

Tributes paid to taxi driver as murder hunt launched

The family of a 36-year-old taxi driver found fatally injured by a road side have spoken of their loss.

Detectives launched a murder hunt after father-of-three Mohammed Arshad was found with serious injuries south of Birmingham in West Hills Lane, Hopwood, on the border with Worcestershire.

Last night his family released a statement saying: "He was a loving husband who adored his wife and children and had a very close relationship with his sons, aged eight, six and three years old.

"He was a man with a big heart who was always there for others. Both his family, com-

munity and colleagues have suffered a major loss. For those close to him the brutal nature of his murder is impossible to comprehend."

Mr Arshad, whose wife is seven months pregnant with their fourth child, lived in Umberslade Road, Selly Oak, and worked for A Cars, based in Pershore Road, Kings Norton.

It is believed he had picked up a fare from Monyhull Hall Road in Kings Norton, before he died.

Paramedics were sent to West Hills Lane at 8.50pm on Wednesday and found him lying at the side of the road with serious injuries but he was pronounced dead at Selly Oak Hospital. His Ford Galaxy

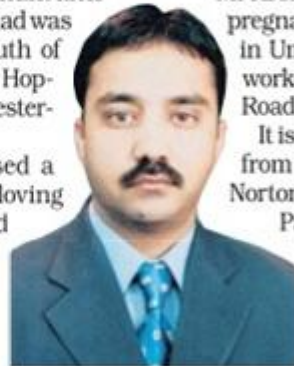
taxi was later found dumped in nearby Shannon Road, Kings Norton.

Ifran Ahmed, chairman of the Birmingham and Solihull Taxi Association, said: "We are all shocked and appalled by this complete waste of life.

"Our members drive black cabs, but some of them knew him. I did not know him personally, but some of my colleagues did and nobody has a bad word to say against him.

"He was a very good guy. He was a hard-working family man, with a young wife and a young family.

"Every single day and night drivers in black cabs and private hire vehicles put themselves in danger and it's getting worse. If we defend ourselves we get into trouble and if we complain to the police they do not react to our complaints."



Mohammed Arshad