

Cristiano Ronaldo



## Ronaldo back training at Juve after two months

The 35-year-old arrived at the Juventus Training Centre in a Jeep with tinted windows around 09:20 (0720 GMT), leaving three hours later with a smile and thumbs up for waiting photographers.

Ronaldo underwent medical and physical tests before joining up with his teammates for the first time in 72 days for individual training, according to media reports.

Coach Maurizio Sarri has been conducting training in small groups since Monday, pending the final health protocol to be agreed with the Italian government.

Juventus players got back to individual training on May 4, the day Ronaldo returned to Italy after spending lockdown in his native Portugal.

For the past two weeks, he has been in quarantine in his villa in Turin.

Ronaldo played in Juventus' last Serie A game before the season was suspended, a 2-0 win over Inter Milan behind closed doors at the Allianz Stadium on March 8.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is the first Juventus foreign player, among those who left Italy during the lockdown, to return to the team's Continassa training centre.

Italy has been one of the countries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 32,000 deaths.

League leaders Juventus are leading Lazio by one point as they target a ninth consecutive 'Scudetto'.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) announced on Monday that all its competitions, including Serie A, will remain suspended until June 14.

Serie A had hoped to return on June 13 but the FIGC has pushed back the date in line with a government decree that all sports competitions be suspended until next month.

The FIGC said the choice was made "pending any further... decision by the authorities", suggesting the possibility of a restart on June 13 might still exist.

But Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said on Saturday he needed "more guarantees" before the green light could finally be given for football to resume.

A meeting is planned in the near future between Conte and Italian football bosses.

The government's technical and scientific committee will decide in the coming days if it accepts the new health protocols proposed for a return to group training and competition.

AFP | Turin

**C**ristiano Ronaldo returned to training with Juventus in Turin yesterday after an absence of over two months because of the coronavirus pandemic.



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa during the meeting

## Shaikh Khalid calls for developing school sports

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa gave instructions to design a comprehensive plan for developing school sports in coordination with the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Bahrain Olympic Committee President gave the direction as he chaired the weekly virtual meeting of the Coordination, Execution and Follow-up Committee "Response".

The meeting was attended by Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, Minister of Education, Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh, Minister of Health, Dr Riyadh Hamza, President of the University of Bahrain and Dr Jamal Al Saleh, Consultant of orthopaedics and fractures. At the beginning of the meeting, HH Shaikh Khalid welcomed the

attendees, valuing their efforts in carrying out several developments projects.

After that, the meeting discussed several topics listed on the agenda, including the school sport. It was agreed to expand the use of the multiuse schools' gyms whose number is 67 for this purpose.

Moreover, the meeting also elaborated on investing in sports medicine through sketching systematic strategies with the competent authorities. This initiative reflects the Kingdom's leading position in the medical sector in line with the vision of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the ambitions of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor, President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

## BREEF keen on active participation in FEI programs

TDT | Manama

HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF), has stressed the extent of cooperation with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) in overcoming global obstacles caused by the spread of Corona virus, especially with regard to the possibility of postponing the 2020 World Endurance Championship to next year.

There is still a debate going



HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa

on between the FEI and the Organizing Committee, and in the event that the tournament is postponed, the FEI will inform all members, he said.

BREEF, under the guidance of

HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, National Security Adviser, President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and BREEF Honorary President, is keen to discuss all matters related to developing cooperation with the FEI, he added.

HH Shaikh Isa said BREEF was in constant contact with the international federation to discuss all the activities organized by the FEI, including the upcoming world championship to be held

in Italy.

BREEF is keen to participate in all events and activities organized by the FEI that it deems appropriate, he said.

BREEF is fully prepared to continue the cooperation that contributed to the development of equestrian sports across the world and to positive effects on the local championships organized by BREEF.

BREEF is keen to have an active participation in the FEI programs and activities and achieve joint success for the two parties, HH Shaikh Isa added.

