



## Russia & Southeastern Europe

**Warsaw (Poland).** Poland hopes to make progress in talks with the new Czech government over the Turow open-pit lignite mine near the border. The mine has been the source of the most serious spat between the two European Union members in decades. In November, the Czech environment ministry declared that a new proposal from Poland for resolving the dispute was unacceptable. So far, Poland has stated that it has no plans to halt mine or power plant operations.

**Moscow (Russia).** Tensions between Ukraine and Russia are at their highest in years, with a Russian troop build-up near the two nations' borders spurring fears that Moscow could launch an invasion in the coming weeks or months. It comes as Ukraine continues to angle towards a friendlier relationship with Western powers. Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has reiterated his demand for guarantees from the US and its allies that NATO will not expand eastwards, blaming the West for the increase in tensions.

## Middle East

**Tehran (Iran).** Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Maj. Gen. Mohammad Bagheri said Israel's key Dimona nuclear facility will be "a prime target" should a war break out between the two archenemies. According to Bagheri, to conduct such an attack at the heart of Israel's Negev Desert, Iran possesses the knowhow and technology to use "multiple routes" and firing options to nullify Israel's advanced anti-missile system, known as the Iron Dome.

**Sanaa (Yemen).** Two people were killed in Saudi Arabia in a projectile attack blamed on Yemen's Houthi rebels. The Arab military coalition led by Riyadh intervened in Yemen in 2015 to back the internationally recognized government, a year after the Houthis overran the capital Sanaa. Since then, tens of thousands of people have been killed, in what the United Nations has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The Saudi-led coalition has repeatedly accused Iran and Hezbollah of helping Yemen's Houthi rebels to launch missiles and drones at the kingdom.



## Africa

**Khartoum (Sudan).** Thousands of people took to the streets in Khartoum and other Sudanese cities on as part of relentless demonstrations against the October military coup and subsequent deal that has allowed the military to remain part of the transitional council formed in 2019 following the overthrow of longtime President Omar al-Bashir. In reponse, Sudanese police fired tear gas at protesters, who rallied near the presidential palace in the capital Khartoum. In past rounds of demonstrations security forces used violence, including live ammunition against protesters. At least 44 protesters have been killed and hundreds wounded since the coup, according to the Sudan Doctors Committee.

**Beni (DR Congo).** A suicide bomber killed at least five people at a crowded night spot in the city of Beni, in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. A stement from miliitary officials blamed the attack on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the deadliest of the militia active in the region. Beni, in Ituri province, on the DRC's eastern border with Uganda, has been the site of regular clashes between the army and the ADF. Ituri and neighbouring North Kivu province have been under a "state of siege" since May, an emergency measure in which the military has taken effective control but which so far has not succeeded in stopping the attacks from the armed militia.

