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Militancy, conflicts claim 270 lives in Afghanistan over past week: official

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Continued Taliban-led militancy and conflicts in the war-plagued Afghanistan have claimed the lives of 270 people including 205 Taliban insurgents, 21 civilians and 44 police over the past one week, spokesman for Interior Ministry Zamarai Bashari said Sunday.

"Some 188 terrorist attacks took place all over the country with majority of them in the shapes of roadside bombings and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks over the past one week but the number of attacks unfortunately shows 12 percent increase than the previous week," Bashari told a weekly press briefing here.

He said the incidents left 21 innocent civilians dead and injured 95 others, adding 69 more policemen were injured in the incidents.

"With dedication of Afghan National Police (ANP) to foil terror attacks and ensure security for Afghans, civilians casualties had dropped 67 percent down in comparison with previous week," he further said.

Bashari said that 76 militants were injured in joint operations launched by Afghan and NATO-led international forces while 127 other Taliban insurgents had been detained over the period across the country.

"A total of 468 roadside bombs planted by militants had been found and defused by police," he further said, adding "more than 65 heavy and light weapons have been seized by police over the mentioned time."

He also confirmed that personnel of Afghan police retreated Barg-e-Matal district of Afghanistan's eastern Nuristan province in the wee hours of Sunday after they came under heavy attacks launched by militants. A Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that militants captured Barg-e-Matal district late Saturday night.

Bashari also said that six policemen were killed by Taliban insurgents in clash for defense of the district.

However, he said the security forces are working on an operational plan to regain the district and ensure durable security there.