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Top Stories

'Francine' to Hit Louisiana as Hurricane With 10 Feet of Storm Surge

Tropical Storm 'Francine' has formed and is expected to bring life-threatening impacts to parts of the upper Texas and Louisiana coasts. Storm surge and Hurricane Watches have been issued, with coastal surge forecasts predicting levels as high as **five to 10 feet**. The storm is projected to make **landfall** Wednesday evening, with some impacts beginning as early as Tuesday night and lingering into Thursday. Residents near the forecast cone and Hurricane Watch areas should prepare for a possible landfalling hurricane. Localized evacuations from surge-prone locations along the coastline are expected, while areas well inland across central and eastern Louisiana and southwest Mississippi could experience power outages and flash flooding, especially near and east of the storm's center track. Forecast models indica te that Francine could intensify to a Category One or even Category Two hurricane.

The storm's track guidance has shifted eastward, now favoring a path along the central Louisiana coast south of Lafayette and Baton Rouge. The northeast quadrant of the storm, often containing the highest winds, storm surge, and rainfall, could bring severe impacts to areas within the eastern half of the forecast cone. A maximum storm surge of six to 10 feet is likely near Vermilion Bay, Atchafalaya Bay, and storm surge-prone locations along Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, and western Terrebonne Parishes in central Louisiana. Rainfall totals of four to eight inches, with localized higher amounts, could lead to scattered to significant flash flooding and river flooding. Winds may exceed 50-60 mph inland, causing power outages that could last several days. Areas including Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and parts of the New Orleans metro are at risk of frequent severe gusts and heavy rainfall. The NOAA Weather Prediction Center has issued a

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significant Level 3 <u>excessive rainfall risk</u> for much of central and eastern Louisiana and southwest Mississippi. Interests along the upper Texas coast, including parts of Galveston Bay and Beaumont, should remain vigilant as impacts could still shift with further forecast updates.

Harris-Trump Set to Debate as Biden Administration Counters Russian Election Interference

Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are preparing for their first presidential debate against one another this Tuesday evening at Philadelphia's National Constitution Center. The event comes days after a New York judge **delayed** Trump's sentencing on felony criminal charges until November 26, after the presidential election. Heightened security and **transportation disruptions** are expected in the city center, and at least one local pro-Palestine group is planning a protest to coincide with the debate. The Philly Palestine Coalition is calling on supporters to take "autonomous action throughout the day" before converging at Philadelphia's City Hall at 6:30 pm to "shut down the presidential debate for Gaza." City officials published details on road closures, parking restrictions, and public safety updates on their **website**.

In related election news, U.S. intelligence officials <u>warned</u> Friday that Russia's covert efforts to influence the presidential race are "more sophisticated than in prior election cycles." Officials <u>emphasized</u> that they have not observed any foreign attempts to directly interfere in the 2024 election, such as hacking into voting machines. Instead, groups linked to the Russian government are increasingly hiring domestic marketing and communications firms to obscure foreign involvement, setting up fake websites that mimic

U.S. news outlets, and creating Al-generated social media profiles. The Justice Department made public a criminal case accusing two employees of RT, a Russian state media outlet, of secretly funding a Tennessee- based content creation company that aimed to produce pro-Russian videos. The company did not disclose its connection to RT, and neither it nor its founders registered as foreign agents, as required by law.

Tensions Rise Following Series of Incidents in West Bank and Syria, Officials Thwart Terror Attacks in Europe and North America

As fighting persists in Gaza and the prospect of a ceasefire appears <u>increasingly distant</u>, tensions have risen in other locations. Syria's Health Minister said that at least 18 had been <u>killed</u> in Israeli strikes on several military sites in the country, the largest such assault on Syria since fighting began in Gaza. Israel has <u>not commented</u> on the incident. In the West Bank, a Jordanian gunman <u>killed</u> three Israelis during an attack at the Allenby Bridge border crossing, which connects Jordan with the West Bank. In response, Israel closed all land crossings with its neighbor. The Allenby crossing has since <u>reopened</u> to pedestrians, although trucks are still barred, interrupting the flow of goods into the West Bank and aid intended for

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Gaza. The attack on Allenby came days after Israeli forces <u>reportedly</u> shot and killed Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a Turkish-American woman near Beita, where she was protesting settlements in the West Bank, according to Palestinian and Turkish officials. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) <u>said</u> that it was "looking into reports that a foreign national was killed as a result of shots fired in the area."

Outside the Middle East, fresh security incidents elsewhere continue to highlight the persistent heightened threat environment amid the ongoing conflict. Officials in Germany said that an 18-year-old Austrian man <u>fired</u> nine shots at the Israeli consulate in Munich on Thursday before being killed by police. There were no

serious injuries during the attack. Police are investigating the incident as a possible terrorist attack.

