

Mexico Political Chatter

June 11, 2026

Mexico finally arrives at the opening of the 2026 World Cup with a crisis installed in the heart of the capital. Hours before the inaugural match between Mexico and South Africa at the Mexico City Stadium, the CNTE confirmed it will maintain its encampment in the Zócalo and announced a new mobilization after failing to reach agreements in fresh negotiations with federal authorities. On Wednesday night, relatives of disappeared persons were also stopped by the capital's police on their way to the stadium. New mobilizations are expected for the opening day, joined by transport workers and farmers, as well as the mothers and fathers of the disappeared Ayotzinapa students, among other groups.

The CNTE's main demand — the repeal of the 2007 ISSSTE Law — is considered impossible given the enormous cost it would represent for public finances, around 20 points of GDP, as warned by ISSSTE Director Martí Batres. Negotiations are still in place.

For the federal government, the challenge has been striking a balance between ensuring World Cup activities proceed, defusing larger confrontations during the protests, and preventing images of blockades and demonstrations from overshadowing the narrative of organization and stability it seeks to project to the world. The conflict has not come without costs: the teachers' strike has resulted in salary deductions of 586 million pesos, according to SEP data, with Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Guerrero concentrating the bulk of the deductions.

That would not be the only cost raising alarms in the World Cup context. An investigation by Mexicans Against Corruption and Impunity (MCCI) revealed that entities controlled by the Defense Ministry and the Tourism Secretariat awarded contracts worth more than 500 million pesos to CREA, a company of the CIE entertainment group, for the production of the FIFA Fan Festival in Mexico City and other promotional spaces for the tournament without open bidding processes, reviving questions about who is capturing the economic benefits of the event.

On the trade relationship, Donald Trump once again hardened his rhetoric toward Mexico, warning that he will intensify actions against drug trafficking and that he might not renew the USMCA, asserting that the United States "doesn't need anything" from its North American partners. The statements come just as the Mexican delegation, led by Marcelo Ebrard, prepares for a new round of negotiations in Washington from June 15 to 18, with Mexico's backing of a 16-year extension of the agreement on the table.

In parallel, Senate committees advanced the ratification of Roberto Lazzeri as Mexico's new ambassador to the United States — a technical profile with experience in high-level economic negotiations who will replace Esteban Moctezuma at a key moment in the bilateral relationship. Questioned after his ratification, Lazzeri dismissed Trump's threats and pledged to keep a "cool head," as President Sheinbaum has maintained, in dealing with the northern neighbor.

On the electoral front, the PRI and its ally UDC won a resounding victory in Coahuila's legislative election, securing 17 of the 25 seats in the local Congress and halting the advance of Morena, which had sought to turn the election into a growth platform ahead of 2027. As Salvador García Soto notes,

the result shows that Morena's hegemony is not guaranteed in every state, although the election also left questions over polling stations with turnout above 100% that electoral authorities will have to review. For the PRI and the opposition at large, the result has been received as a much-needed breath of optimism, though some are calling to avoid triumphalism.

World Cup under pressure: Government seeks to defuse crisis in Mexico City

Hours before the kickoff of the FIFA World Cup 2026, the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) raised the pressure on the federal government by confirming it will maintain its encampment in the capital's Zócalo and continue its mobilizations during the opening day. Far from defusing the protests, the union leadership agreed to maintain its pressure strategy while negotiations with the Interior Secretariat continue, making clear that the conflict remains open at the moment of greatest international exposure for the Claudia Sheinbaum administration.

Tension rose after the CNTE announced a new mobilization heading toward the Mexico City Stadium, site of the opening match. Although a similar march was contained this week by a large police operation that blocked the teachers' advance toward the venue, the union maintains its intention to make itself visible during the year's most important sporting event. The capital's government has reinforced security cordons and deployed thousands of officers to prevent disruptions to the ceremony and stadium access points.

