

# MANOHAR ELECTED AS BCCI CHIEF

Mumbai

**S**hashank Manohar was unanimously elected president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) yesterday, vowing to restore the governing body's image after a series of scandals.

The Nagpur-based lawyer succeeds veteran administrator Jagmohan Dalmiya, who died last month, in what is arguably the most powerful job in world cricket. "Mr

Shashank Manohar elected," the BCCI said on its official twitter account @BCCI after a special general body meeting at its headquarters in Mumbai.

Manohar, who had earlier served as BCCI president from 2008 and 2011 and was the lone candidate in the election, will remain at the helm for two years.

Dalmiya's death on September 20 had triggered a bitter succession battle within



Shashank Manohar

the faction-ridden BCCI, with former chief Sharad Pawar

being a key contender for the post. But Pawar, a veteran politician, backed out of the race after reportedly being opposed by the nation's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, paving the way for Manohar to emerge as a consensus candidate.

Manohar, who has a squeaky-clean image and a no-nonsense approach to cricket administration, will be charged with restoring the BCCI's image and credibility

**Shashank Manohar will remain at the helm for 2 years**

after a string of corruption scandals over the past few years. The cash-rich BCCI, which generates huge revenues due to its vast television audiences, enjoys a pre-eminent position in world cricket and effectively

runs the International Cricket Council (ICC) with its allies, Australia and England.

"The BCCI is a huge brand which has been created by the love of fans," Manohar, 58, told a news conference after his election.

"The confidence of the fans has been shaken in recent times by some unpleasant things that have taken place. The duty of the board is to rebuild its image on a priority basis."

# MERSEYSIDE DERBY ENDS IN 6TH DRAW

Liverpool

**L**iverpool and Everton played out the sixth draw in their last seven meetings as a fiercely-contested but error-strewn Merseyside derby finished 1-1.

Danny Ings put Liverpool ahead when he capitalised on some lacklustre Everton defending and headed in from James Milner's cross following a corner in the 41st minute.

But Romelu Lukaku ensured Everton took a deserved share of the spoils when he profited from Emre Can's miscued clearance in first-half stoppage time.

Both managers named unchanged starting line-ups from their last Premier League games, which meant Everton were without defenders John Stones and Seamus Coleman, while Liverpool partnered Daniel Sturridge and Ings in attack.

In the ferocious intensity of the opening stages of the 225th meeting between the teams, the play was epitomised by mistakes.

Referee Martin Atkinson allowed the contest to flow after initially being over-



Everton's Ramiro Funes Mori (left) vies against Liverpool's Alberto Moreno

zealous with his use of the whistle, and Can and Lukaku began a wrestling match while James McCarthy snapped at Philippe Coutinho's heels in archetypal derby fashion.

Half-chances for Ings and Milner reflected Liverpool's early positive intentions but it was Everton who twice tested Simon Mignolet in the first half-hour.

Goodison Park rose to its feet when Ross Barkley's free kick picked out the unmarked head of Steven Naismith only

for Mignolet to paw the ball away.

The Liverpool goalkeeper was called upon again shortly after as he dived to his right to tip a McCarthy shot past the post, following some neat Everton build-up play.

**Calamitous**

Tempers flared when Can held on to the ball to delay an Everton throw-in and both he and Barkley received yellow cards for their troubles.

With the momentum

seemingly with the Toffees, Liverpool struck the first blow following a corner, with Barkley punished for some slack marking.

Milner's delivery hung in the air but Barkley, who was guilty of a similar mistake in Everton's last game, at West Brom last week, lost Ings and failed to get his head to the ball which left the Liverpool striker with a free header from close range.

Everton's response was instantaneous, with Liverpool's defending for the equaliser also having a calamitous look about it.

Gerard Deulofeu crossed from the right and Can volleyed a panicked clearance into the chest of Martin Skrtel which saw the ball drop invitingly for Lukaku.

The Belgium international reacted and adeptly cracked a low left-footed shot into the corner of the net.

Liverpool's brittle defence was ruffled by Everton's high pressing after the interval and the result was Brendan Rodgers' side hit aimless long balls, easily handled by the home side's defence, and sporadically threatened.

# Ferrer clinches Malaysian Open

Kuala Lumpur

**T**op seed David Ferrer clinched his 25th title yesterday after beating fellow Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 7-5, 7-5 to win the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur.

The match was tightly contested but Ferrer's determination and deep forehands ultimately proved too much for Lopez.

"It was my best match of the tournament and my best performance here in Malaysia," the world number eight told reporters.

"I was consistent with my game and am happy with the victory. My serve was good today and it needed to be because Feliciano pressured me today."

Ferrer netted victories in Qatar, Rio and Mexico prior to Sunday's Malaysian triumph, winning all four finals contested this year. "It's been a good year for me, winning all the finals. But I remember two years ago I lost in five finals and the statistics have changed," said Ferrer who pockets \$170,600 in prize money.

"I have to enjoy this moment. When I end my career I won't have any of this anymore."

The match was Ferrer's 50th tour-level final. Others who have attained the feat are Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, Novak



David Ferrer

Djokovic and Roger Federer.

Ferrer's journey to win the Malaysian title included a two hour and five minute battle to overcome unseeded semi finalist Benjamin Becker from Germany on Saturday.

Second seed Lopez said a change of balls in the first set had affected his rhythm on Sunday. "I made some fantastic points in the first game, but a change of balls changed the momentum," he said.

"I was playing aggressive, but after that he was more consistent and it was difficult for me to win the points."

# Simona Halep injury plunges WTA Finals spot into doubt



Simona Halep of Romania waves to the crowd after retiring

Beijing

**W**orld number two Simona Halep lasted less than a set before retiring injured at the China Open yesterday, plunging her appearance at the year-ending WTA Finals into doubt.

Halep and Petra Kvitova, who was playing on painkillers and suffering the ongoing effects of glandular fever, both crashed out as the China Open

lost its top two women's seeds in the first round.

Romania's Halep said she would now take a break from tennis and assess if she can play the season finale in Singapore after retiring at 5-4 down in the first set against Lara Arruabarrena with a left Achilles tendon problem.

"My first thought is just to be healthy. Of course, every tournament is important. But

the most important thing is to be okay, to feel no pain, and then I will see," Halep said.

"I hope I can play in Singapore. Was my goal for this year. I will see. I need treatment and I need a break, for sure."

Halep, currently at a career rankings high, was understandably downcast after the return of an injury which first troubled her in 2011 and

**Halep lasted less than a set before retiring injured at the China Open**

flared anew at last month's Guangzhou Open.

Top-ranked Serena Williams

is already skipping Singapore as she seeks extra rest after a tough year, while there is a question mark over Maria Sharapova after she retired in Wuhan in the past week.

Kvitova's push for a place at the eight-player event also hit a snag when she lost 7-5, 6-4 to Sara Errani, hampered by a shoulder injury and the lingering effects of glandular fever.