Meanwhile, authorities in the U.S. <u>credited</u> Canada with disrupting plans for a mass shooting at a Jewish Center in New York City when they arrested Muhammad Shahzeb Khan, a Pakistani man, as he was attempting to reach the border. Khan was reportedly planning his actions for either October 7, the first anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel, or October 11, the start of Yom Kippur.

Climate and Natural Hazards

- Western U.S. Wildfire Emergency: Sunday afternoon, Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo declared
 a <u>state of emergency</u> due to the <u>Davis Fire</u>, burning in central Washoe County. Hundreds of
 homes have been threatened, and approximately 20,000 people have been evacuated. For
 Monday and Tuesday, widespread <u>Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings</u> are in effect
 across central and eastern Nevada, eastern Washington, Montana, and Wyoming. Elevated fire
 weather conditions also extend into the California Sierra Nevada Mountains and central Oregon.
 For <u>Wednesday</u>, critical fire weather conditions may worsen over Nevada and Utah.
- Mexico Tropical Storm Threat: A <u>developing tropical disturbance</u> has a medium to high
 chance of becoming a named storm once south or southeast of Cabo San Lucas by Thursday.
 Tropical storm-force winds and heavy rain could threaten Baja California Sur and Sonora Friday
 into the weekend. In the meantime, elevated shower activity is forecast near Jalisco, Colima, and
 surrounding states as the disturbance parallels the coast.
- Northern Vietnam Flood Disaster: Over 60 people are confirmed dead, primarily because of
 widespread flooding from heavy rain and the remnant of Typhoon 'Yagi'. The latest major
 incident involves the collapse of the Phong Châu Bridge, resulting in at least 10 vehicles falling
 into the Red River. At least 13 people are missing. Heavy rain and flooding are likely to linger
 through at least Tuesday.
- Portions of Morocco and Algeria Receive Months-Worth of Rain: An extremely abnormal plume of moisture over North Africa has fueled rounds of thunderstorms and heavy rain over

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Morocco, Algeria, and surrounding areas since Friday. According to <u>international media</u>, 11 people have been killed

in Morocco, while five have been killed in Algeria from the torrential downpours. Several people remain missing. Many homes have been destroyed, with several villages still dealing with power, communication, and road outages.

Worldwide

- Heightened Security in India's Manipur State After Uptick in Violence: At least six people were killed Saturday during clashes between two ethnic communities in the Jiribam district of Manipur state. Assailants reportedly used drones to drop explosives as part of attacks that have escalated since the start of September. In response, security personnel are deploying anti-drone systems in the state, and Manipur's Chief Minister has called for federal assistance. The ongoing conflict between Meitei and Kuki groups in Manipur has reportedly killed over 225 people and displaced 60,000 since May 2023. Schools, which shuttered over the weekend in response to the attacks, are expected to remain closed through Tuesday. In recent days, thousands of people have taken to the streets against the deteriorating security situation in the state, with further demonstration activity possible in the coming weeks.
- French Left-Wing Alliance Calls for More Protests Over Prime Minister Appointment: French President Emmanuel Macron appointed Michel Barnier, a member of the center-right Les Républicains party, as Prime Minister almost two months after snap elections saw the left-wing New Popular Front alliance garner the most parliamentary seats. The move prompted calls for protest from alliance leaders, and protests formed in multiple cities across France this weekend, including Paris, Nantes, Nice, Marseille, and Strasbourg. At least 26,000 people demonstrated in Paris, with nationwide participation as high as 300,000. Jean-Luc Mélenchon, head of the France Unbowed party, which is part of the New Popular Front coalition, has called for long-term demonstrations, and all left-wing parties have signaled their intent to vote for a motion of no confidence in Barnier.
- String of Mass Shootings Highlights Gun Violence Risks in United States: Shootings in Georgia, Maryland, and Kentucky resulted in a number of casualties in recent days. In Georgia, a fourteen-year- old student will be charged with murder and tried as an adult after four people were killed and nine others injured in an active shooter event at a school. Just two days later, in Maryland, one student died after being shot by another in a school bathroom; around a hundred police officers responded to the scene. And in Kentucky, a manhunt has entered its third day this morning following shots that injured at least five motorists along Interstate 75. Gun violence is not a new problem in America, but recent years showed a stark uptick in mass

