Indonesian Ulema Council has decided to go with the planned trilateral Ulema Conference later this month despite the Taliban refusing to participate in the meeting, a media report said on Monday.

"Maybe the Taliban is not well-informed and reiterated the correct information about the conference," MUI’s head of international relations department, Mulyadiyans Jusufi told Arab News.

"We just want to listen to them and share our experience in resolving conflicts. We also want to synchronize our procedures," (More on P6).2

FAZABAD - A three-day anti-polio campaign with focus on 3,000 children missed in previous drives due to Taliban’s opposition was launched in northeastern Badakhshan province on Monday. Launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), the polio vaccination campaign -- the first phase of spring vaccination -- would cover 19 districts in Badakhshan, according to Naseem, WHO country director. He said since 2010, no 3,000 children in Badakhshan have died of polio. (Pajhwok)

LAEHKAR GAF - Afghan forces backed by air strikes killed 26 Taliban fighters in the southern Helmand province on Monday. The Taliban released pictures that appeared to show fighters in the town, but a spokesman for the group, Qari Younus Khalid, said 15 policemen had been killed and several military vehicles seized, along with a large quantity of ammunition.

No comment was immediately available from U.S. military headquarters in Kabul. Afghan and U.S. commanders have been relatively upbeat about the course of the war since U.S. President Donald Trump announced a new and more robust military strategy last year, which includes Stewart and greater support for Afghan forces.

The fighting in Anar Dara came days after officials said the Taliban had inflicted heavy losses on Afghan police special forces in another district of Farah, an isolated region where the government has struggled to control. The pressure on Farah has grown as U.S. air strikes and Afghan army operations have inflicted heavy casualties on Taliban fighters in neighboring Helmand province, the country’s main opium-growing region and a heartland of the insurgency. (Pajhwok)