

<b>What to WATCH</b> <b>DRY'S EVENT</b>	<b>CHANNEL 9</b> <b>AFC U-16 Women's C'ship</b> <b>Qualifiers</b> <b>Iran v India</b> <b>Live from 2:00pm</b> <b>Bangladesh v UAE</b>	<b>Live from 5:00pm</b> <b>STAR SPORTS1</b> <b>India v West Indies</b> <b>Fourth ODI (D/N)</b> <b>Live from 3:00pm</b>	<b>STAR SportsHD2</b> <b>Primera Liga</b> <b>Granada v Rayo Vallecano</b> <b>Live from 12:45am (Saturday)</b>
	<b>AFC U-16 Women's C'ship</b> <b>Qualifiers</b> <b>Iran v India</b> <b>Time: 2:00pm</b>	<b>Bangladesh v UAE</b> <b>Time: 5:00pm</b>	<b>Venue: Bangabandhu</b> <b>National Stadium</b>



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## Vanishing spray in Bundesliga

AFP, Berlin

Vanishing spray is to make its German debut in the Bundesliga this weekend. After FIFA adopted the measure of using a biodegradable foam which dissolves within a minute to help combat encroachment at free-kicks at the World Cup earlier this year, several other federations and institutions have also adopted it.

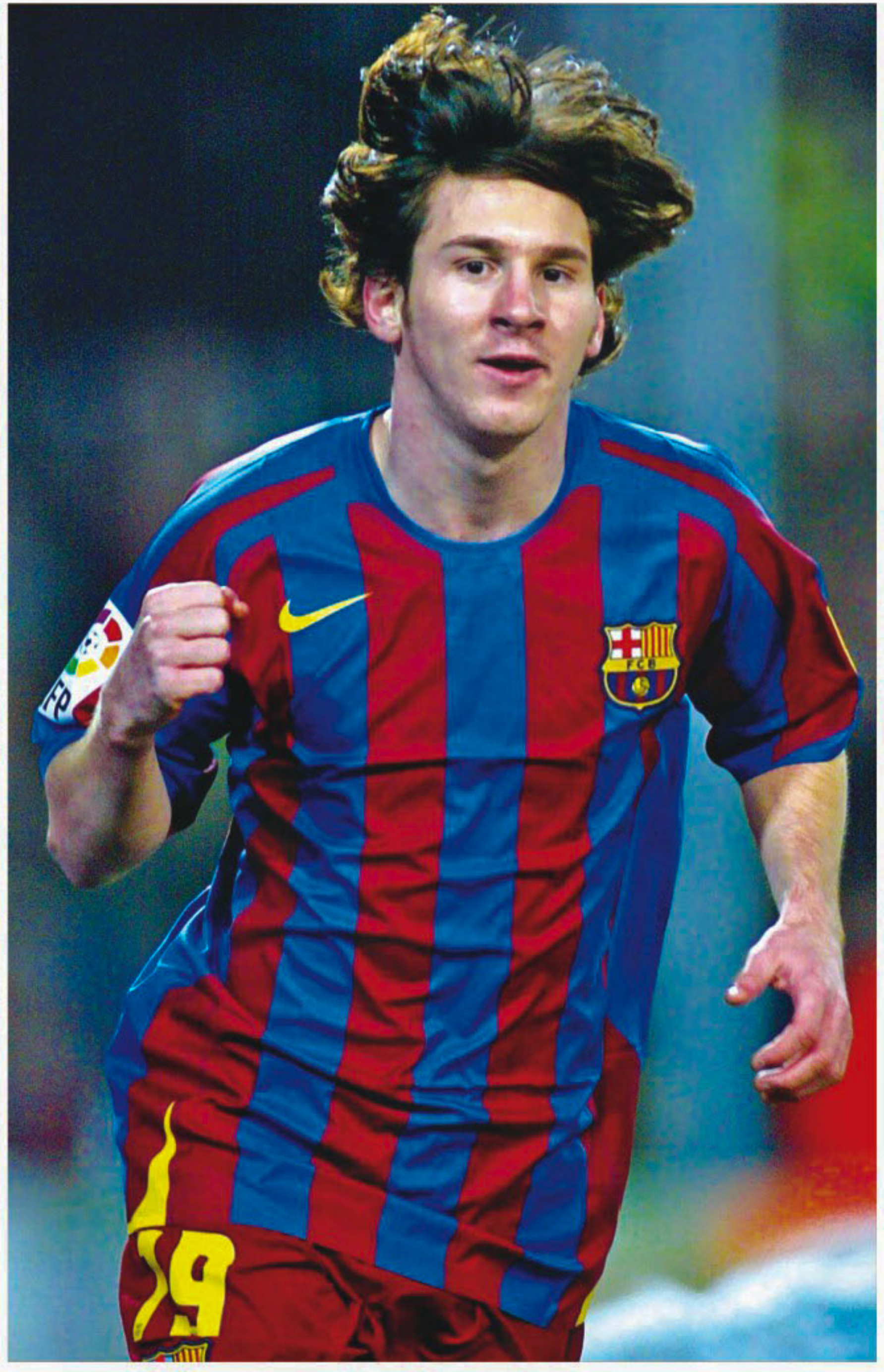
UEFA now uses the spray in Champions League matches and it has been embraced in England and Italy too.

