

Ban Ki-moon takes UN helm

Ban Ki-moon has begun his five-year term in what Kofi Annan called the world's most impossible job facing a daunting agenda that stretches from the threats of nuclear proliferation and terrorism to reform of the UN management structure



UNITED NATIONS

Institution tainted by mismanagement and corruption revealed in Iraq oil-for-food scandal.

Ban says his top priority is to restore trust

UN reform seen by many as attempt to erode influence of poor countries. **Ban wants to curb scepticism in developing countries**

UN development goals include cutting extreme poverty by half and universal education by 2015. **Ban wants "concerted action" to achieve targets**



UNITED STATES

U.S.-UN relationship deeply strained in recent times – particularly over war in Iraq. **Ban says he will work personally to resolve differences of opinion between Washington and UN**

MIDDLE EAST

Jordan's **King Abdullah** warns that conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq and Palestinian territories could spin out of control unless urgent action is taken. **Ban "to energize" Israeli-Palestinian road map drafted by UN, EU, U.S., Russia**



DARFUR

Despite backing for joint African Union-UN force in Darfur, Sudan's **President Bashir** remains opposed to large-scale UN deployment



Ban pledges to become "directly engaged" to end conflict in which over 200,000 people have died

NORTH KOREA

North Korea refuses to halt nuclear programme unless UN sanctions – imposed after October nuclear test – are lifted. **Ban's South Korean background gives him special insights into issue – but impartial approach will be crucial**

IRAN

Tehran likely to limit **IAEA** inspections of atomic sites in response to UN vote imposing sanctions over Iran's nuclear ambitions. **Ban urging Tehran to enter talks with nations offering incentives if Iran stops enriching uranium**

