BANK OF GHANA NEWS BRIEF
News Summaries from Foreign and Local Media

Friday 31 July 2026

Euro zone inflation ticks up in July, bolstering rate hike case
Euro zone inflation ticked up in July, adding to an already strong case for another ECB interest rate hike, especially as high oil prices foreshadow a further broadening of price pressures. Inflation in the 21 nations sharing the euro currency picked up to 2.9% in July from 2.8% a month earlier. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Major central banks steer a cautious hiking path
The bond market selloff after this week's Federal Reserve meeting highlights the challenge policymakers face as they grapple with what higher energy prices and the uncertain consequences of AI advances will mean for their economies. The Fed left interest rates unchanged, even as chief Kevin Warsh pledged an unwavering commitment to bring inflation down, confusing traders and triggering heavy selling in longer-dated bonds (www.reuters.com 30/07/26)

Wars, cyberattacks could challenge euro zone banks' FX liquidity, ECB says
Wars, supply chain disruptions and cyberattacks are among the top risks facing euro zone banks and some could fall short of foreign currency liquidity requirements in case of acute stress, the ECB said based on a stress test today. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Fed chief Warsh faces hard choice on inflation after bond market's 'red flag'
Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh's emphatic declarations that inflation would be brought down without signaling a readiness to raise interest rates triggered a sharp selloff in bonds that may force a hard choice: defying President Trump's desire for easier monetary policy or battling a growing cadre of fellow US central bankers determined to tighten it. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Bank of England keeps rates on hold, awaits clearer sign of Iran war inflation hit
The Bank of England kept interest rates on hold on Thursday as it waits for a keener sense of how much the U.S.-Iran war will push up inflation, although the collapse of a tentative truce prompted a third policymaker to back a rate hike. (www.reuters.com 30/07/26)

UK business morale hits four-month high in July, Lloyds survey shows
British businesses turned more confident about the economic outlook this month, reflecting a brief fall in energy prices after a ceasefire in the Iran war, a survey by Lloyds showed today. "July's rise in confidence appears to reflect a more stable global backdrop. With lower energy prices and reduced uncertainty helping to lift firms' view of the wider economy," said Hann-Ju Ho, senior economist at Lloyds commercial banking. (www.reuters.com 30/07/26)

UK markets expect £50 billion of QT in year to September 2027, BoE says
Investors expect the BoE to slow the pace at which it reduces its bond portfolio to £50bn in the 12 months to the end of September 2027 from £70bn in the current 12-month period, a BoE survey showed. The result published on Friday was unchanged from the BoE's previous Market Participants Survey in June. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Oil refining margins have added to Europe's fuel price rise, ECB blog says
A rise in refining margins to near record levels contributed to the increase in euro zone fuel prices in recent months and a further margin increase is still likely in August before a retreat, an ECB blog post said today. Euro zone inflation rose to 2.9% in July from levels around 2% before the US and Israeli war in Iran. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3469	(1.3283)	1.3470	(1.3284)
+USD/EUR	1.1529	(1.1378)	1.1530	(1.1379)
*GHS/USD	11.6801	(11.6542)	11.6917	(11.6658)
*GHS/GBP	15.7319	(15.4802)	15.7488	(15.4969)
*GHS/EUR	13.4668	(13.2616)	13.4801	(13.2736)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 31/07/26 (Rates for 30/07/26 in brackets)
* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 31/07/26 (Rates for 30/07/26 in brackets)

German unemployment rises slightly more than expected in July

The number of unemployed people in Germany rose slightly more than expected in July and came close to the politically important 3m mark in seasonally adjusted terms. Labour market data typically react with a lag to geopolitical shocks such as the Iran conflict, which started in February. In seasonally adjusted terms, the jobless figure grew by 6,000 to 2.99m, labour office figures showed (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

French preliminary inflation at 2.4% in July, above estimates

French consumer prices rose more than expected in July, preliminary data from INSEE showed today. France's harmonized inflation rate, adjusted for comparison with other euro zone countries, was 2.4% year-on-year in July. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Italy EU-harmonised CPI slows to 2.9% y/y in July, slightly above forecast

Italian EU-harmonised consumer prices (HICP) fell 1.0% in July from the month before due to seasonal summer discounts, with the annual inflation rate slowing slightly to 2.9% from June's 3.0%, preliminary data showed on Friday, amid high energy costs due to turmoil in the Middle East. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

BOJ nods to chance of early rate hike as Tokyo props up yen

The BoJ today warned that underlying inflation could exceed its target and said future policy discussions would focus on upside price risks, signalling the chance of a rate hike as soon as September. The hawkish signals came after the government's suspected yen-buying market intervention in New York markets that underscored Tokyo's concern over the pain the weak yen was inflicting on households. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Polish CPI accelerates to 3.0% in July, fuelling rate hold expectations

Polish inflation accelerated in July in line with economists' expectations, driven primarily by rising fuel prices, reinforcing the market's belief that interest rates will remain unchanged for now. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Oil steady as traders assess shipping flows; monthly gains in sight

Oil prices were steady today and on track for a monthly rise as traders assessed supply flows through key maritime chokepoints and developments in U.S.-Iran talks. Brent futures were up 47 cents, or 0.53%, at $89.50 a barrel by 0952 GMT, while U.S. WTI crude was up 4 cents, or 0.05%, to $83.63 a barrel (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Gold slips as US dollar regains footing; heads for first monthly gain in five

Gold dropped more than 1% today as the U.S. dollar regained footing but was still on track to post its first monthly rise since February as investors pared back rate hike bets after the Federal Reserve meeting this week. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Stocks climb as Amazon, Microsoft results reignite AI trade, yen swings

Global stocks rallied on Friday as robust results from Amazon and Microsoft reassured bruised investors to return to AI trade, while currency traders stayed alert to intervention a day after Japanese authorities likely stepped in to prop up the yen. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

IMF completes Egypt reviews, unlocks $1.8 billion

The IMF said it completed two reviews of some facilities for Egypt, giving the country access to about $1.8bn. Egypt would receive about $1.5bn under the IMF's 48-month loan programme after completing the seventh review, along with roughly $272m under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, bringing total disbursements under Egypt's current arrangement with the fund to about $7.3bn (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)

Ghana's cocoa production is expected to fall 16% next season

Ghana's cocoa production is expected to fall by at least 16% in the 2026 to 2027 season, market regulator COCOBOD said, citing weather effects, the crop's natural fruit-bearing cycle and disease, adding detail to warnings farmers have raised. (www.reuters.com 31/07/26)