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

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Bond market anxiety raises stakes for Warsh's debut Jackson Hole speech

US Fed Chairman Kevin Warsh's debut speech at the annual Jackson Hole conference this week, self-advertised as a choice between discussing near-term policy or broader principles, has taken on added weight as traders and analysts look for guidance about the recent jump in bond yields and for reassurance of his independence from the Trump administration. (www.reuters.com 25/08/26)

German GDP growth beats estimate

Germany's economy expanded more than estimated in the second quarter as exports remained strong despite geopolitical tensions, official data revealed today. Gross domestic product (GDP) posted a quarterly growth of 0.3%, which was revised up from 0.2% estimated initially, data from Destatis showed. This followed an expansion of 0.4% in Q1. (www.rttnews.com 25/08/26)

Japan leading index revised higher in June

Japan's leading index remained stable in June, slightly higher than seen in the flash estimate, final data from the Cabinet Office showed on Tuesday. The leading index, which measures future economic activity, came in at 116.5 in June, the same as in May, which was revised up from 116.4. The flash score for June was also 116.4. (www.rttnews.com 25/08/26)

BOJ’s price gauge stays above 2% amid rate hike speculation

A Bank of Japan measure of underlying inflation remained above the central bank’s 2% target, supporting widespread expectations of a Sept. rate hike. The consumer-price gauge, which strips out fresh food and the effects of various government measures, rose by 2.3% in July from a year earlier on a 2025-base basis. That compares with a 1.8% increase in the government’s core inflation measure released last week. (www.bloomberg.com 25/08/26)

Canada to unveil Trump tariff response including loans, benefits

Canada’s government today will announce a range of measures to “protect and support” its workers and businesses in response to 50% US tariffs which were applied to about $20bn of its annual exports on Saturday [29/08]. (www.bloomberg.com 25/08/26)

Australian bank investors brace for tough times as mortgage demand plummets

Investors are questioning the rich valuations on Australia's biggest banks as a downturn in lucrative mortgage lending threatens to stifle growth and intensify competition for borrowers. The "Big Four" banks each reported double-digit falls in home-loan applications, citing recent tax policy changes and higher interest rates. (www.reuters.com 25/08/26)

Hungary heads for third rate cut with inflation at decade-low

Hungary’s central bank is poised to deliver its third consecutive interest rate cut after the inflation rate fell to the lowest level in a decade. The National Bank of Hungary will reduce the benchmark rate by a quarter-point to 5.5% today according to economists. The decision will be unveiled at 2 p.m. in Budapest, followed by a statement and briefing an hour later. (www.bloomberg.com 25/08/26)

RBA judged current rate allows time, ready to act if needed

Australia’s central bank opted to keep its key rate unchanged on signs that elevated inflation was gradually easing and the labor market beginning to loosen, giving it scope to assess incoming data for any signs that upside risks might “crystallize.” The Bank’s minutes of its Aug. meeting showed the board discussed the case to raise or hold the cash rate, deciding it was best to wait for additional information to get a better handle on the trajectory of inflation. (www.bloomberg.com 25/08/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3633	(1.3643)	1.3634	(1.3644)
+USD/EUR	1.1667	(1.1685)	1.1668	(1.1685)
*GHS/USD	11.1194	(11.1144)	11.1306	(11.1256)
*GHS/GBP	15.1591	(15.1634)	15.1754	(15.1797)
*GHS/EUR	12.9732	(12.9879)	12.9860	(13.0008)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 25/08/26 (Rates for 24/08/26 in brackets)
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Dollar inches up as markets weigh Iran sanctions, Treasury buybacks
The US dollar regained some strength today, as investors parsed Washington's expanded sanctions against Iran and renewed efforts to ease pressure on longer-dated Treasury yields, while cryptocurrencies extended a rally on debasement fears. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent unveiled an expansion of sanctions against Iran on Monday [24/08]. (www.reuters.com 25/08/26)

Taiwan jobless rate remains stable at 3.33%
The unemployment rate in Taiwan held steady in July, the Directorate General of Budget Accounting and Statistics reported Monday [24/08]. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate came in at 3.33% in July, the same as in the previous month. In the same period last year, the rate was also 3.33%. (www.rttnews.com 24/08/26)

Mexico's economy blooms in Q2, fastest growing pace since 2022
Mexico's economy rebounded in the second quarter from the previous three-month period, national statistics agency said, posting its strongest expansion since early 2022. Latin America's second-largest economy expanded 1.4% and rebounded from a revised 0.3% contraction in Q1. (www.reuters.com 24/08/26)

Philippine life insurance premiums jump 18% in H1
Philippine life insurance premiums rose nearly 18% year-on-year in the first half of 2026, driven largely by variable life products, local media reported on Tuesday. Total premiums grew 17.91% to 229.98bn pesos (about $3.77bn), while benefit payments rose 19.57% to 69.21bn pesos. (www.xinhuanet.com 25/08/26)

Philippines hunger rate drops in Q2
Fewer Filipino families experienced hunger in Q2 of 2026, with the hunger rate falling to 20.3% in June from 23.2% in March. The hunger rate fell in 3 of the country's 4 major regions, Metro Manila, Luzon outside Metro Manila, and the central Visayas, but rose on the southern island of Mindanao, where it reached 24%. (www.xinhuanet.com 25/08/26)

Oil extends fall as investors shrug off latest US sanctions on Iran
Oil prices fell further on Tuesday after settling down more than 2% in the previous session, with investors brushing off the impact of the latest U.S. sanctions against Iran. Brent crude futures fell 90 cents, or 1.0%, to $91.27 a barrel by 0630 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was down 76 cents, or 0.9%, at $84.25. (www.reuters.com 25/08/26)

South African rand flat ahead of leading indicator data
The South African rand was steady in early trade today , ahead of central bank data which is expected to offer fresh clues on the outlook for Africa's most industrialised economy. At 0533 GMT, the rand traded at 16.0225 against the dollar, little changed from its previous close. (www.reuters.com 25/08/26)

SEC targets African tokenisation hub as it builds Digital-Asset surveillance regime
Ghana is seeking to position itself as an African hub for the tokenisation of real-world assets, betting that digital representations of gold, property and securities can draw millions of retail investors into the country's capital markets while creating new channels for domestic and international capital. (www.norvanreports.com 25/08/26)

Tunisia's cheque reforms trigger cash surge, raising new risks for bank lending
Tunisia's reliance on physical cash has surged to a record 30.04bn dinars, or about US$10.50bn, as tougher rules governing cheques push households and businesses towards banknotes and coins, creating fresh pressure on banking-sector liquidity. (www.norvanreports.com 25/08/26)

DGPP's GH¢21.89bn 'loss' is accounting adjustment, not cash expense – Sources
The GH¢21.89bn loss recorded under the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme (DGPP) in 2025 represents an accounting adjustment rather than a direct cash expense, according to persons familiar with the programme and the Bank of Ghana (BoG). (www.myjoyonline.com 25/08/26)