



Queens Park Rangers defender Danny Gabbidon (C) scores the all-important goal during their FA Cup 3rd round replay against Milton Keynes Dons at Loftus Road on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

QPR end Cup jinx

AFP, London

Mark Hughes registered the first win of his reign at Queens Park Rangers on Tuesday as the Premier League strugglers ended their 11-year FA Cup jinx to beat MK Dons 1-0.

A powerful Danny Gabbidon header settled a scrappy game at Loftus Road, with QPR now advancing to a dream tie against west London neighbours Chelsea in the fourth round later this month.

But Rangers, who had forced a replay with a late equaliser in the first meeting between the clubs, were made to work all the way for a win which exposed the scale of the task facing new manager Hughes.

Gabbidon's winner came against the run of play on 73 minutes, the Welsh defender rising to meet Shaun Wright-Phillips' corner with a firm header which flew past Dons keeper David Martin.

It was the first time QPR have reached the FA Cup fourth round since 2001, and only the club's second home win of the 2011/2012 campaign.

Elsewhere, relegation-threatened Premier League side Bolton had little difficulty in dispatching League Two outfit Macclesfield, from the fourth tier of English football, with a 2-0 win at the Reebok Stadium.

Macclesfield had come within a whisker of a famous upset when the first meeting

between the two sides ended in a 2-2 draw, but Wanderers were in no mood for a repeat performance in Tuesday's replay.

Kevin Davies put Bolton 1-0 up with a goal in the first minute before Martin Petrov extended Bolton's lead on 26 minutes. Bolton will now play Swansea in the fourth round.

Leicester cruised to a comfortable 4-0 victory over fellow Championship side Nottingham Forest, Jermaine Beckford netting a hat-trick as the Foxes advanced to a fourth round meeting with Swindon.

Leicester were set on the path to victory after an own goal from George Boateng after only seven minutes following a low cross from Lloyd Dyer.

Beckford made it 2-0 on the half hour mark, heading in off the underside of the bar after a swift break out left Forest struggling to cover.

Beckford then scored two goals in seven minutes to complete his hat-trick early in the second half as Leicester piled on the agony for Forest, who are currently languishing in the Championship relegation zone.

Millwall meanwhile bounced back from their 6-0 home drubbing by Birmingham last weekend with a 5-0 win over League Two side Dagenham & Redbridge, Darius Henderson grabbing a hat-trick.

Henderson opened the scoring for the Lions on seven minutes before Tottenham loan player Harry Kane effectively settled the contest in Millwall's favour with a 20-yard effort near half-time to make it 2-0.

City rubbish Tevez move

AFP, London

Manchester City on Tuesday denied receiving a bid from French league leaders Paris Saint Germain for Carlos Tevez, saying no deal had been agreed between the clubs.

PSG sources in Paris told AFP earlier that the Argentinian international could be headed to France after an agreement for a three-and-a-half year contract had been reached.

However a City spokesman said the report was without foundation.

"It's just not true," the City spokesman told AFP. "Manchester City have not received a bid for Carlos Tevez from Paris Saint Germain."

Tevez has been in the wilderness at City ever since a spectacular bust-up with manager Roberto Mancini in September following his apparent refusal to come off the bench in the Champions League defeat at Bayern Munich.

Boateng out for month

AFP, Rome

Kevin-Prince Boateng may not have been called up by Ghana for the African Cup of Nations but AC Milan will lose him for a month anyway.

The German-born 24-year-old has pulled his hamstring and is expected to be out for a month, the club said.

Goalkeeper Christian Abbiati is also suffering from a calf problem which is expected to be kept him out of the side for a week when further tests will be conducted.

Milan have moved quickly to replace Boateng, however, by re-signing German teenager Alexander Merkel from Genoa.

The 19-year-old moved to Genoa from Milan in the summer as part of the deal which brought Boateng to the Serie A champions.

Kazakh-born Merkel is part-owned by both clubs but Genoa hold his licence so Milan have had to sign him on loan.

RESULTS	
Bolton 2	(Kevin Davies 1, Petrov 26) Macclesfield 0
Leicester 4	(Boateng 7-og, Beckford 30, 50, 57) Nottingham Forest 0
Millwall 5	(Henderson 7, 59, 63-pen, Kane 41, 65) Dagenham & Redbridge 0



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Last-gasp Espanyol

REUTERS, Madrid

Espanyol struck three goals in four minutes to snatch a dramatic 3-2 comeback win at home to third-tier Mirandes in a King's Cup quarterfinal first leg on Tuesday.

Competing in the last eight for the first time having disposed of Villarreal and Racing Santander, Mirandes shocked the crowd at a chilly Cornellà stadium in Barcelona by opening a 2-0 lead thanks to Alain Arroyo and captain Pablo Infante.

