messages between Patel and one of the boys, Mr Decker said: "Initially she was being friendly and saying he was a 'good lad' but after about four days the content became sexual."

At the same time, the other boy was also exchanging text messages with the teacher, Decker said.



DISSENTING VOICES: (From left) Amit Kapadia, Dipna Anand, Jabbar Khan and Sunil Gadhia

# PLANS 'WILL CAP' BRITISH GROWTH

## Anger at limits on non-EU economic migrants

by SOFIA MITRA-THAKUR

**STRICT new measures announced this week to clamp down on economic migration from outside the EU are unfair and will damage the economy, experts have warned.**

They say that with a skills shortage in the UK, employers will not be able to sustain a skilled workforce and companies may even consider moving their operations abroad.

The new plans outlined by home secretary Theresa May on Tuesday (23) include a cap of 21,700 on the number of skilled workers – a decrease of a fifth from 2009's figure of 28,000.

The Tier 1 route for highly skilled migrants without a job offer will be scrapped for all but "exceptional talent" and limited to just 1,000 individuals, while the Tier 2 route for those with a job offer will be capped at 20,700.

Overseas employees coming through the intra-company transfer route are exempt from the cap. However, they must be earning at least £40,000 to stay longer than 12 months.

May said that the cap would crack down on those abusing the system while letting businesses recruit the skilled workers they needed.

However, Amit Kapadia, executive chairman of the HSMP (Highly Skilled Migrant Programme) Forum, told *Eastern Eye* the move was politically motivated and made a "mockery of the Migration Advisory Committee report" which had recommended a cap between 37,400 to 43,700.

"It doesn't make any sense," he said.

"What the government should be focusing on is that the UK comes out of the economic crisis rather than bringing in such extreme, experimental measures which are going to create more instability and impact on business – this is not the time."

Sunil Gadhia, chairman of the Asian Business Association at the London Chamber of Commerce, told *EE* that London's competitiveness would be damaged along with economic growth and job creation.

"What is critical in the business world is the freedom to hire the best people so they can compete on an international level – anything that stifles that is harmful to their competitiveness."

Habib Rahman, chief executive of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said it was "unfortunate that the government is pursuing political dogma to cap skilled migrants".

"We call on the government to re-think its policy and not to further damage the economy," he said.

## CURRY INDUSTRY FEELS THE HEAT

JABBAR KHAN, group director of the Lasan Restaurant Group in Birmingham, told *EE* that the interim immigration cap had "ruined" his plans because he was struggling to recruit people locally with the necessary skills.

"The top curry restaurants in the UK all have Asian chefs who put 100 per cent into being qualified and trained hard," Khan said. "Because of the cap we are losing out on the opportunity to generate great wealth."

Dipna Anand, assistant manager of Brilliant Restaurant in Southall, west London, told *EE*: "The government is always talking about how the curry industry is important to the country but they are contradicting themselves. If we

can't get the staff we need, how will we survive?"

Bajloor Rashid, chairman of the Bangladesh Caterers Association, told *EE*: "Each restaurant is losing on average £19,000 a year because they are not able to run at capacity. It is most unfair."

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PRIME MINISTER David Cameron lit a Diwali lamp inside No 10 as he celebrated the festival with prominent members of the country's Asian community.

He also paid tribute to their contributions at the Downing Street event last Wednesday (17).

Leading members from the UK's Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities, including India's high

commissioner Nalin Surie, was among the 150 guests.

Cameron said: "Diwali, with all its references to friendship, to family, to fellowship – I think it's something the whole country can celebrate."

Surie and Cameron also lit a lamp to mark the start of the Hindu New Year, symbolising the victory of hope and prosperity.