

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Saudi Arabia admits Khashoggi killed but claims he died in 'fist-fight'**

Saudi Arabia has admitted journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who disappeared after visiting the country's consulate in Istanbul on 2 October, is dead. Riyadh claimed that he was killed in a "fist-fight" with Saudi officials. The Saudi regime also announced a purge of senior officials including Saud al-Qahtani, an influential adviser to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and General Ahmed al-Asiri, a senior intelligence official. Both men have been fired. Eighteen Saudi nationals were said to have been arrested. The purge appeared to be aimed at insulating the crown prince and protecting his position. It was reported that he would remain overall head of intelligence.

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### **China to launch 'artificial moon' to replace streetlamps**

China is planning to launch its own 'artificial moon' by 2020 to replace streetlamps and lower electricity costs in urban areas. Chengdu, a city in southwestern Sichuan province, is developing "illumination satellites" which will shine in tandem with real moon, but are eight times brighter, according to China Daily. The first man-made moon will be launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan, with three more to follow in 2022 if the first test goes well, said Wu Chunfeng, head of Tian Fu New Area Science Society, the organization responsible for the project. By reflecting light from the sun, the satellites could replace streetlamps in urban areas, saving an estimated 1.2 billion yuan (\$170 million) a year in electricity costs for Chengdu, if the man-made moons illuminate an area of 50 square kilometers.

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