

PRIME TIME

wednesday — (all times are kuwait local)

- 08:15 cycling bein sports 10hd
- 10:45 soccer bein sports 4hd
- 11:15 tennis bein sports 9hd
- 12:00 basketball bein sports 16hd
- 13:30 cycling bein sports 10hd
- 14:45 soccer bein sports 3hd
- 15:30 basketball bein sports 13hd
- 17:30 tennis bein sports 9hd

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Havertz, Leverkusen cruise past Bremen

Bundesliga faces next test as players return to live at home

BREMEN, Germany, May 19, (AP): Bayer Leverkusen cruised past Werder Bremen 4-1 as the Bundesliga completed its first full round of games after resuming competition.

German soccer has so far avoided major pitfalls in three days of games following a two-month suspension for the coronavirus pandemic.

Some of Leverkusen's players clustered together after scoring in Werder's empty stadium, rather than opting for the league's recommended celebrations of minimal physical contact.

Werder was without one player who was isolating at home after someone in his personal life tested positive for the coronavirus. Werder said on Friday that the player, who the club has not named, tested negative.

The Bundesliga faces its next test this week as players return to live at home ahead of the weekend's games. Teams spent the seven days leading up to their first games in a group quarantine in hotels, but that was a one off.

Both Leverkusen and Werder kept up their form from before the break, with Leverkusen staying six league

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games unbeaten and closing in on the Champions League places, while Werder remained stuck in the relegation zone.

Werder was still struggling for fitness after two months without games, defender Theodor Gebre Selassie said in televised comments, as it edged closer to dropping out of the German top division for the first time since 1981.

The first three goals came in the space of five minutes. Kai Havertz headed Leverkusen into the lead in the 28th off a cross from Moussa Diaby, but Werder soon hit back when Theodor Gebre Selassie deflected a corner into the net. Werder's defense failed to mark Havertz for the first goal and did so again for the second as he headed in at a free kick.

Leverkusen made sure of the win in the second half as Mitchell Weiser headed in from another Diaby cross, again with plenty of space in the Werder defense, and Kerem Demirbay chipped over the goalkeeper.

Leverkusen handed a start to January signing Florian Wirtz at just 17 years, 15 days, making him the club's youngest Bundesliga player. That broke a record previously belonging to Havertz.



Bremen's Maximilian Eggstein, left, and Leverkusens's Florian Wirtz challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Werder Bremen and Bayer Leverkusen 04 in Bremen, Germany, on May 18. (AP)

The Bremen city government had been skeptical about hosting soccer games, though it joined other German states in letting them go ahead.

Mayor Andreas Bovenschulte said on Monday on TV channel ARD that it was a "very problematic signal to society" to allow football at a time when other people in Germany were encouraged to follow social distancing.

"We're allowing major sports events in which it's part of the routine for 22

people to come into close contact. And not even from two households but from 22 different households," he said, according to German agency dpa.

Earlier, third-division club Chemnitz said one of its players tested positive for the coronavirus, in the latest obstacle to restarting lower-league games in Germany.

Chemnitz did not name the player. The club said he is "completely symptom-free." That player and two other

players who had contact with him will spend 14 days in isolation at home.

The first and second divisions in Germany returned to play on Saturday but the third-division restart was postponed last week from its planned date of May 26.

Some clubs have still not received clearance from local authorities to play or hold full trainings. Chemnitz said it still planned to resume full training on Tuesday despite having three players in isolation.

20 clubs agreed to protocols

EPL could face a year of coronavirus restrictions

MANCHESTER, England, May 19, (AP): The Premier League has been told by government experts that coronavirus restrictions could endure for at least a year across English football, with players allowed to resume only non-contact training.

England's top division has been studying how the Bundesliga was able to resume competition at the weekend while being realistic about missing its aspiration of getting back underway by June 12.

"We have to be flexible about it," Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said in a media call Monday. "The Germans are a couple of steps ahead of us obviously and we can learn from them and watch them and take confidence from their success."

Team executives will hold talks next Tuesday to discuss protocols for allowing players to take part in contact training, but it is dependent on government approval and there being no new spike in COVID-19 cases after an easing of lockdown restrictions.

"(Once) we have had a proper discussion with clubs about how much is required to create the fitness levels

before they can start playing, we are then in a position to be able to confirm when the season starts is," Masters said.

The 20 clubs on Monday agreed to protocols for small groups of players to train while maintaining social distancing that exists in wider society. Inspectors will drop into training complexes to check the rules are being followed.

"That will enable us to give everyone confidence that the protocols are being complied with, and give the public confidence that we are trying to create a very safe working environment," said Richard Garlick, the league's director of football.

