

KIMKJ.COM DAILY BRIEFING

2026 · 09 · 08

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

AI, Economy, and Global Conflict Daily Briefing

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Published by kimkj.com · Kim Kyung-jin, Attorney at Law · English edition

World Economy Top 10

World Economy Top 10 2026-09-08

Basis: 2026-09-07 05:30 KST - 2026-09-08 05:30 KST

Today's Top 10

1. International oil prices rose to a six-week high. On September 7, Brent crude jumped to about \$97 per barrel, up roughly 8 percent over the week, as US and Iranian tanker attacks heightened fears of a supply disruption in the Strait of Hormuz.

Korea impact: Korea imports and uses crude oil, so rising prices add to corporate production costs and inflation.

2. The US-Iran armed clash flared up again over the weekend. The US military attacked three Iranian tankers and sank one, Iran threatened to set up a new restricted zone outside the Strait of Hormuz, and the US said it would continue its naval blockade.

Korea impact: The Strait of Hormuz is a key route for Korea's Middle Eastern crude oil imports.

3. Expectations for a September rate hike by the US Federal Reserve continued. After August nonfarm payrolls came in at 162,000, well above the expected 56,000, and the unemployment rate held at 4.1 percent, the market put the probability of a hike at the September 16 meeting at about 60 percent, with the August consumer price index due September 11 seen as the deciding factor.

Korea impact: Growing expectations of a US rate hike affect the won's value and capital flows.

4. A September rate hike by the European Central Bank became more certain. In a Reuters poll, all 65 economists surveyed expect the ECB to raise the deposit rate by 0.25 percentage points to 2.50 percent on September 10, and Deutsche Bank forecast a further hike to 2.75 percent in December, citing the possibility of a prolonged energy shock.

5. Expectations for a September rate hike by the Bank of Japan also grew. After Governor Ueda hinted at the possibility of a hike, the market put the probability of a 0.25 percentage point hike at the September 18 meeting at about 80 percent, driven by upside price risks and a weaker yen.

Korea impact: Fluctuations in the yen affect the price competitiveness of Korean export goods that overlap with Japan's.

6. Japan's stock market rose on strength in technology shares. On September 7, the Nikkei 225 closed up 2.12 percent at 66,399.84, led by gains in shares such as SoftBank Group and Advantest.

7. European stock markets closed mixed. On September 7, the pan-European STOXX 600 index stayed roughly flat, France's CAC 40 rose 0.33 percent, while Germany's DAX fell 0.25 percent and the UK's FTSE 100 fell about 0.1 percent; the oil and gas sector was strong, up 1.29 percent.

8. Gold prices retreated. On September 7, spot gold fell to about \$4,400 per ounce, as strong employment data and rate hike expectations weighed on prices amid thin trading due to the US holiday.

9. US long-term Treasury yields remained elevated. On September 7, the US 10-year Treasury yield stayed near 4.789 percent, its highest level in several years, while the dollar index against six major currencies held around 99.1.

Korea impact: Rising US long-term rates affect Korea's market interest rates and foreign currency funding costs.

10. Mainland Chinese and Hong Kong stock markets diverged. On September 7, China's CSI 300 index closed up 0.59 percent at 4,575.02, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.85 percent in late trading.

Korea impact: China's economic trends are tied to Korea's exports to China.

Market Indicators

The Nikkei 225 closed up 2.12 percent at 66,399.84 on September 7. China's CSI 300 rose 0.59 percent to 4,575.02, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.85 percent. The pan-European STOXX 600 was flat, France's CAC 40 rose 0.33 percent, Germany's DAX fell 0.25 percent, and the UK's FTSE 100 fell about 0.1 percent. US markets were closed for Labor Day. The US 10-year Treasury yield was 4.789 percent, and the dollar index was around 99.1.

Central Banks and Policy

The probability of a US Federal Reserve rate hike on September 16 rose to about 60 percent after strong August employment data, with the August consumer price index on September 11 the focal point. A European Central Bank rate hike to a 2.50 percent deposit rate on September 10 has become more certain, while expectations for a Bank of Japan hike on September 18 rose to about 80 percent.

Commodities and Energy

Brent crude reached about \$97 per barrel on September 7, a six-week high, up about 8 percent for the week. US and Iranian tanker attacks and concerns over supply through the Strait of Hormuz pushed prices higher. Spot gold fell to about \$4,400 per ounce.

