

Obama faces daunting post-election agenda

In the few weeks before the new Congress is sworn in on January 3, President Obama is expected to battle over taxes, war, nuclear missiles and spending cuts in what could be his last opportunity to push his agenda through a Congress still firmly under Democratic control



BUSH-ERA TAX CUTS

Obama wants to allow taxes to rise on incomes above \$250,000 while Republicans, who may be emboldened

by electoral gains, want current rates applied to all. **Compromise must be reached before tax cuts expire on December 31**



AFGHANISTAN

Despite rise in U.S. casualties and Taliban attacks, top U.S. commander General **David Petraeus** says he

sees progress. **Obama has promised review of war strategy in December while idea of talks with Taliban appears to be gaining ground**



REDUCING DEFICIT

Bipartisan panel due to report by Dec 1 on how to tackle budget deficit – \$1.3 trillion for fiscal year 2010.

Unclear whether panel can reach consensus in time



CHINA CURRENCY

Value of **yuan** souring relations between world's two biggest economies. **Treasury to decide whether to name**

China a currency manipulator after G20 meeting in Seoul on Nov 10



GAYS IN MILITARY

Obama wants to repeal ***Don't Ask, Don't Tell*** policy barring gays from serving openly in military. **Likely to**

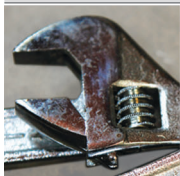
face opposition from Republicans and some top military commanders



KOREA TRADE PACT

Obama and South Korean President **Lee Myung-bak** set Nov 10 deadline to resolve issues that have blocked

approval of free trade agreement since 2007



UNEMPLOYMENT

Obama's new stimulus plan to bring down 9.6% unemployment rate consists of six-year programme to

rebuild U.S. infrastructure with initial \$50bn investment. **Republicans have already expressed opposition**



START TREATY

Obama wants quick action on new treaty to reduce number of nuclear weapons and reset strained Russia-U.S. relations.

Republicans may seek to delay issue into next year when they expect to have greater numbers