Three German second division matches on Friday night will herald the introduction of the spray, with the Bundesliga following suit from Saturday.

"During the World Cup in Brazil we saw that it works perfectly," said Herbert Fandel, the German refereeing chief.

Use of the spray was supposed to begin at the start of the season but was delayed due to regulations regarding the environment, meaning further tests were needed to be done on the spray.

"All legal questions have been resolved, there is no reason not to use the spray," said Lutz Michael Froehlich, another refereeing official at the German Federation (DFB).



**Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi celebrates his goal against Real Betis on February 18, 2006. Messi made his competitive debut for Barcelona exactly ten years ago on October 16 in 2004.**  
PHOTO: AFP FILE

# A Messi decade at Barcelona

AFP, Paris

Argentine superstar Lionel Messi made his competitive debut for Barcelona on this day ten years ago. Here are some landmark dates in his career since:

**OCTOBER 16, 2004:**  
Messi made his league debut for Barcelona against city rivals Espanyol. He was aged 17 years and 114 days and came on as a late substitute for Deco. "I will remember those 10 minutes my whole life," he said after.

**MAY 1, 2005:**  
His first competitive goal for Barcelona came against Albacete. This time Messi came on as an 87th minute replacement for Samuel Eto'o. He has now notched up 249 Spanish league goals for his club. Barcelona won the La Liga title the same month, the first of Messi's six league crowns so far.

**AUGUST 17, 2005:**  
Argentina fans could not wait for the protege to make his international debut, but it finished almost as quickly as it began. He came on as a second half substitute against Hungary, but was sent off within two minutes for elbowing an opponent.

**MARCH 1, 2006:**  
Messi scored his first international goal in Argentina's 3-2 defeat of Croatia.

**JUNE 11, 2006:**  
Messi played his first World Cup finals game as Argentina romped to a 6-0 first-round thrashing of Serbia and Montenegro. He bagged the final goal too and was the youngest scorer in the tournament in Germany.

**JULY 7, 2007:**  
At his first Copa America tournament, Messi starred alongside Hernan Crespo and Juan Roman Riquelme as Argentina stormed to the final. Messi scored in the quarter and semifinals before Argentina fell 3-0 to Brazil in the final.

**AUGUST 23, 2008:**  
Barcelona tried to force Messi to forgo the chance to take part in the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. But he insisted and provided the assist to Angel di Maria as Argentina beat Nigeria 1-0 in the gold medal match before 89,000 people at the Beijing National Stadium -- better known as the Bird's Nest.

**MAY 27, 2009:**  
Messi was not on the team-sheet when Barcelona beat Arsenal in the 2006 Champions League final, but he still earned a winners' medal for taking part in the campaign. He scored the second goal as Barcelona beat Manchester United 2-0 in Rome for his first real Champions League win.

**DECEMBER 1, 2009:**  
Having come third then second in the two previous years, Messi was voted Ballon D'Or in 2009. It was the start of a record run of four straight triumphs in the contest. Real Madrid rival Cristiano Ronaldo managed to outdo him in 2013.

**JULY 13, 2014:**  
Heartbreak for Messi. The Argentine maestro scored and laid on priceless goals as he reached his first World Cup final. Messi had chances to score but it was Germany's Mario Goetze who got the extra-time goal that stole the game. Messi won the Golden Ball as player of the tournament.

## 'New vote if corruption proved'

AFP, Paris

Michel Platini on Wednesday backed a fresh vote on the 2022 World Cup if proof ever emerged of corruption in the awarding of Qatar as the venue.

