

# Sports

Hood, Jazz shoot down Cavaliers; Warriors mark Curry birthday



Thai monk lucky charms help Leicester outfox opponents



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

PAKISTAN'S COACH BACKS AFRIDI ON INDIA LOVE ROW Page 17



MANCHESTER: Kiev's goalkeeper Oleksandr Shovkovskiy (left) dives as he watches a shot from Manchester City's Jesus Navas (right) go past him, but it hits the post, during the Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match between Manchester City and Dynamo Kiev at the Etihad Stadium yesterday. — AP

## INJURIES MAR MAN CITY'S HISTORY NIGHT

MANCHESTER: Injuries to centre-backs Vincent Kompany and Nicolas Otamendi overshadowed proceedings as Manchester City reached the Champions League quarter-finals for the first time by drawing 0-0 with Dynamo Kiev yesterday. Leading 3-1 from last month's away leg, Manuel Pellegrini's side completed the job in forgettable fashion, with Jesus Navas's shot against the post for City the nearest either side came to breaking the deadlock. But first-half injuries to captain Kompany and Otamendi cast a pall over the evening at a hushed Etihad Stadium, leaving City vulnerable in defence ahead of Sunday's derby with Manchester United in the Premier League.

While progress in the Champions League represents a historic achievement for Pellegrini, who will hand over to Pep Guardiola at the season's end, the injuries could have a costly impact on City's attempt to resurrect their domes-

tic title challenge. The League Cup winners have fallen 12 points below leaders Leicester City, although they retain a game in hand, and face challenges from both United and in-form West Ham United for their top-four place.

Pellegrini welcomed Yaya Toure back from the heel problem that had caused him to miss Saturday's frustrating 0-0 draw at Norwich City, but within seven minutes he was counting the cost of another injury. After misjudging a bounce on the City right, Kompany slipped as he tried to recover the situation and immediately realized that he had done himself damage, passing the ball out of play and signaling to the bench before limping off with a look of disgust etched on his face. The Belgium international, who has suffered 13 calf injuries since 2008, was soon joined in the home changing room by Otamendi, who came off second-best in a

collision with Vitaliy Buyalskiy. The Argentine attempted to play on, before admitting defeat, leaving City with reserve centre-backs Eliaquim Mangala and Martin Demichelis in the heart of their defense. It was not a combination that will have inspired great confidence among the home support and there were early nerves as Mangala's missed kick from Demichelis's pass almost let Lukasz Teodorczyk in on goal.

With the atmosphere affected by the double injury blow, City struggled to get going and when Navas managed to pick Sergio Aguero out with a right-wing cut-back, the Argentine miscued. Visiting goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy was not tested until early in the first half, when he showed a neat touch to control the ball on his thigh after a defender had inadvertently prodded it towards his own goal. City began to show

signs of life, Toure curling a free-kick over and Aguero dragging a shot wide, before Navas collected a pass from Toure and drilled a low shot against the left-hand upright.

Moments later, City goalkeeper Joe Hart made his first save of the night, comfortably fielding an effort from Andriy Yarmolenko after the Ukraine winger robbed Gael Clichy. Toure continued to drive the home team forward and he threatened to make the breakthrough from Navas's cut-back, only for Shovkovskiy to save. There were two late scares in the hosts' box when first Buyalskiy and then substitute Olexandr Yakovenko took aim, but Hart blocked alertly on both occasions, giving City a clean sheet for only the second time in their 18 Champions League home games. — AFP

## SPIN GAMBLE PAYS OFF AS N ZEALAND SPANK INDIA

### SANTNER LEADS INDIA'S ROUT

NAGPUR: Kane Williamson's gamble to compromise on speed and pick three specialist spinners paid off as New Zealand humbled hosts India by 47 runs in a spin-dominated Super 10 contest of the World Twenty20 yesterday. Opting to bat first, New Zealand posted 126-7 in the Group Two contest on a prodigiously turning track at Nagpur's VCA Stadium, seemingly a below-par total against the host nation who are famed for their proficiency against spin bowling.