What to Watch in the Next 24 Hours

China's August trade balance and exports/imports, and Japan's finalized second-quarter GDP figures, are due on the morning of September 8. Also watch the US-Iran situation in the Strait of Hormuz, international oil price movements, and Treasury yield movements ahead of the US August consumer price index release (September 11).

[Source Links]

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- Generated: 2026-09-08 05:30 KST

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International Conflict Briefing

International Conflict Briefing **2026-09-08**

As of: 2026-09-07 09:20 KST - 2026-09-08 09:20 KST

Key Developments Today

1. A U.S. White House special envoy delegation completed visits to Moscow and Kyiv and stated that substantive progress was made in peace negotiations, but fundamental differences between the two sides persist.
2. An Israeli airstrike hit the village of Kfar Reman in southern Lebanon, killing at least 12 people, including paramedics and children.
3. As strike exchanges between U.S. forces and Iran intensified in the Strait of Hormuz, the U.S. military rerouted 94 vessels, and international oil prices surged.
4. The Ukrainian military officially confirmed that it struck 3 oil refineries located in Ryazan, Perm, and Tatarstan, Russia, using long-range drones.
5. Battles to secure control between Yemeni government forces and Houthi rebels intensified in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and Taiz areas of Yemen.
6. North Korea and Russia announced that they completed the construction of a new road bridge crossing the Tumen River in the border region.
7. The UN warned that Israel's large-scale rubble removal operation in the Gaza Strip risks damaging evidence for war crimes investigations.

Changes by Front

On the Russia-Ukraine front, airstrikes on capital regions saw a temporary lull during the visit of the U.S. special envoy delegation, but deep-strike attacks

continued. The Ukrainian military attacked 3 oil refineries in the Ryazan, Perm, and Tatarstan regions of mainland Russia, as well as a drone launch base in Kursk, using long-range drones.

On the Middle East front, Israeli airstrikes were carried out on Kfar Reman in southern Lebanon, causing large-scale casualties. The Israeli military announced that it struck Hezbollah strongholds and weapons positions.

On the Yemen front, clashes intensified between government forces and Houthi rebels over strategic control of the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. The Houthi side claimed that 7 prison inmates were killed in an airstrike by Saudi Arabia.

Civilian Casualties and Humanitarian Situation

Twelve civilians, including paramedics and children, were killed in the airstrike on Kfar Reman in southern Lebanon.

The UN pointed out that the large-scale rubble removal work being conducted by the Israeli military in the Gaza Strip could destroy evidence for investigating violations of international law and war crimes.

Maritime blockades and threats of tanker strikes in the Strait of Hormuz are restricting international energy logistics movements, and Qatar warned of a potential industrial catastrophe.

Diplomacy, Sanctions, and Military Support

The U.S. White House special envoy delegation announced that there were results in discussions regarding end-of-war proposals following a series of meetings with Russian and Ukrainian officials. However, Russia continues to demand territorial concessions and Ukraine's neutrality.

North Korea and Russia announced the opening of the Tumen River road bridge, further strengthening the foundation for logistics and military cooperation between the two countries. North Korea's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs strongly condemned the joint military drills by South Korea, the U.S., and Japan.

Observation Points for the Next 24 Hours

1. Closely observe whether Russia and Ukraine resume airstrikes on capital regions following the announcement of the U.S. special envoy delegation's meeting results.
2. Continuously monitor international crude oil market instability resulting from the ongoing vessel rerouting measures in the Strait of Hormuz.
3. Watch for the potential breakdown of the ceasefire in southern Lebanon and trends in additional operations by the Israeli military.

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- Generation Time: 2026-09-08 09:30 KST

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Global Incidents and Disasters Briefing

Global Incidents and Disasters Briefing 2026-09-08

Based on: 2026-09-07 07:40 KST - 2026-09-08 07:40 KST. 12 items.

Today's Summary

The massive floods in Nepal and Tibet, China, that occurred in late last month have pushed the cumulative death toll close to 1,400. The death toll from the Bolivia military base explosion has risen to 7, and Ebola infections in the Democratic Republic of Congo have surpassed 6,600 cases. As the eruption of Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano subsided, five airports including Jakarta resumed operations.

Earthquakes and Volcanoes

1. Indonesia's Anak Krakatau Volcano Eruption Ends and Airports Resume Operations

The event occurred at 07:18 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 05:18 on the 8th). The 25-hour continuous eruption of Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait has ended. Five of the eight airports closed on the 7th resumed operations on the 8th. The eruption disrupted about 340,000 passengers and more than 3,000 flights. Authorities are maintaining volcano alert level 3 and coordinating flight operations.

