



S. Korea inflation near 24-yr high; markets focus on weak economy

SEOUL, Aug 2 (Reuters) - South Korea's consumer inflation sped up to an almost 24-year high in July, data showed on Tuesday, but other figures indicated the rate of price rises may be near a peak.

Signs of economic slowdown, meanwhile, sent bond yields tumbling.

Bond yields were also pushed lower by a central bank comment that the pick-up in the annual inflation rate to 6.3% in July from 6.0% in June was what it had expected when raising interest rates by an unusually.....

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London markets lose early gains despite UK banks' best efforts

A bumper crop of results from Britain's largest lender and Asia-focused HSBC initially boosted London markets today, before an afternoon collapse.

The capital's premier FTSE 100 index dropped 0.13 per cent to 7,413.42 points, while the domestically



focused mid-cap FTSE 250 index, which is more aligned with the health of the UK economy, added 0.22 per cent to reach 20,079.23 points.

Investors piled into London.....

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China-Taiwan: Tensions spike ahead of Pelosi's expected visit

Taiwan is bracing for a potential show of force from China as US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was expected to arrive on the island late Tuesday.

Her visit - which is not backed by the White House - would be the first by such a senior US official in decades.

Pelosi is the third-highest ranking official in the US government and a long-time critic of Beijing.

China has repeatedly warned against the visit and on Tuesday said the US would "pay the price".

Taiwan is a self-ruled island, but claimed by China, which sees it as a breakaway province.

Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had been in communication with the US about sensitivity of the visit.

"The US side will bear the responsibility and pay the price for undermining China's sovereign security interests," she said.

On Tuesday China sent warplanes up to the median line, the informal dividing line in the Taiwan Strait between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan.

Its forces have also been holding live fire drills and the Chinese military's eastern command posted a video online saying it was "fully prepared for any eventuality".....

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