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## Happy New Year!



150 FILS  
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### SYDNEY SPECTACULAR LEADS NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

MILLIONS RING IN 2015 WITH FIREWORKS, CONCERTS AND LIGHT SHOWS



Min 07°  
Max 23°  
High Tide 09:05 & 20:50  
Low Tide 02:50 & 14:00

#### PALESTINIANS TURN TO ICC AS UN BID FAILS

**RAMALLAH:** President Mahmud Abbas yesterday signed a Palestinian request to join the International Criminal Court, seeking a new avenue for action against Israel after a failed UN resolution on ending the occupation. The Palestinians hope ICC membership will pave the way for war crimes prosecutions against Israeli officials for their actions in the occupied territories.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu swiftly hit back, saying the Palestinians have "more to fear" than Israel from the Hague-based court. He cited the Palestinian leadership's links to Hamas, the militant group which Israel describes as a "terrorist organization" and which is part of a unity government with Abbas's Fatah movement. The ICC can prosecute individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and Palestinian plans to become a party to the court have been strongly opposed by Israel and the United States.

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SYDNEY: Fireworks explode over the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge during New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney, Australia, early today. — AP

**HONG KONG:** A huge display of fireworks lit up Hong Kong early today with brilliant bursts of color over Victoria Harbor as the Chinese city rang in 2015 in spectacular style, launching the party for millions across Asia.

From New Delhi to Dubai, Johannesburg, New York and Rio, millions around the world will celebrate when the clock ticks past midnight, ringing in 2015 with fireworks displays, concerts and light shows.

In Hong Kong, hundreds of thousands of people crowded the city's promenades to watch the eight-minute

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#### INDIA HALTS KD720 BANK GUARANTEE

**KUWAIT:** The India government has decided to suspend the KD720 bank guarantee measure that was implemented for the welfare of the Indian domestic workers coming to Kuwait, an Indian embassy press release here said.

"After discussing this issue with Kuwaiti authorities, it has been agreed to suspend with effect from 12 December 2014 taking any bank guarantees from sponsors in Kuwait, while keeping in abeyance the attestation of employment contracts of Indian female domestic workers," the press release said.

Indian and Kuwaiti sides are constantly engaged in finding a long-term resolution of this issue. India implemented the KD 720 bank guarantee measure in September 2014.

Al-Safat Dhiafa Co.



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# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

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Health, Happiness and Prosperity!



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