

## 2 get life for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced two people to life imprisonment for raping a girl in 2003. The court also fined them Tk one lakh each. In default, they are to suffer another six months in jail.

The two were also awarded 14 years' rigorous imprisonment under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and fined Tk 5 thousand each, in default, they are to suffer one month more in prison.

The convicts are Manik Mia alias Moija, 45, son of Kalu Mia, and Abul Hossain, 47, son of Geda Mia of Dhalla Uttarpara village in Singair upazila. According to the prosecution, the duo raped the girl of the area on May 6 in 2003.

Later, the victim's sister filed a case with Singair Police Station in this connection.

After examining witnesses and the evidence, Judge of Manikganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal found Moija and Hossain guilty and pronounced the verdict.

## Four Shibir men held

UNB, Comilla

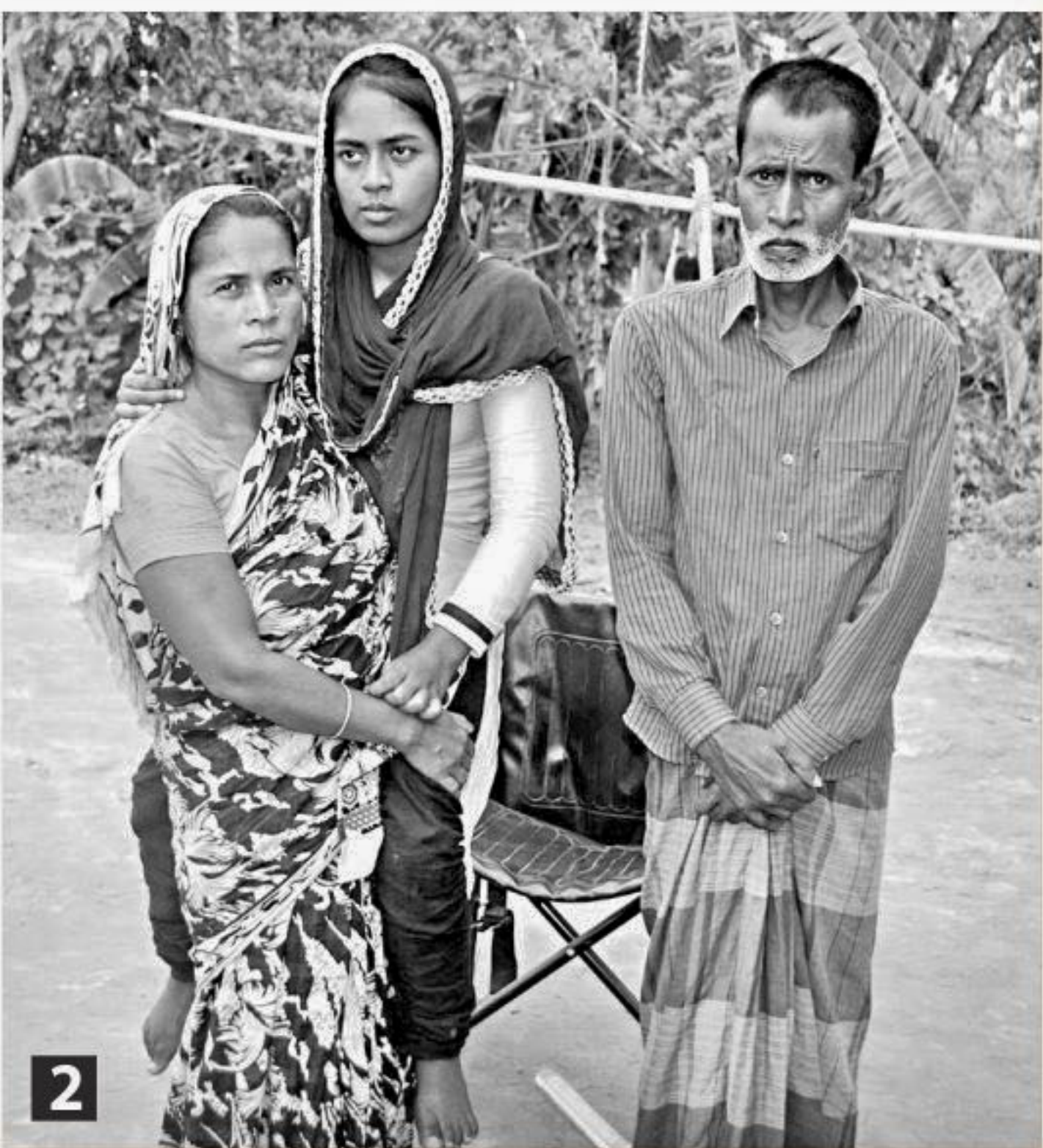
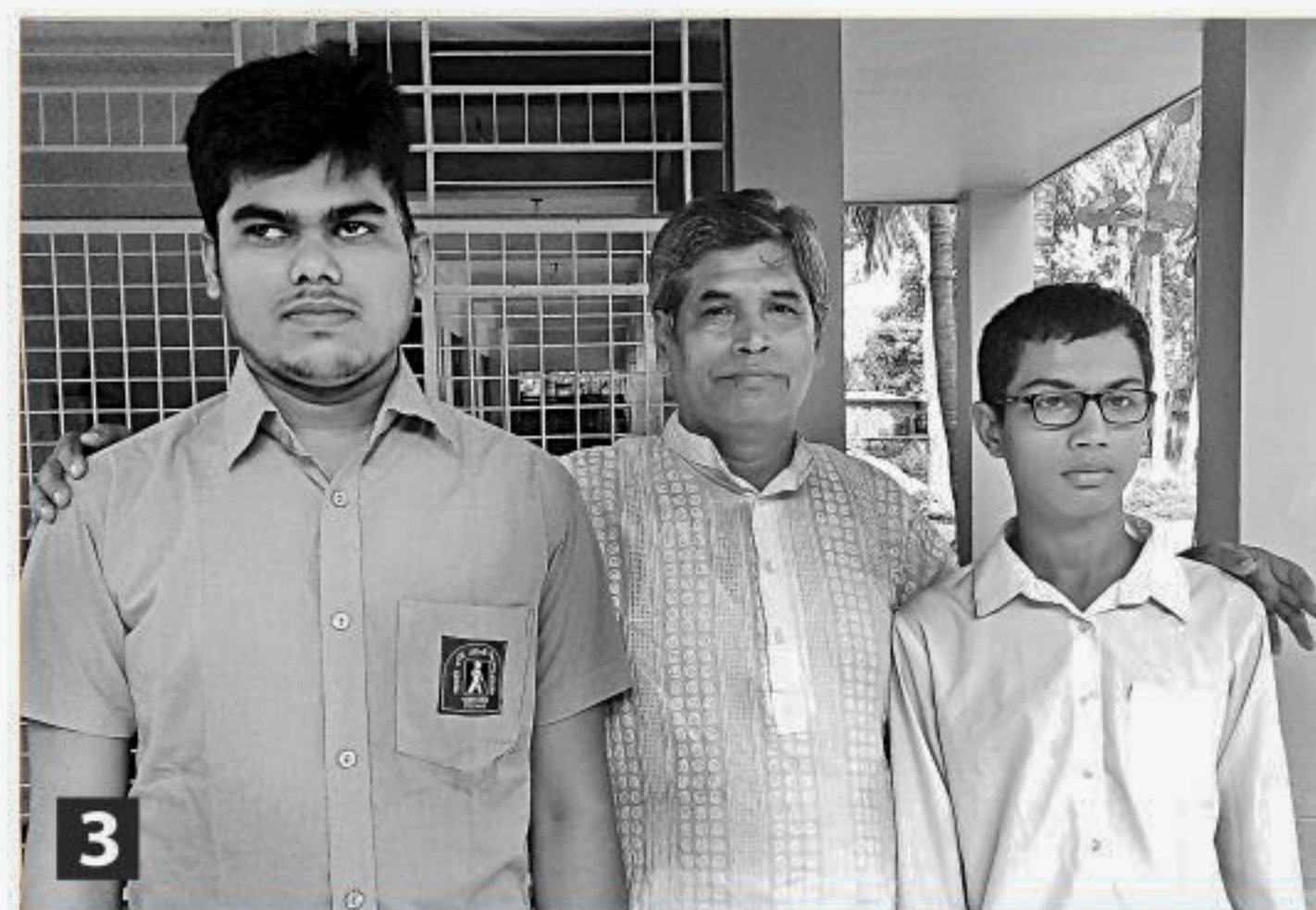
Police arrested four activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, from a house in Brahmanpara upazila on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Shahin Alam, 27, Ishak Bhuiyan, 24, Hizbullah, 18, and Omar Faruk, 22.

