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Typhoon Heads Toward China and Northern Vietnam, Leaves 14 Dead in Philippines

Tropical Storm Yagi, locally designated Enteng in the Philippines, is nearing typhoon strength as it moves westward across the South China Sea. Yagi could become a major hurricane equivalent before reaching Hainan and Southwest Guangdong provinces late Thursday into Friday. Businesses operating in Hainan and Southwest Guangdong should activate their typhoon preparedness plans, especially near the Leizhou Peninsula. Devastating wind, storm surge, heavy rain, and flooding impacts are likely. The China Meteorological Administration has issued typhoon warnings.

Northern Vietnam will experience torrential rain as the remnants of Yagi arrive late Friday and Saturday. It is too early to know where maximum rain amounts will be observed. Still, scattered totals between 10-15 inches, locally 20, will have the potential to produce scattered flash flooding—some significant and life- threatening. In the Philippines, heavy rainfall warnings are gradually reducing in severity as Enteng moves away from the country, but not before killing at least 14 people. Major cleanup operations are underway in Rizal, and some roads in Nueva Ecija province are still underwater. Localized evacuations are still occurring in Baliwag City due to river flooding. Through Wednesday, localized rain totals up to 100- 150mm (four to six inches) are still possible along western-facing slopes and Mindoro and Zambales coastal areas.

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German Regional Elections Spark New Wave of Protests Against AfD

Heightened demonstration activity is expected across Germany in the coming weeks after election results from two eastern states saw strong showings by the far-right. The organization that generated the most demonstration activity was the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which German intelligence agencies have **placed** under observation for suspected extremism. According to **preliminary election results**, AfD won the most votes in Thuringia and the second most votes in Saxony. However, since no party won an outright majority, negotiations are needed to form a coalition, which presents a problem for AfD, as other parties have expressed no interest in working with them. While these elections are focused on state issues, the outcomes can impact federal politics ahead of national elections next year. Chancellor Olaf Scholz's governing coalition has already taken a **tougher stance on immigration**, including the country's first **deportation** of Afghans since the Taliban retook power in 2021.

Multiple groups are organizing demonstrations and counterdemonstrations related to the election results and the upcoming state election in Brandenburg on September 22. Notable upcoming gatherings include counterdemonstrations against AfD events in Essen (September 5), Ilsede-Bülten and Hofheim am Taunus (September 7), and in Düsseldorf (September 9). In Brandenburg state, demonstrators will take to the streets to protest the AfD in Frankfurt on Saturday, September 7, and Prenzlau on September 8.

Tens of Thousands Demonstrate in Israel After Six Hostages Found Dead

An estimated 500,000 people **demonstrated** across Israel, and the country's largest trade union launched a general strike to demand the government secure the return of the remaining hostages held by Hamas after the Israeli military found six captives dead in Gaza. The strike, which impacted operations at hospita Is, banks, and other businesses, as well as Ben Gurion Airport and the port of Haifa, was called off at 2:30 pm following court intervention. The protests—the largest since the current conflict began on October 7—have **done little** to persuade Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept a ceasefire deal. Instead, he has doubled down on his **demand** that Israel retain control of the Philadelphi corridor bordering Egypt, saying that the strip of land is a key Hamas smuggling route. Without a ceasefire, it will be difficult for Israel to rescue the remaining hostages, likely leading to further unrest. Hamas' armed wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, implied that it now has a policy of killing any captives if Israeli forces are approaching.

Within Gaza, the first two days of a polio vaccine drive by the World Health Organization (WHO) has already surpassed its target, vaccinating 161,030 children. Israel and Hamas have agreed to a series of Localized pauses to allow health workers to administer the vaccines after a 10-month-old contracted the first case of polio in the territory in 25 years. Fighting also intensified last week in the West Bank, where Israeli forces have been conducting large raids in Jenin, Tulkarem, and other cities. Palestinian health officials say that at least 29 have been killed since the operation began. Three Israeli police officers were also shot and killed on Sunday in the southern West

