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

Friday, 18 September 2026

World Bank boosts private capital mobilization to record $112bn

The World Bank on Thursday [17/09] said it attracted $112bn in private capital in the year ended June versus $69bn a year earlier, and more than triple the amount in fiscal 2022 before former Mastercard opens new tab CEO Ajay Banga became president. The bank said the record figure committed for projects it facilitates is in addition to the $123bn from its own resources for that year, for a combined $235bn. (www.reuters.com 17/09/26)

Eurozone inflation revised down to 3.2%

Eurozone inflation accelerated less than estimated in Aug. final data from Eurostat showed Thursday [17/09]. Harmonized inflation rose to 3.2% from 2.9% in July. The Aug. rate was revised down from the flash estimate of 3.3%. Meanwhile, core inflation that excludes energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, eased to 2.4%, as initially estimated, from 2.5% in July. (www.rttnews.com 17/09/26)

ECB says consumers' inflation expectations increased in August

Inflation expectations among euro-area households increased in August, a signal that the European Central Bank may have to raise interest rates further. Consumer prices were seen advancing 3% over the next year, up from 2.9% in July, a monthly poll by the ECB showed today. (www.bloomberg.com 18/09/26)

ECB's Kazaks sees rates being lifted more if economy holds up

The European Central Bank may have to raise borrowing costs to levels that curb economic activity as it seeks to get inflation under control, according to Governing Council member Martins Kazaks. The energy shock caused by the Iran war is proving to be more sustained and the ECB must do everything to avoid elevated natural gas prices from spreading to other areas of inflation. (www.bloomberg.com 18/09/26)

Major central banks on tightening path amid energy price shock

Major central banks are on a tightening path, with the Fed recalibrating its policy to a more restrictive stance, even as traders continue to price in a more aggressive policy response than projected in the Fed's dot plot. Economists say markets are overpricing future rate increases amid fears the oil shock could worsen after Houthis seized a strategic stretch of Red Sea coastline. (www.reuters.com 17/09/26)

US jobless claims fall to 196,000 during holiday week

Applications for US unemployment benefits fell to the lowest since July and recurring claims dropped to a more than two-year low, adding to signals of labor market stability. Initial claims fell 10,000 to 196,000 in the week ended Sept. 12, one of the lowest readings since 1969, according to Labor Department data released Thursday [17/09]. (www.bloomberg.com 17/09/26)

Fed builds credibility, but hawkish turn leaves investors edgy

Investors are gaining more confidence in the Federal Reserve's inflation-fighting backbone, but uncertainty about how far it will raise interest rates to keep prices in check is likely to cause volatility for stocks and bonds in the weeks ahead. The US central bank on Wednesday [16/09] raised rates for the first time since 2023, (www.reuters.com 17/09/26)

BoE holds interest rate at 3.75% despite energy price hikes

The Bank of England (BoE) on Thursday [17/09] kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.75 percent, as surging global energy prices pushed up inflation and raised the prospect of further price pressures in Britain. According to the bank, global energy prices had risen significantly since the July Monetary Policy Report and remained volatile. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/09/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3344	(1.3448)	1.3345	(1.3448)
+USD/EUR	1.1478	(1.1536)	1.1478	(1.1536)
*GHS/USD	11.5142	(11.4943)	11.5258	(11.5058)
*GHS/GBP	15.3646	(15.4575)	15.3811	(15.4729)
*GHS/EUR	13.2169	(13.2602)	13.2288	(13.2724)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/09/26 (Rates for 17/09/26 in brackets)
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BoJ hikes interest rates in a split vote; Yen drops
The Bank of Japan raised its key interest rate by a quarter point to 1.25% in a split vote. The yen dropped as two dissents cast doubt on the outlook for further policy tightening. Meanwhile, the European Central Bank will wait until Dec. before delivering another rate increase to quell inflation, economists say. (www.bloomberg.com 18/09/26)

Malaysia inflation rises in August; trade surplus grows sharply
Malaysia's consumer price inflation increased slightly in Aug. while the trade surplus rose markedly from last year as exports grew faster than imports, reports from the Department of Statistics showed today. CPI increased to 1.9% in August from 1.8% in the prior month. (www.bloomberg.com 18/09/26)

Austria inflation confirmed at 3.2%
Austria's consumer price inflation accelerated as initially estimated in Aug. amid higher fuel and heating oil prices, data from Statistics Austria showed on Thursday [17/09]. The CPI climbed 3.2% year-over-year in Aug. faster than the 2.8% increase in July. That was in line with the flash data published on Sept. 1. (www.rttnews.com 17/09/26)

Hong Kong jobless rate rises to 3.8%
Hong Kong's unemployment rate increased in the June-August period, labor force statistics from the Census and Statistics Department showed on Thursday [17/09]. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 3.8% in June-August, up from 3.7% in the May-July period. (www.bloomberg.com 17/09/26)

New Zealand August trade deficit NZ$1.349bn
New Zealand posted a merchandise trade deficit of NZ$1.349bn in Aug. Statistics New Zealand said. That beat expectations for a shortfall of NZ$1.775bn following the downwardly revised NZ$2.118bn deficit in July (NZ$1.949bn). Exports were worth NZ$6.66bn, down from the revised NZ$7.22bn in June. (www.bloomberg.com 18/09/26)

Oil prices fall 2% on easing fears over Saudi supply disruption
Oil prices fell 2% today, extending losses for a third straight session as easing concerns over Saudi supply disruptions outweighed anxiety about a widening of conflict across the Middle East. Brent crude futures fell by $2.14, or 2%, to $102.68 a barrel by 0806 GMT. (www.reuters.com 18/09/26)

Stocks and bonds dip as central banks jack up rates to tame inflation
Global shares and bonds dipped on Friday while Japan's well-telegraphed hike fell short of supporting the yen, as markets approached the end of a turbulent week marked by a global push by central banks to quell inflation. (www.reuters.com 18/09/26)

AFRICA-FX-Uganda's currency among those facing pressure
The currencies of Uganda, Ghana and Zambia are expected to remain under pressure in the next week to Thursday [24/09], while those of Nigeria and Kenya are forecast to be largely stable, traders said. Uganda's shilling is expected to extend recent losses as the Iran war continues to drive demand for dollars. (www.reuters.com 18/09/26)

Financial inclusion must go hand in hand with investor protection – BoG Governor
Bank of Ghana Governor, Dr Asiama, has called for stronger investor protection alongside efforts to deepen financial inclusion in Ghana. He said regulators and market participants must ensure that efforts to expand access to financial services do not compromise investor protection. (www.myjoyonlie.com 18/09/26)

Financial fraud cases jump 48% as crime migrates to digital payments — BoG
Reported financial fraud cases across Ghana's banking and digital payments ecosystem jumped 48% in 2025, with the Bank of Ghana warning that criminal activity is increasingly migrating away from traditional banks into payment service providers, mobile money and other electronic channels. (www.norvanreports.com 18/09/26)