Pakistan Resumes Cross-Durand Line Shelling Residents JAALABAD - Some residents of Nangarhar on Sunday claimed that the rocket shelling by Pakistan's military still continues sporadically despite repeated calls by local officials to stop the "aggression".

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During the third week of February, 2049 artillery shells were fired into Afghanistan by Pakistan resulting in the death of at least 82 people and injuring 338 others, the letter reads.

Since 1st January 2018, the number of violations by Pakistan in Afghanistan stands at 111 which include firing 6,025 artillery shells into Afghanistan by Pakistan. The Nangarhar residents said many villages in Ghish and Lal Pur districts have been hit by rockets from the other side of the Durand Line.

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"Lasting peace is the aspiration of a majority of the people of Afghanistan. Peace is a national process, but not ethnic, political or racial. Peace belongs to all Afghans. Peace will not be sustainable if a layer of the Afghan remains away from the process," said Ghani, who addressed a gathering on International Women's Day at the Presidential Palace.

Ghani said the National Unity Government has implemented a large number of programs aimed at fostering the participation of women in the society. "Today, the Afghan women are making part of the decisions on key national issues. The National Unity Government is proud of providing the opportunity to women to play an active role in these issues," said Ghani.

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HERAT - Local officials said they have sought UNICEF's help for protection of the 600-year-old minarets.

One of the five minarets, each 55 meters tall, in downtown Herat city, is on the verge of destruction while others have a mined image due to "mishandling" by relevant departments, local officials said.

The minaret is protected by steel cables for strengthening purposes, local officials said.

Atmar, who is running for president with former Vice President Mohammad Qasim Fahim and Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Mohaqiq as his running mates, is believed to be a potential rival for President Ashraf Ghani in the upcoming elections.

"The system should get its credibility from the Constitution and through the will of the nation. No one should be worried about this. We have always argued that peace should come within the framework of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," Atmar, who has served as the National Security Advisor for [more on P4].

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Sunday reiterated his call on government and election commissions to put in place all required measures to ensure that the upcoming presidential elections are held on time, transparent, credible and inclusive to protect the democratic system in the country.

Adviser to the president on women's day, Atmar said the elections will be held and it is a must. Atmar, who is running for president with former Vice President Mohammad Qasim Fahim and Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Mohaqiq as his running mates, is believed to be a potential rival for President Ashraf Ghani in the upcoming elections.

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Ancient Minaret in Herat on the Verge of Destruction

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