## US missiles from drone kill 8 militants in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Eight militants were killed in a US missile strike in northwest Pakistan yesterday, security officials said, in the third such attack on the Taliban's tribal strongholds in 24 hours.

The unmanned drone targeted the lawless region of North Waziristan, a Taliban bolthole where Washington says Islamist fighters are hiding August. out and plotting attacks on Western troops stationed in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Northwest Pakistan is seeing a surge in US strikes, with seven reported this month as the United States tries to stem the flow of militants waging a

which targeted a compound in Norak area in North Waziristan," a security official in the region said.

"The death toll in the strike is eight militants including three Arabs, one Uzbek, one Chechen and three local militants," he added.

confirmed the attack and toll. telling AFP that Taliban rebels were holding a meeting in the compound about 25 kilometres (15 miles) east of district hub Miranshah at the time of the attack.

any high-value target," he said. On Tuesday, two successive

strikes from the pilotless spy planes in South and North

militants. The first strike killed five rebels at the compound of a low-level Taliban commander in South Waziristan's Sara

Waziristan killed a total of 12

pounded militants associated with an al-Qaeda-linked network in North Waziristan, apparently killing seven Afghan Taliban at a house on

deadly insurgency against a rule, confirm drone attacks, about 100,000 foreign troops but its armed forces and the stationed across the border. Central Intelligence Agency "It was a US drone attack operating in Afghanistan are the only forces that deploy pilotless drones in the region.

The fatalities are impossible to verify independently because the targets are deep in Taliban-controlled territory.

Islamabad publicly opposes the US missile attacks, with 60 such strikes killing more than

Another security official 580 people since August 2008. But the Pakistani government welcomed the death of Taliban warlord Mehsud on

> Rahimullah Yusufzai, an expert on the tribal areas, said that the spike in US missile cooperation between the two

"It is not clear if there was attacks could show increased nations.

## Matin denies

FROM PAGE 1

Chittagong Port will be able to save Tk 98.97 crore in the next three years because of the contract," he told reporters.

"The reforms done over the last two years were indispensable for the development of the port. You can now witness the outcome of those reforms," he added.

The interrogation team headed by ACC Deputy Director Sheikh Mohammad Fanafillah quizzed Matin from 9:50am to 11:20am and recorded his statement.

Matin was given a 44-point questionnaire to fill in while CPA chief RU Ahmed was given 43 questions to answer

in writing. Ahmed claimed that he was not called for interrogation. "I went there on my own when I heard MA Matin arrived there to say 'hello' to him. I stayed there beside Matin for about 15 minutes and talked to him about

relevant matters," he said. The ACC team also questioned 20 other people yesterday.

It began the interrogation FROM PAGE 16 Tuesday and questioned nine denting its image. people on that day.

said, "We are making headway in the investigation beyond our expectation. The accused and witnesses are giving statelecting necessary docu- Magistrate Md Rafiqul Islam. ments.

connection with the allegations. The ACC team hopes to of Alo Rani Saha.

finish the interrogation today. The ACC constituted the

following directives from the parliamentary standing com mittee on shipping ministry.

A parliamentary subcommittee asked the ministry to take necessary steps after it had detected anomalies in the tender process for awarding the container-handling contract to Ishak Brothers in increasing the retirement age of shipping pilots.

The persons the ACC team has so far questioned include Captain Zubayer Ahmed, Assistant Traffic Manager Omar Faruq.

Earlier, the team visited the Chittagong Container Terminal and verified relevant

submit the investigation report in 15 days. It can extend the investigation period for 15 days if necessary.

### BCL expels

Interrogator Fanafillah arrested three persons and seized some video CDs.

police last evening took the rape victim before the ments while we are also col- Pirojpur's Chief Judicial

In her statement before the At least 30 people are magistrate, the victim accused expected to be quizzed in Mamun of raping her after taking her to the rented house

> Police yesterday also detained Alo Rani Saha, a

# Another giraffe

"Two giraffes have been ill since September 21 but the dead one showed all signs of recovery this morning and then suddenly collapsed at 10:40am," says a zoo staff.

