

Black Cats bite Chelsea

AFP, London



South Korea's Ki Sung-Yueng stunned Chelsea as the Sunderland midfielder's first goal for the club sealed a shock 2-1 win in the League Cup quarter-finals, while Manchester City swept into the last four with a 3-1 victory at Leicester on Tuesday.

Gus Poyet's team had been on the verge of defeat at the Stadium of Light after goal-line technology was used for the first time in the League Cup to give Chelsea the lead through Lee Cattermole's own goal in the opening minute of the second half.

But Fabio Borini equalised for the Premier League's bottom club in the 88th minute and Ki sent Sunderland into the semi-finals with a cool finish two minutes from the end of extra-time.

It was Ki's first goal in 13 appearances for the Black Cats since his loan switch from Swansea, with whom he won the League Cup last season, in September.

Ki had never scored in English football since moving to Swansea from Celtic in 2012, and this was his first club goal since he netted for the Scottish giants at Hibernian in February 2012.

It was a dispiriting night for Blues boss Jose Mourinho, who won the League Cup twice in his first spell in

RESULTS

Leicester 1 (Dyer 77) **Manchester City 3**

(Kolarov 8, Dzeko 41, 53)

Sunderland 2 (Borini 88, Ki 118) Chelsea 1 (Cattermole 46-og) aet

charge of the west London club but saw his fears about his shot-shy team confirmed during a lacklustre display.

"We never lost a match because we didn't play or that the opponent was stronger, it's just we don't kill opponents and we give them life," Mourinho said.

"Every opponent knows they can score a goal against us. We had fantastic chances to score and didn't score."

After struggling to find any rhythm in a tepid opening 45 minutes, Chelsea took the lead less than 60 seconds after the break.

Frank Lampard was challenged by Cattermole near the goal-line as the pair competed for Cesar Azpilicueta's low cross and the ball rolled into the net.

Sunderland goalkeeper Vito Mannone tried to claw the ball out from behind the line, but the goal was correctly given, with referee Anthony Taylor pointing to his watch to indicate goal-line technology had been used to confirm the decision.

It was the first time goal-line technology had been used in the League Cup, although the system was

established in the Premier League at the start of this season.

Sunderland equalised when on-loan Liverpool striker Borini fired home from an acute angle after a driving run from Jozy Altidore.

And Ki eventually sealed the win in extra-time with a clinical low strike from Borini's pass.

At the King Power Stadium, City were effectively through to the semi-finals by half-time as they finally took their free-scoring home form on the road.

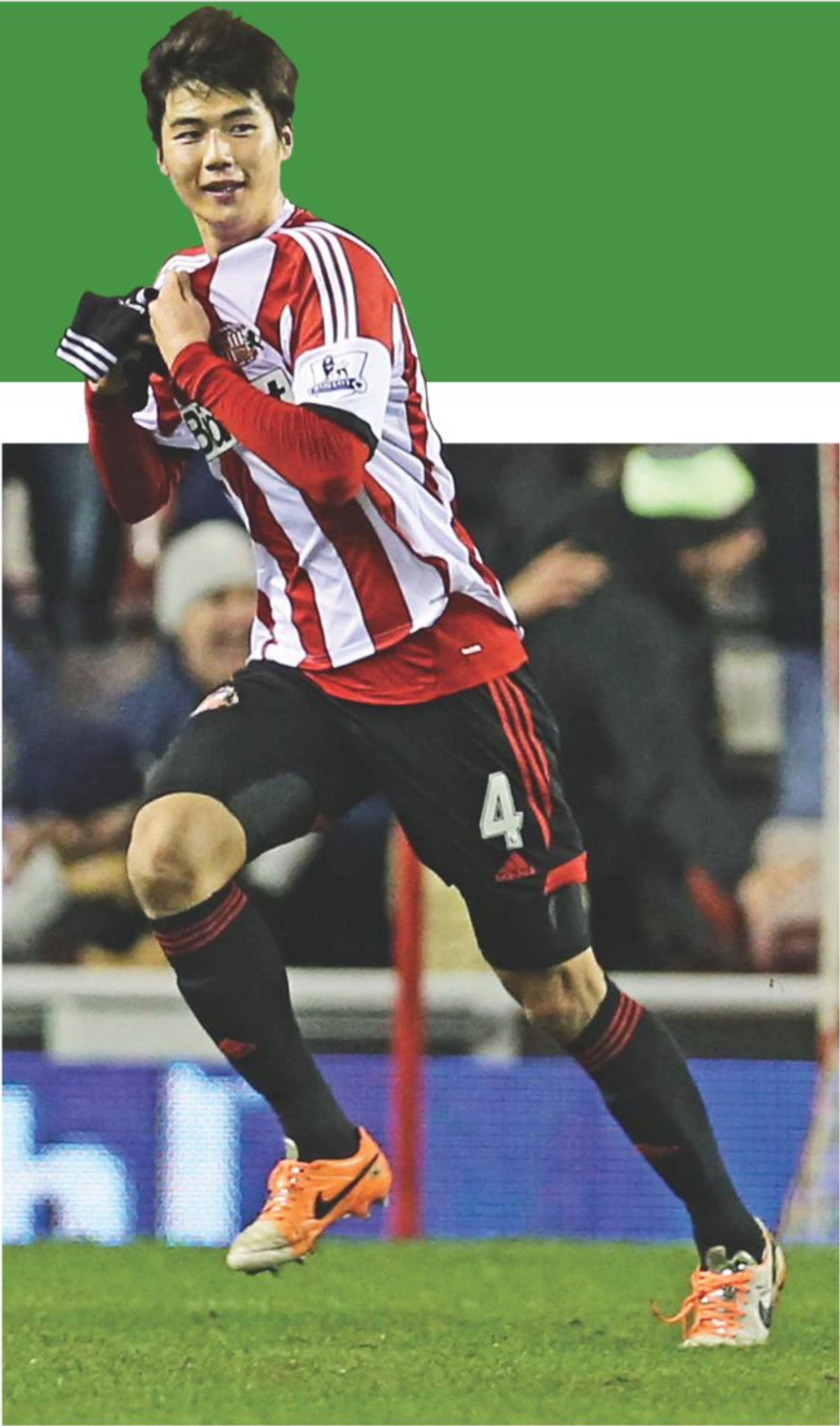
Manuel Pellegrini's men were on top right from the start and took the lead in the ninth minute when Serbian defender Aleksandar Kolarov whipped a fine 25-yard free-kick into the top corner of Kasper Schmeichel's goal.

