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Afghan militancy, conflicts claim 169 lives in a week

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Continued Taliban-led militancy and conflicts in the war-torn Afghanistan have claimed the lives of 169 people including 87 Taliban insurgents, 51 civilians and 31 police over the past one week, spokesman for Interior Ministry Zamarai Bashari said Sunday.

"Throughout the country, 31 dedicated police personnel and 51 innocent civilians have been killed over the past one week but civilian casualties fortunately shows 40 percent decrease than the previous week," Bashari told a regular press briefing here.

Operations against Taliban conducted by security forces and premature bomb blasts, planted by Taliban fighters have also left 87 militants dead over the period of time, he further said.

He said 74 civilians, 57 policemen and 23 militants had been injured over the past week.

Police in collaboration with the army had detained 230 suspected militants across the country over the mentioned time, he said.

To serve the war-weary nation, he said the leadership of interior ministry had brought some changes in the ministry including issuing of new code of conduct for law enforcement force; but did not give details.

He also said a medical test to examine and find any drug users in police had been launched by ministry and so far over 114,716 policemen and officers had registered for the test but fortunately only 1,815 policemen who use drug or addicted to drug were found.

After medical treatment so far 830 policemen out of 1,815 have rejoined the police force, Bashari asserted.

Regarding the upcoming legislative votes the Bashari said that Afghan National Security Forces are determined to ensure fullproof security for the event.

Afghanistan's second parliamentary elections since the fall of Taliban regime in late 2001 is scheduled for Sept. 18.