2. Magnitude 5.5 Earthquake off New Caledonia's Loyalty Islands

The event occurred at 14:50 KST on September 7, 2026 (local time 16:50 on the 7th). A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck waters off the Loyalty Islands in French New Caledonia. The earthquake's focal depth was 10 kilometers. There

have been no reports of a tsunami or casualties from the earthquake. The United States Geological Survey issued a green alert and is monitoring the situation.

Heavy Rain, Floods, and Typhoons

3. Nepal Flood Death Toll Rises to 1,399 and Relocation Begins

The event occurred at 04:30 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 01:15 on the 8th). Damage from the ongoing massive floods and landslides in Nepal continues to grow. The cumulative death toll has reached 1,399, and 20,000 homes have been damaged. The Nepalese government has begun relocating residents of affected areas to safer locations. Alongside recovery efforts, the government has called on the international community for support in addressing climate change.

4. China Confirms 43 Deaths in Tibet Landslide Amid Typhoon Sadur Aftermath

The event occurred at 04:12 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 03:12 on the 8th). A landslide in a border area of the Tibet Autonomous Region in China killed 43 people. More than 500 people remain missing in the landslide-affected area. Typhoon Sadur affected Hunan Province for the longest duration since 1961. Rescue authorities have dispatched search teams to the site and are conducting rescue operations.

5. Hurricane Lowell Approaches Hawaii, Hurricane Warning Issued for Kauai

The event occurred at 06:27 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 11:27 on the 7th). Hurricane Lowell is approaching waters west of Hawaii. The weather service has issued a hurricane warning for the island of Kauai. A tropical storm warning has been issued for Oahu. Up to 400 millimeters of heavy rain and strong wind damage are expected. Hawaii state authorities have declared a state of emergency and opened shelters.

Accidents

6. Bolivia Military Base Explosion Death Toll Rises to 7

The event occurred at 06:39 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 17:39 on the 7th). Damage from the Bolivia military base explosion continues to be assessed. The death toll has risen to 7, and 84 people have been counted as injured. The Bolivian government has declared three days of national mourning. Authorities are investigating the cause, including the possibility of careless storage of gunpowder.

7. Northern Cyprus Ferry Sinking Death Toll Rises to 14

The event occurred at 05:14 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 23:14 on the 7th). One more body has been recovered from the site of the ferry sinking off Northern Cyprus. The confirmed cumulative death toll is 14, with 14 people still missing. Of the 267 people aboard at the time, 239 were rescued. Search teams are searching the hull, which sank to a depth of 554 meters.

8. Mexico Church Festival Fireworks Explosion Kills 10, Injures 64

The event occurred at 05:42 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 14:42 on the 7th). Fireworks exploded at a church festival in Temascalcingo, Mexico. The incident killed 10 people and injured 64. Damage was worsened when a building wall collapsed from the force of the blast. Mexican prosecutors have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

9. India New Delhi Five-Story Building Collapse Death Toll Rises to 7

The event occurred at 05:52 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 02:22 on the 8th). Search operations continue at the site of a five-story building collapse in New Delhi, India. The death toll has risen to 7, and 12 people have been rescued and are receiving treatment. The building reportedly collapsed after its structure was weakened during basement repair work. Indian police have arrested the building owner and are investigating possible safety violations.

10. Black Boxes Recovered from Amazon Cargo Plane Crash at Miami Airport, US

The event occurred at 07:31 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 18:31 on the 7th). An investigation into the cargo plane runway excursion at Miami airport is under way. Investigators have recovered the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder and begun analysis. The cargo plane veered 396 meters off the runway and collided with two vehicles. The accident killed 5 occupants of the vehicles and injured 5 others.

Infectious Diseases

11. DR Congo Ebola Cases Surpass 6,600, Treatment Centers Expanded

The event occurred at 04:48 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 20:48 on the 7th). The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo continues. Cumulative confirmed cases stand at 6,604, with 3,175 deaths. The outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus, for which no vaccine exists. The World Health Organization has expanded isolation beds and dispatched 4,000 medical workers.

12. Manila, Philippines, Officially Declares Leptospirosis Outbreak

The event occurred at 06:12 KST on September 8, 2026 (local time 05:12 on the 8th). The city of Manila in the Philippines has officially declared a leptospirosis outbreak. The infection rate has surged to 3.48 percent following flooding from monsoon rains. Isolation beds at three major hospitals in Manila are at full capacity. The city of Manila is distributing free preventive medication to residents of 896 barangays.

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