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- shootings. According to the **Gun Violence Archive**, shooting events where four or more people were killed or injured numbered in the 300s from 2015 to 2019. Since 2020, there have been over 600 mass shootings in America each year.
- Continuing Gang Violence Prompts Nationwide State of Emergency in Haiti: Haitian Prime Minister Gary Conille expanded a state of emergency covering the country's capital to blanket the entire country as gangs once localized to Port-au-Prince have begun expanding their operations to other regions. Conille said he has distributed weapons and supplies to the Haitian army and national police to recover territories taken by criminal groups, but authorities continue struggling to combat gang leaders, hampered by one of the lowest police-per-capita ratios in the world. A Kenyan-led security mission to the country has thus far shown few results, prompting Ecuador and the U.S. to reportedly begin circulating a draft petition at the United Nations that would establish a peacekeeping operation in the country. U.S. Secretary of State Blinken visited Hispaniola on Thursday and Friday last week and pledged an additional \$45 million in humanitarian aid while also imploring the Transitional Presidential Council to organize prompt elections. The council has faced corruption scandals and been plagued by infighting since its establishment five months ago.
- **Germany to Implement Temporary Land Borders Checks:** Germany is **expected** to resume passport controls along all of its land borders in an attempt to curb irregular migration. Authorities are reportedly concerned about threats from Islamist terror groups and international criminal organizations. The controls are set to **begin** next Monday, September 16, and will last for at least six months. Germany had already established more stringent protocols on the border with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Switzerland due to a surge in asylum requests.
- Honduran President's Government Suffers Scandals and Calls to Resign: Unrest is growing in
 Honduras amid accusations of nepotism and corruption <u>lodged</u> at President Xiomara Castro. Days
 before the president's brother-in-law admitted to meeting with drug dealers a decade ago, the
 country's foreign affairs minister announced a century-old extradition treaty with the United
 States would be ended, a move <u>seen</u> as a likely attempt to protect him. As Castro's approval
 numbers slide, Honduras also faces unemployment, economic turmoil, and increasing violence.

Cyber and Regulatory

 Seattle School District Cancels Classes Monday Amid Cyber Incident: Classes at all schools in Seattle's Highline School District (HSD) are <u>canceled</u> today, and further disruption may be seen after the district detects "unauthorized activity" on its technology systems. While the specifics of the incident are currently unclear, K-12 schools in the U.S. continue to be a <u>primary target</u> for

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- ransomware attacks. Such events <u>impact</u> learning for hundreds of thousands of students each year in the country. The incident at HSD comes just weeks after a <u>cyberattack</u> targeted the Port of Seattle and Sea-Tac Airport.
- New York Governor Signs Retail Worker Safety Act Requiring Training, Silent Alarms: Last week, New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed the Retail Worker Safety Act, a bill aimed at improving safety for retail store employees in the state. The legislation, which goes into effect in March 2025, requires businesses with at least 10 retail employees to implement violence prevention plans and training that cover de-escalation tactics, active shooter incidents, and other topics. In addition, companies with 500 or more retail employees nationwide will be required to install physical silent alarms throughout workplaces or provide them to employees via wearable or mobile phones by January 2027. The law was hailed by unions but criticized by some who fear its impact on small retailers.
- OSHA Proposes New Rule on Workplace Heat-Related Illness and Injury: At the end of
 August, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed a <u>new standard</u>
 specific to heat- related injury and illness prevention that is open to comment through December
 30. The rule would create a standard requiring employers to "create a plan to evaluate and
 control heat hazards in their workplace." It includes a list of <u>requirements</u> that employers must
 provide for their employees based on temperature, with 80 degrees being the first "heat trigger"
 that introduces new required measures like providing drinking water, break areas, and rest
 breaks.
- U.S., U.K., and Others Sign Treaty on Al Safety: Several governments have now <u>signed on</u> to the Council of Europe's artificial intelligence (Al) safety treaty. The legally binding treaty <u>requires</u> parties to adopt measures to "identify, assess, prevent, and mitigate possible risks and assess the need for a moratorium, a ban or other appropriate measures concerning uses of Al systems where their risks may be incompatible with human rights standards." Those that signed the treaty last week, including the U.S., will now need to ratify it. The U.K.'s Ministry of Justice <u>said</u> the agreement would ensure countries monitor Al development and manage the technology within strict parameters.
- Other Stories the Global Intelligence Team Is Watching: On the cyberattack front, the government body responsible for most of London's transport network is <u>still recovering</u> after being hit with a "cyber security incident" that it disclosed last week. As of this writing, Transport for London reported no evidence of customer data theft and asserted that the event was not impacting transit services. Meanwhile, in the U.S., energy giant Halliburton continues to deal with an <u>attack</u> that involved an intruder accessing and exfiltrating information from the company's systems. In other news, the White House on Tuesday <u>announced</u> a roadmap for enhancing vulnerabilities in the Border Gateway Protocol, a crucial system described as the postal service of the Internet that "underpins the way information is routed across networks."