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Bank city of Tarqumiyah. Outside the region, Houthis are continuing their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, while pro-Palestine demonstrators are preparing further protests calling for a ceasefire.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- Tropical Development Possible Over Western Caribbean: The Atlantic has been devoid of tropical activity following Hurricane Ernesto's dissipation on August 22. This is the slowest August 13- September 3 stretch since 1968. While nearly all signs were pointing to an above-active season, a variety of factors, including dry air and tropical waves exiting Africa too far north, have led to recent inactivity. While total numbers of named storms and hurricanes may fail to reach preseason projections, an uptick in activity is still anticipated later this month. Currently, three areas are being monitored for a low to medium threat of tropical development. Of those, a weak disturbance over the central Caribbean Sea is the one that has a chance to threaten land areas within the next week. Forecast guidance indicates a medium probability of the formation of a depression or minimal named storm as the feature nears northern Honduras, Belize, and Mexico's Yucatan between Thursday and Saturday.
- Severe Flooding Across India, Thousands Evacuated: Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are facing severe flood situations due to heavy rainfall, rising river levels, and water discharges from dams since August 31. At least 31 people are dead, including at least 19 in Andhra Pradesh, according to state authorities. In Andhra Pradesh, 46,751 people have been evacuated to 188 relief camps, and Telangana has established 85 relief camps to accommodate affected people. Hundreds of trains have been canceled or diverted. As the storm moves west through Wednesday, regions including Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and surrounding areas will be at risk of excessive rainfall and scattered urban flooding—some significant. Localized Maximum Level 3 Rain Warnings are in effect for Gujarat.
- Wildfire Outbreaks Continue Across São Paulo: Seven cities across the state registered
 <u>outbreaks</u> on Monday. The Civil Defense has maintained an emergency level risk of
 wildfires across nearly the entire state through Thursday alongside dry conditions and
 above-average temperatures.
- Extreme Heat to Build Across Southwest U.S.: Wednesday through Friday, well-above-normal temperatures will build across interior California, Arizona, southern Nevada,
 Oregon, Washington, and adjoining areas. Afternoon highs in <u>Sacramento</u> will peak near
 105F, and interior valleys of southern California will experience temperatures near 110F.
 Los <u>Angeles</u> will approach 100F on Friday. Heat Risk progression can be viewed <u>here.</u> The
 upcoming heat wave comes on the heels of <u>Las Vegas</u> and <u>Phoenix</u> experiencing their

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hottest summer on record. Officials are reminding residents to drink plenty of fluids, stay in air-conditioned rooms, and stay out of the sun as a spike in heat-related illnesses is likely.

Worldwide

- Cartel Violence Surges in Sinaloa, Michoacan: At least one officer was injured in a shootout between military forces and alleged members of the Sinaloa Cartel in Culiacán, Sinaloa, last Thursday. Burning vehicles were used to block Hwy 15 near Limón de los Ramos. The U.S. State Department confirmed they had received reports of gunfire and roadblocks in the city. The unrest comes after the arrest of two prominent Sinaloa Cartel members—Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada and one of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán's sons—heightening tensions in the area. Local officials stated that security operations are taking place "outside the city" and north of the capital. Meanwhile, in Michoacán, authorities worked to restore order in the Tierra Caliente region last week after criminal groups blocked roads, set vehicles on fire, and reportedly used drones to attack a police station with explosives.
- Mexican Lawmakers to Debate Judicial Reform Amid Ongoing Strike: Legislators in Mexico's lower congressional house are debating judicial reforms proposed by outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) that have stoked unrest in Mexico and the U.S. In Mexico, federal court employees and judges remain on strike, and broad demonstrations have occurred in recent weeks. North of the border, the judicial overhaul has caused a stir among lawmakers and industry groups who allege that passing them "could undermine bilateral economic interests" by violating the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Nevertheless, the lower house, dominated by AMLO's Morena party, is expected to pass the legislation this week, moving it to the Senate, where Morena is just one seat short of a supermajority.
- Curfews Imposed in Panama, Extended in Belize, Debated in Antigua: Panama has imposed a nighttime curfew in two regions to address drug trafficking and gang-related violence, aiming to restore order and safety. The curfew in Panama is part of broader efforts to combat organized crime. Meanwhile, in Antigua and Barbuda, there is debate over implementing a curfew for youth to combat escalating crime, with opinions divided on its effectiveness and impact on civil liberties. A State of Emergency in Belize was extended for an additional 60 days due to recent crime and gang activity increasing throughout the country. An attack on the police commissioner's residence was referenced as a catalyst for the extension that lasts until September 24.