They hail from different areas of the district.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a drive at a house of Abdul Khalek and arrested the four when they were holding a clandestine meeting there around 7:00pm, said Shahjahan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Brahmanpara Police Station.

The law enforcers also recovered some anti-government leaflets from their possession, said the OC.



1) Physically challenged Amir Hossain of Chittagong's Nesarabad Government Boys' High School among jubilant fellows after achieving GPA 5; 2) Challenged Naic Khatun Hashi, achiever of GPA 3.55, with her parents at Boalgachha village in Bogra's Dhunat upazila; 3) Two visually impaired successful SSC examinees from Government School for the Blind at Muradpur in Chittagong with Headmaster Abdus Samad; 4) Visually impaired Antara Galiba Sneha from Radhaballav Girls' High School in Rangpur city got GPA 3.5; and 5) Moli Rani Kundu takes sweet from her son Mrinmoy Kundu at their Bagatipara residence in Natore after both of them learnt of their bright results in the SSC examinations yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## SSC EXAMINATIONS

# Stories of indomitable will

STAR COUNTY DESK

Defying odds of varying nature, several students have achieved glorious results in this year's SSC examinations.

Six visually impaired students of Government School for the Blind at Muradpur in the port city came out successful in this year's SSC examinations, reports our staff correspondent from Chittagong.

Md Tanvir Chowdhury of Hamjarbag area of the city was admitted to the school after he lost his eyesight due to a brain tumour a couple of years ago.

After the SSC results were published yesterday, he saw with immense joy that he obtained GPA 4.50.

"I want to continue my study and be a teacher cum lawyer," said Tanvir.

Md Shakil Khan, another student of

the school, secured GPA 4.45.

"We have to depend on others for writing in the exams and it is a hindrance to the way our securing good results," said Shakil, who wants to be a teacher.

"We are very much happy with the glorious results of our students," said Md Abdus Samad, headmaster (in-charge) of the school.

Farzana Akter of the school secured GPA 4.32, Surat Alam 4.45, Arafatul Islam 4.32 and Tanmoy Dutta 4.50 in this year's SSC exam, he said.

Meanwhile, physically challenged Amir Hossain has obtained GPA-5 from science group in this year's SSC examinations from Nasirabad Government Boys' High School in the port city.

Amir, eldest among the three brothers, cannot stand or walk well. Even he cannot use his right hand as usual.

Their mother Nilufa Akhter, a school-teacher, had to struggle much to raise her three sons as her husband died of a heart attack in 2010.

"Now I am very happy as Amir has done well," the mother said.

Amir wants to be a physicist.

Our Natore Correspondent reports: A woman, who had to discontinue her study due to marriage while reading in Class IX, has passed this year's SSC examinations along with her son, even did a bit better than the latter.

The mother, Moli Rani Kundu, 37, got GPA 4.53 and her son Mrinmoy Kundu, 16, got GPA 4.43.

"I am very excited that I have passed the examination with my son," said Moely Rani.

She, however, expressed worry due to their financial constraints.

Mrinmoy Kundu said, "My mother has proved how hard work and determination can bring success. She has done better than me and it has made me more committed to do better in future."

Debrata Kundu, husband of Moli Rani Kundu said, "It is a special day for me as my wife and son passed the SSC exam with good results."

