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

Thursday 13 August 2026

US budget deficit widens in July on higher outlays, negative tariff receipts
The US Fed budget deficit for July jumped to $432bn, a record for the month, as higher outlays and more negative tariff revenues also brought the 2026 fiscal-year-to-date budget gap to $1.799tr, topping the full fiscal 2025 deficit with 2 months left in the fiscal year, the US Treasury said. Last month's budget gap, which was partly inflated by calendar shifts in benefit payments, was $141b, or 48%, higher than in July 2025. (www.reuters.com 12/08/26)

UK GDP growth eases in Q2
The UK economy expanded at a slower pace in Q2, data from the Office for National Statistics shows today. Real gross domestic product grew 0.4% from a quarter, following the first quarter's 0.6% expansion. But the pace of growth matched expectations. On the production side of GDP, services growth weakened to 0.5 % from 0.8 %. (www.rttnews.com 13/08/26)

German inflation accelerates in July
Germany's inflation accelerated as estimated in July as the end of government's fuel tax pushed up energy prices, Destatis showed Wednesday [12/08]. Consumer prices grew 2.8% year-on-year in July, faster than the 2.3% increase seen in June. The rate was the highest since April when inflation stood at 2.9%. The statistical office confirmed the provisional estimate published on July 30. (www.rttnews.com 12/08/26)

Japan's producer price gains stay high as BOJ mulls rate path
Prices for Japan's corporate goods continued to rise at an elevated pace in July, keeping high cost pressure on companies, as central bank officials continue to consider whether to proceed with additional interest rate hikes to contain inflation. The measure of input prices for Japanese firms rose 7.2% in July from a year earlier. (www.bloomberg.com 13/08/26)

Japan's wholesale inflation stays hot, bolstering odds of September BOJ hike
Japan's annual wholesale inflation remained elevated in July, highlighting broadening price pressures and reinforcing market expectations of an interest rate hike in Sept. Data came in the wake of hawkish communication from the Bank of Japan, including a summary of opinions at its July meeting that shows some policymakers arguing for a faster pace of rate hikes to counter inflation risks. (www.reuters.com 13/08/26)

Italy inflation eases less than estimated
Consumer price inflation in Italy moderated less than estimated initially in July to the lowest level in three months, the latest data from the statistical office showed on Wednesday [12/08]. Consumer price inflation slowed to 2.9%in July from 3.0% in June. The flash estimate was 2.8%. The annual price growth in unprocessed food eased to 3.6% from 4.4%. (www.rttnews.com 12/08/26)

Australia housing price drop helps slow economy, RBA's Kent says
A fall in home prices is making financial conditions in Australia more restrictive, according to a senior central bank official, helping efforts to reduce aggregate demand and cool the economy. "The housing market appears to have softened by somewhat more than the recent increase in interest rates would imply" (www.bloomberg.com 13/08/26)

India inflation rises slightly
India's consumer price inflation rose slightly in July, data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation showed Wednesday [12/08]. Consumer price inflation rose to 4.45% in July from 4.38% in June. The annual rate was marginally below economists' forecast of 4.50%. At the same time, food inflation came in at 5.52% compared to 5.32% in the previous month. (www.rttnews.com 13/08/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3504	(1.3506)	1.3505	(1.3507)
+USD/EUR	1.1535	(1.1540)	1.1535	(1.1541)
*GHS/USD	11.3443	(11.7341)	11.3557	(11.7459)
*GHS/GBP	15.3194	(15.8481)	15.3358	(15.8651)
*GHS/EUR	13.0857	(13.5419)	13.0986	(13.5542)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 13/08/26 (Rates for 12/08/26 in brackets)
* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 13/08/26 (Rates for 12/08/26 in brackets)

Portugal inflation confirmed at 3.0%
Portugal's consumer price inflation eased as estimated initially in July to the lowest level in four months, the latest data from Statistics Portugal showed on Wednesday [12/08]. The consumer price index rose 3.0% annually in July, slower than the 3.2% increase in June. That was in line with the flash data published on July 31. (www.rttnews.com 13/08/26)

Bank of Korea makes first gold-linked investment in 13 years
South Korea's central bank bought gold-related assets for the first time in 13 years, joining global reserve managers turning to the precious metal as a hedge against geopolitical and economic uncertainty. The Bank of Korea held 679,765 shares of SPDR Gold Shares worth about $250m at the end of Q2. (www.bloomberg.com 13/08/26)

Romania inflation eases to 1-year low
Romania's consumer price inflation eased less-than-expected in July to the lowest level in a year, data from the National Institute of Statistics showed on Wednesday [12/08]. The consumer price index, or CPI, rose 8.2% year-on-year in July, slower than the 10.4% increase in June. (www.rttnews.com 12/08/26)

Sweden inflation confirmed at 0.2%
Sweden's consumer price inflation moderated as estimated initially in July to the lowest level in three months, the latest data from Statistics Sweden showed today. The consumer price index, or CPI, rose 0.2% year-over-year in July, following a 0.7% increase in June. That was in line with the flash data published on Aug 6. (www.rttnews.com 13/08/26)

Finland current account surplus up in June
Finland's current account surplus increased in June from a year ago, Statistics Finland said. The current account showed a surplus of €2.8m in June, up from €1.3bn in the corresponding month last year. In May, it was a deficit of €449m. The goods account surplus advanced to €2.8bn from €1.1bn last year, while the deficit in the service account balance widened to €0.7bn from €0.4bn. (www.rttnews.com 12/08/26)

Oil slips on weaker demand and higher US stocks amid supply disruptions
Oil prices declined today as investors assessed prospects for weaker global demand this year and higher US crude stocks, while prices found support from a lack of progress in talks over Strait of Hormuz and disruptions to supply. Brent futures were down 91 cents, to $88.07 a barrel at 0800 GMT. (www.reuters.com 12/08/26)

Nigerian Central Bank widens access to Open Market Operations
Nigeria's central bank broadened participation in Open Market Operations, allowing all eligible investors including individuals, corporates and non-bank financial institutions to participate in the purchase and trading of the securities. (www.bloomberg.com 13/08/26)

Kenya expects IMF visit soon, will discuss new programme request
Kenya is expecting an IMF team to visit Nairobi soon for regular consultations, when the 2 sides will also discuss the country's request for a new support programme, its central bank governor Kamau Thugge said. (www.reuters.com 12/08/26)

Cote d'Ivoire reaffirms commitment to fighting financial crime
Ivorian Minister of Economy, Finance and Budget Adama Coulibaly has reaffirmed Cote d'Ivoire's commitment to combating financial crime. He said at the inauguration in Abidjan of the new Information Center of the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA). (www.xinhuanet.com 13/08/26)

Private sector credit grows 41.2%; BoG governor urges banks to deepen lending
Private sector credit in Ghana grew by 41.2% in June 2026, a significant increase from the 8.6% recorded in the same period last year, as easing financial conditions begin to translate into stronger lending to businesses. Governor of the Bank of Ghana (BoG), Dr. Johnson Asiama, disclosed the development when he engaged Chief Executive Officers and heads of banks, noting that real private sector credit growth also stood at 34.1%. (www.myjoyonline.com 13/08/26)