"As for Qatar 2022, I wasn't influenced," the UEFA president and FIFA vice-president who voted for the Gulfstate told TF1 television.

"As far as I'm concerned, the vote was held in all transparency and we've always said that in the event of the slightest hint of corruption there'll be a new vote.

"But for now, we don't know."

The head of European football has never disguised the fact that he voted for Qatar in a move to help develop football in parts of the world where the World Cup has never been staged.

Since the vote he has campaigned for a switch to hold the sport's showcase in the winter rather than summer months to avoid the stifling temperatures.

Russia in 2018 and Qatar four years later were awarded the World Cup staging rights after a voting process dogged by allegations of corruption.

Last month FIFA received the findings of an inquiry into the votes by FIFA's ethical commission.

The man spearheading allegations of corruption into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids has called for FIFA to make the results public.

## Platini wants changes

AFP, Paris

UEFA president Michel Platini says he wants to see the sin bin introduced in football, but only to combat back-chat from players.

In his book "Parlons Football" (talking about football), released on Thursday, Platini, a former player, espouses the idea of creating a white card, to go alongside the existing red and yellow ones, to be used specifically to send players to the sin bin if they talk back to referees.

He said the white card would be followed by a 10-minute spell on the sidelines.

"It should not be confused in any way with the yellow card, which for its part is dedicated to fouls within the game," added the 59-year-old Frenchman, a legend in his country due to his feats as a player in the 1970s and 1980s.

The measure was one of a number proposed by Platini in his book, including increasing the amount of substitutes allowed during games from three to five.

He said he wanted to allow "two changes at half time while maintaining the possibil-

ity to make three more during the course of the match".

Another idea is to remove the minimum age requirement for referees, allow goalline officials to enter the field of play and to put an end to the so-called 'triple penalisation' when a player concedes a penalty and is sent-off for a professional foul, with a goal often being scored as well (becoming the third penalisation for the defending team).

Another idea promoted by Platini in his book is to reduce the power allowed to the president of FIFA, currently a post held by Sepp Blatter.

"FIFA often operates as an electoral machine in the service of maintaining one man," he said.

That was a direct dig at Blatter, of whom Platini has previously said the time has come for the 78-year-old to step aside and allow new blood to take over the helm of the world football governing body.

The Swiss businessman has held various posts with FIFA since 1975, becoming president in 1998.

"Through this long grip on power has he developed the desire for and ability of self-preservation at all costs?" asked Platini.

He also accused FIFA of having become the "boss of (individual federations) when it was originally their employee".

## Pep hates tiki-taka

THE TELGRAPH

In a new book profiling the work of Pep Guardiola, journalist Marti Perarnau reveals the Spaniard's true feelings about the 'tiki-taka' term associated with the football played by his brilliant Barcelona team.

We were having dinner after Bayern Munich had beaten Nurnberg in an ill-tempered Munich derby.

Bayern were dreadful in the first half. It's as if the players want to please Pep by making sure they pass the ball, one of the group remarks, which immediately sets the coach off.

"I loathe all that passing for the sake of it, all that tiki-taka. It's so much rubbish and has no purpose. You have to pass the ball with a clear intention, with the aim of making it into the opposition's goal. It's not about passing for the sake of it." The following day, he expands on this message in a meeting with his players.

"Be yourselves. You need to dig into your own DNA. I hate tiki-taka. Tiki-taka means passing the ball for the sake of it, with no clear intention. And it's pointless.

"Don't believe what people say. Barca didn't do tiki-taka! It's completely made up! Don't believe a word of it! In all team sports, the secret is to overload one side of the pitch so that the opponent must tilt its own defence to cope. You overload on one side and draw them in so that they leave the other side weak.

"And when we've done all that, we attack and score from the other side. That's why you have to pass the ball, but only if you're doing it with a clear intention. It's only to overload the opponent, to draw them in and then to hit them with the sucker punch. That's what our game needs to be. Nothing to do with tiki-taka."

## Kaiser not worried

AFP, Berlin

World champions Germany have no reason for concern over qualifying for Euro 2016 despite a recent 2-0 loss to Poland and 1-1 draw with Ireland, according to football great Franz Beckenbauer.

"We have no reason to worry about qualification for Euro 2016, above all because we can still obtain it by finishing third. But that won't happen," Beckenbauer told Bild daily in an interview.

