



Manchester United's Welsh international Ryan Giggs (R) passes the ball before David Beardsley of Queens Park Rangers could intercept during a English Premiership clash at Old Trafford on Dec 30. United won 2-1.

Suicide or murder?

MOSCOW, Dec 31: Russian Olympic medal diver Elena Miroshina jumped to her death from a fifth floor apartment, a police official said Saturday, reports AP.

Miroshina, 21, was found dead outside her 17-story building in the Mitino neighbourhood in northwest Moscow in the morning of Dec 18.

Maj Sergei Bezzubov, an officer at the Mitino police station, said police first thought it was murder. They later found an eyewitness, a woman who saw the young diver jump from her balcony, he said.

Bezzubov said an autopsy revealed Miroshina, who retired in 1993 after spending more than half of her life as a diver, was drunk at the time.

Miroshina's former teammates told the English-language Moscow Times that Miroshina had been married about a year, was four months pregnant and not likely to give birth.

She wanted to have the baby and have a normal life. Vladimir Timoshinin, a 1988 Olympic contender and winner of the 1994 Goodwill Games 10-meter event, was quoted as saying Saturday.

But Bezzubov said the autopsy indicated that Miroshina was not pregnant. He also said she was unmarried. Miroshina won the silver medal in platform diving in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. She placed sixth in the same event in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

Man United close the gap

LONDON, Dec 31: Goals by Andy Cole and Ryan Giggs gave Manchester United a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers Saturday as the Reds trimmed Newcastle's lead to four points, report agencies.

Newcastle, 10 points clear at the top before Manchester United beat them 2-0 last Wednesday, were powerless to reassert their supremacy because their match at West Ham was one of dozens called off because of frozen pitches.

Newcastle's next game isn't until Tuesday when they host Arsenal by which time Manchester United could have cut their lead to one point by winning at Tottenham on Monday.

The Magpies currently have 45 points from 20 games and the Reds 41 from 21. Eangland striker Shearer netted Blackburn's second goal in a 2-1 win over Tottenham to maintain his record of scoring in every home league game this season and become the first man to notch a century of goals in the Premier league, now in his fourth season.

Cole, rediscovering the lethal finishing touch which prompted United to buy him from Newcastle for seven million pounds (11 million dollars) last season, claimed his third goals in three

games with a header a minute before the interval.

Welsh international Giggs added the second seven minutes after the break and, although QPR substitute Daniele Dichio pulled one back in the 68th minute, United held on to take all four points.

"He (Cole) always gets chances. When he starts scoring like he is at the moment there's no telling how many he'll get but he getting more confident all the time," United manager Alex Ferguson said.

"That was a good result for us. It was a difficult game for the players to raise themselves for after the intensity of the Newcastle game on Wednesday."

Ferguson was pleased with the performance of French international defender William Prunier on his Premier league debut.

Prunier's thundering header a minute before the interval was brilliantly parried by QPR's American goalkeeper Juergen Sommer, only for Cole to pounce and score with a header of his own.

"William showed what we know—that he's an excellent passer of the ball," Ferguson said. "It was a difficult job but he did all right, although it might be more of a test for him at Spurs on Monday."

Only 12 matches were played in England's four

major divisions and three in Scotland. Three English Premier league games fell victim to the freezing cold—West Ham v Newcastle, Aston Villa v Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton v Manchester City.

French international defender William Prunier came desperately close to marking his Manchester United league debut with a great goal when he charged in to meet a corner with a thundering header.

QPR's American goalkeeper Juergen Sommer did superbly well to palm the ball away with his left hand but the marauding Cole was on hand to plunder the goal which Prunier, on a two-week trial from French First Division Bordeaux, had so nearly scored himself.

At the other end, a blunder by United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel presented QPR with a lifeline after Giggs's goal when Dichio charged down the Dane's attempted clearance and lofted the ball into the empty net for his side's first away goal since he netted at Bolton back in September.

Liverpool moved into third place ahead of Tottenham on goal difference, twice coming from behind to draw 2-2 at Chelsea to take their tally to 35 points from 20 games.

John Spencer scored for Chelsea in the ninth and 45th minutes only for England international Steve McManaman to hit back for Liverpool in the 33rd and 76th.

Spurs, held to draws by struggling Bolton and Southampton in their two previous games, finished the year on a still lower note when they succumbed to their first away defeat in the league this season at Blackburn.

England striker Teddy Sheringham reduced the arrears with a header eight minutes after the interval for his 16th goals of the season but that was not enough to save Tottenham from defeat after 10 unbeaten games.

