

DO FELL
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Sun CITY

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THE PAGE YOU CAN TRUST

■ **CHELSEA FC** owner Roman Abramovich spent £1.2billion on a 7 per cent stake in the world's biggest nickel and palladium miner **NORILSK NICKEL**, having the largest say in how it is run.

BA CLASS SOAR-FARE

BRITISH AIRWAYS plans to follow in the tracks of trains — and offer onboard upgrades to passengers.

The Sun can reveal the airline is close to rolling out a trial where customers will be able to splash the cash to move up a cabin.

Pricing has not yet been worked

out. But it is part of a series of improvements planned for 2013 — including feedback on catering.

Last week it emerged BA was going to start allowing passengers on long-haul flights to watch films from the moment they take their seat until they land. But yesterday

union chiefs at **UNITE** expressed "bitter disappointment" at BA's plans to cut 400 jobs — as revealed by The Sun.

Unite national officer Oliver Richardson said: "It will be a blow for loyal staff who now face an uncertain Christmas and New Year."



Quizzed... Lord Stevenson

'Cuckoo' peer rap over fall of HBOS

FORMER HALIFAX BANK OF SCOTLAND chairman Lord Stevenson was slammed for living in "cloud cuckoo land" yesterday over the bank's collapse.

Ex-Chancellor Lord Lawson ripped into the peer for failing to appreciate HBOS caused its own 2008 downfall through risky lending.

Lord Stevenson was being quizzed by a parliamentary commission into banking standards.

Evidence emerged that he claimed in March 2008 that HBOS was in "as safe a harbour as possible".

Seven months later it had to be bailed out by **LLOYDS**, eventually losing **£26BILLION** on corporate loans.

Lord Stevenson admitted the "true level of risk" may not have been appreciated. He blamed the collapse of **LEHMAN BROTHERS** in September 2008 for HBOS' failure.

He added: "We failed to plan for catastrophe. We were not aware until very late in 2008 that we were suffering from a heart attack."

ECONOMY IS LIKE ARSENAL

Guru: It's going nowhere..so cut tax

THE Chancellor was last night urged to cut Income Tax to stop the economy misfiring like Premier League under-achievers ARSENAL.

Top City guru Dr Gerard Lyons called on George Osborne to be "bolder and bigger" when he makes today's critical Autumn Statement.

He said the Chancellor had to go for growth, be upbeat, but ultimately "put more money in people's pockets".

He told The Sun: "I'd like to see a penny off income tax. The economy

EXCLUSIVE

at the moment is like Arsenal: Going nowhere. It's not as bad as it could be, yet far short of where it should be."

Fulham fan Dr Lyons has been one of the most accurate forecasters in the City since the credit crisis first erupted.

He said the Chancellor — a Chelsea supporter — had been right to focus on cutting borrowing but it was time for Plan B.

He added: "The only way to bring the deficit down is through economic growth.

"If you're in a hole you have to stop digging at some point."

The personal income

tax allowance rises to £9,205 in April following proposals revealed in the Budget this March. But Dr Lyons said the Chancellor should go further.

And instead of an income tax cut, the guru said the Chancellor could cut VAT.

While he compared our economy to Arsenal, he said Manchester United was like America, Manchester City resembled gas-rich Qatar and QPR was like Greece or **FRANCE**.

The British Chambers of Commerce added its weight to the calls for action in a last ditch plea to George Osborne last night.

The business body wants to see measures to incentivise investment, support exporters and means-test winter allowances for over 60s.



Off-form... George Osborne as he'd look in Arsenal team



TESCO HOISTING ITS SALES

TESCO leapt back to the top of the grocery charts yesterday — in a huge boost for boss Phil Clarke.

Shock figures showed the chain — a favourite of Sailing singer Rod Stewart — was the fastest growing of the "Big Four" supermarkets. Sales were up 2.7 per cent on last year in the

four weeks to November 25. It compares to 1.7 per cent at **ASDA**, 1.4 per cent at **SAINSBURY'S** — and a 1.7 per cent **FALL** at **MORRISONS**.

It was the first time Tesco had topped the four-week figures, by market research specialists **KANTAR**, since the Olympics. It came as

Rod, 67, right, popped into Tesco's Welwyn Garden City HQ to plug new book *Rod: The Autobiography*.

The star told one fan: "We have a Tesco in Epping. As far as I know we get all our food from there.

"I see all the bags come in and I check the receipt!"



WILLIAM HILL cut the price it was willing to pay for **SPORTINGBET** from £530million to £485million last night after a recent slump in the online bookies