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- Venezuela Issues Arrest Warrant for Opposition Leader: Venezuela's attorney general
 announced that a court has <u>issued</u> an arrest warrant for opposition leader Edmundo
 Gonzalez, accusing him of conspiracy and other crimes following a disputed July election.
 The warrant marks an escalation in the government's ongoing crackdown on the
 opposition. The election's outcome, contested between Gonzalez and President Nicolas
 Maduro, has sparked protests resulting in at least 27 deaths and 2,400 arrests. The
 charges against Gonzalez include usurpation of functions, falsification of public
 documents, and conspiracy.
- Increased Security, Terror Alert in Uganda: Ugandan security agencies have increased security in urban areas following terror alerts issued by the U.N. and U.S. Embassy. The U.S. Embassy has advised the public to use caution in commercial areas of Kampala due to unconfirmed reports of enhanced security and a heightened risk of terrorist attacks. The advice is intended to prevent actors from potential terror efforts coinciding with the attack that occurred in New York on September 11, 2001.
- Dozens Killed in Fresh Russian Strike Targeting Poltava, Ukraine: A reported Russian strike Tuesday on the Ukrainian city of Poltava has killed at least 47 people, making it one of the deadliest attacks since Moscow launched its invasion in 2022. Two ballistic missiles hit a military training facility and a nearby hospital in the town, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who issued a plea for more air defense systems in comments following the strike. The incident comes as Ukraine's surprise offensive into Russian territory reportedly slows and Moscow's forces make significant advances toward Pokrovsk in Donetsk, a critical logistical center for Kyiv's defense in the country's east.

Cyber and Regulatory

- Brazil's Supreme Court Upholds Ban on X: Brazil's Supreme Court voted to uphold a ban on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter), following the court's order to suspend the platform in Brazil after its owner, Elon Musk, defied court orders by refusing to name a legal representative for the network. The move comes amid a monthslong dispute between Musk and Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has clamped down on mis- and disinformation and hate speech, especially as it relates to political matters in Brazil. Moraes gave tech companies a five-day deadline to block access to the platform, and anyone found using the app will be subject to steep fines. Musk's internet provider, Starlink, indicated it will not comply with the X suspension. The ban prompted an unprecedented migration of around half a million users to the Bluesky microblogging platform.
- Arrest of Telegram CEO Sparks Debate Over Tech Leaders' Role in Platform
 Regulation: Last week, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov was <u>arrested</u> in France and charged
 with permitting allegedly illicit activity on his platform. Durov's arrest <u>sparked</u> concerns

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from free-speech activists and global leaders. While the future of Telegram remains uncertain, the move was unprecedented, as heads of social networking platforms are rarely personally prosecuted for activity that occurs on their platforms. Durov's arrest may set a precedent for governments looking to rein in tech platforms. In a separate development, South Korea's National Police Agency opened a probe into Telegram last week related to the platform's alleged distribution of sexually explicit deepfake content.

