

Obama's overseas challenges

1 CHINA: Trade with China, under new leader *Xi Jinping*, is expected to remain contentious during *Barack Obama's* second term. Under pressure from U.S. companies to confront growing Chinese competition, Obama is likely to file more cases against China at World Trade Organization

Beijing is concerned over U.S. policy of "rebalancing" presence in Asia – beefing up of diplomatic and military ties in region to contain rise of China

2 RUSSIA: Despite Obama's pledge to show more flexibility on thorny issue of missile defence, analysts expect relationship with Moscow to remain strained by differences over human rights and conflict in Syria

3 MIDDLE EAST
Containing overspill of Syria crisis will remain key strategic goal

U.S. must build new relations with countries that have elected Islamist political leaders, at time when U.S. influence in region is waning

Obama's frosty relations with Israeli Premier *Benjamin Netanyahu* may leave peace process with Palestinians on back burner

4 IRAN: High on Obama's list is reaching deal with Tehran over curbing its nuclear programme

Iran has indicated it is willing to talk, but if deal is not forthcoming military strike by either U.S. or Israel can not be ruled out

5 AFGHANISTAN
Focus will shift to withdrawal of combat troops by end of 2014 while gradually handing over power to Afghan forces

Withdrawal timeline could become compromised if "green-on-blue" killings of NATO personnel by Afghan allies increase

6 PAKISTAN: Relations remain tense due to U.S. concern over Pakistan's alleged support for militant groups and anger in Pakistan over drone strikes on its territory

Obama's victory is likely to increase pressure on Islamabad to facilitate U.S. goals as "end game" in Afghanistan approaches