



Workers inspect wings for Airbus aircraft at the factory in Broughton, Flintshire AP

£5.5bn Asian order 'safeguards 1,500 Airbus jobs'

David Cameron yesterday welcomed a deal safeguarding 1,500 jobs at the Welsh factory of plane-maker Airbus. On a visit to the plant in Broughton, Flintshire, Mr Cameron said the deal was "excellent news and a tremendous boost" for British manufacturing. Airbus says a \$9bn

(£5.5bn) order from AirAsia for 100 of its A320 jets will safeguard 1,500 Airbus jobs in the UK and 7,500 in its supply chain. Wings for the A320 series are made at Broughton. Mr Cameron said: "[This] demonstrates the strength of the UK aerospace sector and the important role it plays

it growing and rebalancing our economy. This government will continue to back UK aerospace, cutting business taxes, investing in exports and working in partnership with the industry to ensure it is fully equipped to compete and thrive in the global race."

Quote of the day



"Sunday 23 December will be the busiest time ever in grocery retailing. That's not just something for us, that's something for the industry in general"

Mike Coupe
Commercial director
of Sainsbury

ENERGY

BG's new chief 'breached safety rules when at Shell'

By Mark Leftly

The oil and gas giant BG Group has asked a former Shell executive who was once accused of dangerous health and safety breaches in the North Sea to be its new boss.

Chris Finlayson, who is a BG board member and joined from Shell in 2010, was one of the men who were accused by an insider of having been involved in a Touch F*** All policy when he was a director for the company's UK division in the late 1990s. This supposedly involved top directors allowing managers to stop maintenance and safety inspections in the North Sea so as to prevent costly shutdowns.

The allegations were made by Bill Campbell, a former Shell group auditor, and were made public in a 2007 email to Shell's chairman Jorma Olila. In 2003, two oil workers died on Shell's Brent Bravo platform, which

i Mr Finlayson, who will be paid a **basic salary of £975,000**, was one of three internal candidates for the role of chief executive of BG. The search took over a year to complete.

a fatal accident inquiry in Aberdeen said could have been prevented if a hole in a corroding pipeline had been fixed.

A spokesman for BG said that Mr Finlayson could not be contacted yesterday to discuss the allegations, but said that the company has "clear business principles that all injuries are preventable".

Shell repeated a previous statement in relation to the accusations: "Safety is Shell's foremost priority at all times and we absolutely reject any suggestion that we would

compromise our safety offshore." Mr Finlayson will take over from BG's chief executive, Sir Frank Chapman, next month. The 56-year-old, who was at Shell for more than three decades, has been charged with reviving BG's fortunes after it suffered the biggest one-day fall in its share price six weeks ago.

Sir Frank had overseen spectacular expansion in his 12 years in charge. The share price has quadrupled in that time so that BG is now a regular member of the country's 15 biggest listed companies. However, this came to a halt at the end of October, when Sir Frank admitted that there would be no growth in 2013 as there were delays to a number of vital projects.

In a statement yesterday morning, Mr Finlayson said: "My priority is to build on this legacy by delivering the new growth projects."

FINANCE

Two-timing insider dealer sent to jail

By Russell Lynch

The banking industry has not been short of examples of unscrupulous behaviour. But Thomas Ammann, the two-timing insider dealer jailed yesterday, is up there with the best of them.

The Mizuho banker persuaded his two girlfriends, who were unaware of each other's existence, to invest fortunes in a firm he knew was about to be bought, also exposing them to the risk of prosecution for insider trading.

Ammann urged Christina Weckwerth, 44, and Jessica Mang, 30, to buy shares in the Dutch photocopy company Océ, which he knew was about to be taken over by Canon, in return for a 50 per cent share of the profits.

Ms Weckwerth and Dr Mang were cleared of one count of insider dealing after a jury found they did not know they were trading illegally.