New Zealand's three-pronged spin attack, however, ensured it was more than enough as Mitchell Santner (4-11), Nathan McCullum (2-15) and the Indian-born Ish Sodhi (3-18) wrecked the hosts who folded for 79 in 18.1 overs. Williamson said it was not an easy decision to drop the pace duo of Tim Southee and Trent Boult to accommodate the spinners. "Obviously that was tough, they are world class bowlers," the Kiwi captain said. "But at the same time we are looking to do the best we can in these conditions. Certainly the spinners paid off today. The wicket spun a lot and they bowled very well on it."

The first three balls of the match contained the kind of drama and excitement that fans would be expecting from the sixth edition of the tournament in cricket's emotional and financial home in India. After Williamson won the toss and decided to set a target, Martin Guptill nonchalantly hit the first delivery from Ravichandran Ashwin over the bowler's head for a six. The off-spinner settled



India's captain and batsman Mahendra Singh Dhoni

score in the very next ball, trapping the batsman leg before with a delivery that, replay suggested, would have gone over the stumps.

New man in Colin Munro reverse hit the next ball for a six but threw his wicket in the next over. As wickets kept tumbling at the other end, Corey Anderson (34) tried to steady the innings and it was Luke Ronchi's (21 not out) 11-ball cameo that took them past the 125-mark. The Indian fans expected the chase to be a stroll in the park but Santner, who was adjudged man-of-the-match, and McCullum had other ideas. They blew away India's top order, reducing them to 26-4 in the fifth over to derail their chase.

Virat Kohli (23) resisted the onslaught for a while but Sodhi struck a crucial blow with his very first ball to send back the Indian batting mainstay. Home captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni waged a lone battle with a run-a-ball 30 but the celebrated 'finisher' could not get his team over the line. New Zealand beat India at their own game with their spinners claiming nine of the 10 wickets but Dhoni insisted the defeat was more down to his team's careless batting. "It was our batting that let us down," the home captain said after India's fifth futile attempt to beat New Zealand in Twenty20 Internationals. "There were quite a few soft dismissals. It was not like the deliveries got a lot of batsmen out. Maybe it was our shot selection... there was no partnership also," Dhoni rued. — Reuters



NAGPUR: New Zealand's Mitchell Santner plays a shot during the World T20 cricket tournament match between India and New Zealand at The Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday. — AFP (See Page 17)

### SCOREBOARD

NAGPUR, India: Final scores in the World Twenty20 group match between India and New Zealand at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday:

New Zealand		India	
M. Guptill lbw b Ashwin	6	R. Sharma st Ronchi b Santner	5
K. Williamson st Dhoni b Raina	8	S. Dhawan lbw b McCullum	1
C. Munro c Pandya b Nehra	7	V. Kohli c Ronchi b Sodhi	23
C. Anderson b Bumrah	34	S. Raina c Guptill b Santner	1
R. Taylor run out (Raina)	10	Y. Singh c&b McCullum	4
M. Santner c Dhoni b Jadeja	18	MS Dhoni c McCullum b Santner	30
G. Elliott run out (Dhawan)	9	H. Pandya lbw b Santner	1
L. Ronchi not out	21	R. Jadeja c&b Sodhi	0
N. McCullum not out	0	R. Ashwin st Ronchi b Sodhi	10
Extras (b4, lb3, w6)	13	A. Nehra b Milne	0
Total (7 wks, 20 overs)	126	J. Bumrah not out	0
Did not bat: A. Milne, I. Sodhi		Extras (w3, nb1)	4
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Guptill), 2-13 (Munro), 3-35 (Williamson), 4-61 (Taylor), 5-89 (Anderson), 6-98 (Santner), 7-114 (Elliott)		Total (all out, 18.1 overs)	79
Bowling: Ashwin 4-0-32-1, Nehra 3-1-20-1, Bumrah 4-0-15-1, Raina 4-0-16-1, Jadeja 4-0-26-1, Pandya 1-0-10-0		Did not bat:	
		Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Dhawan), 2-10 (Sharma), 3-12 (Raina), 4-26 (Singh), 5-39 (Kohli), 6-42 (Pandya), 7-43 (Jadeja), 8-73 (Ashwin) 9-79 (Dhoni)	
		Bowling: McCullum 3-0-15-2, Anderson 3-0-18-0, Santner 4-0-11-4, Elliott 2-0-9-0, Milne 2.1-0-8-1, Sodhi 4-0-18-3	
		Result: New Zealand win by 47 runs	