

KOEMAN DEMANDS TRANSFER ACTION

LONDON: Everton manager Ronald Koeman has urged the club's board to recognise the extent of his rebuilding job by backing him in the transfer market after Saturday's FA Cup exit at home to Leicester City. Everton let slip a one-goal lead at Goodison Park with Nigerian striker Ahmed Musa's second-half brace enough to condemn the Merseyside club to a 2-1 third round defeat and the likelihood of another season without silverware. "I know what we need to change and if everyone opens their eyes maybe we will get further on our improvement as a team," Koeman told British media. "Because that's really what we need and that's all about what happens this month." Everton have been linked with Manchester United duo Memphis Depay and Morgan Schneiderlin, and Koeman, who will be without injured winger Yannick Bolasie for up to a year, has made it clear to his employers where the team needs to strengthen. "I have that in mind and the board knows because we spoke together about what we need. That's the job of (director of football) Steve Walsh and it's my job," the Dutchman added when asked about signing new players in the January window. —Reuters



SILVA WANTS HULL FANS BACK AFTER WINNING START

LONDON: Marco Silva began his Hull City managerial career with an FA Cup victory on Saturday but the Portuguese was left hoping that their missing fans would be back to support his bid to ensure the Tigers avoid Premier League relegation. In a debut match for the League's newest managers, who both have their work cut out to save their teams from the drop, Silva came out on top over Swansea City's Paul Clement with the 2-0 win, courtesy of late goals from Abel Hernandez and Josh Tymon. Yet even if achieving this third round win was an ideal start for Silva, the sight of a sparsely populated Hull City Stadium with many fans having boycotted the game in continuing protest against the club's owners certainly was not. An official attendance of only 6,608 was recorded with only a couple of hundred fans from Wales also having made the trip to watch the tie between the league's two bottom clubs, leaving Silva sounding disconcerted. "It's important for me that our fans believe in the team because we need help," said Silva, whose appointment in place of the sacked Mike Phelan has not impressed supporters. — Reuters

HAZLEWOOD RESTED FOR OPENING PAKISTAN ODI

SYDNEY: Australia pacesman Josh Hazlewood will be rested for Friday's one-day international series opener against Pakistan at Brisbane to manage the fast bowler's workload, coach Darren Lehmann said yesterday. The 26-year-old Hazlewood and pace spearhead Mitchell Starc played all six tests in the home summer and were expected to be rested for some of the matches in the five-match series ahead of a four-test tour of India starting next month. "He's not injured but we have decided to give him a week to freshen up at home and he will link up with the ODI squad in Melbourne ahead of the second match of the series," Lehmann said in a statement. "Although, if one of our other fast bowlers picks up an injury in the run-up to Friday's first game at the Gabba then he could be called up to slot in." Pace bowler Billy Stanlake, who stands 2.04 metres tall and has been in fine form in the Big Bash League (BBL) for the Adelaide Strikers, is likely to make his debut if Australia opt to play three pacesmen at the Gabba. — Reuters



KUWAIT WINTER SPORTS CLUB OPENS ICE HOCKEY SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Winter Sports Club opened the Kuwait Ice Hockey School Saturday, to educate and train sprouts and juniors aged four to fourteen, in the presence of lovers of the game, in cooperation with and sponsorship from the "sports for all departments," at the Public Authority for Sports.

Club President Fuhaid Al-Ajmi spoke following the opening of the school at the Ice Skating Rink, saying that training at the school will be three days a week under the supervision of international trainers from Serbia who are specialized in this young age group. Al-Ajmi said the club aims to widen the base of Ice Hockey players, to be a provider of Kuwait national teams, and that

the club is now reassured about the future of this sport in Kuwait, particularly with the number of those who came to the school. Al-Ajmi appreciated the significant support of the Public Authority for Sports, which materialized in sponsoring this school, besides the training camps, as well as their participation in foreign tournaments. He said the club plans to hold a camp for school

students in the Czech Republic to polish their skills and prepare them for upcoming championships. Meanwhile Director of the Sports for all Departments at PAS Hamid Al-Hazim said PAS under the leadership of Director General Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and his Deputy Sports Affairs Dr Humoud Fulaiteh, is keen to support Kuwaiti athletes

in various sports, specially specialized clubs which are characterized by being highly organized. Al-Hazim commended the large number of those who enrolled in the school and showed great potential, and hoped the club succeeds in discovering talents in the sport which is now making notable achievements at the regional and continental levels.



KRISTOFFERSEN WINS ADELBODEN SLALOM

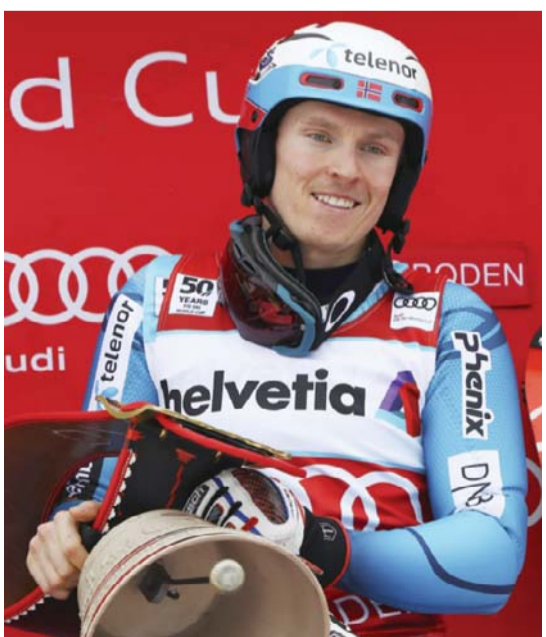
ADELBODEN: Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen, reigning world champion in the discipline, won yesterday's slalom at Adelboden, pushing Italian Manfred Moelgg into second spot.

