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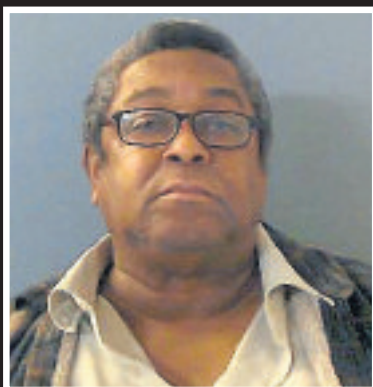
Friday, June 9, 2017

90p



BEHIND BARS

- Asian child sex gang finally jailed
- Years of abuse echoes Rochdale horror



By Stephanie Wareham

THREE men involved in an Asian child sex gang, who preyed on a schoolgirl they had drugged with cannabis and heroin, started jail terms on Saturday after being convicted of crimes carried out in High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Wendover, years previously.

A judge jailed them for up to 19 years after hearing a heart-rending impact statement

from the victim who suffers from alcohol addiction and depression.

The jury had convicted one man of grooming and two other men of raping and giving heroin to a girl in her teenage years. They were each sentenced to serve up to 19 years in prison.

The now adult child, who the court heard was "desperate for love" after being alienated from her family, was introduced to hard drugs and

convinced to have sex with strangers in High Wycombe, Wendover and Aylesbury, as payment.

Over the course of one year or more, a taxi driver would pick the 15-year-old girl up at her school and take her to a rented flat, where her body would be sold to up to eight adult men almost every night.

When she approached the police in fear that her life was in danger, she was turned away and told she "needed more evi-

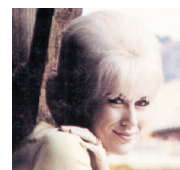
dence" and said she felt like officers were asking her to be sexually assaulted again to get proof.

Judge Johanna Cutts, sitting at Reading Crown Court, heard that the girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was first introduced to the perpetrators at the early age of 13 years, when taxi driver Berkley John picked her up and preyed on her vulnerability.

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Freetime

New musical for Wycombe's Dusty



Page 27

Property

Singing star's penthouse up for sale



Pull-out

Sport

Bucks batsman leads England charge



Page 64

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SPORT

Football

New boss takes charge
at Holloways Park
- page 60



ALL HALE ALEX ENGLAND'S NEW BATTLING KING

- Opener helps England to semi-finals
- Former Chesham schoolboy's rise to the top
- Childhood friend lauds batsman

ALEX HALES has started the ICC Champions Trophy in sublime form.

He has played two vital innings and scored two excellent half centuries which have propelled England past 300 on both occasions.

Both times Hales has batted in the tournament, he has lost his opening partner Jason Roy very early on

both occasions.

Last week against Bangladesh, England were set a stern target of 306 to overhaul their opponents but in partnership with Joe Root, the 28-year-old hit 95 before holing out on the boundary going for a deserved century.

On Tuesday, in slightly tougher

conditions and against more savvy rivals in New Zealand, Hales scored a fluent 56 after once again having to deal with the early loss of his out-of-form partner.

It is the maturity of the two innings which stand out as Hales continues to improve.

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Photo: Joe Giddens/PA Wire