**HMV'S NIGHTMARE
BEFORE
CHRISTMAS**
P52



FTSE100 -0.27%
▼5929.61 -16.24

NIKKEI +1.68%
▲9742.73 +161.27

EURO/POUND €1.2319
▼-0.32c

GOLD \$1692.75
▼-23.5

FTSE250 -0.10%
▼12,211.57 -12.74

FTSE EUROFIRST 300 -0.42%
▼1134.86 -4.79

DOLLAR/POUND \$1.6105
▼-0.62c

OIL* \$109.44
▲+1.39

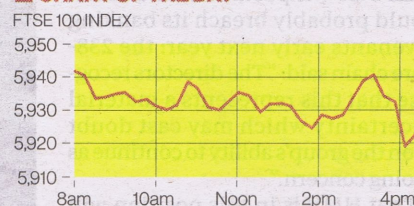
DOW JONES* -0.42%
▼13,191.71 -55.34

FTSE ALL SHARE -0.25%
▼3100.57 -7.68

DOLLAR/EURO \$1.3073
▼-0.17c

*figures at 5pm

CHART OF THE DAY



Chancellor hints at big inflation shake-up

By **BEN CHU**
Economics Editor

George Osborne yesterday signalled he would consider scrapping the Bank of England's 2 per cent inflation target and replacing it with a more pro-growth mandate.

The Chancellor was asked by the Commons Treasury Committee for his view of the incoming Bank of England Governor, Mark Carney, who suggested this week that a nominal GDP growth objective for central banks might be more effective in stimulating weak economies than traditional inflation targets.

Mr Osborne told the MPs on the committee that it is "good there is a debate" on the subject and added that the discussion was "totally to be expected after everything that has happened to the international economy, and indeed to the British economy over the last four or five years".

The Chancellor stressed that he had "no plans" to ditch the present 2 per cent target for Threadneedle Street and that any decisions about the monetary policy framework would have to be decided by the government.

He added: "You would want to be satisfied, and parliament would want to be satisfied, that you were getting some very significant rewards in return for moving away from that." But Mr Osborne made no attempt to conceal his interest in the idea. Moving

away from an inflation target would be a revolutionary and deeply controversial shift in monetary policy.

The Bank of England has had a 2 per cent inflation target since it was granted independence in 1997. The central objective for the Bank's monetary policy committee is to hit the target over a two-year horizon. Some critics have complained that the target has prevented the Bank from injecting sufficient stimulus into the economy since the 2008/09 financial crisis. But others say that the Bank has effectively ignored the target because inflation has persistently been above 2 per cent in recent years.

At a speech in Toronto on Monday Mr Carney said NGDP targeting "could in many respects be more powerful" in helping stimulate an economy than traditional inflation targeting when policy interest rates have already been cut to very low levels. The Bank of England's main rate has been at a record low of 0.5 per cent since March 2009. The UK economy has grown by just 0.6 per cent since Mr Osborne became Chancellor.

Mr Osborne shocked the City of London last month when he named Mr Carney, the head of the Canadian central bank, as the successor to Sir Mervyn King, when the present Governor steps down in June 2013. The wide expectation was that the present Bank Deputy Governor, Paul Tucker, would be named.



Ammann's girlfriends Jessica Mang, top, and Christina Weckwerth were persuaded to invest PEXEL/CENTRAL NEWS

A banker for the age: Two-timing insider dealer is sent to prison for two years

By **RUSSELL LYNCH**

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Mang, 30, to buy shares in Dutch photocopy company Oce, which he knew was about to be taken over by Canon, in return for a 50 per cent share of the profits. Ms Weckwerth, a wealthy divorcee, made a £900,000 profit and Dr Mang scraped together savings and borrowed on credit cards to make a £26,000 return on a £39,000 investment.

Ms Weckwerth and Dr Mang were cleared of one count of insider dealing after a jury found they did not know they were trading illegally. True to form, the banker was finally arrested in November 2010 in bed with a Japanese

woman, and has since fathered a child with a woman who has returned to China.

Sentencing Ammann to two years and eight months, Judge Anthony Leonard said the jail term had to reflect the blow to public confidence in a City held in "increasingly low esteem" due to the activities of a "few unscrupulous and dishonest persons". Tracey McDermott, director of enforcement and financial crime at the Financial Services Authority, said the behaviour "damages the reputation and standing of the financial services industry as a whole".

BG's new boss 'breached safety rules at Shell in the North Sea'

By **MARK LEFTLY**

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whistleblower Bill Campbell, a former Shell group auditor, and were made public in a 2007 email to Shell chairman Jorma Ollila. In 2003, two oil workers died on Shell's Brent Bravo platform, which a fatal accident inquiry in Aberdeen said could have been prevented if a hole in a corroding pipeline had been fixed.

A spokesman for BG told *The*

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