"It was chewing the cud in the morning what is a sign of good health of animals living on grass," he adds.

among five of the giraffes brought from South Africa in June last year. Now three giraffes are left and one of

"Of the two sick giraffes, the one improving died yesterday. So I cannot say the fate of other one," says the zoo offi-

A male lion died within three days of the death of the young female giraffe earlier

last month. The curator and deputy curator of the zoo were sacked following the death of the giraffe and a probe committee

was formed. But the report the probe committee submitted was never made public. Earlier, a sambar deer died in the first week of May. In March, a baboon, a wildebeest and the last member of

186 acres of land in Mirpur housing more than 2,000 animals of 157 species.

Of them, 57 species are mammals including elephant, Royal Bengal Tiger, lion, cheetah, rhinoceros, zebra, monkey, chimpanzee, and hippo. The dead animal was There are 61 species of birds, 11 species of reptiles including snakes and crocodiles and 28

Around 10,000 people visit this poorly managed zoo every

### Tender-hungry

FROM PAGE 16

"When we came to know that some unruly people are trying to create disturbance in the tender process we rushed there. We also caught two persons from the spot. After that the tender process was completed peacefully," said Md Motiur Rahman, officerin-charge of Pabna Police

Golam Faruk, lawmaker from Pabna-5 constituency and also the organising secretary of Pabna district AL, however, denied any political involvement in the incident.

### Criminal

FROM PAGE 16 Bheramara upazila, a top

leader of 'Panna Bahini'. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-12 raided a roadside garden at Faizullahpur where some criminals were holding a meeting around 3:00am.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the miscreants opened fire prompting the law enforcers to retaliate that ensued a gunfight. Asha died on the spot but his cohorts managed to flee the

Rab recovered one rifle, seven bullets, four bombs and

two knives from there. Asha was accused in 13 cases, including nine for murder, police said adding that he went into hiding after his top aide Panna was killed in an 'encounter' in 2008.

He returned to the area recently and was trying to reorganise the gang, police said.

### Rid owner

FROM PAGE 1

Rid Pharma Ltd, its directors Begum Sheuli Rahman and Md Abdul Gani and pharmacists Md Mahbubul Islam and Md Anamul Haque.

Rid Pharma's factory at Nandanpur in Brahmanbaria was sealed on July 22 following a directive from Bangladesh Drug Administration.

Three more cases were filed on August 10 against Rid Pharma Ltd in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Sylhet.

#### Robber

FROM PAGE 16

Following their suspicious movement, local people chased and stopped four of them along with the auto rickshaws and beat them up leaving Harun dead on the spot and three others injured.

Meanwhile, five cops were injured in the same mob attack as they tried to resist the

The injured cops were subinspectors Musa Mian, Ramij Ahmed and Arifur Rahman, assistant sub-inspectors Shamim and Nayek Abu Bakkar Siddique of Banshkhali Police Station.

Of them, seriously injured Abu Bakar was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment while the body of Harun was also sent there for autopsy.

Two single-barrel guns and seven bullets were recovered from their possession, police

The arrested robbers were quizzed at the police station.

### Mobile court

**FOM PAGE 16** 

blood bags were kept in freezer along with different fooditems.

Rab executive magistrate Anwar Pasha, who led the mobile court, said the two blood centres were everyday selling around 15 to 20 bags of blood, collected mostly from drug addicts, to 10-12 hospitals in the capital including a

renowned one. He said the two blood banks did not comply with the requirements of fulltime doctors, technician, nurse and maintaining donors registrar and conducting five tests on a donor before collecting the

The magistrate said the blood centres maintained a syndicate with drug addicts whom they contacted over cell phone and did everything secretly.

The centres pay only Tk 150 to a donor per bag of blood while it gets around Tk 1,500," Pasha said.

## Hajj flights

FROM PAGE 1 that hajj pilgrims would be

The government has in Saudi Arabia for hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh, Mjibar said after the meeting

A total of 58,473 pilgrims will perform hajj this year-8,034 under government management and 50,439 under private arrangement, said MA Rashid Shah Shamrat, secretary general of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab).

The state minister said accommodation facilities in Saudi Arabia for some 7,753 pilgrims under government management have already been arranged and that for the others will be ensured next

fear, Majibar said the Saudi government will no put any tight embargo on Bangladeshi pilgrims. Rashid mentioned that 250

hajj agencies have been listed to handle pilgrims this year. The last flight for

Bangladeshi pilgrims is on November 21, he said.

