

# Baseball bat horror

## Beaten to death, boy of 16 'caught in revenge attack as 30 met for gang clash'

A BOY of 16 was beaten to death after visiting a friend in hospital who had been attacked at school a day earlier, his family say.

Shanur Ahmed's body was found on Tuesday morning, hours after 30 youths armed with baseball bats were seen gathering near a train station.

His grieving family yesterday blasted police after they warned officers on Monday evening – when the student went missing – that he may be in danger.

They believe Shanur was inadvertently caught up in a dispute between two gangs.

Yesterday relatives wept on finding the boy's glasses and his tissues lying scattered at the scene near a pool of blood – which had yet to be examined by forensics officers.

Police later returned to collect the evidence.

Shanur, an A-level student at Newham Sixth Form College in east London, vanished at 6pm after going to see a friend in hospital who had been attacked.

His worried parents contacted

By **Rebecca Camber**  
and **Amelia Clarke**

his friends, who said they had seen a message circulating on social media suggesting something had happened to him near a railway station.

His family, who live in Manor Park, east London, drove past Gallions Reach station three times – where a witness had seen the youths with baseball bats.

But tragically, they did not realise the teenager lay dying from head injuries yards away in the scrubland. His uncle Asad Ahmed, 40, said of the message circulating

### 'Every parent's dream child'

on social media: 'The information was passed to the police. It may have been couple of inexperienced officers dealing with it at the time.'

'When we found out that he is in danger, he may have been stabbed or is in need of help, the protocol from the police, we understand, is they should have deployed a search party, along with a helicopter. Having come today to the



Tragedy: Shanur Ahmed's body was found in scrubland, where police collected his glasses yesterday

scene where he was lying down, I think a police helicopter would have picked it up straight away.

'Today, rather than mourning a death of a child, we probably could have saved a life.'

He added: 'We're aware there was an altercation at his college, but not with him, there was another child, who was hospitalised.'

Shanur visited the friend at hospital but 'thereafter we've not had any contact with him,' he said, adding: 'This was totally out of

character for him to be out. We've lost a child who was bright, he had a bright future. He had plans to go university. He was a child every mother would want, every parent's dream child.'

Another uncle, Zahed Ahmed, said: 'My thinking is, it was a gang murder. So you want justice, because my nephew was innocent, totally innocent.'

Scotland Yard said officers were looking at a possible link to the previous attack at school. It is

believed that the murder may have been a revenge attack for the school incident.

Two rival gangs armed with baseball bats are thought to have met near the station on Monday evening to settle the dispute.

Detective Chief Inspector Larry Smith said: 'We need anyone with information to tell us what they know. In particular, we want to speak to anyone who was in the vicinity of Gallions Reach at around 8pm on Monday.'

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