## Button shocked Vettel will not be at Ferrari next season

Reuters | London

Former world champion Jenson Button says he is shocked Sebastian Vettel will not drive for Ferrari next season and that it would be "madness" if the team had pushed him out.

Ferrari said last week that four-times world champion Vettel would leave them at the end of the 2020 season, after talks on a new contract ended without a deal.

They then replaced the German with Spaniard Carlos Sainz to race alongside Charles Leclerc.

German media had reported that Vettel, who won 14 races with Ferrari and is their third-most successful driver, had rejected a one-year extension with a reduced salary but the 32-year-old said financial matters played no part in the joint decision.

"If he was pushed, for me it's madness," Button, the 2009 world champion, told Sky Sports.

## Man Utd urge fans to stay away if matches resume

AFP | London

Manchester United have warned fans to stay away from matches played behind closed doors at Old Trafford if the Premier League restarts amid the coronavirus crisis.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side are set to resume small group training on Wednesday as Premier League clubs step up the "Project Restart" plan to finish the season.

But all 92 remaining matches will have to be played in front of empty stands due to the pandemic, leading United to activate a refund or rebate to ticket holders for their remaining home fixtures.

If the Premier League get their wish to play at clubs' normal stadiums rather than at neutral venues, then United will have four home league matches to play.

Aware of the danger of supporters gathering in large groups during the health crisis, United have pleaded with their fans to stay away from matches and watch on television.

"We share your disappointment that you will not be able to watch United in person from within the stadium, but we



The United Trinity statue is pictured outside Old Trafford Stadium, home of Manchester United

**"**  
This united effort to stay at home will give us the best chance of protecting the health of everyone in our community  
**MANCHESTER UNITED**

would encourage you to give your continued loyal support from the comfort and safety of

your home," United said in an email to supporters.

"To help with that, the Premier League and their media partners will work to deliver the very best broadcast coverage of our games.

"We also ask for your co-operation not to travel to any stadiums at which we are playing on matchdays. By supporting from home and following Government guidance, you will be playing your part to keep your friends, your family and all United fans safe."

## BMF praises BIC, Batelco for sponsoring Bahrain GT Esports series

TDT Manama

Bahrain Motor Federation (BMF) Board of Directors Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa Al Khalifa praised Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", and Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Batelco) for sponsoring the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship 2020.

Shaikh Abdulla expressed his thanks and appreciation to BIC, led by Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, for the valuable support, which he said will help achieve success in the inaugural competition, which begins May 29 with the first of six rounds.

The BMF chief also hailed Batelco for its sponsorship of various activities and events in the Kingdom, valuing the role of General Manager Corporate Communications and CSR Shaikh Bader bin Rashid Al Khalifa.

For his part, Shaikh Salman expressed his delight in BIC's support of the Bahrain Esport Gran Turismo Championship 2020, and praised the great efforts of BMF, headed by Shaikh Abdulla.

Shaikh Salman noted the series' valuable contribution to all motorsport fans in Bahrain amidst the current challenges the world is facing. He stressed that BIC is keen to contribute to the success of the championship and enhance the experience for those competing from home.



Shaikh Abdulla

This series' first season consists of six rounds, with each taking place on a virtual version of world-famous race tracks. A one-time Qualifying event is scheduled for May 22.

Round One will then be on May 29, with Round Two on June 5. Round Three will be on June 19, while the fourth round is set for July 3, the fifth on July 17, and the season-finale on July 24.

Cash prizes will be allocated to the winners of the top three and the driver who registers the fastest lap in each round. First place gets BD50, the runner-up takes home BD30, and third place receives BD20. BD10 will be awarded for fastest lap.

The overall championship winner will win an additional BD500 at the end of the season, while second place will get BD300 and third BD200.

The series is open to all interested participants of all ages. Registration has begun and it is scheduled to end today. Those wishing to take part can register for the competition, or for more information, visit [begtc.azurewebsites.net](http://begtc.azurewebsites.net)