For the federal government, the challenge is no longer just guaranteeing the World Cup's security, but preventing images of blockades, encampments, and demonstrations from overshadowing the narrative of organization and stability it seeks to project to the world. While Sheinbaum insists that "everything is under control," the CNTE's permanence in the heart of the capital and its mobilization capacity keep open a political crisis that threatens to slip into the international photograph of the opening ceremony.

 [El Universal: CNTE announces it will maintain Zócalo encampment and mobilizations will continue this Thursday; they plan to march to the Mexico City Stadium](#)

The strike's bill: CNTE costs 586 million pesos

The CNTE strike has resulted in salary deductions of 586 million pesos, according to SEP data obtained by El Universal. The figure corresponds to deductions applied to teachers who participated in the national strike between May 15 and June 6. The calculation is based on 3,386,708 recorded absences in schools in Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero, Zacatecas, Mexico City, and other states where the union maintains a presence, in addition to the withholding of benefits tied to work attendance.

Of the total amount, Oaxaca concentrates the largest share of deductions, followed by Chiapas and Guerrero, the CNTE's main strongholds. The SEP stated that the deductions are carried out in accordance with current regulations and will continue as long as unjustified absences persist. The figure reflects the financial dimension the teachers' conflict has reached, alongside its political and educational implications.

 [El Universal: CNTE strike comes at a high price; costs the treasury 586 million pesos](#)

World Cup Fan Fest at the center of an investigation

An investigation by Mexicans Against Corruption and Impunity (MCCI) revealed that entities controlled by the Secretariat of National Defense and the Tourism Secretariat awarded contracts worth more than 500 million pesos to CREA, a company of the CIE entertainment group, for the organization and operation of activities linked to the 2026 World Cup. The contracts include the production of the FIFA Fan Festival in Mexico City, as well as the installation and operation of tourism pavilions and promotional spaces related to the tournament. According to the investigation, several of these awards were made without open bidding processes, under the argument of exclusive rights and specific technical conditions.

The report puts the spotlight on the growing role of federal agencies and state-owned companies in World Cup preparations, particularly those under military control. The publication notes that the contracts were awarded under the management of officials in charge of tourism promotion and strategic projects tied to the tournament, reviving questions about transparency and accountability in the use of public resources. One day before the World Cup opening, the case fuels the debate over who is capturing the economic benefits of the event and whether contracting mechanisms have guaranteed sufficient competition and oversight.

 [MCCI: Defense and Tourism hand over a 500-million-peso business to the World Cup festival organizer](#)

US Trump raises pressure on Mexico on the eve of the USMCA

Amid the formal review of the USMCA, U.S. President Donald Trump once again hardened his rhetoric toward Mexico, warning that his government will intensify actions against drug trafficking and asserting that he might not renew the trade agreement with Mexico and Canada. The president claimed that drugs continue to enter through the land border and reiterated that if Mexico does not act more firmly against the cartels, Washington will take measures on its own. He also asserted that the United States "doesn't need anything" from its North American partners, casting doubt on the treaty's continuity.

The statements come as the Mexican government prepares for a new round of negotiations in Washington led by Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard. According to Mexican authorities, the country arrives at this stage with progress on key issues and backing for a 16-year extension of the agreement, although differences persist in sectors such as the automotive industry, steel, economic security, and border security cooperation. Trump's new verbal offensive confirms that the USMCA review will unfold in an environment of high political and commercial tension between the two countries.

 [El Universal: Trump lashes out at Mexico again; warns they're going after drugs "entering by land" and that he might not renew the USMCA](#)

PRI consolidates its stronghold in Coahuila

The PRI and its ally Democratic Unity of Coahuila (UDC) won a resounding victory in the local legislative election, maintaining political control of the state and halting Morena's advance. According to the results, the governing coalition would secure 17 of the 25 seats in the local Congress, ensuring a majority that will allow it broad legislative maneuvering capacity during the second half of Manolo Jiménez's administration. Morena, which sought to turn the election into a growth platform ahead of 2027, fell far short of challenging PRI hegemony in the state.

