

**American actress Pompeo robbed in Italy**

“Greys Anatomy” star Ellen Pompeo says she had her purse snatched by a thief while she was on a vacation in Italy. She took to Instagram on Friday to share her experience, reports etonline.com. **P17**

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# THE DAILY tribune



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17 SHOW

WORLD 13 Ireland aborts ‘abortion ban’

**Saudi coalition foils attempted attack**

**Dubai**  
The Saudi-led coalition said it has foiled an attempted attack by an unmanned drone in Saudi Arabia’s southern city of Abha. Colonel Turki Al Maliki, spokesman for the Arab Coalition fighting in Yemen, said the Saudi Air Defence unit assigned to the airport detected an unknown body at 13:45 pm local time and destroyed it, the Saudi Press Agency reported. Coalition experts who inspected the wreckage said it was of a drone that belonged to the terrorist Houthi militia, identified as an Iranian UAV Ababil.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday received a delegation of US Congressmen, headed by Congressman Darrell Issa, at Riffa Palace. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of further strengthening cooperation and coordination with the United States across various fields, highlighting the longstanding strategic partnership between both countries.

**Works Ministry renovates 2,690 houses under special scheme**

● The budget allocated for the project this year is **BD2.4 million.**

TDI|Manama

Under the Cities and Villages Development Project, the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs and Urban Planning has completed the renovation of 2,690 houses this year, it emerged.

Ministry Undersecretary Dr Nabil Mohammed Abu Al Fateh said the ministry has also signed contracts to complete the renovation and main-

tenance of 135 houses belonging to low-income families.

The number of completed houses is expected to exceed 2,900 by the end of this year.

He explained that the project aimed at the development of cities and villages while improving the lives of low-income families.

“The budget allocated for the project is BD2.4 million for the financial year 2018-2019.”

“The ministry has been able to achieve important milestones in this project. Restoration of 2,900 houses to raise the standard of living of some families is particularly important in a community as closely as the Bahraini community,” he explained.

**Pakistan announces general elections**

**Islamabad**  
Pakistan will hold general elections on July 25, a presidential spokesman said yesterday, offering the prospect of what would be only the second ever democratic transfer of power in the nuclear-armed country. “The president has approved July 25 as the date for holding general elections in the country,” a spokesman from Mamnoon Hussain’s office said.

## Cyclone dies, horror lives on

Mekunu, which has been downgraded to a tropical storm, may affect parts of Saudi Arabia until Tuesday

● The storm flooded Socotra’s villages and capsized boats, leaving much of the island without access to communications.

Muscat

Two people, including a child, were killed and three others went missing in the Omani province of Dhofar after Cyclone Mekunu hit the southern region of the Gulf Arab country, Omani police and state news media said yesterday.

The three missing were Asian nationals, state news agency

ONA reported. Mekunu started to weaken to a tropical storm in Oman and authorities began clearing operations yesterday after the heavy rain but warned residents to stay in their homes, with run-off from river valleys flooding most main roads in Dhofar. The cyclone also killed at least seven people in the Yemeni island of Socotra, a Yemeni official said on Saturday. At least 40 people were missing.

Yemen declared a state of emergency on Thursday for Socotra, which lies between southern Yemen and the Horn of Africa and is renowned for its unique animal and plant life.

The storm flooded Socotra’s villages and capsized boats, leaving much of the island without access to communications.



An Oman official directs a loader driver Friday to tear away a median to drain a flooded street in Salalah after Cyclone Mekunu causes heavy rains.

As wind and rain began to pummel southern Oman during the day, they extended the closure of the city’s airport until

Saturday. Meanwhile, latest satellite images, analysis of weather maps and the results of numerical

models of Cyclone Mekunu have shown that it has become a second class cyclone and is expected to move north to northwest, with the eye of the storm away from Saudi Arabia.

The center of the storm is likely to be about 350 kilometers away and the wind speed around the center, is expected to be between 157 to 167 km/h, according to the General Authority of Meteorology and Environment Protection (GAMEP).

The commission’s predictions indicate that the tropical situation, in Oman and the Republic of Yemen is likely to change. The cyclone, which has been downgraded to a tropical storm, may affect parts of the Kingdom, starting from the dawn on Saturday to next Tuesday.

TASTY TALK

### Pair of Japanese premium melons sell for record \$29,300

Tokyo

A single pair of premium melons yesterday fetched a record 3.2 million yen (\$29,300) at auction in Japan, where the fruit is regarded as a status symbol.

Seasonal fruit offerings in Japan routinely attract massive sums from buyers seeking social prestige, or from shop owners wanting to attract customers to “ooh and aah” over the extravagant edibles.



The winning bid was placed by a local fruit packing firm for the first Yubari melons to go under the hammer this year at the Sapporo Central Wholesale Market in northern Hokkaido, officials said.

The figure — enough to buy a new car in Japan — topped the previous record for the luxury fruit, which fetched 3.0 million yen two years ago.

“Yubari melons are growing well this year as sunshine hours have been long

since early May,” said market official Tatsuro Shibuta.

Yubari melons are considered a status symbol in Japan — like a fine wine — with many being bought as a gift for friends and colleagues.

The best-quality Yubari melons are perfect spheres with a smooth, evenly patterned rind. A T-shaped stalk is left on the fruit, which is usually sold in an ornate box.



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