A baby is born with

need to be loved – and

never outgrows it.

Frank A. Clark

UN Condemns Killing of Civilians in Helmand Mosque Attack
KABUL - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UN political mission in Afghanistan have denounced last night’s attack on police facilities gathered in a mosque in the city of Herat, which killed at least 34 civilians and injured many more.

“The Secretary-General strongly condemns the attack,” said his spokesman, Stéphane Dujarric, in a statement issued overnight. “Attacks that deliberately target civilians are clear violations of fundamental human rights and international humanitarian law,” he added.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) joined in the condemnation of the attack at the Jwadak mosque. According to the Mission, two attackers entered the Shia mosque during the evening prayer time when several hundred worshippers were present, opening fire and detonating two suicide improvised explosive devices against the congregation.

“This attack deliberately targeting civilians has no justification. We call on all parties to refrain from targeting places of worship,” said UNAMA’s acting representative in Herat, Rangin Dadfar Spanta.

A resident of the area, Ali Mohammadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News: “We were praying when we heard a loud noise. I fell unconscious and do not remember what happened next.”

Dozens of the victims’ families in Herat city, the provincial capital, held the government responsible for the massacre.

Ulema Scholars Slam Herat Mosque Attack, Say it Was Un-Islamic
KABUL - Religious scholars have also called on government to improve security at mosques following recent incidents targeting worshippers.

Prominent religious scholars on Wednesday condemned Tuesday night’s suicide bombing on a mosque in western Herat province that killed at least 29 worshippers and injured dozens more. They said that Islam teaches the license to kill and security and no one can justify terror attacks on mosques or on different ethnic groups. They called on the Afghan government to step up security at mosques.

The attack on the Jwadak Mosque in Herat was against Islamic principles, the scholars said.

“Mosques are safeguarded from disrespect and violence on the bases of Islam and Sharia law (Islamic law). Islam does not allow the attack on places of worship and mosques,” said Mohamm- ad Amin Niazi, a religious scholar in Kabul. Attacks on mosques and religious centres have increased.

Bereaved Families Claim ‘Negligence’ in Herat Massacre
HERAT CITY - The families of those killed and wounded in a bomb attack on a Shia mosque in the capital of western Herat province on Wednesday blamed the government for ‘negli- gence’ by security forces.

About 29 worshippers were killed and another 64 wounded when two suicide bombers attacked the Shia mosque in Herat City on Tuesday night.

Dozens of the victims’ families in Herat city, the provincial capital, held the government responsible for the massacre.

Querul An, who was injured in the attack, told Pajhwok Afghan News: “We were praying when two men in black entered the mosque and threw hand grenades and I fell and do not remember what happened next...”

Holland Lends Weight to Afghanistan Peace Efforts
KABUL – The Dutch ambassador on Wednesday affirmed support from the Netherlands for Afghan peace and stability initiatives, saying the international community wanted Afghan parties to work together to end the conflict.

Ambassador Caroline Meeusen told a news conference in Kabul that “Afghanistan needs an inclusive and cohesive government that is prepared to work with all the ethnic groups and all the political forces. That is the only way to ensure lasting peace and stability.”

The ambassador was speaking on the sidelines of a conference in Kabul that was held last Friday.

Work Underway to Install Cold Storage Units
The Ministry of Agriculture, Irriga- tion and Livestock (MIAL) said work to install three out of four large cold storage units is underway in different provinces, a move that will help farmers to store their produce.

The ministry inaugurated one of the four cold storage facilities in Ghaz- nian district in Kabul last week. It has the capacity of holding 60 tons of fruit and vegetables. MIAL officials said.

The other cold storage units are in Parwan, Samangan and Balkh provinces.

“Similar cold storage facilities are un- der construction in Parwan, Saman- gan and Balkh provinces and will be completed soon. Each of the facilities has the capacity of storing 60 tons of fresh fruit,” MIAL said.

Abdullah Urges MPs to Endorse New Cabinet Picks
COO Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday urged the Wolesi Jirga or lower house, of parliament to grant the trust vote to the newly-introduced ministers-designate.

KABUL – Abdullah said while introduc- ing two of the newly chosen Cabinet min- isters—Mohammad Hamid Talibzai and Cd-Agha Sherzai—on Wednesday. Sherzai was named as minister of defense, Nurgan Niazi for Min- istry of Mines and Petroleum and Farooq Zalifi for the Ministry of Labor and Social Af- fairs, and Abdul Latif Tarakhil for the Minis- try of Higher Education.

In a statement, the CEO office gratitude to former transport min- ister Mohammadullah Rabatzai for his efforts and services during his tenure.

Abdullah asked the Wolesi Jirga to give the vote of trust to the Cabinet nominees in- troduced by the go- vernment keeping in view their experience, knowledge and experi- ence. He also asked the newly-appointed acting ministers to take steps towards facilitating movement and transportation on highways and win peoples heart in regard.

Abdullah also intro- duced Sherzai.

Azizi Bank is one of the largest banks in Afghanistan serving the nation with 75 branches, 9 Extension Centers, 57 ATMs and 2 Cash Deposit Machines across the country.