Shahina Khatun, deputy commissioner of Natore, said the district administration will extend help for higher education of the mother and son.

Our Bogra Correspondent adds: Born with serious physical challenges, Naic Khatun Hashi passed the SSC examinations with GPA-3.55.

Naic Khatun Hashi, 15, daughter of Nazrul Islam and Akhtar Jahan of Boyalgaca village under Choukibari union of Dhunat upazila, attended the

examinations from Bishwahori-Boalgachha High School.

She cannot stand, let alone walk. Even she cannot write with the right hand, said her father Nazrul Islam.

Naic's mother Akhtar Jahan hoped to get financial help from government and non-government sectors.

Naic said she wants to be a teacher.

Our Dinajpur Correspondent reports from Rangpur: Visually impaired Antara Galiba Sneha has passed the SSC examinations with GPA 3.50.

Antara, daughter of Sarker Rabiul Islam and Renuka Hasan of Khalipapara area under Rangpur city, sat for the examinations as a humanities student of Radhaballav Girls' High School in the city.

"I want to be a teacher if everything goes well," she told his correspondent over phone.



Sharmin Aktar, third from right, flashes V-sign along with her classmates at Rajapur Pilot Girls' High School in Jhalakathi after hearing her SSC examination result yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Emblem of courage wins

Sharmin passes SSC with GPA 4.32

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Sharmin Aktar has passed the Secondary School Certificate examinations with GPA (Grade Point Average) 4.32, fighting against all odds including her mother's attempt to marry her off at an early age.

For the extraordinary courage with determination to continue study, Sharmin received the International Women of Courage Award from the US State Department on March 30 this year.

Expressing happiness after knowing her SSC results yesterday, Sharmin said, "I am thankful to my honourable teachers and all who supported me to carry on my studies well."

"My education faced virtual clo-

sure as my mother forcibly arranged my marriage with an aged man when I was a Class IX student of Rajapur Pilot Girls' High School in Jhalakathi in 2015," said Sharmin.

But to escape early marriage and continue schooling, Sharmin filed a case against her mother with Rajapur Police Station on August 17 in 2015 with the help of a class friend and a local journalist and was able to continue her study.

She wants to be a lawyer and work for women's rights.

"Sharmin was regular in study. She has set an example for young learners, especially for girls in rural area," said Golam Mostafa, headmaster of Rajapur Pilot Girls' High School from where Sharmin appeared at the SSC examinations this year.

## Bridge collapses within months of repair work

Galachipa upazila villagers suffer a lot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A portion of a Bailey bridge on Pankhali canal in Galachipa upazila collapsed on Sunday after only a few months of its renovation, causing sufferings to people of several villages.

Some wooden sleepers of the bridge set on an iron structure suddenly broke down when about 40 students of nearby institutions were crossing it on Sunday noon, said Nesar Uddin, a teacher of Pankhali Government Primary School.

At least 10 students sustained minor injuries in the incident, Nesar said.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) repaired the bridge at a

cost of Tk 1.79 lakh in November last year after it became unfit for use.

About 1,500 people, especially a good number of school goers, of Uttar Pankhali, Dakkhin Pankhali, Kalaraja and Haridebpur villages cross the bridge everyday.

The bridge collapsed within five months of its repair as low quality materials were used during the work, said Abul Kalam, headmaster of Pankhali High School.

LGED Upazila Engineer Atiqur Rahman said they would take necessary steps to repair the bridge immediately, adding that they will investigate if there was any negligence in the previous repair work.

## Minor boy drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A two and half-year-old boy drowned in a pond at Shreebari village in Manikganj's Shivalaya upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Yamin, son of Hayat Ali of the village.

Quoting deceased's family members, local UP member Abul Hashem said Yamin fell into a pond adjacent to his house while plying on its bank around 10:00am and drowned.

Locals rescued the kid and took him to Shivalaya Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared the boy dead.



Merely five months of its repair work, this iron-structure bridge on Pankhali canal in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila collapsed on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR