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## Heavy clashes in Wardoj district leaves 43 Taliban dead

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According to local authorities in north-eastern Badakhshan province of Afghanistan, Afghan security forces took control of various security check posts during clashes with the Taliban militants.

Security check posts including “Barabara and Ghano” were under the control of Taliban militants during the past one week, which was confirmed by security officials in Wardoj district.

Wardoj district governor Dawlat Mohammad Khawar said heavy clashes took place between Afghan security forces and Taliban militants, which started at 8 pm on Thursday night and continued until 3 am on Friday morning.

Mr. Khawar further added, Afghan security forces made a tactical withdrawal from the security check posts in a bid to prevent civilian casualties.

In the meantime provincial governor spokesman said a vast military operation was conducted in Wardoj district which resulted in death of 43 Taliban militants and control of the security check posts were taken by Afghan security forces.

There are no reports if Afghan security forces and civilians have suffered any casualties during the clashes but provincial governor spokesman said Afghan security forces have seized weapons and explosives during the operation and control of the Wardoj district is with the Afghan security forces now.

Wardoj district has been one of the most volatile region in north-eastern Badakhshan province during the recent months, and around 278 families left the area due to unrest in this district.

Militants have increased their attacks on Afghan security forces in Wardoj district, and around 15 Afghan police officers were recently abducted by Taliban militants who were later released after local tribal elders brokered talks with the militants.

A spokesman for the Taliban militant group Zabiullah Mujahid also claimed that several Afghan police vehicles were destroyed during the clashes with Taliban militants.