Leicester sit third in the Championship yet they offered minimal resistance and City increased their lead in the 41st minute.

It was a sweeping move as Jesus Navas teed up James Milner and the England winger's cross picked out Dzeko, who headed home emphatically from close-range.

Bosnian striker Dzeko struck again in the 53rd minute, this time scuffing his shot past Schmeichel from another Milner cross.

Leicester replied in the 77th minute through Lloyd Dyer's deflected shot, but City, who haven't reached the League Cup final since 1976, were never in danger of blowing their lead.



Sunderland midfielder Ki Sung-Yong celebrates his winning goal against Chelsea during their League Cup quarterfinal at the Stadium of Light on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hafeez leads in Pak win

SPORTS DESK

Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka by 11 runs in the first day-night international in Sharjah on Wednesday, thanks to a century from out-of-form Mohammad Hafeez. The 34-year-old all-rounder smashed 122 off 129 balls and later took as Sri Lanka were bowled out in the final over for 311, eleven short of what Pakistan had scored.

The 34-year-old right-hander smashed 122 off 129 balls and was ably supported by Sohaib Maqsood (73) and debutant opener Sharjeel Khan (61) as Pakistan, who won the toss, capitalised on a mirror-like flat Sharjah stadium pitch.

Hafeez hit seven boundaries and four sixes in his seventh one-day hundred.

Hafeez added 140 for the third wicket with Maqsood and 83 for the second wicket with Sharjeel to give Pakistan a good platform.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 322 for 5 in 50 overs (Sharjeel 61, Hafeez 122, Maqsood 73, Afridi 34; Lakmal 2-73) SRI LANKA: (Perera 64, Chandimal 46, Prasanna 42; Afridi 2-30, Junaid 3-44)

Result: Pakistan won by 11 runs.

Man-of-the-match Mohammad Hafeez.

Bale may be fit for Sunday

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid say Gareth Bale may be fit to play at Valencia on Sunday after a MRI scan revealed he had nothing more serious than an inflamed calf muscle.

"It has been confirmed that he only has an inflamed left calf muscle as a result of the knock he got from a teammate in training yesterday," the club said in a statement after the scan.

"His participation in Sunday's match against Valencia has not been ruled out," Real Madrid said.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti had already said he expected Bale to be fit for Sunday's clash while ruling him out of Real's Copa del Rey fourth round second leg against third-tier Olympic Xativa later on Wednesday.

Barca stroll into last 16

AFP, Madrid



La Liga leaders Barcelona comfortably secured their place in the last 16 of the Copa del Rey with a 3-0 win over third-tier Cartagena on Tuesday, to seal a 7-1 win on aggregate.

Cartagena threatened to embarrass their illustrious hosts when Zurdo struck the post midway through the first-half.

However, any hopes the visitors had of a famous victory were quashed when Pedro neatly swept home Martin Montoya's cross for his third goal of the tie.

Without a host of regular starters, Barca struggled to create clear-cut openings all evening but they were gifted a second goal 23 minutes from time when Mariano Martinez turned Cristian Tello's cross into his own net.

