



SPENDING BY PRINCE CHARLES RISES, ACCOUNTS SHOW

Prince Charles's income from the taxpayer and spending on travel shot up last year, prompting demands from republicans for an urgent inquiry. Accounts released by the prince's Clarence House office showed that Charles spent £1.08-million (\$1.72-million) on air and rail travel in 2010-11, a rise of 56 per cent from the previous year. His income from the taxpayer, referred to as grants in aid and government income, also rose by 17 per cent to £1.96-million, the accounts showed, while his tax bill was up from £3.5-million to £4.4-million. The

prince's principal private secretary Sir Michael Peat said the figures had been affected by the wedding of Charles's son William to Kate Middleton in April. He also defended the rise in travel costs and an increase in the number of staff, saying staffing costs had only risen by 1 per cent as many extra employees had been temporary. The latest figures had also been skewed by comparison with the low spending of the previous year. However, anti-monarchist group Republic said it would be writing to parliament's public accounts committee to ask them to launch an in-



quiry. Charles's spending is spiralling out of control. Why on earth are taxpayers continuing to fund his lavish lifestyle when public services are being cut," Republic spokesman Graham Smith said in a statement.

IN BRIEF

TORTURE - New Government guidelines threaten to expose British troops, intelligence service agents and other personnel to charges of aiding and abetting torture, the High Court has been told. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is asking two senior judges to block the guidance on interrogating suspects overseas.

UNDERAGE DRINKERS - A project to stop adults buying alcohol for underage drinkers has begun in a Cornwall resort. During the summer, teams of youth service workers will visit campsites to highlight the dangers. Police said the offence can lead to a £5,000 fine.

CARE SPENDING - Council spending on social care for older people is likely to be cut by 8.4 per cent.

TRADE DEALS - David Cameron has announced the signing of £1.4bn of trade deals between British companies and China, following a London summit with Wen Jiabao, China's premier.

THORNTONS - Chocolatier Thorntons said it would close a third of its own stores over three years on lower demand as consumers grapple with rising prices and subdued wage growth, sending its shares down 5.6 per cent.

ORGAN DONOR - Doctors have renewed their support to changing the UK's organ donation system. The British Medical Association (BMA) has faced calls to reconsider its policy of being in favour of a "soft opt-out" scheme - which it has adopted for more than a decade.

JOB FIGHT FOR GRADUATES - Universities will have to publish details of how many of their recent graduates have jobs and how much they earn. Currently 83 graduates are chasing every job vacancy, double the number two years ago.

BLAZE - Up to 40 firefighters battled a London flat block blaze in Abbey Street, in Bermondsey, south London which was thought to have been sparked by a lightning strike.

CHARITY AUCTION - A handbag belonging to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sold for 25,000 pounds at a charity auction.

CAMERON TO URGE PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS NOT TO STRIKE

Prime minister David Cameron will appeal to public sector workers not to strike, at the Local Government Association conference. Mr Cameron is expected to tell workers that public sector pension arrangements are currently "not fair to the taxpayer" ahead of a planned strike by 750,000



teachers, lecturers and civil servants this week. Talks between Downing Street officials and Unions failed to reach a solution, although the government did offer significant compromises over pensions. Council bosses said unions have rejected an offer which would see half of staff saved from pay cuts. However Unison and Unite said the council refused to remove dismissal notices for staff who do not want to sign new contracts on July 11.

ADMINISTRATOR SELLS JANE NORMAN STORES

The administrator to troubled women's fashion chain Jane Norman has sold a third of its UK stores in a pre-pack deal to Edinburgh Woollen Mill, the privately owned knitwear retailer, for an undisclosed sum. As signalled by the Financial Times the Dumfries-based retailer has taken on 33 of Jane Norman's UK stores, and has a further 28 stores under consideration under a so-called transitional services agree-

ment. The remaining 33 stores will close immediately. The sale includes the stock in all 94 Jane Norman stores, plus the stock in its 90 UK concessions in department store group Debenhams. The retailer had been trying to refinance £140m of borrowings from a consortium of 12 separate lenders, but when this failed to raise the required funds, it put itself up for sale in May.

WHITE PAPER: ONE IN FOUR UNDERGRADUATE PLACES WILL BE UP FOR GRABS

A quarter of all student places are to be open to full competition in 2012-13, with funding following the student, in a government bid to force higher education institutions to vie for the brightest and best applicants at one end of the sector, and to compete on price at the other. The changes have been unveiled in the long-awaited White Paper on the future of higher education. It says that in the first year of the new funding regime, around 65,000 high-

achieving students will be able to go to whichever university will have them. This represents a change from the present strict controls on the number of students each university can accept. It raises the prospect of some elite institutions expanding their intake to hoover up more top A-level students. The government's aim is to ensure that students with grades AAB or above at A level will have a better chance of reaching their first choice of university.

SPORT

FOOTBALL - Luis Alvaro Ribeiro said that Real Madrid, Barcelona, Chelsea, Manchester City and Anzhi Makhachkala of Russia are willing to pay the £45 million (\$64 million) buyout clause in Neymar's contract.

TENNIS - Sabine Lisicki continued her heart-warming run at this year's Wimbledon championships when she beat Marion Bartoli on Tuesday to become the first German woman to reach the semi-finals since 1999.

TENNIS - Maria Sharapova swaggered into the Wimbledon semi-finals with a formidable display every bit as spectacular as the thunder claps that rattled the All England Club on Tuesday.

F1 - Williams announced two more key technical appointments Tuesday with Jason Somerville returning to the team as head of aerodynamics and ex-McLaren man Mark Gillan arriving as chief operations engineer.

INTERNATIONAL

GREECE, Athens - Greek police fired teargas and battled groups of hooded youths near parliament on Tuesday in a rally against anti-austerity measures international lenders have demanded to stave off national bankruptcy.

EGYPT, Cairo - An Egyptian military court Tuesday ordered a retrial for al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri's brother, who has spent a decade in jail on charges of joining the banned organisation.

SPAIN, Madrid - Spain will propose new reforms to set spending caps for its autonomous regions and protect indebted home owners from eviction in the final months before general elections in March, the prime minister said.

THE HAGUE - The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor said Tuesday it could be "game over" within months for Muammar Gaddafi, but China reacted cautiously to the issuing of an arrest warrant for the Libyan leader on charges of crimes against humanity.

ISRAEL, Jerusalem - Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Tuesday participants in an aid flotilla planning to challenge an Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip were seeking "confrontation and blood."

BAHRAIN, Manama - Saudi Arabia will withdraw most of its security forces from neighbouring Bahrain, where they helped quell protests in March, a Bahrain government source said.

FRANCE, Paris - France's opposition Socialist leader Martine Aubry launched a bid Tuesday to challenge Nicolas Sarkozy for the presidency in 2012, casting herself as a people's champion fighting power and privilege.

TURKEY, Ankara - Turkey's new parliament opened in a tense atmosphere on Tuesday as the main opposition party and Kurdish deputies boycotted the ceremony in protest over lawmakers kept in prison.

IRAN, Teheran - Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards fired 14 missiles in an exercise Tuesday, one of them a medium-range weapon capable of striking Israel or US targets in the Gulf.

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