Espanyol, who have won the trophy four times but not since 2006, looked well beaten ahead of next week's second leg until Vladimir Weiss stole in to make it 2-1 five minutes from time.

Rui Fonte nodded the equaliser two minutes later and Joan Verdu punished a defensive lapse to poke in the winner in the 89th to leave the Mirandes players cursing and shaking their heads in disbelief and the home fans in raptures.

The Segunda B leaders, based in the town of Miranda de Ebro in northern Spain, have an annual budget of 1.23 million euros (\$1.6 million) compared with Espanyol's estimated 50 million.

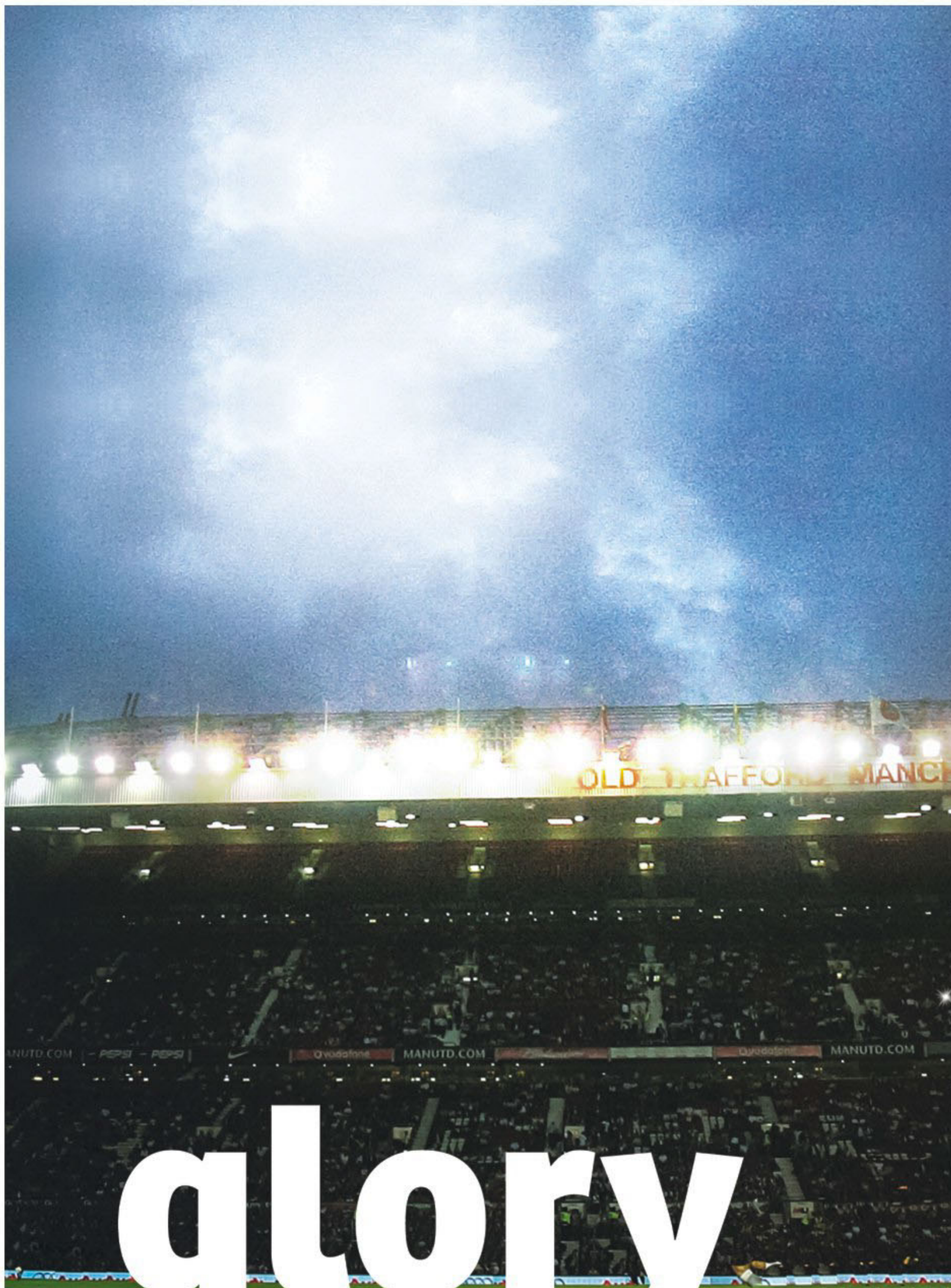
Mirandes coach Carlos Pouso refused to criticise the referee despite having what appeared to be a clear penalty turned down in the second half.

What to WATCH

TEN Cricket
 Pakistan v England
 First Test, Day 3
 Live from 12:00pm

STAR Sports
 Australian Open
 Second Round, Day 5
 Live from 6:00am (Friday)

ESPN
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