## Jhau plundering

FROM PAGE 16

committee formed to probe into the felling of Jhau trees on Teknaf beach has already visited the spot, talked to different quarters concerned and prepared a list of the persons involved with the crime. The list of the persons involved includes leaders and workers of ruling AL, Jubo League and opposition BNP.

According to the first information report (FIR), about 200 to 300 workers led by some leaders and workers of ruling party entered the Jhau garden developed by the forest department on about 260 acres land including 50 acres in Katabunia, Kachubunia and Khurer Mukh under Sabrang mouja and felled 17,500 Jhau trees between September 5 and 10. They also took away the trees, the FIR said.

created the Jhau garden in as environmentally endangered and banned cutting trees, change of land use and construction of embankment

The FIR also mentioned break-up of compensation of loss caused to the Jhau

General Secretary and Sabrang Union Parishad member Noor Hossain has been made the main accused in the case. Besides, more than 50 leaders, workers and supporters of the ruling party including Noor Hossain's elder brother and Khair Hossain have also been accused in the case.

Other accused in the case Administration. include Teknaf upazila BNP Organising Secretary and Sabrang UP member Sultan Ahmed and former member Foyezur Rahman.

BNP leader Sultan Ahmed said, "I was involved with the movement to save the Jhau garden all along. Now they garden destruction case. The masterminds of the Jhau tree Jhau trees.

cutting conspiratoriall included my name in the

AL leader Zahed Hossain said a vested quarter has accused him and his two brothers in the Jhau tree felling case to tarnish the image of the government. He claimed that no one of them was involved with destruction of the Jhau garden.

On September 9, about 200 miscreants cut some 20,000 Jhau trees on 250 acres government land of Teknaf beach. A stir was created when different national dailies including The Prothom Alo and The Daily Star published reports along with pictures on this crime. Prime minister Sheikh Hasina ordered arrest of those involved with destruction of Jhau trees.

A three-member investiga-The forest department tion committee led by Chittagong Divisional 1995. On May 20, 1999 the Commissioner MN Siddiqui government declared the area visited Teknaf sea beach on September 20. The divisional commissioner ordered the forest officials concerned to prepare a list of those involved with the felling of Jhau trees and file compensation case.

Divisional Forest Officer demanded for different types MA Khaleque said four forest officials including local forest range officer Golam Mostafa Teknaf upazila Jubo League have already been suspended for their failure to save the Jhau garden. The forest guards have been alerted so that the miscreants cannot cut the remaining Jhau garden there.

Deputy Commissioner Gias Uddin Ahmed said the 260 acres of land on which the Jhau garden has been destroyed is now under the control of Land

Police Superintendent Mo Sakhawat Hossain said the forest department officials conducted an enquiry and later filed a case against the accused. Police will arrest the accused to implement PM's order, the SP added.

Teknaf thana police has have accused me in Jhau already arrested 14 persons involved with cutting of the

## Kushtia millers

FROM PAGE 1

Khajanagar is one of the country's biggest rice trading hubs with concentration of around 500 rice mills there.

The investigation body also said each of the millers has huge rice stocks in warehouses. Rice traders in Dhaka and elsewhere are fixing prices even higher after buying from the millers, they added.

The millers who were selling per maund of fine rice (miniket) in the range of Tk 1,120 - Tk 1,150 during the Ramadan, hiked the price to

Tk 1,280 from Monday. The five-member investigation committee led by Kushtia Additional District Magistrate Fazlur Rahman opined that the new rate is illogical as they (millers) bought the paddy at Tk 600 to 630 a maund and the production cost has not increased

anywhere. "Such fixation of price for rice is totally unethical," Fazlur Rahman told The Daily Star. He said the millers should fix the selling price consistent with the price of procuring paddy.

After visiting Khajanagar and inspecting the market scenario, the probe body handed over its report to Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan, which is to be soon forwarded to the ministry, sources said. The DC couldn't be reached for comment.

behind price hike saying the the statement.

The millers in Khajanagar alleged that the rice traders in Dhaka are selling rice at Tk 1,325 to 1,350 a maund to make extra profit just putting the blame on the millers.

