

WORLD AGENDA

DECEMBER 2009

1 Dec 7-18, Copenhagen: The deadline for agreeing an international deal to combat global warming at the UN climate change summit is widely expected to be missed. Western leaders want a 2010 pact but anti-poverty campaigners say it is a missed opportunity

2 Dec 5, Geneva:

Presidents **Barack Obama**, of the U.S., and **Dmitry Medvedev**, of Russia, expect to sign a new disarmament deal by the time the landmark 1991 **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty** expires

3 December, Taipei: Taiwan begins trade talks with China to secure a deal that would warm relations between the two rivals and open the isolated island to trade pacts around the world

4 Dec 3, Bhopal: India marks 25 years since the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy**, the world's worst industrial accident, which killed at least 8,000 people. Campaigners say up to 25,000 died and that the plant still contains highly toxic material

5 December, Brussels: Serbia is likely to apply for membership of the European Union, according to President **Boris Tadic**. The EU is divided over whether the country's failure to capture suspected war criminal General **Ratko Mladic** should prevent Serbia's accession

6 Dec 10, Oslo: **Barack Obama** receives the **Nobel Peace Prize** for his efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation amid claims that the honour is too much too soon. Obama says he will donate the \$1.4 million prize money to charity

7 Dec 1, Buenos Aires: Latin America's first legal same-sex marriage takes place in Argentina on **World Aids Day**. Gay rights groups hope the ceremony will pave the way for other homosexual weddings in the heavily Catholic continent

8 Dec 9, Los Angeles: Thousands of asteroids and millions of galaxies never seen before may be revealed when NASA launches its **Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer** space telescope. The six-month mission will search for objects too dim or distant to have been detected so far

