

# Day 8 of Big Cricket League: "Swachhta Strikers and Mulan CC Secure Semi-Final Spots in Thrilling Day 8 of Big Cricket League"

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JAMMU, DEC. 11 : The eighth day of the Big Cricket League was a spectacle of cricketing brilliance as teams fought hard to secure their spots in the semi-finals. Two matches, featuring Tawi Challengers vs. Swachhta Strikers and Hillview Rajouri vs. Mulan CC, provided fans with unforgettable moments.

The first match of the day saw Swachhta Strikers taking on Tawi Challengers in a high-scoring encounter. Swachhta Strikers displayed exceptional batting prowess, amassing a mammoth total of 216 runs in their allotted 20 overs. Kapil was a standout performer, scoring a well-crafted 49 runs off 37 balls and also contributing with the ball by taking a crucial wicket. Naseer added to the fireworks with a quick 46 off 25 balls, further strengthening the team's innings.

Tawi Challengers, despite their spirited chase, fell short of the target by 36 runs. The disciplined bowling attack and collective effort of Swachhta Strikers ensured their victory. For his all-round performance, Kapil was adjudged the Man of the Match.

The match was graced by the presence of Mr.



Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Chief Secretary, as the Chief Guest. Speaking at the event, he praised the enthusiasm and talent displayed by the players. "The Big Cricket League is a fantastic platform for showcasing young talent and promoting sportsmanship. The energy

and commitment shown by these players reflect the bright future of cricket in our region," he said.

The second match was a nail-biting contest between Hillview Rajouri and Mulan CC. Batting first, Hillview Rajouri posted a respectable total of 149 for 8 in their 20 overs. However, Mulan

CC's chase turned out to be a thrilling spectacle, as they clinched victory in 19.4 overs.

Rahul was the star of the match, delivering an unbeaten 71 runs under pressure, while Rohan's brisk 42 runs provided the much-needed momentum for Mulan CC's successful chase. Their part-

nership and determination ensured a hard-fought win for their team.

The Chief Guest for the match was Mr. Fiesel Qureshi, SSP Traffic Jammu, who commended the players for their outstanding performances. "The passion and skills exhibited by these players

are commendable. Such tournaments play a crucial role in nurturing talent and building team spirit," he remarked.

Organized by 92.7 BIG FM in collaboration with the Department of Rural Sanitation, J&K, the tournament blends cricketing excellence with the noble message of cleanliness under the theme "Let's Swing for Swachhta."

The tournament is a perfect amalgamation of cricket and social responsibility, supported by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Directorate of Rural Sanitation-J&K, as the title sponsor. Presented by the Jal Shakti Department, the event is powered by SMVD Narayana Super Speciality Hospital. Associate partners include Shree Bajrang Bali Contract Company, Jammu Hev's, and My Physio, while Aroma Multicuisine Family Restaurant serves as the refreshment partner.

With the conclusion of Day 8, the stage is set for the semi-finals of the Big Cricket League. Teams have displayed remarkable grit and determination throughout the tournament, and the upcoming matches promise to be even more thrilling.

## Matt Boldy lifts Wild to win in Utah's first-ever shootout



Matt Boldy scored the only goal of the shootout to give the Minnesota Wild a 5-4 win over the Utah Hockey Club on Tuesday in Salt Lake City.

Marcus Johansson had a goal and two assists and Marat Khusnutdinov, Kirill Kaprizov and Marco Rossi scored for Minnesota. Filip Gustavsson stopped 21 shots for the victory.

Clayton Keller scored twice and Kevin Stenlund and defenseman Juuso Valimaki got the other goals for Utah. Dylan Guenther and Mikhail Sergachev each logged two assists, Karel Vejmelka made 34 saves through regulation and overtime.

It was the first shootout in Utah NHL history. The franchise is in its first season in Salt Lake City after moving from Arizona.

Rossi's goal with 44 seconds left in regulation and Gustavsson pulled for an extra attacker tied it at 4 and sent the game into overtime. Rossi's 10th goal of the season came from the slot.

The tally capped a frenetic third period that featured five goals.

Keller's power-play goal 4:42 into the third period tied it 2-2, but the Wild retook the lead less than a minute later when Johansson scored at 5:39.

Keller tied it again with another power-play goal at 9:54. Valimaki's goal with 8:15 left gave the Utah Hockey Club a 4-3 lead. He put in a rebound.

The Wild scored twice in 36 seconds late in the second period to take a 2-1 lead.

Khusnutdinov intercepted a pass by Sergachev at the Minnesota blue line, skated down the ice and beat Vejmelka with a wrist shot to tie the game 1-1, with 5:35 left in the middle period. It was Khusnutdinov's first goal of the season. Johansson then poked the puck away from defenseman Olli Maatta just inside the Utah blue line to set up Kaprizov for his 18th goal and give the Wild the 2-1 advantage with 4:59 remaining in the second.

## Champions League: Mbappe, Vinicius and Bellingham on target as Real Madrid beat Atalanta 3-2. Liverpool win again



Real Madrid's big stars turned on the style to revive the Spanish giant's faltering Champions League title defense on Tuesday.