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Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **EPA Moves to Reimpose Limits on Toxic Emissions:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reinstated a rule governing toxic emissions. The <u>rule</u>, commonly known as the "Once In, Always In," requires facilities found to be major sources of toxic air pollutants to always maintain strict pollution controls. However, the updated rule allows facilities to be downgraded to an "area source" if they act to curb emissions. The Trump administration officially rescinded the policy in 2020. Industry groups have pushed back on the update rule, calling it overly burdensome.
- East Coast Port Workers Issue Fresh Strike Threat: Negotiations between the International Longshoreman's Association (ILA) and East Coast and Gulf Coast port operators have again stalled, setting the stage for a potential shutdown on October 1. ILA President Harold Daggett recently posted a video saying that his union "most definitely will hit the streets on October 1" and hinting that he may attempt to get West Coast dockworkers to join the action. Analysts at Sea-Intelligence, a Danish firm, estimate that for every one day of strike, it takes an additional four to five days to move through the resulting work backlog. In addition to the threatened ILA strike, workers with Local 514 in British Columbia, Canada, have voted to strike, although a 72-hour notice of industrial action has not been issued yet.
- Crucial Swiss Rail Link Reopens After Over a Year: The Gotthard Tunnel, a crucial rail link
 through the Swiss Alps that connects northern and southern Europe, <u>reopened</u> on Monday,
 September 2, after being closed for nearly 13 months for repairs. The tunnel will shorten travel
 times between Zurich and Milan by about an hour and increase freight capacity. Losses for repair
 works and due to lost train traffic cost an estimated 150 million Swiss Francs.
- Drought Causing Shipping Difficulties Along Mississippi River: Dry conditions around the Ohio River basin have led to Low water levels across significant portions of the Mississippi River. While not as low as last year, the drop in water levels still presents issues for farmers trying to load barges with their latest harvest. Draft restrictions mean that more will need to seek other, more expensive routes to export their crop. Crude oil and petroleum cargo are also at risk. Similar issues are playing out in Brazil, where drought has shrunk the Amazon, restricting barge traffic.
- U.S. Drawing Up Rules to Limit Export of Critical Technologies: In its latest effort to hinder
 advancement in critical technologies by China and other unfriendly nations, the United States is
 planning to impose export controls on semiconductor goods and quantum computing. The rules
 will target "quantum computers and components, advanced chipmaking tools, a cutting-edge
 semiconductor technology called gate all-around, and various components and software related
 to metals and metal alloys," according to reporting from <u>Bloomberg.</u> While the rules apply to all
 exports, there are exemptions for countries that introduce similar measures, such as Japan, the

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Netherlands, and <u>Canada</u>. Washington is hoping that the rules will pressure other allied countries to implement similar measures.

Health

- Mpox Vaccines Arrive in DRC, India Reports First Suspected Mpox Case: The Africa CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) have <u>launched</u> a six-month mpox preparedness and response plan. The roadmap prioritizes African countries according to their risk levels, placing those with ongoing human- to-human transmission in the highest tier. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the most affected country, <u>received</u> its first shipment of mpox vaccines from the EU, with more expected in the coming weeks. Guinea <u>confirmed</u> its first mpox case last week, making it the 14th African country affected. Meanwhile, India <u>reported</u> its first suspected mpox case on Sunday from a patient who had recently traveled to a country experiencing an outbreak. In other developments, researchers from the CDC <u>reported</u> that traveling on a flight with a person infected with mpox does not seem to pose an exposure risk.
- South Korea Reconsiders Medical School Admissions Plan, Deploys Military Doctors: South Korea's government is deploying 250 military and community doctors to shore up hospital emergency rooms due to a shortage of medical staff. While some doctors are warning of a health system collapse, officials denied that a collapse is imminent but confirmed there are "some difficulties." Thousands of junior doctors went on strike in February to protest the government's plans to increase yearly medical school admission caps by 2,000 starting in 2025. South Korea's presidential office announced it is open to reconsidering the plan but emphasized that it would not be fully revoked.
- Avian Flu Case in Cambodia Confirmed as Novel Reassortant Strain: Cambodian health authorities informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about a confirmed case of avian influenza A(H5N1) in a 15-year-old child. Genetic testing showed that the child was infected with a novel reassortant influenza A(H5N1), which involves genetic mixing of two or more different strains. In this case, the novel reassortant A(H5N1) virus has surface proteins from one viral strain (clade 2.3.2.1c), while its internal genes come from a different strain (clade 2.3.4.4b). This case is one of 10 human cases reported in Cambodia this year, and the novel reassortant A(H5N1) has been detected in human cases in Cambodia since late 2023.
- CDC Confirms Human H5 Bird Flu Case in Missouri, Dairy Herds Test Positive in California: A Missouri resident with no history of animal contact has <u>tested positive</u> for bird flu. Further testing is ongoing to determine whether the individual was infected with the same strain that is causing an ongoing outbreak among dairy cattle. The patient has recovered, and health officials <u>confirm</u>