Governor Manolo Jiménez attributed the result to unity among allied forces and his administration's record, while PRI leaders highlighted that Coahuila remains one of the few states where the party retains a solid electoral structure against Morena's national dominance. However, the election also raised questions about the quality of some results, after reports of polling stations with turnout above 100% and exceptionally low vote counts for the opposition. Although electoral authorities will have to review the flagged cases, the result strengthens the PRI in one of its main strongholds and places it in a favorable position ahead of the 2029 state succession and the political battles of 2027.

 [El País: The PRI sweeps Coahuila and keeps its stronghold against a weakened Morena](#)

us Green light for Lazzeri heading to Washington

Senate committees advanced the ratification of Roberto Lazzeri as Mexico's new ambassador to the United States, the profile put forward by President Claudia Sheinbaum to replace Esteban Moctezuma. The economist and former head of Nafin and Bancomext received legislative backing, and his appointment is on track to be voted on by the full Senate.

The government's bet responds to the strategic relevance of the bilateral relationship at key moments for the USMCA review, the migration agenda, and security cooperation. Lazzeri has participated in high-level economic negotiations with U.S. authorities and is seen as a technical profile with experience in financial and trade matters.

 [La Jornada: Congress ratifies Lazzeri as ambassador to the U.S.; he pledges to defend the USMCA before Trump](#)

Opinion express

- **The danger of yielding to the CNTE's extortion — Javier Tejado Dondé** Tejado Dondé argues that the CNTE's demands to reverse the ISSSTE pension reform are financially unviable and represent undue pressure on the federal government. He contends that returning to the pay-as-you-go scheme would worsen the public deficit, jeopardize the stability of national finances, and could trigger a downgrade of Mexico's credit rating. The columnist warns that yielding to these demands would set a dangerous precedent with far-reaching economic consequences.

 [El Universal: The danger of yielding to the CNTE's extortion](#)

- **What to do with the CNTE — or worse, with what comes next? — Jorge Zepeda Patterson** Zepeda Patterson argues that the conflict with the CNTE cannot be understood solely as a labor dispute, but as the manifestation of a structural problem related to the deterioration of pension systems and the retirement conditions of millions of workers. While acknowledging the costs and excesses of the protests, he warns that the teachers' discontent foreshadows broader social conflicts stemming from a pension model that delivers insufficient retirements. In his view, the challenge for the government goes beyond resolving the immediate conflict — it requires confronting a social crisis of much greater scale.

 [Milenio: What to do with the CNTE — or worse, with what comes next?](#)

- **Coahuila and the humiliation of Morena — Salvador García Soto** García Soto argues that the recent electoral results in Coahuila exposed the limits of Morena's advance in a state where the PRI retains a solid territorial structure and significant mobilization capacity. For the columnist, the defeat represents a political setback for the governing party and a signal that Morena's hegemony is not guaranteed in every state — especially ahead of the 2027 electoral battles, where the weight of local leaderships and political operations will remain decisive factors.

 [El Universal: Coahuila and the humiliation of Morena](#)

- **The World Cup, a country put to the test — Joaquín López-Dóriga** López-Dóriga warns that the World Cup will place Mexico under international scrutiny in a context marked by social protests, insecurity, and political tensions. He recalls how major sporting events have amplified historic episodes and argues that the government faces the challenge of preventing global attention from focusing on internal conflicts, particularly the CNTE mobilizations. His conclusion is that the tournament represents a test of the state's capacity to guarantee governability and project a positive image of the country to the world.

 [Milenio: The World Cup, a country put to the test](#)

Agenda in brief

The FIFA World Cup 2026 kicks off this Thursday, June 11, at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City. The opening ceremony will include musical performances and give way to the match between Mexico and South Africa, marking the official start of the tournament.

Mexico will participate in a new round of USMCA review negotiations in Washington from June 15 to 18. The Mexican delegation, led by Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, will hold meetings with U.S. officials.