

STAR OUR 8-PAGE GUIDE TO A FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

EURO 2024

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Super soccer pullout

SEE INSIDE

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Tuesday June 18 2024 €2.50

IT'S ASCOT!

RACING PULLOUT

ROYAL ASCOT 2024

VICTORY SPEECH

TOP TIPS INSIDE

'HOPE HE GETS WHAT HE DESERVES'

'MY DAD THE TAXI RAPIST'

Attacker's girl tells of family's nightmare over double rape



BRAVE: Nikita Shorten told of her pain at finding out her dad Raymond (left) was a double rapist

PAGES 4&5

18+ Play Responsibly, Play For Fun



EUROMILLIONS JACKPOT

€175 MILLION*

*Estimated

PLAY BEFORE 7:30PM TONIGHT



National Lottery

SPEAKING OUT: Brave Bláithnaid Raileigh talks to the media after rapist was convicted



WOMAN WHO WAS RAPED WANTS TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS

■ Sonya McLEAN

A WOMAN who was raped with a bottle following a night out has said she wants to be a “support and advocate for other victims of sexual violence” as she is aware that not every victim gets to see their attacker convicted.

Bláithnaid Raileigh waived anonymity to allow Jonathan ‘Johnny’ Moran (26) to be named.

Moran of Tower View, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, was convicted by a Central Criminal Court jury of section four rape of Ms Raileigh, in that he penetrated her vagina with a bottle, and aggravated sexual assault — in that he penetrated her anus with a bottle — in a garden shed in Galway on July 21, 2019.

Fiona Murphy SC, defending, said her client had “difficulty facing up to the case” but now accepts the verdicts of the jury and is remorseful.

The court heard he has no previous convictions and comes from a good hard-working family.

Ms Raileigh is also from Mullingar and Moran played rugby with her brothers. She had been attending the Arts Festival in Galway with a friend

when they bumped into Moran and others from home. The rape occurred after Ms Raileigh went back with Moran and some other young people to the AirBnB that Moran and his friends were staying in that weekend.

Injuries

Moran claimed the sexual activity had been consensual and denied he used any implement in assaulting Ms Raileigh. Her DNA was found on the opening of three plastic cordial bottles following a forensic examination of the shed.

Ms Raileigh was left with physical injuries that required months of treatment.

In a victim impact statement, she said: “Typical things are no longer fun for me – my body does not enjoy new things any more.”

She said the attack “haunts me still in my daily life” and she fears “men see me as damaged goods”. Mr Justice Tony Hunt revoked Moran’s bail and remanded him in custody until July 1 next for sentence.



CONVICTED: Rapist Jonathan Moran at court

ANGUISH OF DOUBLE



EXCLUSIVE

■ Paul HEALY
Crime Journalist of the Year

A DAUGHTER of double rapist taxi driver Raymond Shorten says she hopes he now “gets what he deserves”.

Last week, Shorten (50) was found guilty of rape and anal rape over incidents in which he attacked two women who ended up in his taxi in 2022.

Speaking exclusively to *The Star* today, Shorten’s daughter Nikita told how her family has been left shattered by his actions.

“We’re not coping good at all and I hope he gets what he deserves,” Nikita told us.

“He didn’t only hurt them girls but he broke us and we will have to live with that for the rest of our lives.”

But brave Nikita told how she and her family have rallied together — as they learn to cope with the reality of her father’s behaviour.

Loss

“But we’re a strong family and once we have each other we will get through anything,” she told us.

A devastated Nikita also allowed this paper to share her social media post in which she spoke on Sunday of the grief of losing a dad she thought she had, and how he is now “nothing” to her.

“Father’s Day and grieving for a Da that we once had before we ever knew what he was,” she wrote. “I am so proud of me, my brothers and sisters that have gone through the hardest thing we have ever had to go through.

“The news, the posts the TikToks, everything we have to see and while going through even more behind closed doors.

“I’m so happy for the girls who got the justice they deserve.

“This has nothing to do with us and that man is nothing to us.

“I am grateful for the amazing family I have and the most amazing woman who raised us.”

Nikita’s comments come as another family member also posted to social media and told of their ordeal over Shorten.

“It feels like we’re drowning right now, but at least we’re doing it together. We are our own persons and we are not a reflection of the man,” the family member wrote.

Ugly

“I love my beautiful family who continue to show me there is still beauty and kindness in this ugly world. You have all made me so unbelievably proud and I am beyond blessed to have yous and love yous.”

