

STAR SPORTS SELECT HD2
Bundesliga
Monchengladbach v Leipzig
Live from 8:30pm
Köln v Schalke
Live from 10:30pm

SONY ESPN
Serie A
Bologna v Inter Milan
Live from 5:30pm
Roma v Torino
Live from 11:00pm

La Liga
Barcelona v Leganes
Live from 1:45am (Monday)
SONY ESPN HD
Serie A
AC Milan v Fiorentina

Live from 1:45am (Monday)
SONY SIX
La Liga
Sociedad v Villarreal
Live from 5:00pm
Celta Vigo v Osasuna

Live from 11:30pm
FA Cup
Fulham v Tottenham
Live from 8:00pm
Blackburn v Man United
Live from 10:15pm

Sutton United v Arsenal
Live from 2:00am (Monday)

SHEIKH KAMAL INTERNATIONAL CLUB CUP
Ctg Abahani v Shaheen Asmayee

Time: 4:00pm
Manang Marshyangdi v Mohammedan
Time: 7:00pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong
BANGLADESH CRICKET LEAGUE
Round-4, Day 1

Walton Central Zone v Islami Bank East Zone
Time: 9:30am
Venue: KSOAS, Fatullah

Prime Bank South Zone v BCB North Zone
Time: 9:30pm
Venue: BKSP-3

'Bangladesh is like an aunt to us'

The story of roll ball is one of how one man's ingenuity, dedication, hard work and humility can take his passion to the highest level of sport or any pursuit for that matter. The man behind this sport, 52-year-old Raju Dabhade from Maharashtra, a physical instructor at a Pune school by profession, has spread this unique and modern sport to more than 50 countries within a matter of just 14 years. He has faced a lot of discouragement and hassle, but never lost faith in his vision. His life, too, has come such a long way since the days as a tea-seller and a paperboy that he has become sports icon of his nation. Yet the man remains down-to-earth, soft-spoken, self-effacing and is only dedicated to spreading the game further. Dabhade is currently in Dhaka, supervising the 4th Roll Ball World Cup as the general secretary of the International Roll Ball Federation. The Daily Star's Atique Anam caught up with him on Saturday to hear the fascinating stories behind roll ball and his life.



The Daily Star: It's quite fascinating that a game could combine three different sports and have its own distinctive identity and attractiveness. How did the concept come to you?

Raju Dabhade: While working as a physical training teacher in Pune's MES Bal Shiksha English Medium School in the early 2000s, I researched different sports -- basketball, hockey, football, table tennis, handball, roller skating etc -- and learned about their history, techniques and strategies. I started thinking of keeping the ball -- which is the common ingredient in many sports -- and make something new. Then an interesting incident happened as a stray basketball came to the roller skaters and it gave me an idea. I started preparing the groundwork and the rules and came up with the game in early 2003.

TDS: How far has the game come in the last 14 years?

RD: Now there are 85 thousand



students playing this sport and it is being played in more than 50 countries. We have conducted nine international competitions and four world cups now.

TDS: It must have been a lot of hard work and even investment from your own pocket.

RD: You have to do that initially if you want to succeed and reach your goal in anything. It wasn't easy in the early days. When I first came to Bangladesh

in 2005, I had to take a general passenger ticket in a train from Maharashtra to Kolkata and then a bus to Dhaka. Those were early days for the game and times of struggle for me. But I have been here three times since and I'm glad that we could bring the world cup to Bangladesh.

TDS: What made the IRBF choose Bangladesh as the host of the world cup?

RD: India has great relations

with Bangladesh. India is our mother and Bangladesh is our mother's sister. Bangladesh is like a mother's sister to us. So it was our responsibility to help each other out. Bangladesh's government and federation were ready. So why not?

TDS: But it must have been quite expensive to spread the game to other continents.

RD: Not really. I started sending video packages and materials to former students of my school who went abroad to work. And they distributed that stuff to local sports clubs and skating clubs. They take up the game and then we go there and arrange workshops and demonstrations to institutionalise it. Right now I don't have to spend a penny from my pocket.

TDS: What is IRBF doing to spread the game further and make it part of multisport events?

