

# Nominations for United Nations' top job

Seven candidates are competing to succeed Kofi Annan as UN Secretary-General after he steps down in December. The post is appointed by the 192-nation General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council, with the five permanent members having veto power



Permanent members of Security Council: **United States, China, France, Britain and Russia.**  
*Vote could take place as early as September 28*



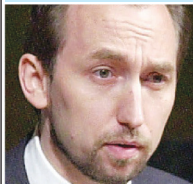
**Ban Ki-moon, 62, South Korea**  
*Foreign minister. Gained prominence in six-party talks aimed at getting North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programme*



**Shashi Tharoor, 50, India**  
*UN Under Secretary General for Public Information. Says he will improve effectiveness of UN peacekeepers*



**Surakiart Sathirathai, 48 Thailand**  
*Deputy Prime Minister Expert in international law and economics. Supported by China*



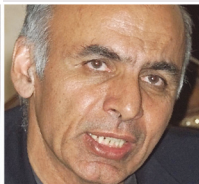
**Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein Jordan**  
*UN Ambassador Played central role in establishing International Criminal Court. Believed to have backing of U.S. and Britain*



**Jayantha Dhanapala, 67 Sri Lanka**  
*Senior Adviser to President of Sri Lanka Former UN Under Secretary General for Disarmament, ambassador to U.S.*



**Vaira Vike-Freiberga, 69 Baltic States**  
*President of Latvia Head of state since 1999 – seen to have extensive experience in global affairs. Sole candidate from outside Asia*



**Ashraf Ghani, 57 Afghanistan**  
*Former Finance Minister Former UN special adviser to World Bank. Returned to Kabul after 24 years following fall of Taliban in 2001*