Arsenal welcomed Dennis Bergkamp back from injury and the Dutch striker helped them take the lead against Wimbledon when he linked up for England marksman Ian Wright to score his 15th goal of the season in the 28th minutes.

But visitors Wimbledon put paid to Arsenal's hopes of moving into third place in the table, running out 3-1 winners at Highbury thanks to two goals from Robbie Earle and one from Dean Holdsworth.

Arsenal's defence suffered from the absence of Tony Adams, who pulled out shortly before the match with a stomach upset, and the suspended Steve Bould.

UEFA cup quarterfinalists Nottingham Forest, England's only survivors in Europe, joined Arsenal on 34 points with a 1-0 home win over injury-hit Middlesbrough. England defender Stuart Pearce scored the only goal with a penalty in the eighth minute.

Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson was in the Everton starting line-up for the first time since spending 44 days in prison for butting an opponent when he played for Glasgow Rangers.

Everton were reduced to 10 men when skipper Dave Watson was sent off for a second bookable offence but still beat Leeds 2-0 thanks to an own goal from David Weir and a fine strike by Ukraine-born Russia international Andrei Kanchelskii.

Bolton lost 2-1 at home to fellow strugglers Coventry and are now six points adrift at the bottom of the table.

Cricket 1995: The year that was

Compiled by Hasan Masood

The following are the results of matches played by Bangladeshi cricket teams against international teams in 1995:

Jan 23: Kenya vs Bangladesh under-19 (Dhaka) Bangladesh U-19: 196 for 6 in 50 overs (Zakaria 65, Atiar 50, Durjoy 30, Toni Sujji 3/44)

Kenya: 183 in 49.1 overs (Morris Odumbe 41, S Tikolo 41, Tito 38 Shanto 3/42, Sajal 2/32) Result: Bangladesh U-19 won by 13 runs.

Jan 26: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) Bangladesh: 181 in 49.5 overs (E H Moni 50, M A Nannu 48, Rafique 23, Tito 3/13, S Tikolo 3/18, M Odumbe 3/42)

Kenya: 179 for 9 in 50 overs (S Tikolo 38, Dipak 28, Rafique 2/25 Anis 2/28, E H Moni 1/23) Result: Bangladesh won by two runs.

Jan 27: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) Kenya: 194 for 7 in 50 overs (M Odumbe 59, Kanedy 44, T Sujji 31, E H Moni 3/55) Bangladesh: 195 for 7 in 48 overs (A I Bulbul 37, Athar 34, Akram 31, E H Moni 19, M Odumbe 2/33, Asif Karim 2/34)

Result: Bangladesh won by three wickets. Man of the match: Enamul Haque Moni.

Jan 28: Kenya vs Bangladesh 'A' (Comilla) Kenya: 176 for 9 in 50 overs (Mohsin Ali 45, Saikat 2/19, Effe 2/19) Bangladesh 'A': 175 in 49.3 overs (Ziauddin Shovon 42, Sumon 36, Faruque 36, Asif Karim 3/27, Tito 2/19) Result: Kenya won by one run.

Jan 30: Kenya vs Bangladesh U-19 (Syhet) Kenya: 185 in 49 overs (M Odumbe 53, Tarek Ali 47, Dipak 43, Durjoy 3/29) Bangladesh U-19: 182 in 49.4 overs (Durjoy 76, M Odumbe 3/29) Result: Kenya won by three runs.

Man of the match: Naimur Rahman Durjoy.

Feb 1: Kenya vs Bangladesh 'A' (Mymensingh) Kenya: 144 in 49.4 overs (M Odumbe 33, Tarek Ali 33, Saikat 4/29) Bangladesh 'A': 146 for 7 in 46.5 overs (K M Pilot 43, M Odumbe 2/24) Result: Bangladesh 'A' won by three wickets.

Man of the match: Saikat.

Feb 3: Kenya vs Bangladesh 'A' (Dhaka) Bangladesh 'A': 159 for 9 in 50 overs (Shovon 70, Asif Karim 3/35, Tito 2/22) Kenya: 157 in 49.2 overs (M Odumbe 33, Dipak 24, Saikat 4/33, Sujon 2/39) Result: Bangladesh 'A' won by two runs.

Man of the match: Ziauddin Ahmed Shovon.

Feb 3: Kenya vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) Bangladesh: 170 for 8 in 49.1 overs (M A Nannu 54, Rafique 24, S Tikolo 3/40) Kenya: 164 in 48.5 overs (M Odumbe 48, Kanedy 33, Saiful 3/33) Result: Bangladesh won by six runs.

