

Vieira ban upheld

AFP, Rome
Inter Milan's appeal against the three-match Serie A ban given to their French midfielder Patrick Vieira has failed, the Italian football league's disciplinary council said Thursday.

West Ham fans arrested in Palermo

REUTERS, Palermo
Italian police have arrested 20 West Ham United supporters after overnight clashes with Palermo fans in Sicily before Thursday's UEFA Cup match.

Inter suffer media mauling

REUTERS, Milan
Italian media pilloried Inter Milan for their lack of self-control on Thursday after the Italian champions had two men sent off in a 2-0 Champions League defeat by rivals Bayern Munich.



Valencia hitman David Villa (bottom) carries fellow goalscorer Miguel Angel Angulo while celebrating his strike during their Champions League clash against Roma at the Mestalla on Wednesday.

Valencia ride on Villa

INTERNET, undated
Goals from Miguel Angel Angulo and David Villa kept Valencia riding high with a comprehensive 2-1 win in their Champions League tie at home against Group D rivals AS Roma.

made up for his earlier error coming in from the left wing to pass to Villa, allowing the Spanish international to pass to the right of Doni.

trounced Shakhtar Donetsk 4-0 in their opening match, follow on three. "I'm very satisfied with our performance and the win means that we've now got a better chance of qualifying," said the Valencia boss.

Ferdinand reveals trophy torment

AFP, Manchester
Rio Ferdinand admits his career will remain unfulfilled if he fails to add to his solitary Premiership title triumph with Manchester United.

here was to take my football onto another level," he said. "I think winning things elevates you to another level, even being talked about as a good footballer, it means more if you are winning things.

for eight, nine, ten games and then have a couple of bad ones and you can't afford to do that if you want to win the league."

Eto'o faces lengthy layoff

AFP, Madrid
Barcelona striker Samuel Eto'o is facing up to three months on the sidelines after sustaining a bad knee injury in the Champions League game against Werder Bremen on Wednesday.

Bayern exact German revenge

AFP, Munich
Bayern Munich manager Felix Magath said his team's 2-0 Champions League victory over Inter Milan on Wednesday had been a triumph for the whole of Germany after poor recent results on Italian soil.

Mourinho keeps faith with Sheva

AFP, London
Jose Mourinho has vowed to keep faith with Andriy Shevchenko for as long as it takes for the out-of-form Ukrainian striker to hit the goal trail for Chelsea.

he will always play in the next game," Mourinho said after watching Didier Drogba destroy the Bulgarians with a hat-trick.

"We had some improvement last week because we have a clean week to train and we played a good game, especially from a defensive point of view," Mourinho said.

PSV down Bordeaux

AFP, Bordeaux
A second half goal from Mika Vayrynen kept Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven on course for the next round of the Champions League with a 1-0 win at Group C rivals Bordeaux on Wednesday.

Vayrynen corner after 15 minutes. It was then the turn of Vayrynen to send the ball wide four minutes later.

Moratti denies spying allegations

AFP, Milan
Inter Milan owner Massimo Moratti has denied allegations that the club hired private investigators to spy on disgraced referee Massimo De Sanctis.



CLEARING THE MESS: Policemen arrest a fan on the field during the Champions League match between Shakhtar Donetsk and Olympiakos in Donetsk on Wednesday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 21 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key: ZE C F H I O N I E N G I B I F H C N G Q H

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE CHANCES ARE GOOD YOU'LL ONE DAY BE A THUG, I RECKON YOU'RE A LIKELY HOOD.