

**Disney fires Gunn over rude tweets**

“Guardians of the Galaxy” franchise director James Gunn has been axed from the third movie over a series of offensive messages posted on Twitter several years ago. The tweets, mainly from 2008 and 2011, joked about taboo topics such as rape and paedophilia. **P16**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Taylor Swift in all-star film version **16** SHOW

WORLD **13** Trump lashes ex-lawyer, says taping of client ‘perhaps illegal’

**King meets Premier**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday visited His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. HM the King paid tribute to HRH the Premier, hailing his pivotal role in enhancing Government’s work to meet citizens’ needs, cater to their required services and bolster their status as the focal point of comprehensive development.

**Jordan Premier wins confidence vote**

Jordan Prime Minister Omar Razzaz’s comfortable victory in a parliamentary confidence vote has given the reformist leader some breathing space - for the time being at least. Razzaz survived the vote by a 79-49 margin after a week of intense debate in the 130-member Parliament.

However, the embattled leader, who has been in office for only six weeks, knows the victory cannot be taken for granted.

The confidence vote is likely to give Razzaz room to introduce wide-ranging reforms at least until the end of the year.

Jordan’s Parliament will return from recess in October and, short of an emergency, another vote of confidence is unlikely.

**Israel spits racist venom**

A new barrier in ending decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict

● Adoption of the law “reflected the regime of racism and discrimination against the Palestinian people,” GCC secretary general Abdullah Al Zayani was quoted by SPA as saying.

**Jeddah**

Saudi Arabia has joined the UAE in slamming a controversial Israeli law as “perpetuating racial discrimination” against Palestinians by defining the country as the nation state of the Jewish people, state media reported.

The law adopted by Israel’s parliament on Thursday also defines the establishment of Jewish communities as being in the national interest and downgrades Arabic from an official language to one with special status.

Citing a Saudi foreign ministry source, the official Saudi Press Agency said late Friday the kingdom “rejects and disap-



Arab lawmakers stand up in protest during a Knesset session in Jerusalem.

proves” of the new legislation which it argued contradicts international law.

The source called on the international community to “confront such a law and or other Israeli attempts, aimed at perpetuating racial discrimination against the Palestinian people”, SPA reported.

Saudi Arabia said the adoption of the

law would also be a barrier to ending the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

On Friday, the UAE’s Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash branded Israel racist for enacting the law, saying it weakened the possibility for a two-state solution.

“The Israeli Knesset’s ratification of

the Jewish-state law enshrines the racist practises against Palestinians and falls in the context of weakening the current political direction for a two-state solution,” Dr Anwar Gargash said.

Earlier this year King Salman reaffirmed Saudi Arabia’s “steadfast” support for the Palestinian cause, after Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signalled a shift in the country’s approach.

Prince Mohammed in April said in a magazine interview that Israelis as well as Palestinians “have the right to have their own land”.

Arab citizens account for some 17.5 per cent of Israel’s more than eight million population and have long complained of discrimination.

The Israeli legislation was also condemned by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, comprised of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Adoption of the law “reflected the regime of racism and discrimination against the Palestinian people,” GCC secretary general Abdullah Al Zayani was quoted by SPA as saying.

**Beauty battle**



Ariane Deseree Viardo, fifth from left, overcame 12 beauty contestants to win the title of Mutya Ng Pilipinas Bahrain 2018. Ariane will represent Bahrain at the upcoming Mutya Ng Pilipinas, which will be held in the Philippines. The Mutya Ng Pilipinas Pageantry is a Filipino foundation that organises the event every year.

**SPACE MUSICIAN**

**Astronaut drops in, plays duet from space**

**Berlin**

Kraftwerk fans are used to hearing otherworldly tunes, but the German electronic music pioneers took it to another level at a gig in Stuttgart.

Video posted Saturday by the European Space Agency shows German astronaut Alexander Gerst “dropping in” for a live performance from the International Space Station.

Using a tablet computer with a virtual synthesizer, Gerst played a duet with Kraftwerk’s 1978 song “Spacelab” with the band Friday night to cheers from the audience.



Alexander Gerst

He’s not the first space musician. Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield recorded a cover of David Bowie’s “Space Oddity” and played a duet with the Barenaked Ladies while 400 kilometers (250 miles) above the Earth in 2013.

American astronaut Ron McNair planned to play saxophone from orbit with Jean Michel Jarre in 1986 but died in the Challenger tragedy.



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