- Hacking Groups With Suspected Ties to Beijing Breach U.S. Internet Provider Systems: Cybersecurity researchers discovered that Beijing-backed hackers have infiltrated the systems of several companies, including at least three U.S. Internet providers, in recent months. The hacks appeared to only be for intelligence-gathering purposes and were achieved through a zero-day flaw in a program to manage wide-area networks made by Versa Networks. Researchers found that the techniques used by the hackers were associated with Volt Typhoon, a malware campaign that targets critical U.S. infrastructure. Liu Pengyu, spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, dismissed allegations that the Chinese government backed the group.
- Sanctions Targeting China Disrupting Global Trade: Beijing condemned the latest move by the U.S. to sanction several Chinese companies over their alleged ties to Russia's war in Ukraine, calling the sanctions "unilateral" and disruptive to global trade and vowing to take necessary measures to protect its businesses. Shortly after, Canada imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicle imports and a 25% tariff on Chinese steel and aluminum, citing concerns over their "unfair advantage in the global marketplace." In a separate development, China's export controls on crucial semiconductor materials are reportedly straining supply chains. At the same time, Japan began restricting sales of chipmaking equipment to Chinese firms, prompting Beijing to threaten "severe economic retaliation."
- Chrome Users Urgently Warned to Update Browser: Google is urgently warning users to update their Chrome browser due to various high-severity vulnerabilities that could potentially allow hackers to steal sensitive information from users. Microsoft, which initially discovered the first flaw, issued a report revealing that North Korean threat actors are exploiting the browser's vulnerabilities. A vulnerability related to the browser's V8 engine may allow hackers to remotely access a user's browser and view their data, including passwords and credit card information if saved in Chrome. The U.S. government has mandated that all federal employees update their browsers within 21 days.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

Houthis Attack Two More Tankers, Sounion Salvage Operation Stalls: Yemen's Houthi
rebels <u>attacked</u> a Panama-flagged and Greek-operated oil tanker in the Red Sea on

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Monday. U.S. officials <u>claim</u> the Houthis targeted a second oil tanker operated by Saudi Arabia later that day. Neither ship sustained significant damage, but the attacks come amid stalled salvage operations for the MV Sounion oil tanker. The Sounion, which is carrying one million barrels of oil, has been stranded since August 21, putting the Red Sea at risk of a major oil spill. The companies salvaging the Sounion <u>determined</u> the still-burning ship was unsafe to tow. Recently released video footage <u>confirms</u> Houthi rebels placed explosives on the vessel as part of the attack. In addition to the potential ecological impacts, the damaged Sounion tanker could <u>result</u> in a \$600 million bill for insurers, with war risk cover and reinsurers bearing the brunt of the financial impact.

- Cargo Thieves Target High-Value Goods as Theft Instances Increase: Cargo theft in North America surged during the first half of the year, according to a report by supply chain visibility company Overhaul. Cargo theft incidents are up by 49% in the U.S., and average losses have increased by 83% compared to the same period in 2023. Overhaul attributes the increase in average loss value to more thieves who are better at targeting high-value goods. Thieves targeted electronic goods in more than a fourth of all theft incidents across the country. Cargo theft continues to disrupt supply chains in Mexico, where 84% of the thefts involved violence, and 72% of incidents occurred while trucks were in transit.
- Brazil Fires Impact Global Sugar Market, Flooding Threatens Crops in India: Brazil, the
 world's top sugar producer, is facing significant threats to its sugar output due to
 widespread fires in the central-southern region, particularly in southeastern São Paulo
 state. A record number of fires and existing drought and heat waves could <u>reduce</u> Brazil's
 sugar output by over 300,000 metric tons. Just over 1% of the central- southern region has
 been <u>burned</u> as of late August. The resulting supply disruption is expected to impact the
 global sugar market through 2025 potentially. On the other side of the globe, cotton and
 peanut farmers in India are <u>facing</u> days of heavy rain that may impact the upcoming
 harvest season.
- Protests Over Economy, Housing Highlight Ongoing Industry Troubles in China: The U.S.-based China Dissent Monitor (CDM), a project that tracks and documents instances of public resistance in China, reported an 18% increase in dissent cases between April and June compared to the same period in 2023. Homeowners and construction workers make up 44% of all dissent cases, with CDM noting that "protest frequency has not declined" despite government intervention in the real estate sector. In August, new home prices in China rose by just 0.11%, slowing from July's 0.13% increase, as the struggling property sector continues to grapple with ongoing crises despite supportive policies. Additionally, China's steel industry faces declining demand, prompting the Ministry of Industry and

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Information Technology to <u>halt</u> approvals for new steel plants to prevent further price drops.