Man of the match: Minhazul Abedin Nannu.

Hong Kong Jan 29 Hong Kong vs Bangladesh U-19 (Syhet) Hong Kong: 139 for 9 in 50 overs (Rahul 65, Shanto 3/24, Durjoy 2/32) Bangladesh U-19: 143 for 5 in 35.2 overs (Zakaria 52, Atiar 48, Foster 1/20) Result: Bangladesh U-19 won by five wickets.

Man of the match: Zakaria Imtiaz.

Jan 30: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) Bangladesh: 232 for 9 in 50 overs (A I Bulbul 90, Athar Ali 51, E H Moni 36, J Strachan 4/47) Hong Kong: 159 in 46.1 overs (S Brew 54, Foster 33, Saiful 3/10, E H Moni 2/36) Result: Bangladesh won by 73 runs.

Man of the match: Aminul Islam Bulbul.

Jan 31: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) Hong Kong: 160 for 8 in 50 overs (Sharma 42, Rafique 3/42, Rokan 2/20) Bangladesh: 161 for 4 in 40.1 overs (Jahangir 80, Akram 24, Foster 1/19) Result: Bangladesh won by six wickets.

Man of the match: Jahangir Alam.

Feb 3: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh U-19 (Comilla) Bangladesh U-19: 182 for 8 in 49.4 overs (Sajid 31, M H Ope 31, Durjoy 23, Sharma 3/30) Hong Kong: 128 in 41.3 overs (Mark Amis 38, Foster 23, Sujon 3/25, Durjoy 2/23) Result: Bangladesh U-19 won by 54 runs.

Man of the match: Naimur Rahman Durjoy.

Feb 4: Hong Kong vs Bangladesh Colts (BKSP, Savar) Hong Kong: 214 for 8 in 50 overs (Bannister 44, Morrison 33, Sharma 29, Sabir 2/22) Bangladesh Colts: 172 for 9 in 50 overs (Ehsan 41, Redwan 26, John Store 3/30) Result: Hong Kong won by 42 runs.

Man of the match: John Store.

Hyderabad Hyderabad Cricket Association Jan 30: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh 'A' (Comilla) Bangladesh 'A': 221 for 9 in 50 overs (Faruque 58, Iqbal 53, Sattyanarayan 3/27, Agarwal 2/34) Hyderabad: 198 in 47 overs (Srinibash 61, Juboraj 37, K Kumar 35, Saikat 3/30) Result: Bangladesh 'A' won by 23 runs.

Man of the match: Faruque Ahmed.

Feb 1: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh U-19 (Syhet) Bangladesh U-19: 164 in 48.3 overs (Sajid 45, Durjoy 45, K Kumar 3/25, Kanwaljit 2/26) Hyderabad: 166 for 2 in 22.5 overs (Sridhar 62, Arvind Shetty 49) Result: Hyderabad won by eight wickets.

Man of the match: Sridhar.

Feb 2: Hyderabad vs BCCB Eleven (Dhaka) BCCB XI: 197 for 6 in 50 overs (Rokon 57, Bulbul 37, Kanwaljit 4/39) Hyderabad: 198 for 6 in 49.3 overs (Sridhar 103, A Azim 37, Saiful 2/34, Bulbul 2/27) Result: Hyderabad won by four wickets.

Man of the match: Sridhar.

Feb 4: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh 'A' (Mymensingh) Hyderabad: 158 for 8 in 50 overs (Gaus 30, Nandkishore 24, Saikat 5/28) Bangladesh 'A': 161 for 6 in 48.2 overs (Sanwar 56, Sumon 26, Gaus 1/21) Result: Bangladesh 'A' won by four wickets.

Man of the match: Saikat.

Feb 5: Hyderabad vs BCCB Eleven (Dhaka) Hyderabad: 188 in 50 overs (A Azim 54, Nandkishore 38, E H Moni 5/42) BCCB XI: 135 for 4 in 32 overs (Nannu 42, Golla 32, Nandkishore 1/21) Note: Target for BCCB Eleven was reduced to 132 in 35 overs due to rain.

Result: BCCB Eleven won by six wickets.

Man of the match: Enamul Haque Moni.

Feb 6: Hyderabad vs Bangladesh U-19 (Dhaka) Hyderabad: 170 in 46.4 overs (Shetty 27, Praveen 27, Yadav 20, Shanto 3/26, Litu 2/9) Bangladesh U-19: 153 in 48.4 overs (Zakaria 54, Shanto 23, Bishnu 3/22, Yadav 2/34) Result: Hyderabad won by 17 runs.