RD: We have had fruitful talks with the Nepal government about including roll ball in the 2017 South Asian Games. And we have

already held talks three times with the International Olympic Committee at its headquarters in Lausanne about being recognised as a sport as part of the Olympic movement.

TDS: You had a very humble beginning. Your father died at an early age and you had to do a lot of odd jobs. But now you have a state award and are revered by many. So how much has your life transformed?

RD: My family members are farmers and there were no educated people in the family. There wasn't even electricity in my village in Maharashtra earlier. But I came to Pune and completed my graduation, all the while being involved with different sports. I still do my job as a physical instructor at that school, apart from the work with the Indian federation and IRBF and other bodies of the game. So my life hasn't changed. But I just feel grateful that the game is spreading and people are getting more and more interested in the game.

ROLL BALL WORLD CUP Big wins for hosts

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh had another successful day on the court in the second day of the 4th Roll Ball World Cup yesterday as both men's and women's teams notched up comfortable victories.

The men's team, who had got off to a flying start with a 19-1 win over Hong Kong on the opening day, beat Bhutan 9-2 in their second match of Group D at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday to book a ticket for the second round.

The men's team will take on Myanmar at 9:00am in the morning in Mirpur before playing against Fiji at the Shaheed Mansur Ali National Handball Stadium at 6:15pm today.

Meanwhile, buoyed by the men's success, the women's team cruised to 8-2 victory over Nepal in Mirpur, thanks to a five-goal haul from skipper Hiya. The women's team will play their second match against Philippines at 3:15pm in Mirpur today.

Meanwhile, defending champions India strolled to an 11-0 win over England while their women's team thrashed Egypt 13-0.

Bellarabi hits Bundesliga's 50,000th goal

AFP, Berlin

Karim Bellarabi said hitting the German league's 50,000th goal in Bayer Leverkusen's 3-1 win at Augsburg was a confidence booster for Tuesday's Champions League home clash against Atletico Madrid.

The Germany winger wrote himself into Bundesliga history on Friday as his 23rd-minute goal hit the milestone mark when he converted a precise cross from 17-year-old midfielder Kai Havertz.

"I was glad to be involved, it's of course something really special," said Bellarabi.

Diego Simeone's Atletico are the visitors in the Champions League on Tuesday in the last 16, first-leg, with the return in Madrid on March 15.

"But now we have to look ahead. We want to really put our foot down against Atletico and give it all we have," added Bellarabi.

Lewandowski rescues Bayern

AFP, Berlin

Robert Lewandowski hit a 96th-minute equaliser as Bayern Munich salvaged a 1-1 draw at Hertha Berlin on Saturday and extended their lead at the top of the Bundesliga table to eight points.

Bayern were seconds away from only their second league defeat this season when Lewandowski fired home his 24th goal in all competitions to cancel out Vedad Ibisevic's first-half strike at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

It was a Champions League hangover for Bayern following Wednesday's 5-1 hammering of Arsenal in the last 16 first leg.

Hertha went ahead on 21 minutes when Ibisevic ghosted in behind Bayern's defence and deflected Marvin Plattenhardt's free-kick past Manuel Neuer.

Despite enjoying more than 70 percent possession, Bayern struggled and Lewandowski's equaliser only came deep into added time. Thiago Alcantara's free-kick found Ajren Robben on the edge of the area, his shot was blocked, but Lewandowski drilled home the rebound.

Bale back with a bang

AFP, Madrid



Gareth Bale made an instant impact on his return from injury as Real Madrid extended their lead at the top of La Liga to four points with a 2-0 win over Espanyol on Saturday.

Bale had been sidelined three months and on his return took just 13 minutes to score as he swept home into the far corner after coming on as second-half substitute in a much changed Real line up.

Alvaro Morata opened the scoring of an otherwise uneventful contest when he bulleted home Isco's cross 12 minutes before half-time.

Earlier, substitute Kevin Gameiro hit a five-minute hat-trick as Atletico Madrid maintained their grip on fourth with a 4-1 win at Sporting Gijón.

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane made seven changes to the side that started Wednesday's 3-1 Champions League last 16, first leg win with difficult La Liga trips to Valencia and Villarreal to come in the next week in mind.

Morata was one those handed a rare chance to start up front with Karim Benzema left out of the squad altogether.