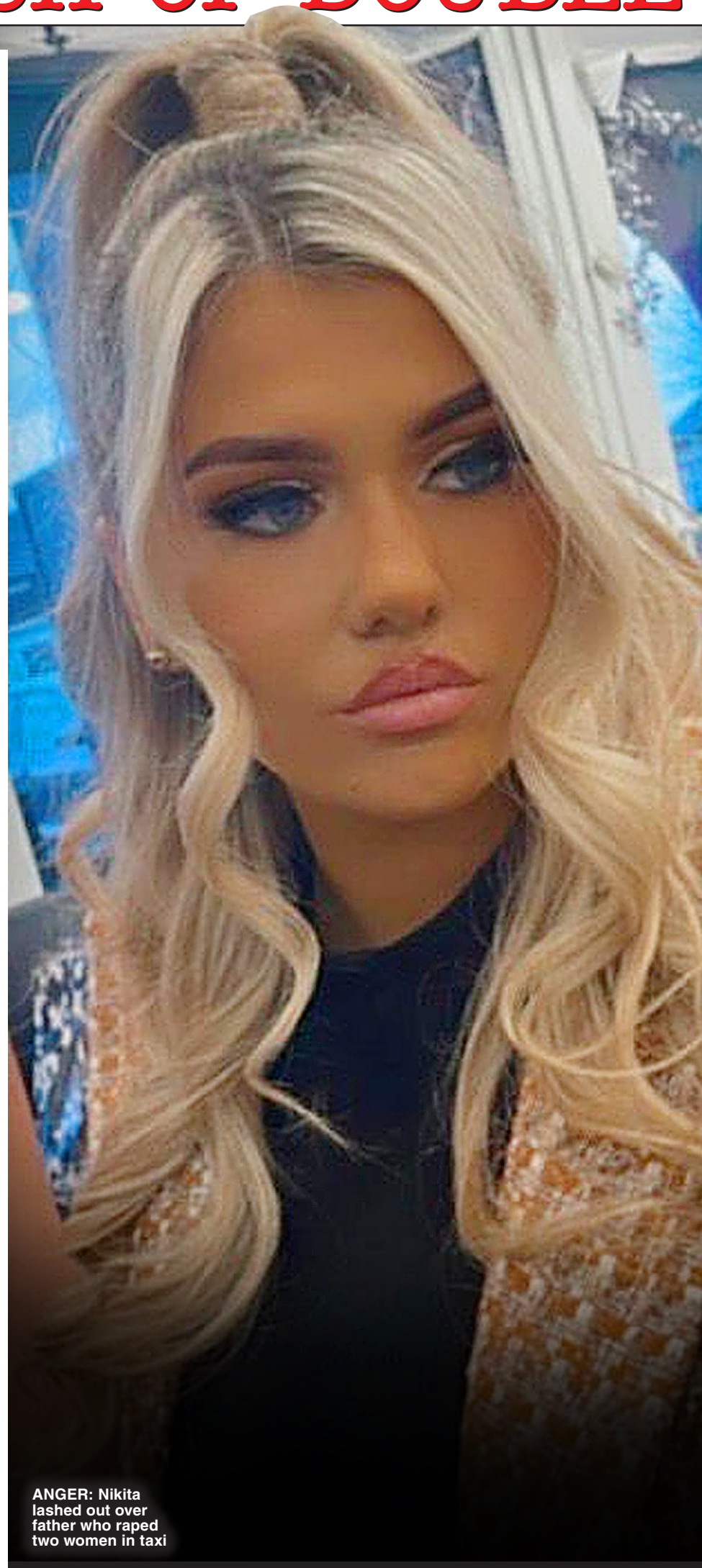
Last week, a jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts following Shorten’s trial in the Central Criminal Court.

In her opening speech, senior prosecuting counsel Gerardine Small said it was the prosecution’s case that each woman found themselves in a taxi after a night out socialising in Dublin city centre in the summer of 2022, where they were raped in the vehicle by Shorten, from Melrose Crescent in Clondalkin, west Dublin.

While the two women don’t know each other, there were some similarities between them and their evidence during the trial.

They were close in age — the first 19 and the second 20 — when the incidents occurred in June and August 2022.

They had both been socialising and drinking on the nights in question. They both said they found themselves in a taxi where a man raped them.



ANGER: Nikita lashed out over father who raped two women in taxi

Shorten denied the allegations of rape and said he had consensual sexual contact with both women which they had initiated.

They both strongly denied consenting to sex when Shorten’s account was put to them by his defence counsel.

In her evidence, the first woman said

she drank five pints of cider, an amount she wasn’t used to, on the night of June 25, 2022.

She described gaps in her memory of her journey home and recalled waking up in the front passenger seat of a car in the early hours, with a man driving.

She said she felt very dazed and her eyes

RAPIST CABBIE'S DAUGHTER

'Our dad is nothing to us...I hope he gets what he deserves'

GUILTY: Shorten (also inset) raped two women in his taxi on separate occasions after they socialised in Dublin



■ LASHES OUT OVER TAXI RAP FATHER
■ 'SO HAPPY' GIRLS GOT THEIR JUSTICE

were heavy.

She said the man moved her to the back seat where he raped her anally and vaginally.

When he finished, the man returned to the driver's seat, then dropped her near her home.

The second woman described go-

ing for drinks in Dublin city centre on August 8, 2022, before later getting a taxi home.

She fell asleep in the back of a taxi and said the next thing she remembered was waking up as the taxi driver was raping her. She said she was in shock and didn't know how to

fight back.

Afterwards, he dropped her home where he asked for the fare.

She got a charger from the house as her phone had died and went back to the taxi to charge it.

One of her parents later paid the fare in cash.

During her testimony, the woman became upset as she recounted returning to her house where her parents asked her questions.

She said she broke down crying and told them what had happened.

Under cross-examination, she rejected the defence's contention that

there was mutual kissing, then consensual sexual activity.

In her closing speech, Ms Small suggested there is an "inherent unlikelihood" that two young women would make similar allegations about the same man within a relatively short period of time.