

Albans

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Poets with a universal message

Muslim Girls Making Change come to Montgomery

By **MICHAEL FRETT**
Messenger Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY CENTER – “America, the golden brick road to success,” said high school student Hawa Adam in the opening lines of “American Dream.” “A place they had seen on TV screens, books and magazines.”

As Adam spoke, she shared the stage with Kiran Waqar and Lena Ginawi, three-fourths of a Burlington-based slam poetry quartet. Ginawi’s back was to

the audience, her voice swelling around “The Star Spangled Banner” as Adam and Waqar traded words through the bulk of the poem.

Their performance swings through the images of the American Dream, white picket fence and all, before coming to realities like discrimination and low wages, and the expectations placed on first-generation Americans that, according to their poem, mandates doctors and CEOs, not poets.

They call their quartet Muslim Girls

► See **POETRY** on page 8A



MICHAEL FRETTE Messenger S

From left, Kirin Waqar, Hawa Adam, Balkisa Abdikadir and Lena Ginawi, Muslim Girls Making Change, perform on Sunday at the Montgomery Center for the Arts.