

WORLD AGENDA

NOVEMBER 2012



1 Nov 6, United States: Americans go to the polls with Democrat President **Barack Obama** holding a wafer-thin lead over challenger **Mitt Romney**. Swing states include the strongly Republican Colorado, which Obama won in the 2008 election, and the notorious battleground of Florida



2 Nov 8, Beijing: China's once-in-a-decade leadership change takes place amid economic malaise and deepening unrest. Vice President **Xi Jinping** takes over from **Hu Jintao** as president and **Li Keqiang** replaces **Wen Jiabao** as premier

3 Nov 26, West Bank: Prosecutors investigating the 2004 death of **Yasser Arafat** arrive in Ramallah to exhume his body. A murder inquiry was launched in August after radioactive **polonium-210** was found on the former Palestinian leader's personal effects



4 Nov 5, Seattle: A preliminary court hearing for a U.S. soldier charged with killing 16 Afghans in a shooting rampage known as the **Kandahar Massacre** takes place. **Robert Bales** is accused of opening fire in two villages on March 11



6 Nov 25, Barcelona: Catalonia holds an election that could potentially open the way for Spain's most economically important region to declare independence. Catalan president **Artur Mas**, whose party looks set to increase its seats in the regional parliament, has pledged to call a referendum despite Madrid's threat to declare it illegal

5 Early November, London: The 16-month Leveson inquiry into media ethics reports its findings following the phone hacking scandal which led to the closure of **Rupert Murdoch's** News of the World newspaper



8 Nov 28, Wellington: The premiere of **Peter Jackson's** *The Hobbit* sees the New Zealand capital renamed Middle Earth after the film's fictional setting. The adaptation of **JRR Tolkien's** novel is to be released in December, the first in a trilogy

7 Nov 17, Freetown: Sierra Leone goes to the polls in an election seen as a barometer of progress a decade after its civil war ended. The campaign has been mostly peaceful in a country which remains one of the poorest in the world

