KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani will meet Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah regarding his Stability and Unanimity team's decision to boycott the upcoming Consultative Loya Jirga on peace.

Earlier in the day, Abdullah's presidential election team announced it would not participate in the planned Consultative Loya Jirga on peace. The nmunition jirga is expected to be held on April 29 in capital Kabul, in which around 2,500 people are expected to participate from all over the country. In his statement, Abdullah said his political team would not be involved in any consultation neither at political parties and individual levels nor at the government level. He also said that he did not see the gathering "helpful to overcome the current challenges in the country".

An officisl at the Presidential Palace, who wished go unnamed, told Pajhwok the Stability and Unanimity team had released a statement which claimed the CEO's presidential team would not attend the Loya Jirga. However, the source said the CEO had not yet shared his concerns with President Ghani regarding the Consultative Loya Jirga. He said President Ghani would meet Abdullah regarding the Loya Jirga and make suitable decisions in this regard. (Pajhwok)

Business Community Pleads for Protection

KABUL - Afghan-Chamber of Industries and Mines on Sunday said that over the past few weeks, business community is coping with a fresh wave of security threats, ex-tortions and kidnapping, ask-ing the government to act and protect the business community.

Business community said that the government has failed to ensure the security of the busi-nessmen and businesswoman.

"We receive two or three reports which indicate that industry owners, inventors or technical staff members of the factories were killed or hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, but threats have risen against our factories in Afghanistan as more deter-minant than beneficial to its interests, spreading differ-ences among the political elite on peace process with the Taliban would be re-solved, the 47-year-old au-thor was hoped, warning against sabotaging prominent opposition figures. "Peace should not be monopo-lized," remarked Hekmatyar, who plans to contest the presi-dential vote in September. "Peace is a national issue. An agreement requires us all to un-gage honestly and uncondition-ally." (Pajhwok)

Unidentified Armed Men 'Destroy' Girls' School in Farah

KABUL - The government of Pakistan is indubitably aid-ing the Hezb-I-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) chief.

Gulbadin Hekmatyar is opti-mistic that negotiations between the Ashtan Chiragi government and the Taliban would help turn the tide against the TTP.

"Pakistan has an interest in Afghanistan's politi-cal af-fairs," Hekmatyar said in an interview with RFE/RL. "Pak-i stan is supporting the Tal-i- ban. There is no doubt about it.

Due to mounting global pres-sure on it to make concrete ac-tions on the Taliban, he said, Pakistan viewed the war in Afghanistan as more detri-menal than beneficial to its interests, spreading differ-ences among the political elite on peace process with the Taliban would be re-solved, the 47-year-old au-thor was hoped, warning against sabotaging prominent opposition figures. "Peace should not be monopo-lized," remarked Hekmatyar, who plans to contest the presi-dential vote in September. "Peace is a national issue. An agreement requires us all to un-gage honestly and uncondition-ally." (Pajhwok)