The other members of the Hossain, district marketing officer, and Abdul Halim, assistant police super of Kushtia sadar circle.

Locals and relatives alleged the ruling Awami League Kalapara upazila unit secretary Rakibul Ahsan took signatures from the victim and her father after staging

escape. They also suspected the statement submitted in the name of the victim was actually one of those blank paper signed under coercion.

Asked who submitted the statement, the OC could not answer but said he was away the court.

The duty officer, who was present at the police station in The Kushtia mill owners, absence of the OC, also could however, denied their role not ascertain who submitted

## Road blocked

FROM PAGE 16

Outfit Fashion Ltd at about 2:00pm, several hundred workers of the factories took to the streets demanding compensation from the transport company.

Begum Rokeya Sarani road near Shewrapara footbridge at about 3:00pm. The workers withdrew the blockade at about 7:00pm after the transport company

gave assurance of providing

the victim's family with com-

They put up blockades on

pensation. Victim's brother-in-law Abdus Sattar told The Daily Star that they would take Marufa's body to her village home at Tarail in Kishoreganj.

Khurshid Alam, manager (accounts) of Outfit Fashion Ltd, said they would pay Marufa's guardians all the arrears they owe to her. Lutful Kabir, deputy com-

Metropolitan Police (Mirpur zone), told The Daily Star that representatives from Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and transport company Shikor Paribahan talked to the workers and calmed them down. He said the workers with-

drew the blockade after the garment owners and the transport company promised to give compensation to the victim's family. The workers did not resort to violence during the block-

A correspondent from Gazipur reports, around 500 workers of Navid Wool Wear in Sripur staged a sit-in on Maona-Gafargaon road demanding payment of overtime bills.

missioner.

Sugar price

FROM PAGE 1 It placed nine recommendations including cancellation of the licences of two importers--Joint Trading Corporation and Sheikh Brothers, filing criminal cases against those involved in the manipulation in sugar market and selling of seized sugar in open market as per the government rate.

formed to investigate the abnormal price hike of sugar submitted its report at about 5:00pm to the deputy commissioner for sending it to the commerce ministry. Earlier, head of the committee and Additional Deputy

The probe committee

Development) Safina Begum briefed this to journalists at her During the investigation, the committee collected the lists of DOs and found too much irreg-

ularities in this regard. According to the list of Joint Trading Corporation, it had sold 67,460 sacks of sugar to 19 traders in between August 24

and Sept 10. Of the sacks of sugar, 43,200 were sold to Abdul Wadud and his shop Nawaz Trading while 7,200 to Bagdad Trading of Khulna, 5,400 sacks to Mohammad Mahbub of Khulna, 2,088 to Chattra Rangon Khundu and 2,880 to Raju Ahmad of Nawapara. The rest of the sacks are yet to be delivered.

One of the committee mem bers said the investigation found that a big amount of sugar was sold to Abdul Wadud, who is the brother of Abdul Wahab, one of the owners o Joint Trading Corporation.

Rab, police, NSI personnel raided three warehouses belonging to Joint Trading Corporation and Sheikh Brothers in Nawapara on Saturday midnight and seized 74,380 sacks of sugar.

BDR jawan FROM PAGE 16 Hospital sources said Khayer was brought to the CMCH

with severe chest pain at about

2:30am where the doctors

declared him dead. This is the third death case of BDR jawans this week. On Monday, Nayek Nurul Amin, 48, of Patuakhali, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while another BDR jawan Shawkat Osman, 28,

#### Sunday night. DCC engineer

died at Mitford Hospital on

FROM PAGE 16 after the DCC chief engineer's staff officer filed a general diary with Shahbagh Police Station on Sunday in this

Farukh threatened DCC Chief Engineer Brig Gen Abdul Quadir showing off a pistol during a discussion about his promotion on September 27. After receiving a complaint

from the chief engineer, DCC

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka suspended Farukh. Erratum In a report headlined "DCC hamstrung by lawsuits" carried in our paper on September 30, it was inadvertently written that "Quadir would be handed over to the Shahbagh police......" The

#### We regret the mistake. BNP pulls

name would be Farukh.