Galacticos Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham all scored in a thrilling 3-2 win at Italian league leader Atalanta. But Madrid still had to ride its luck as Mateo Reteguia fired over from in front of goal in stoppage time when handed a golden chance to level the game.

It was only Madrid's third win in the competition's revamped league phase and leaves the 15-time champion in the unseeded playoff positions in 18th place.

"It's a very important win. Not everyone wins here. We suffered and competed. In the

Champions League, you have to suffer," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It's still difficult to finish in the top eight, but we have two games left to earn points."

Six-time champion Liverpool leads the way after maintaining its perfect record in Europe this season with a 1-0 win against Girona.

Like Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain also picked up a much-needed win, beating Salzburg 3-0 to sit in the last playoff spot in 24th place.

Bayer Leverkusen is second after a 1-0 win over Inter Milan, while Aston Villa beat Leipzig 3-2 and is third.

The top eight teams advance directly to the round of 16. Positions nine to 24 face a playoff to reach the next phase.

Real response

## Malaysian Doubles Coach Tan Kim Her Returns For Second Stint



Malaysian doubles specialist Tan Kim Her has reunited with star pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, starting his second stint at the Indian badminton landscape.

The 53-year-old has been roped in by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a four-year term till the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"I am very happy to be back in India and get a chance to work with Satwik-Chirag and also the young and talented group of doubles players who have the potential to follow on the path of Satwik-Chirag," Tan said in a release.

"I am looking forward to creating a bigger group of doubles combinations who can win tournaments at the world stage." Tan, who arrived in Hyderabad on Sunday, was India's doubles coach from 2015 to 2019 and was instrumental in bringing Satwik and Chirag together before

the 2016 Olympics.

He will take over the reins from Denmark's Mathias Boe, who guided Satwik and Chirag to many highs, including attaining the world number 1 status, winning an Asian Games gold, and securing a World Championships bronze.

However, the pair faced heartbreaks in two Olympics — Tokyo and Paris.

In his second stint, Tan, who had taken up an offer from Japan's badminton association in 2019, will "focus on developing strong doubles partnerships and bench strength ahead of the 2026 Asian Games and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics."

"We had been looking for quality foreign coaches who could work with our current top players and also guide our next-generation players as we prepare for the 2028 Olympics," said BAI Secretary General Sanjay Mishra.

## 'Should Have Taken A Break After Paris Olympics Heartbreak': India Shuttler Tanisha Crasto

Tanisha Crasto described her turbulent Olympic debut in Paris as a period of heartbreak, admitting she made the "mistake" of not taking a break afterward, but said reuniting with Ashwini Ponnappa with a renewed approach led to their triumph at the Guwahati Masters.

Tanisha and her seasoned partner Ashwini, who endured three lopsided losses on the trot to make a group stage exit in Paris, bounced back to put up a dominant performance and defend their Guwahati Masters Super 100 title on Sunday.

"It's been a tough transition after the Olympics for everyone, including me and Didi (Ashwini).

I made the mistake of not taking a break, and it left me emotionally drained. But Didi took a huge break, and when we reunited, we focused on enjoying the game," the 21-year-old told PTI Videos.

"We decided not to think about results, just to go out there and enjoy ourselves. And when we did that, the results followed." The Paris Olympics was a challenging chapter for Tanisha and all other Indian shuttlers as India returned without a medal for the first time in 12-years.

"It hurts because you're there, representing your



country, and when things don't go your way, it's tough to process... I didn't take a break after the Olympics, thinking it would help me snap out of it. But as a person, I was a mess, dealing with insane emotions", she said.

For her 35-year-old partner Ashwini, the Olympics marked an emotional turning point as well, as she announced that the 2024 Olympics was her last ever. "We cried together during an interview, and even the interviewer was moved to tears," Tanisha recalled.

"It was a mix of emotions, but it strengthened our bond", she added.

Tanisha also had a runners-up finish along side her mixed doubles partner Dhruv Kapila going down to Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampra in a tough three-game battle at the Syed Modi International

Super 300 event in Lucknow earlier this month.

"We had a very tough draw since the first match. For Dhruv (Kapila), who was recovering from an ankle tear, to pull through until the finals and defeat good pairs is something I'm really proud of." "They (Dechapol and Supissara) really caught us off guard in the final two games. And they really changed the whole game."

"And Dechapol being a very, very experienced player, he's won a number of titles. I think he really managed the pressure of the game. And he really controlled the game very well in the second and third."

"Could we have won? Yes, 100 per cent. Did we do enough in the second and third games? No. But I'm proud of how we played overall, especially considering Dhruv's injury," she said.

## Yankees Reportedly Agree Eight-Year, 218 Million Dollars Deal With Pitcher Max Fried



The New York Yankees have agreed to sign left-handed pitcher Max Fried to an eight-year, \$218 million dollar contract -- the largest ever for a left-handed hurler, MLB.com reported Tuesday. The reported deal would be the fourth-largest for any pitcher, a list led by the Los Angeles Dodgers' 10-year, \$700 million contract with Japanese superstar Shohei Ohtani. Fried would join right-hander Gerrit Cole in a formidable Yankees rotation. He had an 11-10 record with the Atlanta Braves last season

with a 3.25 earned run average in 29 starts.

