From the archive

Before It Happened

Before it happened,
I was safe,
I was innocent,
I was happy.

Eyes were sparkling,
Mouths turned up,
Hearts were open,
All were united.

Before it happened,
I was vibrant,
And excited,
Innocent, secure and welcome.

I have a collection
Of lots of scarves,
Colours of the rainbow,
The patterns are unique.

I was impatient for the day
When I could wear them,
And feel quite grown up like.
It was all before it happened.

Now after that building collapsed…
We are accused,
Scarves misused,
People hurt,
Lives desert,
All are crying,
So many dying
Because it happened!

By Mariam Gitti

What a Change!

When she is my friend
She is cheery, friendly and happy.
She will listen to whatever I have to say,
She will follow me about wherever I go.
I love her!

But when she is not my friend,
She has a nasty, sarcastic look on her face.
She has a vicious attitude.
Ignore me completely.
She is sly and vindictive,
I know when she whispers;
it's all about me.
I hate her!

By Sophy Javed

Mahfil

a network of poets and writers

Mahfil is an inspirational ongoing project that has been organised to create opportunities for the professional and amateur poets & writers from diverse cultural backgrounds within the region. The participants meet up once a month to share their own work with other members of the group.

These sessions are informal and expression-friendly where participants can share their work and learn from each others experiences and thoughts. A novel opportunity for poets/writers from all background to engage within the cross cultural interactive poetic sessions that helps construct the bridge between realising the positive impact of cultural differences through their work and to learn about and understand other cultures as well. This project aids to open the intricate gateway knowledge to different cultures in real sense through diverse literature expressions.

Mahfil—encourages young talented amateur writer/poets to learn new techniques and build their skills and confidence to become professionals. It will also serve as a platform for the beginners to present their work within an informal and encouraging setting to help recognise their efforts and be guided appreciatively for their work.