FROM PAGE 1 said at a press briefing at the Gulshan office of party chair-

The BSMMU authorities on Monday sacked 10 professors and one associate professor, saying that they were not appointed lawfully during the

Mosharraf, also a former health minister, demanded investigation into all irregularities at BSMMU from its incep-"Several hundred doctors

have been transferred in last

nine months ignoring rules and

BNP regime.

regulations. Health service is almost damaged due to posting of junior and inefficient doctors in place of experienced persons," he said. Rejecting the allegation of appointment of doctors on partisan basis during the BNP-Jamaat regime, he said those 11

according to the rules and procedures of the university. Mosharraf alleged that the government has also removed experienced doctors from Dhaka Medical College Hospital, National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Chest Diseases Hospital.

He said it is the responsibility

doctors got appointment

of the government to ensure health service for the people. "I hope the government will play a neutral and responsible role in this regard." He also protested the arrest

of former state minister Amanullah Aman. Party leaders Nazrul Islam

nearly 3,000 kilometres (1,864 miles) from Auckland in New Zealand, was evacuated as officials scrambled to get than 241,000 people.

## DCC in hibernation

FROM PAGE 16 He mentioned that every day there are around 12 dengue patients in two private city hospitals with which he is linked.

Prof Kaniz Mawla, head of medicine department at Holy Family Hospital, said, Incidence of dengue is considerably high this year." On an average, around 15

dengue patients stay admitted to this hospital every day with five to six fresh admissions daily since the end of July. Ades mosquitoes thrive in

clean stagnant water under

the air conditioners, in Commissioner (Education & rejected tyres, flower vases and coconut shells. DCC men do not have access to Ades mosquitobreeding spots inside private

houses, the mayor pointed out. Contacted, Chief Health year, said Shawkat. Officer of the DCC Brig Gen inadequate larvae killing drive are genuine. "We cannot have last year," he said. any locality of the densely populated city due to inade-

equipment." The DCC has a total of 600 Meghna and Jmuna.

quate manpower and required

wards and Uttara model Town. Many of the wetlands and other mosquito breeding grounds in the capital are owned by Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), Public Works Department, Roads and Highways Department, Film Development Corporation, Railway and Dhaka University, sources mentioned.

spray men to cover its 90

"We issued a public notice several days back requesting the agencies and institutions concerned to clean up these mosquito breeding grounds," said Shawkat. "We have also drafted letters requesting them again.'

allocation for anti-mosquito drives this fiscal year is Tk16 crore. It was Tk 15 crore last

"We have not yet procured Shawkat Ali said allegations of larvicide this year as we have a 3,000-litre stock of it procured

any tangible performance in Replying to a question, Khoka said larvicide can be procured easily from the government-owned petroleum companies Padma,

"There will be aftershocks

but it's difficult to predict

whether there will be a bigger

quake," Geological Disaster

Mitigation and Volcanology

noes in West Sumatra --

Merapi, Talang and Tandikat.

We fear that this quake might

most at risk from a final seg-

ment along the zone shifting

to unleash a massive amount

have already cracked, including

a large portion off Aceh, at the

northern tip of Sumatra, which

triggered the 2004 Indian Ocean

tsunami, which killed more

ters and improved roads to

provide better escape routes

from tsunami have mostly not

emergency head Jimmy

Nadapdap said in a statement

the charity would attempt to

send out a disaster survey

team to the affected area on

Plans for evacuation shel-

World Vision's Indonesian

than 220,000 people.

been realised.

Experts have said the city is

The zone's other segments

there," he said.

of energy.

"There are three big volca-

Centre head Surono told AFP.

## 75 killed

tsunami alert. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii however issued a tsunami

"Up to now we haven't been able to reach Padang, communications have been cut," Triyono said amid fears the death toll could rise sharply.

The quake was felt in the

capital Jakarta, 940 kilometres

away, and sent frightened office workers streaming out capital Kuala Lumpur.

resident of Pariaman district outside Padang, told TVOne news channel. "Houses have collapsed,

hurt," she said. The quake caused a landslide that destroyed houses at Lake Maninjau inland from

told the channel. "Part of the roof of the arrival hall at the Padang airport collapsed but nobody was injured. The runway is okay. The airport has been closed but will reopen at 7am tomorrow," an official of airport operator company Angkasa Pura II, Hariyanto,

colliding Indo-Australian and

Eurasian tectonic plates, was

the most likely in the country

to fall victim to the next major

Indonesia sits on the Geologists have said Pacific "Ring of Fire," where Padang, which lies near the

Thursday morning. "It is critical that we get people into the quake zone as soon as possible to find out

"If buildings have collapsed then people are likely to be in urgent need of food, water and especially shelter. The injured will also need medical assistance."

plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity. A quake on the main island

# Deadly tsunami

told AFP.