The Spanish international hadn't started any of Real's previous five league games, but made his case for more minutes as he powered home Isco's fine in-swinging cross for his 11th goal of the season.

Morata just failed to get on the end of a tantalising Cristiano Ronaldo cross and Ronaldo also had a goal ruled out for offside as Real bossed a first-half short on clear-cut chances.

Ronaldo should have made the game safe

when he headed over from close range midway through the second-half.

Bale's much-anticipated return since injuring ankle ligaments away at Sporting Lisbon on November 22 came 20 minutes from time when he replaced Morata.

And the Welshman showed the home fans what they have been missing for the past three months as he finished off a lightning quick Real counter-attack by firing into the far corner.

In Gijon, Gameiro was seconds away from making history as he just missed out on beating David Villa's record for the fastest hat-trick in La Liga history.

Gameiro was only introduced 28 minutes from time but struck in the 80th, 81st and 85th minutes and dedicated the hat-trick to his recently deceased grandmother.

"Those goals are for my grandmother, who died this week. I scored three for her."

Yannick Carrasco had bundled Atletico into the lead seconds into the second-half before Sergio Alvarez levelled three minutes later.

Defeat leaves Sporting still languishing in the relegation zone, two points off safety.

The visitors got a break right at the start of the second period when Carrasco was allowed to bear down on goal despite Antoine Griezmann standing in an offside position and tapped home at the second attempt after Ivan Cuellar had saved his first effort.

The lead lasted just three minutes as Atletico's once solid defence was breached by Alvarez as his effort evaded the attempts of Stefan Savic to clear off the line.

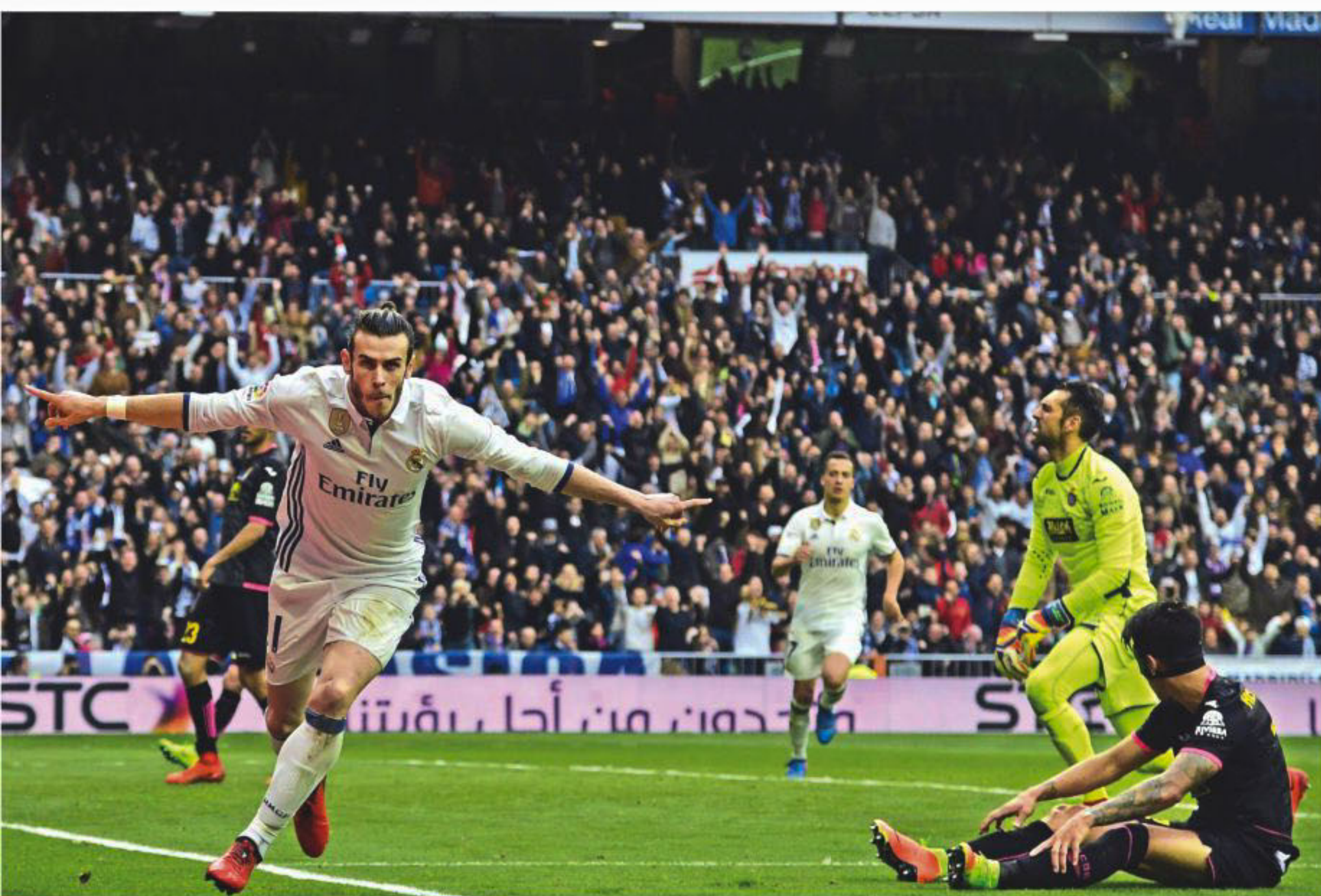
Atletico have now conceded more goals in La Liga so far this season than all of last season in La Liga.

