



World Cup 2026 – Rolling Risk Brief

Issue: 07 Date/Time: 17 June 2026 | 09:00 EST Coverage Period: 17 – 24 June 2026

Executive Snapshot

Key Shift Since Last Brief:

- The tournament is now fully underway, with matches having been played in all 16 host cities.
- The tournament's opening ceremony in Mexico City was accompanied by protests concentrated around World Cup venues. Despite government efforts to dissuade participants from demonstrating ahead of June 11, several groups – such as the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE), supporters of Ayotzinapa, and various search collectives – disrupted traffic along main thoroughfares. While there were some isolated confrontations with security forces, these incidents remained localized and were ultimately contained. The CNTE continues to maintain its encampment around Zocalo and is organizing blockades in important areas throughout Mexico City.
- US and Iranian officials announced a framework agreement on 14 June outlining an end to military operations, the lifting of the US blockade of Iranian ports, and a 60-day period of nuclear negotiations, with a formal signing ceremony scheduled for 19 June. The development represents a significant de-escalatory step ahead of the tournament, although the situation in southern Lebanon remains highly volatile.
- Heavy rainfall and flooding have affected both Monterrey and the Houston metropolitan areas in recent days, causing localized transport disruption and operational challenges around World Cup-related activities. Rain is likely to continue until 18 June as a potential tropical storm forms in the Gulf of Mexico/America, likely impacting mobility, Fan Fest operations, and tournament logistics.

Highest Attention Cities (Next 7 Days):

- **Houston** – heavy rainfall and adverse weather conditions are forecast to persist through 17 June due to the passage of Tropical Storm Arthur, when Portugal is scheduled to play against DR Congo. The Houston area remains under a flash flood watch until at least 18 June. Continued heavy rainfall and flash flooding could disrupt transportation and stadium operations, potentially resulting in last-minute delays or rescheduling of the match.
- **Toronto** – Toronto is scheduled to host several upcoming fixtures, including Ghana v Panama on 17 June, Germany v Cote d'Ivoire on 20 June and Panama v Croatia on 23 June, which are expected to test local security arrangements. These matches follow Toronto's first hosted fixture, during which police responded to alterations in the stands, resulting in two arrests and two officers sustaining minor injuries.
- **Dallas** – The city will host the Argentina v Austria match on 22 June, with high attendance and enhanced security expected across the stadium, fan zones, and key transport routes. Authorities are likely to implement increased policing, traffic control, and crowd-management measures, contributing to localized congestion. Recent confrontations between Argentina and Algeria supporters in New York ahead of their opening fixture highlight the potential for isolated fan-related disorder, including scuffles, alcohol-related incidents, and localized public-order disruptions around fan zones.



Analyst View

The first week of the World Cup will conclude tomorrow. So far, 20 matches have been held across all 16 host cities in Canada, Mexico and the US. News media and law enforcement reported several noteworthy events that merit further monitoring, yet by and large, the first week closes without major security incident. In Mexico City, protesters blocked traffic and clashed with police near the stadium during the opening match. Scuffles and arrests were reported following matches in Toronto, while severe weather in Monterrey and Houston briefly suspended entry to the cities' Fan Fests.

In New York City, fans celebrating the victory of the New York Knicks over the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA championship caused widespread disruption – filling streets and damaging vehicles. According to the NYPD, more than 60 people were arrested and multiple others injured as a result. The incident illustrates the potential for short-notice, widespread disruption to follow high-profile sporting events.

US authorities announced that they had reached an initial agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, at least temporarily lowering the likelihood of a near-term resumption of large-scale hostilities. Nonetheless, the situation remains dynamic and the sides appear to remain far apart on key issues. Perceived or actual violations of the ceasefire are plausible and would not necessarily indicate a resumption of broader hostilities. Though this presents a positive downstream impact on the terror threat environment in the US and Canada, the World Cup matches and associated venues remain attractive targets for extremists.

What's Changed (Since Last Issue)

New Developments

- Following celebrations in New York City for the New York Knicks' championship, five unattended shuttle buses used to transport spectators from Manhattan to MetLife Stadium for World Cup matches were set on fire or destroyed, and 63 people were arrested during the celebrations. Heightened security measures and significant road disruption are expected across New York City on 18 June during the Knicks' victory parade.
- On 14 June, anti-government rallies took place across several U.S. World Cup host cities, including Boston, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia and Seattle. Although Houston and Philadelphia both hosted their opening tournament matches that day, the demonstrations remained peaceful and did not result in local or transport disruptions or disturbances to transportation.
- Disruptions in southern and central Mexico City intensified after failed negotiations between CNTE and the government on 10 June. CNTE protests and actions by Ayotzinapa supporters have included clashes along Calzada de Tlalpan and blockades at the Mexico–Cuernavaca toll, which have also led to confrontations against security forces. More recently, these protests have also impacted major highways leading to Mexico City, as well as key corridors including Reforma Avenue and city center locations, including Zocalo.

De-escalations / Stabilising Factors

- Authorities in both the US and Mexico have reduced several potential sources of disruption ahead of the tournament. In Los Angeles, SoFi Stadium workers reached a labor agreement that averted a planned strike, while in Mexico authorities have successfully demobilized several groups threatening protests during World Cup matches, including transport workers and farmers. However, key groups in Mexico City remain active and will continue to generate localized disruption.

Key External Factors:

- Although the US and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement aimed at ending military operations, a formal signing is forthcoming, key details remain unclear and Israel's inclusion is unlikely, limiting visibility on its practical impact. Therefore, security measures for matches involving Iran are expected to remain in place, particularly in Los Angeles, while further demonstrations by anti-Iranian government protesters near stadiums remain possible.

