

Obama's trip seeks to salvage Asia "pivot"

President Obama's four-nation Asian tour aims to reassure sceptical leaders that the long-promised "rebalancing" of American policy towards Asia is on track, and that the U.S. is genuinely committed to countering an increasingly assertive China in the region



1 Apr 23, Japan: Obama arrives for first state visit by U.S. president since **Bill Clinton** in 1996

Meets Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** in attempt to break deadlock in talks on **Trans-Pacific Partnership** trade deal, stalled over access to agricultural and auto markets

TPP, involving 12 countries on Pacific Rim, is economic backbone of Obama's "pivot" to Asia and centrepiece of his trade agenda

2 Apr 25, South Korea: Meets with President **Park Geun-hye** for talks on threat posed by North Korea's nuclear programme and other issues

3 Apr 26, Malaysia: Meets Prime Minister **Najib Razak** during first visit to Malaysia by sitting president in nearly 50 years

4 Apr 28, Philippines: Expected to sign security pact that will allow for increased use of military bases by U.S. ships, aircraft and troops