And Neymar rounded off the scoring with his sixth goal in his last

RESULTS

Elche 0 **Villarreal 1** (Pebet 59)

Villarreal win 3-2 on aggregate

Osasuna 1 (Welington 1-og) Malaga 1 (Eliseu 61)

3-3 on aggregate, Osasuna go through on away goals

Getafe 4 (Sarabia 2, Colunga 5-pen, Lafita 35,

Lisandro 73) Girona 1 (Jandro 59-pen)

Getafe win 4-1 on aggregate

Levante 4 (Simao 4, Garcia 18, Ivanschitz 50,

Camarasa 54) Recreativo Huelva 0

Levante win 4-1 on aggregate

Granada 0 **Alcorcon 2** (Verdes 41, Nagore 82)

2-2 on aggregate, extra-time being played

Barcelona 3 (Pedro 30, Mariano 67-og,

Neymar 87) Cartagena 0

three games when he headed home Andres Iniesta's cross three minutes from time.

"We played a well and were solid throughout out the game," said Barca

boss Gerardo Martino.

"I think we handled the game well, with respect for both the opponent and the people that came to watch."

Martino surprised many by playing Neymar for the full 90 minutes when many of his senior teammates were handed a rest.

However, the Argentine said the 21-year-old will return to Brazil on Thursday for 10 days holiday as he is suspended for Sunday's final game before the winter break away to Getafe.

"He won't play on Sunday so tonight was an opportunity to give him the 90 minutes.

And Martino also confirmed that he expects the injured Lionel Messi and Victor Valdes to be back training in Barcelona along with Neymar on January 2.

"During the two training sessions on the second we hope to have all the players back together, including those that are continuing to recover like Leo and Victor."



Barcelona starlet Neymar (R) takes a shot during their Copa del Rey match against FC Cartagena at the Nou Camp on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Moggi's jail term cut

AFP, Rome

Former Juventus chief Luciano Moggi has had his jail term for his role in a match-fixing scandal cut to two years and four months after an appeal hearing on Tuesday.

Moggi had appealed against the original conviction of five years and four months going back to 2006 before a court in Naples.

The former general manager of Italy's most successful Serie A club was effectively banned from the game for life.

CLUB WORLD CUP

Bayern reach final

AFP, Agadir



European champions Bayern Munich booked their place in the Club World Cup final with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Asian champions Guangzhou Evergrande in Tuesday's semi-final in Agadir.

Goals by France winger Franck Ribery, Croatia's Mario Mandzukic and Germany star Mario Goetze saw the German giants through to Saturday's final in Marrakech, Morocco.

Having become the first German team to win the treble of European, Bundesliga and domestic cup titles, Bayern are closing in on their fifth title of 2013 having won UEFA's

Super Cup by beating Chelsea in a penalty shoot-out in August.

Already twice a winner of the Club World Cup title with his former club Barcelona, Bayern coach Pep Guardiola is on course for a third global crown as his German champions swept aside Marcello Lippi's Guangzhou.

Bayern began in dominant fashion and never let up at Agadir Stadium with Thiago hitting the post and Toni Kroos hitting the woodwork early on and it was only a matter of time before the Chinese defence buckled.

Goal-line technology, being showcased at the Club World Cup and set to be used at next year's World Cup finals in Brazil, clearly proved Kroos' 25th-minute shot, had bounced off the crossbar and onto the line, not over it.

Aguero faces long layoff

AFP, London

Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini has revealed his star striker Sergio Aguero could be out of action for longer than expected.

Pellegrini had previously said he expected Aguero to be out for up to four weeks after he suffered a calf injury in Saturday's 6-3 thrashing of Arsenal.

But there remains uncertainty as to the true extent of the problem and Pellegrini said it could be worse than first feared.

Pellegrini, speaking after City's 3-1 League Cup quarter-final win at Leicester on Tuesday, said: "I am not a doctor. It is very difficult.

"The doctor has said he has at least one month or eight weeks. We will see. "I don't how many weeks but it will be at least one month. It is very difficult to know at this moment how many weeks it can be."

Aguero's absence for that length of time would be a major blow to City, with the 25-year-old having scored 19 goals already this season.

EU probes seven Spanish clubs

AFP, Brussels



The European Commission on Wednesday launched an investigation into seven Spanish football clubs, including Barcelona and Real Madrid, after complaints they accepted illegal state aid.

The Commission said it was concerned the alleged aid -- believed to be worth several billion euros -- had given the clubs an unfair advantage at a time when they were struggling financially.

"The European Commission has opened three distinct in-depth investigations to verify whether various public support measures in favour of certain Spanish professional football clubs are in line with EU state aid rules," said a commission statement.

"Professional football clubs should finance their running costs and investments with sound financial management rather than at the expense of the taxpayer," commented Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia -- an Athletic Bilbao fan.

The complaints concern state aid for Barcelona, Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao, Osasuna (Pamplona), Valencia, Hercules (Alicante) and Elche.

The Commission said it had not been notified of the payments and had been alerted by "concerned citizens".

The first probe will look into possible tax privileges for Real Madrid, Barcelona, Athletic Club Bilbao, and Osasuna.

Another inquiry will determine whether a land transfer between the City of Madrid and Real Madrid amounted to state aid.

Finally, a probe will look into loans granted by the state-owned Valencia Institute of Finance for three clubs, Valencia, Hercules and Elche.

The three-part inquiry is the first step in a process that could lead to sanctions if it concludes that EU rules were broken.

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