Fried gave up 146 hits and 57 walks with 166 strikeouts for the Braves and tied the Major League Baseball lead with two complete games.

The Yankees' reported signing of Fried comes after the club missed out on Dominican superstar Juan Soto, who entered free agency after playing for the Yankees last year but is reportedly headed to the New York Mets on a record-breaking 15-year, \$765 million deal.

## Top-Eight Beckons After Ross Barkley Goal Sends Aston Villa Past Leipzig

An 85th-minute goal from Ross Barkley took Aston Villa to a 3-2 win at RB Leipzig on Tuesday, sending the visitors third in the table and boosting their hopes of a top-eight finish. Villa were ahead after just 153 seconds thanks to John McGinn, but Leipzig levelled things up midway through the first half when Lois Openda exploited a mix-up in defence. Jhon Duran's 53rd-minute stunner was cancelled out by a Christoph Baumgartner goal nine minutes later, setting the stage for the substitute Barkley to blast in just two minutes after coming on.

The goal, a deflected long-range effort, was Barkley's first in the Champions League and has Villa on track for a top-eight finish in their return to Europe's top competition after 41 years.

McGinn told the UEFA website the goal "felt amazing, because it's been a bit of a dry spell for me."

"I think over 90 minutes we were the better team -- Leipzig's goals were against the run of play."

"That's the role of the lads on the bench," Barkley



told Amazon Prime. "I'm happy to come off the bench and score the winner."

"They all count, don't they?" Barkley said of his deflected winner.

Teams finishing in the top eight qualify directly and avoid an additional set of knockout fixtures.

The loss, Leipzig's sixth in six Champions League games this season, extinguished the hosts' slim hopes of a place in the knockouts.

A "disappointed" Openda told reporters his side needed to "keep fighting... This can happen. We will get another chance for next year and we will need to learn from our mistakes."

Villa travelled to Germany having won two straight Premier League

games to break an eight-game winless run.

Leipzig however were very much at the last-chance saloon, with five losses in five putting them on track to miss the knockouts -- a fate they only suffered twice in six seasons under the previous format.

Returning to his preferred European stage, Villa manager Unai Emery urged his side to "break our limit" and the visitors heeded his words early, opening at break-neck speed.

McGinn put Villa ahead three minutes in, hammering home from close range after Ollie Watkins nodded a perfect header into his path.

McGinn's goal was just one of many chances inside the opening 15 minutes, including golden opportu-

nities for Watkins and Youri Tielemans as Villa's movement and precision overwhelmed the sluggish hosts.

Leipzig's young side have lacked confidence this season, particularly in Europe, so they were fortunate when a poor defensive mix-up allowed Openda to level things up after 27 minutes.

Villa's centre-backs and goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez held off a high ball, allowing Openda to slip through, collect it before the bounce and slot calmly into an empty net.

With Leipzig in the ascendancy as half-time came, Emery summoned John Duran from the bench at the break and the Colombian had Villa back in front with an incredible goal eight minutes in.

Fed by Tielemans on the break, Duran collected the pass and unleashed a dipping shot from well beyond the penalty arc which evaded Leipzig goalie Peter Gulacsi.

Duran looked to have scored again minutes later but his strike was ruled out for the narrowest of off-sides by VAR.

## "Seniors Hiding Behind Youngsters": Pakistan Cricketer Rips Into Mohammad Rizwan And Co



Pakistan men's cricket team faced yet another setback after they lost the first T20I of the three-match series against South Africa on Tuesday. Playing in Durban, the Proteas posted a whopping total of 183/9 after opting to bat. This total came as a shock because at one stage, South Africa were struggling at 71/4. However, David Miller's massive knock of 82 off 40 balls propelled the hosts to a good total. In reply, Pakistan put up a great fight but only managed to score 172/8 and lost the game by 11 runs.

After this loss, veteran Pakistan cricketer Ahmad Shahzad slammed Mohammad Rizwan and co for showing "lack of intent".

"Close but not good enough Pakistan cricket team not learning from their past mistakes. Firstly letting South Africa to 180+ from where they were in the game was unbelievable & then how

we went to chase about this target was bizarre from beginning. Too many dot balls and lack of intent in the chase cost us what could have been a victory for Pakistan," wrote Shahzad on X (formerly Twitter).

In this match, former skipper and star batter Babar Azam registered yet another poor show as he was dismissed for duck. Shahzad also went on to criticise the senior players in the team for not taking the responsibility and hiding behind the youngsters.

"Seniors should be leading from the front not hiding behind youngsters. Saim, Shaheen and Abrar were the positives," wrote Shahzad. Talking about the match, Miller slammed 82 off 40 balls with four fours and eight sixes and George Linde hit a rapid 48 in a South African total of 183 in nine. Left-arm spinner Linde followed up by taking four for 21.