Kristoffersen won both legs to win in 1min 54.87sec — 1.83sec clear of Moelgg and 2.19sec ahead of Austrian rival Marcel Hirscher.

The Norwegian also won on the difficult course last year, when he beat out Hirscher and Russia's Alexander Khoroshilov, who was fifth Sunday behind Germany's Felix Neureuther.

Kristoffersen enjoyed relatively mild race conditions which began to deteriorate thereafter, hitting the hopes of rivals including Hirscher as the fog descended to leave the latter with 1.6sec to make up on the second run.

The challenge proved too much, as it did for Frenchman Alexis Pinturault, winner of Saturday's giant slalom. Several competitors skied out in the opening run, including Italian Stefano Gross, winner in 2015 in Adelboden, Switzerland. —AFP



ADELBODEN: Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen, the winner, celebrates on podium after an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

SHIFFRIN WINS WORLD CUP SLALOM DESPITE SKIING OVER BROKEN GATE

MARIBOR: Not even a broken gate rolling down the course could stop Olympic slalom champion Mikaela Shiffrin from returning to the top of the podium in her favorite discipline. The American won a women's World Cup race yesterday, five days after she had failed to finish a slalom run for the first time in four years.

In light snowfall, the American was leading the field by 0.19 seconds when a gate that she had just passed correctly broke and flew down the hill. Shiffrin skied over it but managed to stay on the course.

She fell 0.09 off the lead due to the incident, but accelerated in the bottom section to take the win, 0.19 seconds ahead of Wendy Holdener of Switzerland. Frida Hansdotter of Sweden came 0.31 behind in third. "I skied over it a couple of times. It just kept coming at me," Shiffrin said. "The gate was very solidly under my skis for a couple of turns. I felt it but it was OK. I was happy that I didn't totally lose my ski and fall over." It was the American's 27th career win, which puts her level with Phil Mahre in third place among American skiers with most World Cup wins, behind Bode Miller (33) and Lindsey Vonn (76). She also equaled Swedish standout Ingemar Stenmark's feat of 27 victories before turning 22. Only Annemarie Moser-Proell of Austria had more wins (41) at that age.

Shiffrin had her seven-race winning streak come to an end in Tuesday's race in Zagreb, where she straddled a gate early in her first run.

"It's always important to be able to change the mindset after something like in Zagreb," she said. "It's really easy to get worried about straddling, and then do it again, and again, and again. And then it becomes like a snowball effect and you can't get out of it." Shiffrin seemed free of doubts when she took the lead in the opening leg Sunday. In a clean run on the Radvanje course, she was 0.23 ahead of the competition at the final split time, but lost a few hundredths on the bottom section.

The two-time world champion held a 0.17-second lead over Holdener, with Hansdotter of Sweden 0.38 back in third. The top three held their positions in the final run. Veronika Velez Zuzulova, who won the race where Shiffrin went out, led the American by 0.08 seconds at the second split time of her first run before the Slovak straddled a gate and did not finish.

Velez Zuzulova has become Shiffrin's main rival for this season's slalom title, and now trails the two-world champion by 110 points with three races remaining. Even if beaten again by Shiffrin, her competitors feel they are closing in on Shiffrin, who won a slalom by more than three seconds last season. "Mikaela is always fast," Hansdotter

said. "But it's fun to see the other girls are coming closer." Runner-up Holdener, who missed out on becoming the first Swiss winner of a women's slalom in 15 years, added "It's good to know that she is not that far away. Every girl has some parts to improve, Mikaela as well. But it's good to know she is not one second in front or more." Despite winning again, Shiffrin said she was not completely satisfied with her racing this season. "I have not been skiing in the races like I can ski, not even close," she said. "And it's a bit disappointing, actually, even to come down and win. Right now, I am not happy with just winning, I want to ski well."

In one of her rare slalom starts, defend-

ing overall champion Lara Gut finished 4.27 behind Shiffrin and failed to qualify for the second run. The Swiss skier was preparing for a combined event next week, which includes a slalom run.

Shiffrin leads Gut by 305 points in the overall standings, but the American said the situation was likely to change with a lot of speed races coming up before next month's world championships. "There is four speed series coming so I expect that the lead will disappear quick," she said.

The women's World Cup travels to Austria for a night slalom in Flachau on Tuesday, followed by a downhill and a combined event in Altenmarkt-Zauchensee at the weekend. — AP



MARIBOR: From left, Switzerland's Wendy Holdener, second placed, Mikaela Shiffrin, the winner, of the United States, and Sweden's Frida Hansdotter, third placed, celebrate on podium after an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom in Maribor, Slovenia, yesterday. — AP