"We can request information from videoing of the sessions and GPS data, too."

The protocols have been formed in conjunction with the government,

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which has cautioned a COVID-19 vaccine may not be developed at all, despite the huge global effort to produce one.

"They've made it very clear that the social situation, the public health situation is not going to change over the next six to 12 months," Premier League medical adviser Mark Gillett said. "We're going to be looking to make the same kind of cultural changes at training grounds and in footballers' behaviours whether we have this conversation now or at any point this year. It is important that people understand that."

Regular testing of players, coaches and support staff is the league's way of trying to quickly detect any infections and stop the virus spreading at clubs. Testing is due to take place twice weekly at clubs on up to 40 people.

Training will be allowed to begin on Tuesday once the results of the first set of results are delivered on Tuesday.

Players will have to arrive at the training ground on their own - already in their kit - and leave at least three spaces between each car in the parking area.

"We strongly discourage tactical meetings on site so that social distancing is maintained at all times," Gillett said.

Ronaldo reports to Juventus for tests after 10-week absence

Serie A suspension extended to June 14

ROME, May 19, (AP): The Serie A is suspended until June 14 unless the Italian government gives it the green light to resume a day earlier as planned.

The league announced last week that its 20 teams agreed to resume competition on June 13 in empty stadiums.

However, the Italian soccer federation announced on Monday, a day after a government decree banning sports until June 14, that it was complying.

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The FIGC announced that "pending any further and desirable decision by the competent authority" its competitions will remain suspended until that date.

Serie A has been off since March 9, when the government ordered a na-

Spanish league teams start group training

MADRID, May 19, (AP): The Spanish league took another step toward restarting the soccer season by allowing teams to resume group training on Monday.

Practices were closer to routine for the first time since the league was suspended in mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Keep-aways, exchanges of passes and player interaction were back at the training camps. Up to 10 players are allowed to practice together in what is expected to be

tionwide lockdown.

There are 12 rounds remaining in Serie A, plus four matches that were

the second-to-last phase before the competition can resume.

The move by Spain came after the Bundesliga in Germany became the first top soccer league to resume on Saturday.

Full squad training is expected to begin in the coming weeks, with the Liga hoping to restart on the second weekend of June. Players had been training individually since last week.

The league said the start of group training represented "a significant step forward on the road towards

restarting professional football in Spain."

The Spanish government at the weekend authorized all teams to resume practicing in groups even though stricter lockdown restrictions remained in place in parts of Spain. Cities such as Madrid and Barcelona have not been allowed to loosen confinement measures like most of the country, but teams such as Real Madrid and Barcelona have been given the go ahead to move into the second phase of training.

when the Italian government ordered a nationwide lockdown. The league is hoping to resume on June 13 if it can reach an agreement with the government, which has banned sports events until June 14.

Outside the training center in Turin, journalists and photographers plus some fans were on hand when Ronaldo arrived alone driving a Jeep. He's the first of several Juventus players who left Italy during the lockdown to report back to the team.

Like all Serie A players, Ronaldo was to be tested for the coronavirus and undergo other physical exams.

Three Juventus players -- Daniele Rugani, Blaise Matuidi and Paulo Dybala -- tested positive for COVID-19 during the lockdown. All three recovered.

Ronaldo was in top form before the lockdown, scoring 21 times in 22 Serie A matches. In his penultimate game before the suspension, Ronaldo marked his 1,000th official match by scoring in his 11th straight Serie A game. That matched the Serie A record set by Gabriel Batistuta in 1994 and equaled by Fabio Quagliarella last season.

postponed in the 25th round. Also, the Italian Cup is in the semifinal stage.

Italian clubs resumed training on an individual basis on May 4 when lockdown measures in the country started to ease. They were slated to return to training together on Monday but they have not been given the green light to do so by the Italian government's science panel.

The medical protocol for the resumption of Serie A has proved contentious but a revised document was delivered to Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora on Sunday and the science panel is expected to give its verdict this week.

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo reported to Juventus' training center for medical tests on Tuesday after a 10-week absence.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner observed a two-week isolation period at his home in Turin after spending the lockdown period in his native Portugal.

He has not been alongside his teammates since helping the Serie A leaders beat Inter Milan 2-0 on March 8, after which he flew to his home island of Madeira, Portugal.

Serie A was suspended a day later



In this March 8, 2020 file photo, Juventus' Cristiano Ronaldo runs with the ball during the last Serie A soccer match Juventus played before the coronavirus stop, at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, Italy. (AP)



In this, May 6, 2018 file photo, the English Premier League trophy is displayed on the pitch prior to the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Huddersfield Town at Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)