

WORLD AGENDA

OCTOBER 2012

1 October, China: The Communist Party gears up for the most sweeping change of its top leadership in a decade as vice-president **Xi Jinping** takes over from **Hu Jintao** as general secretary and state president. The party's five-yearly congress is expected to be held in mid or late October

2 Oct 3, 16, 22: Colorado, New York, Florida: President **Barack Obama** and Republican presidential nominee **Mitt Romney** challenge each other in a series of one-on-one debates on domestic and foreign policy. The televised encounters are the last high-profile, set-piece events ahead of the presidential election on November 6

3 Oct 8, Oslo: The first peace talks in 10 years in Latin America's longest running insurgency between the Colombian government and leftist **Farc** guerrillas begin in Norway amid simmering tensions over a ceasefire. The 50-year war has claimed 20,000 lives and displaced 230,000 people

5 Oct 28, Kiev: Ukrainians go to the polls amid fears President **Viktor Yanukovich** is backsliding on democracy. Moves to reintroduce a defamation law, which critics say is a press clampdown, follow the jailing of opposition leader **Yulia Tymoshenko**

6 Oct 20, Libya: The first anniversary of the killing of despot **Muammar Gaddafi** is celebrated while militia groups continue to run amok across the country. It remains unclear whether President **Mohamed Magariaf** can bring the myriad factions under control

8 Oct 7, Moscow: **Vladimir Putin** turns 60 as his popularity slumps and a wave of biting satire dents his macho image. The Russian president faces the biggest protests against his rule and poll ratings below 50%

4 Oct 7, Venezuela: Voters decide whether to give President **Hugo Chavez**, Latin America's leading firebrand, another six-year term in office. The vehemently anti-capitalist 58-year-old, who has ruled since 1999, faces **Henrique Capriles**, 40

7 Oct 26, UK: The 23rd Bond movie, **Skyfall**, is released in the 50th anniversary month of the series which began with **Dr No**. It will be **Daniel Craig's** third performance as **James Bond** but rumours that **Adele** sings the theme song are unconfirmed

