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## 5 Afghan policemen killed in checkpoint attack in western province

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Up to five Afghan policemen were killed and five others wounded when Taliban militants launched armed attacks against checkpoints in the country's western province Badghis, the provincial police chief said Friday.

"Five members of Afghan National Police (ANP) were martyred and five were wounded as Taliban militants raided their posts in Abkamari and Muguar districts late Thursday night," police chief Sharafuddin Sharaf told Xinhua.

He said two militants were also killed in the brief battle in the province 555 km northwest of capital Kabul.

The Taliban, who ruled the country before they were ousted by a U.S.-led invasion in late 2001, renewed armed insurgency, staging ambush and suicide attacks, killing combatants as well as civilians.

The insurgent group has urged the civilians to stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and centers regarded as the legitimate targets by militants besides warning people against supporting government and foreign troops.