

Shaikh-ul Aalam Chair of Kashmir University Reaches Banihal Jammu.

Markaz-i-Noor Shaikh-ul Aalam Chair, University of Kashmir organised an impressive programme at Govt. Degree College Banihal on 28th, March 2012. The programme in which an extension lectures on the topic “Alamdardar and his Message with special reference to his influence on Jammuites” was delivered by the eminent Urdu and Kashmiri writer Manshoor Banihali. The programme attended by a galaxy of scholars, writers and devotees of Skaikh-ul Aalam^(RA) was presided over by Mr. Gh. Nabi Gowhar while as Prof.Margoob Banihali and Rukhsana Jabeen Director Radio Kashmir Srinagar were also in the presidium. At the outset Chairman Markaz-i- Noor Shaikh-ul Aalam Chair Prof. Basher Bashir while welcoming the guests said that the *Alamdardar* is the standard bearer not only for the Kashmiris living in the valley but for the whole human race. He thanked the people of Banihal and other parts of the state who wholeheartedly invited functionaries of the Chair to conduct more and more programmes on the great saint poet of Kashmir, Shaikh Noor -ud Din Noorani^(RA). He said that since Shaikh-ul Aalam^(RA) has a lineage with the Jammu division it is obligatory for us to conduct more and more programmes in the division also. He further said that we find a good number of words in the poetry of Shaikh-ul Aalam which still have a currency in areas of Jammu Division but are not used in the present day modern spoken Kashmiri. As such the study of these areas and the dialects of language spoken therein is an important area of Shaikh-ul Aalam studies.

The lecture delivered by Mr. Manshoor Banihali generated a warm debate and discussion among the participants and it was unanimously said that the best tribute to Shaikh-ul Aalam^(RA) is to preserve Kashmiri language and ethos at large. Prof. Margoob Banihali in his thought provoking address said that Shaikh-ul Aalam Chair is making history by organising such programmes in Jammu division. He hailed the efforts of Prof. Basher Bashir and his colleagues. While delivering presidential address Gh. Nabi Gowhar pointed the peculiarities of the language spoken in Kishtwar and Banihal and laid stress on launching of research projects through which the similarities of this dialect with poetry of Shaikh-ul Aalam^(RA) could be highlighted.

Vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Aziz Hajini of Shaikh-ul Aalam Chair. He conducted the proceedings of the event as well.

The exhibition of the publications of the Chair was an attractive part of the event.