

Banned for diving

AFP, Paris

Lithuanian international Saulius Mikoliunas has been suspended for two matches after being found guilty of diving in the Euro 2008 qualifying match against Scotland, UEFA said Thursday.

The Hearts player will miss the matches against France on October 17 and Ukraine on November 17 after being found guilty of "deceiving the referee (by diving)" during the 3-1 loss to Scotland in Glasgow on September 9.

Lithuania scored from the penalty which was awarded in the 61st minute by Slovenian referee Damir Skomina after Mikoliunas went to ground.

Beautiful Bern bans cranes

AFP, Geneva

The Swiss capital, Bern, wants to ban cranes that mar its landscape while it hosts matches for football's Euro 2008 finals next year.

Mayor Alexander Tscheppaett told the Swiss freesheet 'ch' on Wednesday that he had warned builders the council would not deliver permits for the use of cranes in the city centre in June 2008.

Tscheppaett said the pretty medieval city should be on its Sunday best for visiting fans while it plays joint host to Europe's top international football tournament.

Bern's historical centre is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Construction sites and building upgrades are a regular feature of the prosperous Swiss economy in summer. The city council intends to allow building work to continue during Euro 2008 but without cranes for a month.

The Euro 2008 finals take place in Switzerland and Austria from June 7 to June 29.



PHOTO: AFP

Fenerbahce striker Deivei de Souza (front) is ecstatic after scoring the winning goal in their victory over Inter Milan in the Champions League in Istanbul on Wednesday.

Fenerbahce shock Inter

AFP, Istanbul



Turkish club Fenerbahce secured an impressive 1-0 victory over Italian giants Inter Milan in their opening Champions League Group G match here on Wednesday.

Striker Deivid found the net two minutes before the break to upset Inter, who lie second in the Italian league and who had been unbeaten this season so far.

Brazilian legend Zico led out his side against Milan who admittedly

have been hampered by injury problems.

It was also an interesting match-up between two former Real Madrid star players, Fenerbahce's veteran Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos and Portugal's Luis Figo, who came on with half an hour to go.

Roberto Carlos had a shot blocked himself before starting the move which saw Deivid put the Turks ahead in the 43rd minute.

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Figo came on for the final half hour to give Inter some hope and teammates Luis Antonio Jimenez and striker Hernan Crespo were also brought on.

Inter, missing a number of key players including injured pair Marco Materazzi and Patrick Vieira, struggled under constant pressure from the home side, managing 10 shots compared to 20 by Fenerbahce.

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