Methodology Note

This rolling brief applies the baseline risk and Fan Tension Index (FTI) methodology outlined in the World Cup 2026 Risk Outlook, updated to reflect current conditions and developments.



Forward Look (Next 7 Days)

High-Attention Fixtures

- 18 June: Mexico vs Korea Republic in Guadalajara
- 19 June: Brazil vs Haiti in Philadelphia
- 19 June: USA vs Australia in Seattle
- 21 June: Belgium vs Iran in Los Angeles
- 22 June: France vs Iraq in Philadelphia
- 22 June: Argentina vs Austria in Dallas
- 23 June: England vs Ghana in Boston

Pressure Outlook

- **Vancouver** - Workers in Metro Vancouver began striking on June 15, impacting regional parks, watersheds, water and sewer infrastructure, and construction sites. The union has advised the public to avoid Metro Vancouver parks during this time. Currently, both the outside workers' union and Vancouver transit workers are in mediation talks, but the outcome of these negotiations is uncertain. If the talks fail and further strike actions occur, significant disruptions to transportation and operations are likely, which could affect upcoming events at BC Place in Vancouver and Fan Fest activities.
- **Guadalajara** – Guadalajara is expected to face considerable pressure on 18 June as Mexico plays South Korea at Akron Stadium. Large crowds are anticipated at the stadium, the official Fan Fest in Plaza de la Liberacion, and other fan zones across the city. Confirmed CNTE mobilizations, potentially joined by search collectives and families of missing persons, are likely to add further strain to mobility and public spaces. Authorities are expected to deploy up to 18,000 personnel, supported by reinforced security perimeters, aerial surveillance, and traffic-management measures. Although localized disruption is likely, protests are expected to remain largely peaceful and the risk of significant clashes remains lower than in Mexico City.

Emerging Watchpoints

- Heavy rainfall in Monterrey and Mexico City has disrupted World Cup fan activities, including the suspension of Fan Fest events in both locations. In Monterrey, intense storms caused flooding, overflowing streams and safety incidents, forcing authorities to halt the soccer-related gathering. In Mexico City, severe rainfall led to widespread flooding and the temporary suspension of Fan Fest activities in the Zocalo, alongside transport disruptions. Similar conditions have been reported in Guadalajara, where heavy rain caused flooding and road closures. Authorities have issued further weather alerts, and continued rainfall is expected in the three host cities in Mexico in the coming days, likely causing additional transit disruptions, flooding and intermittent interruptions to fan-related events.
- Adverse weather has emerged as a recurring operational challenge for World Cup host cities in the US and Canada, impacting team training schedules, friendly matches and Fan Fest operations. A tornado near England's base camp in Kansas City on 13 June caused localized damage and power outages, while heavy rainfall and flash flooding were reported in Houston ahead of a match on 17 June. Severe storms also prompted temporary Fan Fest closures in Atlanta, Houston and Toronto during the tournament's opening week. With forecasts indicating continued excessive rainfall, the potential development of a tropical cyclone in the southern US and severe thunderstorms across the Midwest, further weather-related disruptions, including match delays and additional Fan Fest closures, remain likely.



City Spotlight – Los Angeles

Current Posture: Elevated

Key Pressure Points:

- Increased security measures will be in place in Los Angeles on 21 June as Iran plays its second match of the tournament against Belgium. Amid a delicate and evolving agreement between the US and Iran, authorities are expected to implement heightened police deployments and enhanced stadium security screening procedures, including expanded drone surveillance operations around the event venue.
- The Los Angeles Dodgers are also scheduled to host the Baltimore Orioles on 21 June, compounding mobility challenges in the city.
- Additional disruption is anticipated in the vicinity of SoFi Stadium due to planned demonstrations opposing the Iranian government ahead of kickoff. Iranian-American activists have previously held protests in Los Angeles calling for Iran’s exclusion from the tournament.

Implications:

- There is a possibility of tensions or isolated confrontations between supporters of the Iranian national team and anti-government demonstrators near the stadium. Although major disorder is unlikely, isolated disruptions may occur and could lead to temporary security measures affecting local traffic and pedestrian movement.
- The large number of spectators attending both sports events, heightened security measures and demonstrations are likely to strain public transportation services and contribute to increased congestion on major roads and highways across the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Implications for Organizations

- Reconfirm transportation plans and allow substantial buffer times for all airport, hotel, and stadium transfers; road closures, security checkpoints, and protest activity are likely to cause significant delays throughout the match day.
- Use vetted transport providers and confirm access arrangements before departure. Allow additional travel time, as vehicle access around SoFi Stadium may be restricted, requiring pedestrians to walk from designated drop-off locations.
- Consult official sources regularly for updates on road closures, access points, security perimeters, and recommended routes to SoFi Stadium and Fan Fest locations.
- Monitor developments related to planned protests and liaise with local contacts or support providers to identify affected locations, alternative routes, and emerging disruption hotspots.
- Avoid protests, demonstrations and security operations; leave the area immediately if tensions rise, confrontations appear imminent, or security forces begin deploying crowd-control measures, as bystanders may be affected.

Reporting Cadence

		Cadence	Coverage Window
08	24 Jun	Weekly	24–30 Jun
09	1 Jul	Weekly	1–7 Jul
10	8 Jul	Weekly	8–14 Jul
11	15 Jul	Weekly	15–21 Jul