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

Friday, 21 August 2026

ECB says consumers' inflation expectations edged down in July

Inflation expectations among euro-area consumers inched down in July, easing European Central Bank concern over price risks from the Iran war. Consumer prices were seen rising 2.9% over the next year, down from 3% in June, survey by the ECB shows today. The three-year gauge, which is more important for setting monetary policy, fell to 2.7% from 2.8% in May. (www.bloomberg.com 21/08/26)

Eurozone business activity edges up on manufacturing surge

Private-sector activity in the euro area unexpectedly improved slightly in August, thanks to the strongest manufacturing growth in more than four years. The Composite Purchasing Managers' Index compiled by S&P Global rose to 52.1 from 52 in July, staying well above the 50-threshold separating growth from contraction. (www.bloomberg.com 21/08/26)

Fed officials tread carefully after Treasury's bond market intervention

Two Fed officials expressed caution when asked how the Treasury's debt management changes could affect the US central bank's monetary policy choices. "We focus very simply on the labor market and on inflation, independently set monetary policy, independent of debt management or fiscal policy," St. Louis Fed President Alberto Musalem said. (www.reuters.com 21/08/26)

UK posts unexpected budget deficit in July as spending rises

Britain's government recorded an unexpected budget deficit of £1.8bn ($2.5bn) in July, as higher government spending caused by inflation counteracted record self-assessed income tax receipts for the month. Economists pointed to a balanced budget, while the Office for Budget Responsibility's projections put in a £500m surplus. (www.reuters.com 21/08/26)

China steps up fiscal support to boost consumption: official

China's Ministry of Finance has strengthened fiscal support for consumption as part of the country's efforts to expand domestic demand and unlock consumption potential. This year, the ministry has allocated CN¥187.5bn (about $27.65bn) to support consumer goods trade-in programs, helping generate 178m purchases with a combined sale of approximately CN¥1.32tr. (www.xinhuanet.com 20/08/26)

Japan's budget requests in focus as fiscal fears, rates rise

Japan's budget requests for next year are set to hit a record that may overstate the pace of fiscal expansion, as Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi seeks to pack more spending into the initial plan rather than leaning on supplementary budgets in the year. Those requests will come against a backdrop of rising borrowing costs with the Finance Ministry. (www.bloomberg.com 21/08/26)

Japan overall inflation climbs 1.9% on year in July

Overall consumer prices in Japan were up 1.9% on year in July, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications said today. That exceeded expectations for an increase of 1.8% following the downwardly revised 1.6% gain in June (originally 1.7%.) On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, inflation rose 0.4%, matching forecasts and up from 0.3% in the previous month. (www.rttnews.com 20/08/26)

India economic growth may beat RBI's 6.7% forecast, Gupta says

India may grow closer to 7% in the financial year through March, stronger than the central bank's 6.7% forecast, Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta said, a pace that would keep it among the world's fastest-growing major economies. Her upbeat estimate is based on expectation of a robust April-June quarter, Gupta said. (www.bloomberg.com 21/08/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3631	(1.3601)	1.3632	(1.3602)
+USD/EUR	1.1675	(1.1664)	1.1676	(1.1664)
*GHS/USD	11.0945	(11.0695)	11.1056	(10.0805)
*GHS/GBP	15.1228	(15.0556)	15.1391	(15.0717)
*GHS/EUR	12.9543	(12.9122)	12.9660	(12.9238)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 21/08/26 (Rates for 20/08/26 in brackets)
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Australia manufacturing PMI unchanged at 52.0 - S&P global

The manufacturing sector in Australia continued to expand in July, and at a steady pace, the latest survey from S&P Global reveals today with a manufacturing purchasing managers index score of 52.0. That's unchanged from the June reading, and it remains above the boom-or-bust line of 50 that separates expansion from contraction. (www.rttnews.com 20/08/26)

India's economic activity stays subdued as manufacturing weakens

India's economic activity remained subdued in August as a slowdown in manufacturing was offset by slight growth in the services sector, a flash survey by HSBC Holdings Plc showed today. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index fell to 52.9 this month from 53.5 in July. (www.bloomberg.com 21/08/26)

Strong trade momentum boosts Malaysia's 2026 export outlook

Malaysia's strong trade performance in the first seven months of 2026 has strengthened economists' confidence in the country's external sector outlook. Maybank Investment Bank said that Malaysia's trade performance remains robust, underpinned by the artificial intelligence. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/08/26)

Philippine poverty rate falls to record low of 9.7%

The Philippines recorded a poverty incidence rate of 9.7% in 2025, the lowest in history, the Department of Economy, Planning and Development said today. The poverty threshold was set at ₱14,634 (around $237) in monthly income for a family of 5, with the number of poor Filipinos falling from 17.5m in 2023 to 11m in 2025. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/08/26)

New Zealand July trade shortfall NZ$1.9bn

New Zealand posted a seasonally adjusted merchandise trade deficit of NZ$1.9bn in July, Statistics New Zealand said today. That badly missed forecasts for a shortfall of NZ$175m following the NZ$23m deficit in June. Exports climbed 14% on year to NZ$7.4bn, down from NZ$8.09bn in May. (www.rttnews.com 21/08/26)

Oil set for second weekly rise as unsettled US-Iran war crimps supply

Oil prices fell slightly today but were on track for a second weekly rise as the stalemated U.S.-Iran war continues to disrupt supply from the key Middle East producing region. Brent crude futures fell 34 cents, or 0.4%, to $93.44 a barrel by 0646 GMT, after climbing 2.4% in the previous session. (www.reuters.com 21/08/26)

AfDB says land restoration must become development and security priority for Africa

The African Development Bank is pressing for greater investment in land restoration across Africa's fragile and conflict-affected regions, arguing that reversing environmental degradation should be treated not only as a climate objective but as an instrument for strengthening food security, livelihoods and political stability. (www.norvanreports.com 21/08/26)

South African rand strengthens against weaker dollar, supported by gold gains

The South African rand strengthened today as gold prices edged higher and remained on course for a third weekly gain, while a weaker U.S. dollar and the U.S. Treasury's bond buyback initiative boosted sentiment toward risk-sensitive currencies and precious metals. (www.reuters.com 21/08/26)

Egyptian expat remittances hit record $47.3bn in FY 2025-2026

Remittances from Egyptians working abroad rose to a record $47.3bn in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) said Thursday [20/08]. The figure marked a 29.6% increase from $36.5bn in the previous fiscal year, the CBE said. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/08/26)

BoG encourages banks to list on GSE to unlock long-term capital

The BoG is encouraging more commercial banks to list on the Ghana Stock Exchange as part of efforts to deepen the capital market and increase access to long-term financing for businesses. The Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Asiama, said a stronger presence of banks on the stock exchange would provide them with additional sources of long-term capital. (www.myjoyonline.com 20/08/26)