• Drought in Europe Leads to Transportation, Water Supply Challenges: Falling water levels on the Rhine River have Led to surcharges and cargo restrictions as barge service providers navigate low waterways during this summer's drought. The Rhine is a key waterway for transporting goods through Europe, but low water levels often lead officials to impose cargo limits on ships. Further south, the island of Sicily has been facing an ongoing state of emergency since May over a lack of rainfall, with water reportedly rationed in dozens of towns. Parts of Spain are also facing a water shortage. An influx of summer tourists is exacerbating pre-existing problems.

Health

- WHO Launches Plan to Curb Spread of New Mpox Strain: The World Health Organization (WHO) has <u>published a report</u> outlining a plan for containing mpox as the new clade 1b variant continues to spread, emphasizing a need for comprehensive surveillance and "equitable access" to diagnostic tests and vaccines. Last week, the agency <u>said</u> it was significantly scaling up staff in affected countries. It <u>indicated</u> that vaccines would arrive in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the <u>most impacted</u> country, in the coming days. Vaccination efforts will reportedly focus on close contacts of recent cases and healthcare workers to interrupt local transmission. The WHO's plan also calls for greater research efforts, as <u>significant unknowns</u> and concerns remain about the rapid spread and mutation of clade 1b.
- Florida Reports More Oropouche Cases in Travelers Returning From Cuba: In its latest arbovirus surveillance update, Florida reported 10 new Oropouche fever cases in persons that had traveled to Cuba, bringing the total number of imported infections for the year to 30. The newly reported cases follow a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) alert in mid-August warning of an increase in Oropouche infections in the Americas region—particularly Cuba—and the associated risk for travelers. There remains no known local transmission of the virus in the U.S., and while the WHO says the public health risk from the virus is high at a regional level, it remains low globally.
- WHO Sees Moderate National Risk to India From Chandipura Virus Outbreak: India is facing its largest outbreak of Chandipura virus (CHPV) in 20 years, and the WHO has warned that further transmission is possible in the coming weeks as monsoon rains create "favorable conditions" for spread in affected areas. The virus is endemic to India, and outbreaks occur occasionally. Still, the size of the present outbreak, mainly impacting Gujarat state, has the WHO calling for enhanced surveillance and other measures. The

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- agency rates the overall public health risk on a national level as moderate but does not advise any travel or trade restrictions.
- Fatal EEE Case in New Hampshire Reinforces Regional Concerns Over Virus: A New Hampshire man has <u>died</u> after contracting eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), the first fatal case in a cluster of infections recorded in the Northeast U.S. Another individual has been <u>hospitalized</u> in the state and tested positive for EEE and two other mosquito-borne viruses. In neighboring Massachusetts, officials <u>announced</u> a new infection last week and advised those in <u>high and critical-risk</u> areas to reschedule evening outdoor events to avoid peak mosquito activity. The cases are driving concerns about a larger regional outbreak and have led to restrictions and the <u>cancellation</u> of major events. However, experts <u>say</u> it's still unclear if this will be a "particularly severe" year for EEE.
- U.S. Heat-Related Deaths See Large Increase Over 25-Year Span: A new study analyzing CDC data found that heat-related deaths in the U.S. have risen over the past 25 years, especially in the last seven. In 2023, the hottest year on record, 2,325 heat-related fatalities occurred nationwide, a 117% increase from the figure reported in 1999 (1069). The authors of the study say that as temperatures continue to rise, the upward trend in deaths is likely to persist. They suggest that officials in high-risk areas should "consider investing in the expansion of access to hydration centers and public cooling centers or other buildings with air conditioning."