Beckenbauer, who won the World Cup as a player in 1974 and coach in 1990, said "there's no reason to lose our cool" after the two most recent results that left Germany three points adrift of Poland and Ireland in qualifying Group D.

The German, known as the "Kaiser", said he had expected a post-World Cup slump.

## Suarez receives Golden Boot

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona's Luis Suarez received the Golden Boot award as Europe's top scorer last season from Kenny Dalglish, who signed him for Liverpool in 2011, on Wednesday.

The Uruguayan scored 31 times to help Liverpool into second in the Premier League.

Now with Barcelona, the 27-year-old shared the award with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, who ended the campaign with the same tally.

Suarez, who is due to end his four month World Cup biting ban against Real on Saturday week, said: "I want to thank all the most important people in my life, my wife and my children.

"And of course everyone at Liverpool - all my colleagues, not just last year but over the whole three and a half years I was at the club.

"They were spectacular years and it was thanks to this man here (Dalglish) that they signed me, that they noticed me.

"Now I am moving on to a new period, and I have to enjoy this next stage of my life - it is a dream come true."

His former boss at Anfield Dalglish was asked how he thought Suarez would get on at the Nou Camp.

The Scot replied: "I don't think there will be anybody who will be able to stop him.

"He has been fantastic everywhere he has been - a huge success and fabulously entertaining. There is no reason why he won't continue that for Barcelona.

"But if he does hit a problem, I'm sure we can take him back on loan."

## Gallas hangs up his boots

REUTERS, Paris

Former France defender William Gallas has announced his retirement, bringing to an end a decorated 19-year professional career, he said on Thursday.

"You tell yourself you can always continue but I think that today I can't," the 37-year-old centre back told TV channel L'Equipe 21 in an interview to be aired later on Thursday.

Gallas, who started his professional career at Caen in 1995, won 84 caps for France and scored five goals.

He also played the 2006 World Cup final which France lost on penalties to Italy.

After playing for Olympique Marseille from 1997-2001, Gallas left for Chelsea, where he won back-to-back Premier League titles in 2005 and 2006.

## Kolkata march on

GOAL.COM

Ten men Atletico de Kolkata registered a 2-0 victory over NorthEast United FC with Fikru Tefera and Jakub Podany on the score sheet in an Indian Super League (ISL) tie at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Guwahati. Borja Fernandez was given his marching orders in the 84th minute after picking his second booking of the tie.

The Kolkata outfit top ISL standings with six points from their two outings.

Ricki Herbert chose to make four changes from the side that beat Kerala Blasters. Surprisingly David Ngaihte made way for Boithang Haokip while Miguel Garcia and Robin Gurung were not part of the squad.

Antonio Lopez Habas stuck to his guns as he named an unchanged side from the one that thumped Mumbai City 3-0. The wily Luis Garcia captained the side, playing just behind Fikru Tefera and Baljit Singh Sahni upfront.

The Kolkata outfit started the better of the two as Borja Fernandez tried to pull off another blinder in the 8th minute. However, his speculative effort went straight to Alexandre Tzorvas in goal.

It took Habas's men only fifteen minutes to open the scoring as Fikru Tefera made it

two out of two. Luis Garcia showed great vision as he picked the ball off a misbalanced Milan Singh and then scooped a pass towards Fikru unlocking the entire defense.

While Joan Capdevila was caught out of position, his centre-back partner Kondwani Mtonga was nowhere near. The Ethiopian striker chested the ball expertly before striking a venomous half volley which gave Tzorvas no chance at all.

The Sourav Ganguly-owned side almost doubled their lead in the 24th minute when Jofre Mateu's brilliant corner at the near post was powerfully headed by Ofense Nato who rose the highest. Unfortunately for him it only struck the post before being cleared.

Ten minutes later, James Keene almost got away from Josemi's attention but the former Liverpool man recovered well to get a foot in to deny the NorthEast United striker.

Josemi almost committed a grave mistake as he wasted too much time on the ball at the back, allowing Keene to pounce. However he did manage to rectify the mistake as he passed it back to Subhasish Roy Chowdhury in goal.

While Tzorvas was certainly the busier of the two goal keepers, even he had to pull off some regulation saves from long rangers by Baljit Sahni and then Jofre Mateu just a minute before the half-time whistle.



**Barcelona striker Luis Suarez poses with the 2014 Golden Boot award in Barcelona on Wednesday.**  
PHOTO: AFP