Gameiro was summoned from the bench just after the hour mark as Atletico upped the pressure in search for a winner.



A Bangladesh player dribbles with the ball during a women's game of the 4th Roll Ball World Cup against Nepal at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Real Madrid star Gareth Bale (L), on his return from injury, celebrates his goal against Espanyol during their La Liga match at the Bernabeu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Yorke denied entry to USA

AFP, London

Former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke said he was "made to feel like a criminal" after being denied entry to the United States.

The 45-year-old from Trinidad and Tobago said he was prevented from entering the US on Friday due to having played in a charity match in the Iranian capital Tehran in 2015.

He was travelling from Doha in Qatar, where he had been working for broadcaster beIN Sports, and intended to return to his home in the Caribbean via Miami.

"I couldn't quite believe what was happening" Yorke told Saturday's edition of British newspaper The Sun.

"I have lost count of the number of times I have been to America. I love the country, yet I was being made to feel like a criminal."

"I had bought my ticket and checked in and was about to get on the flight when I was stopped by two officials. I thought, 'What is happening here?'"

Gameiro just behind Villa

AGENCIES, Madrid



Kevin Gameiro wrote himself into La Liga's history books with the second fastest hat-trick of all-time for Atletico Madrid on Saturday afternoon as the Spanish giants claimed a crucial win against Sporting Gijon.

The win puts Atletico a point shy from 3rd placed Sevilla who have played a game less.

Struggling to overcome a dogged Sporting side, Diego Simeone's men were deadlocked at 1-1 when the Frenchman scored his first goal, after 80 minutes.

The ex-Sevilla man netted his second moments later with a cool finish, and rounded off his hat-trick in the 85th minute by converting from close range.

Gameiro's triple also took him perilously close to toppling a seemingly unbeatable mark.

His three goals came in just four minutes and 51 seconds, putting him second to David Villa in the overall standings.



Atletico Madrid forward Kevin Gameiro scored the second fastest hat-trick in La Liga history against Sporting Gijon at the El Molinon Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Foreign managers don't get it'

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has suggested foreign managers are devaluing England's FA Cup by fielding under-strength teams that expose them to the risk of upsets.

Liverpool, Bournemouth, West Bromwich Albion, Stoke City, Watford and Hull City have lost to lower-league teams this season and there are two non-league sides in round five for the first time ever.

United visit second-tier Blackburn Rovers on Sunday and having been stung by an FA Cup defeat at Newcastle United during his first season at Chelsea, Mourinho is determined not to take unnecessary risks.

"Maybe we don't have as many English managers with that culture as we should," he told reporters following United's 3-0 Europa League win over Saint-Etienne on Thursday.

"Maybe we foreign managers, not everybody studies and understands the culture of this country. In my case, I had immediately that situation with the match at Newcastle, so for me it was a lesson."