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that the risk of H5N1 infections to the general public remains low; however, Missouri's case is the first human case of H5 bird flu in the current outbreak where the individual had no reported exposure to infected animals. Relatedly, it is the first H5 case identified through the general flu surveillance system rather than targeted H5- specific surveillance. In California, cows at three Central Valley dairies have <u>tested positive</u> for H5N1 avian flu. No H5N1 human cases have been detected in California.

• Guidance on Antimicrobial Resistance Targets Antibiotic Pollution in Manufacturing: The WHO released its first-ever guidance on managing wastewater and solid waste from antibiotic manufacturing to address the rising issue of antibiotic pollution. Antibiotic pollution contributes to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which threatens the effectiveness of medicines. The guidance outlines best practices for managing risks, such as internal and external audits and promoting public transparency. It also allows for gradual implementation and step-by-step improvements, recognizing the importance of protecting the global supply and ensuring affordable, fair access to high-quality antibiotics. The publication comes ahead of the United Nations General Assembly meeting on AMR, which will take place later this month.

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- AT&T Workers Strike in Southeast U.S. Affecting Services: Around 17,000 AT&T workers in the southeast U.S. have been on strike since mid-August after their representative union withdrew from contract negotiations. The Communications Workers of America union is seeking improved wages and benefits and is denouncing AT&T's alleged violation of the National Labor Relations
 Act by "not bargaining in good faith" in the negotiation process, a claim that the telecom company denies. Customers have reported disruptions to internet services and repair delays related to the strike. Last Friday, AT&T submitted a final offer to the striking workers in hopes of ending the strike, which the union reportedly intends to counter.
- Judicial Reform in Mexico Stalls Billions in Foreign Investment, Protests Drag On: Mexico's
 Senate is debating President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's controversial judicial reform,
 which would require judges to be elected by popular vote. Thousands of people have been
 protesting the proposed overhaul, which critics say would weaken the independence of
 Mexico's judiciary. Private sector experts estimate that foreign investors wary of the reform and
 its resulting impacts are holding back around \$35 billion in investment projects across key
 sectors, including information technology and car manufacturing. That figure roughly equates to
 how much Mexico attracts in foreign direct investment each year. If the Senate passes the

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legislation this week, it will then <u>require approval</u> by a majority of Mexico's 32 state congresses before it can become law.

- Australia's Largest Defense Exhibition to See Major Demonstrations: Disrupt Land Forces
 and other anti-war activist groups are protesting Australia's largest defense exhibition. The Land
 Forces International Land Defence Exposition, set to take place in Melbourne between
 September 11-13, is expected to draw in around 25,000 demonstrators. Authorities are on high
 alert and are comparing the demonstrations to the disruptive actions at the World Economic
 Forum in Melbourne in 2000, which saw major clashes with police. At least seven demonstrations
 are planned from today until the convention concludes, headlined by an "Opening Rally"
 scheduled for Wednesday at 10 am at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center.
- Labor and Teaching Unions in Argentina to Hold Strikes, Demonstrations: Disruptions can be expected across Argentina between Wednesday and Thursday during strikes and demonstrations by labor and teaching unions. The State Workers Association (ATE) and several university teaching unions are calling for walkouts on both days to demand salary increases and to denounce several reforms proposed by President Javier Milei's government. In addition to the strike actions, the groups will hold demonstrations nationwide. A primary gathering will be held in Buenos Aires near the National Congress building at 1 pm on Thursday, where there is a potential for clashes between demonstrators and authorities.
- **Pro-Palestine Demonstrations to Hit Cities, Student Groups to Hold Day of Action**: Various cities around the world will see demonstrations related to the Israel-Hamas conflict this week. On Thursday, student groups plan to hold a day of action in solidarity with Palestine. In Chicago, students at DePaul University will hold a demonstration at 4 pm, while those at Amsterdam's Vrije Universiteit will gather at 1 pm at the university's campus square. On Saturday, pro-Palestine groups in Brooklyn intend to gather at the
- U.S. Army Recruitment Center at 2 pm to denounce what they see as the U.S. military's participation in the conflict in the Middle East.

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)

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- 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)