Man of the match: Shibaji Yadav.

England 'A' Feb 20: England 'A' vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) England 'A': 203 for 8 in 50 overs (Jeson Gallian 58, Allan Wells 47, Anis 2/28, Nannu 2/43) Bangladesh: 145 for 8 in 50 overs (Nannu 34, Pilot 24, D Cork 2/11, Johnson 2/27, Patel 2/28) Result: England 'A' won by 58 runs.

Man of the match: J Gallian.

Feb 22: England 'A' vs Bangladesh (Dhaka) England 'A': 235 for 8 in 50 overs (Nick Knight 117, D Hemp 52, Athar 3/30, Anis 3/54) Bangladesh: 215 for 8 in 50 overs (Bulbul 52, Athar 46, Rafique 43, Weekes 2/37, Stemp 2/34) Result: England 'A' won by 20 runs.

Man of the match: N Knight.

Feb 24-26 England 'A' vs Bangladesh (3-day match, Dhaka) Bangladesh: 365 for 6 declared (Bulbul 121, Nannu 81, Golla 39, Durjoy 34, Chappel 2/50, Johnson 2/53) England 'A': 421 for 7 at the end (David Hemp 190, Knight 150, Nannu 2/36) Result: Match drawn.

Man of the match: D Hemp.

Fifth Asia Cup, Sharjah April 5: India vs Bangladesh Bangladesh: 163 in 44 overs (Bulbul 30, Akram 24, Saiful 22, Kumble 2/23, Prabhakar 2/43) India: 164 for one in 27.5 overs (Sidhu 55, Prabhakar 53, Tendulkar 48, Rafique 1/15) Result: India won by nine wickets.

Man of the match: M Prabhakar.

April 6: Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh Sri Lanka: 233 in 49.4 overs (A Ranatunga 71, S Jayasuria 51, Saiful 4/34) Bangladesh: 126 in 44.2 overs (Nannu 26, Akram 24, Muralitharan 4/23) Result: Sri Lanka won by 107 runs.

Man of the match: A Ranatunga.

April 8: Pakistan vs Bangladesh Bangladesh: 151 for 8 in 50 overs (Akram 44, Bulbul 42, Pilot 27, W Akram 2/25) Pakistan: 152 for 4 in 29.4 overs (Ghulam Ali 38, W Akram 30, Athar 1/10) Result: Pakistan won by six wickets.

Man of the match: W Akram.

West Indies U-19 Nov 14: West Indies U-19 vs Bangladesh Youth West Indies U-19: 185 for 9 in 50 overs (G Hinds 44, S Clarke 39, A Murphy 32, S Shahed 2/26, Saikat 2/29) Bangladesh Youth: 186 for 4 in 49.4 overs (Golla 79, S Shahed 28, Rafique 21, M Nagamoto 1/14) Result: Bangladesh Youth won by six wickets.

Man of the match: Javed Omar Belim Golla.

Nov 16: West Indies U-19 vs Bangladesh U-19 West Indies U-19: 196 for 8 in 50 overs (M Nagamoto 36, V Nagamoto 31, Durjoy 3/18) Bangladesh U-19: 198 for 8 in 47.4 overs (M Litu 45, Rokan 40, Durjoy 29, Reon King 3/40) Result: Bangladesh U-19 won by two wickets.

Man of the match: Naimur Rahman Durjoy.

Nov 17: West Indies U-19 vs BCCB Eleven West Indies U-19: 181 for 9 in 50 overs (A Murphy 51, S Clarke 24, Durjoy 4/26, S Shahed 3/25) BCCB XI: 182 for 6 in 49.2 overs (Rokon 43, Pilot 42, Durjoy 32, G Breeze 1/19) Result: BCCB Eleven won by four wickets.

Man of the match: Naimur Rahman Durjoy.

Double trouble for Robson

LONDON, Dec 31: Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson has been charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute, reports Reuter.

The charge follows the former England captain's exchange with referee Paul Danson after his club's 1-0 Premier league defeat at Blackburn on December 17.

Middlesbrough captain Nigel Pearson and defender Neil Cox have also been hit with a disrepute charge.

Danson informed the FA that Robson and his two players confronted him outside the dressing room after the Ewood Park game, apparently furious at a number of decisions.

FA spokesman Steve Double said, "We have written to charge Robson, Pearson and Cox and they have been given 14 days to respond."