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Pro-Palestine Demonstrators Prepare for Large Actions in Several Cities:** Several significant pro-Palestine actions are planned over the coming days, including in the U.K. and Australia. In **London**, the Palestine Solidarity Committee is calling for a national march for Palestine. Organizers plan to gather at Pall Mall at noon before marching to the Israeli Embassy. However, a recent update from PSC says that the start time and location may be changed due to disagreements with the Metropolitan Police. Several groups plan to demonstrate against the **Land Forces 2024 International Land Defence Exposition** in Melbourne. Victoria Police **expect** around 20,000 demonstrators to take part in various actions. A week of demonstrations will begin with a rally at State Library Victoria on Sunday at noon. And finally, ahead of the U.S. presidential debate in **Philadelphia** scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, the Philly Palestine Coalition has announced its intent to "disrupt" the event by holding autonomous actions throughout the day. The time and location for the main rally have not yet been publicly announced.
- Rival Demonstrations Over Immigration Planned for Glasgow: Competing rallies related to immigration and racism are <u>planned</u> for Glasgow, Scotland, on Saturday, September 7. Unidentified groups are organizing a "Pro-U.K. Rally" against immigration in





George Square at 1 pm, according to information shared on social media. Opposing groups, including Stand Up to Racism and multiple trade unions, are planning a counterdemonstration at noon at the same location. The demonstrations come around a month after anti-migrant riots broke out across England and Northern Ireland. Additional demonstrations are likely in other cities in the U.K.

- Thousands of U.S. Hotel Workers Strike Over Labor Day: Around 10,000 hotel workers walked off the job on Sunday, September 1, just before Labor Day, following months of stalled negotiations. The UNITE HERE union said workers went on strike at 25 hotels in nine cities: Baltimore; Boston; Greenwich, CT; Honolulu; Kauai, HI; San Diego; San Francisco; San Jose, CA; and Seattle. The union said that each strike would last between two and three days, with most of the strikes set to conclude today. Additional industrial action is possible, and workers in several other cities have also approved strikes and could join the walkouts, including New Haven, CT; Oakland, CA; and Providence, RI. Actions have targeted Hilton, Hyatt Hotels, and Marriott International. UNITE HERE has compiled a Complete list of locations where strikes are active.
- Air Canada Pilots Could Strike as Soon as September 17: Around 5,400 Air Canada pilots voted overwhelmingly to approve a strike if a deal on wage increases and other issues could not be reached with the carrier. While no strike date has been set yet, one could begin as early as September 17. Air Canada is offering flexible rebooking options for tickets around the possible strike dates. According to a report from Reuters, the Canadian government has indicated that it would be reluctant to force the pilots back to work if they did strike, despite Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon's recent move to order the end of industrial action on the country's railways. Air Canada controls about 44% of domestic air travel seat capacity.
- French Left Calls for Demonstrations on September 7: France Unbowed, the largest party in the New Popular Front (NFP) coalition, called for mass demonstrations on September 7. The call to protest came after French President Emmanuel Macron said he would not name a member of the alliance as the next prime minister despite the NFP winning the most seats in the National Assembly during the July elections. Leaders from the Socialist and Communist parties have said that they will join the protests. France Unbowed has listed times and locations for mobilizations on its website. France's unions are also restive, with teachers' unions calling for a school strike on September 10 and the CGT promising another round of strikes beginning around the end of September. However, few details are available at this time.

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Upcoming Events

- September 7: Presidential Election (Algeria)
- September 7: Ganesh Chaturthi (India)
- September 7: Demonstrations Against President (France)
- September 10: Presidential Debate (Philadelphia, PA)
- September 10: Legislative Elections (Jordan)
- September 10-24: United Nations General Assembly (New York City, NY)
- September 11: Nayrouz (Egypt)
- September 15-16: Mawlid (Eid-e-Milad an-Nabi) (Global)
- September 15-October 15: Fiestas Patrias, Hispanic Heritage Month (Global)
- September 16: Independence Day (Papua New Guinea)



- September 16: Independence Day (Mexico)
- September 17: Mid-Autumn Festival (Global)
- September 20: First Round of Legislative Elections (Czechia)
- September 21: Sri Lanka (Presidential Election)
- September 27: Second Round of Legislative Elections (Czechia)
- September 29: Legislative Elections (Austria)
- September 30: East Coast
 Dockworkers' Labor Contract Expires
 (United States)
- October 1: Pchum Ben (Cambodia)
- October 1: Vice Presidential Debate (New York City, NY)
- October 7: First Anniversary of Israel-Hamas Conflict (Global)