FROM PAGE 16 "My family own the Taufua Beach Fales and we have confirmation that nine members of our family have perished, four of them children and many more missing," the bereaved relative told

Australia's public broadcaster.

"The tourists haven't been accounted for either." Amateur video footage showed villages that had been completely obliterated, homes reduced to shards of metal and wood, while cars were stuck in treetops where

they had been hurled by the

force of the tsunami. Samoa's deputy prime minister Misa Telefoni said his tiny country's tourism hotspot was "devastated" by the tsunami which left residents and holidaymakers with tion." little time to flee.

"We've heard that most of

tated on that side of the island. We've had a pretty grim picture painted of all that coast," he said. Two of the country's most popular resorts, Sinalei Reef Resort and Coconuts Beach

Resort, off the west coast of the

the resorts are totally devas-

main island of Upolu, had been hit hard, he told AAP. Australia said at least two of its citizens, including a sixyear-old girl, were dead while Seoul said two Koreans were also killed. One person from New Zealand was also feared

thousands of residents to higher ground.

(60 miles) from Samoa, said the death toll of 22 was "It could take a week or so before we know the full

extent," Michael Sala,

Homeland Security director in

American Samoa, told AFP. Waves around 25 feet (7.5metres) high did most of the damage as they swept ashore about 20 minutes after the earthquake, demolishing buildings in coastal areas, he

swept out to sea and buildings were destroyed in what the US territory's Congress delegate said was a scene of "devasta-The eastern part of the island was without power and

water supplies after the devastating earthquake, which struck at 6:48 am (1748 GMT) at a depth of 18 kilometres (11 miles), 195 kilometres south of Apia.

Hawaii, which was later cancelled. The walls of moving water were so powerful that small tsunami waves were able to reach the shores of Japan,

Australia and New Zealand all made preparations to send emergency help to the ravaged region that is home to more

# committee on September 17 tenant of Shah Alam in the city.

them is sick.

Malayan tapir died. One Royal Bengal Tiger, two freshwater crocodiles, one zebra and a

lesser adjutant stork died in February. The zoo is located on about

species of fish.

Station.

Rogha, a stronghold of former Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud, who was killed in a US drone strike in Hours later, more missiles

the outskirts of Miranshah. The US military does not, as

Terminal Manager Mashiur Rahman Beg, Assistant Manager Golam Sarwar and

files and documents. The team is supposed to

Following the rape, police After examining the CDs,

given international passport this year, instead of pilgrim passport. already appointed counsellors

held at parliament building.

Asked about swine flue

cost of paddy has shot up by about Tk 100 a maund in last one month.

probe body are Golam Murtoza, botanist of District Agricultural Extension Department, Monwar

Victim's family FROM PAGE 1

village arbitration and awarding fines of Tk 10,000 each to the 10 rapists to ensure their

from the office till 3:00pm and was busy attending a case in

missioner of Dhaka

ade, added the deputy com-

Khan, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Rizvi Ahmed and Mizanur Rahman Sinha, among others, were present

The DCC's budgetary

FROM PAGE 1 Rahmat Triyono said, adding the agency did not release a

watch for Indonesia, Malaysia, India and Thailand, but later cancelled it. cause volcanic eruptions

of buildings in nearby Singapore and the Malaysian "The shaking was the worst I had ever felt," Yuliarni, a

the lights and electricity were cut off... People were fleeing to higher ground and some were

Padang, local resident Hafiz

what has happened," he said.

the meeting of continental

of Java earlier this month quake or tsunami. killed 123 people.

> Officials in American Samoa, about 100 kilometres expected to climb.

said. Witnesses said cars were

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued a tsunami alert over a vast swathe of the Pacific, as far as

thousands of kilometres (miles) away. The United States,

Apia, capital of the independent state of Samoa and