Desperado desists

OSLO, Dec 31: A Norwegian who tried to cross the Antarctic single-handed abandoned the effort because of severe frostbite, his spokesman said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Boerge Ousland, 33, was rescued by an aircraft on Saturday in the icy wilderness and was recuperating at Patriot Hills, the US South Pole base, spokesman Hans Christian Erlandsen told the Norwegian news agency NTB.

Ousland has given up the attempt to cross the Antarctic on his own. Erlandsen was quoted as saying, "The reason is serious frostbite."

He said Ousland reached the South Pole on December 21 after a 44-day trek covering nearly 1,300 km (807.8 miles).



Winners of the ANZ Grindlays Bank golf tournament, held at the Bhatiary Golf and Country Club, seen with the club's senior vice president Maj. Gen. M Azizur Rahman and Frank Gamble, general manager of the ANZ Grindlays Bank Bangladesh. Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Trot 4 London elevator 6 Post-Thanksgiving promise 12 Jackie's second 13 Norway's largest city 14 Master precursor 15 I'll get you moving 16 People 18 Memorable mission 20 Go to seed 21 --Carlo Menotti 24 With -- on (eagerly) 26 He's at the wheel 32 Cheer 33 Bunyan's prop 34 Comparative unimportant 36 A lingerie item 37 Haberdashery army 38 Track runner? 41 First title material 43 Luke's mentor 44 San Francisco's -- Hill 46 Stick in the mud? 49 He's in the pole position 55 Commotion 56 Silts solo 57 Advantage back 58 Flying Down to 59 Lavish affair 60 Grant or Natalie 61 Reg's rival DOWM 1 Hint hit 2 Examination type 3 Me. Lollo-bridgida 4 Livestock ailment 5 Somewhat (suffic) 6 Neighbor of Ga. and Ala. 7 Sightssee 8 More loony 9 -- du Diable 10 Aussie avia 11 -- Heel 12 State 17 Watch pocket 18 Leo's studio 45 Lost intentionally 47 Poet 48 Entertainer Adams 49 Naysayer's prophecy 50 Run up the phone bill -- pro noble 52 Zich 53 Alter affirmation 54 Freudian concept

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Below the grid is the text: 'CRYPTOQUIP B M D W W A M U U Y E U J B V B V W W C G X E V X S G E U B V D J B M E V A B U Y A P / C P A S P C S C M B U B C V. Yesterday's Cryptogram: DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A DIETER'S TRULY DIABOLICAL FEAR IS? FLESH BACK. Today's Cryptogram clue: S equals P. The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.'

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, (RHD) Munshigonj Road Division Bagmumudali, Munshigonj RHD Notice Inviting Tender (2nd Call) 1. Tender Notice No. : 79/RD Munshigonj of 1995-96. 2. Name of work : Tender for different work in different KM of different road under Munshigonj Road Division in 5 (five) groups during the year 1995-96. Only for Group No. 1 (one). 3. Estimated cost : As per group list. 4. Earnest money : As per group list (in favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshigonj Road Division in BD/TC/PSP & BSP etc. from any schedule bank). 5. Time allowed for completion of work : As per group list. 6. Chargeable Head : As per group list. 7. Eligibility of bidders : As per group list. 8. Last date for selling tender documents : Up to 9-1-96 during office hours. 9. Last date and time for receiving the tender documents. : 10-1-96 up to 12-30 PM. 10. Date & time of centrally open of tender in this office. : 13-1-96 at 12-45 PM. 11. Name of offices where tender documents will be sold : Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Munshigonj, Bagmumudali, Munshigonj/Narayanganj/ Gazipur/Narsinghdi/Manikgonj/Dhaka/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Sreenagor/Munshigonj/Keranigonj & 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Munshigonj. 12. Name of offices where tender will be received : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Allenbari, Tajgaon, Dhaka/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshigonj Road Division, Bagmumudali, Munshigonj/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Sreenagor/Keranigonj/Munshigonj & 1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Munshigonj. 13. Date & time of lottery (if necessary) : 14-1-96 at 12-30 PM. Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the RHD enlisted contractors according to their financial limit for the mentioned works as per group list under Munshigonj Road Division. The tender will be received/opened at fixed time & date of above mentioned offices. Group List

Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work.	Eligibility of contractor
1 (one)	Flexible pavement & earth work at 8th KM of Rekabi Bazar-Rampal-Dhigirpar Road during the year 1995-96	Tk. 24,78,700/-	Tk. 49,580/-	35 (thirty-five) days from the date of issue of work order	'A' to 'D' Class General Category of RHD. Md. Habibur Rahman Executive Engineer (RHD) (Current Charge) Munshigonj Road Division Munshigonj

 DFP-32519-27/12 G-04